

VOICE

*Our
Savior's
Lutheran
Church*

September 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 Our Savior's,

I just attended my first Neenah High School football game on Friday, August 26th, against Menasha. Neenah won 35-14... I think. It was the 98th meeting of the two schools. I saw many Our Savior's people there cheering on the teams. It was a joy to get out again in the community and support our youth and families. I also got to bring my freshman son, Ezra, to his first Neenah football game.

I am pleased to announce that we are fully staffed for the fall. With the addition of Jim Miller, our Organist and Music Director, and Patty Koplitz, our Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry, we are geared up for our Fall programming. It feels so good to bounce ideas off our staff and see where God will take us. My goal for all our events this year is to re-connect with everyone and build relationships that will help us all grow together as a community.

Our first event will be the **Drive-Thru Blessing of the Backpacks**. This will be on August 31 from 6:00-7:30PM. With the pandemic, we had to be creative with this event by hosting it in our carport. This idea was so much fun that it stuck for this year. It is low commitment for parents and high impact for the kids. We will bless the backpacks for all ages of students and give the kids a gift for the start of school. We would also like caring adults to come and cheer the kids on, make signs, and smile as they drive through. Teachers are welcome to drive through as well. Just show up that night if you feel called to do so.

I will be starting a new Adult Bible Study on Sundays starting on September 18, at 10:00 AM. The title of the study will be **"Searching for Contentment" based on the book of Philippians**. It will be a verse-by-verse study through the book of Philippians focusing on learning how to be content in all circumstances. No experience necessary! All you need to do is to show up when you can, bring a Bible if you have one, and either listen or participate in the conversation. We will meet in the library to start with. If class is too large, we will find an alternate location.

Confirmation for 6th-8th graders will start with a parent/student meeting on Wednesday, September 7th at 6:00 PM. Our first class will be Wednesday September 14th at 6:00 PM. This year we will begin each class with some sort of food item and conversation. We will then break into small groups for the lesson, and then come together at the end for a mystery activity. I am excited to have Patty Koplitz on board to help coordinate this ministry. A note will be going out to incoming 6th graders this week.

Blessings as we approach autumn,

Pastor Jon

Worship Services in September

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

Save These Dates!

August 31—Blessing of the Backpacks to be held in our drive thru in the parking lot from 6-7:30 p.m. Come for treats & candy and kick off the school year.

September 11—God's Work, Our Hands Day and Rally Day.

September 18—Pork BBQ Dinner Fundraiser returning by popular demand! Will be held in our parking lot from 4-6 PM.

October 15-16—New Member Weekend. A potluck will be held at 6PM on October 15.

October 25-29—Harmann Studios 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 and a sign-up link.

November 13—Celebrate Our Savior's turning 150 years old with a special service at 9AM featuring testimonials, a visit from our Bishop and a congregational brunch after worship,

Sunday Bible Study Begins

A new Adult Bible Study will begin on Sundays starting on September 18, at 10:00 AM in the library. The title of the study will be "Searching for Contentment," based on the book of Philippians. It will be a verse-by-verse study through the book of Philippians focusing on learning how to be content in all circumstances. Bring a Bible if you have one.

'Fall' Into Music!

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.

Sign up in the Gathering Area for all music groups.

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

Team Leaders for God Work, Our Hands

Let’s love our neighbors this September, with the return of coordinated projects for God Work, Our Hands on Sunday, September 11th! 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!

Lutheran World Relief Update

Generosity: the quality of being kind and generous

Our Savior’s has supported Lutheran World Relief for decades, sending quilts and kits to vulnerable countries. From January through August, I asked for several items each month, hoping that we could continue to send three different kits for 2022. Wow, you truly stepped up! We will assemble the kits in September, starting with the school bags on God’s Work, Our Hands on September 11.

*With gratitude,
Ann Pokel*

Wednesday Bible Study is held every week from 10am to 11am. 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.)

