



*Our
Savior's
Lutheran
Church*

April 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



May you have a blessed Holy Week April 1-9!

As we ponder the last week of Jesus' life and his resurrection, may you see a God who first had to go through the cross before the joy of the resurrection. That means we have a God who can be identified in our times of loss and pain... a God who is deeply present with us in our cross moments in life. But at Easter, we meet a God who overcomes death and the grave, hence giving us hope and new life now. As Christians we believe in the resurrection. There is always life after death!

We will kick off Holy Week with Palm/Passion Saturday/Sunday on April 1-2. On Sunday, we will have the memorable donkey walk around the church. Last year was the first time I experienced this, and it was a joy. For those who want to join the procession of palms in worship, meet in the gathering area then enter the church with our palms as our Chancel Choir sings Hosanna. The sermon will come early in the service followed by a full reading of the Passion Gospel by several readers in our congregation. The reason we hear the Passion Gospel on Palm Sunday is because not everyone will come to Good Friday Worship where you will hear John's version of the Passion.

Next, we will have Maundy Thursday on April 6 at 6:30PM. "Maundy" comes from the Latin word "Mandatum". On this night, Jesus gave a new mandate to his disciples at the Last Supper saying, "Just as I have loved you, you ought to love one another." This follows his demonstration of love when he washed their feet. We will worship differently this year. We will have a Dinner Church. It will be a simple soup/bread supper in the gym. We will begin with the meal. And as we are finishing up, we will read John 13 and have an interactive sermon and guided table conversations. We will sing to guitar music. We will also have stations for prayer, laying on of hands and anointing, and foot washing. Those stations will be available during the table conversations. It is up to you if you want to go to a station. Finally, we will conclude the evening with communion and the promise of forgiveness attached to the meal.

Good Friday worship is on April 7 at 6:30PM. This will be a traditional Good Friday Tenebrae (darkness) worship. That means we will gather in silence with no prelude. We will move from light into darkness. After each reading of the passion a candle will be extinguished and lights dimmed. The readings will conclude with the slamming of the book representing the tomb being sealed. We will depart in silence in the darkness as we wait for Easter.

On Saturday evening we will meet at our normal 5PM time. We will use the Easter Vigil liturgy and some of the Easter Vigil readings. This service will begin around a fire in the carport area. If we used all the readings, it could be a 3-hour service. But ours will be less than an hour. We will explore God's saving acts throughout history and ponder the evening that Christ crossed over from death into life.

On Easter Sunday, we will have a 7, 9, and 10:30AM worship. I am also told we will have an egg hunt for the Kids. Check out Patty Koplitz's article. Come and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus! This is the reason the church continues to gather on Sundays all year. It is the "Lord's Day", the day of the resurrection. The first sermon ever preached was "he is risen". We proclaim, "Hallelujah! Christ is Risen!" people would respond, "Christ is risen indeed, Hallelujah!"

If you want a full picture of the week, come to all the services... or come when you can. We will livestream the 9AM Worship on Easter. Blessed Holy Week! -Pastor Jon

Worship Services in April

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.

See Easter Worship
Dates to the Right



Or Join Us For Virtual/
On-line Worship
Sundays – 9:00 a.m.
and all Special Services
on our Facebook and
You Tube Channels

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!

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!

April 2—**Palm Sunday**, Worship at 9:00 am, **Donkey Walk** is back—walk begins at 8:15!
April 6—**Maundy Thursday**, Worship with Soup Supper 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
May 7—Last day of Sunday School
May 20—**Baccalaureate Service** with reception
May 21—**Confirmation** (will now be held each spring)
July 31-August 3—**Vacation Bible School** held at St. Mark's

The Great, Incredible Easter Egg Hunt

We will have an Easter egg hunt after the 9AM and the 10:30AM services on Easter Sunday. Kids of all ages are welcome to participate. Bring something for the kids to take their prizes home in! Location of the hunt is dependent on the weather!

Flowers for Easter Sunday

This year, we have four options for Easter Sunday: lilies, hyacinths, daffodils, and tulips! Order forms are at the Welcome Center in the Gathering Area. Lilies (\$8), tulips (\$10), daffodils (\$10) and hyacinths (\$10) can be ordered for Easter Sunday on April 9th.

If you are unable to come get an order form, money can be sent in to the church office. Make sure to label it for the Easter Flower Sale. You can also indicate if the flowers are given in honor of something or in memory of someone.

First Communion Class

All are welcome! We will have a first communion prep for all families on Saturday April 22 at 9am until 1pm.

Traditionally, Our Saviors prepared 2nd grade children for this occasion. We are changing our model. Children of all ages are welcome. We would like a parent to join the child. We will learn the story of the Passover, the Last supper and what communion means to us. We will also make something special and eat together. Please contact Patty at church if you will be attending.

