

# VOICE

*Our  
Savior's  
Lutheran  
Church*

June 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* 

By the time you read this, I should be home from a trip to Ithaca, NY, to pick up my daughter at college, Jeranna and Eli should have returned from Iowa with our new puppy, and we all are tired from taking turns taking our doggy out to go out at night. And yet, it will be a joy having our family together again with a new family member. I look forward to the family meals and less anxiety than last year when we were dealing with the pandemic.

On top of that, we will have our new vicar, Kellie Escovy, starting work on June 1. Please come to meet her in the office and invite her out when you feel comfortable. It will be so nice having another staff member to help out and share ideas with. I can't wait to see where God leads us in the future with this new set of gifts in Kellie. Welcome, Kellie, to Our Savior's and to the Fox Valley.

Finally, this newsletter is short because I am heading to see Karen Lippert on this Pentecost Sunday as my last order of business before I head out on vacation for a few days. Karen has been an inspiration to me as she witnessed to her faith throughout her battle with cancer. Now she is waiting for the Lord to take her home. I will go see her and share the promises of our faith and baptism.

May you dwell in the Holy Spirit as we emerge out of the crippling effects of this pandemic!

Peace,

*Pastor Jon*

## Calling All High School Graduates!

We want to honor you in worship on June 6th. We are gathering pictures and some information about your future plans to share in a Powerpoint that Tammy Rabe has graciously agreed to put together. We will show this in church and stream it online. We are looking for full names (first, middle, last), high school/GED program you are graduating from, and future plans.

Please attach a picture along with your answers if you haven't already responded to a previous request. Email them to [kkonkle@our-saviors.org](mailto:kkonkle@our-saviors.org) and we will get them to Tammy. We are limiting the scope this year to High School Graduates, but congratulations to all our graduates everywhere.

## Need a Greeting Card?

Check out the card kiosk in the Gathering Area for a variety of occasions, including Graduation and Father's Day! If you need specific colors for a graduation card, contact Ardy at [akreuter@new.rr.com](mailto:akreuter@new.rr.com) or 470-4701 and I will make to order.

-Sponsored by WELCA Card Ministry.

## Worship Services in June

### 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.

*No need to RSVP for the in-person services. Space is limited. Masks are no longer required if you are fully vaccinated.*

## Welcome Celebration Service for Kellie Escovy

*Sunday, June 6 at 3pm in the Church Parking Lot*

What better way to welcome Kellie than a celebration service with your presence and Dilly Bars!!

Let's show her a real **OSLC Neenah Wisconsin** welcome. We will have an outdoor service led by Bishop Anne Edison-Albright followed by the presentation of our welcome gift and we'll then enjoy a Dilly Bar together. Please bring your lawn chairs. If the weather is inclement, we'll celebrate from our cars. We hope for a BIG turnout for Kellie and our special guest, Bishop Edison-Albright!

## New Ministry Team at Our Savior's

Vicar Kellie Escovy will be joining us on June 1, 2021. Vicar Kellie is a Collaborative Learning Student from Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, and will serve at Our Savior's for three years while also taking courses online to complete her Master of Divinity degree.

Collaborative Learning Team is the name of the newest ministry team here at Our Savior's. This team is Vicar Kellie's support system. The purpose of the team is to support Vicar Kellie, to accompany her as she learns, serves and integrates into the congregation and to evaluate her during her Internship year. It is also a listening ear for Vicar Kellie to celebrate her joys and successes as well as to bear sorrows or failures. Along with the congregation, we will welcome her to Neenah and OSLC.

Members of the team are: Claudia Bjornstad, Jenn Paulson, Marjorie Sutter, Rich Garman, Tim Moe and Sue Schultz, as chair.

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

## Needed: In-Person Worship Volunteers

The Worship and Rise Again teams are gently asking for more volunteers to step forward to help at our in-person worship services. If we get more volunteers, then we can start to offer more services. These Usher and Greeter positions allow us to greet those entering, encourage them to sign their names on the clip boards so we can keep track of attendance and guide members towards the communion cups. We also need some help with welcoming and cleaning up after service, with the most important role being a set of eyes, in case of a medical emergency or a member needs help.