Andrea’s Table of Treasures is the unofficial name of the table just outside our nursery. Andrea has been working with staff and members alike to clean up and clear out the church to create a more organized, up to date and user friendly space. Be sure to check out this table of treasures and help yourself when you come to worship (Sat 5pm/Sun9am)...or stop by during normal business hours (M-Th 9am-1pm & Fri 9am-noon).

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!

Office Coverage Needed

Andrea will be out of town Tuesday, September 27th through Friday, September 30th, returning to the office Monday, October 3rd. Looking for volunteers to help field phone calls, answer/open the door, deliver the mail and other minimal office tasks. Minimal training required. Call Andrea in the office to help.

PORK BBQ Dinner Fundraiser

Our Pork BBQ dinner fundraiser for Mission will be held on Sunday, September 18. Dinners can be 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!

Calling all 'Quilters' capable of tying knots

Our Mission Quilters are looking for additional hands. No sewing or quilting experience needed. If you can tie a knot, you can quilt! Our quilters meet the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 1pm in our gymnasium...which is now air conditioned! Call the church office with questions or if interested!

Update on the Habibi Family

The Omari-Habibi Family continues to learn how to live in Appleton and are doing very well, figuring things out on their own with help from new friends or asking us.

Their relationship with World Relief formally ended July 24 and they no longer receive case management or financial assistance from the agency. They do receive financial assistance, as long as they continue to be eligible, through Workforce Development. Our relationship has not ended, and we continue to have contact with them on a casual basis. We consider them friends and are interested in their welfare and continued adjustment.

At this time the four adults in the family are employed by Goodwill Industries, Plexus Corporation, Partnership Dental and Exquisite Threading. They work a variety of hours and shifts so our face-to-face contact has been pretty limited since June.

Subhan (age 10) was going to the Boys and Girls Club at the beginning of summer, but it became difficult for him with the language barrier and all the kids and he decided to end his participation.

They purchased used cars and are experiencing all of the things that go along with that, including car repairs. We learned that cars are a big status symbol for young Afghan men, not that much different from young men in America.

They always say how much they love America and our ways, and they are still very connected to family and friends in Kabul Afghanistan. We hope to have them attend a service at Our Savior's this Fall! Thanks for your continued prayers!

Bulletins Now Available Online

Due to popular demand, you may now follow along with our online worship services with the Bulletins that are offered on our website. Simply go on our website at www.our-saviors.org and then go to the 'Worship' tab in the navigation bar at the top of the page. There you will see a dropdown called 'Bulletins.' Click on that and then find the bulletin you want to view. Easy! Bulletins will be uploaded onto the site the week before worship. You can also find it in the weekly Informer.

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, September 25 - "Voices of Peace", Gospel.

A free-will offering will be accepted.

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

August Pastoral Acts

Baptisms

Francesca Verkuilen

Weddings

Andrea Long &
Andrew Madsen

Memorials & Honorariums Received

A special thank you to those
who remembered

Marv Anklam

Special Offerings

Noisy Coin

Pantry Food Fund

\$ 645

Generous Congregation

YTD Totals Through July

	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Actual</i>
Income	\$258,592	\$263,116
Expenses	\$257,798	\$219,175
Balance	\$ 794	\$ 43,941

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 August 9th, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.

Pastor's Report:

June Pastoral Acts

VBS was a fantastic success! Almost 50 kids were in attendance.
Upcoming Polka Service on August 14th.
Pastoral Acts, preparing for an upcoming Wedding!
God's Work our Hands: Preparing for this event on September 11th.

Treasurer's Report:

July income = \$29,450, Year-to-date income = \$263,116 vs, YTD budget of \$258,582.
July expenses = \$28,858, Year-to-date expenses = \$219,175 vs. YTD budget of \$257,798.
Overall, July ended in the black by \$592 bringing year-to-date in the black by \$49,940.

Ministry Team Reports:

Building & Grounds – Kevin Schabo

Monitoring an issue related to the air conditioner in Pastor's office.
Working towards receiving estimate for work related to potential building upgrades on Windows, Doors, Roofs, and Siding that are getting older.
The new exit lights and emergency lights have been installed along with the replacement of the batteries in the rest of the emergency lights.
The air conditioning is now working in our Gym!

