

# THE VOICE

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 809 S. Commercial Street, Neenah, WI 54956  
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June 2023

*“Living in God’s Amazing Grace”*

## Worship Services

Saturday 5:00 pm  
Sunday 9:00 am

## Virtual Worship

Sunday 9:00 am

## You Tube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@oursaviorslutheran-neenah8236>

## Facebook:

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

## Office Hours

M-Th 9:00 am – 1:00 pm  
Fri. 9:00 am – 12 noon

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## Minister’s Message

*Dear Friends in Christ,*

Welcome to the new look of “The Voice.”

First of all, I want to thank Jennifer Hurley for her faithful work all these years as our Communication Assistant. She was a main cog in the wheel of communicating the happenings of Our Savior’s to your homes and to the World Wide Web. She managed our website changes, announcements on the screen in church, the sign in front, Facebook and *The Voice*, to name a few. She was a great staff member. Nancy Freier, one of our members and President of Mission Quilters, has graciously volunteered to take over the publishing of *The Voice* during the summer months as a trial run. She has desktop publishing experience in other parts of her life creating print and online newsletters.

Our focus for June is to highlight our High School Graduates and Confirmation Students. God’s blessings to our graduates and confirmands as you enter the next phases of your lives. May Christ be at the center of all you say and do! My goal this year for myself and all of our staff is to deepen connections with each other and with our community. For example, celebrating the milestones of Graduation and Confirmation are a

# OSLC News Briefs

## Connecting with Our Community

**Serving Meals at Pillars and the Fox Valley Community Table** Check out the Welcome Center. Baker slots and Servers are full for June 6 at FVCT Thank you! We still need servers for the June 8 meal at Pillars. Sign-up Genius [link](#) here.



## Our Children, Youth, and Family Ministry

### OSLC Family/Group Camping @ High Cliff August 4-6!

You are invited to join us for a church-wide camping trip! We are camping from August 4 through 6th. We have 2 group sites reserved at High Cliff State Park. There is space for a total of 40 people (or you can reserve your own site). You can bring your tent or camper. Our reserved sites are primitive sites. But what fun! We will discuss plans and activities later. Bring your family, or come by yourself. Please RSVP to Patty Koplitz [pkoplitz@our-saviors.org](mailto:pkoplitz@our-saviors.org)



Minister's Message from page 1

few ways we can better connect with our families. I also find visiting you in the places you live, or on the water, or at your businesses or places of work are great ways to connect. I recently visited one of our homebound members, Arletta Levick in her home. We visited for a while in her living room sharing about our families, our laments, and the faith. It was so comfortable in the Lazy Boy recliner that I felt my eyes getting heavy as Arletta spoke. I was fighting sleep. It reminded me of being at my grandparents where I would often take naps. Arletta must have noticed I was dozing off and asked if I would like to play her in a game of cribbage. Keep in mind Arletta is 91 years old. I agreed to play Arletta as we had talked about doing this on other occasions. Once I got to the kitchen table, she asked, "Are you ready to lose?" I was like, "Game on!" I could tell she loved playing cards and was very competitive. She knew all the table talk. She got some excellent hands. She was joyful regardless of the pain in her shoulders as she shuffled. Needless to say, she beat me... skunked me the first game, and beat me in the second, but it was an honor to be beaten by her! More importantly, we shared time together doing something we both loved and enjoyed.



This is my hope for all of the people of Our Savior's. Whether it's at family camp at High Cliff, Holy S'mores Saturdays, or in worship ~ we need to live out this idea of playing together. Patty Koplitz will have bean bags (corn hole) set up at Holy S'mores. I will be there for some competition and play songs on the guitar. Come and join us!

May we find ways to not only pray together, but play together! Let's live out the joy of the gospel in our community and attract others to join us!

*Peace,*

*Pastor Jon Strasman*

*“Affirming God’s love for all people, we work with Lutherans and partners around the world to end poverty, injustice and human suffering”*

## **God’s Work Our Hands**

Thank you for your donations for Lutheran World Relief in May. Our Savior’s community is truly generous. We will be assembling the three different kits this fall. Look for more details in a few months, but for now, we will focus on collecting our June items.

