

VOICE

*Our
Savior's
Lutheran
Church*

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

October 2020

Life Together 

Indoor/In-person Worship is Returning to Our Savior's on October 10/11

The other day, I sat in the sanctuary as I watched the livestream of our worship. It just felt good to be in the place where so many saints have worshipped over the years. I closed my eyes and basked in the Spirit's presence. It felt good to be here.

The Rise Again Team has determined that it is time to come back into the building for worship. What has changed? We are now confident in our plan and protocols to keep people as safe as possible as they return to indoor worship. As long as we all do our part, we believe we can do this. We will still continue with the online worship for those who desire that option.

Starting the weekend of October 10 and 11, we will begin holding worship in our sanctuary again. Times will be 5:00 PM on Saturday the 10th, and 9:00 AM on Sunday the 11th. As demand grows, we talked of adding a Wednesday evening worship as well. It will look a little different, like everything else in our world, but it will be a start. The Rise Again Team has worked hard to balance the science with common sense. Our hope is using the following protocols will help us to settle into a new normal:

Worship indoors every other week. This will make cleaning and contact tracing easier (if it comes to that).
Worship will be about 30 to 35 minutes long.

Keep worship to 50 people or less per service. You can reserve a spot by calling the church office at 920-725-3956 or by going online at eventbrite.com. Here are the links to sign up:

Saturday October 10 at 5 pm

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/saturday-worship-tickets-121230133593>

Sunday October 11 at 9 am

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sunday-worship-tickets-121232933969>

Use one entrance and exit. Come and go at the elevator entrance. Ushers will help manage safe distance seating.

Wear a mask in the building. I like to call this the Menard's rule. They were one of the first adopters of the mask rule for everyone in the store.

Maintain 6-foot distance from people outside your family group.

No group or individual singing. A song leader will lead the hymns as we listen and follow along.

No bulletins or hymnals. All words and responses will be on the screen above.

Have **plexiglass** at the lectern, pulpit, in front of song leader, and pianist/organist.

Improved ventilation in the sanctuary

One **central location for offering** and no sharing of the peace.

Communion will take place in the pews with individual cups picked up before worship.

No food or drink after worship. We will depart in an orderly fashion.

I look forward to worshipping with all of you again. We will need people to serve as greeters, ushers, tech people, song leaders, readers, etc. Our coordinators will be in touch. You also can call the office if you want to volunteer in any of these areas.

Thank you for your flexibility during such difficult times for all of us. God's word and sacrament can bring healing and wholeness in our lives. Come and join us in person for worship.

In Hope,

Pastor Jon Strasman

Sunday School

Our Virtual Sunday School program is off to a great start! Thank you to all those who have volunteered and participated.

The supplies for the second month of kits will be available Monday, October 12 – Friday, October 15. Please bring your student's bag along, and we will give you all of the necessary materials. If your child is not enrolled in Sunday School, and you would like them to be, please contact Colleen Welsh at cwelsh@our-saviors.org. You can tune in on any of the following platforms:

Facebook – Our Savior's Lutheran Church – Neenah WI

YouTube – Our Savior's Lutheran – Neenah

App Store – Our Savior's Lutheran – Neenah (click Doing Life Together >>Children's Ministry)

Do you have a knack for reading, singing, or a special hobby you would like to share? With Sunday School operating virtually, it's easier than ever to help out with our program. With just a few minutes of your time and a recording, your gifts can help engage the children of our congregation and enrich our Sunday School lessons. Please contact Colleen Welsh if you are interested.

First Communion

Ten children from our congregation have completed their First Communion class, and will be receiving their First Communion this fall. We are excited for you all to take part in this special milestone.

Worship Services in October

Virtually/On-line Continues – Sundays – 9AM

Meeting for In-Person Worship - Use link to RSVP

October 10 at 5PM <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/saturday-worship-tickets-121230133593>

October 11 at 9AM <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sunday-worship-tickets-121232933969>

October 24 at 5 PM—Watch for link

October 27 at 9AM —Watch for link

*Or call church office at 725-3956 to reserve your spot.
Limited to 50 or less people. Masks are required.
Use elevator door entrance only.*

(Note that in- person worship is subject to change.)

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.

Confirmation

Our 6-8 Grade Confirmation classes resume on Wednesday, October 7 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. We will be meeting in-person, with a virtual alternative available. If you were unable to attend the Parent Meeting, and wish for your child to participate, please contact Colleen Welsh at cwelsh@our-saviors.org

We are still in need of additional teachers and helpers for our program. If you are interesting in lending a hand, please contact Colleen Welsh.

9th Grade Confirmation Ceremony

We are very proud of all the students who will be getting confirmed this Fall. We are holding a ceremony for confirmands and their families only. We will acknowledge the confirmands at Worship on Sunday, November 1.

