

# VOICE

Our  
Savior's  
Lutheran  
Church

October 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* 

Oh, the Joys of Holy Communion! I am so thankful to once again welcome you forward for Holy Communion. We have been communing in the pews for the past two years due to Covid. There is just something about the act of coming up to receive the bread and the wine (or grape juice) and the promise of forgiveness.

With this change in worship, we need treasured volunteers on the Altar Guild and as Communion Servers. Please contact Sarah Swender (on a temporary basis) if you want to help set up and take down communion, and Tom Bervan if you are interested in serving communion. We need you!

I am writing this to you after our First Communion retreat and celebration that we had on September 24-25. It was a riot. These kids were all fired up to receive their first communion. This was a Covid delayed catch-all group of 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders. We had eight Our Savior's children attend the class. We learned about God's love and the forgiveness promised in this meal. We learned that there was a place for them at the table. We learned that we have communion in church because Jesus commanded it at the "Last Supper" where Jesus said, "Do this in remembrance of me." We watched an old VHS tape of Davey and Goliath called "The Family of God". It was about Davey and his friends meeting with the pastor and celebrating their first communion and inviting a friend who didn't have parents to take him to church. I was so excited to ask the kids if they ever used a VHS tape before. Most of them said, "No." But some said, "My grandparents have those." We then sampled communion in the sanctuary, and I taught them how to receive communion. This involved making the sign of the cross with their hands and saying "Amen" after they receive the bread and wine or grape juice. "Amen" means "It is true". Patty Koplitz, our Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry (who is a gift by the way) had the kids participate in baking the communion bread for their first communion. Andrea Madsen in the office ordered special cross cookies for after church. Chris Swender cleaned up the frosting and crumbs.

As I was serving first communion to the children, I noticed their siblings looking at me with longing eyes to receive this gift of grace as well. I do offer blessings to the children, but it's not the same as participating in the meal. Some kids, I think, felt left out. That being said, Our Savior's has a tradition of offering 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders first communion. But I think we need to rethink this a bit and offer this class 2 or 3 times a year for those who are ready to join this meal.

In the ELCA's document called the "Use of the Means of Grace," it gives the parameters of who is welcome to participate in this meal:

*THE HOLY COMMUNION IS GIVEN TO THE BAPTIZED: "Admission to the Sacrament is by invitation of the Lord, presented through the Church to those who are baptized."*

So all baptized are welcome to commune for sure, even the little ones. I also have learned that people can eat their way into the kingdom of God. Just being welcomed to the table is a gift. I am thankful our Church body celebrates an open communion table. And anyone who puts their hand out for communion, I gladly serve (unless the parents let me know otherwise).

The Use of the Means of Grace also says,

*"Baptized children begin to commune on a regular basis at a time determined through mutual conversation that includes the pastor, the child, and the parents or sponsors involved, within the accepted practices of the congregation. Ordinarily this beginning will occur only when children can eat and drink, and can start to respond to the gift of Christ in the Supper."*

So if you think your child is ready, let's talk. I will share these thoughts with the Church Council to see if they are willing to open the communion table even more to our younger children. Please watch for a sign-up for future first communion classes.

Peace, *Pastor Jon*

## Worship Services in October

### Join us for In-Person Worship

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

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

**Sunday School** at 10:00 a.m.

**Adult Education** at 10:00 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

## 150th Anniversary Celebration

Save the date...Sunday, November 13th. Brunch in the gym following 9am worship.

Calling for testimonials! Testimonials can be done thru a temple talk, submitting a video or during our anniversary celebration. Photos can be shared via email or dropped off at the church office - we can make copies &/or return originals afterwards. There is no limit or box which your memories or items need to fit in. If you have a special memory or something to share about, or connected to, Our Savior's Lutheran, please reach out to Andrea in the church office.

## Save These Dates!

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.

