

VOICE

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

August 2021

809 South Commercial Street
Neenah, WI 54956

Service Times

Saturday 5:00 pm. & Sunday 9:00 a.m.
Office Hours: M-Th 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
Fri. 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
920-725-3956

Life Together

Jesus said in Mark 10:13-16, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs." Did you see that? Jesus said, "Do not stop them." It seems crazy that the disciples tried stopping the little children from coming to Jesus. Perhaps they felt they were a nuisance or not worth it (children weren't as valued in the first century as they are now). But Jesus welcomed them with open arms and essentially said, "we all need to receive the Kingdom of God like a child."

Each family has certain barriers that stop them from coming to church. Sometimes it's the barriers the church puts up without us even knowing it, and other times it's our own barriers that keep us from church. Therefore, my theme for the beginning of the new school year will be "**Let the little children come!**" As we emerge out of the pandemic, we want to graciously ease families back into worship and Christian education that is accessible and fun. We will continue to do things from the past, like blessing of the backpacks, first communion classes, and confirmation to name a few.

But starting on Sunday, September 12th, Vicar Kellie and I, along with the worship committee, will unveil our first "**Interactive Family Worship**" at the 9:00 AM worship service. This will be a Bible Camp style worship with camp songs, skits, young readers, and a message geared to kids and families. All ages and family sizes can attend, including singles. My hope is that the kids will like worship so much that they'll want to drag their families to church even when it isn't "Interactive Family Worship."

We will continue to offer "Interactive Family Worship" on the first Sunday of every month at 9:00 AM and one on Christmas Eve. Stay tuned for more details. If your child or family wants to volunteer to read, sing, or help lead, let Vicar Kellie know.

Since I started my call at Our Savior's, I have had the honor baptizing 22 children. We have kids in the church! In the baptismal liturgy, we promise to support and pray for the newly baptized in their new life in Christ. We welcome them into the mission we share of "bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world" ELW p.231. How are we doing? I feel we need a refresh in this area. We need to be more intentional about these baptismal promises in order to support our families in raising children up in the faith.

As a result, we are considering different options in the church for Faith Formation programming this fall:

- Of course, we will do Interactive Family Worship on the first Sunday of every month starting after Labor Day Weekend on September 12th.

- Online Family Sunday School, similar to what we did during the pandemic to still reach families who wish to remain online.

- Wednesday Evening Confirmation classes for 6th-8th Graders (including 9th Graders getting confirmed in the fall).

- High School Youth drop-in nights to hang out or go do service projects.
- Adult Christian Education.

Nothing is set in stone yet. But in the meantime, I am putting a team together to call families directly to see what could work for them in the Fall. We will use this information to tailor our Faith Formation Programming. We could end up with a traditional Sunday School or expand Interactive Family Worship. Pray for God's wisdom and guidance to lead us in the right direction for our children and families.

Peace,

Pastor Jon

August 1-5 - VBS @ Gloria Dei.

We are teaming up with our ELCA Neenah neighbors to bring you VBS! Kids age 3 through grade 5 are invited to attend. Price is \$5/child or \$10 per family. More info can be found in weekly emails. A link for registration can be found on our website or here: <https://our-saviors.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/2021-VBS-Registration.pdf>

August 15—OSLC Timber Rattlers Game

All ages are invited to join us at a Timber Rattlers baseball game. The game starts at 1PM at Fox Cities Stadium. Tickets are \$6 per person for grass seats. Please RSVP to Vicar Kellie by August 1.

August 19-20 - Middle School Lock-In

Students entering grades 6-9 are invited to our Middle School Lock-In! Join us for games, fellowship, food, and maybe even a little sleep. The lock-in will start at 7pm Saturday, and conclude with us attending Sunday worship together, PJs and all. To RSVP (or volunteer to help!) email Vicar Kellie at kescovy@our-saviors.org.

Worship Services in August

Virtually/On-line Worship Continues

Sundays – 9:00 a.m.

on Our Facebook and You Tube Channels

Or Join us for In-Person Worship

Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.

Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

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

A Place in the Choir

"All God's critters got a place in the choir. Some sing low, some sing higher. Some sing out loud on a telephone wire and some just clap their hands, or paws or anything they got now. And some even play the handbells! There's a place for YOU!!!

