

VOICE

*Our
Savior's
Lutheran
Church*

October 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 

Do You Need Marriage Enrichment? Check this out.

Something that Jeranna and I really enjoyed in my last call in Oregon were the small groups that we were part of through church. We went through Financial Peace University (Dave Ramsey) and a marriage enrichment course. Financial Peace University helped us down a path to live debt free and have a plan for saving in the future. We are still working toward these goals but getting closer. In the marriage class we had 5 or 6 couples of all ages and years of marriage that would meet in each other's homes. We did a DVD/discussion type course. We all brought food and ate together first. Then we did the lesson. But the gift was just being out and learning from other couples who also wanted to enrich their marriages. Just hearing other's struggles and challenges with marriage and parenting helped us.

This pandemic has done a number on all of our relationships. I saw a recent statistic that alcohol use and sales have gone up substantially during the pandemic. This is a sign of an increase in stress. I think we need to take a look at how this time has affected our relationships and to help us move forward. This course could help us move toward more healthy communication and a renewed commitment to our marriages.

So, in our treasure trove of resources at the church (thanks to our previous staff), I found "The Lutheran Course on Marriage". It is a DVD/discussion course that has 7 sessions. The final session can end with an affirmation of marriage vows if people choose to do that. I would like to invite couples to sign up to join a small group on marriage.

I will not set a date or location yet. Meeting in homes still seems a bit overwhelming for some. So, I am just gauging interest right now. Call the church office or email me with you are interested (jstrasman@our-saviors.org). We can meet at church on an evening during the week, on Saturday mornings, or even do a retreat format. Whatever works for the group. Once we have interest, I will send a google form out with possible dates and times. If childcare is needed, indicate that as well. I can't promise that, but will try to find it if that is a barrier.

Finally, if you want some marriage enrichment on a more private basis, I am trained in a marriage inventory called Prepare/Enrich. I usually do three individual sessions with couples. The tool identifies different areas of the relationship where you agree or disagree like in the areas of: Communication, Conflict Resolution, Family and Friends, Finances, Sexual Expectations, Leisure Activities, Partner Style and Habits, etc.

Peace,

Pastor Jon

Family Sunday School -

We had our first Family Sunday School a couple weeks ago. We will continue to do this most Sundays in the gym directly after our 9am Sunday worship (around 9:45am). No registration needed!

Our next Interactive Family Worship will be October 3rd at 9am. We will continue this the first Sunday of each month, as well as one service on Christmas Eve.

Confirmation - We recently had our first Confirmation lesson of the year. If you would like to check out the lesson on 'Intro to Lutheran Theology', you can go to Nearpod.com and enter the code ABK52. We'll be continuing on Wednesdays with the history of Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation. How exciting!

Eagle Scout News—What a blessing to have **Bryce Mau** choose Our Savior's for his Eagle Scout project. Join us in thanking Bryce for his great work on the stone crosses in front of the bell tower on the Commercial Street side of church. Be sure to check it out the next time you're at church!



Worship Services in October

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.
Interactive Family Worship on October 3 at 9:00 a.m.

*No need to RSVP for the in-person services.
Masks are again required. Social distancing applies.*

Family Sunday School

9:45 -10:15—Held each week in the gym
AND on Facebook Live

October is Clergy Appreciation Month! Let Pastor Jon and Vicar Kellie know how much you appreciate them.

October Events

- October 3:** Interactive Family Worship
- October 6:** Confirmation lesson - Small Catechism
- October 10:** Family Sunday School
- October 13:** Confirmation lesson - 10 Commandments pt. 1
- October 17:** Family Sunday School
- October 20:** Confirmation lesson - 10 Commandments pt. 2
- October 24:** Family Sunday School
- October 27:** Confirmation lesson - 10 Commandments pt. 3
- October 29:** Trunk or Treat
- October 30:** Confirmation Night of Honor
- October 31:** Reformation Sunday, Affirmation of Baptism
- October 31:** Family Sunday School

Schedule a Meeting with our Pastoral Staff

Pastor Jon Strasman - jstrasman@our-saviors.org | pastorjonstrasman.youcanbook.me

Vicar Kellie Escovy - kescovy@our-saviors.org | calendly.com/kellieescovy

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

Chili to Go

Chili to Go won’t happen this year without YOU. We have all of the info, shopping lists, timelines and task leaders in place, but we need two co-leaders to pull it all together and get the team going. The co-leaders will have an initial meeting to confirm the timelines and tasks and then check in with each task leader to ensure we are ready for the Drive Thru on November 2. The Chili Team can meet via Zoom and we can help you set that up. Are you feeling a tap on your shoulder??? Hope so!!! Call the church office to get started!

