

VOICE

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

February 2023

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

Welcome to a new round of Small Groups at Savior's. I have had experience in my former congregation with starting small groups, and it deepened our congregation's commitment, communication, and connections.

In 2023, we will embark on a journey of renewal as a community of faith through gathering in groups of 6 to 10 in a comfortable setting of your choosing. We will be using the free video/discussion-based resource called "Be Like Jesus, Live Like Jesus". Belikejesuslivelikejesus.org

'Be Like Jesus, Live Like Jesus' has five 90-minute based sessions:

- Participant and Series Introduction
- Session 1: Be Grateful
- Session 2: Be Merciful
- Session 3: Be Present
- Session 4: Be Trusting



If you involve food and fellowship, it may take longer than 90 minutes. If you are like the small group at Our Savior's who refer to themselves as "The Tortoises" this may take you the whole year to complete. After this session is over, we have another round of small groups called "Alpha" that we will introduce.

How will the Small Groups work? You can put together your own small group! Or if you are an individual, we will play matchmaker. For example, it could be a current circle you're currently involved in, an affinity group, a neighborhood group, or a new group. If you feel called to start a group, invite others to join you? Find a place to gather, whether it's in your homes, the church, or a coffee shop. Notify our Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry, Patty Koplit, who is in your group and an identified communication person. Let us know the date, time, and location you plan to begin.

I will offer to meet with the facilitators of your group to add a little more background and Biblical content to the message if you would like that. I met with facilitators once a month at my last congregation and it really gave them confidence to lead.

Small groups can enliven a congregation and your faith journey. Our prayer ministry and care for each other will improve. And each group can choose a mission that they would like to support inside or outside the church. It is a win-win all the way around.

I would like for us to identify our small groups in February and start in March. What do you think? Do you want to gather with other Christians and grow deeper in faith? Are there people outside the church you would like to invite to your small group? All things are possible.

Blessings,
Pastor Jon Strasman

Worship Services in February

Join us for In-Person Worship Every Week

Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.

Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School at 10:00 a.m.

Or Join Us For Virtual/ On-line Worship

Sundays – 9:00 a.m.

and all Special Services
on our Facebook and
You Tube Channels

Altar Guild is looking for a co-ordinator. In the meantime, sign-up will be located on the board in the Gathering Area with our other worship volunteer opportunities. If you are interested or willing to be our altar guild coordinator, please contact the church office.

Greeter Coordinator needed for 2023. More details to come.

Sunday Bible Study has started again on Sundays at 10AM in the library. We are studying the book of Acts. Join anytime.

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.)

2023 Flower Chart is now available and located in the gathering area toward the kitchen. Grab a cup of coffee after worship Sunday and check out the available dates!

Save These Dates!

January 28-29—Worship includes **The Order for Healing**

February 22—**Ash Wednesday**

7am to 10am - Ashes to go at OSLC

12pm - Combined Church Worship at St. Paul's Lutheran

6:00pm - Worship at OSLC

March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29—**Lenten Midweek Worship @ 6:30**



The Habibi Family joined us for church last month to tell us how they managing. After worship, we celebrated them with a cake reception.

Music, Music, Music!

Joyous Ringers Handbell Choir NEEDS YOU! Reading music is helpful, but we can train you or mark the music for you. We meet every Wednesday night from 5:30-7:00 pm in the music room. We play about two times a month. If you are in high school or older, you're invited! During the Lent-Easter season you might want to make a short-term commitment.

Love to sing but not just in the shower?? Join the Chancel Choir and share your talents. Looking for more folks to sing with us, if you are high school and older. Can you just jump in a half hour before we sing in church?? Just do that! We meet every Wednesday night from 7:00 -8:00 pm in the Music Room. We sing twice a month. During the Lent-Easter season you might want to make a short-term commitment. Contact Ardy Kreuter, Director, at akreuter@new.rr.com or 920-470-4701.

“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 -

Thank you, Our Savior’s. We’ve asked for several items for the LWR kits in January, and you stepped up! What a blessing.

Here are the items for February:

- #1. 40 new adult toothbrushes (soft: one or multiple packaging is fine).
- #2. 20 packages of new cloth diapers (flat-fold or pre-fold).
- #3. 30 packages of pencils (not sharpened).
- #4. 50 large bars of gentle soap (Ivory, Dove, etc.).

