

VOICE

*Our
Savior's
Lutheran
Church*

March 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 

Dear Our Savior's,

Welcome to the season of Lent in the church. Does that have as much meaning as it used to? Lent seems to have taken a back seat to all the other demands on our lives these days. But what if we looked at this year differently?

Therefore, I challenge you to practice one of the disciplines of Lent during these 40 days before Holy Week. The disciplines of Lent are prayer, fasting, almsgiving (works of love), and repentance. The disciplines of Lent are not meant to be an individual thing, but are meant to turn us toward God and our neighbors in love.

For example, if you choose fasting, you could choose to fast from your phone at the end of the day. I have a bad habit of bringing my phone to bed and end up watching countless YouTube videos about golf or travel. All this does is rob me of valuable time with my spouse and take me away from getting a good night's sleep. You could choose to fast from alcohol during Lent. I am sure those around you would appreciate it... and your body too. Finally, like our sign says in front of the church, you could fast from arguing or complaining.

Fasting, no matter how "good" it looks or how well it is done, if piety is turned inward and not accompanied with fair treatment of others, is empty.

In Isaiah 58:1-12, a good Ash Wednesday text, rather than perpetuate an empty religious practice, the Lord calls the people to a different kind of fast:

"Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?"

Blessed Lent to you all. See you in church or see you online!

Pastor Jon Strasman

Worship Services in March

**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.

Lenten Midweek Worship

March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29
At 6:30 p.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

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.)

Save These Dates!

March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29—**Lenten Midweek Worship** at 6:30 pm
April 2—**Palm Sunday**, Worship at 9:00 am (no donkey walk)
April 6—**Maundy Thursday**, Worship at 6:30 pm
April 7—**Good Friday**, Worship at 6:30 pm
April 9—**Easter** Worship at 7:00, 9:00 & 10:30 am
April 22-23—**New Members** Welcome
April 29-30—Worship with Order of Healing

Midweek Lenten Schedule

Midweek services will be held on Wednesdays during March beginning at 6:30. Each week, we will explore the questions Jesus asked. Guest ministers will preach each week, and the format for worship will be Taize.

March 1—"Who do you say that I am?" Matthew 16:13-20 Pastor Jon Strasman
March 8—"What do you want from me?" Mark 10:35-40, 46-52 Pastor Amy Engebose
March 15—"Why are you so afraid?" Mark 4:35-41 Pastor Jon Strasman
March 22—"Do you want to be made well?" John 5:1-9 Pastor Niveen Sarras, PH.D
March 29—"Do you love me?" John 21:15-19 Pastor Dara Clifford

Flowers for Easter Sunday

This year, we have four options for Easter Sunday: lilies, hyacinths, daffodils, and tulips! We don't have the costs yet, but watch for the weekly Informer for updates. Easter is April 9, and it's going to be beautiful.

"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 February, and you are so generous! Here's the items for March:

- #1. 40 large bars of bath soap - 3 to 4.5 ounces (Irish Spring, Zest, Dial, etc).
- #2. 40 light-weight bath towels (Target, Walmart, etc.).
- #3. 30 packages of cloth diapers (Walmart has some, and you can also get them on Amazon).
- #4. 40 rulers (inches and centimeters).

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 Pokel (wapokel@gmail.com).

Fox Valley Community Table

Shout out to Linda Nornberg, Glenn Armstrong, Nancy Stevenson, Pat Ferrell and Linda Wunderlich for putting on a delicious meal February 7 at the Fox Valley Community Table!

Linda(s) created a colorful fruit salad and chopped taco toppings while the men manned the stove, and Nancy and Carol filled in the rest. Then we joined forces with the high school students to serve 74 meals! That was the best turnout since returning to in-person meals last spring!! Thank you all!! Now who wants to join the fun at our next meal April 4th? Contact Carol Swannell 920-540-9598.

