

VOICE

*Our
Savior's
Lutheran
Church*

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

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

February 2021

Life Together 

Lent, Family Sunday School, and Zoom Meet Ups

Greetings to you as we enter the season of Lent in the church year. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent on February 17th. We will have a 6:30 PM in-person Ash Wednesday Service that will also be streamed live. Our Worship Team is also planning Ashes To Go in the carport during the day. Blessed Lent to you as we prepare for Easter Season. Instead of in-person, mid-week Lenten services this year, I will be hosting an on line Vespers and Bible Study on Zoom. This will be a time of prayer, song, Bible work, and reflection.

In my Letter of Call to Our Savior's, I am a Minister of Word and Sacrament. I am charged "*to preach and teach the Word of God in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions; to administer Holy Baptism and Holy Communion; to lead worship; proclaim forgiveness of sins; provide pastoral care; speak justice on behalf of the poor and oppressed; encourage persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel; impart knowledge of the ELCA and its wider ministry; to endeavor to increase support given to our congregation to the work of the whole church; to equip the congregation for witness and service; and to guide the church in proclaiming God's love through word and deed.*"

A pastor does a lot of things, but really my calling is to share the Word and Sacrament with you and to build as many people up as possible to help with these ministries. I am proud of the direction we are heading. One of my jobs is to get God's Word into your homes. The pandemic has made this challenging, but we are doing it. I am excited to announce our new "**Family Sunday School**" model that we are unveiling in February.

Starting the week of February 7th, we are unveiling our new online "Family Sunday School" at Our Saviors. A group of faithful members and hopefully families (in the future) will help record the Sunday school on Zoom that will correspond to our lessons in church each week. We will then send a video link in our weekly email to be viewed when it makes sense in your busy schedules. I am excited because I get to play guitar and teach fun songs in this format. Each family with children age 3 through 5th grade will be contacted by the church and offered resources and the recorded video. We are ordering the Spark Family Magazine for each household that will go along with the lessons we teach each week and will be referred to in Family Sunday School.

In addition, while we are still in the pandemic, we will do a **Zoom Meet Up** once a month where the kids will participate in scavenger hunts, talent shows, answer fun questions, dress-up, do crafts, and eat. These will be designed to be more playful and intentional about connecting our families.

I hope you participate in this new program. Actually, every member of our church on email will get the link to Family Sunday School. So kids of all ages can participate! Once we get started we will be looking for people of all ages to contribute to Family Sunday School. And the beauty of this format is you can participate from your home.

May God bless our Family Sunday School and all who participate and contribute!

Peace,

Pastor Jon Strasman

Family Sunday School

Please watch your email for details on our new, exciting online Family Sunday School! Any member of any age can participate, which will make this fun for everyone in your family.

Beginning the week of February 7, watch for a video link for Sunday School in our church's weekly email. The link can be viewed when it makes sense for you in your busy schedules.

Each family with children age 3 through 5th grade will be contacted by the church and offered resources and the recorded video. We are ordering the Spark Family Magazine for each household, as well, that will go along with the lessons.

Worship Services in February

Virtually/On-line Worship Continues

Sundays – 9:00 a.m.

on Our Facebook and You Tube Channels

Or Join us for In-Person Worship

Every Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

Ash Wednesday Worship, February 17 at 6:30 a.m.

(This service will also be streamed live.)

Please RSVP for these services by calling the church office.

Space is limited. Masks are required. Note that in-person worship is on a trial basis and is dependent on current Covid situation.

Altar Flowers

Now that we are back to worshipping in person, you may be wondering if altar flowers will make a comeback. The answer is yes! While altar flowers are not necessary for us to worship, it has long been valued as a beautiful way to honor and acknowledge loved ones and special occasions in our lives.

As with all things it seems, Covid will change how we handle the sign up for the flowers. In the past, there was a chart for you to sign up on, and an envelope for you to fill out. However, this requires physically being here in the building. Since building traffic is being kept to a minimum, and also because we have many members who feel safer at home, we are going to change this up this year.

To reserve your date for Altar flowers, call the office at 725-3956, or email kkonkle@our-saviors.org to arrange your date. Options will remain the same: you can choose to provide one arrangement (\$30), two arrangements (\$60), or three arrangements (\$90), and you can make color requests/suggestions.

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.

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

Help For the Homeless

We will be collecting NEW hygiene and cleaning items for local crisis agencies through The Family Radio’s annual “Help for the Homeless” hygiene drive, February 14 – March 7. Please place your donations in the *Help for the Homeless* collection box located in the Gathering Area by March 7, or drop off in the office during office hours.

