

# VOICE

*Our  
Savior's  
Lutheran  
Church*

November 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.  
Wed 4—8:00 p.m.  
& Fri. 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.  
920-725-3956

*Life Together* 

As I write this newsletter article, I am packing to go up to Door County for our Synod's theological conference on Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. I love learning new things. I also love the fall season. I love the smell of falling leaves and the crispness in the morning air. I love all the fall flavors that appear in stores and restaurants. The cold weather has motivated me to buck up a pile of wood in our back yard that was taking up space all summer. I also cleaned the garages out to get our cars under cover as the thought of "snow" enters my mind. I also am organizing my ice-fishing gear in hopes of catching perch, crappies, and walleye through a 7-inch hole in the ice down the road.

At home, Marcella has been sick this week. We got her tested for Covid, but she is negative. Lots of bugs going around. Ezra, my son with the torn ACL, has an appointment this week near Milwaukee. He is still growing and Dr. McKenzie wasn't comfortable doing the surgery. He referred Ezra to a pediatric orthopedist. We are hoping he can finally have surgery so he can resume an active lifestyle starting with rehab and eventually sports. This has been a long haul. To anyone who has been injured, we see you.

Eli is applying to colleges and doing homework as a senior at Neenah. He also has taken up club swimming in order to stay in shape. No basketball this year by his choice.

Annika is doing well at college. She plans to come home for a few days over Christmas. We are looking forward to having family over for Christmas Day at our house.

What's new at church? We have a 5PM Saturday worship and 9AM Sunday worship. We are streaming the 9:00 AM worship. Someone who hasn't come to church in a while asked if you still have to make reservations for worship? The answer is "no". You can just show up. We are asking people to sign in, however, just in case we have to contact trace. We still have every other pew taped off, and we are masking in worship. As numbers hopefully decline in our county, our Rise Again team will revisit the masking requirement. For now, it is a simple way to try to prevent the spread of any bugs that may be present.

What else is new? We welcomed 20 new members to church on October 23/24. That was a joy! Our new heating system is being installed. Soon it will be nice and toasty and much more efficient. I am hoping we net a cost savings over time and reduce our energy consumption greatly.

On November 14<sup>th</sup> I am starting a Bible Study at 10:00 AM after worship on the Gospel of John. Bring your Bibles. We will do a verse-by-verse study as we enter into the season of Advent. John's Christmas story is simply, "The Word became flesh and lived among us." There is no manger scene, shepherds, or stars. God came and put on flesh. The Word of God now has a body.

Blessings on the upcoming holiday season. We are planning a Thanksgiving Eve worship with a few of the other ELCA Churches in Neenah. That will be the Wednesday before Thanksgiving at 6:30 PM. at Our Savior's. We will sing a liturgy called "For the Healing of the Nations".

Have a blessed Fall!

*Pastor Jon*

### Family Sunday School -

Pastor Jon and Vicar Kellie are BACK with another round of Family Sunday School! Join us at 9:40am in the gym for songs, lessons, and some breakout groups by age. No registration needed!

**Our next Interactive Family Worship will be Sunday, November 14th at 9am to coincide with first communion and handing out bibles.**

We will generally hold the Interactive Service on the first Sunday of each month, as well as one service on Christmas Eve.

**Confirmation** - Our Confirmation ministry is going strong! If you would like to follow along with our lessons, you can go to [nearpod.com](http://nearpod.com) and enter the following lesson codes:

Intro to Lutheran Theology - **ABK52**

Luther and the Protestant Reformation - **CVMES**

Small Catechism & Prayer - **IGE5H**

10 Commandments pt. 1 - **DUQ8B**

10 Commandments pt. 2 - **YREDC**

## Worship Services in November

### Join us for In-Person Worship

**Saturdays** at 5:00 p.m.

**Sundays** at 9:00 a.m.

Interactive Family Worship on November 14 at 9:00 a.m.

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

### Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Wednesday, November 24 at 6:30 p.m.

