

VOICE

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

July 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 

Covid-19 Update for Our Savior's

As covid-19 continues to spike in different parts of our country, Wisconsin appears to be holding its own in terms of infection rates. This is good news for Wisconsinites and for us. It means we will be gradually opening things up at the church. Currently, internal groups of under ten can meet at church in designated areas that are easy to clean and set up for physical distancing. Contact Sue Englebert in the church office to get your meeting on the calendar and review and sign the covenant we put together for safe gatherings.

The Rise Again Team sent out a survey via email that netted 146 responses. We feel we got good data that will help us make some decisions:

76% of the respondents are very likely or likely to return to an **outdoor** service (i.e. with 6-foot physical distancing, wearing a mask, and sanitation guidelines) 10% of the respondents were neutral.

51% of the respondents are very likely or likely to return to an **indoor** service (i.e. with 6-foot physical distancing, wearing a mask, and sanitation guidelines) with 16% neutral.

68% of the respondents would come as individuals or as couples. 32% would be in groups of 3 or more.

56% would come to a Sunday Service at 9:00 AM and 44% prefer Saturday at 5:00 PM.

95% would be willing to follow the church's safety protocols like wearing a mask, physical distancing, and sanitation measures.

96% are willing to call, email, or use available technology to reserve a spot for worship to keep our numbers at a safe level.

This data tells me that you are ready to safely gather again and are eager to follow our church's guidelines and protocols for safely gathering. Thus, we are planning a parking lot worship where you would bring your own chairs, sit in marked out areas as an individual or family group (like Central Park), and worship with a mask on. Bathrooms will be open and cleaned throughout the service. Communion will be served in pre-packaged cups and offering will be in a central location.

Our first service will be on July 5 at 9:00 a.m. in the church parking lot (elevator entrance) for 50 or less people. To reserve your spot, please call the church office by Thursday, July 2. Bring your chair. Masks are required. Our online services will continue as we experiment with outdoor worship this summer.

Personally, I miss gathering with community, and yet, I know loving thy neighbor means physical distance and following safely gathering protocols. We will get through this together!

In Hope,

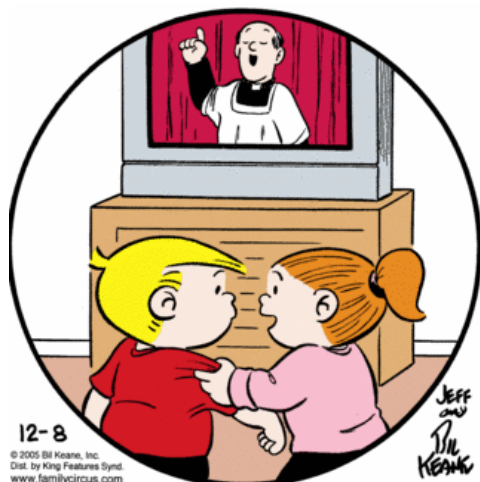
Pastor Jon Strasman

Vacation Bible School

This year, we have been given the opportunity to participate in WOW VBS, a worldwide, virtual Vacation Bible School program. There will be a replay of the program airing every hour, on the hour June 29-July 2. For more information, please visit <https://wowvbs.live/>. You won't want to miss it!

Sunday School

Thank you to all those who participated in our weekly Family Sunday School lessons from Sparkhouse. Now that Sunday School has concluded for the year, we hope that you all have a safe and enjoyable summer, and we look forward to resuming Sunday School in the Fall!



12-8

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"Hear that? People in heaven have ever-laughing life."

Outdoor Worship on July 5 at 9:00 a.m.

Call church office at 725-3956 to reserve your spot.

Limited to 50 or less people.

Bring your chairs.

Masks are required.

Portals of Prayer and Christ in Our Home Booklets

Have you been missing the daily devotions booklets that you use to pick up when you attended service? Well, we have made them available to you again. When you are out running your errands, just swing by the south main entrance and you will find a clear plastic tub with a blue cover. We have located it near the stone pillar by the door. Just open the cover and you will find both devotionals. We have placed July-Aug-Sept as well as the previous three months in case you had not picked that one up. We just ask that you place the cover back on tight. Pray On.....Amen

Come and "Make a Joyful Noise" Unto the Lord?

The music team at Our Savior's is looking for individuals, small groups and families to "Make a Joyful **Noise**" unto the Lord. You do not need to be a professional. You can sing, dance or play an instrument. It can be a solo, duet or small group. Accompanied or unaccompanied. You can select your own music, or we can help you. It just needs to be church appropriate. We would work with you to record it and it would be added to our on-line worship service.

