

VOICE

*Our
Savior's
Lutheran
Church*

May 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 Friends in Christ, have a blessed May!

I am doing a new Instagram and Facebook series during the Season of Easter called “Practicing Resurrection in Daily Life”.

I am trying to find new ways to connect to all of you beyond the walls of the church. Sadly, due to the pandemic or other matters, I feel we have missed out on opportunities to get to know each other. Because of the busyness of life, we don't always get to see each other on the weekends. Or, you are tuning in online. And seeing that many of you have smart phones at your fingertips, making short videos on “Practicing Resurrection in Daily Life” is a start.

Thanks to Connie Wisner for sharing, I am using Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat's blog on their series called “Naming the Days” as a springboard for my reflections. On their website they have “37 ways to make rebirth and renewal a practice in everyday life”. (<https://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/practices/naming-th-days>).

The first one I did was “Walk the path of beauty and notice the spiritual radiance in people, places, and growing things.” I planted some seeds with my six year-old to see if they would grow. These were old seeds that wintered in my garage. It was going to be a surprise if any of them grew. The first to pop up were the peas and corn. It is a joy seeing what is new each day. But some of the seeds didn't take, or I am not patient enough to wait for them to germinate. I find God's presence in growing things. I can't wait to get my garden planted this year. That one warm week got me excited to emerge from our home and spend more time outside.

Another way I practice resurrection is through visiting the saints. A seminary professor once said, “When in doubt, get out”. Get out of the building and visit the saints. And yes, all of you are included in the word “saint.” As Luther said, we are simultaneously “saint and sinner.” I find God's beauty and radiance in people too. My faith is strengthened when I visit church members who share their love for Jesus. I met Keith Zuleger at he and Donna's home last week. We found we share a love for fishing and Wisconsin sports. Keith loves hopping on the riding mower as a way to get out in God's creation. We shared communion and the joy in meeting one another face to face. I told him I would bring him some fish as he can't get out himself anymore. I said, “I will have to tell my wife that I need to fish more in order to bring fish to parishioners.” We laughed.

Stay tuned to this new series of short videos on Facebook and Instagram. Here are the links to our pages. May sure your like, subscribe, and ring that bell for notifications:

<https://www.facebook.com/oursaviorsneenah>

<https://www.instagram.com/oursaviorslutheranchurchneenah/>

In Resurrection Peace,
Pastor Jon

P.S. If you would like me to visit you, contact the church office at 920-725-3956 or email me at jstrasman@our-saviors.org

Worship Services in May

**Join us for Worship
Every Week**
Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.
Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

**Or Join Us For Virtual/
On-line Worship**
Sundays – 9:00 a.m.

On our Facebook and
You Tube Channels

The Picture Directory

The new directory had a few issues; they are being reprinted and will be available soon. Thank you for your patience!

2023 Flower Chart is 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 continues 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 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

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who supported the **Easter Flower Sale**. The sanctuary looked beautiful for our Easter services.

Thank you to the **Chancel Choir** members for sharing your gift of singing during our Palm/Passion Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter Day services.

Thank you to all the **Readers** that participated in the Passion Reading on Palm/Passion weekend.

Thank you to everyone who helped with **Dinner Church on Maundy Thursday**. This service was well received and we hope to make it a new tradition at OSLC.

Thank you to all the **Readers** that participated in the dramatic readings of the Gospel during the 3rd, 4th and 5th weekends of Lent.

The Final VOICE

This issue is the final issue of our monthly newsletter, The VOICE. Jennifer Hurley, our Communications Assistant, will be retiring at the end of April after ten years at Our Savior's. Her grandchildren, the summer cottage and some travel plans are calling her name, and it's time to move on. We wish her well!

Meanwhile, Pastor Jon and the staff are figuring out the best way to continue communicating our church events to you. Keep an eye out for the weekly Informer, which comes out each Thursday afternoon, for details on upcoming events.

