



the Kindred Spirit

May 2020

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



Live Worship Services
Sundays 9:00 AM

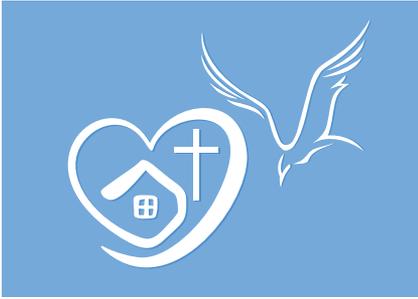
Facebook: [OSLC56307](#)

Or, tune into
KASM 1150 AM Radio

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



Dear Siblings in Christ,

So much has happened in the last month. As we began to see restrictions on our movement, including worship and church events, we did not know how long it would last. At this point, it looks like it will still last a while, at least while our state is working on being able to keep us safe with testing, testing that still needs some time to be widely available. Along with other community leaders, I thank you for your patience in this trying time. It is hard to not be able to gather in person, and it is hard to not be able to share the communion table. We are hungry and thirsty, and so we continue to connect over phone and internet to feed our hungry souls with God's Word, Jesus Christ, through reading the Sacred Story, reflecting together and being community for each other. Know that your leadership is hard at work considering safe ways to bring you back together in person, especially for communion and baptisms. Thank you for being a community of love and support in this time and place.

Mission Assessment Process Complete!

I have some good news! Our Savior's has now completed the Mission Assessment Process (MAP)! The MAP is the process led by the Ministry Site Profile Team (MSP) for the purpose of gathering the thoughts and values of the congregation regarding the ministry that Our Savior's does together. Remember those focus groups and interviews/handouts we completed? It may feel like a lifetime ago, but it just ended in February. The MAP has been written and will be shared with you in both written and video presentation over the next few short weeks. As of this writing, I do not know exactly how the MSP team will send out the full MAP, but keep your eyes out! After you have a chance to review the MAP, the MSP team will put together your Ministry Site Profile, which is the paperwork that you send out to any pastors who might be interested in coming to Our Savior's, as they are called by God and by you!

Here are a few highlights:

- This congregation values deeply 1) A community with which to mark our life events (baptisms, weddings, funerals), 2) A community that feels like a "second family," and 3) A community that nurtures children, youth and families.

- You identified a number of challenges, which is great, because the first step to overcoming them is to name what you are facing, here are just two that need a good deal of considering:

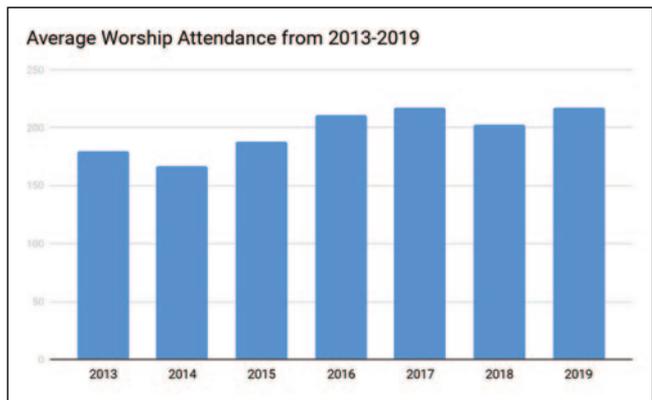
- The remodeling of the building is a clear desire by many. Particularly in three ways: 1) fixing the flooding problem in the basement, 2) making a main entrance more handicap-friendly and 3) creating an environment that is attractive to new folks & families, including decluttering common spaces, moving classrooms out of the basement and designing a child-friendly nursery.

- The greatest challenge that came up over and over again in focus groups was that 2020 family life looks different than it did 20 or 50 years ago. Families are busy, some are over-scheduled and by the time it gets to Sunday morning children’s programs, they feel optional instead of first on the priority list. Parents have less capacity for volunteering in Sunday School or other traditional church ministries than previous generations, often both parents are working full

time with barely enough Sabbath between them. How do we support families in their faith and encourage baptismal formation in ways and means that make sense for their lives and encourage them to prioritize faith at home?

