

VOICE

*Our
Savior's
Lutheran
Church*

July 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 

Dear Church,

All I can say is “Thank You!” The support we received from the people of Our Savior’s through cards, memorials, emails, conversation, and your physical presence after my dad died has filled our cups. I am overwhelmed by the love you have shown and feel more connected to you all because of it. Some of your advice about grief like “grief has its own timeline” has been very helpful.

Speaking of grief, I did something I haven’t done in years. I went night crawler picking the other night. When we were kids, my dad would take us night crawler picking on rainy, summer nights. We loved to fish and didn’t want to spend that .75 cents a dozen at Fred’s Bait Shop. We also turned our activity into a business. My dad built an aluminum box that he buried in the ground with a cover. It was on the north side of the garage. He filled it with night crawler bedding, and whenever we picked crawlers, we would throw them in there. Then we had a sign that we put out on the road. Night Crawlers/.75c per dozen. We would have people pulling up with their boats on the way to their favorite lake or river to get our fresh Wisconsin crawlers. Sometimes we filled their buckets, other times it was on the honor system. I am a little slower at picking now than I used to be. I only got two dozen. But today with inflation, that is at least 7 bucks at Fleet Farm. I missed a lot of them, however. And if you were in Doty Park that night, I apologize. I may have let a swear word out after missing a crawler or two. It is not very becoming of a pastor. It was funny, however. Some concerned teenagers came up to me and asked if I needed help looking for something. I told them I was picking night crawlers. They said, “cool” and ran off.

Would you describe this story as grief work? I would say yes. Grief is work, isn’t it? You can’t just sweep it under the rug and move on. You have to talk about your grief, be vulnerable, and take note of the out of the ordinary movements you make. We do strange things when we grieve... like night crawler picking after at 35-year hiatus. I was remembering the good times and not the last few months of my dad’s life when cancer took its final hold.

I have a deeper understanding of what it is like to lose a parent. It is a significant loss that so many of you have gone through. I also know how complicated the after stuff is. My prayers go out to you.

About church. Remember that we are Easter people. We believe that there is always life after death. As we emerge from the pandemic, we have a team working to revive our Sunday School, the council approved a parking lot project, and we hired a new Music Director/Organist. Read about James Miller on page four.

Finally, I completed the Bible study on John. After the resurrection in chapter 21, Jesus was on the beach tending a charcoal fire while the disciples were out fishing. Jesus asked them to bring some fish from their recent miracle catch. Jesus called out to them and said, “Come and have breakfast.” Would this make a great t-shirt. This is my invite to you. Whether you have been in church or are thinking about coming back, I say to you, “Come and have breakfast.” Come and feast on the Word and Holy Communion. Come and let others fill your cups through the gift of community.

Peace,
Pastor Jon

VBS Adventure Island

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 5th grade. Our theme this year is Discovery on Adventure Island. We already have 24 OSLC youth registered, and have room for lots more!

If you are interested in volunteering or wish to register your children for VBS, please check the Homepage of our website or our weekly Informer for the links, or contact the OSLC office for details and opportunities.

Please consider volunteering your time to VBS! Opportunities are in areas including (but not limited to) Bible Study, Music, Crafts, Science, Recreation, Early Drop-off & Snacks!

Feel free to bring friends or visiting family along as well! VBS is free!

Come join the adventure!



Worship Services in July

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!

Save These Dates!

July 9-10—New Member Weekend

July 17 will be our next outdoor summer worship service. Bring your own chair.

September 11—God's Work, Our Hands Day and Sunday School kick-off.

September 18—Celebrate Our Savior's turning 150 years old! We will also have events around Mission Celebration Month.

September 18—Pork BBQ Dinner Fundraiser returning by popular demand! Will be held from 4-6 PM. The Packers play the Bears at 7:20 that night so plan your party now! Watch the August Voice and Informer for volunteer sign-up and ticket sale info.

October 25-29—We will be taking family pictures for our new Church Directory. You will be able to sign up for dates and times that work for you. Watch for more details.

