

VOICE

*Our
Savior's
Lutheran
Church*

November 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 

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Welcome to our first online Fall Congregational Meeting! On November 8th at 10:30 AM, please join us on Zoom for our annual Fall Meeting. On this non-Packer Sunday, we will be presenting our 2021 budget and casting a vision for the future of Our Savior's. If you are technologically challenged, we are offering a socially distanced watch party at the church on one of our big screens. We want everyone to have an opportunity to participate and will try to remove any barriers to entry into the meeting.

How is this going to work? For those who don't mind Zoom meetings, I will be sending you the link from my church email address early next week, and again later in the week, with instructions. A voting member is anyone who is a confirmed member of Our Savior's. We will have a parliamentarian present to make sure we have a quorum.

In addition to church business, I will update the congregation in another "Church Chat" to help lay out how I am doing navigating this strange time and casting a vision for the future. Last year I shared my version of "I have a dream" speech. With the changing landscape of church during the pandemic we need to look at everything in how we deliver Word and Sacrament, along with visitation, and mission.

I look forward to hearing from all of you. Please respond to this email with any questions or concerns you want addressed.

God Bless,

Pastor Jon Strasman

Sunday School

Our next round of Sunday School kits will be available to pick up beginning Monday, November 9. Once again, we will be offering both pick-up or contactless drop-off option. Kits can be picked up from the Church Office between the hours of 9:00-Noon Monday-Thursday. Please contact Colleen Welsh with your preference for getting the kits, or if you have any questions.

Confirmation

We ask that you join us in congratulating our 9th Grade students, who will be confirmed this month, and will be officially welcomed as adult members of our congregation. Congratulations to you all. We are so proud of you for taking this next big step in your faith journey!

*Alysen Dordel, Ava Meyer
Calissa Tiedt, CJ Fredrickson
Adie Paulson, Ben Hagner
Keali Prah*

Worship Services in November**Virtually/On-line Worship Continues**

Sundays – 9AM

on Our Facebook and You Tube Channels

Or join us for Weekly Drive-In Worship

Saturdays at 5PM

Sundays at 9AM

No need to RSVP. Pull into the west parking lot, tune in on your car radio to hear the service.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Wednesday, November 25, 2020, at 6:30 PM

on Our Facebook and You Tube Channels

**Midweek Advent Services
Return in December**

We will be preparing our hearts and minds in anticipation of Christmas using the Holden Evening Prayer Service following the theme “The Theology of Waiting”.

Midweek Advent services will be held on Wednesday evenings: December 2, December 9 and December 16 at 6:30 PM. Services will last approximately 35 minutes and be available on YouTube and Facebook

Music for Worship Services

If you’ve been watching our online services, you’ve seen some of the wonderful music our members have provided. We are thankful for all of you!

With the holidays coming, the music team continues to look for individuals, small groups and families to provide music for our upcoming worship services. 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.

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

Christmas Giving Re-Imagined!

Our Christmas Giving this year will be directed to families, identified as in-need, through The Brigade. There is a dramatic increase in the number of families experiencing economic hardship this year, but Christmas is still coming for these families!

The Brigade has provided a list of needed items, see below. You may also give a financial contribution. Make checks payable to: *The Brigade - Christmas Giving*.

All items should be NEW and UNWRAPPED, and can be dropped off with financial contributions at Our Savior’s during normal office hours (Monday-Thursday, 8AM to noon). Please use the employee entrance. If you would like your donation picked up at your home, call the church office to request. We ask that you deliver your contribution by December 4.

Many thanks for the continued and faith-filled generosity, always demonstrated by the people of Our Savior’s!

-The Serve and Reach Team

Christmas Giving List for Ages 11-18-Years

- School Supplies
- Jewelry/jewelry making kits/jewelry box
- Watches
- Books/Board Games/Puzzles
- Bath and Hygiene items
- Tops and Hoodies - size Youth small through Adult XXXL
- Athletic wear - Youth and Adult sizes
- Underwear - Girls and Women bikini, all sizes; Boys and Men boxers, all sizes
- Pop Sockets, chargers, MP3, earbuds, string and rope lights
- Balls - soccer, football, basketball, volleyball
- Drones and Batteries
- Fleece blankets, Pillows
- Moon Lamp, Bluetooth speakers, Mini Light boxes
- Thinsulate gloves and mittens
- Bluetooth Beanie hats
- Hair care - dryer, flat iron, curling iron
- Girl’s crossbody bags, wallets, Men’s wallets
- Gift cards - Amazon, haircuts. fast food, RedBox
- Skateboards
- Lego sets

Chili-To-Go Pandemic Style

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.

Fall Congregational Meeting

Our Fall Congregational Meeting will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, November 8, 2020. You may join either by Zoom, or in person by watching on a big screen outside. Please read Pastor Jon's letter in this issue for more details.

Advent Intergenerational Activity

With all the changes we have seen over the past number of months, we are thrilled to share that our church's beloved tradition of making Advent Intergenerational projects will be happening again this year! All are welcome to participate in this activity to kick off the Christmas season.

Supplies for the activity, including thorough instructions for completing on your own, will be available for pick-up or drop-off beginning Monday, November 30. The activity will take place on Sunday, December 5. Colleen will do a video of the project during Sunday School that day for anyone who wants to watch along and do it 'together'.

Turn Clocks Back

Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 1. Remember to set your clocks back an hour before going to bed.

Book Study Follow-Up

Thank you to all those who participated in our Book Study on Dr. Ibram Kendi's *How to be an Antiracist*. We had difficult, important, and enlightening conversations about working against racism within ourselves and our nation.

