Our Savior's Lutheran Church

809 South Commercial Street Neenah, WI 54956 Service Times Sunday 9:00 a.m. Office Hours: M-Th 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Fri. 8:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. 920-725-3956

March 2021



I am going to take this time to give you an update on what Lent has been like in our household. Of course, the disciplines of Lent are prayer, fasting, works of love, and confession. Jeranna and I pray often, mostly for our kids and their well-being, for our world, and the many people on our prayer list. Not much fasting is going on other than Ely fasting from tasty foods because he got his wisdom teeth out. Jeranna will be fasting soon for a colonoscopy. Acts of love can take any form. Much love is shared in our household through food. I find another way that I can love my neighbors is to snow blow their walks or driveways. But you can't do it when your snow blower is broke....

So Lent for me has been learning to fix things. YouTube is a great resource for fixing things. During the past month, for example, I fixed our dryer by ordering a new pulley arm and bearing for the belt tensioner off Amazon. It squealed every time we turned it on. Now it runs like a top. I feel good when I can see a project through from beginning to end. Church doesn't always run that way. Sometimes you don't see the fruit of your labor until years later.

Recently I have been going to the hardware store every weekend. Today, I bought a sheer pin for the snow blower our neighbor loaned us indefinitely. It is a 1970 Ariens, and it is a beast. I didn't even know it had a sheer pin until Chris Swender told me. Fortunately I picked the right one up and got out snow blowing the driveway after our last snow. It beats shoveling.

Lent also has meant easing back into basketball for our son, Ezra. He plays on a team that practices with masks and plays with masks. Only one parent can go to each game. I am thankful Ezra can get out and be a part of a team again. Online school, which we opted for, doesn't allow much time for community.

Church-wise in Lent, I will be leading a Worship/Bible Study called "Created for Community". It ranges from relationships with the earth to relationships in our families, the church, and the world. I hope you can join me on Zoom this year for our mid-week offering on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM. If you have an email address, you can participate. A link will go out each week from Kasey in the office.

I find that whenever I study scripture with others, it is never wasted time. Isaiah says "God's Word never goes out and returns empty." I am always changed in some way when I study the Word. Even if you have never done a Zoom Bible Study, I invite you to check it out. I hope to do some large group and small group breakouts with guiding questions. It will be fun.

One other thing. Marcella, our 4 year-old, wears a contact lens and we put a patch on her good eye 5-6 hours a day in order to strengthen her weak eye. She had a cataract as a baby and doesn't have a lens in her eye. I can't believe she patches that long. But we do bribe her with little toys to choose from after five days of patching. I thank God every day for Marcella's willingness and attitude. Oh, and yes, I am still ice fishing, but haven't had much luck lately. Maybe I should get the cross-country skis out.

Blessed Lent to you. Thanks for being a part of this church community. I am excited for Covid to subside and for us to gather again fully. God has great plans for Our Savior's in the future.

Peace, Pastor Jon

Youth News

Worship With Us

Family Sunday School

Watch your emails for a video link for Family Sunday School! 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.

The Sunday School link is also now available on both our YouTube and Facebook channels. The classes average about 20 minutes and are perfect for all ages. Come join us!!

Confirmation

During Lent our confirmation classes will be held online on Wednesdays at 5:30. We will meet again in person after Easter. Many thanks to our adult leaders: Jenn Paulson, Katie Ricketts, and Kristin Ely-Bluemke.

Worship Services in March

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.

Midweek Lent Worship, beginning February 24 at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom. Use this link each week: <u>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89454235476</u>

Please RSVP for the in-person services by calling the church office. Space is limited. Masks are required.

Don't Forget to Spring Ahead!

Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 14, at 2:00 a.m. Remember to turn your clocks ahead on Saturday night so you aren't late for church on Sunday!

Altar Flowers

Since building traffic is being kept to a minimum, we are going to change the process of sign-up for altar flowers this year.

To reserve your date for flowers, call the office at 725-3956, or email <u>kkonkle@our-saviors.org</u> 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.

Money Counters Needed

We are in need of a couple of money counters. Cheryl Timm was a counter but since being elected to Council and as Treasurer, it is a conflict of interest for her to continue counting. After completing a background check, you would count every other month, and Cheryl is willing to train you. Please contact the church office to let us know that you're willing to serve our church in this manner. Thank you!!

