



the Kindred Spirit

June 2020

Newsletter of Our Savior's Lutheran Church · Albany, MN · 320-845-2405



Live Worship Services
Sundays 9:00 AM

Facebook: OSLC56307

Or, tune into
KASM 1150 AM Radio

June 2020

Additions to the calendar? Email Our Savior's Lutheran Church office: oursaviors@albanytel.com or call 320-845-2405

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5/31 9am Online Worship Service 10am Online Sunday School & Joyful Noise 10:30 am Zoom Coffee Hour	1	2 2:15pm Bishop's Zoom with Pastors 7pm Bishop's Zoom with Council Presidents 7pm NA Meeting	3 12:30pm Lunch w/the Pastor, Zoom 1:30pm Staff Meeting 3:30pm High School Zoom	4 9:30am Synod Interim Pastors' Meeting	5	6
7 9am Online Worship Service 10:30 am Zoom Coffee Hour	8 6:30pm Zoom Holy Yoga	9 2:15pm Bishop's Zoom with Pastors 7pm Bishop's Zoom with Council Presidents 7pm NA Meeting	10 12:30pm Lunch w/the Pastor, Zoom 1:30pm Staff Meeting 3:30pm High School Zoom	11 9:30am Conference Pastors' Meeting	12	13
14 9am Online Worship Service 10:30 am Zoom Coffee Hour	15	16 2:15pm Bishop's Zoom with Pastors 6:30pm Congregational Council Meeting, Zoom 7pm Bishop's Zoom with Council Presidents 7pm NA Meeting	17 12:30pm Lunch w/the Pastor, Zoom 1:30pm Staff Meeting 3:30pm High School Zoom 4:30pm Middle School Zoom	18	19	20
21 <i>Happy Fathers' Day</i> 9am Online Worship Service 10:30 am Zoom Coffee Hour	22 6:30pm Zoom Holy Yoga	23 2:15pm Bishop's Zoom with Pastors 7pm Bishop's Zoom with Council Presidents 7pm NA Meeting	24 12:30pm Lunch w/the Pastor, Zoom 1:30pm Staff Meeting 3:30pm High School Zoom	25	26	27
28 9am Online Worship Service 10:30 am Zoom Coffee Hour	29 6:30pm Zoom Holy Yoga	30 2:15pm Bishop's Zoom with Pastors 7pm Bishop's Zoom with Council Presidents 7pm NA Meeting	7/1 12:30pm Lunch w/the Pastor, Zoom 1:30pm Staff Meeting 3:30pm High School Zoom	7/2 9:30am Synod Interim Pastors' Meeting	7/3 <i>office closed</i>	7/4 <i>Happy Independence Day!</i>
Please check the website calendar for schedule changes and/or cancellations: OurSaviorsLutheranAlbany.org						



Matthew 9:30 The (Formerly Blind) Man's Witness

"The [formerly blind] man answered, 'Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes...'³² Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind.³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.'"

Dear Siblings in Christ,

I hear you. You are tired. This is long. You are ready to put your guard down and just go back to normal, come hell or whatever this virus might throw at you. And if you are choosing between lonely and a risk of illness, that risk can look pretty small. I get it. And all of that is real. Just as real as the claim on your life made by your creator at your baptism. God has named and claimed you as God's own, and wants you to have life - abundant life. And while this moment, life might not feel very abundant, I know that God is working. So let me tell you, let me be a witness...God is giving

abundant life right now in ways we could have never imagined - because we could never have imagined being in this situation! So, will you join me in looking? Looking for the ways that God is working, God is showing up in the midst of our grief and loss? God is here. God is always with us in suffering. He proved that once and for all on the cross. Let us pray for open eyes together:

Lord, give me the eyes to see, like you gave those blind men (John 9: 30, 32-33). Give me eyes to see and ears to hear and a heart full of love. Help me to see you Lord, even when the world feels dark and irritating. Help me to find the way of your light, help me to see the path you have set before me. In Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

15 places to look for God:

1. In your Bible

If you haven't picked on up yet, this is a good time. When we are on a hunt for God, we look in the scriptures. And hint: don't start at the beginning! It's much easier to start with the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke or John. Start there, with the story of Jesus and watch for how God works in real flesh-and-blood situations. I wonder if you try it, if you will see God around you too, not just in the Sacred Story?

2. In your prayer time

This is hard. Who has time? Am I right? But you do. Right now.

Almost nothing you are doing, unless you are in the middle of CPR is so important you can't stop for 30 seconds or two minutes to pray. Pray for the things that are frustrating you. Name in lament what you have lost. Pray to see God's presence here and now. As I sit here, I pray for the headline that just popped up on my phone, "Fire crews search for missing nine-year-old boy."

