

# VOICE

*Our  
Savior's  
Lutheran  
Church*

May 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.

& Fri. 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

920-725-3956

*Life Together* 

## **Alleluia Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!**

I am on my way to Carefree, Arizona for a clergy renewal retreat (April 25-30). I am meeting up with five colleagues at the Spirit in the Desert retreat center. We have been reading three books that we will discuss in Arizona: *A Burning in My Bones* (An authorized biography of Eugene Peterson translator of 'The Message'); *The Post-Quarantine Church*; and *Tempered Resilience: How Leaders are Formed in the Crucible of Change*. We will eat together, play together, and compare notes as clergy, and worship. I am looking forward to a break after Easter and coming back refreshed.

The next thing on my mind is saying farewell to Roberta "Berdie" Golden as our full-time organist/pianist/music director/choir accompanist. She will finish her time at Our Savior's the last weekend in May. Berdie has been a fixture at Our Savior's and has discerned that it is time to enter the next chapter of her life. Thank you, Berdie, with the help of Kim Jannusch, for selecting our hymns, bringing special services to our church, and keeping the music flowing all these years. I can already sense the grief from the congregation as we say goodbye to your regular, faithful musical presence at Our Savior's. Also, thanks for your leadership and wisdom in helping our Rise Again team find ways to worship during the pandemic.

That being said, we will have an opening for an organist. Spread the word. Submit a resume and cover letter to the church office if you or someone you know might be interested. We have a team working on restaffing the jobs.

I am coming off the joy of sharing our Guatemala trip in worship on April 23/24. Our whole group helped lead worship and share reflections on the trip. It was a fun weekend. You can watch it on our You Tube Channel or Facebook Page if you missed it. Thank you to the congregation and donors, especially the Sam and Jackie Hartmann family, for helping fund this trip through memorials. This is a gift that will keep giving.

Calling all high school graduates. We will honor you on Sunday, May 22, at the 9AM worship service. Watch for a google form to come to your email that you can fill out as to your plans next year and submit a picture. I am also looking for some parents to help set up a cake reception after. Contact me or the church office if you are willing to help honor our graduates in church.

Finally, cancer sucks! You know what I mean. This is a hard journey for our family as we walk with my dad and mom.

Peace,  
Pastor Jon

## Calling all High School Graduates

Our Savior's family wants to celebrate each of you! Please send two photos if possible: one from your senior year, and one from when you were a baby or a small child. We'd also like to know what your plans are after leaving high school. Feel free to email the info and photos ([Officemanager@our-saviors.org](mailto:Officemanager@our-saviors.org)). Baccalaureate weekend is May 22.

## Vacation Bible School is Coming

This summer, Our Savior's will be hosting Vacation Bible School for our members and for a few other Lutheran churches in Neenah. It will be held August 1-4 for children from 3 years old through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Feel free to bring friends or visiting family along as well! Our theme will be announced soon. Watch for more details. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the OSLC office for details and opportunities.

## Donuts are Back!

We are excited to announce that OSLC has lifted more COVID restrictions. Masks are still optional, the pew tape (for social distancing) has been removed, and we will be serving coffee and donuts following Sunday's worship!

## Worship Services in May

### Join us for In-Person Worship

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

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

*No need to RSVP for regular in-person services.  
Masks are optional (recommended for nonvaccinated.)*

### 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!

## Roberta Golden Retires

Berdie Golden is leaving her position as organist and Music Director as of the end of May. Please join us on Sunday, May 29, right after the 9:00 am Worship in the Gathering area to celebrate Berdie and her many years as our organist. We appreciate her talent as an outstanding musician! We will miss her as a great organist and excellent music director. A basket for cards will be available in the church office starting May 22.

Our Savior's will begin looking for a new church organist. If you have interest or may know someone who might be, please contact our church office ([920-725-3956](tel:920-725-3956)) or email [officemanager@our-saviors.org](mailto:officemanager@our-saviors.org).

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

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## Lutheran World Relief Kits

Oh my! Our Savior’s members and friends are the most generous people! Your donations are so important as we gather needed items for the Lutheran World Relief kits and quilts.

Here are our goals for May:

**#1 Goal:** 30 rulers, marked with inches and centimeters.

**#2 Goal:** 40 new **lightweight** hand towels. Walmart has hand towels for about \$1.00, and Target has a 2-pack of hand towels for about \$3.00 (other stores may also carry them).

**#3 Goal:** 50 new **lightweight** bath towels. Walmart and Target have bath towels for \$3.00 (other stores may also carry them).