Spring Clean Up in our Own Backyard

We are working in our own backyard this spring! If you are available during the day on Tuesday May 16, to do some yard work at church, please join us. We will be working from 9 am to 3 pm - come for an hour or for the day. Lunch will be provided. We are working with Chris Swender to determine the work that needs to be done. Let's have a good turn out and lots of fun in the process! Sign up at the Welcome Center or call the church office.

“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 a number of items, and you’ve been so generous! For the month of May, we will focus on the Personal Care kits.

Here are the items for May:

- #1. 50 nail clippers (regular clippers and larger clippers).
- #2. 40 large bath soap (Zest, Irish Spring, etc).
- #3. 35 bath towels: these should be light-weight, and any colors are fine, except white. The dimensions for the towels range from 20”x40” to 27”x52.” Walmart, Target, and Amazon have inexpensive towels (i.e., \$3-6 for each towel).

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).

Guatemala Mission Trip 2024

We are in the beginning stages of planning the 2024 Mission Trip to Guatemala. The potential dates are March 9-16. NHS Spring Break in 2024 is the week after Easter, and From Houses to Homes does not build homes that week. High Schoolers must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

If you are interested and want to find out more, or already know you want to be part of it, let the Church office know or contact Pam Garman pamgarman2@gmail.com/ 920-915-2272.

Multi-Generational Faith Formation Project

John 21:17—He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.

We need help! Patty wants to build some raised garden beds, but doesn't know how to hammer a nail. We need donations of lumber and the proper equipment to make them. As well as the experience! We'd like families of all kinds to join in on the making and setting up of these to use outside and provide additional foods for our food pantry!

This will take place after worship on Sundays, so dress properly. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Welcome center for your help. The dates will be May 14th, 21st and 28th.

Bletzinger House

We had a wonderful Palm Sunday Brunch led by Jennifer Baldwin on April 2. We served 14 residents, volunteers and staff a meal and socialized with each other. Jennifer and Diane Wilfling provided Easter Baskets which were very well received. We are planning a summer cookout in June or July - watch for more information. Sharing a meal with those who don't always feel welcomed is what we are called to do!

Pillars Adult Shelter

Thank you to Cindy Palm, Kelly Krueger, Jennifer Baldwin, Tammy Rabe and Angela and Emma Huss for serving dinner to 65 persons at the Pillars Adult Shelter on April 13. We served lasagna, beans, pears and cookies. The best part is always showing the persons experiencing homelessness that we care about them!

OSLC Food Pantry Needs

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

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 May 4 and 18, 1-4pm.

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

April Pastoral Acts

Funerals

Lynn Anklaam, April 8

First Communion

Ellie Lynwood, April 22

Generous Congregation

YTD Totals Through March

	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Actual</i>
Income	\$121,184	\$108,862
Expenses	\$117,938	\$120,999
Balance	\$ 3,246	(\$ 12,137)

Please Welcome These New Members to Our Savior's

The Gross Family -
Chris, Johanna, Clara & Ben
Dwight & Mary Krampien

Congratulations to These Newly Confirmed Students

Barrett Bjornstad
Kamryn Christensen
Brooke Meier
Addie Lauer
Hunter Brown
Jaxson Sroka
Trevor Ricketts
Cashtin Tiedt
Alissa Ebel-Ankllam
Elliot Bluemke
Ashton Van Beek

***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...

Bake Sale

On May 6 and 7, we will be having a bake sale to help raise funds for our Youth Summer Service Trip to Duluth, MN.

Sunday School Blast Off!

We are celebrating the last day of Sunday School on May 7 with so many fun things! Everyone is invited to join us. There will be two bouncy houses, games for all ages and a cook-out for lunch. Please feel free to bring friends, neighbors, grandkids—anyone you can think of! It will be held right after worship. See you there.

Spring Clean-Up at Imago Dei Village!

Who: All are welcome.

When: May 13th, 8 am to 3 pm

Where: Meet at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. We can carpool or caravan!

Why: Camp is my favorite place! They are able to do the good work they do because of congregations coming to help and serve. There will be outdoor work to do, including painting. Let's pray for good weather!

RSVP: Patty @ pkoplitz@our-saviors.org

Holy S'mores!