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

Help Serve Bletzinger House Palm Sunday Brunch

Join us on April 2nd to share food and fellowship with the residents of Bletzinger House!

Bletzinger House is a transitional living facility that assists people with mental illness and substance abuse issues. It is our local mission recipient.

We will be serving brunch to the residents at Bletzinger House immediately after Palm Sunday Mass at 10:30am. There are opportunities to donate/make food, donate items for Easter baskets, or just hang out and socialize. It's a perfect way to share our love for Jesus during Lent, and kick off Holy Week!

Please contact Jennifer Baldwin if you'd like to help or be a part of this event. (920) 574-6434 or jbaldwin700@yahoo.com

Ladies of OSLC

Join Patty for a WELCA meeting April 15th from 9am to 1pm at All Saints Church in Oshkosh. There will be a boxed lunch served and the cost is \$15 per person. The guest speaker will be Mary Volkman from Prince of Peace, Appleton. She will be talking about a recent trip to the Holy Lands that some of the ladies joined her on! Please RSVP to Patty at church.

Thanks for the Memories: A Tribute to Jim Hart

Presented by Jubricosa Arts Academy at The Grand Oshkosh,
100 High Street, Oshkosh
Friday-Saturday, April 7-8, 2023 | 7:00 p.m.

Jim Hart, who recently passed away, was a member of Our Savior's and also directed a few community musical productions held here in our gym. Join Jubricosa Arts in a celebration of Jim's 30 years as actor, director, teacher and producer throughout the Fox Valley. Reminisce through singing, dancing and sharing stories about a venture that led Jim to start community groups, youth theatre classes and school drama programs. Tickets: \$18 - \$24. Box office is 920-424-2350.

OSLC Food Pantry Needs -

The OSLC Food Pantry is getting much use thanks to the Blessing Box on Lennox Street. We are always in need of all non-perishable items.

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 April 3 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 April 6 and 20, 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!

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

March Pastoral Acts

Funerals

Frieda Evans, March 11

Baptisms

Macey Pagel, March 5

Generous Congregation

YTD Totals Through February

	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Actual</i>
Income	\$ 80,789	\$ 68,987
Expenses	\$ 78,625	\$ 78,726
Balance	\$ 2,164	(\$ 9,739)

The staff
of
Our Savior's wishes
you a very
Happy
Easter!



***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!



We Are Looking For Graduates!

Do you know of a senior in high school, or a young adult graduating from college? We will be having a Baccalaureate Service for them on Saturday, May 20. We would love to honor your young adult with a small reception afterwards. I would love a photo and short bio of their future plans. Thanks in advance. *Patty at pkoplitz@our-saviors.org*

Confirmation Sunday, May 21 at 9AM Service

Our eighth grade youth are preparing for their confirmation on May 21st. They are writing up faith statements and picking bible verses. We will offer a small reception afterwards so that the congregation may take time and congratulate them.

Sponsor a Youth from OSLC!

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. There are also individual needs that you can give towards: gas and t shirts. There are envelopes available at the welcome center and in the office!

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



The Beginning Youth Group from OSLC at Imago Dei Village for a fun weekend in March!

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

Pastor's Report:

Pastoral Acts

March 5 – Baptism of Macey Pagel. New to Our Savior's. Mom is Catholic and Dad is Lutheran. Parents haven't joined at this time. But Macey is a member.

March 11 – Funeral for Frieda Evans at Westgor. Frieda was a 102 year-old member of OSLC.

June 4 or June 11 – Upcoming Baptism for Sarah and Matthew Mischo's son. Sarah is Karl and Linda Wunderlich's daughter.

Continuing Education

I was asked by the Bishop's office to participate in an Adaptive Leadership Cohort during 2023 sponsored by Luther Seminary and the Siebert Foundation. My project will be looking at ways our church can make deeper, authentic connections in our community with our neighbors, with each other, and with our online worshippers. I will be doing a lot of one-to-one visits with people and get a small group involved as a sounding board for my project. If you are interested or have ideas, let me know.

I am also involved in a clergy colleague group with a therapist from Samaritan Counseling Center in Menasha. We meet once a month for devotions, check-ins, case studies, and support. Doug Bisbee, former Lutheran Pastor, is our therapist who facilitates the meetings. I look forward to this meeting to hear how other churches are doing, to support my colleagues, and to learn from them.

Word and Sacrament

I am involved in two Bible Studies. I facilitate one and lead the other. Our Wednesday group that studies the lectionary texts for the week @ 10AM and a Sunday study on the Book of Acts @ 10AM. All are welcome!

I coordinate the Homebound Communion Team that goes out to our homebound folks and brings communion. If you know of anyone who needs to be visited and wants communion, contact our church office.

