

THE VOICE

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 809 S. Commercial Street, Neenah, WI 54956
920-725-3956 E-mail: officemanager@our-saviors.org • www.our-saviors.org

September 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-needah8236](https://www.youtube.com/@oursaviorslutheran-needah8236)

Facebook:

[https://www.facebook.com/
oursaviorsneenah/](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 Siblings in Christ,

I am thankful for the gift of the vacation! I took three weekends off to be with family, watch my son row in Canada, and rest for a week at home. I am thankful for our awesome staff at Our Savior’s for holding down the fort and for all who filled in during my absence. I am also sharing a few pictures of my time away.

My first weekend back at church, we did a blessing of the backpacks for students, parents, teachers, school staff, and all the staff involved in educating our kids. It was a blessing to see all of you in church. On Saturday, Patty Koplitz, Our Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry hosted “Holy S’mores” in the parking lot.

I am now looking forward to our upcoming worship services and fall programming. To start, this coming weekend, September 2/3 we will have regular worship on Saturday night at 5:00pm. Then on Sunday, I will be serving with my ELCA colleagues from Neenah in a joint outdoor worship at Riverside Park bandshell and pavilion at 9:30am. So, if you accidentally show up at church on Sunday, come on over to the park. If it rains we will be inside the pavilion. We are blessed to have colleagues that enjoy working together in our community. It should be a fun time. My main role will be sharing music on the guitar and leading the singing.

Then, the following weekend, we will have “God’s Work, Our Hands” Sunday (and Saturday). This will feature a shortened worship at both Saturday and Sunday with the focus on serving our neighbors. We have several projects for you to sign up for in the Gathering Area. Some are as simple as bringing something in to fill

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Rowing in Royal Canadian Henley Regatta in Canada, Eli is the one with the white hat next to the coxswain.

the Hope Fridge and Pantry (and making lunches), to quilting, packing Lutheran World Relief kits, cleaning up our church grounds, and a few others. We need people to sign up for serving this day. If you can't physically be present, do something kind for a neighbor that day, or pray for our world. This is the 10th Anniversary of "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday in the ELCA.

Finally, I will be starting up a Sunday Bible study in the library on the book of Romans starting on September 24 at 10am. This will coincide with Sunday School. We will do a verse-by-verse study that is accessible for all. The book of Romans inspired Martin Luther's thinking that sparked the Reformation. God's grace is free gift to all in Jesus Christ. Whether you are a seasoned vet or new to Bible Study, I seek to make the class welcoming and relevant to all. Come and see!

Have a Blessed Fall Season!

Pastor Jon Strasman



Pastor Jon, Jeranna, Ezra, Marcella, Tom and Diana Younker (Jeranna's Parents) at Niagara Falls



Tom and Diana Younker, Eli Strasman, Ezra Strasman at the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta in St. Catherine's Ontario

Ann Pokel reports that in September we will be packing up the three kits (school bags, personal care, and baby care kits) to send to LWR. Thank you to Our Savior's Lutheran Church! Your generosity is amazing!
wapokel@gmail.com

Mission Quilters News

We are always in need of fabrics and clean sheets suitable for turning into quilts (cottons, blends, prints or solids) that you no longer need. We cut the fabrics into various size squares and sew them into tops and backs, layer batting between them then tie the layers together with yarn. The finished quilts are sent to LWR for distribution. We also make quilts for local charities. There isn't a better excuse to clean out that sewing room or linen closet and bring us what you no longer need.

You are welcome to join us! No sewing skills are necessary. If you can tie a knot, you can tie a quilt. This month we meet on Thursdays Sept. 7 and 21 from 1pm - 4pm in the gym.

It makes you feel good to know that those who have nothing will at least have a quilt.



OSLC September Events

Sat. September 2 Regular Saturday Evening Worship with Live Stream

Sun. September 3 Outdoor Worship @ Riverside Park, 9:30 AM

(NOTE: No Sunday worship at the church.) The four Neenah ELCA Congregations will be joining together for worship at the bandshell at Riverside Park. There are benches at the park, but feel free to bring your own chairs.

Monday, September 4 (Labor Day) OSLC Church Office will be closed. NOTE: Retirees & Friends event will be Monday, September 11 at 1 pm.

Gods Work Our Hands - Celebrating 10 Years! Sunday, September 10, 2023

Help us celebrate! See sign-up board of activities and item donation slips for Hope Fridge in the Gathering Area. Activities to participate in include: OSLC Mission Quilters' tying quilts (gym); assembling Lutheran World Relief kits, Hope Fridge (assemble lunches and fill the pantry), Aves Bird Sanctuary clean up, Linwood Community; teach Sunday School, and/or help beautify our OSL Church landscape! Bring your gloves and kneeling pad.