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).

Marriage Enrichment Workshop -

This workshop will be held on Saturday, February 11, 2023, and will be facilitated by Doug Bisbee, Div., MA, LPC. Please join Doug as he applies his 30+ years of counseling and ministry knowledge to his faith-based marriage workshop. This session will focus on strength building and adding enrichment to your relationship.

The following topics will be discussed:

- Communication
- Conflict resolution
- Expectations versus satisfaction
- Family of origin dynamics
- Managing extended family
- Parenting adolescents and young adults

*Couples are encouraged to take the time to enjoy lunch together following the program.

Event details

- 1205 Province Terrace, Menasha, WI in the Community Room
- 8:30-11:30 am
- \$50 per couple – **OSLC will cover this cost.**
- RSVP by January 31, 2023
- Light snacks and refreshments will be available

Patty Koplitz is able to provide daycare for children of all ages, right here at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church. If you are able to attend this session, please let us know!

Winter Walking Group is a new addition to our weekly OSLC schedule. Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am-11am we will have the gym open for a warm & dry place to get your steps in! Use the office entrance on Lennox any time after 9, please bring a clean/dry pair of shoes!

“Help for the Homeless” Hygiene Drive fundraiser leading up to the drive located in the gathering area. Grab and envelope and help the homeless! Our goal is to raise \$1,000 by February 12th.

Retirees and Friends meet on the first Monday of every month from 1-2:30. Contact is Joan Terry. Come join us.

Mission Quilters would love your help tying quilts for Lutheran World Services! No special sewing skills are necessary. If you can tie a knot, you can tie a quilt! We meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of every month, from 1-4pm in the OSLC gym. This month we meet on February 2 and 16, 1-4pm. On February 2 we are having our Annual "Mad-Quilter's Winter Tea Party."

Welcome Center – Check out our new welcome center located in the Gathering Area. Find volunteer opportunities, schedules and information conveniently as you enter church.

Pickleball Players will be playing through the winter Monday, Wednesday & Friday mornings starting at about 8:30am. They will be collecting offerings for Missions rather than paying for building use. Come join them!

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

January Pastoral Acts

Funerals

None

Baptisms

None

Generous Congregation

YTD Totals Through December

	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Actual</i>
Income	\$443,300	\$441,901
Expenses	\$441,939	\$397,286
Balance	\$ 1,361	\$ 44,615

Memorials & Honorariums Received

A special thank you to those
who remembered

Bertha Koepke

Judi Klein

James A. Steffen

Steve Harwood

***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.***

Follow Us Online

Facebook: @oursaviorsneenah

Instagram: @oursaviorslutheranchurchneenah

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

Wonderful World of Youth & Family Ministry...

It's a
Real
Thing!

Camping

You are invited to join us for a Church wide camping trip! We are camping from August 4th through the 6th. We have 2 group sites reserved at High Cliff State Park. There is space for a total of 40 people. You can bring your tent or camper. They are primitive sites, there is no water or electricity. But what fun! We will discuss plans and activities later! Bring your family or come by yourself. Please, RSVP to Patty Koplitz!



SPAM

Soda, pizza, and a movie night! I am inviting all kids ages 2nd grade through high school kids. We will eat, watch a movie, and then play games. Probably hide and seek! Or Sardines!!!

Join us Saturday January 28th from 6pm until 10 pm. Adults are welcome to join us!

BYG Camp

There is still time to sign up for this weekend retreat! **March 17th through 19th**. Grades 2nd through 6th are welcome to come! The cost to families is \$100 each. There are also scholarships available.

Where: Imago Dei Village

Why: This weekend is a great opportunity for your child to visit camp for a weekend. They will play games, worship together, learn about Jesus and enjoy nature! And they will make new friends! I love this retreat!

Our Saviors Lutheran Church Lenten Devotional

I am seeking out 40 individuals that would be willing to write a short devotional for the Lenten Season. Pick your own bible verse, or I can supply one for you! I will have it posted on social media, our website as well as written in a book form. The deadline to submit a devotional will be February 16th. Please let me know if you are willing to do this for us!



Our Savior's Lutheran Church Council Minutes January 10, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

Special visit by to council by Pastor Dara.

Dara looking for exciting interests at OSLC....