- The assets of the congregation are many! These assets will help you make appropriate plans to address the opportunities before you, here again are just two, see the full report for more:

- Though many believed in our focus groups that attendance is waning at Our Savior’s before the pandemic, the truth is that it’s actually up from 8 years ago! The measurement used for worship attendance is an average across all weeks in the year. Starting in 2013 there was a big drop to 180, but then a gradual upward trend started to where you are now, which is around 220. See above for a chart. The point of sharing this with you is to encourage you. You are on the rise and can



continue on that trend. The keys to that trend may lie in demographics.

– You have some significant demographic advantages in the Albany area. Trends in the area lend towards more two-parent families (38%) and couples without children (43%). How are we reaching these large majority demographics in our area? You have a lot of young families coming into the area and staying in the area, and this is where your growth has come, and can come from. How about young (and retired) couples? Are we addressing their spiritual needs? The question might be, wouldn't you want to do all you can to minister to them at their stage of life if that is who God is giving you to minister to and with? What do all these folks need from a spiritual outpost?

Our Savior's Lutheran Church is a church with a sense of purpose to be a worshipping community, but is in need of clarity around a focused mission as to why this particular church exists and how it can impact people's lives. This is a congregation that cares deeply for the church as an institution. The people value strongly that the church exists in the community for marriages, baptisms, confirmation, funerals and other milestones in people's lives. The church is seen as family by many, both those who experience the church as their own second family,

as well as those who feel on the outside of the church "family." The church is important to people as a place for connection to God through worship, learning for children and milestones. The people of the church do not always connect that desire with the need to financially support the congregation. Articulating a focused mission might help individuals and families get invested in why the congregation exists and in supporting that "Why."

Be sure to read the full MAP to understand all of the challenges, assets and opportunities that were named, as well as various ideas for the Mission of the congregation. This is your church. You got this. And God will bring in God's kingdom...using us in all our assets and challenges, for us and to us, in spite of us and with us!

Be at Peace, Christ is with you.
Pastor K

Connecting with church staff during this time:

OSLC office hours are currently by appointment only. 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.

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 3 - Early Believers

May 10 - God's House

May 17 - The Promise of the Holy Spirit

May 24 - The Assention

May 31 - Holy Spirit

The Joyful Noise and Sunday School team is looking for individuals and families to record parts of the weekly lessons.

Confirmation, Grades 6-8

May 6- Bondage of the Will

May 13 - Two Kingdoms

May 20 - Vocation

Middle school youth Zoom Wednesdays 4:30 - connect with Diana to get room ID

High school youth Zoom Wednesdays at 3:30 - connect with Diana to get room ID

Help make videos for our children and families!

Planning a local mission trip for High School Youth in June - connect with Diana if interested in planning or participating.

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

Financial Summary as of March 31, 2020

	March only	March YTD
General Offerings/Income	\$ 14,759	\$ 41,300
General Fund Expenses	\$ 20,804	\$ 69,570
Net Differences	\$ (6,054)	\$(28,270)
	Annual Budget	Annual to-date
General Fund Offerings/Income	\$ 247,272	\$ 41,300
Needed each month	\$ 20,606	\$ 13,767
Needed each week	\$ 4,755	\$ 3,177

Paycheck Protection Loan Update:

Per unanimous approval given at a congregational meeting held April 26, via Zoom online and over the phone, Our Saviors submitted an application through the Small Business Administration (SBA) for a Paycheck Protection Program loan (PPP). As news outlets reported, the first round of funding ran out rather quickly after applications opened on April 3. A second round of funding is now available, so we have worked with Stearns Bank to help ensure our application will be approved. The loan will be completely forgiven and treated as a grant if two conditions are met: (1) the funds are primarily used to cover payroll costs, in addition to rent, mortgage and utilities during an 8-week period after the loan is made; and (2) employment and compensation levels are

maintained. If awarded, it is presumed our loan will be considered a grant. The amount we applied for is \$34,000. Further updates will be shared with the congregation once more information is known.

