

VOICE

*Our
Savior's
Lutheran
Church*

August 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 OSLC,

I am excited to say that we are interviewing for a new full-time Director of Youth and Family Ministry. We amazingly had 10 applicants apply and have some strongly qualified people to choose from. Some have been doing youth and family ministry for years, some are ELCA seminary trained, and some are excellent at engaging youth through social media. It will be a tough choice. Each candidate brings different gifts that can help our church emerge out of the pandemic with our faith formation ministry.

During the pandemic, we did not restaff the Faith Formation Director job due to the uncertainty of what was happening in the world. We did our best to provide skeleton programming, and hopefully you can have grace for us. But after consultation with the re-booted Learn and Grow Team, they felt strongly that we need someone in this role ASAP. So here we go.

I would consider hiring this position as a leap of faith for the church. Like the Field of Dreams. Build it and they will come. We are not sure how many families want to re-engage in-person with children, youth, and family ministry at the church. But we are going to do everything in our power to be ready to welcome our families back. We trust that through baby steps and word of mouth, this ministry will grow and connect with families at a deeper faith level.

Starting with VBS on August 1-4, we have almost 40 students signed up. We have had a good response of volunteers too. Thank you!

We will be having a congregation fellowship event at the Timber Rattler's game on Sunday, August 14. This is open to all. I will do a pre-game devotion for those who want to participate. Tickets are available at church or through the office.

And "Yes", we will have a Sunday School this year. We will kick this off with a rally day and God's Work Our Hands where people can sign up for Sunday School and join in on some service projects. That will be September 11.

And with our new Youth and Family Ministry person, we will continue confirmation and re-build a youth group that will be about fun, service, and helping our children's ministries.

The Learn and Grow team is currently consulting with Dawn Rundman, a curriculum writer for Augsburg Fortress and Sparkhouse, who will look at our assets and gifts and help us discern our format for Sunday School. We will share more details later.

The Holy Spirit is alive and well in the church. Things are moving and shaking. We will need your support. We will need caring volunteers, we will need people to show up, and we will need financial support.

God Bless,
Pastor Jon

Sunday at Timber Rattler's Ball Park

On Sunday, August 14, we will gather at the Timber Rattlers game. This is not in lieu of the normal worship service, which will still be held at 9AM at church. We will all meet up in our seats.

Tickets are \$13, box seats behind the Rattlers dugout. Game is at 1:10 and we will be gathering at 12:30 for pre-game devotion prior. Call the church office or stop by today to reserve your tickets! Tickets must be purchased/reserved by Sunday, July 31st, and can be picked up at church or before the game. Someone will be at the entrance to meet you.



Save These Dates!

August 14—Polka Service at 9AM worship.

August 14—Sunday at the Timber Rattler's game. Game begins at 1:10. Call the office for ticket details.

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.

Music Opportunities at OSLC

"All God's children got a place in the choir..."

Chancel Choir

Contact: Ardy Kreuter at 470-4701 or akreuter@new.rr.com

Chancel Choir – for 9th grade and up

We are looking for more folks to join the Chancel Choir. We're a friendly bunch! We practice on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the music room and sing about two weekends a month. Come join us! Short-term commitments are accepted for the Christmas and Easter season.

First rehearsal is Wed., Sept. 21, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Joyous Ringers

Contact: Ardy Kreuter at 470-4701 or akreuter@new.rr.com

Joyous Ringers - for 9th grade and up

We rehearse every Wednesday from 5:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. in the music room. We play in Worship about two times a month. Reading music is helpful.

First rehearsal is Wed., Sept. 21, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

Vocal and Instrumental soloists and small groups Whether you are just beginning to play or are an accomplished musician we would like you to be involved in the music program at Our Savior's. If you don't have time to be involved in a musical group that practices weekly, but would like to sing or play once in awhile, contact Jim Miller at jmiller@our-saviors.org or call church at 920-725-3956.

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

Lutheran World Relief Kits

Our Savior’s has shared your gifts for the Lutheran Relief Kits for so many years, and because of your generosity, we can bless more people around the globe.

We’ve already received many items for the kits - THANK YOU! We will ask for more school supplies for **August**, and 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’ve met our 2022 goal, but rulers are welcome).

Small pencil sharpeners (we currently have about 60, but need more).

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!

Team Leaders for God Work, Our Hands

Let’s love our neighbors this September, with the return of coordinated projects for God’s Work, Our Hands on Sunday, September 11! We are looking for team leaders to head up and coordinate projects. We currently have leaders for Aves Wildlife Alliance, Hope Fridge, and Lutheran World Relief.

Is there a local organization you wish to support? If so, please reach out to Andrea in the office, or Sarah Bjornstad via email at sarahbjornstad@hotmail.com or phone 920.573.0007 with details. Opportunities to sign up to work in different areas will be coming soon in the gathering area.

