THEVIE ICE

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

October 2023

"Living in God's Amazing Grace"

Worship Services Saturday 5:00 pm Sunday 9:00 am

Virtual Worship Sunday 9:00 am

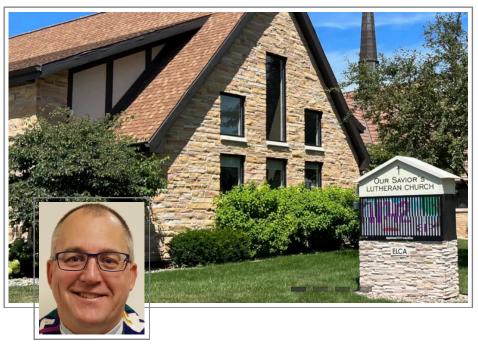
You Tube: https://www.youtube.com/ @oursaviorslutheranneenah8236

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

A Blessed Fall to you all! I have been starting out Bible studies and meetings with a "getting to know you" question: "What is your favorite fall food or drink?" I love hearing your answers. So far, I am really loving the pumpkin shake at Tom's Drive-In. I think they mix in real pumpkin. It is so yummy!

I have been involved in a Grant-funded leadership cohort for Wisconsin ELCA pastors. It ends in October with a retreat on Washington Island. It is a process called *Faithful Innovation*. Each pastor presents an adaptive challenge that they don't know how to solve in their congregation. But through a process of listening and experimenting inside and outside the congregation, an answer may bubble up to help the congregation adapt to the challenge and usher them into the future.

My adaptive challenge is: "I am afraid we have lost connection with our neighbors and our community as a congregation." Although, I must say, with intentional listening work, adding programming in church, and paying attention to local challenges, we are heading in the right direction. But I am trying to find ways to connect with all of you and our community in a more intentional way. One of my experiments to connect with the community and our people is to start "Coffee Talks with Pastor Jon" on Thursdays at Shellattes. We meet from 8:15-10 AM on Thursdays (However I do have a conflict on Oct 12). Our first prompt for discussion was "What keeps you up at night?" I heard anything from health challenges, to thinking about death and dying, to worrying about children or grandchildren, to wondering how long a person can stay in their home, to concerns about the climate or the war in Ukraine. The people who showed up made new connections with others in the church. We concluded with Bible verses and prayer...

Matthew $11:28 \sim$ "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest;" and, Psalm 46:10 ~ "Be still and know that I am God." People who overheard us talking in the next room came and gave us a thumbs up. I plan to be there for "Coffee Talks" on October 5, 19, and 26 at 8:15. Come and see!

Finally, I want to thank Nancy Freier for putting together our Voice newsletter during our transition to new staff. Coming in November we will be migrating to a new communication format. We will combine *The Voice* and *The Informer* into a weekly newsletter using a tool called "Mailchimp." It will give us much greater capability to add photos, links, and video. We will also continue to print this once a month for those who aren't on e-mail. Joni Heinz in the office will be taking this over.

Fall Blessings. Pastor Jon Strasman

The August 8, 2023 Synod Golf Outing!



The 2023 Synod Golf Outing that was held on August 8 at the beautiful Glacier Wood golf course in Iola was a huge success! We had 69 golfers from all over the Synod with several new churches represented including 10 golfers from Our Savior's.

Participants had a great time of golf and fundraising games on the course followed by a delicious lunch and prizes. The fellowship was



outstanding, and we raised \$3,225 for United States natural disasters through Lutheran World Relief.

We were blessed to have in attendance from the Synod office Associate to the Bishop Dara Clifford and Finance Manager Nancy Salzwedel, both of whom also golfed. The Synod provided monetary support and an awesome door prize basket. Organizers were Pastor Dennis Ellisen and Neal and Sue Schultz.

Caught on Camera at the 2023 Synod Golf Outing August 8



Gene Gregory, Rob Swannell, Todd Stevenson, Nancy Stevenson



Rick Klamm, Rich Garman, Neal Schultz, Tim Moe, Craig Ruddy, Gary Lawell



Ken Nowakowski, Karl Wunderlich, Mike Locke, Keith Casper OSLC Voice - October 2023

Our Savior's Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes September 12, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

In Person Meeting

Attendees: Marcus Shimon, Cheryl Timm, Jennifer Baldwin, Diane Wilfling, Kevin Schabo, Graham Bradley, Ben Lochner, Jon Strasman Absentees: Carol Swannell

Open Forum:

- Council was joined by Chris Wilharm and Christine Rondeau of the Neenah-Menasha Emergency Society. They shared the Society's mission to and provided an update on what good they are doing in the community.
- Neenah-Menasha Emergency Society Mission Statement: To provide emergency resources to support residents of the Neenah-Menasha area who are unable to provide for their core needs.
- Discussion was then shifted towards the interest from NMESociety's interest in supporting their initiative to assist those in need of housing and the church's discussions related possibly selling our rental property.

