

# VOICE

## Our Savior's Lutheran Church

April 2021

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. 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

920-725-3956

*Life Together* 

I love Spring! Spring, to me, means Easter, the Masters golf tournament, and gardening.

Besides Easter eggs and baskets, Easter is all about new life. As the daffodils and lilies pop through the ground, and buds show up on shrubs and trees, we see evidence of resurrection all around us. We need Easter more than ever after coming through such a challenging year. The story of Jesus overcoming death and the grave gives us hope both now and after we die. The Apostle Paul reminds us of the power of the resurrection attached to our Baptism. In Romans, Paul writes, "Therefore we have been buried with him (Jesus) by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his" Romans 6:4-5.

Would you agree? We have experienced a lot of real deaths and "mini deaths" throughout this pandemic. Real deaths would be things like the loss of a loved one or pet. "Mini deaths" would be the loss of a dream, or wedding plans, or graduation plans, or a job, or home, or physical functioning, or a relationship, or time with family. If I were to sum up many of my thoughts during this pandemic, "grief" would be at the center. I am grieving or have grieved many losses during the pandemic. But I also have hope that we will soon be able to live fully again... that is if we all keep doing our part.

As Christians we are a resurrection people. Even after death, we believe in the possibility of new life. So even in our grief we dare to hope. For our loved ones who have died in the faith, we know that they now rest in the promises of their faith and baptism. For all our "mini deaths", we know that God journeys with us in our pain. Remember that Easter wouldn't be Easter without Good Friday. On Good Friday, Jesus knew suffering, pain, rejection and death. As a result, God doesn't abandon us when things go bad in our life. God promises to be fully with us. Recall, even after the resurrection, Jesus appeared with his scars. We too have our scars from this past year and years before. But remember, scars are a sign of healing.

After Easter this year, I can't wait to watch The Masters golf tourney on TV. Going to watch the Masters in person is a bucket list item for me. But oftentimes it falls during Holy Week. Not good timing for a Pastor. I would love to take in the smell of the azaleas, eat an egg salad sandwich, and watch golfers try to navigate one of the most sacred tracks on earth.

Finally, after church a few weeks ago, when I talked about planting seeds with the kids in the children's sermon, I went to Menards and bought some lumber to make a raised bed garden. I can't wait to plant some vegetables once it warms up. I am so excited I want to rush my planting. Just to see those seedlings pop through the ground is so exciting. I will go out every day to stare at the garden to watch the progress. God's gift of food from the ground is a miracle.

May you all have a lovely Spring, and may joys of Easter be something to celebrate every day of the year.

Peace,

*Pastor Jon*

## Family Sunday School

Watch your emails each week for a video link for Family Sunday School! The link can be viewed when you are able to make time in your busy schedules.

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!!

If your child would like to take part in the classes, we are looking for readers. They can record themselves at home and we'll insert it into the class. Call the church to volunteer.

## Confirmation

Confirmation classes will resume after Easter on April 7 at 5:30PM. We will continue to offer a hybrid model for classes—both in person and online.

Our last day of class will be May 19. We will finish up with a pizza party.

## **Worship Services in April**

### **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.



## **HOLY WEEK**

### **All Services in-Person and Online**

Maundy Thursday, April 1 at 6:30p.m.

Good Friday, April 2 at 6:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 4 at 7, 9 and 10:30 a.m.

(Online will be at 9:00 a.m.)

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

## **Guatemala Mission 2022**

### **Interest Survey**

We've decided to let ourselves dream about the possibility of a Guatemala Mission Trip during NHS Spring Break, 2022. While it seems too early, this is when we would start planning if it were not a Pandemic, which will continue to dictate our plans. At this time, we are only surveying who may have a preliminary interest, without a commitment.

The director of From Houses to Homes reports they are starting to have volunteers return early this summer. Our Mission Trip is for high school age and up. Minors must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. If we have enough interest, we will start a discussion!

Rich and Pam Garman will lead the group. Please call/text/email Pam to let her know you may be interested. [Pam-garman2@gmail.com](mailto:Pam-garman2@gmail.com) or 920-915-2272

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

## Lutheran World Relief Updates

THANK YOU for your donations to Lutheran World Relief in the month of February. Friends, you are so generous, and I hope you’re ready for the next opportunity to support LWR. Our Savior’s sends three different kits: Baby Care, Personal Care, and School Bags. Over the next 6 months, we will highlight items needed to replenish for 2021 giving. We will focus on 3 to 4 items each month, starting in **APRIL!**

**Our goals are 45 lightweight bath towels and 45 hand towels, plus 80 large bars of Ivory soap** (in their original wrapping). The towels typically cost \$1-2 for hand towels, and \$2-4 for bath towels (not the thick towels we typically use). Darker colors are recommended; avoid purchasing white towels.