Encouragement Ministry

The Encouragement Ministry sends written notes of encouragement to anyone you think needs one! This is where YOU come in. Send the name and address to Ardy Kreuter, who leads this group, at akreuter@new.rr.com and someone on the team will send a warm note. So far, we have sent notes to State and National leaders, athletic coaches, school staff, health care workers, mailpersons, grocery store workers, church staff and friends. The team meets four times per year. If you would like to be part of the team, contact Ardy Kreuter.

Christmas Giving with the Brigade

Our Savior’s will once again partner with the Brigade, donating gifts and hygiene products, especially for kids from 11 to 18 years! We’ll get more information soon, so be sure to read the weekly email each Thursday. Thanks!

All God’s Children Got a Place in the Choir

All God’s children 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!

Chancel Choir for 9th grade and up has started rehearsals on Wednesday, from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. WE REALLY NEED VOLUNTEERS TO GROW this Ministry. We meet every Wednesday, and we welcome all past members and new members, too. Social distancing and masks, especially for people not vaccinated, are required.

Questions? Contact Ardy Kreuter 470-4701 or akreuter@new.rr.com



A little church humor to brighten your day!

Council Meeting Minutes September 14, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.

Pastor's Report:

2 baptisms scheduled for October and 3 baptism requests.

4 Funerals/Memorials.

13 new members will be welcomed weekend of 10/23-24. Another 32 people have expressed interest in joining the church.

5 confirmation students will be confirmed on 10/31.

2 Adult Christian Education classes under consideration: Gospel of John & Lutheran Course on Marriage.

Family Sunday School will be starting 9/19 in the gym after the 9am worship service.

Confirmation classes will start on 9/15. There are 21 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. This year they will get a pocket small catechism and we will go through it along with Lutheran Theology and understanding.

Next year will be the Old Testament, and the third year will be New Testament. The focus will be on kids and families serving in church again.

First Interactive Family Worship was held on 9/12 in the West Parking Lot. We had 67 people in attendance. After, we packed Lutheran World Relief School kits. Interactive Family Worship will be held the first Sunday of the Month and at one service on Christmas Eve.

Started Gleaner's Table: Pick up some fresh veggies/fruit and bring some in to share.

Vicar's Report:

Youth and Family Ministry: 1) Interactive Family Worship, Family Sunday School, Confirmation – developing lessons, and Youth ministry – planning youth gathering – 4 youth have signed up so far.

Social Media – Prayer of the Day

Starting classes so cutting hours back from 40 hours a week to 25 hours a week.

Rescued a loveable dog.

Moved into apartment.

Treasurer's Report: August income was \$30,728. August expenses were \$26,730. YTD in black \$92,197.

Membership/Attendance Reports: 539 people attended in August. Total membership numbers need to be verified – online vs red book.

Ministry Team Reports:

Evangelism, Marketing, Communication & Technology: Kevin Schabo: Ken (computer company) came in to fix Andrea and Kellie's computers. Need to set up meetings to come in to check other computers.

Finance – Sue Schultz: Met 9/12 and will meet 9/16. Working on budget.

Personnel – Sue Schultz: Met 8/30. Discussed salary increases.

Serve and Reach – TBD: Attached 8/9 minutes.

Collaborative Learning – Sue Schultz: Feedback on ministry things: sermon and social media.

Old Business:

Annual Meeting Date: November 7, 2021.

New Business:

Nomination Committee for Council: Consists of Graham Bradley, 2 past presidents of council, and 2 members of church at large.

Next Council Meeting: October 12, 2021.

Submitted by Joan Terry, Secretary

New Heating System

At its Special Meeting on August 29, 2021, the congregation members present voted in favor of replacing the church's heating system at a cost of \$126,500. The revenue sources for this project are the Capital Repairs Fund, the PPP salary reimbursement from the Federal government and the prior year balances. We hope to have the system completed prior to this year's heating season. Thank you to all who attended this important meeting.

