

VOICE

*Our
Savior's
Lutheran
Church*

September 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 am listening." I say these words quite often. It seems like in every conversation I have with parishioners, I hear you missing something church related from the past. Because of the changes with Covid-19, I listen very closely for things like laments and grief. To me, the Holy Spirit can work through your longings for the church.

One of the laments I have heard at Our Savior's is the cancellation of the Election Day Chili Supper last year. It made sense to cancel it then. We were going through major staff transitions, and there was a vacuum in leadership for this outreach ministry. But for sure, people really missed serving the community and raising funds for mission in this way.

Well, you have spoken. The chili supper is back on! It's time for us to get creative and put our energy and efforts into something beyond ourselves... by keeping a tradition and changing it up at the same time. As of right now, we will be having curbside chili pickup on Election Day. People can buy containers of chili to go to enjoy after the hard work of either voting in person or by mail.

Of course, this doesn't meet the need for people to be social and eat together, but it does give people something that feels familiar on Election Day. Who knows where we will be in November with all of this? I can just see church volunteers greeting people in the carport, or people dancing with the big placards on the front lawn with headphones on.

I am pleased to say that I already have Alan Dordel and Melissa Harrington committed to helping coordinate the kitchen end of things. The Lambs will take care of the spicing. We need a key leader or two to direct volunteers and help communicate and advertise. And of course we need volunteers.

If you want to volunteer, call the church office and we will put you on the list. We also are accepting financial donations to cover the costs. My goal would be to collect enough for the ingredients, containers, etc., so whatever we take in will be profit to go towards future mission trips.

I hope you share my excitement to get this ministry off the ground again. I will be working with the Serve and Reach Team for guidance in the weeks and months to come. Will you be on the Chili Team?

Blessings on this season of leaves turning color and all things pumpkin spice.

Peace,

Pastor Jon Strasman

Sunday School

Sunday School is back! Beginning Sunday, September 20, we will be holding Virtual Sunday School classes, which will be streamed on Facebook, YouTube, and the Church App following Worship. We are so excited to share this program with all of you. Please contact Colleen Welsh if your family will be participating, so that we can be sure to get you all of the materials you will need for the first month of classes.

First Communion

Students in 2nd Grade or above are invited to participate in a First Communion Class to prepare to share in the gift of the Eucharist. Please contact Colleen Welsh at cwelsh@our-saviors.org or 920-725-3956 if you would like your child to participate.

Confirmation

As we head into another year of Confirmation, we are finalizing decisions on how we can safely resume our program. We are planning to meet in-person in small groups beginning in early October, so that we can assess our guidelines once school is back in session before re-entering the church building.

We are so excited to begin another year of growing in faith with you all. Parents and guardians, please stay on the lookout for communications regarding this Fall's programming throughout this month. See you soon!

Outdoor Worship Services in September

Normally, the weekend after Labor Day, our church services would change to three services. The pandemic will impact our schedule this year. Services will continue at their present times until further notice.

Virtually/On-line – Sundays – 9AM
Outside Services – every other weekend at
Saturdays – 5 PM & Sundays – 9 AM

September 12 at 5PM & 13 at 9AM
September 26 at 5 PM & 27 at 9AM

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

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.

Music for Worship

If you've been watching our online services, you've seen some of the wonderful music our members have provided. We appreciate all of you!! The music team continues to look for individuals, small groups and families to provide music for our upcoming worship services. 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 will work with you to record it and it would be added to our online 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.

Welcome Back, Kasey!

On Tuesday, September 8, our Office Manager, Kasey Konkle, will be returning from maternity leave. She will be working with Sue Englebert initially to get caught up on church-related activities, and then will continue on a part-time basis. Welcome back, Kasey!

Many thanks from all of us to Sue for filling in while Kasey was gone! Her organizational skills and smiley face was just what we needed to keep us going during this crazy Covid time! You are appreciated, Sue.

We Have a New Ministry!

Our Savior's has started a new ministry called "Encouragement Ministry". Volunteers are writing letters to folks who may need encouragement during these trying times with the pandemic. Reaching out to a variety of people in all kinds of circumstances is our goal. Some examples would be loss of employment, police officers, firefighters, government officials, healthcare workers, learning something new, juggling jobs and kids, etc.