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

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

Lent Giving Update

Thank you to everyone who was able to support Kristin Wolford's Ministry in the Dominican Republic during Lent.

Many of you may have been using a coin bottle to collect money in your home during Lent—thank you! To return them to church, we are working on some drop-off times where you can leave them in the church office entryway. Watch the announcements for times.

Holy Yoga... via ZOOM

We have been “meeting” for yoga virtually by using the Zoom app, online, Mondays 6:30–7:30 pm. It's been working great!

Yoga classes will be May 4, 11, 18. Everyone is invited to join in, you don't have to be a member of Our Savior's. Fee 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:

Kleenex and Paper Towel

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)

Newsletter deadline
is the 15th of the month

COVID-19 Crisis Fund

As we all know, the federal government has sent out stimulus checks to eligible citizens with the intent to give financial help during this COVID-19 pandemic period. As per recent phone conversations and emails with Pastor Kirsten, I was asked to try to describe a proposal that could give temporary financial assistance to those people in our church and in our community who have been laid off or are otherwise facing special financial hardships due to the “stay at home” orders.

Many hurting people will find this money to be just enough to get by, while others with worse situations will still be facing a financial crisis in the upcoming weeks and months. With this in mind, maybe there is a way for members of this congregation to lend a hand to those in great need. The idea is to create a temporary spinoff activity of the Good Samaritan Program. The following thoughts are submitted for your consideration on this matter:

Because some members may not necessarily need some or even all of this unexpected stimulus money, they might be interested in donating to a special “COVID-19 Crisis Fund”. (Name to Be Determined)

- This activity would operate somewhat differently. With the Good Samaritan Program, a

person in need would approach the pastor to ask for help. With the COVID-19 Crisis Fund, we would, maybe collectively, learn of people in direct need and then give to them some financial assistance. In other words, the church would confidentially approach the needy, rather than the needy approach the church to receive financial help.

- If this so-called arm of our Good Samaritan Program could be formed, OSLC would further fulfill the mission to show love and help our neighbor in time of need, as Jesus often preached.

- It could help lift recipients out of some despair and hopelessness in the coming months. And donors would experience the good feeling of giving something additional to their normal giving, and thus fulfilling God's will on earth.

- This activity could be publicized via OSLC bulletins, announcements, etc that such a giving activity exists at OSLC.

- It could be presented along with encouraging members to give extra donations in meeting OSLC budget demands, helping Kristen Wolford's mission, and maintaining the regular Good Samaritan Fund. It could even be presented to encourage everyone that's able to tithe with the extra stimulus funds and maybe divide their tithe among those listed

above. Those Crisis Fund donations would be given to Pastor Kirsten confidentially.

- If the Crisis Fund would grow large enough, a few volunteers could be added to handle some parts of activity such as discretely distributing the gifts to recipients.

- Planning decisions, maybe with some direction from the Council, would need to be established such as 1) Who would receive such funds? 2) How much will the award would be? 3) How to preserve confidentiality? 4) How would awards be delivered to recipients?

- The Church Council would be the first group to learn of this idea, suggest modifications, and endorse it, not endorse it, or come up with a different idea.

Humbly submitted in Christ,
Bruce & Sandi Abraham

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.

Congregational Council

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

Tim Sands, Vice President
Worship & Music
timsands5@gmail.com
320-291-4593, 320-845-2389

Deb Solarz, Secretary, WELCA
drsolarz@albanytel.com
320-250-0273, 320-845-4534

Lynda Hartwig, Treasurer
(bonded), Finance
MLHartwig@albanytel.com
320-248-6479

Judy Fischer, Financial Secretary
(bonded), Cong. Life & Mission,
jfischer@albanytel.com
320-250-6452, 320-845-2342

Wade Rodenwald
Building & Grounds
wrodenwald@century21.com
320-267-7162, 320-845-2508

Emily Evenson
Education & Youth
enjo5179@icloud.com
320-266-2179, 320-845-6628

Kyle Evenson, Cemetery
kyleev@atsinc.com
320-260-3826, 320-845-6628

Deb Feeney
Welcome & Membership
dahrenholz@charter.net
320-260-6666, 320-845-7515

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

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

We are planning to have our large garage sale at church in the near future. 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!
Deb Solarz, Women's Group
President

Quilt Auction at
Luther Crest Bible Camp

On August 1st, Luther Crest will be having a quilt auction at the camp. If you would like to donate a quilt of any size, please contact Deb Solarz at 320-250-0273 for more info. The quilts need to be at the camp May 31st, so they can be put online for display. Money from the quilts will go for camper scholarships.

