

VOICE

*Our
Savior's
Lutheran
Church*

January 2020

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

Life Together 

The day of Epiphany is January 6th. It is usually marked by images of light and hope. Epiphany, which means manifestation, concludes the Christmas season. Throughout the season after Epiphany in church, things will be revealed about who this God is in Jesus Christ. Starting in the manger, we see images of a star that guided the magi. The magi were foreigners coming to pay homage to the Christ child. Already, Jesus' reign on earth is attracting global interest.

I know I am revealing things about myself and my family every day as I begin my ministry here at Our Savior's. By now, you know I love the Packers, golf, and playing my guitar. If you were in church on December 14/15 you may have heard my daughter, Annika, play the flute with the Joyous Ringers and Choir. Your response to her was precious.

Many of you have seen our family at Neenah basketball games and music concerts. We are a typical busy family, running from one event to another, sometimes dividing and conquering.

But what I really want to talk about is what you have revealed to me since I began ministry on October 1, 2019. After experiencing Christmas preparations, I have come to see how generous you are with your time and money. Thank you to all who participated in the children's Christmas program. I absolutely loved it. Also, we put together a Christmas Giving Project in conjunction with the Boys and Girl's Brigade that netted over 100 gifts to be spread around to 405 local families this Christmas. All families were vetted and cross-checked with other local organizations doing Christmas giveaways. We did all of this within a two-week time frame.

On top of that, we raised approximately \$3500 for Christmas hams for those same 405 families that were delivered on December 20th. We accomplished this mostly through our children going around during worship to collect "noisy offerings". I realized that our kids love to serve in this way and we love to give to them.

We also went Christmas caroling at local independent living facilities and provided cookies and pies to St. Paul Lutheran for their Christmas dinner on the December 14. Great work everybody!

Finally, thank you for your regular giving to church. I know our family and our staff lives by your grace and generosity. My hope is that Our Savior's continues to thrive spiritually and financially so that we can continue to be generous in our mission.

Blessed Christmas and Epiphany!

PASTOR JON

Confirmation/ Youth News

Happy New Year! We have some exciting events coming up for our Confirmation program:

—**Wednesday, January 29** – Fox Cities Unity Worship

—**Saturday & Sunday, February 1-2** – Souper Bowl of Caring

Confirmation classes will resume **Wednesday, January 8**.

High School Youth Group

Our next High School Youth Group night is **Wednesday, January 15** from 7:00-8:30 p.m. We hope you will join us for another fun, faith-filled night at Our Savior's!

This Month's theme: *Identity*

Thank You!

A huge thank you to the congregation for remembering our staff during the holidays with cards and treats! We appreciated your generosity during this busy time in the church year.

Sunday School

On Sunday, December 8, our Sunday School students performed their annual Christmas Program. Thank you to all who helped make this program a success, especially the members of Joyful Noise, who both taught and performed the music for our program. And to Linda Ely and Kristin Ely-Bluemke, who graciously offered to direct our program.

Also, a big thanks to Johnathan Trachte, Annika Strasman, and all of our adult volunteers, who shared their time and talents to help make the program possible. To all of our Sunday Students, great job! *(Picture below)*

Sunday School classes will resume **Sunday, January 5**.

This Month's Lesson: *Jesus and John the Baptist*



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

Advent Intergenerational & Christmas Giving

Last month, we held our first-ever combined event of making Advent Intergenerational projects, as well as Christmas gifts for the families of members of our congregation who have passed away this year. Individuals and families had a great evening conversing, snacking, and making Advent-themed luminaries. We were also able to make twenty-two homemade candles to share with families. Thank you to all who participated!

Brigade Christmas Giving

This year, our congregation collected almost \$3,500 in our Noisy Coin Offerings to purchase all 400 hams needed for the community families sponsored by the Brigade Christmas Giving Baskets. We also sponsored 100 of these families by purchasing gift items for the children. All of these items were delivered to the Brigade this past month, and were in turn delivered to the families on December 20. Thanks to everyone who participated in these outreach opportunities!



Pastor Jon taking a peek at the items collected for the Brigade Christmas Program.

New Job Title

For the past 12 years, Chris Swender has served Our Savior’s well in the role of Custodian. Over the years, Chris’ job responsibilities have expanded beyond cleaning, mowing and shoveling.

Recently, we have written a job description which defines the responsibilities and expectations for Chris’ position, and we have renamed his position to Property Manager. We believe this title more appropriately recognizes the scope of Chris’ responsibilities. Although Chris’ title has changed, his job has not. You can continue to expect the same excellent work from him.

Please thank Chris for all he does for us and continue to support him in his ministry.

Blessings,
Sue Schultz
Council President

Snowbirds

Are you getting ready to head south for the winter? Please be sure to contact the church office at 725-3956 with your address and dates of your departure and return so we can update our records.

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 January 28. 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 meet on January 11 and 25. 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 January 14. 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. Upcoming events are:

—Monday, January 6 from 1:00-2:30 – will be playing bunco and dominoes.

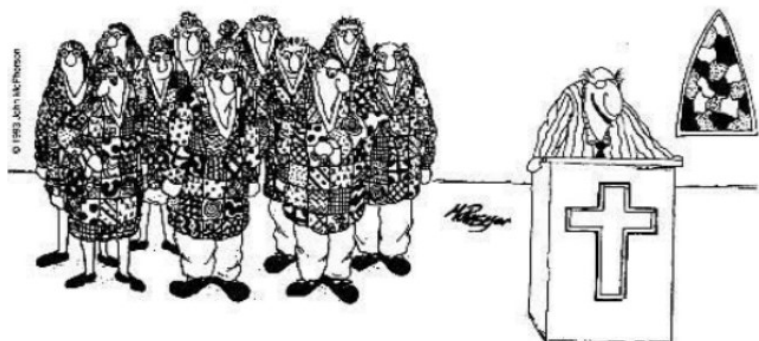
—Monday, February 3 from 1:00-2:30 - craft.

