

VOICE

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

February 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

We sang the song, “Here I am, Lord” in worship a few Sundays ago. It is one of my favorites in the Hymnal because it is about the call to follow Christ through thick and thin, snow and rain. You have taken this call seriously at Our Savior’s in your daily lives, at work, and in serving. I am excited for our future and learning about your gifts and passions. I am also discovering that Our Savior’s has a rich history of mission work... of serving the community and the world based on your passions and gifts. We used to have paid staff to help facilitate missions and service projects. We no longer have this gift. I am finding we need you, the members of Our Savior’s, to pick up where staff left off. We need lay leaders to carry out some of the projects that are near and dear to your hearts. That is where you come in.

I heard of a church in Oregon that got a new pastor. She was genius at getting others involved. It was a small dying congregation that wanted to serve the community. She put on the reader board out in front of the church, “We need you!” And sure enough, people started showing up and asking, “What do you need me for?” I am finding it is my job to let you know, “We need you!” Even if you have never served before, or if you are now, we need your time, talents, gifts and passions.

I just attended a Thrivent/Habitat for Humanity sponsored breakfast for local pastors and lay leaders to inform us about a local *Faith Build* coming up in June – September. This means multiple local faith communities will come together to volunteer time and sweat to build a home for a local family. The people there also informed me that Our Savior’s has a long history volunteering with Habitat for Humanity.

This type of project is something I would personally consider doing. God has blessed me with a family that made a living through electrical contracting work. I helped my dad wire houses and run conduit as a young man. I worked my way through college in the summers digging trenches. My dad also volunteered his time. He worked with the local high school to teach students the electrical module when they were wiring the house they built that would be auctioned off in the community.

Our Serve and Reach team is meeting right now to discern where we want to spend our time and talents in the next few years as it relates to mission projects and outreach. Maybe you want to join that team and help organize us. Maybe you are passionate about one thing we do here at Our Savior’s. Maybe you are grieving something we aren’t doing anymore. Let your thoughts be known. Step up and lead.

Finally, will you join me on this project? Do you have construction gifts? Do you know how to paint? Can you wheel a wheelbarrow? Can you cook? Will you join me in signing up to take a day or two and use your gifts in this community Habitat/Thrivent Faith Build? This is one project I can take the lead on and coordinate volunteers. I will have a sign-up sheet out soon and target a few dates in the future for Our Savior’s members to step up and work together to help a family build a home.

Carry on in joy!

PASTOR JON

Confirmation/ Youth News

Unity Worship Service Update

The Unity Worship Service has been CANCELLED for 2020. Confirmation students will meet at their regular class time to share a meal and prepare for Souper Bowl of Caring.

Sunday School News

Teachers Needed

Our Sunday School teacher sign-up is nearly empty for the remainder of the year. Unfortunately, if we do not have teachers, we cannot hold Sunday School. Please consider signing up on the easel next to the Sunday School table in the Gathering Area.

First Communion

We will be holding another First Communion Workshop on Saturday, February 22 at 10:00 a.m. If your child was not able to attend the class in Fall, we will be covering the same material in this course. If you have questions or are interested in signing up, please contact Colleen Welsh at cwelsh@our-saviors.org.

Souper Bowl of Caring

The Souper Bowl of Caring is THIS Weekend! On February 1-2, Our Confirmation students will join in a national effort to fight against hunger. We will be collecting food donations for the OSLC food pantry, which can be placed on the cart outside of the Sanctuary. The Confirmation students will also be collecting monetary donations at all three services next weekend, which will be put toward the Pillars meal program. We hope you will join us!

Financial Peace University

Adults of OSLC, we have an exciting opportunity for you! Each Thursday, beginning February 27 and ending April 30, Our Savior's will be leading a Financial Peace University course. This nine-session course uses biblical wisdom and common sense to help you tackle budgeting, pay off debt, and make your money work for you! FPU includes your member workbook and a year of free online resources through Financial Peace Membership.

