



*Our
Savior's
Lutheran
Church*

809 South Commercial Street
Neenah, WI 54956

Service Times

Sat. 5:00 p.m.— Sun. 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Office Hours: M-Th 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Fri. 8:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Phone Number: 920-725-3956

December 2019

Life Together 

I just spent part of a day down at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh at the Lutheran Campus Ministry. Pastor Bryan Schmidt, Campus Pastor, hosted the Appleton Conference for pastors. I try to go to as many colleague things as I can... just to get to know people. We worshipped together and were reminded that we are members of the body of Christ together. My favorite part of the day was when Eric Thompson, one of the students, led our hymns at the top of his lungs. Eric self-identified as being on the Autism spectrum, but it didn't hold him back in any way. His infectious personality and singing warmed my heart.

I credit Lutheran Campus Ministry at UW-Eau Claire as the net that re-captured me in the faith. My brother went to Eau Claire before me and introduced me to Pastor Don Wisner at a little sibling's weekend. Because I look up to my brother, I followed in his footsteps to Eau Claire for college. Little did I know at the time that it would play a big role in my future calling. I was one of the few college students who got up for church nearly every Sunday. "Why...? Because I loved it." I felt like God had a word for me every Sunday as a college student trying to navigate my way through school, relationships, and career decisions. I was especially impressed with how Pastor Don Wisner included so many people in worship leadership and music. He even roped me in to serve communion on a regular basis. This small act of serving got me up on Sunday mornings and made me feel a part of something larger than myself.

While being a part of the Lutheran Student Association at this particular campus ministry, I got the opportunity to go on two mission trips. They were called "Alternative Spring Break trips." Both times a group of mixed race students would go to Washington D.C. to serve people on the margins. One of my favorite experiences was at the Marie Reed Learning Center. Here, we got to read with the inner-city students, play music, and participate in recess. These kids absolutely loved us without even knowing us. I could not believe it, as most relationships don't operate this way. They just were glad someone was paying attention to them. These trips drew me deeper into serving God with the gifts God gave me. I feel most alive when I am serving.

I realize at Our Savior's we have many opportunities to serve. Kasey, our office manager has asked me to make decisions about several opportunities for us to serve in the community. And to be honest, I have no clue what you are passionate about. My standard answer is, we can't do anything without energy and leadership behind each opportunity to serve. If we are going to do things well, I think our *Serve and Reach Committee* should be the clearing house for all organized opportunities to do mission outside of our congregation. By all means, please continue to serve God in your daily vocations. But I am talking about group things. This could include our feeding ministries, partnering in the community, mission trips, and doing things like the Chili Supper. We were recently asked to reconsider working with St. Paul's Lutheran at their annual Christmas meal. I said sure without checking with any of you. Are you interested in organizing our serving activities and doing perhaps fewer things with more passion? How can we best steward the gifts and time we have to make the most impact? Help!!!

I don't feel equipped yet to make these decisions on my own. And I know you don't want me to volunteer the church for mission without some energy behind it from all of you. Please join the few people on the Serve and Reach committee and let's do some organizing.

Peace,

PASTOR JON STRASMAN



Sunday School

We are almost to the end of our first semester of Sunday School! Please join us for our final event of the year, our Christmas Program. "The Christmas Window" will be performed on Sunday, December 8 at 10:30 a.m.

We hope you all have a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

Upcoming Dates:

Wednesday, December 4 – Advent Intergenerational/Christmas Giving Projects 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 7 – Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal 9:15-10:15 a.m.

Sunday, December 8 – Final Christmas Program Rehearsal 9:15-10:15 a.m.; Christmas Program 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, January 5 – Sunday School classes resume

First Communion

On Sunday, November 17, nine children of Our Savior's received their First Communion. We are very proud of all of these children for taking this big step in their faith journey. Congratulations to all!



Confirmation/Youth News

Just like that, our Confirmation year is winding down to a close. Reminder, we will not have class for the remainder of the calendar year. Students are expected to attend Advent worship services on Wednesday evenings.

Have a blessed Advent, and a very Merry Christmas, and we will see you in January.

Upcoming Dates:

Wednesday, December 4 – Christmas Giving/Advent Intergenerational Projects 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 4, 11, 18 – Advent Service 6:30-7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 8 – Confirmation Classes resume

Wednesday, January 29 – Unity Worship Service at Fox Cities Exhibition Center

High School Youth Group

Our High School Youth Group is officially up and running! We had a blast at our Thanksgiving-themed November Youth Group night. We played games, sang songs, made pie, all while discussing and learning about thankfulness for all that God gives us. All students grades 9-12 are invited to join us for this exciting new program.