VBS – I plan to play music again at our joint ELCA VBS in Neenah @ St. Mark's the first week in August.

Staffing

Since Andrea Madsen left, Cathy Goodman has been working as our Office Manager on Tues-Thurs from 8:30-12:30 each week. Sue Englebert will be coming in on March 24th and Mondays and Fridays during April. I have not done a lot with the job description as of yet as we are looking at combining this job with the Marketing Assistant Job. Jennifer Hurley will be moving on from her role sometime after Easter. I will work with her on determining an end date and transition. I was just taking time to catch my breath before reposting the job. Cathy is an excellent presence in the office and will help coordinate our ushers and greeters while we are in transition. Also, thanks to Sue Englebert for helping out in the office.

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

Last month, I attended a joint workshop between our Synod and the Green Bay Catholic Diocese. It was called Our Baptismal Calling: Salt. From there I drove to Imago Dei Village to attend the Journey with Jesus retreat for the weekend. I am currently co-chair on the Synod Youth Board and was thrilled with the outcome of the retreat. We had 67 youth there along with a variety of adult chaperones. The evaluations were all positive and we are so excited to get this going again. Next year I will bring kids!

We had a Learn and Grow committee meeting that I was unable to attend. But I received some good feedback. I met with Sunday School teachers and we decided that the last day of Sunday School will be May 7th. I am calling it the Sunday School Blast. We have 2 bouncy houses to use, we will have carnival games & prizes. We will invite the neighborhood and congregation to join and will be grilling burgers

and hot dogs and provide lunch. There will be a free will offering for lunch to raise money for the Summer Service Trip.

This summer we are going to Duluth MN June 11-16th. I have 6 kids dedicated to coming and 2 more that are thinking about it. I am having a meeting on March 19th at 1:00 to give them more information. Most of the kids I'm taking have never been on such a trip and there is a little concern on what it looks like.

I am in need of a male chaperone for this trip. I am requesting a man 20 or over, can drive, works hard, can survive a week with little sleep, like kids and be able to care for me! Having a sense of humor is important too! I am not currently asking anyone directly as I really want this to be Holy Spirit driven. I would love someone who feels called to do this. That will make my life so much easier. I would prefer to find someone sooner than later so that they can be involved with meetings and fundraising. I will start directly asking men in a month though. This is coming up fast!

One of the things that we are doing to raise money for the trip is to simply ask. I have envelopes printed for congregation members to offer what they want to. My goal is to raise \$3000 or more. We need about \$2600 more for the trip, however. Next year is the National Youth Gathering and I am hoping to have kids join me for that. We will send notes to those who sponsor a youth and we will offer a lunch after the trip to thank them.

This weekend we are going to BYG (Beginning Youth Group). This retreat is for kids in second grade through fifth grade. Ben Lochner is joining us. We have 9 kids coming along. I am so excited. This is always one of my favorite retreats! Pray for good driving weather on Friday!

Treasurer's Report:

February income = \$30,095, Year-to-date income = \$66,047 vs, YTD budget of \$78,289.

February expenses = \$38,450, YTD expenses = \$78,726 vs. YTD budget of \$78,625.

Overall, February ended in the red by \$5,415 bringing YTD in the red by \$9,738.

Ministry Team Reports:

TEC – Kevin Schabo

Summary of discussion on March 6th:

Discussed the current video streaming setup and how to work through microphones and use of technology during the services.

Talked through the alter lighting and what needs to be turned on during the service.

Continuing to work through and develop plan for how to upgrade/fix the audio system. Received updated quotes on the topic.

Serve & Reach – Diane Wilfling

Palm Sunday Brunch at the Bletzinger House to be served by volunteers.

Organizing the annual Animal Shelter clean-up for the first weekend in May.

Worship & Music – Graham Bradley

Joan Terry will be helping to coordinate the Altar Guild.

We are in need of a greeter coordinator as Pam Vorland has stepped down, Cathy Goodman currently supporting.

Ashes to go was light this year, weather may have contributed

Acolytes are being coordinated through sign up genius

Sanctuary Speakers were discussed from Tech Team and suggested to engage memorials.

BIGGER BULLETINS, legal size paper allows for music to be more clearly read.

Other

Easter Flowers

Bring back Soup Suppers

Baccalaureate – May 20

Confirmation – May 21 Chancel Choir sings

Old Business:

Staffing Update

Pastor led a discussion related to the current staffing and open positions within the church.

Council Minutes cont...

Talked through the potential options of consolidating some roles or expanding some other rolls to fit all the church needs. Current target is to propose how to fill the open positions with council during the April council meeting.

Net Operating Reserves: \$68,700

Rental Property Update

Committee is continuing to review options on what to recommend as a path forward with the rental property. Options include; Possibly selling the home, continue to rent the home, selling to habitat for humanity.