### Or Join Us For Virtual/On-line Worship

**Sundays** – 9:00 a.m.

on Our Facebook and You Tube Channels

### Family Sunday School

9:45 -10:15—Held each week in the gym

AND on Facebook Live

## November Events

**October 31:** Reformation Sunday, Affirmation of Baptism

**October 31:** Trunk or Treat, 3:30—4:30

**November 7:** All Saints Sunday

**November 7:** Annual Congregational Meeting

**November 13:** First Communion Class

**November 14:** Interactive Family Worship, First Communion, First Bibles; Adult Education begins

**November 21:** Family Sunday School, Adult Education

**November 24:** Thanksgiving Eve worship service @ 6:30

**November 28:** Advent begins!!

## Schedule a Meeting with our Pastoral Staff

Pastor Jon Strasman - [jstrasman@our-saviors.org](mailto:jstrasman@our-saviors.org) | [pastorjonstrasman.youcanbook.me](http://pastorjonstrasman.youcanbook.me)

Vicar Kellie Escovy - [kescovy@our-saviors.org](mailto:kescovy@our-saviors.org) | [calendly.com/kellieescovy](http://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.**

## Christmas Giving at Our Savior’s

Our congregation will again support the Brigade with gifts for kids, age 11 to 17. You’ll find the entire list at the end of this Voice, and our deadline is December 5. If you don’t want to print the whole list, we will also have a “giving tree” in the gathering area, where you can grab a paper ornament (or take several) and “shop til you drop.” Please remember: all gifts should be NEW and NOT be wrapped.

We would also like to donate basic hygiene products for the Brigade families: shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, liquid soap for hands, small bottles of laundry detergent, bottles of dish soap, toothpaste, and toothbrushes. The same deadline is December 5. Thank you for being so generous!

## Bake and Buy Christmas Cookie Sale

During the weekend of The Advent Choral service, December 18-19, the Guatemala Mission Trippers will be holding a Christmas Cookie Sale and are counting on all of the great bakers at OSLC to “Bring on the Sweets.”

- Starting December 4, anyone wishing to bake cookies for our sale can pick up Styrofoam trays and ziplock bags either during church services or in the church office during the week.
- Bake your holiday favorites and package them on the trays inside a ziplock bag. Write or attach a tag with what kind they are and if they have any special qualities, like Gluten Free or Peanut/Nut Free.
- Bring them to church starting Wednesday, December 15 and display them on the Christmas Table in the Gathering area.

If you’d like to purchase cookies, we ask that you make free will offering (suggested donation \$5) in exchange for a tray of cookies! During the week, the cookies will still be available until they are gone and can be picked up during Church office hours. (There is a rumor that there may be homemade Lefse!) Come help the Guatemala Mission Trippers in their effort to raise money for their trip by either baking or buying delicious Christmas cookies. Or do BOTH!

## Fox Valley Community Table Annual Event

*Uniting Faiths to Feed His Flock*, the annual ecumenical event sponsored by ten churches and the Fox Valley Community Table, will be held on Saturday, December 11 at Saint Paul’s Lutheran Church. Again this year, the meal will be in a take-out form. Our guests will be treated to a delicious dinner and will be given a gift bag containing many hygiene and clothing items including toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, soap, warm hats, mittens and socks.

Our church is being asked to collect 140 cans of shaving cream and eight dozen cookies.

Please bring shaving cream cans to church and drop them in the FVCT bin. And if you can donate cookies, please call the church office at 725-3956 and let Andrea know. Donations needed by December 6.

If you have any questions, please contact Carol Swannell at [carolswannell1@gmail.com](mailto:carolswannell1@gmail.com) or 920-540-9598.

## Meat Raffle

Mark your calendar for the first ever Meat Raffle to support the Guatemala Mission Trip. It will be held on February 6 at the DOME in Neenah. The event will include a silent auction.

## Notice of Annual Congregational Meeting

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 7, 2021. You may attend in person in the Sanctuary or via Zoom.

Some of the important business we will conduct is voting for Council members and delegates, reviewing and voting on our 2022 budget as well as receiving an update on the new heating system and various team reports. Please plan to attend this meeting. A Zoom link and other materials will be sent out prior to the meeting.