### **Our June goals:**

- #1: 30 baby socks (sizes for 6 to 12 months, or 12 to 24 months).
- #2: 25 hand towels, any color except white; cost is typically \$1-2.
- #3: cloth diapers. Packages are usually 5 or 10 diapers. Walmart has them, or you may order from Amazon. ~Ann Pokel

## **OSLC Food Pantry and Blessing Box**

**The OSLC Food Pantry and Blessing Box** needs hygiene items (body wash, shampoos and conditioners, bar soap) for both males and female from a variety of backgrounds. Example: Water-based or essential-oil based products.

# **Our Savior’s Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes May 13, 2023**

### **Pastor’s Report:**

- One upcoming Baptism – Mischo on June 3.
- Patty and I are planning for upcoming Confirmation and Baccalaureate services in May and June.
  - Confirmands: Alissa Cheyenne Ebel-Anklam, Barrett James Bjornstad, Hunter James Brown, Elliot James Bluemke, Kamryn Mae Christensen, Adelyn Noel Lauer, Brooke Abigail Meier, Trevor William Ricketts, Jaxson Vincent Sroka, Cashtin Dennis Tiedt, Ashton Scott Van Beek
  - Graduates: Dawson Anderson, Theodore Bjornstad, Emerson Bluemke, Natalie Colon, Zachary Fruendt, Allie Galligan, Emma Muttart, Autumn Schabo, Keira Tech, Kaiden Van Beek, Logan Van Zummeren, Jack Zemlock
- Upcoming vacations planned to watch my son Eli row for the University of Wisconsin Men’s Rowing team.

### **Director of Youth, Children, and Family Ministry’s Report (Patty):**

- Thank you so much to the council for approving funds for our trip. We have reached our goal but continue to take offerings as we will need to start saving for next year. There will be two trips. One for middle school kids and the National Youth Gathering with the ELCA in New Orleans.
- I am still lacking a male chaperone. It will not prevent us from going on this trip, however it’s always nice!
- This month the kids planted some seeds for World Earth Day. They are growing in two different offices right now and looking pretty good! The kids sang in church on the 30th and were perfect!
- One Wednesday evening, confirmation kids went around the neighborhood putting door hangers on doors to invite folks to the Sunday School Blast, Block party.
- We had the party this last Sunday. I am estimating that we had about 30 kids and with adults it numbered about 60-70. It was so much fun and everyone was so eager to help. I really appreciated it! We had kids ages 1 to 85 ~ a truly multi-generational event.
- Sunday School is done now. However I am inviting congregation members to help the next 3 weeks to make

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## The Gift of Music

By Ardy Kreuter

Music is a huge part of Worship. Our Music groups will be on vacation this summer. But we'd still like to have some special music during the summer. This could be families singing, individuals singing, duets, and quartets. Bell solos or duets would be lovely. Anyone who plays an instrument would be a beautiful addition to our special music. All ages welcomed.

Music director Jim Miller would be the contact person to arrange a time and a rehearsal. His e-mail is: [jmiller@our-saviors.org](mailto:jmiller@our-saviors.org) or try his cell phone: 517-449-1571



raised garden beds to compliment our food pantry. I have lumber donated by the Lochner family, thank you so much to Ben! However, I need skilled labor to make them. I would love for this to be a multi-generational event again. Every child can hammer a nail. And what a great way to get buy in for the garden beds!

- Thanks again for all of your support. I appreciate all of you!

### Treasurer's Report:

- April income = \$75,845, Year-to-date income = \$181,767 vs, YTD budget of \$156,578.
- April expenses = \$34,675, Year-to-date expenses = \$155,674 vs. YTD budget of \$157,251.
- Overall, April ended in the black by \$41,170 bringing year-to-date in the black by \$29,033.

