

# VOICE

*Our  
Savior's  
Lutheran  
Church*

January 2021

809 South Commercial Street  
Neenah, WI 54956  
Phone: 920-725-3956

Office Hours:  
9:00AM to 12:00 PM  
Monday—Thursday

*Life Together* 

In the Gospel for a recent sermon, John the Baptist testifies to the light that was coming into the world. You are witnesses to Jesus as well. The litmus test of belief in Jesus in John's Gospel is to be a witness. The woman at the well is a good example. After Jesus accepted her as is and promised her living water that springs up to eternal life, she ran and told the whole village about the man who knew everything about her questionable past and still offered grace.

Here are some examples of the witnessing I have seen at Our Savior's during the pandemic:

We had to learn how to do online worship, Bible studies, Sunday School, and confirmation.

We held outdoor worship and drive-in worship as a worship team.

We held a Zoom book study on anti-racism.

We had our first Chili-to-Go meal on Election Day raising money for local, national, and global missions.

We continued to serve meals for Pillars when other organizations were dropping out.

We packed and sent Lutheran World Relief school and health kits and quilts.

We started an 'encouragement ministry' of writing cards to people to keep on keeping on.

We put up the manger scene out front and put new lights on it. It makes me happy every time I drive by.

We delivered 30 poinsettias to homebound folks, thanks to the Hogenson family. I dropped Elaine Anderson's poinsettia off at Dennis and Marsha Anderson's house, and while Dennis was on the phone with Social Security, he said, "The church has been wonderful... sending cards."

Ashley Stevenson has continued her baking ministry by taking the chocolate chip challenge and sharing her goodies with neighbors, family, friends, and lonely people. I then found out she has been doing this for years. She is also baking for our Pillar's shelter meal.

Your financial giving has been a witness to me. As a result, we are positioning ourselves well for the future and will be burning our mortgage in 2020.

Finally, two members asked if I knew any families in need. We are partnering with Shattuck Middle School's counselor to identify families in need and they will be distributing gift cards to families from our church.

These are just the things that came to mind recently. You are also witnessing in your jobs and in your homes.

In John's Gospel, we learn that Jesus is the light of the world. That he is the good Shepard and the bread of life. He will quench their deepest hungers and longings. He is the resurrection and life. The way the truth and the life. We too are called to be like John the Baptist, pointing to Jesus through our words and deeds.

God Bless,

*Pastor Jon Strasman*

## Sunday School

Happy New Year, Sunday School Families! This month, there will be a slight change in the airing of our program. Sunday School lessons stream on the same link as Worship following each service. You can stay tuned after Worship to watch the lessons live. As always, the lessons and worship will be available on demand after streaming live, and will be available on Facebook and YouTube.

## Confirmation

Happy New Year! Thank you to all who have offered to assist with Confirmation for the second semester. Our classes will resume on Wednesday, January 13.

## Christmas Program

Thank you to all those who participated in our Sunday School Christmas Program! In a year when we have had to forego many traditions, it was great to be able to keep the tradition of the Our Savior's Christmas Program going. Special thanks to Berdie Golden, Ardy Kreuter, Pastor Jon, and the Joyous Ringers for your assistance with the Worship and Music components of the program!

If you didn't get a chance to watch this year's program, you can check it out on the church's Facebook or YouTube page.

## **Worship Services in January**

### **Virtually/On-line Worship Continues**

**Sundays** – 9:00 a.m.

on Our Facebook and You Tube Channels

### **Or Join us for In-Person Worship**

**Sundays** at 9:00 a.m.

*Please RSVP for these services by calling the church office. Space is limited. Masks are required. Cleaning will be done between services. Note that in-person worship is on a trial basis and is dependent on current Covid situation.*

## Faith in Action Building Fund Good News!

Thanks to our year-end challenge grant and your financial gifts this past week, we now have enough to burn our mortgage on the building expansion. This is such great news as we can now enter 2021 debt free. On behalf of a grateful church, thank you!

Any outstanding pledges do not have to be paid. However, if you want to redirect your planned gifts, we will not discourage it. You can direct those gifts to funds like our *capital repairs fund* as we will soon need to upgrade our electrical system in the sanctuary and re-do our parking lots. You also can direct those gifts to the unified budget, the foundation, or toward bringing a seminary intern back to our congregation. I will be turning in the seminary application to Wartburg Seminary for an intern this week. The cost of an intern is about \$35,000 a year.