Please consider calling the church office to let Kasey know you would like to help so that we can work to add back the Saturday service that has been requested.

## FVCT Update

By the time you read this, OSLC will have served 2 meals (3/30/21 and 5/25/21) to over 100 hungry neighbors through the Fox Valley Community Table! If you're not familiar with the FVCT, it's a Neenah-Menasha 501 (c) (3) organization that's been serving approximately 4,500 meals annually for 30 years. The mission is to provide a well-balanced hot meal in a Christian atmosphere to anyone in need. Meals are served Tuesdays and Saturdays at St Paul's Lutheran Church.

### **Bletzinger House Donations Update -**

OSLC has been extremely generous with bedding and cleaning supplies for the Bletzinger House. Here is their latest "Wish List" from their director.

Small baskets or plastic open containers we can use for "Welcome Baskets" containing hygiene products when new residents arrive.

New pillows

Small CD/radio player

\$5 convenience store/gas cards

\$5 Tom's Drive In, McDonalds or Taco Bell cards (for resident and staff bonus/incentives.)

Also, we go through a lot of laundry soap, small paper cups (for water when we give out medications) and even smaller med cups (to hold pills when we give out medications), gallon beach bottles for cleaning and Lysol Disinfectant Spray. These things probably aren't exactly what you had in mind but it is a boost to our budget when we don't have to purchase them.

If you are interested in helping out, please contact Carol Swannell 920-540-9598 or [carolswannell1@gmail.com](mailto:carolswannell1@gmail.com)

## LWR Update

THANK YOU for your donations for Lutheran World Relief in May! Our Savior's community is truly generous, and we'll be assembling three different LWR kits this fall. We'll have more details in a few months, but for now, we'll focus on our JUNE items.

### **Our June goals:**

**#1. 25 large, sturdy combs** (must be new).

**#2. 30 new hand towels, any color except white** (look for lightweight fabric; cost is typically \$1-2).

**#3. 50 small pencil sharpeners** (the Dollar stores often have several in one set).

**#4. 40 pairs of baby socks** (sizes range from 6 months to 24 months).

Donations can be dropped off at church during office hours, bring them to worship, or simply put items in the gray plastic bin, located on the top of the ramp by the office door. The bin will be labeled LWR. Thank you for supporting Lutheran World Relief! Any questions? Please contact Ann Pokel at [wapo-kel@gmail.com](mailto:wapo-kel@gmail.com).

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*During the summer, 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 former member of OSLC who is going through a very trying time.*

Remember Jim Hart? He was on our music staff here at Our Savior's as Chancel Choir and Bell Choir Director. We enjoyed his musical productions as well. Last November, Jim had an accident, falling down the basement stairs, breaking his neck and he is now paralyzed from the neck down. He has been in the hospital nearly six months. In preparation for the day he can come home, his family has asked for help. They are seeking skilled nurses to help fulfill the need that home care will require.

Jim's son, Justun, writes:

*We have had a couple of people apply and we are beyond grateful. The need calls for 6-8 additional trained nurses. We understand that staffing is short throughout the nursing industry and that this is a big ask, but we must ask. We need it more than equipment/money/etc. because without the skilled nursing help, nothing moves forward with bringing dad home.*

If you have questions or you know someone who is interested and needs more info, reach out to Justun. [Justun.j.hart@gmail.com](mailto:Justun.j.hart@gmail.com) or call 920-203-5643. Thank you for your prayers and your support.

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## Synod Assembly Thoughts

I attended this year's virtual Synod Assembly on May 14 and 15. After several years of attending the Assembly in person, and then virtually last year, I was presented with the opportunity to work behind the scenes at the Synod office in Appleton. I served in the role as timekeeper. My duties were to signal Bishop Anne when voting times were expired or nearing expiration, and to time speakers from the floor.