Retirees & Friends –Carol Swannell

Retirees and friends will resume this Fall in September.

TEC – Kevin Schabo

Continuing to work through setting up a plan for the future of the technology in the church.
Discussed a change in how the text or "bulletin" is shown to any individual that is watching our service online. Tech Team is proposing removing the words from the live stream and accompany the live stream distribution with a bulletin or link to website bulletin location.

Motion/Second/Carried Timm/Lochner to change the structure of the online Worship experience, by changing how the text is presented to the user online for a trial period. All voting aye.

Finance – Cheryl Timm

Discussion centered around the heating project and related expenses to ensure that funds are available to pay off the project upon completion.
The Finance team is looking for Council to prioritize the items on the list with anticipated dates and costs, present the plan to the Congregation, and then work with the Finance team to put together a capital campaign strategy.
Finance team is planning to conduct an audit of the church finances.

Learn & Grow/Youth – Marcus Shimon

VBS was held at OSLC, a collaboration between four churches. Almost 50 kids were in attendance. Thank you to all who participated and volunteered.
A small team participated in interviews for the new position Director of Children, Youth, & Family Ministry. Patty Koplitz was offered the job and she accepted! We are so excited for her to start working with this team and our congregation.

Personnel – Cheryl Timm

The Personnel Committee met on June 28 to finalize the job posting for the Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry that was recommended by the Learn and Grow team.

Serve & Reach – Diane Wilfling

Discussing the missions they've chosen. The BBQ fundraiser dinner in September and if there is anyone willing to lead a Gods Work Our Hands location.

Worship & Music – Graham Bradley

Choir and Joyous Ringers starts Sep 12

Ushers will begin with offering plates with Sep 10 service.

Altar Guild – Cindy Coy has stepped down from Altar Guild lead.

Polka Service and Timber Rattlers game on August 14.

Rally Weekend Sep 10 normal service, Sep 11 God's Work our Hands.

Ice Cream! Served during Sunday School Registration through Rally Weekend.

Old Business:

Facility / Priority Funding Finance Saving / Available Operating Reserves Account

Savings: \$50,000 / Available: \$89,245.32 / Allocated: \$55,000 /

Remaining for allocation: \$34,245.32

Church Anniversary 150 Years, Celebration has been moved to November 13th.

Motion/Second/Carried Swannell/Lochner to approve a small budget to provide food and other items for the celebration. All voting aye.

Rental Property Porch

Quotation was received for the porch and was higher than what was approved by council in June. This caused a need for additional questions that need to be asked to the contractor to provide clarity as to the actual cost of the work before council was okay proceeding.

Parking Lot Update

Awaiting an updated bid from the contractor to complete the work.

New Business:

- a. Introducing Faith Formation Director, Patty Koplitz
- b. Heating convectors to be reviewed at a future date.
- d. Stewardship Letter reviewed, this was sent out in July.
- d. Altar Guild – Cindy Coy has resigned from the lead of this position.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcus Shimon, Council Secretary



On a Sunday morning early in August, Pastor Jon was on Daddy Duty while at church. His daughter, Marcella, acted as 'Junior Worship Assistant' during service that day.

Serve & Reach Minutes...

Minutes 8/2/22 OSLC Serve and Reach Committee

Present – Tammy Rabe, Rich/Pam Garman, Sue Engelbert, Rick/Barb Klamm, Kristi Armstrong

Food on the Fourth Thursdays (even months)

Sign ups are active

FVCT – Carol Swannell – August 23

Pillars – Pam Garman – August 25

Lutheran World Relief – Ann Pokel

Update – collections continue. Kits will be assembled during GWOH

Encouragement Ministry – Ardy Kreuter

Update – info to be shared via email rather than in person or zoom, starting now

Good Neighbor Team – Rich Garman

Refugee Family update – the 4 adults in the family are employed. WR has officially separated from the family and will not be offering services or support anymore. We will continue to be friends and assist when asked.