Outreach Opportunities...

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

Care & Connect Calling Team

For 2021 we would like to create an ongoing Care and Connection Call Team. This group would receive a short list of member's names and give them a call once a month to check in for needs or prayers. If you miss seeing your fellow church members this might be for you. It's a great way to care for our fellow members and stay connected during this lonely time for many.

We will need many volunteers to keep the calling lists short so come one and all!!! If you think this is for you please reach out to the church to sign up. Once we have our list of volunteers, we will assign a list of members for you to give a call to and also provide you with a phone script to help you begin your check in.

Help For the Homeless

We are still collecting NEW hygiene and cleaning items for local crisis agencies through The Family Radio's annual "Help for the Homeless" hygiene drive, through 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.

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. <u>Your donations will</u> remain in this community.

Fox Community Table Volunteers

We will be serving our first 'to-go' meal on Tuesday, March 30, from 11:30-12:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church at 200 N. Commercial St. in Neenah. It will consist of a hot dish from Shellates, thanks to Christa Sanders using her Thrivent Action Team \$250 gift card, and side dishes provided by you!. I have heard from six of you wanting to be part of the fun, but would love to have more. Be on the lookout for an email with specifics early in March. Thank you to everyone for your support.

-Carol Swannell, carolswannell1@gmail.com or 920-540-9598

OSLC Dial-a-Ride FREE local transportation available to OSLC Members Age 60+

Are you in need of a ride to church, the grocery store, pharmacy, or a medical appointment? Together with the City of Neenah, we are pleased to offer the Dial-a-Ride program as a complimentary service to our church seniors who may need a little assistance getting out and about. The funding for this program has been donated through a memorial fund established by the family of Delores "Dee" Klein, a long-time member of Our Savior's.

This transportation service is available for travel via taxi within the local area to members age 60+ and is for Neenah and Menasha residents only. The Dial-a Ride vouchers are available on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last. If you are interested in using this program or if you would like further information, please contact Kasey in the Church office at (920) 725-3956 by email or at kkonkle@our-saviors.org

Other News...

News From the Congregational Meeting

We had great attendance again at the Congregational Meeting on January 31, 2021. Thank you to all who attended via Zoom and in person. The following is a summary of important information presented at the meeting.

We voted for Church Council members. Cheryl Timm was elected Treasurer. Welcome, Cheryl! And, we thanked and said good bye to Andrew Schaller who served two years on Council and to Christina Crum who served six years on Council and was our liaison to the Learn and Grow/Youth Team.

Karl Wunderlich, our building fund treasurer, gave us his last update on the building fund. The mortgage was paid in full in December 2020. The challenge donation was not used and so was deposited into the Foundation. Thank you to everyone who helped us become a debt-free congregation!

Vice President Graham Bradley presented the year-end 2020 financial report. We ended the year with a \$12,764 net profit. Thank you to everyone who continued to give despite the pandemic.

President Sue Schultz presented the proposed revised Our Savior's Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions. This document has not been updated in 20 years! The most notable changes were that, in an emergency, Council may enter into a contract up to \$50,000 over the budget approved by the congregation. The most likely scenario for this would be the failure of our heating system during the winter. We will now have one congregational meeting per year, held in November, instead of two meetings. The congregation approved the revised Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions.

Kristi Armstrong, Council liaison to the Care and Connect Team, spoke regarding the Team's new initiative for a Calling Ministry. This ministry needs folks who like to talk on the phone to call members and connect. With the isolation caused by the pandemic, there is a need to reach out to everyone to touch base and let them know we care. Please contact Kristi or the church office to express your interest in participating.

In Pastor Jon's Church Chat, Pastor gave thanks to the many people who made it possible to keep Our Savior's on track during 2020. He was excited that because we are debt-free and financially strong, we are positioned well for moving forward. Since Pastor's call, we are down three staff positions. For now, Pastor and volunteers are picking up some of the tasks. Wartburg Seminary has developed an exciting new Accelerated Ministry Program, and we may get the first student from the program. The student would spend three years with us as a 20- to 25-hour per week employee while continuing to study for a Master of Divinity on-line. The final year would be as an intern. This person would be an enormous asset to our Learn and Grow ministries as well as to bringing our technology up -to-date. The congregation fully embraced and pledged to support this program.