\*Samples of the towels will be on the table in the Gathering Area

You can drop off your donations in the gathering area whenever the church is open (there are 3 black bins together, and they’re labeled). You can also send an email to Ann Pokel if you’d like to have a pick up from your house or apartment. If you have any questions, simply connect with Ann (wapokel@gmail.com).

## Animal Shelter Spring Clean Up

Save the date! We have a spring clean-up event on Saturday morning, May 7<sup>th</sup> from 9AM to noon. The Neenah Animal Shelter is located at 951 County Rd G in Neenah Please bring lawn tools if you have them. We will be cleaning up the property in preparation for the Spring Plant Sale the following weekend.

Come for an hour or stay all three—whatever your schedule allows. All ages are welcome. There will be prizes for kids 12 and under for the most sticks picked up! This is a great opportunity for families and youth to volunteer. Call the church office with questions.

**OSLC Blessing Box** is in need of non-perishable food items. Please no canned vegetables at this time. Donations can be dropped off during worship or normal business hours.

**Altar Flower Signup** has plenty of available dates. OSLC was gifted macramé plant hangers which are available in the church office. Plant options are listed next to the calendar. If you would like to provide an altar plant, please stop by the church office to pick up a hanger for him/her.

**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!

**Pickleball Schedule** Most Sundays you can find a group playing pickleball in the gym from 1:00-2:30. Any level is welcome. If you don’t know how to play we will teach you. Paddles are available to use. Hope to see you there.

# *Roberta Golden's Farewell...*

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## *It's Time to Hang Up My Dance Shoes!*



Dance shoes? No, I don't dance. Many organists play in their socks. Many organists play in special shoes made for organists. I wear ballet instructor shoes. They need to stay on your feet, be smooth on the bottom so they slide easily from pedal to pedal, have round to square toes, and be very flexible. A tiny heel helps to rest your feet on the bar under the organ bench, so you don't accidentally play the pedals during the sermon. Chancel Choir jokingly asked if they should chip in and buy me some new shoes. Seriously, I have looked and just never found any. I think my shoes were trying to tell me something. My dance shoes are being hung up (or tossed out) on May 30, 2022.

I would like to share a little history and a few memories with all of you.

My family moved to Neenah Thanksgiving weekend in 1978. I told my kids we wouldn't miss a beat. We would do the same things in Neenah that we did in Milwaukee. We looked for a Boy Scout and Girl Scout troop. We went to Our Savior's the Sunday after we moved in and my seven- and eight-year-old children were in the Sunday School Christmas program the same year.

I got a call the very first week at OSLC from Hannah Gregory who surprisingly said she knew my uncle and exactly where my home church was. What a welcome to a new town and new church! Several days later I got a call from Eileen Anderson who asked if I would accompany the "Sunbeams" Choir. Does anyone remember those little kids in the bright yellow choir robes and all those children's musicals? Not long after that I started accompanying the high school choir, RSV (Revised Standard Version) – the big kids in the bright blue robes. Hazel Anderson was the organist and she asked me to play for church the first weekend of October (women's retreat weekend) every year. Those weekends were probably the only weekends she didn't play, until she retired. When OSLC began the Saturday 5:00 PM service, I was asked to play. I have no idea what year that was!

Life went on and we had two babies baptized at OSLC, four children confirmed at OSLC, one daughter married at OSLC, and one granddaughter baptized at OSLC. Two daughters, sons-in-law and grandchildren were Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus for Christmas Eve. Those babies are now 12 and 13 years old.

I left OSLC the summer of 1995 for a full-time organist position at St Tim's in Menasha. I was there until October 2000; at which time I was recruited to come back to OSLC as part of a 4-person music team. I was hired to be the organist at the 5 PM and 8 AM services, all weekends except the first weekend of the month, and to be the Chancel Choir accompanist. LuAnn Stensburg was hired for the first weekend of each month. Kim Filippi was hired for the 10:30 service and Joyful Noise (not yet named) and bells. Jim Hart was hired for vocal choirs. Eventually Kim moved to Minnesota and Jim left for theater opportunities in Oshkosh. It was then, I was given the 10:30 service and Joyful Noise.

As part of my music responsibilities, I was a member of the Music and Worship Teams. Eventually they became one team. That brought more musicals, Christmas Stables, Christmas Sunday School programs with goodie bags for 135 kids, special Love services, Mardi Gras services, Pentecost Kite services, Lessons & Carols ser-

# *Roberta's Farewell, cont...*

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vices, Palm Sunday services, Pet Blessing services, Taizé services with miles of red fabric and candles, Glory to God services, Palms to Go and Ashes to Go.