## Thank You From Brigade

*Over the years, OSLC has become a very valued community partner with the Brigade Christmas Giving Program. This year was filled with changes and challenges. Our Savior's did a lot to help us meet those challenges.*

*When Our Savior's was told we would not be able to hand out hams this year, your congregation didn't miss a beat. You stepped right up and asked how else you could help. Brigade received requests for assistance from 403 families with 979 children in 2020. We are meeting the requests because of support from people like you. Thank you so very much. —The Boys & Girl's Brigade*

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

## Homebound Communion Ministry

Our Savior’s has a very active Homebound Communion Ministry. Communion is given to those folks who are homebound all of the time as well as to those who occasionally get to church, but this doesn’t happen consistently. It is also for folks recovering from surgery or rehabilitating after surgery or other conditions. It’s a time for visiting, praying, and giving Communion at least once a month. The ministry is a way of staying connected to the church community.

If you know of anyone you think should be put on the homebound list, please contact Pastor Jon in the church office. If you want to join this important ministry team, please contact Pastor Jon in the church office at 920-725-3956.

## Pillars Adult Shelter Meal Volunteer Opportunity

Our Savior’s continues to serve Pillars Adult Shelter every other month on the 4th Thursday, led by Alan Dordel. Alan shared they typically serve dinner to 60-75 persons who are sheltering overnight. We continue what we have been called to do, serving others. There is a designated account for Pillars and if you would like to contribute financially, designate your gift to Pillars. The cost is approximately \$250 to feed 60-75 persons.

To continue this feeding ministry, we need volunteers both to assist in serving at the shelter and to make desserts every other month. We need a total of 6 volunteers per meal as well as 6 dozen desserts.

Details – The Adult Shelter is at 1928 W College Ave, Appleton, WI, behind St Vincent’s. The time commitment for serving is a couple of hours. If you are providing dessert, they must be brought to church by the Wednesday before and Alan will transport them.

COVID-19 – All persons staying at the shelter are screened before being registered for the night and wear a mask. Volunteers wear gloves/masks. It is difficult to social distance and while eating, people cannot wear masks, however while serving, people are masked.

If you would like to be on a list of persons that are interested in either serving or making desserts, please call or email the church office and ask to get on the list. A few weeks before you’re needed, someone will give you a call to confirm and provide the details.

The next meal is **February 25**. We hope you will faithfully consider it, as your comfort level allows. 2021 serving dates are April 22, June 24, August 26, October 28 and December 23.

## ‘Souper Bowl’ Month Reimagined! Fill the Our Savior’s Food Pantry

The Our Savior’s Food Pantry is a treasure to those who need it. Chris and Sarah Swender faithfully manage this important community ministry. The demand has increased due to an increase in food insecurity in Neenah and the Fox Valley. There are additional options for people in the community, but our faith based, easy to access pantry fills a niche for many and could use some restocking. Chris and Sarah reported the best things to donate are one-bowl or one-can meals that can be microwaved or popped open into a bowl. Some examples are shown below. This example cost \$10 at Pick and Save.



From January 8 through January 31 we will have collection bins in the Gathering Area for services and in the entry way at church during office hours. We hope you will consider donating year-round, and especially now.

## OSLC Celebrates 150 Years

On September 9, 1872 a small group of 66 Scandinavians gathered at what used to be the Norwegian Church of Neenah on South Commercial Street, and organized what is now Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary is coming up in 2022 and we want to celebrate big! We're looking for all those folks interested in helping to plan an event or events to mark this milestone. We know it's early, but ask that you let Sue Schultz know if you are interested in helping.

## New and Old Yamaha Clavinova (Keyboards)

The plan was to announce this in February 2020, but then the world changed. So here we are, almost a year later, making the announcement. The Worship and Music Team were approved by the Memorial Team to purchase a new Clavinova for the sanctuary. It arrived on February 21, 2020 and replaced the Clavinova that was purchased in 1995. We are thankful for the generosity of those who gave memorials and are very excited to begin learning all the features of the new Clavinova.

The old Clavinova had become unreliable with erroneous volumes in the lower and upper octaves of the keyboard. Local repair technicians felt it was not cost effective to try to repair it. We do however, feel it would be usable for a beginning student that will do most of their playing in the middle range of the keyboard. It is being offered free to any member of the congregation that would like it. You will need to make arrangements to pick it up from church no later than February 6, 2021. If you are interested, please email [Roberta.Golden@hotmail.com](mailto:Roberta.Golden@hotmail.com) and cc [kpopp@new.rr.com](mailto:kpopp@new.rr.com), no later than Sunday, January 24, 2021. If more than one person is interested in the old clavinova, a drawing of those interested will be held on Wednesday, January 27, 2021.