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,

## Church Pictorial Directory

We have hired Harmann Studios to take our pictures for the upcoming pictorial directory. You can sign up to have your family's picture taken starting now. We are looking for 100 percent involvement in this so please check your calendars to see what works for you. No purchase necessary. Every family that has a picture taken will receive a free directory.

The dates are from October 25 to 29 and times vary most days from 1PM to 7:45PM. If you can't make it in to have your picture taken, there are options to submit your own picture. Contact Andrea in the office for details on this.



Please scan this QR code to sign up for your photo session.



Some of our First Communion kids making bread for their big day!

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



## Pork BBQ Fundraiser Wrap-Up

On September 18, Paul Hartman started smoking 30 pork butts at 3 a.m. for the 300 tickets sold for the 2nd Smoked Pork BBQ Dinner. We had 17 energetic volunteers serving at our drive thru on a perfect day! Thank you to Paul and all of our volunteers! And to top it off, the Packers beat the Bears! The leftover food was taken to the Bletzinger House and will also be used for the October Pillars meal.

The funds raised will be split between the Bletzinger House, Feeding America, ELCA Ukraine and Guatemala Mission. The Mission Fund is currently at \$3000. Your generous participation in the BBQ provided an additional approximately \$2,982 before expenses. We plan to disburse the funds to these missions in October.

Someone was overheard to say "you can't go wrong with Jesus and BBQ!"

## Family Weekend at camp! March 3th through 5th at Pine Lake Camp

Let's all join together as families and celebrate the beauty that is camp, family, friendship and faith. This camp is so special because it becomes exactly what you need it to be. Need time away from electronics? That can happen. Need a nap? That can happen too!

Please refer to <https://www.crosswayscamps.org/retreats22-23> for more information. I think this is one of the best ways we can introduce camps to our kids, support camp and enjoy family time. And family is however you want to describe it!

## Senior High Youth Gathering November 11-13, 2022 Imago Dei Village

Do you ever have a hard time talking about your faith? You know you believe in God but sharing that with others feels like a daunting task. Under the theme, “Journey with Jesus” students in high school from all across the ECSW will gather at camp to explore a vocabulary of faith. Registration will open early September.

I am so excited that this event is back! Kids gather together for workshops, worship, games and fun activities. And good food! The cost is \$175 per child and \$50 per adult. More details to follow or contact Patty at [pkoplitz@our-saviors.org](mailto:pkoplitz@our-saviors.org)

## Let's Meet Patty Koplitz Our New Children, Youth & Family Director

I have been doing youth ministry for more than 25 years, and I enjoy hanging out with kids of all ages. I believe that we all have great value and are precious in the eyes of God.

My husband Jim and I have been married for a long time. We have 3 grown kids, 2 bonus kids and 2 grands. We are so proud of each of our kids and believe them all to be stellar human beings. Our current housemate is a black lab named Lucy. She has a place in the middle of our hearts and our bed.

I love doing ministry. I often will use art, photography and music. I also bribe kiddos with Gold Bear gummi bears. In my "free time" I love to knit, take pictures, play guitar (I'm not very good) and take care of my plants and garden. I love to travel and have been all over the world. My favorite travel buddy is my sister. I want to live fearlessly and enjoy everything around me. She encourages me all the time!

Five things you might want to know about me.

- 1) I believe that life should be a musical. We should be allowed to break out in random song and dance.
- 2) I love to knit socks with really small needles.
- 3) I love dogs! Ask me about Lucy.
- 4) I will always have Gold Bear gummi bears in my office. Stop by and ask for some.
- 5) I love to search for beauty all around me. You will often see me taking pictures of odd things.

- Patty Koplitz  
Children, Youth and Family  
Director



### *Praise for Patty –*

*I am so excited to hear that Patty will be serving at OSLC! I've known Patty as a colleague in youth ministry for over a decade, and I have always admired the way she naturally and easily connects with young people. She is an encourager for all people, but really meets students where they are at to walk alongside them as they grow in faith!*

*Pastor Dara Doersch Clifford  
Christ the King Lutheran Church*

**Bulletins** are now offered on our website. Simply go on our website at [www.our-saviors.org](http://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.

