

# VOICE

## *Our Savior's Lutheran Church*

May 2020

809 South Commercial Street  
Neenah, WI 54956  
Phone: 920-725-3956

Join our online worship services Sundays at  
9:00 a.m. on our Facebook page or  
YouTube Channel

*Life Together* 

I received a call last week from a 701 area code. This is North Dakota. Usually calls coming from that area code are the call center that handles my debit card servicing. I had Marcella in my arms as we were about to go to the store later at night to avoid the crowds. I didn't bother to answer the call because my hands were full. But once I got settled in the car, the call came in again. So I answered it. Persistence pays off, I guess. The voice on the phone was my internship supervisor from 2002, Pastor Larry Giese from North Dakota. Larry is still a pastor working as a chaplain in a nursing home.

He called out of the blue after many years of little to no contact. He has been reading and hearing that we should take this time during Covid-19 to contact people from our past. The call was such a blessing. He recalled many stories from our time in Harvey, North Dakota. But the one thing that made him cry was hearing that Annika, our 18-year-old, is graduating from Neenah High School this year. He remembered baptizing her on Easter Sunday 18 years ago at the sunrise service. We were all wearing tie-dye to celebrate the day. Larry burst into tears on the phone when he heard that she was graduating. He also cried when he remembered we lost our English Setter, Monty, while on internship. Then he recalled a time when we invited people to our home for Thanksgiving Dinner, which included his mom, who was visiting, and some single interns from the area. After dinner, we played games like Balderdash and Pictionary. Larry's mom, who I believe is 89 now, still recalls how much fun we had that night. She asks about us often. This reminds me how important it is to invite people for dinner who don't have a place to go around the holidays.

This week, I also heard from a seminary classmate who lives in Minocqua, WI. He is now an internship supervisor and he recently heard through that network that I moved to Neenah. He was so excited to find out we moved and wants to get together once all this clears up. I can't tell you how good it feels to be remembered by friends I met on my faith journey.

On top of that, I heard from one of my former seminary interns who is getting married in June. He sent a personal note to let us know that their wedding size has shrunk dramatically and that they will try to do a celebration later in the year or next year. We were planning to go to the wedding on the way out to see family in Oregon this summer.

Right now, every interaction matters. We are longing for connection and to be remembered. Take the time during our quarantine to connect with people from our past. Write notes and cards, emails, and posts. Tell people how they affected your life. Thank them. Forgive people you need to forgive.

In Easter Joy,

*Pastor Jon*

### Sunday School News

Like many other aspects of church, Sunday School has taken on a new form. We have been using digital platforms to share our weekly lessons. Sunday School was set to end at the beginning of this month (May 3), but we have decided to extend our lessons for the duration of quarantine, to provide at-home fun and faith formation for the families of Our Savior's.

We are now using lesson videos from Sparkhouse Lectionary, which can be found on the church's Facebook page, and on the Our Savior's Lutheran – Neenah, WI app. Thank you for your continued participation!

### Confirmation News

Our Confirmation year has come to a close. After a few weeks of virtual meet-ups and classes, we concluded our year on a celebratory note. We ate snacks, donned makeshift party hats, and shared one final class together.

Thank you to all students, and families for adjusting to a new normal and helping to make the best of these times. Also, thank you so much to our teachers and helpers: Jenn Paulson, Katie Ricketts, Jim Hein, Sarah Bjornstad, Todd Hagner, Pastor Jon, and Casie Goodson. Without you, this year of Confirmation would not have been possible. God bless you all, have a great summer, and see you soon.

### To Joyous Ringers and Chancel Choir

Wow, it seems like forever since we've been together. I really miss our time together. Besides being wonderful choirs, you are also part of my church family and my friends. We enjoy being together and we care about each other. We pray for each other and support each other.

I know that you still think about the choirs. I've seen some of you through social media, online worship as readers or singers and Wednesday morning bible study with Zoom. Soon we'll be together again. Looking forward to that very much. No matter when that is, I'd like to play and sing one more time in Worship.

God bless you and keep you safe until we meet again.  
*Ardy Kreuter, Director*

### A Special Thank You to our Holy Week and Easter Volunteers

During this challenging time in history, we've needed to adjust how we live our lives and how we worship. Our new on-line services have required research, new equipment, time, patience, and a lot of practice.

We would like to offer a huge thank you to Andrew Schaller for his many hours working on recording, video and sound technology to be able to live stream our services, to Jennifer Hurley for keeping us up to date via Facebook, email and our church website and to Chris Swender for decorating the sanctuary.

Thank you to our vocalists: Kim Jannusch and Sue Englebert; our readers: Sue Schultz, Colleen Welsh, Ben Lochner, Ann Pokel, Dewey Wisner, Dana Doke-Prahl, Pam Garman, Rich Garman, Adam Kreuter, Kyle Curtis, Kristin Curtis, Graham Bradley and Pastor Jon for their contributions to our Holy Week Services.

Our special music for Easter Sunday was sung by Izzy Ricketts. She and her family were at her uncle and aunt's ranch in South Dakota for the three weeks prior to Easter. Izzy was filmed on the beaches of the Missouri River, while dodging 40 mph gusts. We would like to give special thanks to her Uncle Terry and Aunt Tracey Jacobson for assistance with coordinating the effort. Also, a special thank you to Norman Pope for musical assistance and Kim Zomer for her accompaniment.