Meeting called to order at 7:18 p.m. by Graham Bradley.

Prayer Concerns, Opening Prayer, and Devotional

Roll call as above.

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

Pastor's Report:

- Pastoral Acts
 - Upcoming Baptism for Arwin Cooper on Oct 12
 - Funeral for Kenney Stafford on Sept 14
 - Funeral for Al Long on Sept 15
 - Upcoming funeral for Arletta Levick who died on 9/12/2023
- Education
 - Confirmation Starts up on Wed, Sept 13 with a parent meeting
 - Adult Bible Study on the book of Romans starts on Sept 24 at 10 AM
 - Small Groups "Be like Jesus, live like Jesus" will kick off on Reformation Sunday

- Connection Work
 - Inviting people to join me for coffee/tea/ water at Shellate's on Thursdays from 8:15 AM to 10AM for Coffee Talk with Pastor Jon. Just another way to get to know people. I will have a question/prompt for each time we gather.
 - Work with our other ELCA churches in Neenah. We are going on the Youth Gathering together and are planning a Thanksgiving Eve Worship at St. Marks on Wednesday, Nov 22 @ 6:30 PM. Our outdoor worship on Labor Day weekend was well received. 176 people attended.
- Staffing Welcomed Joni Heinz as our Office Admin. She is learning quickly and doing a fine job.

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

- To finish up August, we had a last Holy S'mores night. It was such a beautiful evening! Five families attended. It was very enjoyable.
- Our "busy" season is just starting! We have ٠ confirmation orientation on the 13th. Parents and students will meet to hear about expectations and opportunities. The students will be receiving a bible and a highlighter. Beside learning about the New Testament this year, we are encouraging biblical literacy. Immediately following the orientation we will be meeting with students about the National Youth Gathering. The Neenah Pastors invited me to join them today and we discussed how we are attending the Gathering together. I am very excited about this! I will also be offering a trip for middle school students and high school students not interested in the National Youth Gathering.
- Sunday School Rally day is the 17th. This Sunday! I am still looking for 2 co-teachers. I have 3 class rooms. Each teacher would love to have a coteacher so that it can lessen the obligation. Feel free to offer your services!
- I will be leaving on Sunday for a 2 week trip to visit my niece. I promise to come back eager and refreshed for the new school year. There is so much to look forward to!
- Thank you for your continued support. I appreciate all of you!

Treasurer's Report:

- August income = \$23,873, Year-to-date income = \$300,112 vs. YTD budget of \$323,157.
- August expenses = \$44,838, Year-to-date expenses = \$300,468 vs. YTD budget of \$314,501.
- Overall, August ended in the red by \$20,965 bringing year-to-date in the red by \$356.

Attendance Reports: Report as written.

• Note: Membership report was absent.

Ministry Team Reports:

- a. Building & Grounds Kevin Schabo
 - There is a leak in the sanctuary roof that was repaired. Recommendation from team was to investigate repair/upgrade on the other similar roof areas that may leak.
 - Gym walls require "touch ups" from the removal of the convectors that were previously there prior to the building heating upgrade. A quote was received for the work from a local mason for \$850 to repair the walls.
 - Motion/Second/Carried Wilfling/Strasman to repair the gym walls for \$850 with funding from the Capital Repair funds. All voting aye.
- b. Care & Connect –Jennifer Baldwin
 - Nothing to report.
- c. Retirees & Friends Carol Swannell
 - Nothing to report.
- d. TEC Kevin Schabo
 - Nothing to report.
- e. Finance Cheryl Timm
 - Committee met on Tuesday, September 5. We reviewed the July financial reports. A discussion about the sale of the rental property also took place.
 - Discussed the upcoming budgeting period for calendar year 2024.
 - Discussed plans for the 2023 stewardship campaign.
- f. Learn & Grow/Youth Marcus Shimon
- Nothing to report, did not meet. g.Personnel – Cheryl Timm

Committee met on Wednesday, September 6. The meeting took place inperson, which gave everyone a chance to meet each other, especially new members Cori Gonnering, Johanna Gross, and Jim Henderson. Discussion focused on 2024 salary handling and 2024 health care plan selection, and due to employee resistance to the 25% share for health care premiums (feedback provided by Pastor Jon), a lengthy discussion took place around that topic. The group put together recommendations for Council approval.