Excited about Serve and Reach, youth experiences, SPAM, more attendance for kids and involvement. Bletzinger House, Pillars, hygiene items, global reach, brigade items & giving, large smoke meat meal instead of chili supper.

Good neighbor team that supporting Habibi Afghan family

Needs of the community.....

More groups are popping up to fulfil needs of Neenah and community.

Continue to reach out to show OSLC to the community and to continue gain energy and Evangelism.

More coordination with other church could benefit us to grow outreach in the community.

Dara: Congregations that reach outside their walls tend to flourish in the communities.

Congregations experiment with different outreach. Like providing quarters for laundry at laundromat as an example.

Deployment ministry.

Growth areas for our church....

More energy in the church, example: our anniversary celebration brought many people to the church. Gain further energy outside of OSLC walls.

Grow our marketing and digital ministry, develop more small group ministries.

Goal for the year is connection. Building trust and connection.

Grow our music ministry.

How can synod support us....

Continue to do workshops.

Understanding what other congregations are doing.

Dara is available to do workshops, to help build community, friendships.

Sometimes being there is all you need to do. Be present. Go camping, go to games, sports, etc.

Queue item - Grant item for digital ministry in the synod. Present ideas to apply for grant.

Within the next month synod will have podcasts based on digital ministry.

1st podcast will be featuring how we present ourselves online for churches. (Feb is expected), (Loaves and Fish Fry podcast).

Recommends ALPHA series, big questions of faith for small groups to talk over a meal. Follow up is a series called *Be Like Jesus*. 6-8 studies in the series.

Pastor's Report:

3 Baptisms coming up this month from a family of 5. Three kids getting baptized on 1/28

Christmas went very well and went smoothly. Over 550+ people attended services.

Started Bible study on the book of Acts.

Staff met for the Christmas party on 1/10, turkey dinner was delicious!

Need a Personnel group to help fill Jennifer H. role as digital creator.

Director of Youth, Children, and Family Ministry's Report (Patty):

During Lent, the confirmands helped lead worship. They ushered, acolyted, and read lessons. They really felt connected. The Last Wednesday of Lent, Jim did a Solstice service. He requested that I lead and do the homily. I enjoyed that so much! It was such an honor. The kids made non-bake treats for the congregation that night. I had 5 parent volunteers to help. It was awesome!

We had our combined Christmas Worship program/ Lessons and Carols. A huge shout out to Jim Miller. Once he heard that I wouldn't be able to attend, he started to work. He wrote the lessons in. He helped to stage the kids and practiced with them the Sunday before. Many thanks to Amber Okray also! I am so grateful for all the support I have here!

I have been sending out all kinds of fun stuff to families. On January 21st we will have a brunch for families with kids 5th grade through 12th grade. We will be doing a joint summer service trip. We need to choose a date as well as decide which fund raisers to do and find chaperones for the trip. We are having a SPAM night on Jan 28th. Soda, pizza and movie will be from 6 to 10. After movie, we will play sardines or hide and seek!

Jess Throlson is coming on Jan 29th. She will offer the children's worship and then lead Sunday School. She is bringing at least one camp staff member to help!

We are having a Learn and Grow meeting next week. I will not be able to be there. I received tickets to SIX- the Musical for Christmas. Marcus requested that I write up a tentative plan for the year.

Next month plans to be very busy. Currently on the Synod Youth Board and am helping with 'Journey with Jesus' in February. We are combining middle school and high school kids.

February 1st, I fly out for the ELCA YOUTH NETWORK Extravaganza & return on the 6th. While there I will be participating in an intensive course called Imagination: The Curiosity Tour led by C. McNair Wilson. I am very excited to attend so many interesting workshops.

Treasurer's Report:

December income = \$64,425, YTD income = \$441,900 vs, YTD budget of \$443,300.

December expenses = \$26,945, YTD expenses = \$282,911 vs. YTD budget of \$315,409.

Overall, December ended in the black by \$28,857 bringing YTD in the black by \$44,615.

Ministry Team Reports:

Retirees & Friends –Carol Swannell

Joan Terry hosted a "games and sweets" event today at church. 17 "seasoned" people had a great time learning and playing Cribbage and Kings in the corner.

Next month's event is Feb 6 and will continue with the games theme and will include a couple of board games brought in by the members.