Chancel Choir for 9th grade and up will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 15 from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the music room. We meet every Wednesday. We welcome all past members and new members, too.

Joyous Ringers Handbell choir for 9th grade and up will begin rehearsals Wednesday, September 15 from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. We welcome all past members and new members to join us. Reading music is helpful.

Joyful Noise Praise Band rehearsals and start-up date to be determined. If you would like to share your musical talents, singing or playing an instrument in Worship, contact Berdie Golden at 268-5848 or roberta_golden@hotmail.com

Please wear a mask if you are not fully vaccinated. All is subject to change as we enter the fall. Questions? Contact Ardy Kreuter 470-4701 or akreuter@new.rr.com



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

Ruby's Pantry Coming to Appleton

I am the Volunteer Coordinator for Ruby's Pantry and would like to make you aware of an event that is coming to Appleton starting Tuesday, August 3rd and being held at First English Lutheran downtown site (326 E North St, Appleton, WI 54911). Ruby's Pantry is a food distribution service that is for ANYONE who eats. We gather various food shortages, surpluses and bumper crops into generous food bundles for a low \$20 contribution.

We are looking for volunteers to help with registration, set up/clean-up, traffic and food distribution. If you are interested in volunteering and being a part of a great community event. Please sign up through the link below and make sure to make Appleton, WI as your primary location. [Ruby's Pantry \(rubyspantry.org\)](http://rubyspantry.org)

Thank you,

Adam Borchardt
Volunteer Coordinator
920-284-9561

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 Andrea in the Church office at (920) 725-3956 or by email at officemanager@our-saviors.org

New Office Hours

Our Savior's has changed its office hours. We are now open during the week on Mondays-Thursdays from 9AM to 1PM and Fridays from 9AM to noon. Beginning in fall, we will also be open on Wednesday evenings from 4-8PM.

FVLH Summer Music Series

Fox Valley Lutheran Homes invite you to a series of summer concerts to bring together their tenants, their families and guests, members of their supporting congregations, and friends/donors of FVLH for an afternoon of music and fellowship. The concerts will be held on the Linwood Commons lawn. Please bring your lawn chairs and join them for an afternoon of music at 2 PM on the following Sunday afternoons:

- August 8 - The Voices of Peace (Southern Gospel)
- September 19 - Prince of Peace Spirit (Blue grass and religious)

In case of rain, concerts will move into Linwood Commons and will be closed to the general public due to space constraints.

New Food/Blessing Box...

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A member of our congregation, Ken Schmidt, has built us a Food/Blessing Box for us to place outside. This will be a community box stocked by OSLC and will be placed near the parking lot on the Lennox Street side of church. This box, which will be stocked mainly with boxed food items, will give us an opportunity to distribute food to people who can't come into church during the day to utilize our indoor food pantry. If you would like to help stock this Blessing Box, please drop off food items in the church office during office hours.

The Blessing Box, built complete with a steeple and cross, was blessed by Pastor Jon in church a couple Sundays ago.



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

July Pastoral Acts...

Funerals

Judith Murphy

Baptisms

Leo Thomas Viano

Marcus Alexander Schwartzkopf

Weddings

Danny Thomas & Molly Aird,
July 3 (Offsite)

Generous Congregation...

YTD Totals Through June

	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Actual</i>
Income	\$209,300	\$270,151
Expenses	\$220,430	\$185,432
Balance	(\$ 11,130)	\$ 84,719

Memorials & Honorariums Received

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

Lutheran World Relief

Our Savior's members and friends are incredibly generous! I want to share a message that I received through Facebook: "Ann, we took the grandkids and went shopping for school supplies for the [LWR] mission. We think it is important to teach them to think of others." She also listed the items they chose and remarked that the kids had fun. What a great idea!

We have about two more months before we send our finished kits for 2021. Here's our "most wanted" list for August:

- #1. 40 or more - spiral notebooks, 70-80 pages each.
- #2. 12 sets of black or blue stick pens (look for 10 or 12 pens in a package).
- #3. 30 boxes of 24 crayons.
- #4. 20 children's scissors (tips must be rounded blades, not pointy).
- #5. 15 large, sturdy combs (for adults).

Any questions? Please contact Ann Pokel at wapokel@gmail.com.