This Month's Youth Group: Wednesday, December 4, 4:00-6:00 p.m.: Advent Intergenerational & Christmas Giving Projects.



"God's Work. Our Hands" - Yes, YOU can make a difference! Here are some opportunities to share God's love in our community.

December 3 is Giving Tuesday

Thrivent Lakeside Associates is proud to be hosting our 2nd Annual Giving Tuesday Event from 11AM – 7PM at Barrel 41 Brewing Company on Commercial Street in Neenah. We invite you to stop by - bring a cash or check donations, enjoy samples of Barrel 41 beer & appetizers.

Our goal is to raise \$10,000 to benefit three groups: Coffee House at Gloria Dei, NHS Orbit Program and NHS Downtown Campus. *Help strengthen our community, one student at a time!* Contact Marcie Kimmes at 843-2981 or marcie.kimmes@thrivent.com.

Intergenerational/Giving Project

Are you looking for a way to get into the Christmas spirit? Do you enjoy giving to others? If so, we've got just the event for you!

On **Wednesday, December 4**, beginning at 4:00 p.m., we will be combining the traditions of our Advent Intergenerational and Christmas giving projects. Individuals and families are invited to come and make an Advent craft to take home, as well as a project for a family in our congregation who has lost a loved one this year. There will be music, food, and an Advent service at 6:30 to conclude the evening. This event is sure to be fun for all ages. Please join us!

Christmas Church Events

Mark your calendars now to join us for:

- Decorating the church for the Christmas season! We will gather Friday evening, December 6, at 5:30 p.m. to decorate. Look for the clipboard to sign up in the Gathering Area.
- Caroling to the homebound folks on Sunday, December 8, from 3:30 to 5:15 p.m. We will meet at church. Sign up in the Gathering Area.

Thanks from your Worship Committee! Questions? Contact Ardy Kreuter, at akreuter@new.rr.com or 470-4701.

Advent Bible Class Begins

Come and grow in your discipleship with an Advent Bible Study. The study begins on Sunday, December 1, from 9:15 to 10:15AM, in the Church Library. Pastor Jon will use the book, Contrast Community: Practicing the Sermon on the Mount by James L. Bailey, as a backdrop for the class. Dr. Bailey was Pastor Jon's New Testament Professor at Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, IA.

Christmas Worship Services



**Please join us for worship
at these special services:**

**Children's Christmas
Program**

December 10 at 10:30 a.m.

**Lessons and Carols
December 14-15 All Services**

**Christmas Eve at 1:00,
3:00, 5:00 and 10:00 p.m.**

Christmas Day at 9:00 a.m.

Women's Book Club

The book club at OSLC welcomes you to join our friendly group of 10 to 12 women. We generally meet at 6:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month in the church library. This month we meet on November 26. Stop into the church office to pick up this month's book selection, and come join us!

Prayer Shawl Ministry

We meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 9:30 am. Prayer shawls are shared for many reasons – weddings, baptisms and hospitalizations, to name a few. We need you so we can continue to spread the strength of prayer through this ministry. If you like to knit or crochet, won't you consider joining us?

Men's Breakfasts

Our Men's Bible study meets on the second and fourth Saturday of every month at 8:00 a.m. Due to the closing of Perkins Restaurant, we are now meeting in the Gathering Area at church. We routinely have between five and 10 men attend each week. This month we will *ONLY meet on December 14* due to the holidays. All men are welcome. Contact is Ken Schmidt.

Esther and Rebekah Circles

Our Savior's has two active Circle groups that meet monthly for Bible study. Both groups do the Bible study out of the 'Gathering' magazine. Participants can get a subscription or there are a few on the kiosk near the office.

The Esther Circle meets the second Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. in the lounge. This month they meet on December 10. Contact person is Jackie Hartmann. The Rebekah Circle meets once a month, usually on a Tuesday, at 10:30 a.m. in the lounge. The date is determined at each study. Contact person is Chris Dieck-Hillegas.

Retirees and Friends

Come join us for some fun! Anyone is welcome. We will be meeting the first Monday of each month. The next meeting will be Monday, December 2, from 12:00 to 2:00 our potluck and Christmas party.

For the potluck, please bring a dish to pass. Also, please bring a \$5 gift card to anywhere you'd like. We will be playing a game using these gift cards. Hope to see you all there! Contact Joan Terry at 920-809-6923 or Carla Weiss at 920-312-0158 with questions.

Mission Quilters

Anyone wishing to help our mission of making quilts for Lutheran World Services is welcome to join us. We have fabrics to cut and sew (if you like) into tops and backs. Then we assemble the quilt layers on frames. No sewing skills are necessary; if you can tie a knot, you can tie a quilt! Come and join the fun ... It does a heart good!