**Sunday Bible Study** is held at 10am in the church library. The focus is on finding contentment, and the book of Philippians.

**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.)

**Blessing Box** is looking for pasta sides/dishes—basically any kind of non-perishable food item *except* peanut butter. We have 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!

**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).

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

## September Pastoral Acts

### **Baptisms**

George Madsen, August 20

### **Funerals**

Betty Emmrich

### **First Communion Class**

September 24-25

Delaney Stewart  
Franklin Long  
Jack Grycowski  
Maggie Eastman  
Norah Bradley

## Generous Congregation

### YTD Totals Through August

	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>Income</b>	\$295,533	\$282,338
<b>Expenses</b>	\$294,626	\$250,667
<b>Balance</b>	\$ 907	\$ 31,671

## Follow Us Online

**Facebook:** @oursaviorsneenah

**Instagram:** @oursaviorslutheranchurchneenah

**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

## Our Instagram Name Has Changed

For those of you who follow us on Instagram, (and why wouldn't you want to?), our name has changed. You can now find us at [oursaviorslutheranchurchneenah](https://www.instagram.com/oursaviorslutheranchurchneenah). Check it out and stay up to date on what's going on.

## Thank you to our Volunteers!

Just a quick shout out and thank you to OSLC members and friends who served 45 meals at Fox Valley Community Table on August 25! We're going to be serving again October 27. If you're curious about it, please give Carol a jingle!

Jennifer Baldwin spearheaded a lovely brunch at Bletzinger House serving egg and French toast bakes at GWOH. They were thrilled with the Packer themed party! Plus, they feasted on the fund raising BBQ this past weekend!

-Carol Swannell, 920-540-9598 or [carolswannell1@gmail.com](mailto:carolswannell1@gmail.com)

# Council Minutes...

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## Council Meeting Minutes September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.

### Pastor's Report:

#### Pastoral Acts

One wedding, baptism, and funeral in August/September.

Confirmation has begun and we have 20 kids registered.

Preparing for upcoming First Communion class, Sunday School, and Adult Sunday school.

The adult bible study will be focused on the book of Philippians and will be a 6 week course.

Working to have the nursery and gym open during our Sunday School to have a place for all children.

First communion class open to 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade students on September 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00AM.

### Treasurer's Report:

Overall, August ended in the red by \$12,270 bringing year-to-date in the black by \$31,671.

### Ministry Team Reports:

#### Building & Grounds – Kevin Schabo

Parking Lot: Tear out has begun as of 9/12/22; however issues have arisen. The previous older parking lot wasn't installed correctly and there isn't sufficient base below. That is the main reason the grass and weeds were growing through it. Eight inches of material now needs to be removed to add the proper amount of gravel. They are to re-quote but it could add significant more to the cost of the project, approximately 15% higher is anticipated.

**Motion/Second/Carried Lochner/Swannell** to approve overage costs and maintain schedule for fixing the parking lot. All voting aye.

Building Heating: To finish connecting the gym bathrooms and gym hallways to our revamped boiler system additional heaters need to be connected to the main system. Also, the main entrance elevator heater was found to be not functioning.

**Motion/Second/Carried Strasman/Wilfling** to connect the gym areas to our main boiler system for ~\$8,600. All voting aye.

**Motion/Second/Carried Lochner/Swannell** to upgrade the heater in the main entrance elevator area for \$1,900. All voting aye.

#### Retirees & Friends –Carol Swannell

Retirees and friends will resume in January.

#### TEC – Kevin Schabo

Our new Music Director is more experienced in the tech area and has been making modifications/improvements where possible.

All text has been removed from the streaming services online. All this information is now posted on our website and sent out in our weekly newsletter.