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

Blessings for our Community

Do you know what **“Noisy Coins”** mean? During the month of July, we encourage you to drop off your change - any amount would be so helpful! (“Quiet bills” and checks are also great). Look for the containers when you arrive for worship. The money will be used for food to support our pantry. Our Savior’s Blessing Box has been such a gift to our community!

If you’d rather shop for food, please ask Chris Swender for some great ideas, or see article in next column.

Lutheran World Relief Kits

Is it just me, or does anyone else think that the first six months of 2022 simply flew by?! We’ve already received many items for the kits; thank you for your generosity. For **July** and **August**, we’ll focus on school purchases. Here’s what we need:

Spiral notebooks with 70 or 80 pages, wide or narrow lines are perfect. Each schoolbag needs 4 notebooks.

Stick pens with black or blue ink. Each student gets 5 pens.

Rulers with inches and centimeters (we currently have 53 rulers, but need more).

Small pencil sharpeners (we currently have 42, but need more).

The stores are starting to add more school items on the shelves, but they’re still quite expensive. At some point in July and August, they’ll put them on sale.

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). Again, thank you for your donations!

OSLC Blessing Box/Pantry

There is no season for hunger! Our Blessing Box is used daily and we are in need of the following donations: Cans of Ravioli, Beefaroni, Dinty More Stew, Rice and/or Pasta side dishes. We have also had an influx of people looking for personal hygiene and laundry items. Drop them off in the bins in the Gathering area of the Church office. Thank you!

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.

Counting Team Members Two counter teams are divided by even and odd months; odd months counting on Monday mornings and even months counting Tuesday mornings. This position requires a mandatory background check. If you are interested in joining a counting team, please contact the church office (920) 725-3956.

Usher Coordinator— Thank you to Pat Farrell for stepping up to take on this role!

Pickleball Schedule Most Sundays you can find a group playing pickleball in the gym from 1:00-2:30. Any level is welcome. Paddles are available to use. If weather is good we will play at Washington Park. Sign will be posted on gym door if we are heading to the park.

A Special Thank You

I would like to thank all of you for the cards, gifts and best wishes as I stepped down from my music positions at Our Savior's. The reception following church on my last Sunday was wonderful. Your expressions of appreciation for my years of service were greatly appreciated. It is nice to know that I made a difference during my time at Our Savior's. Thank you also to both current and former Joyful Noise members who came to sing and play one last time.

Berdie

New Member Weekend

A New Member Welcome is scheduled for the weekend of July 9th & 10th. We will be hosting a potluck prior to the Saturday evening service at 3:30pm. If you, or someone you know, is interested in joining the congregation please reach out to the office.

Synod Golf Outing

Pastor Dennis Ellisen has opened registration for the 2022 Synod Golf Outing to be held on August 9, 2022, at Glacier Wood Golf Club in Iola. Shot-gun start is at 8:30 a.m. Cost is \$60 which includes golf, cart, lunch and prizes. Registration deadline is July 24, 2022. Get a foursome together and come join the fun! For more information, or to register, please contact Neal and Sue Schultz at 920-751-3725 or nealsueschultz@gmail.com.

Linwood Place Summer Concert Series

Please join the Linwood Place at Fox Valley Lutheran Homes for their Summer Concert Series. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy great music with family and friends for our second annual outdoor summer music series. All concerts begin at 2:00 and will be held on the South Lawn of Linwood Place at 425 N. Linwood Avenue in Appleton. In case of rain, concerts will be moved to Grace Lutheran Church, 900 N Mason St, Appleton.

- Sunday, July 10 - "Talk of the Town, New Orleans Jazz
- Sunday, August 14- "The Happy Wanderer's German Band"
- Sunday, September 25 - "Voices of Peace", Gospel

A free-will offering will be accepted to support the ministry of Linwood Place.

Meet James Miller

Our new Organist/Music Director, James Miller, will start the July 9/10 weekend. He comes to us with his wife, Emily, and daughter, Ashlyn. Emily works for KC and they live in Greenville.

Jim has a rich history of school and church music. They have roots in Escanaba, MI. His dad was Lutheran church musician. And Jim has played in several ELCA churches over the years. Jim also has sound and video engineering experience. Jim gave us a preview of his gifts at our recent "Bike to Church" Sunday.

Welcome to Our Savior's James, Emily, and Ashlyn.