Fox Valley Chorus Concert

The Fox Valley Chorus presents "Easy as Pi" on Sunday, March 12, 3 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 200 S Church Street in Neenah. (Fellowship Hall entrance on Doty Ave). Celebrate Pi Day-where math, music and pie meet! Also performing are Fox Sounds and these quartets: It's About Time, Sweet Addiction, and The Bee's Knees. Tickets are \$10 - call 920-420-2192 or at the door.

Guests are welcome at rehearsals (same location) every Tuesday, 7 -9:30 p.m. Women singers can join members on the risers to enjoy and learn the skill of 4-part harmony. Visit www.foxvalleychorus.org.

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!

Retirees and Friends meet on the first Monday of every month from 1-3:00. Join us on March 6 to play games and eat some sweet treats! Joan Terry is the host. We meet in the Gathering Area at church.

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 March 2 and 16, 1-4pm.

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!

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!

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

February Pastoral Acts

Funerals

Otto Arndt (from St. Marks)

Baptisms

Maecy Pagel (non-member)

Generous Congregation

YTD Totals Through January

	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Actual</i>
Income	\$ 40,395	\$ 35,952
Expenses	\$ 39,313	\$ 40,275
Balance	\$ 1,082	(\$ 4,324)

Don't Forget to Spring Ahead!

Daylight Savings Time
begins on Sunday, March
12, at 2:00 a.m.

Remember to turn your
clocks ahead on Saturday
night so you aren't late for
church on Sunday!



***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!



Summer Service Trip

We are going to Duluth MN June 11th through the 16th. Youth entering and in middle school as well as high school kids are welcome to join us. We will be doing service work and meeting new people all in the name of Christ. There is still time to sign up. I have space for about two more kids to join us.

I have an opportunity for you! I would love to have congregation members sponsor youths who are going. We have a budget set at this time, and fundraising is always necessary. Feel free to give to the YOUTH Mission trip Fund to help offset our cost. If you would like to sponsor a specific youth, I will have names for you.

Annabelle said "I want to go on the summer service trip because I want to get closer to God."

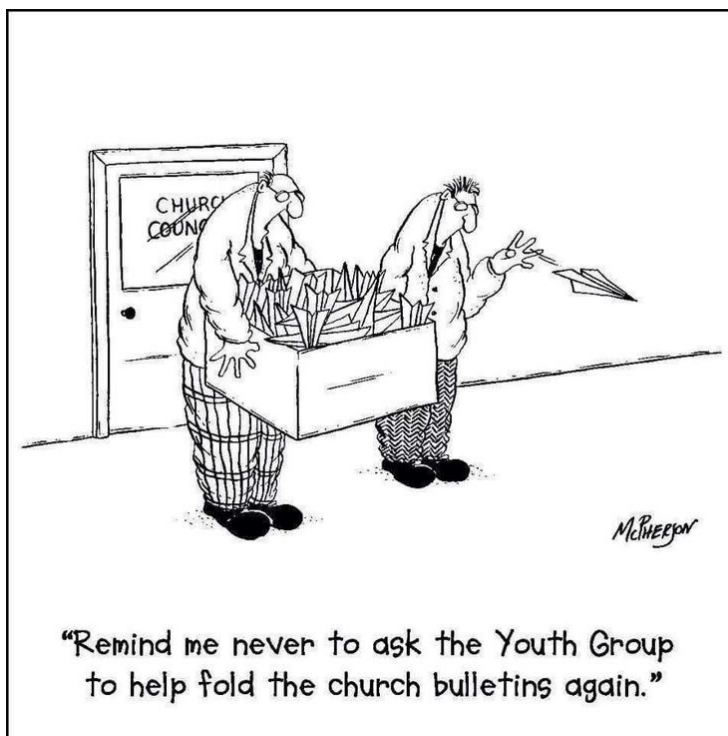
NOTE: I am in search of an adult male who loves kids, loves Christ, can drive and wants to see me go crazy! And he will need to have a background check done. Simple, right? He does not need to know everything, but he needs to be willing to try and have a sense of humor. Please, respond to Patty ASAP! The trip is June 11th through the 16th.