**Membership/Attendance Reports:** Report omitted in May.

### Ministry Team Reports:

- a. Building & Grounds – Kevin Schabo
  - Update: Exterior Sewer Repair began on May 11 and some unknown issues have arisen. Chris is leading the efforts to understand our next steps.
- b. Care & Connect-Jennifer Baldwin
  - Nothing to report.
- c. Retirees & Friends-Carol Swannell
  - Nothing to report.
- d. TEC – Kevin Schabo
  - Jim Miller is actively working on ongoing TEC objectives, including the server and speaker projects.
- e. Finance – Cheryl Timm
  - Nothing to report.
- f. Learn & Grow/Youth – Marcus Shimon
  - Nothing to report.
- g. Personnel – Cheryl Timm
  - Nothing to report.
- h. Security & Safety – Ben Lochner
  - Nothing to report.
- i. Serve & Reach – Diane Wilfling

Upcoming Events:

May 16 - Spring Clean up beginning at 9:00am.

Continued on page 6

# *Congratulations to Our 2023 NHS Graduates!*

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Then...



Now...



What's Next...

**Dawson Marie Anderson**  
Edgewood College in Madison,  
to obtain a degree in biology  
and play golf.

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**Theodore Martin Bjornstad**  
Attending Beloit College this  
fall to major in Chemistry

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**Emerson Bluemke**  
Attending University of Wisconsin-  
Madison this fall.

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**Allie Marie Galligan**  
Attending Winona State University  
- Biology (Pre-dentistry)

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Graduates continued on page 7

## Mission Quilters

On the 1st and 3rd Thursdays every month you will find a group of dedicated women gather in the OSLC gym to tie quilts for Lutheran World Services.

They take donated fabrics, cut them into certain size squares and sew them together to make 60" x 80" size quilt tops. They are matched with a coordinating fabric or donated sheet for the back side of the quilt, and with batting (compliments of Thrivent) the layers are assembled onto quilting frames and tied together with yarn. To finish the quilt, the edges are serged. The finished quilts are then packed into boxes and shipped out to LWR in early October for distribution worldwide.

Our mantra is, "Those who have nothing will at least have a quilt." Join us anytime!

## Council Meeting Minutes from page 4

- Chris is ordering dirt to be spread out next to new parking lot. He will direct what all needs to be done.
- June 20 - 2024 Guatemala Mission Trip informational meeting
- June 29 - Bletzinger House Cookout
- September 10 - Barbecue Fundraiser in conjunction with Gods work, Our Hands

### j. Worship & Music – Graham Bradley

- Review Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter – Positivity, Maundy Thursday. Dinner Church was a big hit. Recommend doing it next year. Good Friday – good attendance, ran out of bulletins. Easter – great; 7:00 – least attended, 9:00-most 10:30 – less; Energizing week; Palm Sunday – liked the break for communion during the Passion Story; donkey popular
- Acolytes are moving away from online sign up system. Discussed the idea of bringing back more duties, requiring confirmation kids to take a turn, make it more meaningful; Acolytes encouraged to be on time. During summer months use ushers or Worship Assistants
- Upcoming Services:
  - Healing Service was April 29-30
  - Baccalaureate – May 20
  - Confirmation/Reformation Sunday – May 21 Zemlock's hosting dinner
- Other
  - Labor Day Weekend – Sunday – Washington Park Worship Service with 4 ELCA churches in Neenah; Saturday service at church
  - Pastor gone June 3-4 Patty preaching, Dewey, Sue. E.; August 3 weekends
- Agenda for next month:
  - Polka Service
  - God's Work Our Hands focus on Mission
  - Outdoors green space worship in God's Creation – Pastor and Sarah will explore this idea.

**WE NEED YOU!**

**What: To tie knots**  
**When: 1st and 3rd Thursdays**  
**Where: OSLC Gym 1 'til 4 pm**

*Lousy Pay...*

**Come and help us tie quilts for Lutheran World Relief ~ so those who have nothing will at least have a quilt.**

**No sewing experience is necessary!**  
**Fun & fellowship guaranteed!**

**Great Rewards!**

Continued on page 8

*Congratulations to Our 2023 NHS Graduates!... from page 5*

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**Anna Stepanova Knight**  
UW Milwaukee to study  
Psychology



**Autumn Margaret Schabo**  
Attending St. Norbert's;  
major in Graphic Design,  
and play basketball there



**Keira Ann Tech**  
Keira will be attending UW  
Oshkosh and pursuing a  
Bachelor of Science in  
Nursing Degree, with a goal of  
becoming a traveling nurse.



