

VOICE

*Our
Savior's
Lutheran
Church*

August 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 

During Covid-19, what can we do?

This is the question *The Rise Again Planning Team* has kept before us as we try to find ways to stay connected and keep proclaiming the Gospel. Here is a testimony from a couple who attended our outdoor worship services on July 5 and 19 at 9:00 AM in the church parking lot. (See *more testimonies inside these pages.*)

***"We like the outdoor services that have been happening. Being outside in the fresh air makes distancing much easier, while at the same time it allows us to worship together. We especially appreciate the self-communion sets. It's much nicer than trying to have communion at home by ourselves."* –Chris and Kevin Hillegas**

I believe in the power of testimonies. They draw people in. People come to faith through hearing others share their faith experiences and struggles. In the business world, they call testimonies "Word of Mouth Advertising". And for some reason, as learned in my college marketing class, I believe "Word of Mouth" is the most effective form of advertising.

In a book I read when I ministered in North Dakota, called Dakota, by Kathleen Norris, there was a chapter called *The Holy Use of Gossip*. Gossip is typically viewed as a bad thing... backbiting, putting others down, labeling, forming an underground whispering campaign. According to the dictionary, however, you will find that "gossip" is derived from the words for God and sibling... "Akin to God." Norris says "Gossip is the way small-town people express solidarity. It is theology translated into experience." She continues, "When we gossip, we are praying, not only for them, but ourselves."

With her definition, gossip is locate ourselves in others stories, good or bad. When someone says, "Did you know so and so is in the hospital?" Or if I am visiting a parishioner and they say something like, "Judy" is lonely. I know they are really trying to tell me check on Judy because they know what it means to be lonely. You get the picture. Good gossip is about care and concern for others. For example, just this week I heard that Bob Peotter turns 102 on August 3. I heard one of our members, Barb Gossen, is wanting to organize a safe distance walk-by to wish him a happy birthday.

I like the challenge of figuring out new ways to minister that are effective for all of you. I hope to get others involved in the ministry over time so we all feel a part of the church. For example, I invite all of you to send prayer petitions to me to be prayed during our online and outdoor worship. This is how the prayers of the people should go in church. They are your prayers... the prayers of the people... the cries of your heart. So I challenge you to send me a prayer petition to jstrasman@our-saviors.org. I will use it in worship.

Stay safe,

Pastor Jon Strasman

Sunday School

We are piecing together the details of what our Sunday School program will look like as we head into fall. While things will look different as we begin a new school year, we are looking forward to extending safe, meaningful programming to the children and families of Our Savior's. Please continue to keep an eye out for communications from church regarding Sunday School. We miss you!

Confirmation

Fall Confirmation classes are fast-approaching! Over the next few weeks, we will be finalizing our plans for what Confirmation will look like at the beginning of the year. Please continue to check for updates from the church regarding Confirmation. We look forward to another year of learning and growing with you all!

High School Youth

With our Youth Group nights having been cut short, we have been thinking a lot about how to reach out to our high schoolers at this time. We are forming a virtual Bible Study, and looking into potential options for socially-distant gatherings for the High School students of Our Savior's.

If you have not already done so, please fill our High School Youth and Parent Survey to help us navigate how to achieve your hopes and expectations for High School Youth Ministry at this time.

Outdoor Worship Services in August

***August 1 at 5PM & 2 at 9AM
August 15 at 5 PM & 16 at 9AM
August 29 at 5PM and 30 at 9AM***

***Call church office at 725-3956 to reserve your spot.
Limited to 50 or less people.
Bring your chairs.
Masks are required.***

New Church E-Mail Address

We have recently migrated to a Google platform for our emails here at church. Please feel free to use our new email address to contact the church for general questions, comments or prayers. info@our-saviors.org Each staff person still has their same email address.

Church Hours During Covid

Our Savior's now has limited office hours. Because we are keeping our in-church numbers to ten or less, including staff, we ask that you call to make an appointment if you want to stop by to drop something off or meet with staff. Please call the office at 920.725.3956 between the hours of 9am – 12 Noon on Monday through Thursday. Masks will be required. Thank you.

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 by following the link on the homepage of our website, OR directly on our You Tube Channel.

Come and "Make a Joyful Noise"

The music team at Our Savior's is looking for individuals, small groups and families to "Make a Joyful **Noise**" unto the Lord. You can sing, dance or play an instrument. It can be a solo, duet or small group. 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.

OSLC's 'Ride-to-Church' Ministry

The family of Dee Klein would like anyone in need of a ride to get to church. She often wanted to come to church, but there wasn't always a ride for her. As a result, her family wants the memorial money that came in on her behalf to subsidize rides for people to come to church.

We will be partnering with Northern Winnebago Dial-a-Ride as our form of transportation. We know things are slowly opening up right now, but we want to be ready for when people want to return. If you would like to use this service, call Sue in the office, and she will send you a form to fill out to get a Dial-a-Ride ID card. Once you fill this out and return it to us, you are eligible to get a ride to church with very little cost to you. We don't know the cost breakdown yet, but will soon.

We hope you can take advantage of this new "Ride Ministry".

SCRIP Gift Cards Available

Folks are wondering if Scrip Gift Cards are still available and the answer is YES!

Please feel free to give us a call at 751-3725 to place your order. We're happy to deliver them to your front porch. *-Neal and Sue Schultz*

More Testimonies From Members ...