#### Finance – Cheryl Timm

Committee did not meet for August.

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

The team met with Dawn Rundman and had a wonderful conversation related to where OSLC can grow in our Child, Youth, and Family ministry programs. She shared multiple recommendations of activities and inspiring ideas for our team.

Patty Koplitz has started as the Director of Child, Youth, and Family ministry. She is planning for our Sunday School kickoff this fall and has been assisting with the start of Confirmation this fall.

#### Personnel – Cheryl Timm

The Personnel Committee met and discussed the staff health care plan options for 2023. A recommendation was made for the plan for to maintain the existing health plan option. This was discussed at council in great length and more information is being gathered prior to a decision.

## Security & Safety – Ben Lochner

A *phishing* attempt was carried out on the via someone posing as Pastor Jon. An email was sent out to some parishioners from a phony email address. The police were contacted for this issue.

## Worship & Music – Graham Bradley

Altar Guild – Plan in place through Pastor and Staff to lead the altar guild effort in the short term.

Polka Service was a great Success.

Timber Rattlers game was enjoyed but did not work great as a worship service

Anniversary Weekend Nov 13. Service and Brunch to be attended by two members of the Synod Assembly.

## Old Business:

Facility / Priority Funding

Finance Saving / Available Operating Reserves Account

Set aside as Savings: \$50,000.

Remaining funds to allot: \$12,231.32

Rental Property Porch

A financial review of the rental property was performed to understand our income to expense ratio for the rental building. Although documentation is lacking, the property does have a healthy annual income and is not a yearly expense. A dis

**Motion/Second/Carried Swannell/Wilfling** to proceed with fixing the porch back to a safe state at a cost of \$13,940. All voting aye.

## New Business:

- a. Building Heat (Details Above)
- b. Church Exterior – An itemized Quote was received for multiple areas on the building exterior that will require updates in the future.
- c. Church Council – Church council members will be getting their pictures taken and have them posted in the church.
- d. 2023 Health Care Plan (Details Above)

Respectfully submitted,  
Marcus Shimon, Council Secretary

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## Music, Music, Music

### Chancel Choir

**Contact:** Ardy Kreuter at 470-4701 or [akreuter@new.rr.com](mailto:akreuter@new.rr.com)

### **Chancel Choir – for 9<sup>th</sup> grade and up**

We are looking for more folks to join the Chancel Choir. We practice on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the music room and sing about two weekends a month.

### Joyous Ringers

**Contact:** Ardy Kreuter at 470-4701 or [akreuter@new.rr.com](mailto:akreuter@new.rr.com)

### **Joyous Ringers - for 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Sign up in the Gathering Area for all music groups.**

# Serve & Reach Minutes...

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

**Present:** Ann Pokel, Tammy Rabe, Christa Sanders, Sue Engelbert, Barb and Rick Klamm, Pam Garman

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

FVCT – Carol Swannell – Meals are served in person now and the numbers of people coming are increasing slowly to pre-covid levels. Next meal Oct 25.

Pillars – Pam Garman – Serving 60 persons each time with 5 volunteers. Next meal Oct 27. Andrea will have both in Sign Up Genius which is working well!

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

Update – 80 School bags packed during GWOH. Confirmation kids will fill 50 personal care bags. 50 Baby bags will be filled this fall as well.

## **Christmas Giving**

Discussion--- – Sue Engelbert agreed to reach out to a contact at Brigade to determine if we pursue Brigade Christmas giving or make a change. Reportedly they received too many things last year and some are in storage.

## **Encouragement Ministry – Ardy Kreuter**

Update – the effort is all via email at this time

## **Good Neighbor Team – Rich Garman**

Refugee Family update – all 4 adults continue to work full time and are doing well, still learning much about our culture and money.