LOPPW Youth Advocacy Event

April 14-16, 2023 | Holiday Inn West - Madison, WI

The Lutheran Office of Public Policy (LOPPW), the Northern Great Lakes Synod, and the five ELCA Synods in Wisconsin invite high school youth and adult leaders who are interested in social justice to a Youth Advocacy Retreat April 14-16, 2023 in Madison, WI.

Contact Patty for more information!



Our Savior's Lutheran Church Council Minutes February 14th, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

Pastor's Report:

We started Cathy Goodman in the office as our temporary office manager through Easter. Welcome aboard Cathy!

Pastoral Acts

Baptism coming up for Maecy Pagel (non-member) on 3/5/2023 at the 9AM worship.

Funeral for Otto Arndt from St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Neenah. I am filling in for Pastor Niveen who was in the Holy Land when Otto died. I did back-up pastoral care for the family.

Ash Wednesday on Feb 22 (Lent Begins)

7AM to 10AM Ashes to go in the carport

Noon worship at St. Paul's with local ELCA churches

6PM Ash Wednesday worship at Our Savior's

Proposed New Language for Holy Communion Practices for children and families:

Communion Classes- at OSLC we welcome children to the communion table as soon as they and their parents are ready in mutual conversation with the pastor or Director of Children Youth and Family Ministry. AND we offer instruction and celebration of learning about the meaning of communion as well. All ages, preschool and up, are welcome to attend the class. We recommend that by 2nd grade children have taken the class. This is a parent/caring adult and child class, please have one adult with your child/children.

See document from the ELCA Document "The Use of the Means of Grace" pages 38-41.

Adult Bible Study on the Book of Acts continues in the Library on Sundays at 10 AM.

Small Groups are coming in the Fall of 2023. I am backing off on starting them now so we don't bump into summer.

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

We had a meeting with Learn and Grow this month. I was absent, but I learned some things and that is great! Sunday School and Confirmation keep on going! Attendance is good, and relationships are being built! The almighty snack afterwards is very well received! What I have noticed is that parents are sticking around during Sunday School and talking with each other. That is a huge bonus. What a great way to build community!

The summer service trip is on! We are going to the Quad Cities in Iowa. I have 5 kids going so far. I will be reaching out to other congregations to see if they are interested in joining us. I do need a male chaperone to join us. This does not need to be a parent, sometimes it's better if it's not a parent.

We have set a date for a church wide camping trip. August 4th through 6th. It will be right after VBS. In March we have Beginning Youth Group Camp (BYG) at Imago Dei Village. I currently have 9 kids from grades 2nd to 5th attending and I have a chaperone. Thanks Ben!

We had our first SPAM night! Soda, pizza and a movie is something I have done for years, but this blew my mind! I had 17 elementary kids, 2 confirmation students and 2 high school students. Three parents stayed to help. We had such a great time! Sardines was played afterwards! Littles were pooped by the time they left!

I am on the Synod Youth Board and have been busy with meetings to finish up the planning. It is happening this coming weekend. I am very excited about it. I do not have any kids coming from OSLC; however, I have hope for next year.

This past weekend I preached both Saturday and Sunday. I am very grateful for Dewey Wisner for presiding. I really enjoyed the process. Pastor and I have talked about me preaching every other month. I am excited for that prospect.

February 1st, I flew out to CA for the ELCA Youth Workers Extravaganza. This yearly event is held around the country for youth leaders, volunteers and Pastors. The worship and large group times are phenomenal and the workshops always provide great information. Thank you for allowing me the time away to attend this gathering.

On Saturday Joan Terry and I provided day care for folks attending the Marriage Retreat that Doug Bisbee held. We had two kids and had a great time!