Team working in parallel to understand what repairs & costs would be required to bring the home back into a rentable condition.

Council Retreat

Pastor has been working with Dara on aligning to a date that works for the council team on a potential Saturday.

Computer Server Update/Strategy

Recommendation from the TEC strategist is to keep utilizing a server for a number of key benefits. This would cost ~\$10,500 to upgrade to a new server adequate to fit OSLC's needs. Another option would be to utilize cloud-based storage.

Lounge Bathroom

The lounge bathroom's reoccurring plumbing incident has returned. A tree root has grown into the pipe that leads to clogs.

Motion/Second/Carried Shimon/Wilfling to approve spending up to \$7,000 to fix our bathroom sewer pipe to a working condition. All voting aye.

New Business:

Usher Coordinator - An update was provided to our usher coordinator.

Directories ordered, 4x6 Council Portraits will be posted.

Council Capital 2023

Operating Reserve Supplemented by capital repairs, \$8,674.

Continued discussion around strategy behind prioritizing our repairs and building improvements.

Motion/Second/Carried Strassman/Lochner to approve spending up to \$5,000 to fix the sanctuary sound. All voting aye.

Church Redbook

An update was provided as to the status of the Redbook (a log that tracks all of our existing and past church members) and options we have in relation to continuing to update the book or transitioning to a more modern solution.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcus Shimon, Council Secretary

Minutes of 3/14/23 OSLC Serve and Reach Committee

FVCT and Pillars - the sign-ups for April are almost full! Contact the church office, sign up in the Welcome Center or use Sign Up Genius.

FVCT – the next meal is April 4th

Pillars – the next meal is April 13

Lutheran World Relief

Update - the congregation continues to be generous in providing specific items for LWR. There is a needs list at the Welcome Center

Bletzinger House

We will be serving Brunch at the Bletzinger House on April 2 after Palm Sunday Services. See the Informer or call the church office to participate in this fellowship opportunity, or call/text Jennifer Baldwin @ (920) 574-6434 to find out more.

Encouragement Ministry – Ardy Kreuter

Let Ardy Kreuter or the church office know if you would like an encouraging note sent to someone.

Neenah Animal Shelter Spring Clean up

Pam Garman will reach out to the Animal Shelter to see if they want "our hands" for the Spring Clean up. We will announce in the Informer and May Voice.

NEXT meeting – April 11

April 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 +3 more	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 +2 more	30 10am Winter Walking Group 10am AA Meeting	31 9am Pickleball	Apr 1 5pm Worship
2 Palm Sunday 9am Worship 10am Adult Bible Study +2 more	3 9am Pickleball 1pm Retirees & Friends 6pm AA Hispanic	4 10am Winter Walking Group 7pm Worship & Music Team	5 9am Pickleball 9am Visitation/Homebound 10am Bible Study - Virtual & 1pm Quilting +2 more	6 Maundy Thursday 10am Winter Walking Group 10am AA Meeting +2 more	7 Good Friday 9am Pickleball 6:30pm Good Friday Worship	8 Holy Saturday 5pm Worship
9 Easter Sunday 7am Worship 9am Worship +3 more	10 Easter Monday 9am Pickleball 10am Knitting +2 more	11 9:30am Esther Circle 10am Winter Walking Group 11am Staff Meeting +2 more	12 9am Pickleball 10am Bible Study - Virtual & 6pm AA Meeting 6pm Confirmation +2 more	13 10am Winter Walking Group 10am AA Meeting	14 9am Pickleball	15 4:30pm Joyous Ringers 5pm Worship
16 9am Worship 10am Adult Bible Study 10am Sunday School +2 more	17 9am Pickleball 6pm AA Hispanic	18 10am Winter Walking Group	19 9am Pickleball 10am Bible Study - Virtual & 6pm AA Meeting 6pm Confirmation 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	20 10am Winter Walking Group 10am AA Meeting	21 9am Pickleball	22 9am Communion Class 3:30pm New Members Potluc 5pm Worship - New Member
23 9am Worship - New Member 10am Adult Bible Study 10am Sunday School +2 more	24 9am Pickleball 6pm AA Hispanic	25 10am Winter Walking Group 11am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Women's Book Club	26 9am Pickleball 10am Bible Study - Virtual & 6pm AA Meeting 6pm Confirmation 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	27 10am Winter Walking Group 10am AA Meeting	28 9am Pickleball	29 5pm Worship w/Healing
30 9am Worship w/Healing 10am Adult Bible Study 10am Sunday School +2 more	May 1 1pm Retirees & Friends 6pm AA Hispanic	2 7pm Worship & Music Team	3 9am Visitation/Homebound 10am Bible Study - Virtual & 6pm AA Meeting 6pm Confirmation 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	4 1pm Quilting 10am AA Meeting	5 5pm Worship	6