3. In nature

You've been on a walk in the last eight weeks, I hope? If not, now's the time! I take a couple walks a day, usually, because if I don't, I might explode. And I see God in the sunshine, hear God in the birds, smell God in the cherry trees, sense God in my bones. For God is here, among his Good creation, caretaking and moving to bring joy to the earth.

4. In your neighborhood

One parishioner told me that she has a young mom for a neighbor who masks up and takes her kids outside and walks from house to house, checking on the neighbors, especially those who live alone. Asking if they need anything. There is God—in the care of a neighbor.

5. In the kindness of strangers

The number of times that I have been in the wrong lane and let in, kindly, by the next big truck

behind me... it's wonderful to have that grace when I just don't know when those darn turn-lanes end yet in my new neighborhood.

6. In your phone conversations

Sometimes I get to drop off one of our CD packets, and when I do, I call the person I've dropped off the packet for. Do you know what I hear? Mounds of appreciation! How lucky are we to have one another! How blessed that we have the technology of phone and internet that we can connect with people even when we are staying physically apart. God is good!

7. In the good food on your table

Whether your family likes to cook dishes from around the world or prefers Minnesota comfort food, there you find the goodness of God feeding us. The joy and nourishment of eating reflects God's intentions for us, that we would be healthy and whole, connected to the earth and farmers from which our food comes.

8. In the spark of gratitude

Do you ever get surprised by God? Each night, I ask my kids, What are you grateful for today? The longer we do it, the quicker their answers have come (though there was a gruelling first few weeks). Just asking the question at the end of each day, and knowing it is coming, re-orientes us to being the

grateful, generous people we want to be.

9. In laughter

Giggles or gaffaws, laughter is holy. God shows up in the tinkle of a child's giggle as they "sneak" up on you for a "boo!" surprise. God shows up in the holy laughter that explodes out of us when we find ourselves in the most ridiculous of situations, sometimes even frustration can turn to laughter when we realize our efforts are futile and the lawn mower just isn't going to start. Enjoy the release, laughter is a gift.

10. In lament

We are grieving so much, and God is with us in each and every grief. From the small things we miss to the once-in-a-lifetime celebrations that can be delayed, but never recreated as they were once imagined to be. Let us hold each other gently as we grieve all we have lost. And let us remember that God is always, always there with us in the sadness, the anger, the tears.

11. In illness

When the cough starts and we worry, is this it? Will I get sick? How serious will it be? When our loved one is in the hospital, whether it is COVID-19 or not, but we know their life is now more perilous than it was before. God is there. God is in every hospital room before us and after

us and with us. God does not leave us alone in our suffering. Christ's presence is wrapped up in the suffering and dying, so that we might know we have the promise of life with God, regardless of the power that death wields. We are God's resurrection people, living in that promise.

12. In health

I am grateful each and every day for my health. For the health of my loved ones and parishioners. Each day has become one more opportunity for awareness of God's good gift of life and breath. For in God we have our being.

13. In your parenting (especially if you have kids at home right now)

At the risk that I know not all of you are parents, this is an important one for those who are. Parents, you got this. And when your patience runs out, walk away, call a friend. This is a lot to do and to be for everyone that wants a piece of you. We are not meant to parent alone, and not only pairs, but communities. Call another parent, call your pastor, call your Y&F Ministry Associate. We are here when parenting gets tough. Each one of us is entrusted with these little lives, their formation will be shaped by this. Look for God in their eyes. Remember, God is with you. Remember, God gave you community. You are not alone.

14. In your body

Look for God in the wonder of every joint that still moves, every bodily system that still works, every breath that you take in and out. God is here. Within us, working through us, working for us.

15. In the space between us.

Sometimes that space feels big, and well, God is big, so God fits there. God is moving between us, inspiring us to connect, to love. Each time you feel the impulse to call someone, do it. You never know, that might be God's urging. The Holy Spirit has come and we celebrate at Pentecost on May 31. We will remember, once again, how God connects us to one another, translating between languages and helping us to understand the other. God is in our compassion for one another, even when the other doesn't make sense to us. God will show us how to love.

God bless your search.
Pastor Kirsten

Connecting with church staff during this time:

Please contact us by phone for assistance, 320-845-2405, or by email, OurSaviors@albanytel.com.

For pastoral emergencies, contact Pastor Kirsten Nelson Roenfeldt, 508-422-6277.

For youth & family needs, contact Diana Brown, 320-260-7651.