Sunday, September 10 is the 2024 Guatemala Mission Trip 3rd Annual Smoked Pulled Pork BBQ Dinner Fundraiser! The Packers play away at the Bears 3:25 pm and your Game Day food will be ready for you to pick up in the church drive thru from 3-6 pm. BBQ dinners are \$12 each and each additional pork sandwich \$6. Carry out only. Purchase tickets in the church office.

Special Congregational Meeting September 17, 2023, 10:30 am

The sole purpose we are having this meeting is to discuss and vote on the proposal from Council to sell the property at 801 S. Commercial St. for fair market value.

SCHOOL FOR SENIORS Friday, Sept, 29, at St. Marks Lutheran Church

Fellowship Hall, 140 South Green Bay Road - FREE!

Session #1: Protect yourself from common scams

Session #2: Community Resources Meet & Greet

Session #3: Artificial Intelligence

Session #4: Laughter and Wellness

Seating is Limited, RSVP by Monday, Sept 25. Call the City of Neenah (920) 886-6125 to reserve your spot. Registration, refreshments, and information tables are available beginning 8am on the day of the event. Classes will be held between 8:45am-12 noon.

For more information see flyer on the Welcome Center Kiosk.

FEEDING MINISTRIES OF OSLC VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

OSLC Food Pantry and Blessing Box Donations

Can you help stock our shelves? Donations can be dropped off at the church office, or in the basket located in the Gathering Area.

Fox Valley Community Table and Pillars Adult Shelter Needs your help! Sign up sheet is available on the Welcome Center Kiosk FVCT cookie bakers Monday, Oct. 2 and meal serving Tuesday, Oct. 3. Pillars Adult Shelter cookie bakers Wednesday, Oct. 18 and meal serving Thursday, Oct 19.

See the September Calendar on page 8 for more activities.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes

August 8th, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

In Person Meeting Attendees: Marcus Shimon, Cheryl Timm, Jennifer Baldwin, Diane Wilfling, Kevin Schabo, Carol Swannell, Graham Bradley, Ben Lochner **Absentee:** Jon Strasman

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Graham Bradley.

Prayer Concerns, Opening Prayer, and Devotional
Roll call as above.

Approval of Agenda: Motion/Second/Carried Lochner/Wilfling to approve agenda. All voting aye.

Pastor's Report:

- I am writing my report from Battle Creek, MI. We are on our way to St. Catherine's, Ontario to watch Eli row for the Mendota developmental rowing camp team. It is called the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta. I am really looking forward to some time off with family. Jeranna's parents have joined us on the trip.
- We have an accepted offer for the Office Manager position. Joni Heinz, formerly Office Admin for the city of Neenah will be joining our staff on Monday, August 21. Joni comes with website administration and digital marketing experience in addition to front office skills. A big thank you to Cathy Goodman who stepped in as our "temporary" Office Manager and did a fine job bridging the gap until we could sort out how to combine Jennifer Hurley's job with this job. Cathy it has been a joy working with you!
- With our rental house, I feel that while we have renters who are timely on their rent, we aren't in a hurry to part with the property just yet. However I am open to the council's wisdom on this. It is a valuable asset. We brought the rent closer to the market rate, which was one of our goals.
- VBS was awesome! Thanks to the 62 registered participants and 35 volunteers from the 4 ELCA churches. Great teamwork! Patty Koplitz was our point person from Our Savior's. Nice work Patty.
- I noticed our financial giving was back up in July. Thank you church. This was a nice surprise during the summer.
- In my spare time I am supervising a TEEM student(lay minister) from Wartburg Seminary who

serves in Shawno. His name is Keith Sorlie. He is a retired police officer who felt called into ministry. We typically talk once a week on Wednesdays.

- I have a funeral on the 25th or 26th of August for Lorraine Herman, mother of member Bill (Sherrie) Herman. It will be at Kessler Funeral home.
- I will be back in the office on the 21st of August.

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

- This last month was so fun! We had Holy S'mores one Saturday evening. Despite rain, we gathered inside and enjoyed s'mores over the stove and the kids played inside the gym. Pastor joined us with some camp songs. There were about 27 people all together. Next Holy S'mores will be Saturday, August 22!
- We joined with 3 other congregations for VBS this last week. St Marks was our host this year. I really love this collaboration! I was able to help teach one of the sessions. There were over 50 kids there and about 40 teen and adult volunteers! A number of our confirmation students spent the week with us as shepherds for the littles! They are such awesome kids!
- After VBS, 17 of us went camping at High Cliff State Park. What a wonderful weekend! We shared meals, went hiking, to the observation tower, and watched the sunset. The kids played a lot! I offered some art projects on Saturday afternoon and then some of the boys started imaginary play on their own. On Sunday morning, we shared worship together. I truly forgot how much I love to camp! This will happen again!
- I am gearing up for Sunday School and Confirmation classes to begin. I am looking for people who will co-teach Sunday School. This will allow for more flexibility for the teachers while still offering the kids consistency! I am also starting to plan for next summer's trips! The National Youth Gathering is in July, which is for high school kids. I still want to do a trip for middle school and high school kids too!
- At our last Learn and Grow meeting, it was brought up that I consider doing a Women's retreat. I talked with Pastor and he agreed, but that we should also do a men's retreat as well. So, that is something that I will start working on!