Families Celebrate Summer

Families Celebrate Summer cards are now available! Card decks are available to anyone who looks forward to summer! Pick up your deck today! Give the office a call if you would like a deck delivered to your home.

As you go through the deck, please send us pictures of your activities with the card it relates to. Send your pictures to officemanager@our-saviors.org and we'll post them all.

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

June

Pastoral Acts...

Worship Services

Valley VNA—June 30

Baptisms

None

Funerals

None

Generous Congregation

YTD Totals Through May

	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Actual</i>
Income	\$184,708	\$214,847
Expenses	\$184,141	\$163,654
Balance	\$ 567	\$ 51,193

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



**Have a blessed
and safe
4th of July!**

Check out our online donation feature through *Tithe.ly* on our website at www.our-saviors.org.

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

Council Minutes...

Council Meeting Minutes June 14, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.

Pastor's Report:

June Pastoral Acts

Pastor shared his gratitude for everyone that has reached out with care for him and his family in relation to his dad's passing.

James Miller was hired as our new Music Director and Organist/Pianist. Thank you to the Music Search Team and Personnel team for all your work.

VBS currently has 20 kids signed up as of today. We will need volunteers to fill out rotations. Sign up if interested.

I am thankful to be working with the Worship Assistants. It adds another layer of people sharing their gifts.

Treasurer's Report:

-Overall, June ended in the red by \$580, bringing year-to-date in the black by \$51,193.

Ministry Team Reports:

Building & Grounds – Kevin Schabo

-Work has started on the rooftop HVAC unit.

-The new exit lights and emergency lights have been installed along with the replacement of the batteries in the rest of the emergency lights.

Retirees & Friends—Carol Swanell

Retirees and Friends will resume this in September.

TEC – Kevin Schabo

-TEC team is planning a visit to a church in Green Bay that is using better technology for streaming and displaying video. The tour would give a better understanding of how this technology could simplify our process.

Finance – Cheryl Timm

-The team talked about giving statements, specifically how often they should be distributed (this has been done on a quarterly basis). Motion carried to send out giving statements two times per year, sent in January, June, and early December. All voting aye.

-After continued discussion about the money in the Prior Year Balance account, the Finance Team concluded that we should keep \$50,000 in reserve for operating expenses. The balance sheet will now show an account titled Operating Reserves instead of Prior Year Balance. That makes available \$89,245.32 for Council to take into consideration when putting a plan together for priority projects.

-The Finance team decided to meet every other month instead of on a monthly basis.

Learn & Grow/Youth – Marcus Shimon

-VSB Team is preparing for August classes! Banners have been hung up on Commercial St. and sign ups have begun.

-Job description for a Youth Director was created by team and reviewed by the personnel committee. We are working towards a job posting.

Personnel – Cheryl Timm

-The team met to review the job description for the Faith Formation Director/Youth Director position. A meeting will be scheduled to further discuss this.

Serve & Reach – Diane Wilfling

-Excited to bring back the BBQ fundraiser on September 18, which happens to be a Packers/Bears game. The funds will go into the Mission Fund.

-Would like to do a Mission Campaign this Fall, currently debating between what organization to choose between to support. **Motion/Second/Carried Bradley/Wilfling** to allow the Serve & Reach team to distribute money to an organization of their choosing, up to \$3,000, without the previous approval from the congregation. All voting aye.

Worship & Music – Graham Bradley

Usher Captain Role Filled by Pat Farrell

Baccalaureate – Feedback of a good service, laundry gifts well received.

Altar Guild – Cindy Coy would like to step down as chairperson and is seeking someone to back fill the role.

Bike to Church Service June 19.

Ardy will be following up with Andrea on who is planned to line up substitute organist.

Old Business:

Discussed priorities between maintenance, improvements, or outward serving opportunities for how the \$89,245 should be spent. A long list of items has been discussed with higher focus on North Parking lot improvement and Rental Property Porch fix. **Motion/Second/Carried Lochner/Bradley** to get a contractor in to investigate the Rental property porch and potential updates. All voting aye.

Motion/Second/Carried Timm/Lochner to approve funds up to \$45,000 to fix and repair the North Parking lot and seal both South and back parking lots. All voting aye.