"God in the Empty Spaces" was this year's theme. I heard loud and clear that there are no God forsaken places nor God forsaken people. And, just because there are no humans in a region, it does not mean that God is not there. There are still animals and plants. The Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen was the keynote speaker. Two of the things she said that brought forth "aha" moments for me were: 1) What do you believe and why do you believe it? 2) The more distance there is between reality and your expectations, the more likely you are to be disappointed, lose hope or lose faith. Interesting...

Thank you for the honor of allowing me to represent Our Savior's at the 2021 Synod Assembly.  
-Sue Schultz

This being my first ever Synod meeting, I was surprised by the depth and breadth of the outreach work that is being done at both the local levels and the regional/national level. I was especially impressed by the report from ELCA VP – Bill Horne. His is an unpaid lay position that encompasses interaction with a myriad of programs, ranging from helping the poor, clergy support, youth programming and helping develop social platforms. The work Bill is involved with is broad based and appears to incorporate LOTS of his time. This is particularly impressive to me given he also serves fulltime as the City Manager for the City of Clearwater, FL. Given that position, I found his comments regarding the community's relationship with their Police Department very interesting.

Another favorite of mine was the correlation made by Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen connecting quotes from my favorite movie, FIELD OF DREAMS, and our relationship with God. I've always felt a bond between "Is this Heaven? No, it's Iowa", but the other references were very pertinent. -Todd Stevenson

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

## May Pastoral Acts...

### **Funerals**

Elaine Anderson (April 30)  
Bill Dull

### **Baptisms**

Caleb Abendroth  
Ben Abendroth  
Felix Flores

### **Memorial Blessing**

Jack Abendroth

## Generous Congregation...

### YTD Totals Through April

	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>Income</b>	\$139,533	\$149,939
<b>Expenses</b>	\$146,953	\$ 128,088
<b>Balance</b>	(\$ 7,420)	\$ 21,851

## Thank You

to Spring Clean-Up Crew at the Neenah Animal Shelter

On May 8, Bill and Barb Lamb, Neal Schultz, Collin Parker, Rich and Pam Garman and Rick Klamm had a busy morning doing outdoor clean up at the shelter. No, we did not have to pick up dog doo doo, but we trimmed trees and bushes, picked up sticks, weeded the berm and spiffed up the outside for their Garden Party Fundraiser that was held the following weekend. No one went home with a new pet, but a few (Barb Lamb) were talking about it!  
Thanks to all who helped!!

## 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  
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

May 11, 2021 – 7:00 p.m

### Open Forum

**Motion/Second/Carried Timm/Armstrong to approve resignation of Marcie Kimmes from church council.**

All voting aye

### Pastor's Report:

Sue Englebert will be helping out while Kasey Konkle is out.

Vicar Kellie Escovy will start June 1.

\$12,500 request to Foundation and \$4,000 from member to fund ministry.

Andrew Hutchison contacted the church to start violin lessons. See Old Business below for update regarding Facility Use Policy.

Upcoming Memorials:

Bill Dull – May 30

Arvin Rank – June 13

Rise Again committee will discuss meals for funerals.

Todd Stevenson wants to learn video.

Pastor will be on vacation May 24-28.

**Treasurer's Report:** April income \$38,422 and expenses \$28,419. YTD in black.

**Membership/Attendance Reports:** As of May 10, 2021, there are 803 baptized members, and 661 confirmed members. Checking with Kasey to see if baptized members should be included in new members.

### Ministry Team Reports:

**Building and Grounds-Kevin Schabo:** Steve emailed out update on heating. Next steps to get budget numbers and proposal to get approved.

**Evangelism, Marketing, Communication & Technology: Kevin Schabo:** Met 5/10. Moved the streaming process to cry room. Putting together an instructional video and printed copy on how to run the sound booth. Will be reaching out to past sound system people to see if they are still interested in helping out.

**Finance – Sue Schultz:** Met 4/15. Have final resolution of giving envelopes that were not picked up – they will be destroyed. Karl Wunderlich submitted paperwork to have PPP loan forgiven. Todd Stevenson will be Interim Foundation member. Will need to be voted in at next Congregational meeting.