- h. Security & Safety Ben Lochner
 Nothing to report.
- i. Serve & Reach Diane Wilfling
 - Uber delicious BBQ Pork was made on September 10th at the church.
 - Christmas giving donations will donated to the Harbor House.
- j. Worship & Music Graham Bradley
 - Continue Holy Communion by Intinction
 - Proposed Worship Schedule for 2023-2024 (attached)
 - No Service 12/23
 - No Service 12/24 Sunday Morning
 - No Service 12/25 Christmas Day
 - Patty is planning Soup Suppers at 5:30 PM for Midweek Advent and Lenten worship.
 - 5th Sundays Order for Healing: The way the 5th Sundays fall, we may not be continuing with Laying on of Hands on those days. We could incorporate that into the Longest Night service on Thursday, December 21st. Maybe consider another time as well.
 - Upcoming Services:
 - September 17: First Day of Sunday School / Rally Day
 - October 28 & 29: Reformation Sunday (5th Sunday)
 - November 4 & 5: All Saints Sunday
 - Continued on page 9

Old Business:

- Net Operating Reserves Update: \$21,200.
- Rental Property Update
 - Council discussed the upcoming meeting on September 17 regarding the vote on the sale of the rental property.
 - Council deliberated on what the potential proceeds of the sale of the home would go towards and how that compares to our mission and values.
- Personnel Discussion
 - An update was shared on recommendations for 2024 Salary Handling.
 - Motion/Second/Carried Lochner/Wilfling to approve of the salary handling recommendation for 2024 from the personnel committee. All voting aye.
 - Health Insurance
 - Motion/Second/Carried Lochner/Timm to approve of the Gold Plus plan for Health Insurance benefits per recommendation for 2024 from the personnel committee. All voting aye.
 - Because Portico was able to keep the cost increase to 2.5% for 2024 health care plans, the committee is recommending that the fulltime employee share for the Gold+ plan be adjusted to 12.5% for 2024. The plan is to increase employee share an additional

12.5% in 2025 to align with market standard, but new information could be available at that time that needs to be taken into consideration. This would be in effect for current employees as well as any full-time who might be hired in 2024. New employees hired in the future will be under the cost-share in effect at time of hire. Part-time employees will continue to pay 50% of the premium cost for health care.

 Motion/Second/Carried Lochner/Baldwin to approve above plan. All voting aye.

New Business:

- Annual Meeting Date
 - Motion/Second/Carried Bradley/Shimon to have our annual meeting on November 12 on approximately 10:15 AM, after the morning service. All voting aye.
- Memorials Review
 - Discussion on how the process of memorials work.
- Review of Proposed Worship Schedule for the Holiday Season

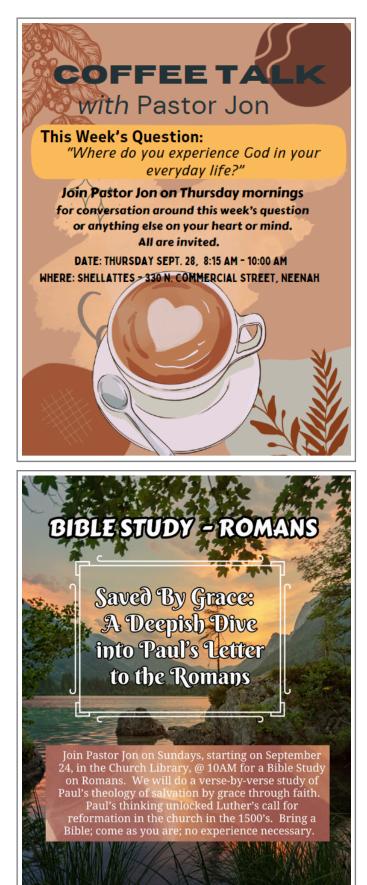
Motion/Second/Carried Timm/Lochner to adjourn. All voting aye. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Marcus Shimon, Council Secretary

Financials thru August 31, 2023

thru August	Budgeted	Actual
Income	323,157	300,112
Expenses	314,504	300,468
Balance	8,653	(356)
Noisy Coin		
None		
Memorials		
None		

OSLC October Events



Pastor Jon began a weekly **'Coffee Talk'** event on Thursday mornings at Shellattes, 330 N. Commercial Street. There is a new question presented each week to open conversation, and we will discuss anything else that is on someone's heart or mind. All are invited to join Pastor Jon from 8:15 - 10:00 am for a coffee and conversation. Stop by! First drink is on Pastor Jon!