Dear Friends:

We are so excited about your donation of item(s) that will help us with the program and serving the women who come to Terebinth Refuge. On behalf of our residents, our staff, and our board we would like to truly thank you for your support. Your thoughtfulness encourages us in our work in providing shelter and services for exploited and trafficked women!

We received your donation of eight handmade quilts and five new twin mattress covers. Already, your donation is blessing the women we serve who come to us with little to nothing at all. Because of you, they will be able to have more opportunities to enjoy the life God has given them!

We are grateful for your passion for this work. We could not provide these services to women without your generosity and kindness. We pray God's blessings for you and your family!

With deepest gratitude,

Cynthia (CeCe) Terlouw
Founder and Executive Director
Terebinth Refuge
www.terebinthrefuge.org

Financial Summary as of April 30, 2020

	April only	April YTD
General Offerings/Income	\$ 24,058	\$ 65,358
General Fund Expenses	\$ 18,757	\$ 88,327
Net Differences	\$ 5,302	\$(22,968)
	Annual Budget	Annual to-date
General Fund Offerings/Income	\$ 247,272	\$ 65,358
Needed each month	\$ 20,606	\$ 16,340
Needed each week	\$ 4,755	\$ 3,845

Please note: above information does not include designated funds.

Thank You for Stepping Up!

OSLC has stepped up big time since our first quarter notifications went out. You are supporting the ongoing ministry of this deployed church. Thank you for being the church together, working to love your neighbors in your neighborhoods and together by sending the Word out over the airwaves, the internet and public access TV. Online Giving has brought consistency for many givers. Thank you! You are making possible the sustenance of the ministry of not only worship, but kids' resources, outreach to each other, generosity to those impacted by COVID-19.

You are givers!

Paycheck Protection Program

On April 30, 2020, we were awarded grant monies through the Small Business Association's Payroll Protection Program totaling \$34,088. This action was approved unanimously during the congregational meeting held April 26. Under SBA guidelines, the funds may be used only for payroll and utilities during May and June (and the amount is not reflected in the income totals above). It is our understanding any un-used funds must be paid back to the SBA. What a blessing to receive this assistance during these uncertain times!

OUR MISSION:

Our Savior's Lutheran Church is one people united in Christ, empowered by God's grace through worship and the study of His Word, to glorify God by serving and witnessing in the community and the world.



We will resume meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 5:30 pm, when we can.

Lenten Blessings!

During Lent, you shared your pennies, quarters and dollars to total a gift of \$633.90 to Ramas Vivas, the ministry of Kristin Wolford and her family and their community. Your support makes possible outreach to children in the Dominican Republic with God's Word, and community service of clean water as a ministry-supporting business. *Thank you!*

ZOOM Holy Yoga

We have been "meeting" for yoga virtually by using the Zoom app, online, Mondays 6:30–7:30 pm. It's been working great! *Everyone is invited to join in, you don't have to be a member of Our Savior's.*

Yoga classes will be June 8, 22 and 29. Donation per class is \$6. Please contact Rebecca Pierskalla (the instructor) at 320-291-5129 or by email rebecca.pierskalla@gmail.com with any questions/concerns or to get the Zoom connection!

Albany Food Shelf

The following items are needed this month at the Albany Food Shelf:

Hair Conditioner
Granola/Cereal Bars

At this time, we ask that you drop off your donations at the Food Shelf, located across the street from church in the Senior Center building, 741 Lake Ave. Times are listed below.

Any extra donations or monetary gifts are greatly appreciated! Many families in the area are in greater need at this time.

Albany Food Shelf Hours

1st Thursday – mornings
3rd Thursday – Early evenings
Connect with Edna
(320) 291-6623

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

You can Support Kristin Wolford, missionary to the Dominican Republic, with a gift or set up monthly support at: www.igo-worldwide.org/ramas-vivas.

KristinWolford@yahoo.com
320-309-0707 (US)
320-497-2064 (DR)

COVID-19 Crisis Fund

We have received generous donations to reach individuals and families who are impacted by COVID19. Thank you! We are currently researching ways to make these gifts make the biggest impact. The Melrose area has been especially hard-hit and so we are looking into ways to bring food, thermometers or disinfecting cleaners to families in need. Thanks for your continuing generosity, the need keeps growing!

COVID-19 Building Use Policies *updated May 1, 2020*

- Our Savior's building will be closed for in-person meetings through May. Zoom meetings are available in coordination with Pastor Kirsten.
- Drop off or pick up items from the church via a new box placed outside for drop off and pick up of large items as well as a mail-like slotted locked box for forms or envelopes.
- If you are one of the people entering the building to clean, maintain, landscape or staff here is how we keep each other safe:
 - o Please wear a mask in the building. The concern is airborne virus which any of us could have and not know and therefore leave behind for

someone else to breath (3 hours lifespan of virus in the air).