Thank you everyone. We appreciate all you do for Our Savior's.  
*OSLC Worship Team*

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

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## OSLC Email Prayer Chain

We at Our Savior's have a confidential email prayer chain. The purpose of the prayer chain is to pray for any folks needing prayers. Prayers of all kinds including prayers for health and healing, prayers for comfort and loss, prayers for upcoming surgeries or treatments, prayers of thanksgiving, and more are appropriate. We have been known as the church who prays for others.

The prayer chain is confidential and no information should be shared. We only use names if given permission to do so. Prayer requests can be sent to Ardy (contact person) at [akreuter@new.rr.com](mailto:akreuter@new.rr.com). Anyone on the prayer chain can send out their own prayer requests as well. Requests can also be given to Kasey in the office or Pastor Jon to pass on to Ardy.

If you want the person you are praying for to be included in the Prayers of the Church in the bulletin, please let Kasey know. Also let her know when to take that person off the list. And if you're currently on the prayer list and wish to come off, let Ardy know.

If you would like to join this important ministry, or if your email changes, please contact Ardy.

## Virtual Coffee Hour

Looking for connection during these days apart? Join in our Friday morning virtual coffee hour! Each Friday from 10:30-11:30 a.m., we gather together in devotion, prayer, and fellowship. We would love to have you take this opportunity to catch up and reach out with members of our congregation.

If interested, please contact Colleen Welsh at [cwelsh@our-saviors.org](mailto:cwelsh@our-saviors.org) for details.

## OSLC's Database

We have recently had members express concern that Our Savior's has sold or given our church's database to outside sources. Please know that we do not, and will never, sell or give our database to anyone for any reason. It is strictly our possession and will remain as such.

## Baccalaureate Service

Calling all graduates! Your church is so proud of all of your accomplishments and wants you to feel celebrated. We will be holding a virtual Baccalaureate Service on Sunday, May 31 to recognize those graduating 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, High School, and College. If you are interested in participating, please send a photo of each student, along with their school, grade, and first, middle, and last name to Colleen Welsh at [cwelsh@our-saviors.org](mailto:cwelsh@our-saviors.org) no later than **Friday, May 22**. Thank you!

## View Services Online

We have placed a button on the Homepage of our website [www.our-saviors.org](http://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 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.

# *Church Council Minutes*

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## **Our Savior's Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes—April 14, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.**

### **Pastor's Report:**

Thank you to Andrew Schaller for getting on-line worship together.

Thank you to Sue Schultz for showing good leadership.

Challenge to Kevin Schabo to share special music for an upcoming on-line worship service.

All members have been called to check in with them.

Wednesday Bible Studies – 10am

Zoom meeting with Bishop.

Meeting with staff on-line once a week.

Will be sending general email to congregation on 4/15/20.

Pillar meal will be prepared on April 23 and brought to the shelter. Will not be serving due to virus.

**Treasurer's Report:** Not spending as much. Some larger donations in March. Other opportunities to give – need to provide instructions on how to give. Federal Government Paycheck Protection Program loan for \$59,620 was submitted. On April 9, 2020, the council approved submitting application for the loan via email. On April 10, 2020 via email, Council appointed Karl Wunderlich as contact person. If money is not needed will be returned.

**2020 Membership/Attendance Reports:** Church services available to be viewed on Facebook and YouTube.

### **Ministry Team Reports:**

**Building and Grounds-Kevin Schabo:** N95 masks and gloves were brought to Pillars. Chris will be digging a hole to look at pipes.

**Care and Connect – Kristi Armstrong:** Lent soup suppers were cancelled for remainder of the season. Members calling members to check on during virus.

**Retirees and Friends – Joan Terry:** All events cancelled due to the virus.

**Finance – Sue Schultz/Marcie Kimmes:** Loan application submitted. Vicki Meinke is our insurance agent and we may have a 2 month credit for Workers Comp due to the virus. There will be an audit scheduled soon.

**Learn and Grow/Youth – Chris Crum:** Meeting cancelled. Colleen has been doing arts and crafts after service on Facebook. She is trying to start up confirmation on-line to track with the worship service.

**Security and Safety – Ben Lochner:** No securities issues recently. Menasha church had a break-in.

**Worship and Music – Graham Bradley:** Need to develop live streaming instructions. Equipment purchased cost \$1200. Memorial fund paid for it. Will need to train others to help. Cost is \$50/month to live stream on YouTube and Facebook.

**Next Council Meeting:** Next meeting May 12, 2020.

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



## Generous Congregation...

### YTD Totals Through March

	<b><i>Budgeted</i></b>	<b><i>Actual</i></b>	<b><i>Difference</i></b>
<b>Income</b>	\$ 95,102	\$103,225	(\$ 8,123)
<b>Expenses</b>	\$109,088	\$104,396	\$ 4,692

## Giving During COVID-19

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.

Check out our online donation feature through Tithe.ly on our website at [www.our-saviors.org](http://www.our-saviors.org).

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

## Building Fund...

### Through March

<b>Remaining on Loan</b>	\$108,127.16
<b>Principal Paid on Loan</b>	\$ 77,244.58
<b>Total Contributions</b>	\$ 26,137.52
<b>Billed on Loan</b>	\$ 9,656.94
<b>Paid on Loan Over Billed Amount</b>	\$ 67,587.64



# Recent Pictures

The world looks a little different now. Here's where some of our members found HOPE in our community in recent weeks.



Our Youth are meeting online for Confirmation class (top left) and Sunday School. Below left are the Shaddick kids with their Sunday School projects and their Easter palms.



We are getting a nice 'turnout' for our Sunday worship services, including entire families gathering to watch. And we also have a few members making masks for others, including Pam Garman, shown here. Thanks to all those people for their efforts!!

