

# VOICE

*Our  
Savior's  
Lutheran  
Church*

May 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 used to wake up each morning and look forward to watching the news. But now, I can't even turn on TV in the morning. Something has changed in me recently.

One thing on my mind is the death of Daunte Wright, a young Black man, who was shot by an officer during a traffic stop in suburban Minneapolis. Daunte was around the same age as my kids. Annika is 19 and Eli is 17. For some reason, this one really got to me.

Daunte called his mom during a "routine" traffic stop... something she taught him to do. He was having a hard time locating car registration and insurance information. His mom heard on the phone that the police stopped him for having air fresheners hanging on the rearview mirror. Later the police said he was pulled over for an expired registration. There apparently was an arrest warrant out for Daunte. Things escalated and an officer who was training that day allegedly mistook her gun for a Taser and shot Daunte in the chest. He died moments later. This traffic stop should not have ended in the death of a child.

I then started looking at all of our vehicle registrations. I somehow neglected to update the plates on my red van. Registration was due in October of 2020. I have been driving with expired plates and a brake light out for 6 months. Then I realized with American Family Insurance, at renewal time, you have to print your own insurance cards. I had expired insurance cards in all our vehicles.

My son, Eli, drives around in our Prius with a Big Foot air freshener hanging from the rearview mirror. And if stopped, he wouldn't have all the current information the police need. What happened to Daunte Wright scared me into action.

On a recent Saturday, Eli and I went through what to do during a traffic stop. We went to the car to locate the registration. I made him take a picture of the registration card and get the AmFam App on his phone in order to locate our current insurance information.

All this got me thinking, we have gifted people in our congregation, like police officers... those who teach criminal justice classes. I would love to set up a forum for our families with young drivers on how to handle a routine traffic stop. I would love to have them listen to the perspective of a police officer of what they are thinking of during a traffic stop and the best way for the driver to handle things. I had coffee with a cop once, and he told me police have families at home, fears, and concerns. This was helpful.

How does this connect to the church? A parent recently met with me and would love to see us start organizing youth ministry to include bringing speakers about tough topics, getting youth more involved in worship, doing volunteer/mission work, and organizing fun activities.

I desperately want youth ministry for my own kids at Our Savior's. Maybe you do too. But it's going to take some organizing by parents and youth, in addition to asking our new intern, Kellie Escovy, to help organize youth and parents. She starts on June 1. Is this a hope of yours?

Peace,

*Pastor Jon*

**Family Sunday School**

Watch your emails each week for a video link for Family Sunday School! We will continue Sunday School until May 9.

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

The supplies to make the crafts shown in each class are available in the bin by the office door at church. Come help yourself.

**Confirmation**

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

**THE JEDI IN ME SAYS  
"MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU"**



**THE LUTHERAN IN ME SAYS  
"AND ALSO WITH YOU"**

**Worship Services in May  
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.

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

**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 or by email at [kkonkle@our-saviors.org](mailto:kkonkle@our-saviors.org)

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

## Thrivent Clients

### Get Up to \$250 for a Generosity-Driven Project

Are you a Thrivent client? Did you know you can apply to lead a fundraiser, volunteer initiative or educational event with the help of Thrivent Action Teams? Thrivent provides a customized kit of resources—including a banner, team T-shirts, thank you cards, and a Community Impact Card with up to \$250 worth of seed money to kickstart your project. Then, you gather a team of volunteers to bring your idea to life. Thrivent clients with benefit membership can apply for this free program twice a year. Those with associate membership can apply once a year.

#### What can I do as a Thrivent Action Team?

Some ideas include:

- Make fleece tie blankets with your team and donate along with activity books to patients at a local children’s hospital. Use your seed money to buy the books and fleece.
- Host a craft workshop for Sunday School/Bible School students. Use the seed money to buy card stock, markers and other supplies.
- Work with your team to collect donations as part of a city-wide food drive. Promote your event in a local newspaper by purchasing an ad with your seed money.
- Hold a barbecue to fundraise for our mission trip teams. Use the seed money to purchase ingredients, tablecloths, plasticware and more.
- Quilters, Brigade and Chili Suppers are other areas that could benefit from Action Teams money.

#### How do I apply for a Thrivent Action Team?

Get more inspiration and apply for your team today in only a few minutes at [thrivent.com/actionteam](http://thrivent.com/actionteam). Or you can call 1-800-847-4836, and say ‘Thrivent Action Teams’ after the prompt. Once your application is received, you’ll receive an email to let you know when it has been approved.

## Spring Clean Up Opportunities

We have two, fun clean-up opportunities scheduled and are looking for happy volunteers! All activities will be outdoors and CDC recommendations will be followed.

**Saturday May 8** at the Neenah Animal Shelter - Thank you to the 6 who have signed up! We have space for a few more! Call, email or text Rich Garman @ [richgarman7@gmail.com](mailto:richgarman7@gmail.com) / [920-257-8409](tel:920-257-8409) if you can join us. We will meet at the Shelter at 8:30 a.m. for the morning.