TEC – Kevin Schabo

Team to meet and discuss options for repairing faulty speaker and possible sound system upgrades.

Tech group - Jim inquired with Arrow Audio group with quotes for the front speaker and do other improvements.

Speaker needs to be placed in a new location. Rebalance the speakers,
~\$5,500

New speakers, replace ambient mics and wireless antennas ~\$15,000

Update video system, update projector, streaming, upgrade to full HD,
~\$25,000.

Moving the speaker may require moving the ceiling fan. Proposal to follow.

Council would like to see more definition. Tech team to identify items to improve.

Team will also meet to discuss current status of pianos at OSLC. Existing selection is getting older and more difficult to maintain tune.

Jim, the upright piano doesn't stay in tune. A congregational member has shown interest in possibly getting/replacing with a Grand Piano. Organ also may need to be updated as it is aged. More information needs to be gathered into what exactly is required.

Serve & Reach – Diane Wilfling

Will look to direct funds differently as the Brigade Christmas giving program is well supported.

Looking towards supporting Bletzinger House and possibly identifying members of the church who may need help for our Christmas Giving. Carol Swannell will reach out to Bletzinger House and see how we can be more involved and what their needs are, possibly a game night, and gifts for them, Christmas party.

Council Minutes cont...

Worship & Music – Graham Bradley

Winter Solstice Service was amazing. Goal to advertise it better in the future.

Advent Services went well – attendance was lower

Lessons and Carols – Service got good feedback – Nice addition of the children

Christmas Eve-3:00 and 5:00 services were more popular, 1:00 and 9:00 less attended.

Christmas Day and New Year's Eve/Day were low attendance, Propose not Christmas Day Service next year.

Pam and Rich Garman will give a temple talk in January to get volunteers for serving others.

People tend to show up instead of signing up.

New kiosk "Welcome Center" is set up for signing up volunteers, greeting guests, answering questions.

Joyous Ringers – struggling to get subs.

Confirmation in the Spring – May 21; Baccalaureate - May 20

Old Business:

Facility / Priority Funding

Finance Saving / Available Operating Reserves Account

Savings: \$50,000; Available: \$89,245.32; Allocated: \$77,014; Remaining: \$12,231.32

Rental Property:

No informer listing, no movement yet on a group.

Gary mentioned tenants are staying thru February.

Gary, Diane, Todd or Lee, Karl w. and/or possibly a realtor to be on a team.

Recommendations for the property to be determined, i.e. selling to habitat for humanity or selling to pillars. Develop ourselves? Demolish? Move the house and keep the property?

Personnel Committee - Needs a new chairperson to run the Personnel. Pastor to reach out to a few people.

Council Retreat: Traditional retreat, or an informal retreat (no agenda)? It was mentioned that we could use one of Dara's workshops. Pastor to reach out to Dara for a date.

New Business:

Council Officers for 2023

President – Graham Bradley (2nd Year)

Vice President – Ben Locher (2nd Year)

Secretary – Marcus Shimon (2nd Year)

Treasurers - TBD

Financial Secretary – Carol Swannell

Motion/Second/Carried Strassman/Wilfling to approve of the above Council officers for calendar year 2023. All voting aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcus Shimon, Council Secretary

Notes from 1/10/23 OSLC Serve and Reach Committee

Present – Jennifer Baldwin, Tammy Rabe, Sue Engelbert, Ann Pokel, Barb and Rick Klammer, Rich and Pam Garman, Christa Sanders

Welcome Jennifer Baldwin!

FVCT and Pillars – Next meal February 7 for BOTH

FVCT – The Christmas dinner went well – served 180 to go and 75 dine in meals

Pillars – Pillars served 60 persons Dec 23

Days of serving is changing to 1st Tuesday for FVCT and 2nd Thursday for Pillars. Continue the even months.

Lutheran World Relief – Ann Pokel

The list is available in the Gathering Area and collections are in process.

Christmas Giving – Update

The noisy coin offering earned about \$1,300. We were able to purchase a case of hygiene products, 12 pr gloves, 6 pr mittens, 72 hats, 72 undies, 24 socks and 3 giant rolls of wrapping paper and tape, and 20 earbuds. In addition, the congregation donated mittens, gloves, hats, undies and earbuds.