Contact Joan Terry at 920-809-6923 or Carla Weiss at 920-312-0158 with questions.

Mission Quilters

Anyone 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—you'll be glad you did!

We meet on the first Thursday of the month (January 2) from 1pm-4pm; and the 3rd Thursday of the month (January 16) from 9am-noon. We gather in the gym. Contact is Nancy Freier.



"Many thanks to the Ladies' Quilting Club for the new choir robes."

Our Savior's Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

December 10, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.

Present: Kristi Armstrong, Graham Bradley, Marcie Kimmes, Ben Lochner, Andrew Schaller, Sue Schultz, Kevin Schabo, Pastor Jon Strasman, Joan Terry. **Absent:** Chris Crum, Carla Weiss

Pastor's Report: Thank you to Colleen and Kristen for helping with the Christmas Program. 41 kids participated. Received \$3472.68 for hams – donor paid \$122 to cover remaining balance. Started Sunday School for Adults between services. Started Youth Group – 9 students attended first meeting. Dropped off Christmas gifts at Brigade. Four baptisms scheduled. One funeral. Participated in Christmas Caroling.

Treasurer's Report: Report as written. Check with Dave if we need holiday offering line on balance sheet. New finance system next year. Nursery attendant \$3400/year. First year is paid for. Reworking job description for Chris Swender because he currently doesn't have one. No debt going into 2020.

2019 Membership/Attendance Reports: Attendance declining. With new pastor looking forward for growth.

2020 Council Officer/Team Assignments:

President—Sue Schultz

Vice President—Andrew Schaller

Treasurer—Graham Bradley

Secretary—Joan Terry

Finance Secretary—Ben Lochner

Ministry Team Reports:

Retirees and Friends – Joan Terry: Social held on Monday Dec 2. 40 people attended. Next event Monday, Jan 6.

Evangelism, Marketing, Communication & Technology: Andrew Schaller/Kevin Schabo: Next meeting January.

Finance – Sue Schultz/Marcie Kimmes: Remind people to still submit pledge cards even if they are in Simply Giving. Down 50 pledges from last year. Dave is calling people to move from Simply Giving to ty.ly. Andrew will research how to fix g-mail. Copier lease in up June 2020. Need to put in budget for new computer/computer maintenance. Working on budget. Won't be a balance budget. Will review at next council meeting prior to February Church meeting.

Personnel – Sue Schultz: Meet last week. Approved Nursery Attendant and Chris' position. Posting internally first.

Serve and Reach – Andrew Schaller: Andrew volunteered to lead this group.

Worship and Music – Graham Bradley: Holiday planning. Advent Wed Service. Organ & Keyboard repairs. Birdie to get quote.

Worship Volunteers- Kristi Armstrong: Alter Guild meeting December 11.

New Business:

Proposed New Job Description for Chris: Approved/Second – Schaller/Lochner.

Christmas Hams: Will be delivered December 20. Graham to pick up hams at Pick N Save at 5:45am. Joan, Graham, Ben, Glen, Sue.

Old Business:

Car Port Door Security System Request: Pam approving 12/11. Tri-City Glass quote is higher than Werner Electric due to car port door is a 2 door design. Tri City Glass waiting for parts. Hoping to be done before Christmas. Kasey has key now. Left open last Sunday. At Christmas will use key. New ushers need training. Keep security and ushers separate? Will need to discuss.

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

Memorials & Honorariums Received

A special thank you to those who remembered

Richard Radick

Generous Congregation...

YTD Totals Through November

	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Difference</i>
Income	\$387,108	\$392,729	\$ 5,621
Expenses	\$403,331	\$378,799	\$24,532

Thank you from the Worship Team!

Thank you so much to the team that decorated the church. We had a great working crew of fourteen. It looked wonderful! We also enjoyed great snacks and soda! Thank you for your donations.

Caroling was a huge success! We had 24 singers including five little ones who stole the residents' hearts. This year we went to Island Shores and Highlands. They were pleased to have us, and we were blessed as well to mingle with them. Thank you so much for volunteering to sing!

December Pastoral Acts...

Baptisms – Parker Schwandt, Elias Schlack, Millie Beyer, and Leif Welsh

Funerals – None

New Members — Jordan Schlack

Weddings—None

Building Fund...

Through November

Remaining on Loan	\$193,521.09
Principal Paid on Loan	\$158,940.61
Total Contributions	\$111,310.87
Billed on Loan	\$ 35,408.78
Paid on Loan Over Billed Amount	\$123,531.83

January Calendar

January 2020		January 2020							February 2020																					
		Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa															
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29		
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																								
Dec 29	30	31	Jan 1, 20	2	3	4																								
5	6	7	8	9	10	11																								
12	13	14	15	16	17	18																								
19	20	21	22	23	24	25																								
26	27	28	29	30	31	Feb 1																								

December Events



*Shown clockwise—Colleen helps deliver toys and gifts to the Brigade Building in Neenah,
The group who helped decorate the church for Christmas. Thanks so much!*

Our Mission Quilters doing their thing.

Our church staff going into 2020—Jennifer, Kasey, Colleen, Pastor Jon, Dave and Chris.

Our carolers, who sang in December at local nursing homes.