We meet on the first Thursday (Dec. 5) from 1pm-4pm; and the 3rd Thursday (Dec. 19) from 9am-noon. We gather in the gym. Contact is Nancy Freier.



Annual Reports

To all committed heads and staff, your annual report is due earlier than normal this year. Please get it to Kasey in the office no later than December 20. She will be putting it together shortly after the first of the year to have it ready for budget meetings. If we do not receive a report from you, your page in the report will be left blank.

Altar Flower Changes

A different vendor, Memorial Florists, will be handling our floral needs going forward. Our price points have changed slightly, and their displays are very well done!

Due to security changes, the flower chart has been moved to the Gathering Area on the message boards so that all people may have access to sign up for flowers. The 2020 Flower Chart is out and ready to be filled. Envelopes can be found right by the chart, and completed orders are to be placed in the "Completed Flower Orders" slot just beneath the chart.

Peace Lutheran's Christmas Bazaar

Peace Lutheran Church's Annual "Timeless Treasures" Christmas Bazaar will be held on Saturday, December 7, from 8am-1pm, at 1228 S. Park Avenue, Neenah. Festive Cookies By-the-Pound, candy, homemade preserves, baked goods & whole pies, handmade crafts and gifts, including knit items, holiday towels, Christmas ornaments and so much more. Kids will enjoy our "Kids only" shopping room with family gifts priced at \$.25 - \$3.25. Food is served during the sale. A percentage of everything sold will go to benefit programs in the community. (No admittance fee. No vendors. No consignment or rummage.)

Fox Valley Lutheran Homes News

We would like to invite you to attend Advent worship services at 11:30 AM on Wednesdays, Dec 4, 11 and 18 followed by a luncheon in Linwood Commons, 425 N Linwood Ave. in Appleton.

We are asking our conference congregations if they would like to support us by providing and/or serving at one of the luncheons. Historically the luncheon has been a variety of soup but we are open to other menu ideas. While tasty food is important, the true value of these gatherings is to allow all of us an opportunity for Christian fellowship. Please contact Lynn Ann at 920-734-7225 or at lynnann.fvlhomes@gmail.com if you would like to help or have questions.

Church Office Closings

The Church office will be closed for the holidays on the following dates:

December 24—27
December 31 and January 1

Great Christmas Gift Idea!

If you're looking to buy gift cards as Christmas gifts this year, the OSLC Scrip Program is here for you! We have gift cards for popular stores and restaurants in stock. If we don't have what you want in stock, we can order whatever you want in time for Christmas giving.

Stop by the Scrip table in the Gathering Area on December 7 and 8 to get your cards and/or place your order. You may also call us at 751-3725 and we'd be happy to deliver to your home. 100% of the profits from sales go to pay down the OSLC debt.

--Neal and Sue Schultz

Our Savior's Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.

Open Forum: Karin Schilke regarding Building Use Request. The YMCA will no longer be using the Menasha Senior Center for classes. They were wondering if Our Saviors would be interested in allowing them to use our gym – mornings Monday-Friday – for various exercise programs for Seniors starting February 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. A decision was not made during meeting. Need to gather more information before making a decision.

Pastor's Report: Report as written. See bulletin board for full report.

Treasurer's Report: Report as written. Should we get quotes for snow plowing yearly? Should heat be turned down nightly?

2019 Membership/Attendance Reports: Attendance trending down.

Ministry Team Reports:

Retirees and Friends – Joan Terry: Social held on Monday, Nov 4. 21 people attended. Next event Monday, Dec 2.

Finance – Sue Schultz: Temple talks. Letters and pledge card mailed out. Working on budget.

Personnel – Sue Schultz: Put together job description for Nursery Attendant. Will need to understand how many kids per adults are allowed and also limitation due to room size.

Security and Safety – Ben Lochner: Met end of Oct Next meeting Dec 10. Police officer walked through Church – nothing alarming came up. Areas to review: tornado/active shooting area, upgrade glass to temperate glass, crisis call spokesperson, child and home safety, usher training, door locking timing. Ben was trained as back-up for system. Carport door to be secured was quoted at \$2600 – Council approved \$1500 – May need to be reapproved for new price.

Worship and Music – Graham Bradley: Mid-week Advent services. Christmas activities. Organ needs repaired – requesting quotes. Keyboard needs to be replaced – cost to fix is 40% of new. Memorial money as \$3500 for music. How will we raise money to cover costs for both organ and keyboard?

New Business:

Car Port Door Security System Request: See update under Security and Safety report above.