Thank you for putting love into action!

Wednesday Bible Study is held every week from 10am to 11:1am. Please join us for a lectionary study on the lessons for the week. We meet in person and also have a virtual option (call the office for the link.)

Noisy Coin Offering – Since putting the blessing box outside, we distribute way more food and hygiene items. Bring your coins or quiet money to church to support our food pantry in July. Sponsored by the Serve and Reach Team.

Blessing Box is looking for pasta sides/dishes. Thank you for all the generous cereal donations!! 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!

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.

OSLC Mission Recipients

We are a generous and giving church with a history of regularly supporting local, national and international missions through our giving envelopes and fundraising. Recently the Serve and Reach Team selected three missions as the recipients for 2022-23 financial gifts. They are:

Blatzinger House as the local recipient. It is in our neighborhood and serves persons with mental illness living in the community.
www.BlatzingerHouse.com

Feeding America is national and disburses food locally as well.
www.FeedingAmerica.org

The ELCA Ukraine effort and our 2024 Guatemala Mission will be our international recipients, addressing disaster response and housing/poverty.

Please continue to support these missions through your giving, as we learn more about them in the months to come.

Special Music During Worship

Our Savior's Lutheran Church started using Song Leaders during the COVID-19 pandemic because we needed to hear the singing of the hymns and liturgy on the live stream. While we are not using Song Leaders at this time, we will have more opportunities for individuals to share their talents as we move into the fall.

Choir will be starting rehearsals in September. We will also be adding the Offering back to our Order of Worship, which will allow for Special Music opportunities. We will also be looking for Cantor volunteers to lead the Kyrie portion of the liturgy. Please reach out to our Music Director, Jim Miller, with any questions: jmiller@our-saviors.org

PORK BBQ Dinner Fundraiser

Our Pork BBQ dinner fundraiser for Mission will be held on Sunday, September 18. Dinners are pre-ordered starting Saturday, August 20, during services and through the Church Office. Each \$10 dinner will include a BBQ sandwich, coleslaw and BBQ beans. Pre-ordered dinners will be picked up in the drive thru at OSLC from 4-6 p.m. - just in time for tailgating for the evening Packer-Bear game!

The proceeds will be split between our 2022-23 Mission Recipients. Volunteers for set up and serving will be needed from 3-7 p.m. Please watch the Informer for a Sign-Up Genius!

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. 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, August 14- "The Happy Wanderer's German Band."
- Sunday, September 25 - "Voices of Peace", Gospel.

A free-will offering will be accepted.

A Letter From Our Music Director...

As I write this article, I am preparing for my third weekend as Music Director at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. It has been great meeting and chatting with many of you after our Saturday and Sunday worship services and I look forward to meeting many more of you. Driving home from worship services these past two weekends, I have found myself thinking of the chorus to a song that I haven't thought about in years:

All God's critters got a place in the choir
Some sing low, some sing higher
Some sing out loud on the telephone wires
And some just clap their hands, or paws, or anything they got now

The song "A Place in the Choir" also known as "All God's Critters" or "All God's Creatures" was written by the folk singer Bill Staines and released on his 1979 album *The Whistle of the Jay*. This song has been recorded by many other artists over the years. I first learned this song in Sunday School. I remember many of the kids enjoying all the animals mentioned in the song and some of the animal sounds we would make. I also remember how enthusiastically we all sang. The philosophy behind the song, that we all have the ability to participate in music, also resonated with me at that young age.

I grew up in ELCA churches, singing the liturgy and hymns from the green Lutheran Book of Worship. As a young child, I thought of worship as constant singing. It wasn't until I went to college and spent time working in other Protestant churches that I realized that not all congregations have as much congregational singing as the ELCA churches I had attended. Just singing three hymns, without any liturgy, did not feel like enough congregational singing to me.

I chose to switch to a different setting of the liturgy on the second weekend of July and have had many positive conversations with people about that change and the joy they experience through our worship music. I often say something along the lines of, "I hope my music leadership is helping you lift your voice in song." Some people respond to this saying something like, "You wouldn't want to hear my voice." Although it may be true that you do not want to come up to the piano and sing a solo for me, I do hope to help each of you lift our voices together in worship.



Jim Miller
Music Director

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

July Pastoral Acts...

Baptisms

None

Funerals

None

Memorials & Honorariums Received

A special thank you to those
who remembered

Steve Strasman

Generous Congregation

YTD Totals Through June

	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Actual</i>
Income	\$221,650	\$233,665
Expenses	\$220,970	\$190,316
Balance	\$ 681	\$ 43,349

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

***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

There was no Council Meeting or Serve and Reach Meeting held in July.

Serve & Reach Minutes...

August Calendar...

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