To register, please visit fpu.com/1112458. For more information, please contact Colleen Welsh at cwelsh@our-saviors.org.

Deadline for Voice Articles

The deadline for all articles for the Voice is generally on or about the 22nd of each month. If you have anything newsworthy you'd like printed, please email Jennifer Hurley at jhurley@our-saviors.org with your item. Thank you.

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

Help For the Homeless

We will be collecting NEW hygiene and cleaning items for local crisis agencies through The Family Radio's annual "Help for the Homeless" hygiene drive, February 16 – March 8. Please place your donations in the *Help for the Homeless* collection box located in the Gathering Area by March 8.

Supplying these items to local shelters will help them direct their limited funds to providing qualified staff, counseling, food and shelter to those they serve. Most urgently needed items are laundry soap, kitchen size trash bags (shelters go thru LOTS of these), shampoo, cleaning supplies, diapers, toilet tissue, and feminine care. **Your donations will remain in this community.** Note: Food Share (formerly Food Stamps) does not cover the cost of non-food items such as soap and diapers. Thank you! More info at thefamily.net

Ash Wednesday – "Ashes to Go"

Are you in a hurry? On your way to work? Running errands? On your way home from work? Is it too cold? Or too snowy?

Please join us and drive through for: **Ashes to Go**

Place: Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 809 S Commercial Street

Date: February 26, 2020

Time: Anytime between 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Ash Wednesday is a Christian holy day of prayer and fasting. It is preceded by Shrove Tuesday and falls on the first day of Lent, the six weeks of penitence before Easter. Ash Wednesday is traditionally observed by Western Christians.

Ash Wednesday derives its name from the placing of repentance ashes on the foreheads of participants in the shape of a cross, to the words "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." The ashes are prepared by burning palm leaves from the previous year's Palm Sunday celebration and symbolize penance, mourning and mortality.

"Ashes to Go" will be offered to anyone in the congregation and community that wishes to participate. Ashes will be distributed individually as people drive under the car port at Our Savior's.

Please invite your friends!

Ash Wednesday Volunteers Needed

The Worship and Music Team is looking for individuals to help with the distribution of ashes for Ashes to Go. There will be a sign up sheet at church. You will be working in groups of two and sign up for periods as short as one hour or as long as you like.

OSLC Tech Booth

The Tech Booth NEEDS YOU! We cannot hear our worship leaders during worship without the help of a tech booth person. The job is easy to learn, and you don't even need to stand up in front of people! Please sign up with Kristi Armstrong at karmstrong3@gmail.com and help grow this team. Worship needs you!

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 February 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 February 8 and 22. All men are welcome. Contact is Ken Schmidt.

Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held at 9:15 a.m. in the sanctuary on **Sunday, February 9, 2020**. Please plan to attend this meeting to conduct church business and to vote on the 2020 Budget..

There will also be two budget review sessions ahead of the Annual Meeting for you to learn more information or ask questions. They are January 26 and February 2 at 9:15 a.m.

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 February 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, February 3 from 1:00-2:30 - craft.
- Monday, March 2 from 12:00 noon – 2:00 – Lunch provided by Thrivent Financial – Presentation on senior fraud and how to protect yourself.

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

Mission Quilters

Anyone is welcome to join us. No sewing skills are necessary - if you can tie a knot, you can tie a quilt! Come and join us whenever you can, so "those who have nothing will at least have a quilt."

We meet on the first Thursday of the month (February 6) from 1pm -4pm (We will be having our Winter Tea during this time!), and the 3rd Thursday of the month (February 20) from 9am-noon. We gather in the gym. Contact is Nancy Freier.

Ash Wednesday Services

Ash Wednesday Services will be held in the sanctuary at Our Savior's Lutheran Church on Wednesday, February 26, at both 10:00 AM and 6:30 PM.

Offering Envelopes

If you haven't yet picked up your offering envelopes, please do so ASAP. We have multiple boxes for family groups, so come pick up for your whole gang! Thank you.