Supplying these items to local shelters will help them direct their limited funds to providing qualified staff, counseling, food and shelter to those they serve. Most urgently needed items are laundry soap, kitchen size trash bags (shelters go thru LOTS of these), shampoo, cleaning supplies, diapers, toilet tissue, and feminine care. **Your donations will remain in this community.** Note: Food Share (formerly Food Stamps) does not cover the cost of non-food items such as soap and diapers. Thank you! More info at thefamily.net

Fox Valley Community Table Volunteers

FVCT is an ecumenical organization that provides free, hot meals on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 11:30-12:30pm at St Paul’s Lutheran Church, located at 200 N Commercial St, Neenah. Are you interested in providing a meal on Tuesday March 30? Until further notice, meals are served “to-go” and therefore require only six participants. If interested, please contact Carol Swannell 920-540-9598 or carolswannell1@gmail.com

A little history: Fox Valley Community Table served their first meal on May 1, 1991, at Evangel Community Church on Main St. in Menasha. In 1992, FVCT was incorporated as a separate entity from the church. On June 7, 1997, FVCT relocated to St. Paul where they serve approximately 4,500 meals a year.

Their mission remains the same - to provide well balanced meals in a caring and supportive Christian atmosphere. Their guests represent a cross-section of the population ranging from infant to seniors. Most are from the Neenah-Menasha area and anyone who needs a free, nutritious meal is welcome. Other than a part-time Site Director, the Community Table is staffed entirely by volunteers and supported by donations. We receive food from food drives sponsored by local schools and churches and the Neenah Library. With the continued faithfulness of these laborers and benefactors, FVCT will continue to serve 130 to 150 meals per week.

Needed – OSLC “Traffic” Directors

As we come through the pandemic and work to come out the other side, our church is changing and evolving with in-person worship. Our volunteer needs have changed as well. With the smaller number of worshipers, we don’t need as many volunteers, but the positions we do need would be “traffic directors,” friendly, masked volunteers who either act as door openers, greeters and ushers, who help our members stay socially distant, and yet ensure they find a pew and take their communion.

So, whether you have served before on the alter guild, as a communion assistant, usher, greeter, reader, song leader, or you have not volunteered in the past but would like to help, we would love to have you. We are hoping you can adapt with us and use your time and talents to help be “traffic directors” at our Sunday morning, in-person worship. No experience is needed, and we will have on-the-job training.

Please email or call Kasey at the church office and let her know how you would like to help. She will forward your name and contact information to the appropriate person.

The Worship Ministry Team

Ash Wednesday – “Ashes to Go”

Are you in a hurry? On your way to work? Running errands? On your way home from work? Is it too cold? Or too snowy?

Please join us and drive through for Ashes to Go

Place: Our Savior's Lutheran Church - 809 S Commercial Street

Date: February 17, 2021

Time: Anytime between 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM

“Ashes to Go” will be offered to anyone in the congregation and community that wishes to participate. Ashes will be distributed individually as people drive under the car port at Our Savior's. Please invite your friends to join us!

Ash Wednesday is a Christian holy day of prayer and fasting. It is preceded by Shrove Tuesday and falls on the first day of Lent, the six weeks of penitence before Easter. Ash Wednesday is traditionally observed by Western Christians.

Ash Wednesday derives its name from the placing of repentance ashes on the foreheads of participants in the shape of a cross, to the words "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." The ashes are prepared by burning palm leaves from the previous year's Palm Sunday celebration and symbolize penance, mourning and mortality.

Pillars Adult Meals

Our Saviors continues to serve 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. Thank you to those who have called so far!!! The next meal is **February 25**, and we hope you will faithfully consider it, as your comfort level allows. Please call the church office if you would like to volunteer now or in the future.

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 150th 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.

Love Weekend Sunday, February 14, 2021

God has guided us through a year like no other in our lifetime. By Love Weekend 2021, COVID-19 will have been with us for almost one year. We will have endured COVID-19 fear and unknown, separation, illness, death, loneliness and job loss; natural disasters and political chaos. We invite you to join us in worship on Valentine's weekend as we celebrate God's Love for all of us.

Volunteers Needed for Ash Wednesday

The Worship Ministry Team is looking for individuals to help with the distribution of ashes for Ashes to Go on February 17. You will be working in groups of two and sign up for periods as short as one hour, or longer if you like. There will be a sign-up sheet at church. You may also contact the church office, or Roberta Golden at roberta_golden@hotmail.com, if you are interested in helping.

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

"If you can't feed a hundred people, then just feed one."

-Mother Teresa

Generous Congregation...

YTD Totals Through December

	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Difference</i>
Income	\$384,620	\$399,414	\$14,794
Expenses	\$436,350	\$386,650	\$49,700

Memorials & Honorariums Received

A special thank you to those who remembered

Elaine Anderson

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

January Pastoral Acts...