**Kaiden Dean Van Beek**  
Sales at Bergstrom

Graduates continued on page 9

## What's Happening!



### **Guatemala Mission Trip 2024**

There will be an informational meeting on Tuesday, June 20 at 6 pm in the Gathering Area at Church. At that time we will establish the timeline for your commitment to the Guatemala Trip and for the fundraisers. Contact Pam Garman with questions 920-915-2272 [pamgarman2@gmail.com](mailto:pamgarman2@gmail.com)



**Summer Cookout with our Friends at Bletzinger House!** *Serve and Reach* is organizing a Summer Cookout on Thursday, June 29, from 5-7 pm, at the Bletzinger House. Please sign-up at the Welcome Center to join the fun, or to donate homemade potato salad, chips or dessert. Call the Church office for details!



### **Old Business:**

- Net Operating Reserves: \$47,500
- Rental Property Update
  - OSLC will be temporarily renting out the home to the Habibi Family in their time of transition. Their lease ended at their apartment and they were not able to secure housing elsewhere. The executive council decided that the family could temporarily rent our rental property until they are able to secure a place to live.
  - Thank you Rich Garman and team for all your efforts in assisting the Habibi family through this time.
  - The committee running this project is still working towards the long term strategy for this home.
- Open Project Updates provided in the group summaries.

### **New Business:**

- North Parking Lot Perimeter Completion
  - The Serve and Reach committee has organized a “Spring Clean Up” for the church. Chris has planned to bring in multiple yards of dirt to assist with the final touches on the parking lot repair.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Marcus Shimon  
Council Secretary

<i>thru April</i>	Budgeted	Actual
Income	161,578	184,707
Expenses	157,251	155,674
Balance	4,327	29,033
<b>Noisy Coin</b>		
None		
<b>Memorials</b>		
None		



# *Congratulations to Our 2023 NHS Graduates!... from page 7*

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**Then...**



**Now...**



**What's Next...**

**Logan James Van Zummeren**  
Welding apprenticeship



**Jack Robert Zemlock**  
Jack is working construction this summer at Fox Structures for 88 Events. He will be attending UW-Madison in the fall to study Biomedical Engineering

2023 Graduates not pictured are **Emma Muttart** and **Zachary Freundt**

## *Our Prayer for the Graduates*

*O Lord Jesus Christ, when you welcomed the children your invitation included each one of us. Your guiding hand has continually been upon these young people. You have sustained them. You have shared in their laughter and wiped away their tears. In times of confusion you have offered direction. In times of sorrow you have offered hope. In times of doubt your Holy Spirit has lifted them up. Grant, O Savior, to each of these graduates the knowledge of your continued presence as they go forth into the future. Bless them and keep them. Guide their steps. Hold them in the hollow of your hand. Bless them and keep them now and forever. Amen*



## A Message from Patty Koplitz

Our Children, Youth and Family Director



I have been reflecting on the time I have been here so far. I started at the end of August last year. And what a gift you all have been. Sometimes I feel like I haven't been here that long but when I look back, I think, WOW! The recent things that I am remembering most are the Sunday School Blast, Block Party, the evening of the Baccalaureate, the Sunday of Confirmation and the dinner for the confirmands. Pastor and I also attended the Synod Assembly, so it was a busy weekend, but what joy! I love those kinds of weekends. Everything is happening at one time ... stressful to plan and implement, but so very satisfying.

Our lock-in and SPAM night were also among my favorites. Teaching confirmation, as well as participating in Sunday School is such a gift! I love that kids

run upstairs to dole out treats to the others. They have servant hearts.

I am excited to start another school year, but I don't think my summer will be boring! I have plenty to do...service trips, VBS, camping, S'more nights, and major planning for next year. I am truly grateful for the relationships being formed. I feel trusted and cared for and that's important to me.

Thank you to the teachers: Jen Lochner, Amber Okray, Liz Bradley, Kristin Ely-Bluemke, Katie Ricketts, and subs Kristin and Todd Lynwood, Kristin and Kyle Curtis, Megan Maas, and Claudia Bjornstad. You are all such beautiful gifts and I thank God for all of you. I apologize if I left anyone's name out. Know that I appreciate all of you.