Treasurer's Report:

January income = \$35,952, vs, YTD budget of \$40,395.

January expenses = \$40,275, vs. YTD budget of \$39,313.

Overall, January ended in the red by \$4,323 bringing year-to-date in the red by \$4,323.

Ministry Team Reports:

TEC – Kevin Schabo

Summary of discussion on January 18th:

Jim Miller's current investigation with Arrow AV Group in Appleton for repair of the speaker (Model Danley SM60F) plus other more extensive implementations that Arrow proposed.

Made Jim aware council is requesting at least one additional quote (or more if obtainable).

Peek could be a company to consider.

General server issues with the church network.

Video issues with the monitors located near the Behringer mixer.

Current camera placement.

Jim is going to research the video switcher more in general to see if that could be utilized better.

Powering the entire audio system on, in the correct order to help alleviate future speaker repair issues.

Eventually moving the streaming from the old cry room to the Behringer mixer area or possibly the audio equipment to the cry room.

The first priority from the discussion will be:

Speaker replacement

Power disbursement solution

Tuning the system

Secondary priority:

Video switcher operating properly.

Chris and Jim prep for equipment to be moved somewhere.

Finance – Cheryl Timm

The team reviewed the 2022 end-of-year financials and requested council to decide on what to do with the 2022 surplus.

The Team agreed to submit a request to the Foundation for educational expenses incurred (\$4,711) in 2022. We identified \$13,625 in the 2022 budget that would be requested from the Foundation if the line items were actually spent.

We are still waiting for a final list of capital projects with cost estimates and dates so we can formalize an ongoing Capital Campaign. Requested this from council.

Stewardship Campaign – We received 51 pledges totaling \$194,615. Todd and Cheryl created and sent out a thank you letter to all those who returned their pledge sheet.

Learn & Grow/Youth – Marcus Shimon

Meeting Held January 17th. Patty prepared her updated schedule for the 2023 year so far and this was reviewed as a time. Team was happy with all her progress so far and the fun events she has planned. Next meeting March 21st.

Personnel – Cheryl Timm

Did not meet in person, but did work with Pastor Jon via email to fill the position of Temporary Office Manager. Cathy Goodman was hired.

Council Minutes cont...

Will meet in the near future to discuss combining the Office Manager and Communications Assistant roles into one position (Jennifer Hurley has given notice).

Worship & Music – Graham Bradley

Ashes to Go on Feb 22 from 7-10AM in the carport. We have two worship options for Ash Wed. Noon at St. Paul's Lutheran in Neenah with the other ELCA churches and 6 PM at Our Savior's.

Our Lenten Mid-week worship will be at 6:30 on Wednesdays with Taize worship and the Word focusing on "The Questions Jesus Asked". We will have 4 different voices sharing the message. Pastor Niveen from St. Marks, Pastor Amy from St. Paul's and Pastor Dara Clifford.

Old Business:

Facility / Priority Funding / Finance Saving / Available Operating Reserves Account

After completion of capital spending in year 2022, Non-Operating Reserve and Capital repair account has a remaining balance of \$24,165.32. Discussion will continue on how to best utilize these funds.

Rental Property Update

The team met to discuss the options for the rental property. The group seemed most interested in pursuing the possibility of renting to a dental group interested in bringing students from Haiti. The students would be enrolled in classes at Fox Valley Tech dental program.

Committee is not ready to make a recommendation to the Council. We are doing a walk through 2/13/23.

Personal Committee—A new member was added to the committee.

Council Officers for 2023 were confirmed.

President – Graham Bradley

Vice President – Ben Locher

Secretary – Marcus Shimon

Treasurers – Cheryl Timm

Financial Secretary – Carol Swannell

New Business:

Proposed New Language for Holy Communion Practice

Discussions were held related to how OSLC can and should handle our recommendations and restrictions related to the Sacrament of Communion.