Join us after services on the 4th Sunday of the months of June, July and August for s'mores, a campfire, games of corn hole and more! This is a fellowship for all Children of God, regardless of age. Who doesn't love a good s'more?

June 24th, July 22nd, August 26th

Baccalaureate Sunday

We will be celebrating the following High School graduates on **Saturday, May 20th** at the 5:00 service. Parents and families, please forward a photo and a short bio of the student's plans. We would love to share that information with the congregation!

Dawson Anderson
Emerson
Zoey Drexler
Allie Galligan
Autumn Schabo
Kaiden Van Beek
Jack Zemlock

Theodore Bjornstad
Natalie Colon
Zachary Fruendt
Emma Muttart
Keira Tech
Logan Van Zummeren

We praise God for you and your accomplishments! And we pray for a fruitful future and that you may continue a life with Jesus Christ. Congratulations!



The poster for Operation Restoration VBS features a night sky with stars and a crescent moon. At the top, the letters 'VBS' are in large, colorful circles. A sun with the word 'FREE' is in the top right. The central graphic shows a globe with the text 'OPERATION RESTORATION' and 'MENDING GOD'S WORLD' below it. To the left, the ELCA logo is shown with the text 'Sponsored by: Gloria Dei, Our Savior's, St. Mark's, and St. Paul Lutheran Churches'. To the right, a pink circle says 'Open to age 3 thru 5th grade'. Below the main graphic, a banner reads 'A restoration theme that inspires everyone to be menders of God's world. Daily themes kids understand: feed, heal, forgive, pray, & rest.' The dates 'July 31 - August 3, 2023' and time '9:00 am - Noon' are prominently displayed. Below that, it says 'Early drop-off will be available beginning at 7:30 AM'. The host site is 'St. Mark's Lutheran' at '140 S. GREEN BAY RD., NEENAH'. At the bottom, a purple circle says 'Snacks & drinks will be provided.' and a blue box says 'Sign up to attend or volunteer by contacting the church office at 920-725-2828 office@stmarksneenah.org'.

VBS **FREE**

OPERATION RESTORATION
MENDING GOD'S WORLD

ELCA
Sponsored by:
Gloria Dei,
Our Savior's, St.
Mark's, and St. Paul
Lutheran Churches

Open to
age 3
thru 5th
grade

A restoration theme that inspires everyone to be menders of God's world. Daily themes kids understand: feed, heal, forgive, pray, & rest.

July 31 - August 3, 2023
9:00 am - Noon Early drop-off will be available beginning at 7:30 AM
HOST SITE: St. Mark's Lutheran
140 S. GREEN BAY RD., NEENAH

Snacks & drinks will be provided.

Sign up to attend or volunteer by contacting the church office at 920-725-2828 office@stmarksneenah.org

Save the dates for Vacation Bible School this summer! If you'd like to help out, please give St. Mark's a call.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church Council Minutes April 11th, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

Pastor's Report:

I presided at a funeral for Lynn Anklam on Saturday, April 8 in Little Chute. Lynn was Marv Anklam's brother. This was a non-member funeral.

We have a baptism scheduled for Saturday, June 3, for the Mischo family. This will be for Karl and Linda Wunderlich's grandson Noah.

From an energy standpoint, I am thankful to be on the other side of Easter and Holy Week. I am thankful for our incredible staff and all the hard work they put in during Lent and Holy Week. We had good attendance in worship on Easter Sunday and throughout Lent and Holy Week.

We tried a "Dinner Church" on Maundy Thursday with soup, bread, cookies, and drinks. 38 people attended. We added an egg hunt on Easter which was very joyful. Patty's goal was "no tears" and we nailed it.

From a staffing standpoint, I have asked Cathy Goodman to stay on for a while in the Office Manager position with Sue Englebert filling in on some Mondays and Fridays and during a planned family wedding for Cathy. Cheryl Timm and I are working on a job description for the job. But I like Cathy's presence in the office. She also is working hard to fill usher and greeter spots in worship and learn the technology. Please sign up at the Welcome Center if you want to volunteer.

We are welcoming new members the weekend of April 22/23 with a new member's potluck on Saturday the 22nd at 3:30 PM.