## New Adult Education Class

An Adult Education Opportunity is beginning 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 for this. We hope you'll join us on November 14.

## Come Sing With Us

Our **Chancel Choir** is still looking for additional members. Practice is Wednesday evenings from 7:00pm to 8:00pm. All skill levels embraced, anyone 9th grade or older.

## Want to Volunteer for Worship?

We are always looking for worship volunteers. Check out the "Opportunities to Serve" board in the narthex at church, or contact Andrea in the office if you want to find out what's available.

## Daylight Savings Time Ends

Don't forget to set your clocks back an hour at 2AM on November 7. Enjoy the extra hour of sleep!

## We're On the Radio

Want to attend worship but prefer to social distance? Tune in to **88.5 FM** from any OSLC parking lot to listen to Saturday **or** Sunday worship from the comfort of your vehicle!

## Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Join us for our Thanksgiving Eve Worship on Wednesday, November 24 at 6:30 p.m. We will be joined by a couple other ELCA churches in Neenah.

## Follow Us Online

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

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

Website: [our-saviors.org](http://our-saviors.org)

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

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## Council Meeting Minutes October 10, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.

### Pastor's Report:

4 baptisms scheduled for October and 1 in November. 3 baptism requests pending.  
3 Funerals/Memorials. New member weekend 10/23-24.  
5 confirmation students will be confirmed on 10/31.  
Confirmation: 21 students. Working on Ten Commandments.  
Family Sunday School: Has been well received.  
Continuing Education: Fall Theological Conference at Egg Harbor Resort (Oct 25-27).  
Council Nominating Committee: Plan to meet 10/14 to discuss potential for one year terms.  
Annual Meeting: 11/7 to approve budget.

### Vicar's Report:

Meet with Pastor once a week.  
Working on balancing school, work, and CPE – working in office and at home. Schedule posted on door.  
Interactive Family Worship – Moved to November 14 to coincide with first communion and handing out bibles.  
Family Sunday School – creating age appropriate groups.  
Confirmation  
Trunk and Treat – Sunday, Oct 31 from 3:30-4:30. Need volunteers to pass out candy.  
Will be preaching once every three weeks.

Treasurer's Report: September income was \$25,711. September expenses were \$33,670. YTD in black \$86,438.

Membership/Attendance Reports: 419 people attended in September. Need to redate new members to reflect October not September.

### Ministry Team Reports:

Evangelism, Marketing, Communication & Technology: Kevin Schabo: Trying to get a meeting together.

Finance – Sue Schultz: Working on budget. Next meeting 10/14.

Security and Safety – Ben Lochner: Power supply fixed for security system.

Serve and Reach – TBD: Attached 9/14. Chili supper cancelled for this year.

Worship and Music – Graham Bradley: 1) Birdie will be stepping down as intern chairperson of this committee. 2) Check into Lawrence University for potential student support. 3) Checking how music license work. 4) All Christians Sing Resources will be incorporated into services. 5) ELCA potential joint Thanksgiving Eve service.

Worship Volunteers- Kristi Armstrong: Started up clipboard routing in church.

Collaborative Learning – Sue Schultz: Meet once a month with Kellie to provide feedback and support.

### Old Business:

Annual Meeting Date: November 7, 2021. In-person and online.

Council Nominating Committee: Need volunteers.

### New Business:

Council to review budget Meeting: October 19, 2021

Food Pantry Box: Motion/Second/Carried Armstrong/Lochner to rename Outdoor Food Pantry Box to Prayer Pantry. All voting aye.

Eagle Scout Project: Eagle Scout project is done. Dedication will be at the Annual Meeting in November.