I will never forget the Palm Sunday that the music team organized the Palm Sunday breakfast and did all the services. The music team did the behind the scenes and advance prep. Some dedicated OSLC members ran the show on Sunday. I look back now and wonder, "What were we thinking?"

Rally Weekend services were outdoors. We put plywood panels on the ground for the keyboard and bench so they wouldn't tip over. There were 100' extension cords all over the ground to plug in equipment. Dish soap and soda were used to keep the bees away. Clothes pins kept the music from blowing away. We were rained out one year and moved the outdoor service into the gym with pop-up tents and all! It was still lots of fun, despite the rain.

Christmas and Easter were always a challenge to juggle all the services and still try to have a little time with family, but they were the "fun" services to play because the church was full, and EVERYBODY sang. Weddings and funerals made me nervous because you only get one chance to get it right! If you mess up the music on Saturday or Sunday, you always have the next service to prove you can play it right.

The organ died at the Thanksgiving service in 2000. It started playing by itself (electrical problem, not ghosts). The pedals also stopped working. I played the pedals, and my daughter sat on the floor and pulled them up. That only lasted a service or two and we gave up. A committee was formed to research whether to repair or buy new. A very generous member of OSLC offered to match up to \$20,000 if the congregation could up with the other \$20,000 that we needed to replace the organ. We did it! In November of 2001, the new organ was installed. Please check out the wall hanging just above the organ. Phil Carlson, a long-time member of OSLC, made the wall hanging from the wooden case of the old organ. The cross is made from two of the old organ pipes.

There were many more projects over the years related to music. Purchase of new hymnbooks, clavinova, drums, file cabinets for the music room, move to the new music room, spray painting the old music stands behind the garage, selection of new music stands and lights (generously given in memory of Lee Jannusch), the selection of service hymns, watering pianos, tuning pianos, repairing organ, washing 59 choir robes (2 at a time), sewing the zippers and hooks and eyes back on the robes. We purchased a digital piano so Joyful Noise could visit the homebound and sing. It was also easier to move outside for services. It took four good men to take the clavinova outside, so this was a big improvement.

The purchase of the new hymnbooks was a huge project. They arrived in 2006/2007. Then, came the challenge. How do you adjust to a new hymn book after about 30 years in the old green LBW books? Kim Jannusch, Lori Hein, Ardy Kreuter, and I meet one night a week for two hours. I think it took us about six weeks. They sang, I played. We color coded every hymn in the new cranberry ELW hymn book. They are coded as: those we know, they we kind-of-know, those we like and want to teach, those that are only singable by a choir or soloist. The ones we coded black are the hymns that we labeled as "Why were these ever included in the hymnbook. They are unsingable!" I'm not sure if "unsingable" is a word, but you know what I mean. We also created a list and timetable for teaching new hymns.

The whole worship team met several evenings. We played and sang the 10 new liturgy settings in the ELW hymn book. We selected two setting that we wanted to learn. We are now comfortable singing both setting 6 & 8.

In the early days, with the assistance of Kim Jannusch, we did a full inventory of the choir music, put it in folders, in alphabetical order by title and church season, created a data base of title, composer, church season, vocal arrangement, number of copies and if it had instrumental parts.

For those of you who are new to the congregation, I hope you have enjoyed this bit of OSLC history. For those who are long-time members, I hope this brings back fond memories. I want to thank you for the opportunity to have served as your full-time organist for the past 22 years and part time musician for the past 43 years. To all the musicians that have so faithfully assisted in worship, thank you! Without your dedication, none of this would have been possible.

In Christ, *Roberta Golden*





## OSLC Trivia Contest

Join us for our fun Spring OSLC Trivia! For the next month, we will continue sending out trivia questions for you to answer. You can find the questions in the May issue of the Voice, in the Informer for the next four weeks, and also during weekly worship announcements for the next few weekends.

To participate, simply send your responses to the church office by calling 920-725-3956, emailing the office at [officemanager@our-saviors.org](mailto:officemanager@our-saviors.org), or mailing/dropping in to 809 S. Commercial Street. Answers can be submitted for previous questions. Questions with most answers and the leaderboard are posted in the OSLC office hallway. Points are based on participation and correct answer, prizes are unique...so get your answers in today! Winners announced in the June Voice.