Notes from 7/12/2021 OSLC Serve and Reach Committee via ZOOM

Present – Tammy Rabe, Ardy Kreuter, Ann Pokel, Pam Garman, Barb Klamm, Sue Engelbert

Encouragement Ministry – Ardy Kreuter

Update – status quo

Pillars Adult Shelter Meal – Alan Dordel

Meal served in June, next meal August 24

Discussion of establishing a calendar of volunteers for both Pillars and The Community Table, like we did for Father Carr's. Consensus was that it would be a good idea and allow more OSLC members to have a chance to serve and take some burden off Alan and Carol to get the volunteers each time. We will work on it for 2022. The system was that with a list of volunteers, an annual calendar was developed and a week before each meal, a post card reminder was sent out to the servers.

Community Table at St Paul's Meal – Carol Swannell

We served 72 people a delicious meal of chicken/broccoli/rice bake from Prepd (David Bennett, a 2011 Neenah grad, who went to culinary school in Chicago then bought out Schweitzers and made it his own), fresh fruit salad, buns, water or milk and homemade cookies on Tuesday July 6 at St Paul's. Servers were Barb and Rick Klamm, Deb Hofer, Chris Wilharm and me. Donors were Ann Pokel, Deb Hofer, Barb Klamm and me. Thank you all!

Next meal – Considering dates between now and September

They will resume in person in 2022

Bletzinger House – Carol Swannell

Update/Discussion - Carol is going to talk to Scott Peebles about what we could do to reach out to the persons living at Bletzinger House.

Lutheran World Relief – Ann Pokel

Update – Current effort is for school supplies hitting the shelves in stores now! Christa edited a new list for OSLC members to pick up. We need to announce the effort at least every other week.

Guatemala Mission Trip – Pam

Update – Face to Face meeting July22, trip is full.

Next steps – will be planning 2-3 fundraising/OSLC fellowship type events. Paul Hartman from American Family Insurance is willing to partner with us to do a BBQ event. He has all the equipment and does this a service/give back to the community. Paul will attend our next Serve and Reach meeting to explain his service.

ELCA Domestic Hunger Grant – Pam

Update – Vicar Kellie, Pastor Jon and Pam Garman met with Deb Martin, a rep of the ELCA, to answer questions about the grant submitted. The awards will be announced in November. We asked for \$4500 over the next 3 years to fund the food for the meals we are providing in the community.

Food Pantry – Pam

Ken Schmidt has completed the Church themed food box and it will be be blessed and installed sometime in the next month.

Other

Ardy reported there will be no Gods Work Our Hands this year and instead Vicar Kellie is working on an alternative service-oriented effort to be launched on Rally Weekend, the weekend after Labor Day.

Next Meeting – August 9 at 6 pm on ZOOM

August Calendar

Our Savior's Lutheran - Neenah, Christian Holidays							Aug 2021 (Central Time - Chicago)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat							
1 9am - Worship 1pm - AA Hispanic	2 6pm - AA Hispanic	3 5:30pm - Worship &	4 10am - Bible Study -	5 1pm - Quilting 1:30pm - 6pm - AA Meeting	6	7 5pm - Worship							
8 9am - Worship 1pm - AA Hispanic	9 6pm - AA Hispanic	10 7pm - Council	11 10am - Bible Study -	12 12pm - Finance 1:30pm - 6pm - AA Meeting	13	14 5pm - Worship							
15 Assumption of Mary 9am - Worship 12pm - 1pm - AA Hispanic	16 6pm - AA Hispanic	17	18 10am - Bible Study -	19 1pm - Quilting 1:30pm - 6pm - AA Meeting	20	21 5pm - Worship 6:30pm - Lock in at							
22 8am - Lock in ends 9am - Worship 1pm - AA Hispanic	23 6pm - AA Hispanic	24 6:30pm - Women's	25 10am - Bible Study -	26 1:30pm - 6pm - AA Meeting	27	28 5pm - Worship							
29 9am - Worship 1pm - AA Hispanic	30 6pm - AA Hispanic	31 10:15am - Rebekah	1 10am - Bible Study -	2 1pm - Quilting 1:30pm - 6pm - AA Meeting	3	4 5pm - Worship							