New Member Weekend

Our Savior's will be welcoming new members on the weekend of February 22/23. On Saturday, February 22, we will have a noon potluck and some conversation about Our Savior's, the ELCA, and areas you can serve in the church.

If you are interested in joining the church, indicate that on the pew pads in worship, talk to Pastor Jon, and/or call Kasey in the office at 920-725-3956.

We will also be recognizing new members in worship who have joined the church since October 1 when Pastor Jon started. We are excited you are here. Welcome to Our Savior's.

"Leap Into Action" Thrivent Member Appreciation Weekend at OSLC

Are you a Thrivent member or want to learn more about the benefits Thrivent members receive? Join us for our Thrivent Appreciation weekend on February 29/March 1, as we celebrate *YOU* and share how Thrivent members can use their benefits to do good right here in our church and community.

Join us for one of our celebrations:

Saturday, February 29 @ 4:00 p.m. (before worship)

Sunday, March 1 @ 9:00 a.m. (between services)

Sunday, March 1 @ 11:30 a.m. (after worship)

We'll share a light meal, hear how some OSLC members have used their Thrivent benefits and how, together, we can support our congregation and be more generous in our community through Choice Dollars and Action Teams.

Since the Thrivent Choice charitable grant program began in 2010, Thrivent has provided more than \$414 million to help churches, educational institutions and other nonprofit organizations. Thrivent Action Teams bring members and volunteers together to make an immediate impact on causes you care about through fundraisers, service activities or educational events. In Winnebago County there is nearly \$6 million of Thrivent Action Team funding to use!

Contact Marcie Kimmes at 920-843-2981 or email marcie.kimmes@thrivent.com if you have questions. Hope to see you on February 29/March 1 as we "Leap into Action" together!

Flu and Cold Season

At Our Savior's we care about you and your health. Here are some tips.

—It's okay to not shake hands while passing the peace. Bumping elbows, flashing a "V" peace sign, or the "how ya doin" head bob are all acceptable.

—While we do our best to keep sanitizers available throughout the church, it may be a good practice to bring your own small bottle in your purse or pocket.

—If you are feeling ill, please do not come to worship or volunteer. We will miss you dearly and pray for you, but by staying home you are preventing the germs from spreading to others and helping yourself get better and back to church quicker.

Church Council Minutes

Our Savior's Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.

Open Forum: Pam Garman presented on proposed Memorial Committee Policy and Procedure. Karl Wunderlich presented the new proposed 2020 budget.

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

Treasurer's Report: Report as written. See bulletin board for full report.. Revised 2020 Budget.

2019 Membership/Attendance Reports: Report as written. See bulletin board for full report.

Ministry Team Reports:

Care and Connect – Kristi Armstrong: Update in annual report.

Retirees and Friends – Joan Terry: Social held on Monday, Jan 6. 16 people attended. Next event Monday, February 3.

Evangelism, Marketing, Communication, and Technology – Andrew Schaller/Kevin Schabo: Church APP – not fully utilized – need to re-educate. TEC booth – looking for volunteers. Looking into G-Suite – Google based – could save money. Need to look into a technology upgrade cycle. Working on e-mail database and church management system. Reviewing new members packet. LED sign is now run by Jennifer Hurley.

Finance – Sue Schultz/Marcie Kimmes: Budget.

Learn and Grow/Youth – Chris Crum: Looking to improve Sunday School.

Security and Safety – Ben Lochner: Security parts for carport door not here yet. Sign will be put up by elevator main door to go to the carport door to enter on Saturday and Sunday church services if later than 10 minutes after service starts. Carport door will be monitored by ushers to let late arrivers in. Ushers will be updated on door monitoring.

Worship and Music – Graham Bradley: Planned services. Looking into theme Sundays. Organ repair is min \$2,000. Digital piano replacement will be \$5500 – submitted request to use memorial fund.

Worship Volunteers- Kristi Armstrong: TEC booth volunteers needed especially 5pm service. Will be putting request into the Voice and bulletin. Looking for ways to improve volunteer opportunities.