WANT A MASK?

Call Sharon Lehner
320-845-2904!

Or sew and send a batch to Lutheran Social Services. Visit www.lssmn.org and go to Get Involved–Volunteer–Volunteer Opportunities

Women's Ministry
Lady Generators
We hope to
meet in May!



Mary's Circle Bible Study
We pray that we can
gather in May.



Quilting Squares has been going great! We are working on quilts by working at home with the "stay at home" guidelines.

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

We hope to meet in May. Our group meets on the second Wednesday of the month.

Come and tie quilts with us!

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

Benton-Stearns COVID-19 Hotline

Hello Faith Community Leaders-

Stearns County is hearing reports that people without internet access are not getting much information about the current COVID-19 situation and the Governor's Stay at Home orders. We are hoping that you can help us spread the word about the Benton-Stearns COVID-19 hotline.

This hotline is available to answer any question residents may have—from questions about symptoms and testing, to questions about making a donation or what government services are available.

If you are making any phone calls to your congregation members, could you also make sure they are aware of the hotline to get answers to questions they may have? Anything you can do to help us spread information in the community during this uniquely challenging time would be greatly appreciated.

More local information can be found at: <https://co.stearns.mn.us/>
Benton-Stearns hotline is staffed 8:30am-4:30pm Monday-Friday:
320-656-6625 or toll free at 877-782-5683

The MN Department of Health also has a hotline which is staffed 7am-7pm, 7 days a week:
651-201-3920 or toll free 800-657-3903

Thanks in advance for your help,
Sally Sands

Public Health Coordinator,
Emergency Preparedness
Stearns County Public Health
P.O. Box 1107
St. Cloud, MN 56302
320-656-6276

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 is available for those without internet or radio, contact the office

Recycle your aluminum cans and support the Youth & Family Ministry!

Drop off your cans in the fenced area next to the garage at the back of the parking lot.



We worry because we are human. Worry is a normal and natural part of life. But, too much worry can distract and paralyze us. It can lead to denial of God's grace in our lives.

Sinful worry

“What was sown among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful.”
—Matthew 13:22

“Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.”
—Colossians 3:2

How can I worry less?

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”
—Philippians 4:6

“Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from Him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; He is my fortress, I will not be shaken.”
—Psalm 62:5-8

“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”
—Matthew 6:33-34

God's Promise

“Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.” —1Peter 5:7

Father God, please forgive me for allowing worry and anxiety to take root in my life. Forgive me for living from a worldly perspective rather than Your eternal perspective. You are in complete control, and You are greater than any fear my mind can conceive. Father, you promise to keep me in perfect peace, if I keep my mind on you, and if I trust in you. Teach me what it means to be persevering in prayer. Transform my worry into a rock solid faith that cannot be moved. I cannot change the future, but my situation can be changed as I bring my concerns before You. I make this my declaration: I will fix all my thoughts on You because I trust in You. I praise You for this victory, and for complete salvation and safety, and for Your divine peace that floods my soul. In the Name Of Christ Jesus, Amen.

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.

Donations

If you've already created a profile, please "Log In" on the right, otherwise continue.

General Fund:	<input type="text" value="50.00"/>
Building Fund:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
Evangelism/Outreach:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
Total:	\$50.00

Donation Frequency: [\(About recurring donations\)](#)

Donation Start Date: mm/dd/yy 

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,
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www.OurSaviorsLutheranAlbany.org



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840 Lake Avenue
P.O. Box 670
Albany, MN 56307-0670



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