Here we go. This month's question is:

**What Bible do we use for our Children's Ministry?**

**Hint: Andrea reads from it on our YouTube channel every two weeks.**



*Pictures are from the Palm Sunday Donkey Walk and the lily cross set up for Easter worship.*

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

## April Pastoral Acts...

### **Baptisms**

Ellie May Peerenboom

### **Funerals**

Victor Berndt

## Generous Congregation

### YTD Totals Through March

	<b><i>Budgeted</i></b>	<b><i>Actual</i></b>
<b>Income</b>	\$110,825	\$ 93,214
<b>Expenses</b>	\$110,485	\$ 98,265
<b>Balance</b>	\$ 340	(\$ 5,051)

## Schedule a Meeting With Pastor Jon

Pastor Jon Strasman - [jstrasman@our-saviors.org](mailto:jstrasman@our-saviors.org)

OR

[pastorjonstrasman.youcanbook.me](mailto:pastorjonstrasman.youcanbook.me)

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

***Check out our online donation feature through Tithe.ly on our website at [www.our-saviors.org](http://www.our-saviors.org).***

***Simply click the GIVE NOW button to see the different ways you can give.***

# Council Minutes...

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## Council Meeting Minutes April 12, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.

### Pastor's Report:

#### April Pastoral Acts

Led worship at Valley VNA on March 31 for the first time.  
Victor Berndt Funeral (Uncle to Carmen Hass) on Saturday, April 9. Non-member  
Baptism of Ellie Peerenboom on Saturday, April 23 at 1:00 PM

#### Additional

Clergy Colleague Group at Good Samaritan Counseling Center on Thursday, April 14  
Post-Easter Clergy Renewal Retreat in Carefree, AZ, April 25-30.  
Roberta Golden is resigning as of May 31, 2022.  
Learn and Grow will be re-developing a job description for a Youth and Family Ministry person.  
Saturday and Sunday, April 23/24 I hope to do a worship that highlights our trip to Guatemala as part of the sermon and Spanish music from the Hymnal.  
Confirmation will restart on Wednesday, April 20 and go Through May 25.  
Church directory discussion.

### Treasurer's Report:

Overall, March ended in the red \$5,633, which brings us to \$5,051 in the red year-to-date. That compares to a positive balance of \$11,848 for 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2021.

### Ministry Team Reports:

#### A. TEC – Kevin Schabo

Reviewing Audio and streaming equipment to see if OSLC setup is best aligned for current use and any expansion.

**Motion/Second/Carried Schabo/Timm** to have a Sound & Video specialist to review our church's audio and video showing/streaming capacity and provide recommendations on how to improve & simplify. **All voting aye.**

#### B. Learn & Grow/Youth – Marcus Shimon

Had kickoff meeting to reboot the Learn & Grow committee with good turnout.  
Focused on OSLC offerings for Children, next meeting will be towards Youth.  
OSLC is hosting VBS for our church and other local churches.

**Motion/Second/Carried Lochner/Bradley** to begin search for Faith Formation director to assist with all things children, youth, adult, and senior ministries. **All voting aye.**

#### C. Security & Safety – Ben Lochner

Discussed yearly security group code changes. Individual and group codes will remain in effect due to the amount of work and difficulty tracking outside groups. Group leaders will need to receive new group codes each year. Targeting June or September for refreshing codes before the school year begins.

2022 Safety Inspections are in full swing.

#### D. Serve & Reach – Diane Wilfling

Pam Garmin joined the council to provide an update on the Habibi Family. They are doing good and the team is continuing to support the family. Our commitment to the family runs into July, but the team feels they will remain friends with the family.

Upcoming Spring Clean up event on May 7<sup>th</sup> at the animal shelter.

April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> will include Guatemalan mission trip reports from attendees.

Pillars is looking for volunteers for the last week of the month.

#### E. Worship & Music – Graham Bradley

Ashes to go had reduced participation this year. Will need to be evaluated next year.

Search for an Usher Captain is still ongoing. Pam Vorland and Andrea Long are filling in.

Palm Sunday Donkey walk was a success!

Worship team met to discuss Covid-19 status and restrictions.



## *Council Minutes cont...*

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### **Old Business:**

Rise again team met and chose to move reduce Covid-19 restriction, **approved motion via email in order to reduce delays in restrictions.**

### **New Business:**

Activate Personnel committee to staff Berdie's position(s). Berdie has tendered her resignation. **Motion/Second/Carried Bradley/Lochner** to form a search committee to begin filling all the roles that Berdie had. **All voting aye.** Thank you, Roberta, for all you have done the past 22 years for OSLC. You will be greatly missed!