Saved By Grace: A Deepish Dive into Paul's Letter to the Romans - Join Pastor Jon on Sundays, starting September 24, in the Church Library @ 10am for a Bible Study on Romans. We will do a verse-by-verse study of Paul's theology of salvation by grace through faith. Paul's thinking unlocked Luthers' call for reformation in the church in the 1500s. Bring a Bible; come as you are; no experience necessary.

<u>Sunday School</u> began Sunday, September 17 and we still need one more teacher. We are hoping to create a teamteaching model. Please, let me know if you are interested in helping with this. By co-teaching you will be able to commit to different Sundays so that you are not obligated to be teaching every Sunday. I am also looking for parent and grandparent volunteers. Since I will be offering Youth group during this time, I need someone that can stay in the Gathering Space and be available to allow parents in if the doors are locked, or to be available for teachers or whatever might arise.

<u>UPDATE: Guatemala Mission Trip Smoked Pork</u> <u>BBQ Fundraiser</u>

What could be better than the Packers opener and a Smoked Pork BBQ Dinner! Ticket sales were @ 200, and at least 30 walk-ins for the Sept 10 Fundraiser. Paul Hartman from American Family Insurance, and a friend of Our Saviors, was the pitmaster, along with his son Aaden and wife Lindy in the wings! The drive thru was busy both before kick-off and at half time. We were pretty much sold out by 6 pm!

Many thanks to the 2024 Mission Trippers plus additional faithful supporters: Neil and Sue Schultz, Christine and Royal Rondeau, Alyssa Hardel, Patty Koplitz, Tammy Rabe, Kevin and Chris Hillegas,

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OSLC October Events

Continued from page 7

Alicia Hilliker, Rich and Pam Garman, Chris Swender and Joni Heinz. The profits are expected to be in the \$2000+ range. Thanks for the generosity of all who sold tickets, bought, smoked and ate!

Worship Bulletins can be found by clicking here. (https://our-saviors.org/category/bulletins/) This link will take you to the church website if you want to follow along with the service at home.

Children, Youth, and Family Ministry:

Corn Maze Fun! Attention middle school and high school students! We are going to Feltz's Corn Maze on October 14. We will meet at Our Saviors Lutheran Church at 9am to make lunches and return about 4:30pm. We will meet other students from churches in our Synod. Students should bring \$10; ages 13 and up, \$8, ages 3-12 for the maze and any extra spending money they might like to bring. Parents and drivers over 21 will be needed. Sign up sheet located in the Gathering Area.

Confirmation Class starts at 6pm in the Gathering area.

Youth group opportunities - This year, I will be offering two opportunities for youth groups. Sunday mornings, after worship, we will meet in my office for about a half hour or 45 minutes, during Sunday School. The other opportunity will be Wednesday evenings after confirmation at 7pm and will end at 8pm. Both groups are welcome to anyone in 6th grade on up through young adult. The students will have choices as to what we study or what we do. Please, encourage your student to attend. Youth groups can be fundamental to a positive church experience. Youth groups will start October 1 and 4, as I will be gone until then.

Trunk or Treat - Gloria Dei's Pastor Jon, has invited our congregation to join Gloria Dei for a fun time of "Trunk or Treat." The event will be held on Sunday, Oct. 22 from 1-2:30 pm (yes, they checked the Packer schedule). The event will be held in their north parking lot. Congregation members are invited to decorate a car or simply show up and trick or treat. All ages are welcome to participate. **Here are Gloria Dei's Trunk Guidelines.** Please decorate your vehicle as part of the Trunk or Treat experience. You can have anything from simple decorations to small activities or even a full car theme for children at your vehicle. If you are new to Trunk or Treat, this is an event where cars are decorated, trunks are filled with candy for children, and our community can engage with our church family. Check out Pinterest for some great "Trunk or Treat" ideas!