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Our Savior's Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

August 8th, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

Treasurer's Report:

- June income = \$25,617, June expenses = \$33,853, June Net = \$8,236 in the red.
- July income = \$40,170, Year-to-date income = \$276,239 vs, YTD budget of \$282,762.
- July expenses = \$31,680, Year-to-date expenses = \$255,630 vs. YTD budget of \$275,189.
- Overall, July ended in the black by \$8,491 bringing year-to-date in the black by \$20,609.

Membership/Attendance Reports: Report as written.

Ministry Team Reports:

- a. Building & Grounds – Kevin Schabo
 - Nothing to report.
- b. Care & Connect –Jennifer Baldwin
 - Nothing to report.
- c. Retirees & Friends – Carol Swannell
 - Every Monday has a group event organized by Joan Terry. She is doing a fantastic job leading the group! A recent event had up to 40 people involved to listen in on a discussion related to Technology and Scams.
- d. TEC – Kevin Schabo
 - Nothing to report.
- e. Finance – Cheryl Timm
 - Nothing to report.
- f. Learn & Grow/Youth – Marcus Shimon
 - Team met in July to talk with Patty on all her great work.
 - Always looking for more Sunday School teachers as preparations begin for fall school year! Reach out to Parry Koplitz if interested.
 - Planning for Gods Work Our Hands and Confirmation classes.
 - New ideas for continuing to build our church family; Women's retreat, Trivia Night, if you have any other fun ideas please share with Marcus Shimon or Patty Koplitz.
- g. Personnel – Cheryl Timm
 - The Personnel Committee has two new members – Cori Gonnering and Johanna Gross.
 - The group met to discuss/update the Office Manager job description. The job

was posted, interviews held, and an offer extended.

- The committee continues to recommend that full-time employees pay 25% of health care premiums (OSLC currently pays 100%). This is subject to review based on health care costs and could be increased in the future. No change for part-time employees, who currently pay 50% of the premium.
- h. Security & Safety – Ben Lochner
 - Nothing to report.
 - i. Serve & Reach – Diane Wilfling
 - Upcoming BBQ Pork on September 10th at the church. Buy tickets in advance to enjoy the delicious food.
 - j. Worship & Music – Graham Bradley
 - No Meeting held in August
 - Ardy Kreuter has stepped down as chair of this team. Currently looking for a new chair.
 - God's Work Our Hands focus on Mission – Scheduled September 10
 - Pastor gone August 3 weekends, Sermons and Sacrament are covered.
 - Jim Miller is taking time off. LuAnne to cover worship music.

Old Business:

- Net Operating Reserves Update: \$21,200 *change in value covered below.*
- Sanctuary Lighting Upgrade
 - **Motion/Second/Carried Timm/Strasman via email** to have electrical work performed in the sanctuary to bring it up to today's standards and reduce electrical consumption by upgrading to LED lights. An updated quote was recently received; therefore approval was granted for the work up to \$32,000. All voting aye.
- Rental Property Update
 - Discussion related to the rental property that the Habibi family is currently renting. Council is going to prepare options for what the church can do with the house and present to the congregation to vote on.

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OSLC Council Meeting Minutes (continued)

- **Motion/Second/Carried Lochner/Wilfling** to propose a fair market value sale of the home to the congregation for a vote in September or October. Other viable options for the house will be prepared for congregational discussion, as well. All voting aye.

New Business:

- Personnel Team Recommendation on OSLC Staff Insurance Contribution Percentage
 - Discussions were held in 2022 related to rising health care costs and OSLC’s previous wage structure of paying for 100% of lay staff premiums. The personnel committee reviewed this structure for the upcoming year and proposed a change to church’s wage structure related to health care costs and premiums to bring the church in line with the job market.
 - **Motion/Second/Carried Timm/Baldwin** to change lay staff OSLC employee wage structure and reduce OSLC’s payment of health care premium for full time employees from 100% to 75%. Employee would be responsible for the remaining 25% if they elect to have health care coverage through OSLC. OSLC personnel committee will review annually and recommend adjustments to council if required, pending current health care costs. No change to part time employee

coverage, which is 50% of coverage premiums covered by OSLC. No change to employee deductibles which are plan dependent. All taking effect for the 2024 calendar year. All voting aye.