Motion/Second/Carried Strasman/Swannell to utilize the guidance in the ELCA Document "The Use of the Means of Grace" that allows parents to decide if their child is ready to receive communion and not restrict this to only 2nd grade children. If asked, our church will still recommend an age. All voting aye.

Exit Interview with Andrea Long

Graham performed an exit interview with Andrea Long and shared her feedback with the council. The council extended their thanks and gratitude to her time working for OSLC.

Server (Online Data Storage) Strategy

Current Servers are no longer being supported past October 2023. Multiple options for replacement were discussed with the TEC team. Minimum costs to replace our server would start at \$6,500 and ranged up to \$13,500.

The team is also investigating the option to no longer having physical hardware/servers and using online cloud-based storage.

Appleton Synod Summary

The Appleton Synod is a sub group of the Northeast Wisconsin ELCA Synod. A meeting was held where they presented their annual review and the showed the work and grants that they have been doing with the money they receive.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcus Shimon, Council Secretary

March 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 8:30am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9am Worship 10am Adult Bible Study 10am Sunday School 11am Pickleball 1pm AA Hispanic	27 9am Pickleball 6pm AA Hispanic	28 10am Winter Walking Group 6:30pm Women's Book Club	Mar 1 St. David's Day 9am Pickleball 9am Visitation/Homebound 10am Bible Study - Virtual & +2 more 6pm Confirmation	2 10am Winter Walking Group 1pm Quilting 6pm AA Meeting	3 9am Pickleball	4 3pm AA Hispanic 5pm Worship
5 9am Worship w/Baptism 10am Adult Bible Study 10am Sunday School 11am Pickleball 1pm AA Hispanic	6 Pastor Jon @ Adaptive Leadership Cohort 9am Pickleball 1pm Retirees & Friends 6pm AA Hispanic	7 10am Winter Walking Group 7pm Worship & Music Team	8 9am Pickleball 10am Bible Study - Virtual & 6pm AA Meeting 6pm Confirmation 6:30pm Midweek Lenten Wor 7pm Chancel Choir Rehears	9 10am Winter Walking Group 6pm AA Meeting	10 9am Pickleball	11 5pm Worship
12 9am Worship 10am Adult Bible Study 10am Sunday School 11am Pickleball 1pm AA Hispanic	13 9am Pickleball 10am Knitting 10-11am Rebekah Circle 6pm AA Hispanic	14 9:30am Esther Circle 10am Winter Walking Group 11am Staff Meeting 6pm Serve & Reach - VIRTU 7pm Council Meeting	15 9am Pickleball 10am Bible Study - Virtual & 12pm Finance Meeting 1pm Quilting 6pm AA Meeting 7pm Chancel Choir Rehears	16 10am Winter Walking Group	17 St. Patrick's Day 9am Pickleball	18 5pm Worship
19 9am Worship 10am Adult Bible Study 10am Sunday School 11am Pickleball 1pm AA Hispanic	20 9am Pickleball 6pm AA Hispanic	21 10am Winter Walking Group 6pm Learn & Grow Team Me	22 9am Pickleball 10am Bible Study - Virtual & 6pm AA Meeting 6pm Confirmation 6:30pm Midweek Lenten Wor 7pm Chancel Choir Rehears	23 10am Winter Walking Group 6pm AA Meeting	24 9am Pickleball	25 5pm Worship
28 9am Worship 10am Adult Bible Study 10am Sunday School 11am Pickleball 1pm AA Hispanic	27 9am Pickleball 6pm AA Hispanic	28 10am Winter Walking Group 11am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Women's Book Club	29 9am Pickleball 10am Bible Study - Virtual & 6pm AA Meeting 6pm Confirmation 6:30pm Midweek Lenten Wor 7pm Chancel Choir Rehears	30 10am Winter Walking Group 6pm AA Meeting	31 9am Pickleball	Apr 1 5pm Worship