**Saturday May 22** Spring Clean-Up at OSLC! Let's shine up the outside or our church with "people power". There is plenty to do for everyone! Join us from 8:30-noon. Call Kasey Konkle in the church office to sign up so we can plan accordingly!

## 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.

Beginning this month, we are featuring Faith Stories written by our members. They can be a couple sentences or a couple paragraphs in length and can describe a 'God Moment' or even a Faith Journey you may have gone through where your faith got you through. Email your stories to [jhurley@our-saviors.org](mailto:jhurley@our-saviors.org) by the 20th of each month. This month, we feature a young family from Our Savior's who have had quite a year.

## It Adds Up: How 3 Babies, 1 Loss & 241 Days in the Hospital Strengthened My Faith

Nicole Abendroth

On January 20, 2020, my husband, Ryan, and I were crammed in a small exam room at Ascension's Downtown Neenah campus when we got the news: We were pregnant with spontaneous triplets—a 1 in 1,200 chance. Our excitement quickly overcame the initial shock, and we began eagerly preparing for the adventure ahead. We registered for a triple stroller. We bought matching onesies in sets of threes. We assembled three cribs in our nursery.

But when my water unexplainably broke at only 22 weeks and 5 days, all those plans changed. We rushed to the hospital and lost our Triplet A, Jack, two days later. I stayed pregnant on bedrest for one more week with his two brothers, Ben and Caleb. Doctors gave them less than a 30 percent chance to live. Born at only 24 weeks, they would face no shortage of complications—holes in their hearts. Bleeds on their brains. Sick, cloudy lungs. Both boys started out in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Theda Care in Neenah but eventually transferred, at different times, to Children's Hospital of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. Caleb spent a total of 170 days in the hospital before coming home in October. Ben was hospitalized 241 days and made it home just before Christmas. We just celebrated their 1<sup>st</sup> birthday on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

I lost a lot of sleep worrying about Caleb and Ben in the NICU. I lost a lot of sympathy for women who complained about discomfort in their third trimester of pregnancy—something I would have given anything for. But through it all, I never lost faith. It actually only grew stronger.

Anyone who has ever lost a child knows just how cruel and unfair it all seems. It's easy to shake your fists at the sky and ask God why it had to happen to you. But I found peace knowing the Lord had my son Jack in His arms when I couldn't. And through every tough diagnosis our boys had in the NICU, I knew God was there to help them prevail. We've seen and felt the true power of prayer so much over this past year—fiercer and stronger than we ever have before. We owe our gratitude to all of you—thank you for encouraging and praying for our family.

Our loss is excruciating. Our grief is heavy. Our trauma is real. But Matthew 19:26 tells us that "With God, all things are possible." And you know what? It is. We see God's possibilities every day in the eyes of Ben and Caleb. And we see His promises in our guardian angel, Jack. We hope you seek out God's possibilities and promises in your own life today. Remember that, even when our hardships are at their absolute worst, God is good all the time.

*Caleb and Ben today.*



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

## April Pastoral Acts...

### **Baptisms**

William Plaster  
Maxwell Lang

### **Memorial Service**

Sue Christianson

### **New Members**

Melinda, Josh, Peyton &  
William Plaster  
Curtis, Stacey, Aria & Camden  
Bartlett

## Generous Congregation...

### YTD Totals Through March

	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>Income</b>	\$104,660	\$111,517
<b>Expenses</b>	\$110,215	\$ 99,669
<b>Balance</b>	(\$ 5,555)	\$ 11,848

## Memorials & Honorariums Received

**A special thank you to those who remembered**

***Gayla Jensen***

## 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

April 13, 2021 – 7:00 p.m

### Open Forum – Google Analytics Update - Kathy Fredrickson

4 sections:

Audience – insight demographics, interests, geography. Feb/Mar results: 541 users, 749 sessions, 49.2% bounce rate. 25% of users were 65 years or older, 66% female, and 33% male.

Acquisition – where coming from online. Feb/Mar results: Organic searches 315 (201 direct, 16 social/Facebook, and 11 referral).

Behaviors: What did they do on the website. Feb/Mar results: 650 saw home page and 158 viewed worship service page.

Conversions: Goals. Feb/Mar results: Goals: 91 times completion (52 contact and 39 give).

### Pastor's Report:

Continuing Education: Saturday, April 17, from 10AM to 4 PM Digital Reformation through Synod.

First Communion Make-up: Sunday, April 18, @ 11 AM for Owen Shaddick (22 People).

Upcoming Funerals/Memorials:

Sue Christianson at Our Saviors on Saturday, April 24, in the afternoon (up to 75 people).

Elaine Anderson Funeral and Graveside in the UP, Friday, April 30.

Bill Dull on Saturday, May 29. Still not confirmed on this yet.

Upcoming Baptisms:

Will Plaster on April 25 in Worship.

Caleb and Ben Abendroth on May 1 in Nicole and Ryan's home.

Max Lang on Sunday, May 9.

Confirmation will continue until May 19. We will end with a Pizza Party.

Family Sunday School will continue through May 16.

Synod Assembly is on the weekend of May 14/15 via Zoom.