## **BBQ Fundraiser – Rich – Sept 18**

Sold at least 300 meals @\$10 each, We had about 14 volunteers including confirmation kids. The Mission Funds will be disbursed this month after expenses.

## **Bletzinger House**

GWOH group served brunch on Sept 11; well attended. Discussion of doing another brunch or event with BH, maybe around holidays.

## **Other**

Suggestion to do noisy offering in Oct or Nov for Mission as the kids really like that! Ann Pokel agreed to find out how to implement that.

Discussion of service project in the winter with The Diaper Bank or Feeding America.

NEXT MEETING October 11 @ 6 pm



# October 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		Oct 2022 (Central Time - Chicago)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	
25 9am - Worship w/ First 10am - Adult Bible Study @ OSLC 1pm - AA Hispanic	26 Andrea Vaccation 6pm - AA Hispanic	27 11am - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - Women's Book Club @	28 10am - Bible Study - Virtual & In- 6:30pm - Joyous Ringers 6pm - Confirmation 7pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal	29 3:15pm - Valley VNA Service 6pm - AA Meeting	30	31	1 6pm - Worship	
2 Andrea Vaccation 9am - Worship 10am - Adult Bible Study @ OSLC 1pm - AA Hispanic	3 1pm - Retirees & Friends 6pm - AA Hispanic	4 6pm - Worship & Music Team	5 9am - Visitation/Homebound 10am - Bible Study - Virtual & In- 6:30pm - Joyous Ringers 6pm - Confirmation 7pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal	6 1pm - Quilting 6pm - AA Meeting	7	8 5pm - AA Intergroup Meeting 6pm - Worship		
9 9am - Worship 10am - Adult Bible Study @ OSLC 1pm - AA Hispanic	10 10am - Knitting 6pm - AA Hispanic	11 9:30am - Esther Circle 11am - Staff Meeting 6pm - Serve & Reach - VIRTUAL 7pm - Council Meeting	12 10am - Bible Study - Virtual & In- 6:30pm - Joyous Ringers 6pm - Confirmation 7pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal	13 12pm - Finance Meeting 6pm - AA Meeting	14	15 New Member Weekend 6pm - Worship 6pm - New Member Potluck		
16 New Member Weekend 9am - Worship 10am - Adult Bible Study @ OSLC 1pm - AA Hispanic	17 6pm - AA Hispanic	18	19 10am - Bible Study - Virtual & In- 6:30pm - Joyous Ringers 6pm - Confirmation 7pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal	20 1pm - Quilting 6pm - AA Meeting	21	22 6pm - Worship		
23 9am - Worship 10am - Adult Bible Study @ OSLC 1pm - AA Hispanic	24 6pm - AA Hispanic	25 11am - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - Women's Book Club @	26 10am - Bible Study - Virtual & In- 6:30pm - Joyous Ringers 6pm - Confirmation 7pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal	27 6pm - AA Meeting	28	29 6pm - Worship		
30 9am - Worship 10am - Adult Bible Study @ OSLC 1pm - AA Hispanic	31 6pm - AA Hispanic	1 6pm - Worship & Music Team	2 9am - Visitation/Homebound 10am - Bible Study - Virtual & In- 6:30pm - Joyous Ringers 6pm - Confirmation 7pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal	3 1pm - Quilting 6pm - AA Meeting	4	5 6pm - Worship		

# Photos From September Events...

Last month we had a couple 'kick-off' events that got people involved. First, we held God's Work, Our Hands day. We had almost 90 people turn out for worship that day and stay to sign up for Sunday School and fall events. Some of our volunteers went to Bletzinger House to serve a meal, our youth helped pack food for Hope Fridge, and many stayed at church to help tie knots for our quilters. Then Sunday School and Confirmation started for the year. We love to see the involvement returning to our church!!



Pictured to the left is our recent staff picture. Top row—Chris, Dave, Pastor Jon and Jim. Bottom row is Andrea, Patty, Ardy and Jennifer.