New Business:

Proposed Memorial Committee Policy and Procedure Vote: Approved.

Proposed 2020 Budget Vote: Approved.

Proposed Funeral/Memorial Honorarium Amounts: Approved.

Annual Meeting: Sunday, February 9, 2020 at 9:15a.m.

Next Council Meeting: Next meeting Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at 7:00 PM.

Old Business:

Car Port Door Security System Request: Updated under Security & Safety above.

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

Opportunities For Giving...

Noisy Offerings

Hams

\$1,729.42

Generous Congregation...

YTD Totals Through December

	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Difference</i>
Income	\$422,300	\$456,498	\$34,198
Expenses	\$439,997	\$411,971	\$28,026

January Pastoral Acts...

Baptisms – Leon Colebrook Stewart on January 18,
Evelyn Rae Cooper on January 25

Funerals – Dee Klein Memorial Service on January 18

New Members — None

Weddings—None

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.

Building Fund...

Through December

Remaining on Loan	\$187,771.65
Principal Paid on Loan	\$164,987.05
Total Contributions	\$196,291.07
Billed on Loan	\$ 38,627.76
Paid on Loan Over Billed Amount	\$126,359.29

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 26	27	28	29	30	31	Feb 1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
SCRIP Cards Sold	1:00pm Retirees & Friends	10:00am Rebekah Circle (Library)	9:00am Visitation Team Meeting	1:00pm Quilting	6:30pm FV Squares	8:00am Men's Breakfast
8:00am Worship	6:00pm AA Hispanic	5:30pm Worship & Music Team Meeting	10:00am Bible Study	7:00pm AA Meeting	6:30pm FV Squares	5:00pm Men's Breakfast
9:15am Adult Bible Study			5:30pm Confirmation			5:00pm Worship
9:15am Budget Review			5:30pm Joyous Ringers Rehearsal			
9:15am Sunday School			7:00pm Chancel Choir			
10:30am Worship-Souper						
1:00pm AA Hispanic						
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
8:00am Worship	6:00pm AA Hispanic	9:30am Easter Circle (Loounge)	10:00am Bible Study	7:00pm AA Meeting	Valentine's Day	5:00pm Worship
9:15am Adult Bible Study		10:00am Staff Meeting	5:30pm Confirmation			
9:15am Annual Meeting		5:45pm Neenah Soccer (Gym)	5:30pm Joyous Ringers Rehearsal			
9:15am Sunday School		7:00pm Council Meeting	7:00pm High School Youth Group			
10:30am Worship			7:00pm Chancel Choir			
1:00pm AA Hispanic						
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
8:00am Worship	Presidents' Day (regional holiday)	11:00am Island Shores Service (Island Shores, 131 E North Water St, Neenah, WI 54956, USA)	10:00am Bible Study	9:00am Quilting	6:30pm FV Squares	8:00am Men's Breakfast
9:15am Adult Bible Study			5:30pm Confirmation	7:00pm AA Meeting		10:00am First Communion Workshop
9:15am Sunday School	6:00pm AA Hispanic		5:30pm Joyous Ringers Rehearsal			12:00pm New Members Pot Luck
10:30am Worship			7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal			5:00pm Mardi Gras Worship - New Members
1:00pm AA Hispanic						
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
8:00am Mardi Gras Worship - New Members	6:00pm AA Hispanic	5:45pm Neenah Soccer (Gym)	Ash Wednesday	6:30pm Financial Peace University		4:00pm Thirteenth Appreciation
9:15am Adult Bible Study		6:30pm Women's Book Club (Library)	10:00am Ash Wednesday	7:00pm AA Meeting		5:00pm Worship
9:15am Sunday School			10:00am Bible Study			
10:30am Mardi Gras Worship - New Members			5:30pm Confirmation			
1:00pm AA Hispanic			5:30pm Joyous Ringers			
			6:30pm Ash Wednesday			