

VOICE

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

April 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 

¹¹For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. ¹²Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. ¹³When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, ¹⁴I will let you find me, says the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile” Jeremiah 29:11-14.

To my siblings in Christ who are in exile, quarantine, home arrest, or whatever you want to call it. We know it is the best thing for us right now to stop the spread of Covid-19, but it isn't easy. I long to be with all of you in person.

But, let me tell you, God has a history of journeying with people who are forced into situations they don't choose for themselves. The Prophet Jeremiah is prophesying to the Israelites who were forced into Exile in Babylon in 587 BC. This is known as the Babylonian Captivity. People were forced to leave their homes, land, gardens, family, and communities behind. Can you imagine leaving your familiar surroundings to a foreign place to be exiled? On top of that, they didn't have, Netflix, Disney+, Tic-Toc, social media or Zoom to stay connected. At least we have the WWW to stay connected.

And in this terrible time for the people, Jeremiah has the audacity to preach a word of hope. His overall message is that God will one day restore them to the places in which he sent them into exile. God has plans for the Israelites giving them a future filled with hope. God just wants the people to call on God, to search for God, to pray to God, and God will let them find him.

But what should they do in the meantime? How should they live and operate while in exile? This is the most fascinating thing about this text. If you read what comes before, the prophet Jeremiah is telling them to go on with their lives and “live” again.

⁵Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. ⁶Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. ⁷But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.”

I see some creative and amazing things happening in our world right now, because we are forced to step back and seek the welfare of others. My own kids are helping each other clean their rooms. They are playing together like I have never seen. They long to be outside. They aren't as stressed with school and activities.

Our Savior's, it is time to live. Make the most of your situation. Love others as Christ loved us. Say “thank you” to those on the front lines. Thank the grocery workers, pharmacy techs, truckers, and custodians.

God will restore us! Let me remind you Easter is Coming! We will celebrate the resurrection one way or another.

Pastor Jon

Sunday School News

Thank you to all those involved in Sunday School for your patience and understanding as we navigate all of the changes brought about by the COVID-19 outbreak. If you haven't already seen them, we are sharing a Sunday School lesson each Sunday after Worship on the Our Savior's Lutheran Church – Neenah WI Facebook page. If you do not already follow this page, please do in order to view Worship, lessons, and important updates.

Update: Due to the virus, it is with a heavy heart that we have to cancel the Palm Sunday Breakfast and Donkey Walk. Please check your e-mail in the coming weeks for updates regarding when the church will resume regular activities.

Confirmation/ Youth News

Thank you all for how you've responded to the changes we are undergoing as a church amid the COVID-19 crisis. If you can, please tune into the church's Facebook page for live-stream Worship services, so that you and your families can remain connected until we meet again.

Please routinely check your e-mail in the coming weeks for updates regarding when we will resume Confirmation and other church activities.

Easter Worship Schedule

(Tentative, depending on COVID-19 situation)

Holy Week Schedule

April 9, 10 AM & 6:30 PM - Maundy Thursday Worship

April 10, 6:30 PM - Good Friday Worship

April 11, 5:00 PM - Easter Vigil Worship

April 12, 7:00, 9:00 & 10:30 AM - Easter Sunday Worship

Thank You!

This year's Soup Suppers were a great success! Thank you to all those who cooked, volunteered, served, cleaned, and donated to our Youth program! Your generous sharing of time, talent, and treasure is such a gift to your church.



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

Giving During COVID-19

We plan to re-evaluate our re-opening date on Monday, April 6. During this time off, if you are in a position to continue your regular giving, we will gratefully accept it. You can give online via the website. Just click our link at <https://our-saviors.org/give/> This link also gives you the opportunity to sign up for recurring payments through Tithely, if you prefer and are able. And of course, you can also donate via snail mail. Our address is 809 S. Commercial Ave, Neenah, WI 54956.

New Church Directory

Can you believe it's already been five years since we updated our church directory?! So much has changed. New pastor, new staff, new members. We are looking for someone to coordinate the production of a new church directory. This can be done on your own or as a team. Like everything else, we need leadership to get it done. Sue Schultz coordinated the 2015 directory and is willing to share her experience and insight with you. Please contact Kasey in the church office if you are interested.