If you did not have a chance to participate in the study, but would like to learn more about the subject, our Synod is offering trainings and workshops on antiracism. More information can be found at: [http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?](http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ehac2excb5455163&lr=7xbka7dab&showPage=true)

[oeidk=a07ehac2excb5455163&lr=7xbka7dab&showPage=true](http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ehac2excb5455163&lr=7xbka7dab&showPage=true)

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

Generosity is the habit of giving freely without expecting anything in return.

Generous Congregation...

YTD Totals Through September

	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Difference</i>
Income	\$288,465	\$276,450	(\$12,015)
Expenses	\$327,263	\$294,708	(\$32,555)

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.

October Pastoral Acts...

Baptisms – Lily Hope
Brickner, October 18

New Members — None

Funerals— None

Weddings— None

Building Fund...

Through September

Remaining on Loan	\$ 71,125.67
Principal Paid on Loan	\$113,119.56
Total Contributions	\$ 50,770.09
Billed on Loan	\$ 28,970.82
Paid on Loan Over Billed Amount	\$ 84,148.74

Council Meeting Minutes October 13, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.

Open Forum – 2021 Budget Presentation – Tim Moe:

Expect member giving to increase (~\$15,000) because building fund will be paid off May 2021.

Expenses will increase due to salary and health care costs.

Fixed budget – 92-95% of budget goes to salary, benevolence, office/general, and building & grounds.

Income expected \$420,000 (increase from 2020)

For 2020, expenses are \$436,000 and income expected is \$413,000 which will be a deficit of \$23,000. We do have \$104,000 in reserve (not accounted for in budget).

Not included in next year's budget but programs to consider are: 1) Starting intern program – \$36,000, 2) Technology consultant, and 3) Add staff member to help with outreach program

Motion/Second/Carried Schultz/Terry to approve the 2021 budget. All voting aye.

Pastor's Report:

Parking lot/drive-in service (10 on Sat. and 30 on Sun.). Next service is Oct 24-25 then weekly after that.

Every member calling going on right now.

COVID-19 Rise Again Team – Agreed to pull back right now.

Baptism this weekend – masks required.

Colleen Welsh will be leaving her position at the end of this year.

Treasurer's Report: September income was lower than previous months. Staff expenses and benevolence higher. Month short by \$14,012.

Ministry Team Reports:

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

Evangelism, Marketing, Communication & Technology: Kevin Schabo: Reached out to group members to see who plans to continue on this team.

Finance – Sue Schultz/Marcie Kimmes: Working on budget and Stewardship plan.

Learn and Grow/Youth – Chris Crum: Trying to figure out how to handle confirmation and first communion this fall.

Personnel – Sue Schultz: Reviews going well and updating job descriptions. Pastor excused at 8:11 so council could discuss next year's health insurance proposal (change from Silver C to Gold plan) and cost of living increase (revised based on Social Security COLA increase of 1.3%). **Motion/Second/Carried Schultz/Terry to approve new health insurance plan and salary increase.** All voting aye

Serve and Reach – TBD: Pam Garman running committee – Chili To Go. Will not be donating Christmas hams to the Brigade this year. They are looking for financial support instead.

Worship and Music – Graham Bradley: Was working on planning in-person service which is now on hold. Looking at a virtual choir.

New Business:

Knudsen Island Shores Request: Island Shores is looking to start up a Vesper service again. Pastor is going to reach out to the Knudsens and Island Shores to see how he can help.

Council Officers and Nominations for New Council Members: Kevin Schabo agreed to serve another term. Chris Crum is done this year and Andrew Schaller resigned leaves 2 spots to fill this year.

Bylaw Change: Move approval of budget from February to November congregational meeting. **Motion/Second/Carried Schultz/Crum to approve changing Bylaws to move budget approval from February to November congregational meeting.** All voting aye. Meeting set for November 8, 2020.

2021 Budget Approval: Approved above.

Next Council Meeting: Next meeting November 10, 2020.

November Calendar

November 2020													
December 2020													
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31			27	28	29	30	31		
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov 1	2	3	4	5	6	7							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Saints' Day Daylight Saving Time ends SCRIP Cards Sold 9:00am Virtual Worship 12:00pm CHILLI TO GO PREP 1:00pm AA Hispanic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00am CHILLI TO GO PREP 6:00pm AA Hispanic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3:00pm CHILLI TO GO 5:30pm Worship & Music Team Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00am Bible Study - Virtual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00pm AA Meeting 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:00pm Worship 							
8	9	10	11	12	13	14							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00am Fall Annual Meeting 9:00am Virtual Worship 1:00pm AA Hispanic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00pm AA Hispanic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00pm Council Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Veterans Day 10:00am Bible Study - Virtual 6:00pm Serve & Reach Team Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:00pm Finance Meeting 6:00pm AA Meeting 7:00pm Rise Again Meeting (zoom) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:00pm Worship 							
15	16	17	18	19	20	21							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00am Virtual Worship 1:00pm AA Hispanic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00pm AA Hispanic 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00am Bible Study - Virtual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00pm AA Meeting 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:00pm Worship 							
22	23	24	25	26	27	28							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00am Virtual Worship 1:00pm AA Hispanic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00pm AA Hispanic 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00am Bible Study - Virtual 6:30pm Thanksgiving Eve Virtual Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thanksgiving Day 6:00pm AA Meeting 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:00pm Worship 							
29	30	Dec 1	2	3	4	5							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Sunday of Advent 9:00am Virtual Worship 1:00pm AA Hispanic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00pm AA Hispanic 												

Recent Pictures

Below are a couple pictures taken at our Drive-In Worship service within the past couple weeks. How many people get to say their pastor wears a Packers hat during worship!! We look forward to you joining us soon!