## Notice of Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held via Zoom at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, January 31, 2021. We will conduct this meeting in the same manner in which we conducted the Fall meeting. More information will follow as the date gets closer.

We will be proposing for adoption our Constitution which has been updated to match the current version of the model constitution for congregations of the ELCA. We want to stay in step with the ELCA, and adopting this new constitution is one way to do that. Approximately two weeks ahead of the annual meeting, you will receive an electronic copy of our constitution marked to reflect changes for your review.

## Giving Envelopes

2021 Giving Envelopes are in! They will be available for pick-up during office hours or by appointment, and can also be picked up if you plan to join us for in-person worship. (Reservations required for worship.) Office hours are Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. to noon.

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

*May God's love  
light your way and  
lead you into a new  
year that shines with  
His special joy.*

*Happy New Year!*

## Generous Congregation...

YTD Totals Through November

	<b><i>Budgeted</i></b>	<b><i>Actual</i></b>	<b><i>Difference</i></b>
Income	\$352,568	\$335,021	(\$17,547)
Expenses	\$399,988	\$356,435	\$43,553

The staff of Our Savior's would like to say thank you for the cards and gifts we received from the congregation this Christmas. Your thoughtfulness was very much appreciated!

**Check out our online donation feature through Tithe.ly on our website at [www.our-saviors.org](http://www.our-saviors.org). Simply click the *GIVE NOW* button to see the different ways you can give.**

## December Pastoral Acts...

***Baptisms –***  
Easton Engelland

***Funerals—***  
Fran Carpenter &  
William Dull

## Building Fund...

Through November

Remaining on Loan	\$ 29,873.14
Principal Paid on Loan	\$153,936.62
Total Contributions	\$ 91,440.53
Billed on Loan	\$ 35,408.78
Paid on Loan Over Billed Amount	\$118,527.84

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

### **Open Forum – Eagle Scout Project Presentation** – Bryce Mau:

Will need to complete the project within 2 years. Council recommended Bryce to talk with Chris Swender. Options to consider – bench on S. Commercial St/Meade St, Meditation/Pray area, Bookmarks for hymnals, security project, food pantry box. Bryce will come back to a future council meeting with recommendation.

### **Pastor's Report:**

5 deaths, 3 baptisms, 2 new members, and 6 confirmed (1 more pending)  
Indoor worship started on Dec 6.

Faith Formation Director Job description will need to be reworked to align to immediate needs of the church.  
Will meet with Learn and Grow team on 12/9 and also have Family Listening session to understand Sunday School program and other needs of the church.

Received bill from Packerland Websites. Kevin Schabo will be looking into this.

**Treasurer's Report:** November income was up. Still showing a shortfall for the year. Expenses are in-line.

### **Ministry Team Reports:**

**Evangelism, Marketing, Communication & Technology: Kevin Schabo:** Met on 12/7. Reached out to several people to join the team but they were unable to join at this time. G-Suite has been fully implemented. Email problems seems to be fixed. Chris will send emails to this group when he plans to record if anyone wants to observe and learn more. The next evolution in the process will be to move to a live stream of service to the balcony. Cables will be ordered and Peek Audio will phone conference to explain how to interface with the Behringer console. Live stream will also lessen the amount of time spent preparing a service. The current plan is to use the streaming computer for the video of the service and the older current computer for powerpoint slides of the words for songs. Music groups will be instructed on how to use the zoom recorder. Looking to find a tech booth coordinator. Jennifer will report at the next meeting on the app usage during the pandemic. Next meeting tentatively scheduled for Monday January 11th @ 6:30.

**Finance – Sue Schultz/Marcie Kimmes:** Next meeting 12/10. Sent out statements and pledge card. Update from building challenge – received \$12,000 so far.

**Serve and Reach – TBD:** Pam Garman provided minutes from 11/11 meeting where they discussed Encouragement Ministry, Chili Supper Drive Thru, Pillars Adult Shelter Meal, Christmas Giving, Community 12 Days of Christmas.

**Worship and Music – Graham Bradley:** Met 12/6. Worked on guideline email.

### **New Business:**

**Hispanic AA Anniversary Event – 4/17/21:** Planning for 80-90 people using gym. Will work with Rise Again/Chris Swender to set up social distance perimeters. **Motion/Second/Carried Pastor/Bradley to allow this group to hold event at Our Savior's.** All voting aye.

**Appointing New Council Members:** Need 4 people plus a Treasurer. Treasurer does not need to be part of council.

**Proposed Consent Resolution for Remote Congregational Meetings:** **Motion/Second/Carried Schultz/Crum to adopt the attached resolution.** All voting aye.