Usher Shortage, Pat Farrell has volunteered for Usher Coordinator position.

Organist Search Update - **Motion/Second/Carried Strassman/Wilfling** to approve funding for the Organist/Pianist roles and the hire of James Miller as our Music Director. All voting aye.

Church Anniversary 150 Years, September 18 Celebration

New Business:

Rental Property - Porch requires an update and is a current safety issue. Discussed next steps.

Doughnut Hole Strategy: Volunteer Opportunity

Synod Assembly Meeting Review

No July Council Meeting. Next Council Meeting: August 9th, 5:30PM at Bradley Family home to host. Potluck, family members encouraged, kids welcome. 970 Bayview Rd, Neenah

Respectfully submitted,

Marcus Shimon, Council Secretary

Serve & Reach Minutes...

June 7, 2022, OSLC Serve and Reach Committee

Attendees – Barb and Rick Klamm, Carol Swannell, Kristi Armstrong, Christa Sanders, Rich and Pam Garman, Ann Pokel, Diane Wilfling

Food on the Fourth Thursdays (June 23 and 28 this month)

FVCT – Carol Swannell -Reopened to in person this month and it will require increased volunteers from 3 to 5/6 persons each time.

Pillars – Pam Garman – status quo

Lutheran World Relief – Ann Pokel

Update – focus will be on school supplies as they start to hit the stores – erasers, rulers, sharpeners.

Good Neighbor Team - Rich

Refugee family update will be in the informer week of June 13. Three of the adults in the family are now working. World Relief will be separating from the all the Afghan families in July. We will continue to be friendly supporters as there is a lot for them to navigate.

BBQ Fundraiser – Rich

September 18 is confirmed – it's a 7:20 p.m. Bear game. It will fund the mission accounts. Will get it in the July Voice.

Mission Funds – Pam

Discussion of our process of picking local, national and international nonprofits to donate our mission funds collected via giving envelopes. Diane will bring up at council.

NO Meeting in July

NEXT meeting – AUGUST 9 and ALL 2nd Tuesdays starting now

Events from May/June...



A farewell celebration was held for our organist/music director, Berdie Golden, at the end of May.



On June 19, we had perfect weather for our first Outdoor Worship Service of the summer. It was a ride-your-bike-to-church event, and we had a great turnout!



July 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
26 9am Worship 10am Adult Bible Study 1pm AA Hispanic	27 6pm AA Hispanic	28 6:30pm Women's Book Club	29 10am Bible Study - Virtual & 3:15pm Valley VNA Service 6pm AA Meeting	30 6pm AA Meeting	Jul 1	2 5pm Worship
3 9am Worship 10am Adult Bible Study 1pm AA Hispanic	4 1pm Retirees & Friends 6pm AA Hispanic	5 6pm Worship & Music Team	6 9am Visitation/Homebound / 10am Bible Study - Virtual & 6pm AA Meeting	7 1pm Quilting	8	9 5pm Worship
10 9am Worship 10am Adult Bible Study 1pm AA Hispanic	11 10am Knitting/Prayer Shawl 6pm AA Hispanic	12 9:30am Esther Circle 6pm Serve & Reach - VIRTU 7pm Council Meeting	13 10am Bible Study - Virtual & 12pm Finance Meeting 6pm AA Meeting	14	15	16 5pm Worship
17 9am Worship 10am Adult Bible Study 1pm AA Hispanic	18 6pm AA Hispanic	19 10am Bible Study - Virtual & 1pm Quilting 6pm AA Meeting	20	21	22	23 5pm Worship
24 9am Worship 10am Adult Bible Study 1pm AA Hispanic	25 6pm AA Hispanic	26 6:30pm Women's Book Club	27 10am Bible Study - Virtual & 6pm AA Meeting	28	29	30 Healing Weekend 5pm Worship
31 Healing Weekend 9am Worship 10am Adult Bible Study 1pm AA Hispanic	Aug 1 1pm Retirees & Friends 6pm AA Hispanic	2 6pm Worship & Music Team / 10am Bible Study - Virtual & 6pm AA Meeting	3	4	5	6 5pm Worship