

VOICE

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

March 2022

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 

"My cup runneth over!" Psalm 23:5

Thank You! Honestly, I can't say thank you enough! For some reason my cup is running over with thankfulness these days. Actually, I do know the reasons:

First of all, it starts with family. My family is relatively stable right now. Thanks be to God. That doesn't mean we don't have our challenges. But we are physically healthy and will soon navigate... hopefully... an emergence from this pandemic.

Second, we made it through another year as a church during a pandemic. We maintained an in-person and online worshipping presence and many programs. Our financial giving outpaced our expenses in 2021, partly because we had reduced expenses, especially in the area of staffing. But the church has continued to be generous and are positioning itself for the future.

Third, our Church Council had a retreat at the church on February 19. Our president, Graham Bradley, will be sharing some of the council's priorities and goals for the coming year. Just by us getting together to share some food (physically distanced), and learn more about each other was a victory. We have some priorities to work toward in the areas of staffing, Christian Education, and Youth Ministry. Who gets excited about Church Council retreats? Apparently, I do.

Fourth, as we prepare for the season of Lent, starting with Ash Wednesday on March 2 at 6:30 PM, may we identify things that draw us away from God and from loving our neighbors, and attack those things with a spirit of repentance. Thanks to the ELCA Health Plan, administered through Portico Benefits, I am on a journey to be my best self. I have been eating healthier and have to weigh myself every morning. It is through a program called OMADA. They sent me a satellite scale in the mail that sends my weight into outer space every morning. Then the results go to an app on my phone. I have had to change some eating habits and definitely need to exercise more. I do have to thank Mona Oskar, however, for saying in a recent visit, "that I look like a healthy young man". She told me I look young for my age. Mona, thank you. When I need a boost, I will come and visit.

Fifth, I am excited about our Worship Assistant ministry that we have rebooted. This has been such a gift to me and the church. We have so many latent gifts in this congregation from Lay School that aren't being realized. I will do my best to mine your gifts so that you too can be lifted up in your ministries. Luther said we are the "priesthood of all believers". Mission and ministry is all of our jobs.

Finally, thanks to our Good Neighbor Team for accompanying the Habibi Afghan family the Fox Valley. Thank you for all your generosity. It was fun to see people stopping at church delivering items off the list of needs for their home. Thanks also for furniture you donated. Soon all those things can be moved in with the family. They are delightful people. It must be extremely jarring to leave everything behind and move to a different country with all the barriers. Lots of grief too. Prayers for all involved.

I see God working in a new way at Our Savior's. I hope you do too! Stay tuned as we dream of emerging from the pandemic and finding ways to be a church in a new era.

Peace, *Pastor Jon Strasman*

Ash Wednesday – “Ashes to Go”

Are you in a hurry? On your way to work? Is it too snowy?

Please join us and drive through for Ashes to Go. This event will be held on Wednesday, March 2 anytime between 7AM and 6 PM.

Ash Wednesday is a Christian holy day of prayer and fasting. It falls on the first day of Lent, the six weeks of penitence before Easter.

Ash Wednesday derives its name from the placing of repentance ashes on the forehead in the shape of a cross, to the words "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." The ashes are prepared by burning palm leaves from the previous year's Palm Sunday celebration and they symbolize penance, mourning and mortality.

"Ashes to Go" will be offered to anyone in the congregation and community that wishes to participate. Ashes will be distributed in individual cups as people drive under the car port at Our Savior's. **Please invite your friends!**

Want to Help?

The Worship Ministry Team is looking for individuals to help with the distribution of ashes for Ashes to Go. You will be working in groups of two and sign up for periods as short as 1 hour or longer if you like. There will be a sign-up sheet at church. You may also contact the church office or Roberta Golden at rob-erta.golden@hotmail.com if you are interested in helping.

Worship Services in March

Join us for In-Person Worship

Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.

Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Interactive Family Worship is on hold for now.

No need to RSVP for regular in-person services.

Masks are required. Social distancing applies.

Or Join Us For Virtual/On-line Worship

Sundays – 9:00 a.m.

on Our Facebook and You Tube Channels

Want to Attend Worship But Nervous About Coming Inside?

Tune into 88.5FM from any OSLC parking lot to listen to Saturday or Sunday worship from the comfort of your car!

Children's Handout at 'Ashes to Go'

Mini Resurrection Eggs have been assembled by Our Savior's Confirmation students to share the Easter story in a fun and engaging manner with our younger congregation members. Mini Resurrection Eggs will be handed out by request at the "Ashes to Go" drive through.