**Annual Meeting January 31, 2021 at 10:30 am via Zoom.** Ben to help with Zoom.

**Next Council Meeting:** Next meeting January 12, 2021

### **Old Business:**

**Collaborative Learning Student:** Interviewed one candidate. Wasn't a good fit. Also looking into interns (1 year program).

Thank you Chris Crum for serving 6 years on Council. This was her last meeting.



# January Calendar

January 2021

January 2021

Su

Mo

Tu

We

Th

Fr

Sa

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

January 2021

January 2021

Su

Mo

Tu

We

Th

Fr

Sa

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

January 2021

January 2021

Su

Mo

Tu

We

Th

Fr

Sa

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

January 2021

January 2021

Su

Mo

Tu

We

Th

Fr

Sa

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

January 2021

January 2021

Su

Mo

Tu

We

Th

Fr

Sa

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

January 2021

January 2021

Su

Mo

Tu

We

Th

Fr

Sa

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

January 2021

January 2021

Su

Mo

Tu

We

Th

Fr

Sa

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

January 2021

January 2021

Su

Mo

Tu

We

Th

Fr

Sa

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

January 2021

January 2021

Su

Mo

Tu

We

Th

Fr

Sa

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

January 2021

January 2021

Su

Mo

Tu

We

Th

Fr

Sa

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

January 2021

January 2021

Su

Mo

Tu

We

Th

Fr

Sa

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

January 2021

January 2021

Su

Mo

Tu

We

Th

Fr

Sa

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

January 2021

January 2021

Su

Mo

Tu

We

Th

Fr

Sa

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

January 2021

January 2021

Su

Mo

Tu

We

Th

Fr

Sa

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

January 2021

January 2021

Su

Mo

Tu

We

Th

Fr

Sa

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

January 2021

January 2021

Su

Mo

Tu

We

Th

Fr

Sa

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

January 2021

January 2021

Su

Mo

Tu

We

Th

Fr

Sa

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

January 2021

January 2021

Su

Mo

Tu

We

Th

Fr

Sa

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

January 2021

January 2021

Su

Mo

Tu

We

Th

Fr

Sa

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

January 2021

January 2021

Su

Mo

Tu

We

Th

Fr

Sa

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

January 2021

January 2021

Su

Mo

Tu

We

Th

Fr

Sa

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

January 2021

January 2021

Su

Mo

Tu

We

Th

Fr

Sa

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

January 2021

January 2021

Su

Mo

Tu

We

Th

Fr

Sa

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

January 2021

January 2021

Su

Mo

Tu

We

Th

Fr

Sa

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

January 2021

January 2021

Su

Mo

Tu

We

Th

Fr

Sa

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

January 2021

January 2021

Su

Mo

Tu

We

Th

Fr

Sa

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

January 2021

January 2021

Su

Mo

Tu

We

Th

Fr

Sa

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

January 2021

January 2021

Su

Mo

Tu

We

Th

Fr

Sa

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

January 2021

January 2021

Su

Mo

Tu

We

Th

Fr

Sa

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

January 2021

January 2021

Su

Mo

Tu

We

Th

Fr

Sa

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

January 2021

January 2021

Su

Mo

Tu

We

Th

Fr

Sa

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

January 2021

January 2021

Su

Mo

Tu

We

Th

Fr

Sa

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

January 2021

January 2021

Su

Mo

Tu

We

Th

Fr

Sa

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

January 2021

January 2021

Su

Mo

Tu

We

Th

Fr

Sa

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

January 2021

January 2021

Su

Mo

Tu

We

Th

Fr

Sa

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

January 2021

January 2021

Su

Mo

Tu

We

Th

Fr

Sa

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

January 2021

January 2021

Su

Mo

Tu

We

Th

Fr

Sa

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

January 2021

January 2021

Su

Mo

Tu

We

Th

Fr

Sa

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

January 2021

January 2021

Su

Mo

Tu

We

Th

Fr

Sa

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

January 2021

January 2021

Su

Mo

Tu

We

Th

Fr

Sa

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

# Recent Pictures

*Below are a few pictures taken over the past month.*

*Thank you to our decorators! Pictured here are: Back—Graham Bradley, Joan Terry and Adam Kreuter. Front—Sue Englebert, Ardy Kreuter, Christine Rondeau and Berdie Golden, Floor—Eli and Annika Strasman.*

*The Kreuter family tied blankets for Christmas Giving. Volunteers dropped off our Christmas Giving gifts at the Boys & Girl's Brigade.*

*The Bradley and Lochner kids help set up the nativity scene in the front of church.*

*The staff said goodbye to Colleen at a Christmas lunch.*