This is an opportunity for Gloria Dei to serve our community and represent the love of Jesus to so many children and families. We are praying that through this event families can connect with one another, and new families will be introduced to Gloria Dei.

<u>**Retirees & Friends</u>** - Mark your calendars! The next event will be Monday, October 2 at 1pm.</u>

Volunteer Opportunities:

Encouragement Ministry Team is looking for more members. We send cards to folks needing encouragement for any areas of their life. All supplies are furnished including cards, stamps, stickers identifying the encouragement ministry, and return address labels. No meetings. All communication is through e-mail. E-mail Ardy Kreuter at <u>akreuter@new.rr.com</u> for more information on how to get started.

OSLC Fall Programming is Here Seeking volunteers to serve with our music ministry and education programming. If you are interested in joining choir rehearsals, they begin Wednesday, September 27 at 7pm. E-mail *Music Director Jim Miller* jmiller@our-saviors.org; or contact Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministry Patty Koplitz, e-mail: pkoplitz@our-saviors.org

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OSLC October Events

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OSLC Food Pantry and Blessing Box Donations Can you help stock our shelves? Your 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 Would you like to help? <u>Sign up here</u> for FVCT meal serving Tuesday, October 3. Pillars Adult Shelter cookie bakers Wednesday, October 18; and, meal serving Thursday, October 19. Sign up information sheet also available on the Welcome Center Kiosk.

Learn more about our Rebekah Circle Ministry and consider joining! Tuesday, October 17 @ 10:30am

Current members would like to invite other women to join and share in this wonderful fellowship.

The purpose of this ministry is to study God's Word and support other group members in their faith journeys (and life in general). We also sponsor a student in India through Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry.

We use the Bible studies found in the ELCA women's magazine, *Gather*. A personal subscription is not required as copies are available at church. Although it may be helpful to read through the lesson first it is not necessary; we just take turns reading and go with the flow as the spirit leads us \sim very informal.

Our current members are Chris Dieck-Hillegas, Sue Englebert, June Luett, Ardy Kreuter, and Sue Pudlowski.

We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 10:15am in the church library. The next meeting will be October 17 at 10:15am. Women interested in joining may contact Chris Dieck-Hillegas by e-mail, <u>dieckhillegas@gmail.com</u>, or speak with any current member.

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. ******

See the Calendar on page 12 for more October activities!

Mission Quilters News

W e are happy to report that we've had a banner year for making and tying over 100 quilts in 2023! We thank everyone who participated in the process and those who donated fabrics.

We are always in need of fabrics and clean sheets suitable for turning into quilts (cottons, blends, prints or solids). We then cut the fabrics into various size squares and sew them into quilt tops and backs, layer batting between them, then tie the layers together with yarn.

There isn't a better excuse to clean out that sewing room or linen closet and bring us what you no longer need, but that could be upcycled into useful quilts.

Consider joining us! No sewing skills are necessary. If you can tie a knot, you can tie a quilt. This month we meet on Thursdays Oct. 5 and 19 from 1pm - 4pm in the gym.

This work truly warms the heart knowing that those who have nothing will at least have a comforting quilt.



Trunk or Treat - October 22!

Trunk or Treat - Gloria Dei's Pastor Jon, has invited our congregation to join Gloria Dei for a fun time of Trunk or Treat. The event will be held on October 22 from 1-2:30 pm (They checked the Packer schedule). The event will be held in their north parking lot.

Congregation members are invited to decorate a car or simply show up and trick or treat. All ages are welcome to participate.

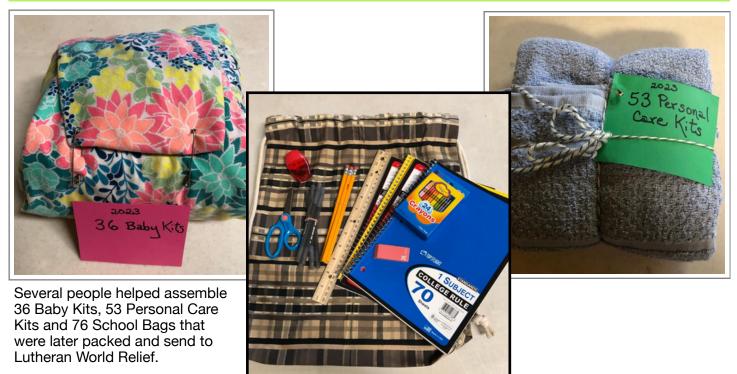
Here are Gloria Dei's Trunk Guidelines: If you are new to Trunk or Treat, this is an event where cars are decorated, trunks are filled with candy for children, and our community can engage with our



church family. Please decorate your vehicle as part of the experience. You can have anything from simple decorations to small activities, or even a full car theme for children at your vehicle. Check out Pinterest for some great "Trunk or Treat" ideas!