Baptisms – None

Funerals—
Bob Peotter

Building Fund...

Through December

Remaining on Loan	\$ 0
Principal Paid on Loan	\$183,863.34
Total Contributions	\$116,457.16
Billed on Loan	\$ 38,627.76
Paid on Loan Over Billed Amount	\$145,235.58

Council Meeting Minutes January 12, 2021– 7:00 p.m.

Pastor's Report:

In December said Goodbye to Colleen Welsh
2 deaths.

Conducted listening session with parents regarding Christian Education.

Participated in continuing Education Event called "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Preaching in Lent.

Worked on Internship Application to Wartburg Seminary.

Working on planning Ash Wednesday and Lent services.

Received thank you gift from Betty Emmrich's family.

Treasurer's Report: December income was up. Every group spent less than allocated this year. \$12,764 positive for year. Need treasurer.

Membership/Attendance Reports: 25 in-person Sunday. Need to keep better tally of in-person and on-line attendees.

Ministry Team Reports:

Building and Grounds-Kevin Schabo: OSLC has 3 boilers. 1 failed and was leaking. 1 had a bad control panel. Boilers are from 1994. 1 from 1968 (gym) requires Chris to monitor and reset frequently and is working at 30% efficiency. Engineering may be required to keep system working. May need to be replaced. There is money available but may also look at getting a load to fix outside of building, parking lot, boilers, and other items that need repair. Committee will bring recommendation to Council in a future meeting.

Care and Connect – Kristi Armstrong: Will start up "Calling All Members" soon.

Evangelism, Marketing, Communication & Technology: Kevin Schabo: App usage up. Live streaming requires less prep time. New computer is approved to be purchased – will help with Powerpoint, etc. Will not be adding more mics – will look for different options to improve organ sound. **Motion/Second/Carried Pastor/Schabo to buy computer equipment up to \$1000 for tech booth.** All voting aye.

Finance – Sue Schultz/Marcie Kimmes: Next meeting 1/14. Working on PPP loan.

Security and Safety – Ben Lochner: New codes for individual council members. Kasey will contact council members with individual codes. Looking to put in a lock box. Would like to get better access to Food Pantry.

Serve and Reach – TBD: Pam Garman provided minutes from 12/10 meeting. Items discussed were: OSLC Food Pantry, Encouragement Ministry, Pillars Adult Shelter Meal, Christmas Giving, Community 12 Days of Christmas, and Spring Ideas.

Worship and Music – Graham Bradley: Working with Rise Again team on how to staff services.

New Business:

Proposed Revised OSLC Constitution:

Motion/Second/Carried Schultz/Bradley to approve Constitution and Bylaws. All voting aye.

Old Business:

New Council Members. Names were submitted and people will be contacted to serve on Council.

Annual Meeting January 31, 2021 at 10:30 am via Zoom.

Donations Kindly Requested

The following is a shopping list for needed items for Lutheran World Relief Kits as well as the Bletzinger House. Please drop off any items in the church office during regular business hours. Thank you!

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Baby Care Kits:

Lightweight cotton t-shirts or onesies, size 6 – 24 months

Long- or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (**without feet**), size 6 – 24 months

Sweaters or sweatshirts with buttons, ties, or zippers, plus a hood (or include a hat), size 6-24 mo.

36" - 52" square flannel receiving blankets (no fleece) - please note **new** larger size!

***Note: baby clothes can be new or gently used**

Cloth diapers, flat fold preferred

Pairs of new baby socks, up to size 24 months

New hand towels, dark colors preferred

4-5 oz bath-size bars of gentle soap, in original wrapping (example: Ivory)

****Important change for 2021: we no longer send fleece clothing (sleepers, sweatshirts, etc). In some areas of the world don't have filtration systems and tiny fibers get into their drinking water****

Personal Care Kits:

New lightweight bath towels (sizes between 20" x 40" to 27" x 52"), dark colors preferred

4-5 oz bath-sized bars of soap in original wrapping (examples: Irish Spring, Dial)

Adult-sized toothbrushes in original packaging (multi-packs are acceptable)

Sturdy, large combs

Fingernail clippers, with or without a file

School Kits:

70-sheet spiral notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper

12" rulers with both centimeters and inches marked

Small pencil sharpeners

Child's blunt scissors

Unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers

Blue or black ballpoint pens (no gel ink)

Boxes of 24 crayons

THANK YOU for your gifts to this ministry! If you'd like to contribute with a check, please donate to Our Savior's, and specify for LWR Kits account. Questions? Please contact Ann at wapokel@gmail.com

BLETZINGER HOUSE

New comforters for twin beds. Also new fitted and flat sheets for twin beds.