When this is over,
may we never again
take for granted
A handshake with a stranger
Full shelves at the store
Conversations with neighbors
A crowded theatre
Friday night out
The taste of communion
A routine checkup
The school rush each morning
Coffee with a friend
The stadium roaring
Each deep breath
A boring Tuesday
Life itself.

When this ends,
may we find
that we have become
more like the people
we wanted to be
we were called to be
we hoped to be
and may we stay
that way—better
for each other
because of the worst.

LAURA KELLY FANUCCI

View Services Online

We have placed a button on the Homepage of our website www.our-saviors.org entitled 'Recorded Sermons.' By clicking on this button, you can view all of the recent worship services that have been loaded onto our You Tube Channel. Or you can go direct to the Channel by clicking <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcQQZHz-YjkOhqv6IVtCR7g>

Pastor Jon and the music staff, with technical help from Andrew Schaller, is recording worship services each week. You can view them live at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays on our Facebook page, OR later on the website via the button mentioned above, OR directly on the You Tube Channel. We had our first live service on March 22, and it was a huge hit with many 'attendeess'.

Easter Flower Sale

The Easter Flower Sale sponsored by the Joyous Ringers has been CANCELLED.

Women's Book Club

TENTATIVE

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 April 28. Come join us!

Prayer Shawl Ministry

TENTATIVE

We meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. 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

TENTATIVE

Our Men's Bible study meets on the second and fourth Saturday of every month at 8:00 a.m. 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 April 11 and 25. All men are welcome. Contact is Ken Schmidt.

All activities listed here are tentative, depending on when we can re-open the church.

Esther and Rebekah Circles

TENTATIVE

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 April 14. Contact person is Jackie Hartmann. The Rebekah Circle meets once a month, usually on a Tuesday, at 10:00 a.m. in the library. 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:

-April 6—CANCELLED

-May 4 from 1:00-2:20, Bunco and Cribbage and snacks.

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

Mission Quilters

TENTATIVE

Anyone is welcome to join us. Come help us tie some quilts! Easy, fun work. 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 (April 2) from 1pm-4pm, and the 3rd Thursday of the month (April 16) from 9am-noon. We gather in the gym. Contact is Nancy Freier.

Church Council Minutes

Our Savior's Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes—March 10, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.

Pastor's Report:

Lent service/soup supper.

Memorial for Joanne Liebold on Friday, March 13.

Council retreat scheduled for April 4. Read book "Beyond Maintenance to Mission". Bring something to eat to share and 3 things to come ready with: 1) what are your dreams for Our Saviors, 2) What are our needs in our community, and 3) What are our assets we have at Our Saviors.

Thursday nights Financial Peace University.

Confirmation Camp.

Youth Gathering – Pastor submitted song.

Treasurer's Report: Unified budget good. Expenses in-line. Adult education up \$200. Christmas Program down \$500.

2020 Membership/Attendance Reports: Attendance is stable.

Ministry Team Reports:

Building and Grounds-Kevin Schabo: Leak in pipe was patched. If piping is good, don't need to replace heating. Boiler from 1995. Will check other pipes to see if good. Chris will put list together: add insulation, windows leak – thermal pane insert maybe use memorial fund, dimmer system, ceiling fans.

Retirees and Friends – Joan Terry: Social held on Monday Mar 2. Thrivent came and provided lunch and presentation on Elderly Fraud and Theft. 31 people attended from Our Savior's, Gloria Dei, and St. Marks.

Evangelism, Marketing, Communication & Technology: Andrew Schaller/Kevin Schabo: 3 mics are digital and are good. 4 mics might have to be replaced. July 14 deadline to replace mics due to being illegal/obsolete. Marcie will post guest wi-fi code. Next tech meeting in April.

Finance – Sue Schultz/Marcie Kimmes: Met March 11. Check signing, organ repaired March 10, digital piano purchased, sending thank you cards out for pledging 2x/year.

Learn and Grow/Youth – Chris Crum: Next meeting March 26. Sunday school declining – students and teachers. Volunteer needed – reminder anyone can be a teacher.

Personnel – Sue Schultz: Next meeting April 5. Employee handbook revised – almost done. Approval in April. Added in parental leave. **Council approved/second: Schultz/Kimmes. All voting aye.**

Security and Safety – Ben Lochner: Carport door working. Cost came in on budget. Looking for new lights. Usher training TBD. Add film to windowpane to protect against bullet to make a safe room. Next meeting May 12.