Kellie Escovy, our seminary student, starts her three year internship on June 1. We will have a service of welcome for Kellie on Sunday June 6 in a local park with Bishop Anne Preaching.

Non-member wedding on July 3 for Molly Aird and Danny Thomas

**Treasurer's Report:** March income \$32,424 and expenses \$34,409 – expenses higher than income this month due to March had 3 payroll periods and rental house expenses of \$2774 (fees, taxes, insurance). YTD income \$111,517 and expenses \$99,669 – still in black for year. \$5,000 adjustment incorrectly was put into the unified budget and was removed and put in correct foundation fund.

**Membership/Attendance Reports:** Kasey will start tracking membership/attendance report in May. Two families are joining church: Plaster Family – Melinda, Josh, Payton, William and the Bartlett Family – Curtis, Stacey, Aria, Camden. **Motion/Second/Carried Armstrong/Lochner to approve new members.** All voting aye.

Ministry, Pillars Adult Shelter Meal, Lutheran World Relief, Bletzinger House project, Community Table at St Paul's Meal, Helping Hands/Local projects for Spring Guatemala Mission 2022.

## Ministry Team Reports:

**Building and Grounds-Kevin Schabo:** Potential Relandscape and estimate to remove stumps.

**Evangelism, Marketing, Communication & Technology: Kevin Schabo:** 3/25 meeting. Sound system set-up. 4/19 Peak Audio check-out.

**Finance – Sue Schultz:** Karl Wunderlich submitted paperwork to have PPP loan forgiven. Check signing process complete – Sue/Cheryl primary and Graham/Ben secondary. Met 3/11. Giving envelopes – Tim Moe/Todd Stevenson/Cheryl Timm called people, sent emails. Article of incorporation reinstated. Tim Moe and Karl Wunderlich looking into having a celebration for mortgage paid off. Todd Stevenson – Foundation board approval.

**Personnel – Sue Schultz:** Uniform job descriptions completed for all positions.

**Security and Safety – Ben Lochner:** Working with Kasey regarding door timing.

**Serve and Reach – TBD:** Pam Garman provided minutes from 3/9 meeting. Topics discussed were: Encouragement Ministry, Pillars Adult Shelter Meal, Lutheran World Relief, Bletzinger House project, Community Table at St Pauls Meal, Helping Hands/Local projects for Spring Guatemala Mission 2022.

## New Business:

**Facility Use Agreement:** Motion/Second/Carried Pastor/Timm to accept building agreement for non-profit temporary until finalized plan is complete. All voting aye.

**Next Council Meeting:** May 11, 2021 at 7:00 pm via Zoom

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Terry, Council Secretary

## *More Ways to Help*

### Lutheran World Relief Updates

THANK YOU for your donations to Lutheran World Relief in the month of April - WOW!

We have new items to feature for the month of **MAY**. If you're not familiar with LWR, our congregation sends items for three different kits: Baby Care, Personal Care, and School Bags.

#### **Our May goals:**

- #1. 80 large bars of bath soap of any brand** (example: Dial, Irish Spring, etc). Each bar should be 3.2 to 4.0 ounces.
- #2. 80 Adult toothbrushes, labeled soft** (Dollar stores have multi-packs).
- #3. 50 sturdy, large combs** (must be new).
- #4. 10 packages of new cloth diapers, flat fold** (Walmart seems to have the best price).

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 at [wapokel@gmail.com](mailto:wapokel@gmail.com).

# May Calendar

May 2021							June 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Apr 25	26	27	28	29	30	May 1							
2 9:00am Worship 1:00pm AA Hispanic	3 1:00pm Retirees & Friends 6:00pm AA Hispanic	4 5:30pm Worship & Music Team Meeting	5 10:00am Bible Study - Virtual 5:30pm Confirmation	6 1:00pm Quilting 6:00pm AA Meeting	7 8:30am Spring Clean-up @ Neenah Animal Shelter (Neenah Animal Shelter, 951 County Rd G, Neenah, WI 54956, USA)	8							
9 9:00am Worship 1:00pm AA Hispanic	10 6:00pm AA Hispanic	11 9:30am Esther Circle (Lounge) 7:00pm Council Meeting	12 10:00am Bible Study - Virtual 5:30pm Confirmation	13 12:00pm Finance Meeting 6:00pm AA Meeting	14 Synod Assembly - Virtual	15							
16 9:00am Worship 1:00pm AA Hispanic	17 6:00pm AA Hispanic	18 6:00pm Encouragement Team Meeting	19 10:00am Bible Study - Virtual 5:30pm Confirmation	20 9:00am Quilting 6:00pm AA Meeting	21	22 8:30am OSLC Spring Clean-up							
23 9:00am Worship 1:00pm AA Hispanic	24 6:00pm AA Hispanic	25 10:15am Rebeckah Circle 6:30pm Women's Book Club	26 10:00am Bible Study - Virtual	27 6:00pm AA Meeting	28	29							
30 1:00pm AA Hispanic	31 OFFICE CLOSED 6:00pm AA Hispanic	Jun 1	2	3	4	5							