- o Please enter the door by the office and sign-in at a new clipboard which will be posted inside that door. We need to know who is in the building in case anyone gets sick and we need to notify those who may have been in the same space.
- o If you have a key or are using the lockbox code, please contact Angie by phone or email to make sure you are on our list. The lockbox code will be changed Friday 5/1/20.
- o A six-foot mark will be put on the floor from staff desks so that we maintain a safe physical distance.
- o Angie's (Secretary) office door will be closed, and may be locked, even if she is in the building, in order to help with reminding us of keeping physical distance.
- All of these decisions can and will be revisited as the situation in our county changes. The council reserves the right to open up or extend our closed building policy.

Newsletter deadline
is the 15th of the month

Ways to Worship

Sundays, Live 9:00 am:

Facebook - OSLC56307

Broadcast on:
KASM 1150 AM Radio

The following Sunday:

9:00 am Public Access
Channel 19

Audio CD Delivery

For those without internet or
radio, contact the office—
delivery is available!

Our Savior's Church Staff

Interim Pastor
Kirsten Nelson Roenfeldt
cell: 508-422-6277
Pastor.OSLC2405@gmail.com

Ministry Associate for Youth &
Families: Diana Brown

Music Coordinator:
Mike Aronson

Receptionist / Secretary:
Angela Mosman

Custodians:
Bestman & Josephine Dennis

Church Office Hours:by
appointment at this time

Congregational Council

Matt Eggert, President, *Personnel*
Matt.eggert@gmail.com,
605-376-5104

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Worship & Music
timsands5@gmail.com
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Deb Feeney
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320-260-6666, 320-845-7515

Kelly Orbeck, Education & Youth
orbeck5@albanytel.com
320-293-1331, 320-845-4656

Church Garage Sale
is still planned,
watch for a new
date soon!

We are still planning to have our large garage sale at church as soon as we can. As you pack your items for the sale, mark them and they will be ready to bring to church when the time comes.

Watch for announcements!

Quilt Auction at Luther Crest Bible Camp

On August 1st, Luther Crest will be having a quilt auction at the camp. Our Savior's talented quilters generously donated 10 quilts. These have been delivered to Luther Crest.

Thank you all quilters!

Layettes Delivered

We have to offer a big thank you to Dee and Marlo Nelson for packing the 38 layette sets we were able to make. Dee and Marlo were also so gracious to take them to the drop-off point in the Cities.

Thank you!

Deb Solarz, Women's Group
President

Women's Ministry
Lady Generators
We hope to meet soon!



Mary's Circle Bible Study
We pray that we can
gather again soon.



It seems the quilters just can't stop sewing. We are working on quilts by working at home with the "stay at home" guidelines.

We have a total of ten quilts completed for Luther Crest Bible Camp. Thanks for all the home sewers and quilters!

We hope to meet in soon. When we can, our group will meet on the second Wednesday of the month, so I hope you can come and tie quilts with us!

Making quilts with love,
Elaine Randall, 320-260-8977

OSLC YOUTH & FAMILIES

Take this opportunity to be the faith leaders in your home for your family. We have resources available but you are in charge of your child's faith journey. Take this time to reconnect with your own faith practices. Share your day, read the Bible, talk about the stories, pray and bless each other.

Joyful Noise & Sunday School is brought to you by friendly familiar faces! YouTube or Facebook @OSLC56307

Sunday School & Joyful Noise

May 31, 10:00 am - Holy Spirit

High School Youth
Zoom Wednesdays at 3:30
connect with Diana to get room
ID number

Zoom Coffee Hour!

Join us for Sunday coffee hour
after worship on Zoom.

10:15 Zoom Room Launch
10:30 Fellowship & conversation
Bring your own coffee and treats!

Contact the church office
for phone or Zoom numbers
to connect.

Adult Faith Formation

Lunch with the Pastor!
Wednesdays 12:30 pm

If you have access to a phone or computer, you can have lunch with Pastor Kirsten! Starting April 22nd, Pastor Kirsten will host a Lunch Zoom meeting, where we can talk about the Holy Story that is coming up next in worship and check in during this pandemic.