Donations can be dropped off at church during office hours, or simply put items in the gray plastic bin, located on the lower level near the gym doors. The bin will be labeled LWR. Thank you for supporting Lutheran World Relief! Any questions? Please contact Ann Pokel: [wapokel@gmail.com](mailto:wapokel@gmail.com).



*Here is Karissa Schilke showing you the towels and Ivory soap bars that we’re looking for this month for our LWR donations. Thanks for helping!*

## Mission Opportunity - Spring Cleanup

The Serve and Reach Team is coordinating an opportunity for you to help members of OSLC and community organizations by doing Spring Cleanup. All the activities will be outdoors and in small or family groups and can be completed in a half day. We plan to do the work late April thru May. We will observe safe practices and follow CDC guidelines.

Once we know who and how many of you are willing and able to participate, we’ll pick the right project for your group! We hope kids of all ages will join in!

Please call or email Kasey Konkle in the church office with your interest and include how many people along with the best way to contact you!

## Handmade Greeting Cards

Looking for that special card? Check out the cards on the kiosk in the Gathering Area for Easter and other occasions. Sponsored by the Women of the Church Card ministry.

## Meet New Staffer, Kellie Escovy

Our Savior's will have a new staff member starting on June 1. Her name is Kellie Escovy, and she will be a remote learning student at Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, IA, while she works with us 20-25 hours a week. This will be a three year appointment. Her main concentration during her first two years will be working in youth education, mission work and some social media. Her third year will be as a Seminary Intern.

Kellie, brings a lot of energy and has come highly recommended by many people in the ELCA. She is on what is called an Accelerated Ministry Track. She was identified early on as a candidate for ministry and will complete her Bachelors and Masters degrees in six years instead of eight.

Our Savior's will have a Service of Beginning for her in a local park on June 6<sup>th</sup>. Watch for further details. Here is a letter from Kellie -

*Hi everyone! My name is Kellie, and I am SO excited to begin my three-year internship with Our Savior's this June as a student in the Accelerated Ministry Program through Wartburg College and Wartburg Theological Seminary. A little about me... I grew up in Katy, TX as a member of Living Word Lutheran Church. I worked three summers at Camp Lutherhill, and this is where I first started discerning a call to ministry.*

*During my freshman year of college, I worked at Living Word as "Ministry Administrator and Confirmation Coordinator" - responsible for planning, coordinating, and occasionally leading Confirmation programming; working with a team to put on youth ministry events; and some general administrative work. During this time, I discovered a brand-new Accelerated Ministry Program (AMP) at Wartburg College in Waverly, IA. Through this program, I would be able to finish the schooling needed to become a Lutheran pastor in record time, cutting costs of education and participating in purposeful mentoring and growth opportunities. It didn't take much convincing for me to make the move, and before I knew it, I was leading worship, planning ministry activities, and forming intentional Christian community.*

*In addition to this, I've spent the past couple of years working at an emergency youth shelter for teens in the foster system, a behavioral clinic for kids with Autism, and a recovery house for adults suffering from substance disorders. I've immersed myself in various advocacy movements, and I've tried to learn as much as I can about creative worship. Through this work and my studies at Wartburg, I've spent a LOT of time thinking about how we can be church for all people in all places.*



*In the next three years, I am most excited to try new things, live into congregational ministry, and continue learning and growing alongside Our Savior's.*

**Welcome Kellie!**  
**We're glad you're here!**

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

**March Pastoral  
Acts...**

**Baptisms** – None

**Memorial Service**  
Michael Ganzer

**New Members**  
Diane Kossel

**Generous Congregation...**

**YTD Totals Through February**

|                 | <b>Budgeted</b> | <b>Actual</b> |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| <b>Income</b>   | \$ 69,767       | \$ 79,093     |
| <b>Expenses</b> | \$ 73,477       | \$ 65,259     |
| <b>Balance</b>  | (\$ 3,710)      | \$ 13,833     |

**Memorials &  
Honorariums  
Received**

A special thank you to  
those who remembered

**Bob Peotter**  
**Elaine Anderson**



THE STAFF OF  
OUR SAVIOR'S  
WISHES YOU  
A VERY  
BLESSED EASTER!