- Looking Ahead - Easter Worship Schedule

Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, March 2 at 6:30 PM in person

Midweek Lenten Services

Wednesdays 6:30 PM In-Person: March 9, 16, 23, 30, April 6 - (masks required for in-person worship)

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday, April 14 at 6:30 PM

Good Friday, April 15 at 6:30 PM

Both services will be on-line and in person (masks required for in-person worship)

Easter Sunday

Worship On-Line: Sunday, April 17 at 9:00 AM

Worship In-Person: Sunday, April 17 at 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM (reservations and masks required for in-person worship).

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

Guatemala Mission Trip

Eleven mission trippers from OSLC are travelling to Antigua, Guatemala on March 19 to build two homes for families through a partnership with From Houses to Homes. Collin Parker, Christine and Tori Rondeau, Niki and Jack Zemlock, Chris and Kevin Hillegas, Pastor Jon and Eli Strasman and Pam and Rich Garman will be working in Guatemala March 19-26, returning March 27.

After three years of not going, we are so excited and happy to be able to carry out this mission again. We are required to be fully vaccinated and have proof of a negative PCR test both to enter Guatemala and re-enter the US. Guatemala continues to require masking both indoors and outdoors.

Through your generous support of the mission and support of our fundraising, we raised the \$6000 to fund two houses, plus additional funds supporting special needs the families may have. Muchas Gracias!!!

We plan to carry three bags of donations to Guatemala, as we have done in the past. We’ve narrowed down our requests to the following items, in addition to two beautiful quilts from our Quilters.

- Gently used ball caps
- Toothbrushes
- Acetaminophen
- Ibuprofen
- Flip flops - children’s and adults under size 7
- Children’s shoes
- Sharpies
- Pens
- Jars of Vaseline – small or medium
- Primary Spanish kids’ books
- Coloring books and crayons
- Soccer balls/pumps
- Bag of Dum Dum’s suckers

The collection will take place February 26-March 12 in the Gathering Area or during office hours. There are suitcases for your donations. Please contact Pam or Rich if you have any questions.

Muchas, Muchas Gracias!

Easter Lily Sale

Help fill the church with beautiful lilies! Order (with payment) by April 10. Envelopes with order forms will be available starting March 26 in the Gathering Area with a drop box. No call-in orders, please. Please fill out the order form completely. Lilies may be purchased “in honor of” or “in memory of” family members and friends.

Pick up flowers after the final Worship Service on Easter Sunday, April 17. (NOTE: LILIES GET PRETTY DROOPY IF LEFT MORE THAN TWO DAYS SO THEY MUST BE PICKED UP ON SUNDAY AFTER CHURCH.) Flowers remaining at church after April 17 will be donated to a local care facility.

The flower sale is sponsored by the Joyous Ringers handbell choir.



Meat Raffle Update

We're sending many, many thanks to all the people who attended our recent Meat Raffle at The Dome. The list includes both our members and the community who showed up to join the fun. The raffle was very successful and a good time was had by all! Special thanks to The Dome for supporting this event, and to our members who donated raffle items. Here's a picture from the day:



Short Term Music Opportunity

Chancel Choir needs you for a short commitment opportunity! Join us for Palm Sunday weekend, (April 9-10, both services), Good Friday (April 15, 6:30 pm), and Easter (April 17, 9:00 & 10:30 am).

Our rehearsals are Wednesdays 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary! We will practice Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter music first, **STARTING MARCH 9**. Contact Ardy Kreuter at 470-4701 or akreuter@new.rr.com if interested, or just show up for rehearsal.

Good Neighbor Team Updates

No new supply list for now, however gift cards for Aldi Foods or Walmart are greatly appreciated for our Afghan refugee family. Please stay tuned for additional needs/requests. Drop cards off at the church office.

We are also looking for a 3-4 bedroom house or duplex in the Fox Valley, preferably in Appleton or Oshkosh, for the Afghan refugee family we are partnering with in their resettlement. It's important for them to be close to the support resources and agencies in those areas. If you have any leads or resources, please contact the church office.

Joyous Ringers will be on hiatus until Mid-March. If you are interested in ringing this spring, please contact Ardy Kreuter at akreuter@new.rr.com

Usher Coordinator volunteer position is open. Coordinating (scheduling and communication) member volunteers to usher for worship services. Please contact Andrea in the office or Pastor Jon for additional information or if interested!