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

Our Savior’s Confidential Email Prayer Chain

We have close to 20 prayer warriors on our confidential email prayer chain. Here’s how it works. If you want prayers lifted up for anyone or any situation, including prayers of thanks, call the church office and give the name to Kasey and she will contact me, Ardy Kreuter. Then I will send out a prayer request. We only use names if given permission. Any information is confidential. Sometimes we get updates on folks we have prayed for. Prayer Chain participants can also put out a prayer request on the chain.

This is different from the Prayers of the Church found in the bulletin at church. We must get permission from folks requesting prayers to include them in the bulletin.

If you would like to be a member of this prayer ministry, please contact Ardy Kreuter at: akreuter@new.rr.com.

Delegates Needed

Are you interested in representing Our Savior’s as a delegate at the Synod Assembly, to Crossways Camping Ministry or to Fox Valley Lutheran Homes? Qualifications include the ability to attend an annual meeting. In the case of Crossways and Fox Valley Lutheran Homes, you would also be a conduit for information coming from them to our church. The Synod Assembly is a two-day event generally held in mid-May. Crossways and Fox Valley Lutheran Homes are generally held in February or March.

Please contact Kasey in the church office if you are interested. We’ll then get your name on the ballot for the Fall Congregational Meeting.

Lutheran Disaster Response Your Gift Is Urgently Needed

Fueled by a heat wave and unfavorable winds, wildfires erupted across California, Oregon, Washington and other western states. Many people have died, hundreds of thousands of people are under evacuation orders and millions of acres have burned. Lutheran Disaster Response usually is the first to arrive and the last to leave a disaster. They expect needs to include food and other necessities, as well as emotional and spiritual care for those who have been traumatized.

Your gifts noted for “U.S. Wildfires” will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by the wildfires. You can donate in several ways: (1) Make checks payable to Lutheran Disaster Relief with “U.S. Wildfires” written on the memo line and send to: ELCA, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009. OR (2) Make checks payable to Our Savior’s Lutheran Church with “Lutheran Disaster Response” written on the memo line and mail to or drop off at church. OR (3) Call 800-638-3522 to make a donation with a credit card.

Chili-To-Go

The Chili is back this year! We won't be serving in the gym, but we'll offer drive-thru pick up on

Tuesday, November 3, from 10AM – 7PM.

Our regular chili and vegetarian/gluten free chili will be available for \$7.00 per quart or 3/\$20. Pre-orders are appreciated - contact the church office.

All proceeds from this fundraising event will go toward future mission/outreach projects and trips. *We need your help to make this event a success. Please contact Jennifer Hewitt at 920-378-1145 to volunteer for any of the following:*

Sunday, November 1 – Food Prep Day: **10 volunteers** needed to brown the meat, dice/chop onions and celery, clean Nescos, etc. *Stations will be set up for social distancing.*

Monday, November 2 – Cooking Day: **1-2 volunteers** needed in the a.m. to assist our seasoned kitchen crew and **4 volunteers** in the p.m. to jar up chili.

Tuesday, November 3 – Chili Day: **Volunteers needed for 1 hour shifts** to work the pick-up area, direct traffic, or be sign spinners on Commercial Street to let people know we've got Chili for sale!

Please note: Face masks will be required and safety procedures must be followed.

If you would like to make a monetary donation to help offset the cost of ingredients, please drop it off at the church office in an envelope marked 'donation for chili ingredients'.

Watch your email and our Facebook page for more details in the coming weeks.

Fall Congregational Meeting

Our Fall Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 8, 2020. Details are uncertain at this time because of Covid-19. Rest assured we will conduct our meeting in a healthy and safe manner. Stay tuned for more information.

Pastor Appreciation Month

October is Pastor Appreciation Month, and October 11 is Pastor Appreciation Day. October 1 also happens to be Pastor Jon's one-year anniversary with us. Pastor appreciation should be more than a designated event on the calendar. Instead, we should honor and encourage Pastor Jon throughout the year.

What an appropriate time to share with Pastor Jon how much we appreciate him and his family, what he does for us, what he's had to contend with being our new pastor. It's not easy moving your family halfway across the country and having a pandemic strike before you even get settled.

Let's show Pastor Jon and his family our appreciation all year long, but especially this October during Pastor Appreciation Month. Find your own unique way to show them your love. Can't wait to hear of the many ways you do this.

1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers. Remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Do all the good you can,
by all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
in all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
to all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.

Generous Congregation...

YTD Totals Through August

	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Difference</i>
Income	\$256,413	\$255,450	(\$ 963)
Expenses	\$290,900	\$259,697	(\$31,203)

Memorials & Honorariums Received

**A special thank you to
those who remembered**

Harriet Long

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.

September Pastoral Acts...

Baptisms – Amara Plaster,
September 27

New Members — None

Funerals— Bruce Armstrong

Weddings— None

Building Fund...

Through August

Remaining on Loan	\$ 77,290.20
Principal Paid on Loan	\$107,478.50
Total Contributions	\$ 46,603.61
Billed on Loan	\$ 25,751.84
Paid on Loan Over Billed Amount	\$ 81,726.66

Council Meeting Minutes September 8, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.