"It felt sooo good to be back at church. We could feel the Holy Spirit with us." *-Neal & Sue Schultz*

"We have been to both outdoor worship services held Sunday mornings. Pastor Jon and everyone who organized the outdoor service did a great job! It was amazing to be back to church singing (in library voice, that is, with masks -Pastor Jon), and worshipping our good Lord. There were umbrellas for shade, a nice breeze and plenty of room to be careful and social distance. Thank you for providing the communion cups, they work perfect for being outside and keeping our distance. With the crazy world we live in right now, it's been a blessing to listen to Pastor Jon's sermons and fill our cups back up. Thank you for offering a safe and meaningful worship for us! *-Dan and Tammy Malewski*

"Greetings to my fellow members of Our Savior's - I miss you! It has been a long few months since we met for worship in church on a regular basis. We have begun to meet for worship in the west parking lot. Outdoors is much safer and we are able to sit as far away from one another as is comfortable for each of us. Also, we follow Christ's command to love and care for one another by wearing a mask! We urge you to bring your own chair. Everything is being handled beautifully and you will be safe from that nasty virus. I urge and hope to see you again in worship! God Bless You!" *-Sharon Hoelzel*

"I feel very comfortable recommending an outside service to our spiritual community members. I have thoroughly enjoyed the last two 9 am outside services. It felt so good to see our church family worshipping together again! Everyone was social distancing and wearing masks and safety was always considered. I hope all of you give it a try soon!" *-Tom Berven*

Book Study Opportunity

Our Fellowship Friday Coffee Hours have come to a close. As we discussed what direction we wished to go next for a study, we decided to do a congregational book study on *How to be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi. This book came recommended by our bishop, and is currently circulating in many ELCA circles, as a guide to navigate some of the difficult discussions surrounding racism in our society today.

The study will be held on Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Please contact Colleen Welsh at cwelsh@our-saviors.org if you have any questions, or wish to participate.

Current Winnebago County Risk Level: Moderately High and Activity Level High

Updated: 7/27/2020

Indoor Non-Church Related Groups	Indoor Church Affiliated Groups	Indoor Services	Outdoor Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•No more than 10 people total•Face masks required at all times upon entry to building•Hand sanitation upon entry to building•Cleaning between and/or after each use of area•No singing•Physical distancing at all times (6ft minimum)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•No more than 10 people total•Face masks required at all times upon entry to building•Hand sanitation upon entry to building•Cleaning after each use of area•Physical distancing at all times (6ft minimum)•For Virtual Recording purposes only: Joyful Noise are allowed to sing given they are 15 feet away from each other and 30 feet from those recording.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•No more than 10 people total•Face masks required at all times upon entry to building•Hand sanitation upon entry to building•Cleaning between and/or after each use of area•No singing (please use pre-recorded music or string instruments/piano, if possible)•Physical distancing at all times (6ft minimum)•No meal/snack service in the church	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•No more than 50 people total•Face masks required at all times•Hand sanitation prior to grabbing bulletin/communion•No singing (please use pre-recorded music or string instruments/piano, if possible)•Physical distancing at all times (6ft minimum)•No meal/snack service provided for gathering

*Rise again committee to review Winnebago County risk level bi-weekly to determine any changes to guidelines based on Wisconsin Department of Health data. Guidelines can change at any time at the discretion of the Rise Again committee.

*Web Source for identifying Winnebago County Risk Level and Trending Level (you will need to make sure it is filtered for Winnebago County): <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/local.htm>

- Our Mission Statement -

Gather and grow with God's spirit in order to love and serve others.

God grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot
change, the courage to
change the things I can,
and the wisdom to know
the difference.

So that I may be reasonably
happy in this life and
supremely happy with you
forever in the next.

Amen

Memorials & Honorariums Received

A special thank you to
those who remembered

*Arvin Rank
Jon Laflin
Kathy Rescheske*

July Pastoral Acts...

Baptisms – None

New Members — None

Funerals— Marge Nelson

Weddings— None

Generous Congregation...

YTD Totals Through June

	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Difference</i>
Income	\$192,310	\$196,248	\$ 3,938
Expenses	\$218,175	\$201,663	(\$16,512)

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 June

Remaining on Loan	\$ 90,063.57
Principal Paid on Loan	\$ 95,307.76
Total Contributions	\$ 39,582.39
Billed on Loan	\$ 19,313.88
Paid on Loan Over Billed Amount	\$ 75,993.88

Recent Pictures

6



Pictures from our first outdoor worship service on July 5. Please consider joining us soon!



Lutheran World Relief Kits update: Over the last 7 months, a number of people have been gathering items for the baby care kits, personal care kits, and school kits. Even though we weren't able to collect a "noisy offering" this spring, this ministry has been blessed by two Thrivent members who designated debit cards for the kits! Thank you to Brenda G and Shirley F, and thank you to Thrivent for supporting this cause. We've been able to purchase bath towels, combs, nail clippers, bars of soap, baby shirts, and more flannel to make baby blankets.

If you'd like to donate items for the school kits, here's what we need: 70-page spiral notebooks, plastic or wooden rulers, blunt children's scissors, and small pencil sharpeners. Items can be dropped off in the church office—remember to call before coming over. Or we can arrange a no-contact pick-up at your home. Thank you for the many years OSLC has supported LWR!