If you are interested or have other ideas, please reach out to Roberta Golden at roberta_golden@hotmail.com or call 920-268-5848.

View Services Online

Pastor Jon and the music staff are still 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, OR directly on our YouTube Channel.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes—June 9, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.

Pastor's Report:

Communication: 1) Survey was sent out – 112 people responded so far. 2) Google mail issues. 3) Mailing was sent out with Stewardship and giving statement. 4) Will be sending out Monday reflection emails. 5) Staff meeting – setting simple goals for summer

Kasey had her baby. Sue Englebert is now backing up working 10-20 hours/week.

Backyard wedding planned for June 27.

Pastor Jon will be on vacation June 17-18.

Pillars meal June 25 – looking for bars/cookies – contact Alan Dordel 920-858-2760 if interested. Drop off at church noon-4pm on June 25.

Emptied food pantry – donated to St Joe's Menasha. Thank you to Chris and Sarah for packing up the items to be donated. Ken Schmidt is working on replenish.

Request for church funeral for June 20 was denied. Looking to reschedule it.

Rise Again team formed. Will discuss survey results. Next meeting Thurs June 18. Will start working with the worship team.

Treasurer's Report: May income down from April. Tracking up over budget. Building and Grounds spend is down. Staff expenses down. Have 24 weeks to use the Payroll Protection Program money – 75% needs to be used toward payroll. See report as written.

2020 Membership/Attendance Reports: Church services available to be viewed on Facebook and YouTube. 72 live views on June 7. 400-500 views weekly.

Ministry Team Reports:

Building and Grounds-Kevin Schabo: Talked with Chris. He has not opened up the floor to inspect yet due to an injured knee.

Care and Connect – Kristi Armstrong: Need to plan another phone blitz. Will wait for member data to be updated in data base.

Evangelism, Marketing, Communication & Technology: Andrew Schaller/Kevin Schabo: Will need to move livestream audio upstairs. Need to fix google email.

Finance – Sue Schultz/Marcie Kimmes: Met May 14 – decision to keep the Payroll Protection Program money. Sent out giving letter. Working on Stewardship program.

Personnel – Sue Schultz: Staff mtg May 19. Katie Ricketts presented New Employee Handbook.

Serve and Reach – Andrew Schaller: Activities on hold - God's Work Our Hands & Chili Supper.

Worship and Music – Graham Bradley: Will be working with the Rise Again team.

New Business:

Rental House: Need to replace the AC and Furnace - Quote from Christensen was for \$5,700. Building Fund will be used. Council Approved. **Motion/Second/Carried Schaller/Armstrong.** All voting aye.

On-Line Service Recording: Discuss adding a new position 7-9 hours/week. Additional software is needed. Discussion tabled until next meeting.

Social Media/Our Saviors Facebook Page: Need to develop a policy of what will be posted and who can approve what is posted. Discussion tabled until next meeting.

Next Council Meeting: Next meeting August 11, 2020. (No meeting in July.)

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

Generous People...

We've received thank you notes from St. Joe's Food Program and Father Carr's Place thanking our congregation for its generous food donations and support to help feed the hungry. Your generosity has made a difference in the lives of many. Thank you!

Memorials & Honorariums Received

A special thank you to those who remembered

Arvin Rank

June Pastoral Acts...

Baptisms – None

New Members — None

Funerals— Jon Laflin

Weddings— Kevin Mauthe & Meghan Kuehnl on June 27 (offsite)

Generous Congregation...

YTD Totals Through May

	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Difference</i>
Income	\$160,258	\$176,037	\$15,779
Expenses	\$181,813	\$170,632	(\$ 11,181)

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 Street, Neenah, WI 54956.

Building Fund...

Through May

Remaining on Loan	\$ 96,446.41
Principal Paid on Loan	\$ 89,230.08
Total Contributions	\$ 36,611.78
Billed on Loan	\$ 16,094.90
Paid on Loan Over Billed Amount	\$ 73,135.18



Even though we can't gather together, work for Lutheran World Relief has continued during this pandemic. Doris Schmidt sewed at home to modify baby shirts (top left). To the right is Cindy Boehm, showing the baby blankets she serged at her home.

Raye Chandler made t-shirt diapers over the winter months while she and her husband, Richard, were snowbirds down in Texas. Bottom left is Raye and Pastor Jon displaying two of the 410 diapers that she serged this winter.

Thanks to these ladies and everyone who continues to help with LWR.