The following members have volunteered so far: Ann Pokel, Di Doersch, Kristin Curtis, Eryn Spanbauer, Rich and Pam Garman, Pastor Jon, Deb Hofer, Elizabeth Norman, Sue Englebert, and Ardy Kreuter. All supplies needed (cards/ envelopes/ labels, stamps) are furnished and on the kiosk by the office. If you have questions about this ministry, want to write to someone, or to suggest someone needing encouragement, contact Ardy Kreuter at akreuter@new.rr.com or 470-4701.

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

God's Work, Our Hands Day

Just like everything else, God's Work, Our Hands Day is going to look different this year. While we cannot congregate as we have in years past, the spirit of service is still alive and well for the people of Our Savior's this year.

On **Sunday, September 13**, we encourage you all to perform acts of service starting in your own homes and neighborhoods. Whether it be making uplifting chalk drawings, making a meal or baked goods for your neighbor, sending a card, or donating/contributing to an organization, you can still make a difference. We encourage you to send photos of your service projects to the church, so that we can celebrate the positive impact of this special weekend.

If you would like additional resources or ideas for ways to serve, please contact the Church Office at 725-3956— we would be happy to help you lend a hand with your fellow congregation members.

Have You Considered Lay School?

East Central Synod of Wisconsin, Lay School of Ministry has been described as a hidden gem by those who have experienced this, once a month, course offering. The first weekend of classes is September 11, 2020. It's not too late to register!

NEW this year is the opportunity to meet in Wausau OR a satellite location in Appleton at the Synod office!

Courses range from a 2-year, Core program that journeys through three areas: Bible, Church History and Faith & Spirituality. There are also four, stand alone, Continuing Education Courses, that change depending on current events and interest. The courses this year are titled: Christ at the Center, A Return from Exile- Marks of the Church in a Pandemic Age, Liberation Theology, and Homiletics: Preaching and Practice.

We are offering our usual rotation of core classes for our two year students, as well as continuing education classes. Students don't need to have gone through the two year core program to take one or more of the continuing ed classes. Sometimes it is these classes that allow people to try us out to see if Lay School is a good option for them and their faith journey.

This program is an excellent tool to build up gifted, competent lay leaders in our congregation. For more information, go to ecswlayschool.org OR Facebook at ECSW Lay School of Ministry. Any questions or interested in a course? email ECSWLaySchool@gmail.com.

Council Meeting Minutes August 11, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor dropping off daughter at college in New York.

2 funerals and 2 baptisms this month.

Pre-recorded 4 services this summer and will be recording again on Aug 14.

Pillars meal August 27 – looking for bars/cookies – contact Alan Dordel 920-858-2760 if interested.

Drop off at church noon-4pm on August 27.

Kevin Schabo helping putting services together when Andrew Schaller is gone.

Treasurer's Report: July income up due to one time donation and loan. Expenses are even.

2020 Membership/Attendance Reports: Church services available to be viewed on Facebook and YouTube. Started in-person services every over weekend. Need to call church to reserve a spot.

Ministry Team Reports:

Retirees and Friends – Joan Terry: Looking at sending out care packages.

Evangelism, Marketing, Communication & Technology: Andrew Schaller/Kevin Schabo:

Chris Swender and Colleen Welsh learning on-line programing. Purchased a recording devise to record music.

Finance – Sue Schultz/Marcie Kimmes: Met June 17 & July 15. Looking at Stewardship and creative way to present it this year. PPE Loan potential forgiveness. Pastor Jon put questions together. Next meeting wk of Aug 17.

Learn and Grow/Youth – Chris Crum: Pastor polled current members to see if they wanted to continue in this ministry. Had a webinar with Spark House (Sunday School program). Viral Sunday School to start this fall. Confirmation is planned for in-person with option for Zoom. Will be setting up 1:1 meeting with parents to find out what they prefer. Working with other churches to see what they are doing. Need to figure out what we want the kids to learn this year. Parents will be able to pick up Sunday School kits from church. More to come.

Personnel – Sue Schultz: Plan to do a time study. Job descriptions need to be created and updated. Employee evaluations will be done in October. Currently staff is paid full wages – working 4 hours in office. Will be evaluating current situation.