BBQ Fundraiser – Rich – Sept 18

Update – The 4 Mission recipients have been shared via the Voice and Informer. Volunteers can sign up to help at BBQ via Sign Up genius. We are projecting 4-500 in ticket sales @ \$10 per meal.

The SR Team determined we will no longer plan/host a Chili Supper on Election Day. The BBQ will supplant the mission of community outreach and fundraising for missions.

NEXT meeting – Sept 20 (NOTE THE ONE TIME CHANGE)

September 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
28 9am Worship 10am Adult Bible Study 1pm AA Hispanic	29 6pm AA Hispanic	30 10am Bible Study - Virtual & 1pm Quilting 6pm Blessing of the Backpack 6pm AA Meeting	31 10am Bible Study - Virtual & 1pm Quilting 6pm Blessing of the Backpack 6pm AA Meeting	Sep 1 6pm Valley Squares	2 5pm Worship	3
4 9am Worship 10am Adult Bible Study 1pm AA Hispanic	5 OSLC Office Closed - Labor Day 1pm Retirees & Friends 6pm AA Hispanic	6 6pm Worship & Music Team	7 9am Visitation/Homebound / 12pm Finance Meeting 10am Bible Study - Virtual & 6pm AA Meeting	8 5pm Worship	9 5pm Worship	10
11 9am Worship 10am Adult Bible Study 1pm AA Hispanic	12 10am Knitting 6pm AA Hispanic	13 9:30am Esther Circle 6pm Serve & Reach - VIRTU 7pm Council Meeting	14 10am Bible Study - Virtual & 1pm Quilting 6pm AA Meeting	15 6pm Valley Squares	16 5pm Worship	17
18 9am Worship 10am Adult Bible Study 1pm AA Hispanic	19 Pastor Jon - Conference 6pm AA Hispanic	20 9:30am Rebekah Circle	21 6pm AA Meeting	22 6pm AA Meeting	23 5pm Worship	24
25 9am Worship 10am Adult Bible Study 1pm AA Hispanic	26 6pm AA Hispanic	27 6:30pm Women's Book Club	28 10am Bible Study - Virtual & 3:15pm Valley VNA Service 6pm AA Meeting	29 Valley Squares 5th Friday!	30 5pm Worship	Oct 1

Photos From August Events...

Vacation Bible School

This year, we had anywhere from forty to fifty children show up for our Bible School on any given day! And most of those kids were from Our Savior's! The rest were from the couple other churches we partnered with. Way to go, OSLC kids! Here are a couple pictures from VBS. The rest can be found on our Facebook page. Thanks to all the helpers and volunteers who made this week possible for our kids.



2022 Synod Golf Outing

The 2022 Synod Golf Outing held on August 9 at the beautiful Glacier Wood Golf Course in Iola was a huge success! We had 67 golfers from all over the Synod with several new churches represented. Participants had a great time of golf and fundraising games on the course followed by a delicious lunch and prizes. The fellowship was outstanding, and we raised \$1,892 for the Lutheran World Relief Ukraine effort. In addition, we collected many blankets, quilts and gloves along with some gorgeous hand knitted scarves, slippers, mittens and caps for Ukraine.

We were blessed to have in attendance Pastor Jenn Pockat and Pastor Asher O'Callaghan from the Synod office along with Nancy Salzwedel who golfed with Pastor Dara Clifford. The Synod provided monetary support and an awesome door prize basket which was won by Pastor Carl Evenson. Organizers were Pastor Dennis Ellisen, Neal Schultz and Sue Schultz.



Pictured are Neal Schultz, Craig Ruddy, Rich Garman, Rick Klamm and Gary Lawell; Pastor Jon, Nancy & Todd Stevenson, and Gene Gregory; Sue & Neal Schultz with Pastor Dennis Ellisen; and Tim Moe, John Melz, Gerard Henriks and Jim Vine.