Pillars Adult Shelter & Community Table

Thank you to everyone who has signed up for either volunteering or to provide cookies! Please keep an eye out for our next opportunity with Pillars Adult Shelter & Community Table in April!

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

February

Pastoral Acts...

Baptisms

Ivaan Robert Gibson
February 27

Funerals

Marv Anklaam—February 12

Deaths

Marv Anklaam
Diane (Cowling) Gerhardt
James Steffen

Memorials & Honorariums Received

A special thank you to those
who remembered

Tim Laflin
Sam Hartmann
Larry Lancaster

Generous Congregation...

YTD Totals Through January

	Budgeted	Actual
Income	\$ 36,942	\$ 49,910
Expenses	\$ 36,828	\$ 34,171
Balance	\$ 114	\$ 15,739

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, search 'Church App' and 'Tithe.ly'. Download the app and then search for Our Savior's – Neenah

Lutheran World Relief Kits

During the month of March, we'll be highlighting four different items for Lutheran World Relief. Please donate if you can; these items will be essential for the personal care kits and the baby care kits. You can drop off your donations in the Gathering Area whenever the church is open. You can also send an email to Ann Pokel if you'd like a pick up from your house/apartment (wapokel@gmail.com). THANK YOU for your generosity!

#1 Goal: 80 large bars of bath soap (examples: Dial, Irish Spring, etc). Each bar should be 3.2 to 4.0 ounces.

#2 Goal: 60 adult toothbrushes (labeled soft). The "dollar" stores usually have multiple toothbrushes in one package, and that's totally fine.

#3 Goal: 50 combs; they need to be new, large, and very sturdy.

#4 Goal: 10 packages of flat fold cloth diapers (these are expensive, but so needed for the baby care kits).

Council Minutes...

Council Meeting Minutes February 8th, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.

Open Forum:

Dr. Rick Klamm joined to provide an update on COVID-19 (Omicron) Status
He is continuing to recommend masking during services.

Pastor's Report:

Upcoming baptisms: Ivaan Robert Gibson - Feb 27th, Leo Robert Hundt - March 5th, William James Brey – TDB.

Funerals/Memorials: Marv Anklam, Saturday, February 12 at 11AM, Diane Gerhardt, Saturday, February 12 at 3PM (inactive member)

Continuing Weekly Ministries

Homebound/Hospital visitation

Bible Studies Wed and Sun

Help with online Sunday School

Confirmation on Weds

Worship on Sat & Sun

Started using Worship Assistants in worship on January 29/30. Next training is Feb 12 at 9:30am
ELCA Youth Gathering is cancelled

Discussion: Youth in Our Church

Group Consensus that youth have been underserved in the Church because of restrictions from COVID.

Brainstormed Ideas and options as to what we can do to provide more for Middle School and High School age children.

Possible ideas help create engagement

Once a month gathering for coffee or food.

Movie nights with a short worship talk prior

Treasurer's Report:

January income = \$49,910; Budget YTD = \$36,942; Variance = +\$12,968

January expenses = \$34,171; Budget YTD = \$36,828; Variance = +\$2,657

Overall, January ended \$15,739 in the black.

Ministry Team Reports:

Building & Grounds – Kevin Schabo

Emergency lights & Exit lights are not functioning up to code. Team looking at options to get updated.

Retirees & Friends –Carol Swannell

Hopes to restart once COVID status is green in Neenah.

TEC – Kevin Schabo

Open question as to our Social Media accounts and if we have an active presence online. Vicar Kellie was leading this for us.

Finance – Cheryl Timm

Team met and discussed balance sheet and stewardship.

Low responses from pledge cards from Stewardship campaign.

Pastor discussed our surplus in budget and what we can do to serve our mission.

Personnel – Cheryl Timm

Plan to review employee benefits vs. "industry" standard.

Serve & Reach – Diane Wilfling

Meat Raffle raised \$2,000 for the Guatemalan mission trip.

Afghan family update. Continuing to look into housing in Outagamie County for the family.

Pillars Adult Shelter & Community Table is continuing to look for volunteers for their meals.

Council Minutes, cont...

Worship & Music – Graham Bradley

Discussions around number of services and virtual Sunday school, planning to continue on as status quo.