Sue Schultz, Council President

Happy 50th Birthday, Pastor Jon!

We celebrated Pastor Jon's birthday this past month at one of our staff meetings. He received a cake, a ride to lunch in a wheelchair and many good wishes!





Generous People...

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

Income

Expenses

Balance

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

Memorials & Honorariums Received

A special thank you to those who remembered

Bob Peotter Bill Dull

February Pastoral Acts...

Generous Congregation...

YTD Totals Through January

Actual

\$43,612

\$ 32,587

\$ 11.025

Budgeted

\$ 36,738

(\$ 1,855)

\$ 34,883

Baptisms – Drew Green, Ramsey Green

Confirmations — Calissa Tiedt

First Communions - Myra Abendroth, Nolan Curtis, Amelia Klundt, Lyla Klundt, Theodore Long, Landon Schaller, Karissa Schilke, Owen Shadick, Kendal Tech

Thank You to our 2021 Church Council Members

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Officers

President - Sue Schultz Vice Pre Treasurer - Cheryl Timm

Vice President - Graham Bradley Secretary - Joan Terry eryl Timm Financial Secretary - Ben Lochner

COUNCIL

Kristi Armstrong (2nd 2021), Care & Connect, Worship Volunteers Graham Bradley (2021), Vice President, Worship & Music Marcie Kimmes (2022) Ben Lochner (2021), Financial Secretary, Security & Safety Kevin Schabo (2nd 2023), Building & Grounds, Evangelism-Marketing-Communication-Tech (TEC) Sue Schultz (2nd 2021), President, Finance, Personnel Joan Terry (2021), Secretary, Retirees & Friends, Cheryl Timm (2023), Treasurer, Finance

OSLC Council Minutes

Council Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2021 – 7:00 p.m

Open Forum – Kathy Fredrickson

Recap from students' project – Website Analyzed – UWO 3 goals:

Increasing awareness – bringing traffic to website – 100 people searching queries and 400 new visitors a month. Need to cast wider net. Revenue = new members.

Capture leads – 20 per month. 20% loyalty loop. Use a contact form on site and social media.

Engaging community through local events – 20% audience to be repeat visitors to site.

Ideas: Create Instagram account – reach younger members. Social media is visual – post pictures. Ramp up content on YouTube. Upload clips of choir in action and behind the scenes. Blog on website. Mobile App needs to be used more.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor received first COVID shot. Clergy was in the 1A group.

Confirmation is now hybrid meeting Wednesday at 5:30PM. Adult leaders: Jenn Paulson, Katie Ricketts, and Kristin Ely-Bluemke.

Joined a clergy colleague group that meets on the 2nd Thursday via Zoom facilitated by Doug Bisbee.

On Feb. 21, 1) Kellie Escovy, our potential Seminary student, will worship with us and have a meet and greet after worship with about 6 people from the congregation who are interested in being on the Collaborative Learning Team. 2) 1 confirmation at 11:00 AM. 3) 2 baptisms at 1:00 PM.

On Feb. 27 – We will have a first communion ceremony for all the kids and their families who went through classes that want an in-person experience. Size will be around 50 people spaced out in the sanctuary. Thanks to Karen Schilke for organizing this.

<u>Treasurer's Report</u>: Reviewed January statements. No concerns. Cheryl found out there are 46 members currently using Tithe.ly. Not everyone received envelopes this year.

Membership/Attendance Reports: 30 in-person on Sundays, 60-70 online.

Ministry Team Reports:

Building and Grounds-Kevin Schabo: Still getting quotes for boilers. Pipe leak is fixed. Flushed the lines. Still have some erosion. Looking at some options: 1) in floor heating in sanctary – more expensive or 2) 1.5" pipes along register/baseboard and tied into new boiler. Will have quotes soon and have Chris attend an upcoming council meeting.

Care and Connect – Kristi Armstrong: 1 person signed up so far for "Calling All Members".

Evangelism, Marketing, Communication & Technology: Kevin Schabo: Currently live streaming service. Have not purchased new computer yet. Bought camera to help with live streaming. Organ overwhelming in sound booth area – potential to move to upstairs cry room. Looking at options to replace big screen with 2 TVs mounted in front.

Finance – Sue Schultz/Marcie Kimmes: Next meeting 2/11.