Christmas Hams: Will be delivered December 20.

Pastor Jon's Installation: November 17, 2019 @ 10:30 a.m.

Next Council Meeting: Next meeting Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at 7:00 PM.

- Our Mission Statement -
Gather and grow with God's spirit in order to love and serve others.

Check out our online
donation feature through
Tithe.ly on our website
at
www.our-saviors.org.

Simply click the GIVE
NOW button to see the
different ways you can
give.

**The staff of Our
Savior's wishes
everyone a very
Merry Christmas
and a safe New
Year.**



Generous Congregation...

YTD Totals Through October

	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Difference</i>
Income	\$351,917	\$359,432	\$ 7,515
Expenses	\$366,664	\$344,598	\$22,066

October Pastoral Acts...

Baptisms – Emmery Kay Hundt, Mila Comfort Asante and
Madison Karla Moua

Funerals – None

New Members — None

Weddings—None

Building Fund...

Through October

Remaining on Loan	\$199,850.88
Principal Paid on Loan	\$152,910.88
Total Contributions	\$103,951.20
Billed on Loan	\$ 32,189.80
Paid on Loan Over Billed Amount	\$120,721.08

December 2019											
January 2020											
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	5	6	7	8	9
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	12	13	14	15	16
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	19	20	21	22	23
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	26	27	28	29	30
29	30	31									

December 2019											
January 2020											
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	5	6	7	8	9
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	12	13	14	15	16
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	19	20	21	22	23
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	26	27	28	29	30
29	30	31									

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 1 8:00am Worship 9:15am Adult Advent Bible Study 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 1:00pm AA Hispanic	2 1:00pm Retirees & Friends 6:00pm AA Hispanic	3 9:30am Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:30pm Worship & Music Team Meeting	4 9:00am Visitation Team Meeting 10:00am Bible Study 4:00pm Advent 5:30pm Joyous Ringers 6:30pm Advent Worship 7:00pm Chancel Choir	5 1:00pm Quilting 7:00pm AA Meeting	6 5:30pm Decorating the Church & Trees 6:30pm FV Squares	7 SCRIP Cards Sold 9:15am Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal 5:00pm Worship
8 SCRIP Cards Sold 8:00am Worship 9:15am Adult Advent Bible 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship - Children's 1:00pm AA Hispanic 3:45pm Caroling	9 6:00pm AA Hispanic	10 9:00am Easter Circle @ 3rd Street Diner (Lounge) 10:00am Rebekah Circle (Resource Room) 10:00am Staff Meeting 11:00am Bunch on Bob - Four 7:00pm Council Meeting	11 10:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Joyous Ringers Rehearsal 6:30pm Advent Worship 7:00pm Chancel Choir	12 7:00pm AA Meeting	13 6:30pm FV Squares	14 8:00am Men's Breakfast 5:00pm Worship - Lessons & Carols
15 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 8:00am Worship - Lessons & Carols 9:15am Adult Advent Bible Study 10:30am Worship - Lessons & 1:00pm AA Hispanic	16 6:00pm AA Hispanic	17 11:00am Island Shores Service (Island Shores, 131 E North Water St., Neenah, WI 54956, USA)	18 10:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Joyous Ringers Rehearsal 6:30pm Advent Worship 7:00pm Chancel Choir	19 9:00am Quilting 7:00pm AA Meeting	20 6:30pm FV Squares	21 5:00pm Worship
22 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 8:00am Worship 9:15am Adult Advent Bible Study 10:30am Worship 1:00pm AA Hispanic	23 6:00pm AA Hispanic	24 OFFICE CLOSED 1:00pm Christmas Eve Worship 3:00pm Christmas Eve Worship 5:00pm Christmas Eve 10:00pm Christmas Eve	25 OFFICE CLOSED 9:00am Christmas Day Worship	26 OFFICE CLOSED 4:00pm Pillars Meal 7:00pm AA Meeting	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28 8:00am Men's Breakfast 5:00pm Worship
29 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 8:00am Worship 10:30am Worship 1:00pm AA Hispanic	30 6:00pm AA Hispanic	31 OFFICE CLOSED	Jan 1, 20	2	3	4

Confirmation/Installation Pictures



**Congratulations
And
Welcome!**

At top are shots of our Confirmation class from October. Below pics were taken November 17 at Pastor Jon's Installation. Pictured with him are Rev. Amy Engebose, Bishop's Associate. Call Committee members clockwise from left are Co-Chair Kristin Curtis, Co-Chair Kristin Ely-Bluemke, Ken Schmidt, Guy Gruett, Dana Doke-Prahl, Al Long and Tom Berven.