Next Council Meeting: November 9, 2021

Respectfully submitted,  
Joan Terry, Council Secretary

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

## October Pastoral Acts...

### **Funerals**

Millie Helgeson  
Mary Monroe (non-member)

### **Baptisms**

Maxwell Michael Shadick  
Gracen James Walters  
Thea James Beyer

### **New Members**

Scott Alan Burkart  
Linda Swiertz  
Cheryl Rivas  
Pat & Bonnie Murphy (Andrew  
Murphy, Alex Wood)  
Larry & Penny Lancaster  
Ashlee Williams  
Jim Kaczmarek & Jenny Baldwin  
Tim & Lynn Schwartzkopf  
Megan Maas (Keira &  
Kendal Tech)

### **Confirmations**

Claudia Bjornstad  
Mason Grycowski  
Isabel (Izzy) Ricketts  
Norah Spanbauer  
Tanner Van Zummeren

## Generous Congregation...

YTD Totals Through September

	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>Income</b>	\$313,950	\$359,121
<b>Expenses</b>	\$330,645	\$274,883
<b>Balance</b>	(\$ 16,695)	\$ 84,238

## Memorials & Honorariums Received

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

**Check out our online donation  
feature through [Tithe.ly](http://Tithe.ly) on our  
website at [www.our-saviors.org](http://www.our-saviors.org).  
Simply click the **GIVE NOW** but-  
ton to see the different ways you  
can give.**

## Minutes 10-19-21 OSLC Serve and Reach Committee Via Zoom

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

### Encouragement Ministry – Ardy Kreuter

Next meeting 12/28/21. Article in the Voice for submitting names to committee

### Pillars Adult Shelter Meal – Pam Garman

Next meal October 28 – Andrea Long and Andrew Madsen are making the meal, Cindy Boehm supplied a Thrivent Action card to fund the meal. Amber Stevenson, Joan Terry, Andrew and Andrea will serve the meal

Next meal – December 23

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

Next meal – Nov 30 and Christmas Dinner December 12. Carol will coordinate

Suggestion to combine the "Pillars" giving envelopes to include The Community Table as both are feeding missions

### Bletzinger House – Carol Swannell

Update – needs are for twin comforters and pillows. Will notify and start collecting in January to not overload the congregation with requests

Christa Sanders will get a Thrivent Action Card for the Bletzinger House

### Lutheran World Relief – Ann Pokel

Update – All quilts/bags were delivered by Marv/Barb Gossen, Ann Pokel and Cindy Madsen

### Guatemala Mission Trip – Pam

Update – We have raised funds for building two homes

Next fundraiser is in December – a Christmas Cookie Bake and Buy. February 6 there will be a meat raffle at The Dome. Christine and Royal Rondeau are taking the lead

### Christmas Giving – Brigade

Update – Ann and Sue are taking the lead with collections and contact with the Brigade. We will not be buying hams this year. We have 1-2 Thrivent cards and will be advertising the collection of goods for 11–17-year-olds, in the November Voice. Last drop off will be Dec 5 with delivery Dec 10. Karen Schilke is making paper ornaments with needs printed on them. Members of congregation can pick them to buy gifts as well. Barb Klamm will do any additional shopping needed.

Vernice and Keith Knudsen provided a Thrivent Action card for the Brigade. Carol Swannell will get an additional Thrivent Action card for the Brigade.

### Chili Supper

Is on hold for 2021, will review again in 2022

Paul Hartman has agreed to do another BBQ fundraiser in 2022 for OSLC.

We could split the proceeds 3 ways in lieu of the Chili Supper.

### OTHER

Next Meeting – November 16 at 6 pm on ZOOM

Dear Our Savior's family,

Happy November, everyone! Can you believe we're almost in Advent? What an exciting (and chilly) time!!

I'm still going strong with my seminary classes and CPE! If you would ever like to sit in on a class with me, my class schedule is posted on my office door. I am also LOVING where things are at with family ministry! Family Sunday School, Interactive Family Worship, and Confirmation are all going wonderfully (a special thanks to the amazing volunteers that are helping us dream and lead programming). Additionally, I am starting to preach every three weeks, and I'm SO appreciative of the feedback I have gotten so far!

I'm sure y'all already know this, but I am discovering that autumn in Neenah is GORGEOUS! Isabelle (my sweet doggo) and I are trying to hit all the scenic walking trails we can before it gets too snowy. If you have any recommendations, please let me know!