Items for our welcome baskets—hygiene products such as antiperspirant, toothpaste, shampoo, toothbrushes or unique items such as tiny games, word search books, etc.

\$5 gift cards to give out for incentive rewards to residents, or for possible inclusion in welcome baskets.

Fun board games for the house.

Contact Carol Swannell with questions at carolswannell1@gmail.com

February Calendar

February 2021		February 2021							March 2021																																																				
		Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa																																														
Jan 31																																																													
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCRIP Cards Sold 9:00am Worship 1:00pm AA Hispanic 	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OFFICE HOURS 9 AM - NOON 6:00pm AA Hispanic 	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OFFICE HOURS 9 AM - NOON 6:00pm Serve & Reach Team Meeting (Zoom) 7:00pm Council Meeting 	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OFFICE HOURS 9 AM - NOON 10:00am Bible Study - Virtual 7:30pm Listening Session 6: Family Fellowship Ideas - Post Pandemic 	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OFFICE HOURS 9 AM - NOON 12:00pm Finance Meeting 6:00pm AA Meeting 	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OFFICE HOURS 9 AM - NOON OFFICE CLOSED 	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OFFICE HOURS 9 AM - NOON OFFICE CLOSED 	14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00am Worship - "Love" 1:00pm AA Hispanic 	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OFFICE HOURS 9 AM - NOON 6:00pm AA Hispanic 	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OFFICE HOURS 9 AM - NOON Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras 6:00pm Encouragement Ministry Meeting 	17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ash Wednesday OFFICE HOURS 9 AM - NOON 7:00am Ashes to Go 10:00am Bible Study - Virtual 6:30pm Worship 7:30pm Listening Session 7: 	18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OFFICE HOURS 9 AM - NOON 6:00pm AA Meeting 	19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OFFICE HOURS 9 AM - NOON OFFICE CLOSED 	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OFFICE HOURS 9 AM - NOON OFFICE CLOSED 	21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00am Worship 1:00pm AA Hispanic 	22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OFFICE HOURS 9 AM - NOON 6:00pm AA Hispanic 	23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OFFICE HOURS 9 AM - NOON 10:00am Bible Study - Virtual 6:30pm ZOOM Lenten Bible Study 	24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OFFICE HOURS 9 AM - NOON 10:00am Bible Study - Virtual 6:30pm ZOOM Lenten Bible Study 	25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OFFICE HOURS 9 AM - NOON 6:00pm AA Meeting 	26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OFFICE HOURS 9 AM - NOON OFFICE CLOSED 	27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OFFICE HOURS 9 AM - NOON OFFICE CLOSED 	28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00am Worship 1:00pm AA Hispanic 	29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OFFICE HOURS 9 AM - NOON OFFICE CLOSED 	30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OFFICE HOURS 9 AM - NOON OFFICE CLOSED 	31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OFFICE HOURS 9 AM - NOON OFFICE CLOSED 	Mar 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OFFICE HOURS 9 AM - NOON 6:00pm AA Hispanic 	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OFFICE HOURS 9 AM - NOON OFFICE CLOSED 	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OFFICE HOURS 9 AM - NOON OFFICE CLOSED 	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OFFICE HOURS 9 AM - NOON OFFICE CLOSED 	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OFFICE HOURS 9 AM - NOON OFFICE CLOSED 	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OFFICE HOURS 9 AM - NOON OFFICE CLOSED

Guatemala On Our Mind

OSLC has been carrying out international mission work in Guatemala since 2008. In fact, if not for the Pandemic, we would be planning a March 2021 mission trip to Guatemala. Since 2008, 72 members of Our Savior's have completed 20 homes for families in Guatemala and we plan to continue when it is safe and healthy to do so again. In the interim, we are sharing a throwback picture from June 2009, when Sam and Jackie Hartmann and their adult children Nancy Stevenson and Patrick Hartmann made the trip. It's one of our favorite photos!

Guatemala is a country about the size of Tennessee, in the middle of Central America. It shares a border with Mexico and Honduras. 17 million people call Guatemala home and, nationally, between 56-64% of the population lives below the national poverty level or \$2/day. That rises to over 75% in rural areas. The primary means of making a living is in agriculture and 1.1 million people live in homes made of cornstalks or scavenged materials. Public spending on education is only 2.6% of Guatemala's GDP, the lowest in Latin America and 76% of indigenous children who start school will not complete their education, averaging 3.5 years in school.

Guatemala is a beautiful country, filled with faithful and beautiful people. We continue to support the housing project, From Houses to Homes, as our international mission recipient and we look forward to returning when we are able, doing God's Work with Our Hands.



www.fromhousetohomes.org