**Thank You to our 2021 Church Council Members**

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Officers

**President - Sue Schultz**

**Vice President - Graham Bradley**

**Secretary - Joan Terry**

**Treasurer - Cheryl Timm**

**Financial Secretary - Ben Lochner**

COUNCIL

Kristi Armstrong (2nd 2021), Care & Connect, Worship Volunteers

Graham Bradley (2021), Vice President, Worship & Music, Finance

Marcie Kimmes (2022)

Ben Lochner (2021), Financial Secretary, Security & Safety, TEC Team

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

## Council Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2021 – 7:00 p.m

**Open Forum** – Heating System Study – Presented by Steve Gries. Attended by Bill Lamb & Tim Moe. Original thought confirmed that it is Neenah Foundry Material.

Fixed second leak.

Looking at all equipment to see how long it will last, what it serves, and estimate/cost to fix/replace.

Two options for sanctuary:

Take up the floor perimeter OR Piping on base of wall and perimeter and cover

Will send out proposal to 2 engineering firms.

Cost \$4,000 for study will be paid by Steve Gries.

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

Will receive second vaccine on Thursday.

No Confirmation classes during Lent will resume 4/7. Students are doing sermon notes during Lent.

Palm Sunday is March 28. We will have palms to go Saturday and Sunday.

Maundy Thursday - looking for a family to video the parents washing their kids' feet and vice versa.

Family Sunday School is in full swing. Ann Pokel, Connie and Dewey Wisner, and Jim Henderson and Marge Christenson have been helping. We are looking for families to read the lesson.

Kellie Escovy is approved by Wartburg Seminary and her home Synod to join Our Saviors as a collaborative learning student for three years. She will work 20-25 hours a week while being a full-time student. She will work in the areas of Faith Formation, Mission, Social Media, Youth Ministry, and any ministries you invite her to be a part of. It will cost our congregation approximately \$20,000 a year with housing provided by a church family. She will start in early June. Bishop Anne Edison-Albright was invited to participate in an outdoor service of beginning for Kellie in Early June.

Funeral for Mike Ganzer will be held Saturday March 13 at 11:00 AM at the Wichman Funeral home.

Mid-week Zoom Bible Studies will continue during Lent at 6:30 PM on Zoom.

**Treasurer's Report:** Actual income \$79,000. In Black. Expenses are lower than budget. Postage expense through February is almost the full yearly budgeted amount due to mailing of annual report and Sunday school materials.

**Membership/Attendance Reports:** Motion/Second/Carried Lochner/Timm to approve new member Diane Kosel. All voting aye.

### **Ministry Team Reports:**

**Care and Connect – Kristi Armstrong:** Call teams suspended.

**Evangelism, Marketing, Communication & Technology: Kevin Schabo:** 3/8 meeting. Need additional volunteers to help with live-streaming.

**Finance – Sue Schultz:** Met 2/11. Talked about heating system. Next meeting 3/11. What to do with offering envelopes that have not been picked up yet.

**Personnel – Sue Schultz:** Working on job description updates.

**Serve and Reach – TBD:** Pam Garman provided minutes from 2/9 meeting. Topics discussed were: Encouragement Ministry, Pillars Adult Shelter Meal, Lutheran World Relief, Bletzinger House project, Community Table at St Pauls Meal, Food Drive at OSLC, Hygiene Drive, and Gods Work Our Hands.

**Worship and Music – Graham Bradley:** Working on upcoming services.

**Worship Volunteers – Kristi Armstrong:** Looking for volunteers for readers and ushers.

### **New Business:**

**New Money Counters:** Motion/Second/Carried Armstrong/Bradley to add Evelyn Haanstad and Sue Kueck to be counters. All voting aye.

**Next Council Meeting:** April 13, 2021 at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted, Joan Terry, Council Secretary

## Meeting Notes OSLC Serve and Reach Committee via ZOOM

March 9, 2021

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

### **Encouragement Ministry – Ardy Kreuter**

- Update – request that we continue to think of people who might like an Encouragement note. Next meeting will be in May instead of monthly

### **Pillars Adult Shelter Meal – Alan Dordel**

- Description/Update
- 4th Thursday every month the meal is served by OSLC. On alternating months OSLC volunteers serve a meal provided by another company.
- Volunteers – many have volunteered at this time and Alan reports a waiting list!!! God is Good! We will run the article in the Voice every 3-4 months instead of every month.