Looking ahead, I am looking forward to a cross-cultural immersion seminary class this January in El Paso, TX (and no, escaping below-zero temps for a couple of weeks is not the ONLY reason I'm going to Texas - it's just an added bonus). 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!

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

With love,  
Vicar Kellie Escovy (she/her)

# November 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'.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31 Halloween ● 9am Worship ● 1pm AA Hispanic	Nov 1 First Day of American ● 1pm Retirees & Fri ● 6pm AA Hispanic	2 Election Day ● 5:30pm Worship &	3 ● 9am Visitation/Ho ● 10am Bible Study	4 ● 1pm Quilting ● 1:30pm Vicar/Past ● 6pm AA Meeting	5 	6 ● 5pm Worship
7 Daylight Saving Time ● 9am Worship ● 11am Annual Mee ● 1pm AA Hispanic	8 ● 6pm AA Hispanic	9 ● 9:30am Esther Circ ● 7pm Council Meet	10 ● 10am Bible Study	11 Veterans Day ● 12pm Finance Meet ● 1:30pm Vicar/Past ● 6pm AA Meeting	12 	13 ● 5pm Worship
14 ● 9am Worship ● 1pm AA Hispanic	15 ● 6pm AA Hispanic	16 ● 11am Island Shor	17 ● 10am Bible Study	18 ● 1pm Quilting ● 1:30pm Vicar/Past ● 6pm AA Meeting	19 	20 ● 5pm Worship
21 ● 9am Worship ● 1pm AA Hispanic	22 ● 6pm AA Hispanic	23 ● 6:30pm Women's E	24 ● 10am Bible Study	25 Thanksgiving Day ● 1:30pm Vicar/Past ● 6pm AA Meeting	26 Native American Heri	27 ● 5pm Worship
28 ● 9am Worship ● 1pm AA Hispanic	29 ● 6pm AA Hispanic	30 ● 10am Rebekah's C	Dec 1 ● 9am Visitation/Ho ● 10am Bible Study	2 ● 1pm Quilting ● 1:30pm Vicar/Past ● 6pm AA Meeting	3 	4 ● 5pm Worship

# Brigade Christmas Wishlist

- LED Light Strips
- Ring Lights stand alone
- Ring Lights for phone
- Phone Chargers (samsung and iph one compatible)
- Pop Sockets
- Wireless Earbuds
- Karaoke Microphones (wireless)
- Crocs Women and Mens Sizes
- Thermo-flasks
- Fidgets
- Polaroid Cameras
- Basketball Hoops for over the door with ball
- Hair Straightener
- Fuzzy Slippers
- Room Decor Girl
- Room Decor Boy
- LED Photo String Light
- Wireless Speakers
- Makeup: Brushes
- Makeup: eyebrow kits
- Portable Chargers
- Nail Polish
- Nail Kits
- Makeup Case
- Sketch Pencils and Sketch Pad
- Sport Teams Shirts Size Adult S - Adult XL
- Canvas with Paints
- Pullover Hooded Sweatshirts Adult S - Adult XL
- Joggers Girls Youth L-Adult XL
- Joggers Boys Youth L to Adult XL

**Deadline for dropping off at church is Dec. 5. Please don't wrap the items.**

- Gaming Chair
- LED Room Decor
- Slides Shoes, Women and Men Sizes
- Hulu Gift Card
- Anime
- HoverBoard
- Sharpies
- SpikeBall
- Makeup Mirror
- Fuzzy Blanket
- Skateboard
- Cinch Sak
- Scrunchies
- Makeup Cases or Pouches
- Salt Lamps
- BeanBag Chairs
- Harry Potter Items
- Gel Pens
- Star Wars Items
- Razor Scooters
- RipStik
- Roblox Gift Cards
- Hollister Gift Cards
- Aeropostale Gift Cards
- American Eagle Gift Cards
- Hobby Lobby Gift Cards
- Starbucks Gift Cards
- GameStop Gift Cards
- Microsoft Gift Cards
- Playstation Gift Cards
- Target Gift Cards