Remember that this is an opportunity for Gloria Dei to serve our community and represent the love of Jesus to many children and families. We are praying that through this event families can connect with one another, and new families will be introduced to Gloria Dei. Δ





OSLC Voice - October 2023

God's Work Our Hands - September 10, 2023

A labor of LOVE, Our Savior's Mission Quilters produced over 100 quilts this year! We thank all those who work on them all year and to those came to help on September 10th!





OSLC Voice - October 2023

OSLC October Calendar

"There are two times of the year... October and waiting for October."

Did you know? October is the height of autumn in the Northern Hemisphere. It derives its name from 'octo,' the Latin term for eight, as it was originally the eighth month in the Roman calendar. **Birthstone:** Opal; **Flower**: Marigold

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9am - Worship 9am - Worship 10am - Romans Bible Study /Youth Group 11am - Pickleball 1pm - AA Hispanic	2 Pastor's Day Off 8:30am - Pickleball 1pm - Retirees & Friends 6pm - AA Hispanic	3 10 am - Staff Meeting in Library	8:30am - Pickleball 9am - Visitation w/ Homebound 10am - Bible Study 6pm - Confirmation 7pm - Choir rehearsal 7pm - Youth Group	5 1pm - Quilting in gym 6pm - AA Meeting in Youth Room	6 8:30am - Pickleball in gym	7 5pm - Worship in Sanctuary
9 am - Worship 9 am - Worship 10am - Romans Bible Study /Youth Group 11am - Pickleball 1pm - AA Hispanic	Pastor's Day Off 10am - Knitting in Library 10:15 - Rebeka Circle 6pm - AA Hispanic, Lounge	Circle in Lounge 5:30pm - Fox Valley Squares 7pm - Council Mtg in Library	8:30am - Pickleball 10am - Bible Study 6pm - Confirmation 6pm - Joyous Ringers 7pm - Choir Rehearsal 7pm - Youth Group	12 6pm - AA Meeting in Youth Room	13 8:30am - Pickleball in gym	14 5pm - Worship in Sanctuary
15 9 am - Worship 10am - Romans Bible Study /Youth Group 11am - Pickleball 1pm - AA Hispanic	16 Pastor's Day Off 8:30am - Pickleball 6pm - AA Hispanic, Lounge	17 10 am - Staff Meeting 10:15am - Rebekah Circle 5:30pm - Fox Valley Squares	Pickleball Pickleball 10am - Bible Study 6pm - Confirmation 6pm - Joyous Ringers 7pm - Choir Rehearsal	19 1pm - Quilting in gym 6pm - AA Meeting in Youth Room	20 8:30am - Pickleball in gym	21 5pm - Worship in Sanctuary
9 am - Worship 9 am - Worship 10am - Romans Bible Study /Youth Group 11am - Pickleball 1pm - AA Hispanic	23 Pastor's Day Off 8:30am - Pickleball 6pm - AA Hispanic, Lounge	2.4 5:30pm - Fox Valley Squares 6:30pm - Women's Book Club	Pickleball Pickleball 10am - Bible Study 6pm - Confirmation 7pm - Choir Rehearsal 7pm - Youth Group	26 6pm - AA Meeting in Youth Room	27 8:30am - Pickleball in gym	28 5pm - Worship in Sanctuary
9 am - Worship 9 am - Worship 10am - Romans Bible Study /Youth Group 11am - Pickleball 1pm - AA Hispanic	30 Pastor's Day Off 8:30am - Pickleball 6pm - AA Hispanic, Lounge	31 10 am - Staff Meeting in Library 5:30pm - Fox Valley Squares	October 9 - ·	11 Pastor Jon @ Miss 18 Pastor Jon @ Ad	October 9 - 11 Pastor Jon @ Missional Leadership Cohort October 16 - 18 Pastor Jon @ Adaptive Leadership Cohort	hort ohort