We will have a Baccalaureate Service for our Graduates on Saturday, May 20 @ 5PM.

Confirmation for our 8th Graders will be Sunday, May 21 at 9AM.

On a personal note:

I hope to go out to Boston to see my son Eli row for the Badgers the weekend of April 29/30 if it works out at the church and with travel arrangements.

I am planning to take 3 weekends of vacation in August to see family in Oregon. August 5/6 will be covered by Pastor Mike Dismar, and August 12/13 will be covered by Pastor Karen Jewell. I am still working on August 19/20 for coverage.

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

- I have a request to put one or two ping pong tables in the gym. This member will request for a table or two from congregation members. She might even be willing to buy one. I told her it might be best to ask the council first. Please, let me know if this is something we can do.
- I am requesting assistance for our summer mission trip. We will be renting a van; we have 7 kids going. Ten people total. Sue Engelbert is joining us and I have a request out to a young man who seems interested. We currently have \$2300 approximately available for the trip. The total cost of the trip will be closer to \$6700. Each kid is paying \$100. The rest will be done with fundraisers.
- We had the Donkey walk! Thanks to Cavanaugh's Carriages for reaching out to us. This was a very special morning. The Okray kids both helped to serve! Logan carried the cross for us and London helped to lead a donkey. Check out the photos on Facebook!
- After our Learn and Grow meeting, some fun things have started "brewing". It was asked how we might engage more adults to join together outside of the church building. I have wanted to do a Beer and Theology, and a trivia night has been highly suggested! You will hear more of this at a not so later time!
- We had 9 kids and another adult along with myself attend Beginning Youth Group Camp. I am so grateful to Ben Lochner for joining me on this retreat.

Treasurer's Report:

March income = \$39,875, Year-to-date income = \$105,922 vs, YTD budget of \$117,434.

March expenses = \$42,273, YTD expenses = \$120,999 vs. YTD budget of \$117,938.

Overall, March ended in the red by \$2,398 bringing year-to-date in the red by \$12,137.

Ministry Team Reports:

Building & Grounds – Kevin Schabo

Exterior Sewer Repair – Plumbing was not able to get through the drain with a camera. They will now need to dig down next to the building, creating a 4' x 4' hole to see if the tile collapsed. Steve Gries believes that area of the building might have dropped down; however it could also mean that the area to fix is smaller and in turn save money in the long run. Estimate for project cost \$7,432

Lighting – Chris met with Steve Keil. He recommended changing the sanctuary lamps and adding a scene controller which would have some programable aspects to it. They could also add a few additional fixtures but the LED's will be much brighter than we are accustomed to currently, so might not be necessary. Still waiting on estimate but could be more than previously gauged.

TEC – Kevin Schabo

With all the planning and preparation for Holy Week and Easter, Jim has not had time to contact the companies to make a final decision of which one will be best to work with. He is hoping to get that done once some of our worship planning is completed for the rest of April.

Learn & Grow/Youth – Marcus Shimon

Met as a team to review upcoming activities and planned events. Discussed potential new events and things Patty wants to try to continue to grow our engagement and collaboration with the neighborhood.

VBS is back! Mark your calendars for July 31st through August 3rd at St. Marks. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to Patty.

Serve & Reach – Diane Wilfling

Served brunch at Bletzinger House on Palm Sunday to 10 residents. We put together some baskets with socks, candy and word search books. A nice time was had by all.

Old Business:

Net Operating Reserves: \$53,500

Rental Property Update

Gary Lawall was present at council and provided an update on the rental property. He reviewed the multiple options that are being debated as to what to do with the property.

The committee leading this activity is planning to ask questions to a realtor to get more information on what a potential sale would entail.

Council Retreat

Time has been set aside for the council to gather together on May 13th to meet with Dara Clifford.

Computer Server Update

Motion/Second/Carried Shimon/Baldwin to replace the server at a cost of \$10,500 with the new server, 3 year hardware warranty, configured with performance, redundancy, and longevity as main factors. All voting aye.