-Sue Schultz, President

Adult Education

Adult Education Opportunity starting on Sunday, November 14th at 10:00 AM in the Library - Pastor Jon will lead a study on the Gospel of John. He will help with the opening of Family Sunday School and head to the library to study through the Gospel of John verse by verse. We are working on options to make it easier for parents with kids to attend. Stay tuned.

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 along@our-saviors.org

New Members

We will be welcoming new members October 23rd and 24th. If you, or someone you know, is interested in joining our congregation, please contact the office.

Save the Date

Our Annual Meeting will be held on November 7, following the 9AM worship service. Details to follow.

Altar Flowers

The altar flower sign up poster has returned to the gathering area. Stop to see if your special day(s) are available!

Follow Us Online

Facebook: @oursaviorsneenah
Instagram: @oursaviorsneenah
TikTok: @our.saviors

Spotify, Apple, and Google
(podcasts): OSLC - Neenah, WI

Website: our-saviors.org

OSLC Phone App: In the App Store, go to 'Church App—Tithe.ly' and search for Our Savior's Lutheran Church

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

September Pastoral

Acts...

Funerals

Connie Buksik
Sam Hartman

Memorials

Baptisms

Maxwell Michael Shadick
September 29

Generous Congregation...

YTD Totals Through August

	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Actual</i>
Income	\$279,067	\$333,410
Expenses	\$293,907	\$241,213
Balance	(\$ 14,840)	\$ 92,197

Memorials & Honorariums Received

A special thank you to those who remembered

Judy Murphy

Sam Hartman

Bob Peotter

One More Time ...

THANK YOU for your donations for the 2021 Lutheran World Relief kits;!
This has been our most prolific year!

On October 2, we will deliver 36 baby care kits, 56 personal care kits, and 75 school bag kits to First English Church's north location. We'll also deliver lots of quilts; what wonderful gifts. Let's do it again, friends!

Want to learn more? Please contact Ann Pokel at wapokel@gmail.com.

Minutes 9/14/21 OSLC Serve and Reach Committee

Present – Ardy Kreuter, Sue Engelbert, Ann Pokel, Tammy Rabe, Carol Swannell, Christa Sanders, Barb and Rick Klamm, Pam Garman

Encouragement Ministry – Ardy Kreuter

Update – Next meeting 9/28/21, an article will be put in the VOICE

Pillars Adult Shelter Meal – Pam Garman

Update - Kellie Escovy, Jeranna Strasman, Joan Terry, Rich and Pam Garman served August 26 – purchased casserole from PrepD and had garlic bread, beans and dessert from OSLC bakers! Would like to have new people each time. Rich and Pam will take the lead for now.

Next meal October 28 – Andrea Long and Andrew Madsen volunteered to make the meal we will serve.

Community Table at St Paul's Meal (FVCT)– Carol Swannell

Update from Sept 9 – they fed 61 persons and had 3 pans of casserole left. 2 were given to two local families with many kids and one to an OSLC church member caring for multiple family members.

Next meal – November 30, Christmas meal is the 2nd Sunday in December

Bletzinger House – Carol Swannell

Update – no updates

Lutheran World Relief – Ann Pokel

Update – Volunteers filled 75 bags on Rally Sunday – the most we have ever had! Kids will be assembling Hygiene bags on September 22. Volunteers needed to fill Baby kits

Guatemala Mission Trip – Pam Garman

Update – BBQ fundraiser Sept 19 – was very successful. Many donors and 400 tickets sold.

Next fundraiser is in December – a Christmas Cookie exchange. The potential date for the Meat Raffle at the DOME in Feb 6 – the weekend before the Super Bowl. Christine and Royal Rondeau are taking the lead.

Christmas Giving – Brigade

Discussion – Ann Pokel and Sue Engelbert have made contact. We would like to ask for donations for the same age group as last year ages 11-18

Chili Supper

Discussion -We have all of the spreadsheets, task lists, etc. from Alan Dordel and Carol Swannell. We need a leader or co-leaders. Will call people and put a plea in the Voice and church email. It will be Drive-Thru

Next Meeting – October 19 at 6 pm on ZOOM

Dear Our Savior's family,

It's Fall, y'all! What an awesome time for the church - growing in our youth and family ministry programming, trying new things, and building community!