Thank you all for a busy and wonderful first year!

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Patty Koplitz is the Children, Youth and Family Director at OSLC. She can be reached at (920) 420-5616 or e-mail: [pkoplitz@our-saviors.org](mailto:pkoplitz@our-saviors.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

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 \* 920-725-2828 \* OFFICE@STMARKSNEENAH.ORG

Snacks & drinks will be provided.

**SAVE THE DATE**

Open to age 3 thru 5th grade

# *Congratulations to Our 2023 8th Grade Confirmands!*



Pictured in the top row from left:

Brooke Meier, Cashtin Tiedt, Jaxson Sroka, Kamryn Christensen, Adelyn Lauer, Hunter Brown, Pastor Jon

Pictured in the bottom row from left:

Barrett Bjornstad, Trevor Ricketts, Ashtin Van Beek, Elliot Bluemke, Alissa Ebel-Anklam

## **4th Saturday S'mores in the Parking Lot**

More  
Events!

**HOLY S'MORES!** We will be having a campfire on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each summer month starting on Saturday, June 24 ~ from 6 pm until whenever! Corn hole, campfires, camp songs and of course S'mores! Bring a chair!



## **Summer Service Trip**

Prayers are appreciated as we prepare for our Summer Mission Trip to Duluth, June 11 – 19<sup>th</sup>. We have 10 people going and we are all so excited! We pray for safe travels, faithful conversations, deeper relationships with one another, as well as with Christ. Thank you for your support!

## **Vacation Bible School**

St Mark's is having an initial planning meeting on Monday, June 5, at 6:30 pm with anyone who is interested in helping with VBS this year. Please feel free to join them! See announcement on page 10 and let Patty Koplitz know if you have any questions. [pkoplitz@our-saviors.org](mailto:pkoplitz@our-saviors.org)

# OSLC June 2023 Calendar

The OSLC calendar can also be found on our website. Go to [www.our-saviors.org](http://www.our-saviors.org), click the 'News & Events' button in the navigation bar, then click 'Monthly Calendar.'

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 1pm - Quilting in Gymnasium 6pm - AA Meeting Youth Room	2	3 5pm-Worship Sanctuary
4 9am - Worship 11am- Pickleball 1pm AA Hispanic (Lounge)	5 1-3pm Retirees & Friends Music 6pm AA Hispanic (Lounge)	6 11am - Staff Meeting (Library)	7 9am-Visitation/Homebound 10am - Bible Study (Virtual and in-person)	8 6pm - AA Meeting Youth Room	9	10 5pm-Worship Sanctuary
11 9am - Worship 10am - Bible Study 11am- Pickleball 1pm AA Hispanic (Lounge)	12 10am - Knitting (Library) 10:15am Rebekah Circle @ off 6pm AA Hispanic (Lounge)	13 9:30am - Esther Circle (Lounge) 6pm - Serve & Reach (Virtual) 7pm - Council Meeting (Library)	14 10am - Bible Study (Virtual and in-person)	15 1pm - Quilting in Gymnasium 6pm - AA Meeting Youth Room	16	17 5pm-Worship Sanctuary
18 9am - Worship 10am - Bible Study 11am- Pickleball 1pm AA Hispanic (Lounge)	19 6pm AA Hispanic (Lounge)	20 11am - Staff Meeting (Library)	21 10am - Bible Study (Virtual and in-person)	22 6pm - AA Meeting Youth Room	23	24 5pm-Worship Sanctuary 6pm S'mores!
25 9am - Worship 10am - Bible Study 11am- Pickleball 1pm AA Hispanic (Lounge)	26 6pm AA Hispanic (Lounge)	27 6:30pm - Women's Book Club	28 10am - Bible Study (Virtual and in-person)	29 6pm - AA Meeting Youth Room 5-7pm Cookout at Bletzinger House	30	

*Did you know? June was most likely named for the goddess Juno, the patroness of marriage and childbirth. This month brings beauty in all forms, from flowers to sunlight. Birthstone: Pearl Birth flowers: Rose and Honeysuckle*