Serve and Reach – Andrew Schaller: Activities on hold. Gods Work Our Hands – TBD.

Worship and Music – Graham Bradley: Planning services.

Old Business:

Social Media/Our Saviors Facebook Page: Need to develop a policy of what will be posted and who can approve what is posted. **Motion** to post only OSLC sponsored events did not pass. Second **Motion** to post things that pertains to ELCA messaging and church mission statement with Pastor approval was passed with 7 aye and 1 nay.

Next Council Meeting: Next meeting September 8, 2020.

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

"We make a living
by what we get,
but we make a life
by what we give."

Generous Congregation...

YTD Totals Through July

	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Difference</i>
Income	\$224,362	\$228,169	\$ 3,807
Expenses	\$254,538	\$233,286	(\$21,252)

Memorials & Honorariums Received

A special thank you to
those who remembered

Marjorie Nelson

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.

August Pastoral Acts...

Baptisms – None

New Members — None

Funerals— Harriet Long

Weddings— None

Building Fund...

Through July

Remaining on Loan	\$ 83,692.98
Principal Paid on Loan	\$101,360.94
Total Contributions	\$ 41,428.00
Billed on Loan	\$ 22,532.86
Paid on Loan Over Billed Amount	\$ 78,828.08

September Calendar

<div> <div>Today</div> <div> <div>September 2020</div> <div> <div>Print</div> <div>Week</div> <div>Month</div> <div>Agenda</div> </div> </div> </div>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>30</div> <div>9am Virtual & Outside Worship</div> <div>1pm AA Hispanic</div>	<div>31</div> <div>11am Staff Meeting</div> <div>6pm AA Hispanic</div>	<div>1</div> <div>7pm Worship & Music Team</div> <div>10am Bible Study - Virtual</div>	<div>2</div> <div>1pm Quilting</div> <div>7pm AA Meeting</div>	<div>3</div>	<div>4</div>	<div>5</div>
<div>6</div> <div>9am Virtual Worship</div> <div>1pm AA Hispanic</div>	<div>7</div> <div>Labor Day</div> <div>11am Staff Meeting - TBD</div> <div>6pm AA Hispanic</div>	<div>8</div> <div>9:30am Esther Circle</div> <div>7pm Council Meeting</div>	<div>9</div> <div>10am Bible Study - Virtual</div> <div>12pm Finance Committee Mtg</div>	<div>10</div> <div>7pm AA Meeting</div>	<div>11</div> <div>8am Men's Breakfast</div> <div>5pm Outside Worship Call 7:00am</div>	<div>12</div>
<div>13</div> <div>9am Worship Virtual & Outside</div> <div>1pm AA Hispanic</div>	<div>14</div> <div>11am Staff Meeting</div> <div>6pm AA Hispanic</div>	<div>15</div>	<div>16</div> <div>10am Bible Study - Virtual</div>	<div>17</div> <div>9am Quilting</div> <div>7pm AA Meeting</div>	<div>18</div> <div>5pm FV Squares 70th Annv</div>	<div>19</div>
<div>20</div> <div>Sunday School Begins! Virtual</div> <div>9am Virtual Worship</div> <div>1pm AA Hispanic</div>	<div>21</div> <div>11am Staff Meeting</div> <div>6pm AA Hispanic</div>	<div>22</div> <div>10am Rebekah Circle</div> <div>6:30pm Women's Book Club</div>	<div>23</div> <div>10am Bible Study - Virtual</div>	<div>24</div> <div>7pm AA Meeting</div>	<div>25</div>	<div>26</div> <div>8am Synod Assembly - Virtual</div> <div>8am Men's Breakfast</div> <div>5pm Outside Worship Call 7:00am</div>
<div>27</div> <div>9am Worship Virtual & Outside</div> <div>10am Baptism - Amara Plast</div> <div>1pm AA Hispanic</div>	<div>28</div> <div>11am Staff Meeting</div> <div>6pm AA Hispanic</div>	<div>29</div>	<div>30</div> <div>10am Bible Study - Virtual</div> <div>12pm Finance Committee Mtg</div>	<div>Oct 1</div> <div>1pm Quilting</div> <div>7pm AA Meeting</div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div>