Old Business:

- a. Council Retreat February 19, 2022 8am-12pm
- b. Check Signing Update / OSLC's Articles of Incorporation

New Business:

Balcony Computer Replacement/Upgrade Request (Sound)

Will be replaced and updated. Money has already been budgeted for this.

Afghan Support Financial Request

Budget for this is still positive, but quite low. Concerns for when they find housing that they will need more money.

Motion to move \$1,000.00 into fund for Afghan family to continue providing support for their needs.

Motion/Second/Carried Pastor/Swannell to approve funding. All voting aye.

Submit Ministry Team Summary

Next Council Meeting: March 8, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Serve & Reach Minutes...

Minutes 2/8/22 OSLC Serve and Reach Committee via ZOOM 6 p.m.

Present- Kristi Armstrong, Ardy Kreuter, Sue Engelbert, Ann Pokel, Christa Sanders, Rich/Pam Garman, Barb/Rick Klamm, Tammy Rabe, Diane Wilfling

Food on the Fourth Thursdays (even months)

FVCT – Carol Swannel – Feb 22

Pillars – Pam Garman – Feb 24

Member matching donations campaign – going well, we have over \$2000 towards the match

Sign up genius rolled out, working well for sign-ups. Hoping we will be able to fund other uses for it for volunteering at church or donations

Bletzinger House – Carol Swannel

Update – status quo

Lutheran World Relief – Ann Pokel

Update – Ann has received a lot of donations and it is going well, Christa updating the list as needed

Guatemala Mission Trip –Rich Garman

Meat Raffle at The Dome Feb 6 raised almost \$2000. We'd like to repeat it!

11 members going March 19-27. The great fundraising has lowered the cost of the trip to \$1000 per person.

Encouragement Ministry – Ardy Kreuter

Met Jan 25, will meet again in May

Good Neighbor Team – Rick Klamm

Refugee Family update – the Habibi family is here and the team is getting to know them. They are located at the Extended Stay America until housing can be found.

Next Meeting – March 8

Meet the Habibi Family from Kabul Afghanistan!

Our Savior's was asked by the East Central Wisconsin Synod to develop a Good Neighbor Team and work with World Relief-Fox Valley to aid in the humanitarian effort to resettle a family that was evacuated from Kabul in August, 2021. Evacuations were due to threats of harm from the Taliban, who quickly and violently took over Kabul and all of Afghanistan, when the US withdrew the troops.

The Habibi family arrived in the Appleton Airport on January 26, after being housed on US Military bases in Germany and Fort Dix, New Jersey, since August. We assisted transporting them to the Extended Stay America, by the mall, where they continue to live while awaiting housing.

The family configuration is a mother and 4 children, Aqlima age 43, son Arash age 23, daughter Maryam age 21, son Mustafa age 18 and Subhan, a boy, age 9. The husband, grandmother and a 24-year-old brother remain in Afghanistan. According to the family, they were physically threatened by the Taliban, causing them to lose their business, a bridal boutique. Arash was a practicing dentist, Maryam has completed college and Mustafa just graduated from High School. Subhan was in 4th grade and has not been in school since August. Aqlima was working in the business and in college and studying law. They've lost everything.

Members of our Good Neighbor Team (GNT) are Brittany Stewart, Barb and Rick Klamm, Janice and Gary Lawell, and Rich and Pam Garman. World Relief requires that we partner with the family to assimilate them into our culture in the Fox Valley, move into an apartment, learn transportation and shopping, and the most important.... be a friendly and welcoming presence while we accompany them on this major transition to America. We have been told their legal status is as a Humanitarian Parole Refugee, because of the way they entered the US.

Since January 26, we have become friends with the family, often sitting in their hotel room drinking tea and snacking on what is offered. It's considered impolite to refuse their Afghan hospitality. They drop everything when we arrive, usually 1 or 2 of us at a time. They all have some English and we have been relying on Arash or Mustafa for translating to convey something specific, like management and value of the US dollar, medical appointments, grocery shopping lists and what they need in the moment. We hear "Thank you" and "you are our family" often during our time with them. We can use Google Translate and Microsoft Translator apps. Most of the family have Afghan cell phones activated on wi-fi only. World Relief gives them one Sim card.

We've brought them to OSLC twice, for a get to know you meeting with the GNT and to meet Pastor Jon. While they are Muslim, they have studied Christianity a little and were very curious about our worship, the Holy Bible and Jesus. They confirmed with Pastor Jon that we share the same God (Allah). We hope to have them attend sometime but being "on time" is a big barrier so probably a Saturday night service in the future. We are committed to bring them to the Mosque when it works into the schedule. Fridays at 1 pm are days of community prayer and similar to the Christian's Sundays.