So far I'm growing strong in my first semester at Wartburg Seminary! Some of my classes include Hebrew Bible I, Church & Home, Foundations of Lutheran Worship, and Jesus Christ in Plural Worlds. I'm also an assistant instructor for Relational & Emotional Intelligence (a ministry leadership seminar for fellow Accelerated Ministry Program students at Wartburg College). If you're curious, my class schedule is posted on my office door. Also, if you would ever like to sit in on a class with me, I would LOVE that! Just let me know!

I'm also continuing in my Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program! It's a requirement for seminary, and it's all about ministry formation and pastoral identity. One of the requirements is that I have to complete about 20 hours of spiritual care each week. Some of my hours can be done with OSLC, which is super cool (so come chat with me! I love getting to know folks, and you may also help me with my clinical hours!). I'm also supplementing hours by volunteering with Father Carr's Place 2B, San Francisco Night Ministry's spiritual care line, and the Winnebago County Sheriff's Dept. as a chaplain. How exciting!

On a more personal note, I just got a dog, Isabelle, and we are perfect for each other! She is a 4-year-old pittie from Oshkosh Area Humane Society, and she LOVES cuddles, destroying chew toys, long walks on the Bridgewood trail, and butt scratches. Be sure to follow me on social media if you want a dog-themed cuteness overload!

Looking ahead, I am looking forward to a cross-cultural immersion seminary class this January in El Paso, TX! I'll get to learn about ministries at the borderlands and the ELCA's efforts in immigration justice. So you can bet I'm practicing my Spanish skills!

I'm also really pumped about the year ahead for Our Savior's! Personally, some of the things I'm looking forward to the most are Confirmation, Interactive Family Worship, dinner church, and taking high schoolers to the National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis. So many wonderful things ahead!

Thanks always for the constant love and support! Grace and blessings to you all!

With love,
Vicar Kellie Escovy (she/her)

October Calendar

The OSLC calendar can also be found on our website by going to our-saviors.org and clicking the 'News & Events' button in the navigation bar, and then clicking 'Monthly Calendar'.

Our Savior's Lutheran - Neenah, Christian Holidays							Oct 2021 (Central Time - Chicago)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 9am - Worship 1pm - AA Hispanic	27 6pm - AA Hispanic	28 6:30pm - Women's	29 10am - Bible Study -	30 1:30pm - 6pm - AA Meeting	1	2 5pm - Worship	3 9am - Worship 1pm - AA Hispanic	4 Feast of St Francis 1pm - Retirees & 6pm - AA Hispanic	5 5:30pm - Worship &	6 9am - 10am - Bible Study -	7 1pm - Quilting 1:30pm - 6pm - AA Meeting	8 5pm - Worship	9
10 9am - Worship 1pm - AA Hispanic	11 6pm - AA Hispanic	12 9:30am - Esther 10am - Knitting 7pm - Council	13 10am - Bible Study -	14 12pm - Finance 1:30pm - 6pm - AA Meeting	15 5pm - Worship	16	17 9am - Worship 1pm - AA Hispanic	18 6pm - AA Hispanic	19 10:15am - 11am - Island	20 10am - Bible Study -	21 1pm - Quilting 1:30pm - 6pm - AA Meeting	22 5pm - Worship	23
24 9am - Worship 1pm - AA Hispanic	25 2021 Theological Conference @ Landmark 6pm - AA Hispanic	26 6:30pm - Women's	27 10am - Bible Study -	28 1:30pm - 6pm - AA Meeting	29 5pm - Worship	30	31 9am - Worship 1pm - AA Hispanic	1 All Saints' Day 1pm - Retirees & 6pm - AA Hispanic	2 All Souls' Day 5:30pm - Worship &	3 9am - 10am - Bible Study -	4 1pm - Quilting 1:30pm - 6pm - AA Meeting	5 5pm - Worship	6

Smoked Pork BBQ to Go was a huge success.

Thank you to the many people who purchased tickets, made donations, sold tickets and worked hard to deliver the almost 400 delicious meals.

Pit Boss, Paul Hartman, pictured center right, and his assistant, Casey (top left), cooked some delicious BBQ for us! Special thanks go to them. The group going on the Mission trip in March 2022 (pictured bottom right) worked very hard on Sunday September 19, so thank you to all of them as well.

We made a good start to our goal of building two homes for the folks from Houses to Homes in Guatemala. Enjoy the pictures of the day!