### **Lutheran World Relief – Ann Pokel**

- Update – Ann Pokel will develop an article submitted to the Voice and church email to target specific donations per time period. However, people can still pick up the list and drop off donations at church

### **Bletzinger House project/idea – Carol Swannell**

- Update/Discussion – all of the residents have received their vaccinations. They are grateful to OSLC for the donations and we will continue to collect them per the published list.
- Next Steps – We would like to do a Spring Clean Up at Bletzinger House

### **Community Table at St Paul's Meal – Carol Swannell**

- Update/Discussion – Christ Sanders provided a Thrivent Action Card and Carol organized the first serving of lunch (take out) on March 30. She reports plenty of volunteers signed up. She is getting the food from Shellates. We hope to repeat at a minimum of 4x per year.
- Next steps – evaluate how it went and plan for next meal.

### **Discussion of Helping Hands/Local projects for Spring, Guatemala Mission 2022 thoughts**

- Discussed our next effort at a “helping hands” type of event. Pick a day in May and do some outdoor spring cleanup. We would like to consider the confirmation kids to participate. Some ideas are Neenah Animal Shelter, Bletzinger House, Pillars, OSLC, homebound members who are in their own home. Rich Garman and Rick Klamm volunteered to lead it and will talk to Chris and Pastor Jon re potential projects.
- Pam is going to find out what the status of covid is in Guatemala for further discussion of mission.

**NEXT MEETING – April 27 at 6 pm on ZOOM**

# April Calendar

| April 2021  |   |   |   |   |   |   | May 2021 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su  | Mo  | Tu  | We  | Th  | Fr  | Sa  | Su       | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 2        | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |
| 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 9        | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 22       | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  | 29       | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |    |
| SUNDAY  | MONDAY  | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY  |          |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| <b>Mar 28</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Easter<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 7:00am Worship<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 9:00am Worship<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10:30am Worship<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1:00pm AA Hispanic | <b>29</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> OFFICE CLOSED<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6:00pm AA Hispanic | <b>30</b>   | <b>31</b>   | <b>Apr 1</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Maundy Thursday<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6:00pm AA Meeting<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6:30pm Worship | <b>2</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Good Friday (regional holiday)<br><input type="checkbox"/> OFFICE CLOSED<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6:30pm Worship | <b>3</b>  |          |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| <b>4</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Easter<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 7:00am Worship<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 9:00am Worship<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10:30am Worship<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1:00pm AA Hispanic      | <b>5</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> OFFICE CLOSED<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6:00pm AA Hispanic  | <b>6</b><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5:30pm Worship & Music<br><input type="checkbox"/> Team Meeting | <b>7</b><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10:00am Bible Study - Virtual<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5:30pm Confirmation  | <b>8</b><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6:00pm AA Meeting   | <b>9</b>  | <b>10</b>   |          |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| <b>11</b><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 9:00am Worship<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1:00pm AA Hispanic   | <b>12</b><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6:00pm AA Hispanic   | <b>13</b><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 7:00pm Council Meeting   | <b>14</b><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10:00am Bible Study - Virtual<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5:30pm Confirmation | <b>15</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Tax Day<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12:00pm Finance Meeting<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6:00pm AA Meeting   | <b>16</b>   | <b>17</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic AA Anniversary Event |          |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| <b>18</b><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 9:00am Worship<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1:00pm AA Hispanic   | <b>19</b><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6:00pm AA Hispanic   | <b>20</b><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10:15am Rehearsal Circle                                       | <b>21</b><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10:00am Bible Study - Virtual<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5:30pm Confirmation | <b>22</b><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6:00pm AA Meeting  | <b>23</b>   | <b>24</b>   |          |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| <b>25</b><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 9:00am Worship<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1:00pm AA Hispanic   | <b>26</b><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6:00pm AA Hispanic   | <b>27</b><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6:00pm Serve & Reach Team Meeting (Zoom)                       | <b>28</b><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10:00am Bible Study - Virtual<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5:30pm Confirmation | <b>29</b><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6:00pm AA Meeting  | <b>30</b>   | <b>May 1</b>  |          |    |    |    |    |    |    |