Lounge Bathroom

An update was provided on the cost estimate for the work related to this fix. Work is being scheduled to begin in the near future.

New Business:

North Parking Lot Perimeter Completion

The Serve and Reach committee is looking to organize a "Spring Clean Up" for the church and this would include the landscaping that still needs to be complete around the new revamped parking lot.

Council Minutes cont...

Upcoming Summer Youth Works Trip (Learn & Grow)

Patty has requested consideration from the council to assist with funding parts of the youth trip to ensure that the group gets to go, regardless of if the fundraising meets the necessary amount.

Motion/Second/Carried Bradley/Wilfling for OSLC to allocate \$2,700 for the Youth trip. To be allotted at Pastor's discretion. All voting aye.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcus Shimon, Council Secretary



Pictures from Easter (on left) and Palm Sunday with our Donkey Walk. Bottom right shows Maundy Thursday worship, with foot washing and a soup dinner in the gym.

Minutes 4/11/23 OSLC Serve and Reach Committee via ZOOM 6 p.m.

FVCT and Pillars

FVCT – Served the meal April 4. New volunteers and a good turnout

Pillars – Served the meal April 13. Again, new volunteers and 65 meals served.

Lutheran World Relief – Ann Pokel

The new needs list will come out in May for clippers, soap and towels

Bletzinger House

Summary of Palm Sunday Brunch – Jennifer Baldwin and a team of volunteers served brunch to 14 persons and made Easter baskets for the residents. It was very well received.

Summer Cook Out date – planning a weekday outdoor cookout for June or July

Encouragement Ministry – Ardy Kreuter

Send info to Ardy if you know someone who could benefit from an encouraging note

Neenah Animal Shelter Spring Clean up

Discussion of Animal Shelter or OSLC for clean-up. Diane will present at the Council meeting and decision was to do it at OSLC. Rich Garman will contact Chris Swender regarding work to be done.

Guatemala Mission Trip 2024

Planning is beginning for March 9-16, 2024

Nest meeting May 9



Our volunteers at the Bletzinger House on Palm Sunday.



Volunteers at Pillars. Thank you, everyone!

May 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
30 9am Worship w/Healing 10am Adult Bible Study 10am Sunday School 11am Pickleball 1pm AA Hispanic	May 1 1pm Retirees & Friends 6pm AA Hispanic	2 7pm Worship & Music Team	3 9am Visitation/Homebound / 1pm Quilting 10am Bible Study - Virtual & 6pm AA Meeting 6pm Confirmation	4	5	6 5pm Worship
7 9am Worship 10am Adult Bible Study 10am Sunday School 11am Pickleball 1pm AA Hispanic	8 10am Knitting 10:15am Rebekah Circle 6pm AA Hispanic	9 9:30am Esther Circle 11am Staff Meeting 6pm Serve & Reach - VIRTU 7pm Council Meeting	10 10am Bible Study - Virtual & 12pm Finance Meeting 6pm Confirmation 6pm AA Meeting	11	12	13 5pm Worship
14 8:30am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9am Worship 10am Adult Bible Study 11am Pickleball 1pm AA Hispanic	15 6pm AA Hispanic	16 6pm Learn & Grow Team Meeting	17 10am Bible Study - Virtual & 12pm Finance Meeting 6pm Confirmation 6pm AA Meeting	18 Ascension Day 1pm Quilting 7pm Confirmation Walk Thru 6pm AA Meeting	19	20 5pm Worship - HS Baccalaureate Reception
21 8:30am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9am Worship - Confirmation 10am Adult Bible Study 11am Pickleball 1pm AA Hispanic	22 6pm AA Hispanic	23 11am Staff Meeting 5pm Lutheran Partners in Gospel 6:30pm Women's Book Club	24 10am Bible Study - Virtual & 6pm AA Meeting	25	26	27 5pm Worship
28 Pentecost 9am Worship 10am Adult Bible Study 11am Pickleball 1pm AA Hispanic	29 Whit Monday 6pm AA Hispanic	30	31 10am Bible Study - Virtual & 1pm Quilting 6pm AA Meeting	Jun 1	2	3 5pm Worship