Finance and Building & Grounds to be discussed in May. Creating Spend vs. Save Recommendations with surplus funds. Discuss Facility / Priority Funding Strategy and how to encourage funding.

Repairing an Organ into an Organ. The silent G key was not working and is now fixed.

New Church Directory—**Motion/Second/Carried Bradley/Lochner** to form team to begin the steps of building creating a new church directory. **All voting aye.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Marcus Shimon

## *Serve & Reach Minutes...*

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### Minutes 4/11/22 via ZOOM 6 p.m.

Present – Christa Sanders, Ardy Kreuter, Sue Engelbert, Ann Pokel. Rick Klamm, Tammy Rabe, Kristi Armstrong, Pam Graman

### **Food on the Fourth Thursdays (even months)**

FVCT – Carol Swannell – April 26, sign up is full, they will start back to in person meals this summer

Pillars – Pam Garman – April 28, sign up is full

David Bennett who owned Prepd – has gone out of business – we will use Costco

### **Bletzinger House – Carol Swannell**

Update – will be reaching out to church members who are familiar with Bletzinger to see if they want to plan something

### **Lutheran World Relief – Ann Pokel**

Update – donation of goods is going well. Flannel for the baby blankets is expensive. Discussion of amount of money available for the kits. Clarified there is \$357 in the account

### **Encouragement Ministry – Ardy Kreuter**

Update – status quo

### **Good Neighbor Team**

Refugee Family update – at 3 mos mark. We will have a 3 mos debrief with WR May 2. Family continues to learn new things daily and challenge us to find ways to support them best. All is well.

### **God Work Our Hands at the Animal Shelter**

Saturday May 7, 9-noon, all ages welcome. Article in the Voice

### **Next Meeting – May 10**

# May Calendar...

The OSLC calendar can also be found on our website by going to [our-saviors.org](http://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
May 1 9am Worship 10am Adult Bible Study 1pm AA Hispanic	2 10am Knitting/Prayer Shawl 1pm Retirees & Friends 6pm AA Hispanic	3 6pm Worship & Music Team 9am Visitation/Homebound 10am Bible Study - Virtual & 6pm AA Meeting 5:30pm Confirmation 7pm Chancel Choir	4 9am Visitation/Homebound 10am Bible Study - Virtual & 6pm AA Meeting 5:30pm Confirmation 7pm Chancel Choir	5 10am Bible Study - Virtual & 6pm AA Meeting 5:30pm Confirmation 7pm Chancel Choir	6 6pm Valley Squares 5pm Worship	7 5pm Worship
8 9am Worship 10am Adult Bible Study 1pm AA Hispanic	9 6pm AA Hispanic	10 9:30am Esther Circle 6pm Serve & Reach - VIRTU 7pm Council Meeting	11 10am Bible Study - Virtual & 12pm Finance Meeting 6pm AA Meeting 7pm Chancel Choir	12 10am Bible Study - Virtual & 12pm Finance Meeting 6pm AA Meeting 7pm Chancel Choir	13 5pm Worship	14 5pm Worship
15 9am Worship 10am Adult Bible Study 1pm AA Hispanic	16 6pm AA Hispanic	17 10am Bible Study - Virtual & 1pm Quilting 5:30pm Confirmation	18 10am Bible Study - Virtual & 1pm Quilting 5:30pm Confirmation	19 10am Bible Study - Virtual & 1pm Quilting 5:30pm Confirmation	20 6pm Valley Squares 5pm Worship	21 5pm Worship
22 9am Worship 10am Adult Bible Study 1pm AA Hispanic	23 6pm AA Hispanic	24 9:30am Rebekah Circle 6:30pm Women's Book Club	25 10am Bible Study - Virtual & 12pm Finance Meeting 6pm AA Meeting 7pm Chancel Choir	26 Ascension Day 6pm AA Meeting	27 5pm Worship	28 5pm Worship
29 9am Worship 10am Adult Bible Study 1pm AA Hispanic	30 OSLC Office Closed - Memorial Day 6pm AA Hispanic	31 9am Visitation/Homebound 10am Bible Study - Virtual & 6pm AA Meeting	Jun 1 9am Visitation/Homebound 10am Bible Study - Virtual & 6pm AA Meeting	2 10am Bible Study - Virtual & 12pm Finance Meeting 6pm AA Meeting 7pm Chancel Choir	3 6pm Valley Squares 5pm Worship	4 5pm Worship