Serve and Reach – Andrew Schaller: Next meeting March 17 – will discuss next events.

Worship and Music – Graham Bradley: Digital piano in place. Raffle will be held for old piano. Organ repair done – contact keys and connectors repaired, bugs inside cleaned out, clean up speaker system, fixed lights.

Next Council Meeting: Next meeting Tuesday, April 14, 2020 at 7:00 PM.

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

Memorials & Honorarys Received

A special thank you to
those who remembered

*Dee Klein
Bob Suess*

Generous Congregation...

YTD Totals Through February

	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Difference</i>
Income	\$ 64,103	\$ 60,525	\$ 3,578
Expenses	\$ 72,725	\$ 69,351	\$ 3,374

Noisy Coin

February

Pillars

\$537.84

March Pastoral Acts...

Baptisms – None

New Members — None

Funerals— Leibold Memorial service on March 13

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 February

Remaining on Loan	\$115,432.61
Principal Paid on Loan	\$ 71,321.68
Total Contributions	\$ 5,095.39
Billed on Loan	\$ 6,437.96
Paid on Loan Over Billed Amount	\$ 64,883.72

April Calendar

NOTE: This is the intended calendar for April. However, know that we are not sure if these events will occur due to our quarantine.

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April 2020						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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	30	31				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 29 Easter Flower Sale Ends Palm Sunday SCRIP Gift Cards Sold 8:00am Worship 8:30am Palm Sunday Breakfast 9:15am Sunday School 9:30am Donkey Walk	30 1:00pm Retirees & Friends 6:00pm AA Hispanic 6:30pm Personnel Meeting	31 9:30am Knitting Ministry	Apr 1 10:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Lenten Soup Supper 5:30pm Joyous Ringers Rehearsal 6:30pm Lenten Worship 7:00pm High School Youth 7:00pm Chancel Choir	2 1:00pm Quilting 6:30pm Financial Peace University 7:00pm AA Meeting	3 1:00pm Quilting 6:30pm Financial Peace University 7:00pm AA Meeting	4 SCRIP Gift Cards Sold 8:00am Council Retreat 5:00pm Worship
5 Easter Flower Sale Ends Palm Sunday SCRIP Gift Cards Sold 8:00am Worship 8:30am Palm Sunday Breakfast 9:15am Sunday School 9:30am Donkey Walk	6 1:00pm Retirees & Friends 6:00pm AA Hispanic 6:30pm Personnel Meeting	7 9:30am Knitting Ministry	8 10:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Confirmation 5:30pm Joyous Ringers Rehearsal 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	9 Maundy Thursday 10:00am Worship 12:00pm Finance Meeting 6:30pm Worship 7:00pm AA Meeting	10 Good Friday (regional holiday) OFFICE CLOSED 6:30pm Worship	11 Holy Saturday 8:00am Men's Breakfast 5:00pm Easter Vigil
12 Easter Sunday NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 7:00am Worship 9:00am Worship 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 1:00pm AA Hispanic	13 Easter Monday OFFICE CLOSED 6:00pm AA Hispanic	14 9:30am Esther Circle (Lounge) 10:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Council Meeting	15 10:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Confirmation 5:30pm Joyous Ringers Rehearsal 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	16 9:00am Quilting 6:30pm Financial Peace University 7:00pm AA Meeting	17 9:00am Quilting 6:30pm Financial Peace University 7:00pm AA Meeting	18 5:00pm Worship
19 8:00am Worship 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 1:00pm AA Hispanic	20 6:00pm AA Hispanic	21 11:00am Island Shores Service (Island Shores, 131 E North Water St, Neenah, WI 54956, USA)	22 10:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Confirmation 5:30pm Joyous Ringers Rehearsal 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	23 6:30pm Financial Peace University 7:00pm AA Meeting	24 6:30pm Financial Peace University 7:00pm AA Meeting	25 8:00am Neenah/Menasha YMCA Vendor/Craft Fair 8:00am Men's Breakfast 5:00pm Worship - Camp Song Service
26 8:00am Worship - Camp Song Service 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship - Camp Song Service 1:00pm AA Hispanic	27 6:00pm AA Hispanic	28 6:30pm Women's Book Club (Library)	29 10:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Joyous Ringers Rehearsal 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	30 6:30pm Financial Peace University 7:00pm AA Meeting	May 1	2