Our 3-4 times a week visits and outings include playing games in their room, ice skating at the Plaza, haircuts for men, donated hair appointments at Salon di Amici, shopping at Walmart and

cont. on next page

Aldi and rides around town. They have received their Social Security numbers and will be applying for Badgercare, Foodshare, Community Clothes closet, St. Joe's Pantry, language school, elementary school, and several other economic resources. They cannot begin this process until they have an address (not the hotel). Going out into the community with the whole family usually requires two cars.

You have been outrageously generous in your prayer support, financial support, donations of goods and offering to "let us know what you need". We have a garage full of household furniture and a room at church full of donated goods for their home. There will be more requests once they have a home, which will happen quickly once World Relief finds one.

Watch for opportunities to help in moving and setting up their home once we get the notification. There are photos of the family at church. Stop in soon and take a peek.

It takes a village of God's people, and YOU are the village!

March 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							Mar 2022 (Central Time - Chicago)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat							
<div>27</div> <div>9am - Worship</div> <div>10am - Adult Bible</div> <div>11am - Gibson</div> <div>1pm - AA Hispanic</div>	<div>28</div> <div>6pm - AA Hispanic</div>	<div>1</div> <div>6pm - Worship &</div>	<div>2</div> <div>7am - Ashes To Go 9am - 10am - Bible Study - Joyous 5:30pm - Joyous 6:30pm - Ash 7pm - Chancel Choir</div>	<div>3</div> <div>1pm - Quilting 6pm - AA Meeting</div>	<div>4</div> <div>6pm - Valley</div>	<div>5</div> <div>5pm - Worship</div>							
<div>6</div> <div>9am - Worship</div> <div>10am - Adult Bible</div> <div>1pm - AA Hispanic</div>	<div>7</div> <div>1pm - Retirees & 6pm - AA Hispanic</div>	<div>8</div> <div>9:30am - Esther 6pm - Serve & 7pm - Council</div>	<div>9</div> <div>10am - Bible Study - Joyous 5:30pm - Joyous 6:30pm - Lenten 7pm - Chancel Choir</div>	<div>10</div> <div>12pm - Finance 6pm - AA Meeting</div>	<div>11</div> <div>5pm - Worship</div>	<div>12</div>							
<div>13</div> <div>9am - Worship</div> <div>10am - Adult Bible</div> <div>1pm - AA Hispanic</div>	<div>14</div> <div>6pm - AA Hispanic</div>	<div>15</div>	<div>16</div> <div>10am - Bible Study - Joyous 5:30pm - Joyous 6:30pm - Lenten 7pm - Chancel Choir</div>	<div>17</div> <div>1pm - Quilting 6pm - AA Meeting</div>	<div>18</div> <div>6pm - Valley</div>	<div>19</div> <div>Guatemala Mission 5pm - Worship</div>							
<div>20</div> <div>Guatemala Mission Trip</div>	<div>21</div>	<div>22</div>	<div>23</div>	<div>24</div>	<div>25</div>	<div>26</div>							
<div>27</div> <div>9am - Worship</div> <div>10am - Adult Bible</div> <div>1pm - AA Hispanic</div>	<div>28</div> <div>6pm - AA Hispanic</div>	<div>29</div> <div>6:30pm - Women's</div>	<div>30</div> <div>10am - Bible Study - Joyous 5:30pm - Joyous 6:30pm - Lenten 7pm - Chancel Choir</div>	<div>31</div> <div>6pm - AA Meeting</div>	<div>1</div> <div>6pm - Valley</div>	<div>2</div> <div>5pm - Worship</div>							
<div>27</div> <div>Guatemala Mission</div> <div>9am - Worship</div> <div>10am - Adult Bible</div> <div>1pm - AA Hispanic</div>	<div>28</div> <div>6pm - AA Hispanic</div>	<div>29</div> <div>10am - Rebekah</div>	<div>30</div> <div>10am - Bible Study - Joyous 5:30pm - Joyous 6:30pm - Lenten 7pm - Chancel Choir</div>	<div>31</div> <div>3:15pm - Valley VNA 6pm - AA Meeting</div>	<div>1</div> <div>6pm - Valley</div>	<div>2</div> <div>5pm - Worship</div>							