Pastor's Report:

Kasey Konkle first day back after maternity leave – September 8. Thank you Sue Engelbert for filling in the past 14 weeks. Sue is retraining Kasey on changes that happened while she was out. Chris Swender learned how to record/edit services. Andrew Schaller is helping out. Colleen Welsh is working on Christian Education year – Sunday School starting September 20 online and Confirmation starting October 7 in-person. Musicians filling in where they can. Paying staff normal hours. 60 people watch weekly services live and another 200 views during the week. Bruce Armstrong – Funeral. Arvin Rank's funeral still TBD. 5 baptisms planned – 2 members and 3 non-members. Chili supper is planned – will be To-Go this year. Ardy Kreuter started the Encouragement Committee/Mission. ELCA Synod is down \$70,000 this year. **Motion/Second/Carried Strasman/Kimmes to donate \$1,000 from Evangelism/Outreach.** All voting aye

Treasurer's Report: In the black this month. Expenses are lower. Income study.

2020 Membership/Attendance Reports: Outdoor services attendance is: 20 people on Saturday and 40 people on Sunday. Rise Again Team meeting to have in person in church services to start in October using Event Bright to reserve spot for service.

Ministry Team Reports:

Care and Connect – Kristi Armstrong: Calling all members – TBD.

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

Finance – Sue Schultz/Marcie Kimmes: Met August 18 & Sept 9. Planning Stewardship and Preliminary Budget.

Learn and Grow/Youth – Chris Crum: will meet again soon.

Personnel – Sue Schultz: no meeting scheduled yet.

Serve and Reach – TBD: Working on Chili Supper, Gods Work Our Hands, Christmas Giving, Christmas Dinner at St Paul's, Pillars. Next meeting October 7.

Worship and Music – Graham Bradley: Working with Rise Again committee. Music options online - no hymnals – pre-recorded music. Gene was able to get settings returned to normal up in the sound booth. Pianos will need to be turned. TEC team to observe Thurs recording.

New Business:

Vice-President role on Council: Role is open. Looking to start a nominating committee to elect council members.

Liability Insurance Renewal: Policy runs Sept 15, 2020 to Sept 15, 2021. Received 3 quotes. **Motion/Second/Carried Armstrong/Lochner to with Church Mutual.** All voting aye

Fall Congregational Meeting: Set for November 8, 2020.

Use of Church Agreement: Need to be consistent. Start using the facility agreement form with start up back in October. Will include background checks and building use fee.

Next Council Meeting: Next meeting Oct 13, 2020.

October Calendar

October 2020							November 2020						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
							29	30					
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY							
Sep 27	28	29	30	Oct 1	2	3							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00am Virtual Worship 1:00pm AA Hispanic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00pm Retirees & Friends 6:00pm AA Hispanic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30pm Worship & Music Team Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00am Bible Study - Virtual 5:30pm Confirmation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00pm AA Meeting 									
4	5	6	7	8	9	10							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCRIP Cards Sold 9:00am Virtual Worship 1:00pm AA Hispanic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00pm Retirees & Friends 6:00pm AA Hispanic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30pm Worship & Music Team Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00am Bible Study - Virtual 5:30pm Confirmation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:00pm Finance Meeting 7:00pm AA Meeting 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:00pm Worship 							
11	12	13	14	15	16	17							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00am Worship 1:00pm AA Hispanic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Columbus Day (regional holiday) 6:00pm AA Hispanic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Father Circle (Lounge) 7:00pm Council Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00am Bible Study - Virtual 5:30pm Confirmation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00pm AA Meeting 									
18	19	20	21	22	23	24							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00am Virtual Worship 10:00am Bruckner Baptism 1:00pm AA Hispanic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00pm AA Hispanic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00am Rebekah Circle (Library) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00am Bible Study - Virtual 5:30pm Confirmation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00pm AA Meeting 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:00pm Worship 							
25	26	27	28	29	30	31							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00am Worship 1:00pm AA Hispanic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual ECSW Theological Conference (To Be Determined) 6:00pm AA Hispanic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Women's Book Club (Library) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00am Bible Study - Virtual 5:30pm Confirmation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00pm AA Meeting 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Halloween 5:00pm Worship 							

Recent Pictures

Members of Our Savior's were busy in the community on God's Work Our Hands day. A group of five worked at the Neenah Animal Shelter for 3 hours, doing lawn cleanup and taking five loads to the dump. Helpers included Rick Klamm, Sue and Steve Kueck, Rich and Pam Garman.

Sue Englebert took her neighbor's dog for a walk.

The Bradley / Lochner families got out and helped at Aves - Innovative Wildlife Outreach and Rehabilitation. At Aves, they specialize in bird rehabilitation. The families were able to see red tail hawks, snow owls, crow, peregrine falcon, and a few others in their care. They helped clear out all the bird pen bedding, wash the housings, and then put new fresh bedding back in to each pen. Aves depends on volunteering and donations to continue to do their work.