Below is the Zoom information to join the meeting. Mark your calendars! (This is the same Zoom info we used for the special congregational meeting on Sunday, 4/26.)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/805816506>

Meeting ID: 805 816 506

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,805816506# US
(Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 805 816 506

Book Study

Pastor Kirsten is interested in starting an online Book Study in June-July. Please contact her if you are interested:

508-422-6277 or

Pastor.OSLC2405@gmail.com



"I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope."
—Psalm 130: 5

"Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; he rises to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!"
—Isaiah 30:18

"Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing."
—2 Peter 3:9

"But I the LORD will speak what I will, and it shall be fulfilled without delay. For in your days, you rebellious house, I will fulfil whatever I say, declares the Sovereign LORD."
—Ezekiel 12:25

"For he says, 'In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.' I tell you , now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation."
—2 Corinthians 6:2

Worship on Wheels!

The Council & Worship leadership at OSLC want you to know we are planning for Worship on Wheels, W.O.W. We will be inviting you to bring your cars to the church parking lot and worship in your cars (windows rolled up). This seems to be a safe option that allows for physically gathering together. We will continue to broadcast on KASM 1150AM and Facebook Live for those who are safest worshipping at home. We will let you know as soon as we have completed the proper planning, including eventually adding in a system for distributing communion for those in cars and at home. Look for W.O.W. coming in June. Peace!

Prayer Chain

*"Is any of you in trouble?
He should pray.
Is anyone happy?
Let him sing songs of praise."
—James 5:13*

Need a prayer? Want some help? Facing challenges, big or small? The power of many prayers can help you. Please contact the church office at 320-845-2405, to put Our Savior's pray-ers in action.

All requests are confidential and use a first name, initials, or just a friend from church. We will pray for you...God will hear, as He knows who you are!

Don't Forget Your Offering...

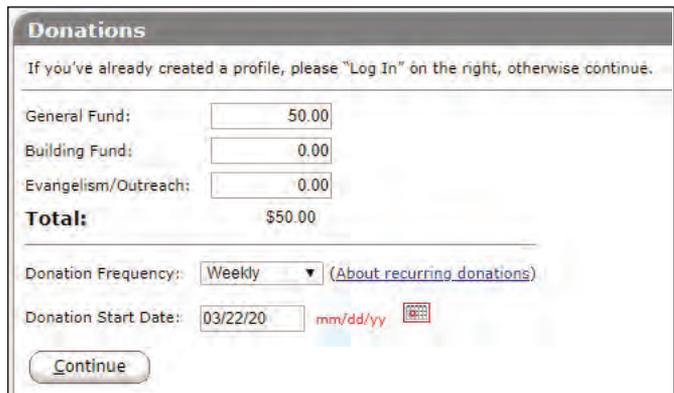
During this time of Social Distancing while you are away from weekly services, it's important to remember the financial needs of the church remain ongoing.

Now is the time to enroll in Online Giving using a convenient link on our website at www.OurSaviorsLutheranAlbany.org. New users must create an online profile by providing an email address and creating a secure password. Next, you will Add a Transaction to setup your donation amount and frequency as shown below. Enter and review your giving information and choose Process. Once the donation is processed, a confirmation screen will appear. And you're DONE—it's that simple!

Vanco (the servicing agent of OSLC online giving) also provides the Give Plus+ app you can access from your Smart Phone or tablet.

You can also put a stamp on your offering envelope and drop it in the mail.

Please know your church is here to provide healing and comfort to help you through these uncertain times, and we appreciate your continued support of our mission.



The screenshot shows a web form titled "Donations". At the top, it says "If you've already created a profile, please 'Log In' on the right, otherwise continue." Below this are three input fields for donation amounts: "General Fund:" with a value of 50.00, "Building Fund:" with a value of 0.00, and "Evangelism/Outreach:" with a value of 0.00. A "Total:" label shows a sum of \$50.00. Below a horizontal line, there is a "Donation Frequency:" dropdown menu set to "Weekly" with a link "(About recurring donations)". The "Donation Start Date:" is set to "03/22/20" with a calendar icon and the format "mm/dd/yy". At the bottom is a "Continue" button.

Ideas to Love One Another At Home:

- Pray for your neighbors, those most vulnerable, those most anxious. God hears you.
- Volunteer to call someone and check in with them. Tell Deb Feeney you are willing to help out 320-260-6666 or dahrenholz@charter.net
- Tell the church office if someone you know is unable to listen on KASM radio or worship online, so we can deliver them an audio CD.



Sunday Worship Online: 9:00 am

Sunday School & Joyful Noise
Online: 10:00 am

Pastor: Kirsten Nelson Roenfeldt
Ministry Associate for Youth &
Families: Diana Brown

Music Coordinator: Mike Aronson
Receptionist/Secretary:
Angela Mosman

Custodians:
Bestman & Josephine Dennis

Church Office Hours:
By appointment only at this time,
call (320) 845-2405

oursaviors@albanytel.com
www.OurSaviorsLutheranAlbany.org



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