Discussion about changing our Christmas Giving to a different nonprofit organization or effort in 2023. Will continue to discuss and make a decision this fall.

Bletzinger House

Discussion about increasing our outreach. Carol is reaching out to Scott Peebles

Encouragement Ministry – Ardy Kreuter

status quo

Meet the Habibi's

Attending church 1/15 at 9 a.m., with a cake reception

NEXT meeting – No February meeting, Next meeting March 7 at 6 p.m. via zoom

February 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
29 9am Worship 10am Adult Bible Study 10am Sunday School 1pm AA Hispanic	30 8:30am Pickleball 6pm AA Hispanic	31 11am Staff Meeting	Feb 1 8:30am Pickleball 9am Visitation/Homebound 10am Bible Study - Virtual & 5:30pm Joyous Ringers Rehe 6pm Confirmation 7pm Chancel Choir Rehears	2 1pm Quilting 6pm Pack 3137- Wolves 6pm AA Meeting	3 8:30am Pickleball	4 9am Appleton Conference A 5pm Worship
5 9am Worship 10am Adult Bible Study 10am Sunday School 1pm AA Hispanic	6 8:30am Pickleball 1pm Retirees & Friends 6pm AA Hispanic	7 6pm Worship & Music Team	8 8:30am Pickleball 10am Bible Study - Virtual & 5:30pm Joyous Ringers Rehe 6pm Confirmation 7pm Chancel Choir Rehears	9 6pm AA Meeting	10 8:30am Pickleball	11 5pm Worship
12 9am Worship 10am Adult Bible Study 10am Sunday School 1pm AA Hispanic	13 8:30am Pickleball 10am Knitting 10:15am Rebekah Circle 6pm AA Hispanic	14 9:30am Esther Circle 11am Staff Meeting 6pm Serve & Reach - VIRTU 7pm Council Meeting	15 8:30am Pickleball 10am Bible Study - Virtual & 5:30pm Joyous Ringers Rehe 6pm Confirmation 7pm Chancel Choir Rehears	16 1pm Quilting 6pm AA Meeting	17 8:30am Pickleball	18 5pm Worship
19 9am Worship 10am Adult Bible Study 10am Sunday School 1pm AA Hispanic	20 8:30am Pickleball 6pm AA Hispanic	21 Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras 11am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Women's Book Club	22 Ash Wednesday 8:30am Pickleball 10am Bible Study - Virtual & 5:30pm Joyous Ringers Rehe 6pm Confirmation 7pm Chancel Choir Rehears	23 6pm AA Meeting	24 8:30am Pickleball	25 5pm Worship
26 9am Worship 10am Adult Bible Study 10am Sunday School 1pm AA Hispanic	27 8:30am Pickleball 6pm AA Hispanic	28 11am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Women's Book Club	Mar 1 St. David's Day 8:30am Pickleball 9am Visitation/Homebound 10am Bible Study - Virtual & 5:30pm Joyous Ringers Rehe +2 more	2 1pm Quilting 6pm AA Meeting	3 8:30am Pickleball	4 5pm Worship

Letter From Fox Valley Community Table...

Dear FVCT Partners,

We are so grateful that you are part of our community! Many hands make light work, and together we have done a lot! Let's take a moment to look at the ways we've come together to care for our neighbors with nourishment and friendliness through community meals.

In the year 2022:

17 groups from our community joined together as FVCT to serve our community.

102 meals were prepared and served by these groups because they care.

5,025 people were guests at these meals, and received that care.

This number does not include the volunteer meals, they gave and received care. Many of these guests and volunteers enjoyed conversation and community, which has great value and which we all need.

We adapted and responded to the challenges of the pandemic. We began the year serving lunches to go from the entryway. In May we moved back into the dining room but allowed carry out meals, and allowed additional meals to be taken for others unable to join us in the dining room. In June I relieved Kathleen as the Site Director, and have had the privilege of getting to know and serve with all of you. We continue to listen to our guests and volunteer groups, and adjust to better serve the needs of our community through healthy meals and nourishing conversation.

With deep appreciation from the Board of Directors, myself, and our guests, we thank you for being part of this community. Our guests know FVCT runs on kindness and acts from the heart, they know they matter and their wellbeing is valued. They know you care. We all know it's far more than just a meal.

In Gratitude,
Chrissy Goethel