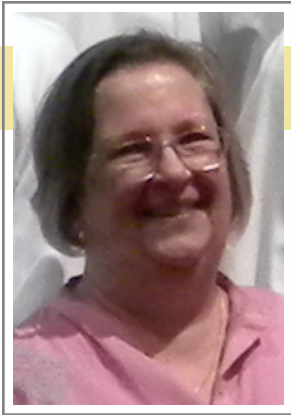
- Office Manager Update
 - **Motion/Second/Carried Bradley/Strasman via email** to allow the Personnel Team to extend offers to those they understand to be qualified candidates for the position of Office Manager. The position is for 25 hours per week with the associated benefits for a part-time employee (vacation, health care, pension, disability insurance). All voting aye.
 - The above motion resulted in the hiring of a new office manager. See Pastor’s report for more information.

Motion/Second/Carried Lochner/Timm to adjourn. All voting aye. Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
 Marcus Shimon
 Marcus Shimon, Council Secretary*

Financials thru July 31, 2023

<i>thru July</i>	Budgeted	Actual
Income	282,762	276,239
Expenses	275,189	255,630
Balance	7,573	20,609
Noisy Coin		
None		
Memorials		
None		



Message from Patty Koplitz

Our Children, Youth and Family Director

God's Work Our Hands

Sunday, September 10 following Worship Service

Welcome September, and the very special day of celebrating God's Work Our Hands in our community! There are all kinds of opportunities being provided for our church members to get involved with. I have lined up projects that will satisfy just about anyone's interests, skills and abilities.

Check the list of projects being offered this year and join the fun and fellowship on this special 10th Anniversary of God's Work Our Hands event. We do some really good work in the community and want you to feel the joy we feel by serving in this way.

Take a look at the Welcome Kiosk for the list of projects and sign your name. We appreciate your participation to serve our community, and so will you!

♥ *Patty*

(920) 420-5616

pkoplitz@our-saviors.org



"God's work. Our hands." Sunday



September 10
2023

OSLC September 2023

“Happily we bask in the warm September sun, which illuminates all creatures.” ~Henry David Thoreau

Did you know? The meaning of September comes from ancient Rome: *Septem* is Latin and means seven. The old Roman calendar started in March, making September the seventh month. **When the Roman senate changed the calendar in 153 BCE, the new year started in January, and September became the ninth month.**

Birthstone: Sapphire **Flowers:** Aster and Morning Glory

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 5pm - Worship in Sanctuary
3 9:30am - Worship at Riverside Park 11am - Pickleball 1pm - AA Hispanic in Lounge	4 Church Office is Closed 6pm - AA Hispanic in Lounge	5 11am - Staff Meeting	6 9am - Visitation with Homebound 10am - Bible Study (Virtual & in-person)	7 1pm - Quilting in gym 6pm - AA Meeting in Youth Room	8 8:30am - Pickleball	9 5pm - Worship in Sanctuary
10 9am - Worship - God's Work Our Hands 11am - Pickleball 1pm - AA Hispanic 3pm Guatemala Mission BBQ	11 8:30am - Pickleball 10am - Knitting (Library) 1-:15 am - Rebekah Circle 1pm - Retirees & Friends 6pm - AA Hispanic in Lounge	12 9:30am - Esther Circle in Lounge 6pm - Serve & Reach - Virtual 7pm - Council Meeting in Library	13 8:30am - Pickleball 10am - Bible Study (Virtual & in-person) 6pm - Confirmation Parent Meeting 7:30pm - Youth Gathering	14 6pm - AA Meeting in Youth Room	15 8:30am - Pickleball	16 5pm - Worship in Sanctuary
17 9am - Worship 10am - Sunday School 1pm - AA Hispanic 10:30 Congregation Meeting 11am- Pickleball 1pm - AA Hispanic	18 8:30am - Pickleball 6pm - AA Hispanic in Lounge	19 11am - Staff Meeting in Library 6pm - Learn & Grow Team	20 8:30am - Pickleball 10am - Bible Study (Virtual & in-person) 6pm - Confirmation & Gathering	21 1pm - Quilting in gym 6pm - AA Meeting in Youth Room	22 8:30am - Pickleball	23 5pm - Worship in Sanctuary
24 9am - Worship 10am - Romans Bible Study 11am - Pickleball 1pm - AA Hispanic in Lounge	25 8:30am - Pickleball 6pm - AA Hispanic in Lounge	26 6:30pm - Women's Book Club	27 8:30am - Pickleball 10am - Bible Study (Virtual & in-person) 6pm - Confirmation & Gathering	28 6pm - AA Meeting in Youth Room	29 8:30am - Pickleball	30 5pm-Worship in Sanctuary