**Security and Safety – Ben Lochner:** New computer and software installed - \$600.

**Serve and Reach – TBD:** Pam Garman provided minutes from 4/27 meeting.

**Worship and Music – Graham Bradley:** Met on 5/3. Will not have to make reservation to attend church. Will still need to sign in. Working with Rise Again committee to determine when choir and bells can start back up. Evaluating if another service will be needed – Thurs or Sat and outdoor worship. Kellie's service will be June 6 at 3:00. Kim Jannusch has resigned as chair of this committee. Berdie has agreed to become temporary chairperson.

**Collaborative Learning – Sue Schultz:** Met May 4. Collecting gift cards for Kellie (Card Shower). Next meeting will be June 1.

### Old Business:

**Facility Use Agreement:** Only non-profit organization can use church. Sue will contact Andrew regarding the change in policy.

### New Business:

**Computer Replacement Cycle:** 4 computers currently don't have Microsoft 10. Will cost about \$80/computer to upgrade. Will be getting 2 bids to do this work. Currently work with AIT. **Motion/Second/Carried Bradley/Lochner to repair and update 4 computers to Windows 10.** All voting aye. Looking to set up a task force on computer replacement cycle. Ben Lochner and Graham Bradley agreed to be part of the task force. Pastor will check with Plasters to see if they are interested. Will need to check to see if counter's computer has Windows 10 on it – if not, then it needs to also be updated.

**Next Council Meeting:** June 8, 2021 at 7:00 pm In-Person in the gathering area at church.

## OSLC Serve and Reach Committee via ZOOM

April 27, 2021

Present – Ardy Kreuter, Sue Engelbert, Christa Sanders, Ann Pokel, Rick/Barb Klamm, Pam/Rich Garman, Carol Swannell

Encouragement Ministry – Ardy Kreuter

Update – continue to write notes to persons who may need encouragement. Group will convene May 18. Question as to if the ministry will continue after restrictions are lifted. Ardy will discuss with Pastor Jon

Pillars Adult Shelter Meal – Alan Dordel

Update – meal served April 22 with plenty of volunteers

Next meal June 24

Lutheran World Relief – Ann Pokel

Update – it is working well to target each month for a different item(s) needed. A collection bin has been placed at the top of the ramp for after church hours. Summer collections will be school supplies primarily

Bletzinger House – Carol Swannell

Update/Discussion – requested donations continue to come in and Carol takes them to Bletzinger. Scott Peeples, the director, is looking forward to additional face to face opportunities as restrictions are lifted

Community Table at St Paul's Meal – Carol Swannell

Update/Discussion – a successful meal was provided to about 60 persons in March. Plenty of volunteers were able to assist. Christa Sanders provided a report to Thrivent as required for the Action Team gift card

Next steps – discussed next opportunity and Carol is looking into May 18 or 25. We will share the funds that are contributed for Pillars and decided feeding people is best. We would like to do a monthly meal with the Community Table

5/7 update – May 25 is the next Community Table meal funded and served by OSLC

Helping Hands/Spring Clean up – Rich Garman

May 8 at Neenah Animal Shelter – The shelter Bd of Directors contacted OSLC to inquire if we could do clean up! We have 8 person volunteering for it on Saturday, May 8, 830- noon.

Guatemala Mission Trip – Pam Garman

Update – we are moving cautiously forward with planning a March 2022 Mission trip. We have 12 volunteers already and it will be a multigenerational trip. Pam and Rich Garman will lead the trip.

Next steps – A planning meeting will be held via Zoom on May 17.

ELCA Domestic Hunger Grant – Pam

Pam Garman is applying for an ELCA Domestic Hunger Grant to provide funds for meals at Pillars (6) and the Community Table (12). The requested amount is about \$13,500 over 3 years @\$4500 per year. The grant will be submitted in May with awards mid summer.

5/7 UPDATE – grant submitted

OTHER

Discussion of the food pantry and what to do with the surplus. We would like to build a “Little Food Pantry” box, like what it in front of Horace Mann, Gloria Dei and St Paul's. Pam will discuss with Chris Swender.

5/7 UPDATE - Ken Schmidt has volunteered to build a Little Free Pantry box to be installed on OSLC property. No meeting in May Next Meeting – June 8, 2021