<u>Serve and Reach – TBD:</u> Pam Garman provided minutes from 1/12 meeting. Topics discussed were: Encouragement Ministry, Pillars Adult Shelter Meal, Community Table at St Pauls, Bletzinger House project, Food Drive at OSLC, Lutheran World Relief, Hygiene Drive, and Oher donation opportunities.

New Business:

New Check Signers: Sue Schultz

Motion/Second/Carried Schultz/Lochner to remove Kristi Armstrong, Aaron Zemlock and David Zernicke as authorized OSLC check signers at Associated Bank; further, to approve Pastor Jon Strasman, Sue Schultz, Graham Bradley and Cheryl Timm as authorized OSLC check signers for the regular checking, Help Fund checking, Scrip checking and money market checking accounts held at Associated Bank; further, to approve Kasey Konkle as an authorized OSLC signer for the Help Fund checking account; and, finally, to require two authorized signer signatures on all OSLC accounts at Associated Bank. All voting aye

Next Council Meeting: March 9, 2021 at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

Meeting Notes OSLC Serve and Reach Committee via ZOOM - January 12, 2021

Present – Ardy Kreuter, Ann Pokel, Sue Englebert, Christa Sanders, Alan Dordel, Barb/Rick Klamm, Carol Swannell, Rich/Pam Garman, Tammy Rabe

Encouragement Ministry – Ardy Kreuter

Update – will resume meeting 1/19 at 7 pm via Zoom

Pillars Adult Shelter Meal – Alan Dordel

Dietzen and Terry families served the meal at Pillars on Dec 24!

- We have asked the congregation to call the office if they would like to get on a list of servers or dessert maker, that we could then draw from. To date, no one has done so.
- On the opposite (odd) month, another organization is providing food, but Pillars is requesting volunteers to serve it. This would be an additional opportunity. Will continue encourage volunteers, but realize the Pandemic is a barrier at this time. Tammy Rabe and Carol Swannell volunteered to serve in January

Next OSLC prepared and served meal is February 25, for approximately 70 persons

Community Table at St Pauls – Carol Swannell

- Discussion Lunch is served to anyone in the community on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Tuesdays are for community members/groups to provide and serve. During the Pandemic, meals are prepared and offered to go for approximately 70 persons
- Next steps Carol is exploring how we can begin participating in this feeding ministry. Funds will be available through the Pillars food donations as there is sum sufficient for both

Bletzinger House project- Carol Swannell

- Discussion Bletzinger House is an 14 bed Community Based Residential Facility on Professional Drive that serves persons with chronic mental illness. OSLC has had a relationship with them in the past for different fellowship and volunteer projects. The new director, Scott Peeples, reached out to Carol Swannell to inquire if we would like to re-establish volunteer/fellowship opportunities with them and also provided a list of goods needed.
- Next Steps publish the list of needs and ask the congregation for donations. Explore volunteer opportunities as the Pandemic allows.

Food Drive OSLC Pantry – Pam Garman

Food Drive – is in progress

Lutheran World Relief – Ann Pokel

Update – Ann reported the supplies for the baby kits, personal care and school bags is depleted. We will initiate a donation drive to resupply and also look into Thrivent Action cards for items

<u> Hygiene Drive – Pam Garman</u>

Update – Kasey Konkle received in inquiry for participation in a community wide <u>Help for the Home-less Hygiene</u> drive to take place in Feb and March, facilitated by LEAVEN. Boxes will be placed at church for donations and info in the VOICE

OTHER

Discussion that we are requesting many donations of goods for a variety of important efforts, many of which overlap. Christa Sanders volunteered to create a list of Donation Opportunities, compiling all of the requests, and send it in for the VOICE. We will also make copies and have them available for in-person worship or stop-in pick up. We are looking into a bin system for the donations to keep them sorted and enable Chris Swender to move them when needed.

Next Meeting – February 9 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 y our 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 <u>wapokel@gmail.com</u>

BLETZINGER HOUSE

Single/Twin-sized bedding for adult males and females Laundry detergent, cleaning supplies and garbage bags Personal hygiene items \$5 gift cards (used to reinforce good actions)

There is a donation bin in the Gathering Area labeled Bletzinger House. Or contact Carol Swannell and she can come to your home for pick-ups. Thank you for helping support the first group home in the state! carolswannell1@gmail.com or 920-540-9598

March Calendar

