



the Kindred Spirit

August 2020

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

Live Worship Services
Sundays 9:00 AM

Worship on the Grass,
Church Lawn

Facebook: [OSLC56307](#)

Tune into
KASM 1150 AM Radio

August 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
2 9am Worship on the Grass 10am Online Joyful Noise 10:30 am Zoom Coffee Hour 6pm VBS Facebook Live	3 1pm Staff meeting	4 2:15pm Bishop's Zoom with Pastors 7pm NA Meeting	5 10am Household Hazardous Waste drop-off, OSLC 10am VBS Zoom Session 12:30pm Lunch/Pastor Zoom 6:30pm Building & Grounds 8pm Inspired Book Club	6 9:30am Synod Interim Meeting 7pm Bishop Zoom with Council Presidents	7 <i>office closed</i>	1 8
<i>Week Three - At Home Vacation Bible School - Five-Week Series</i>						
9 9am Worship on the Grass 10am Online Joyful Noise 10:30 am Zoom Coffee Hour, Q&A with Sally Sands 6pm VBS Facebook Live	10 1pm Staff meeting	11 7pm NA Meeting	12 10am VBS Zoom Session 12:30pm Lunch/Pastor Zoom	13 9:30am Great River Conference 7pm Bishop Zoom with Council Presidents	14 <i>office closed</i>	15
<i>Week Four - At Home Vacation Bible School - Five-Week Series</i>						
16 9am Worship on the Grass 10am Online Joyful Noise 10:30 am Zoom Coffee Hour 6pm VBS Facebook Live	17 1pm Staff meeting	18 6:30pm Zoom Council Meeting 7pm NA Meeting	19 10am VBS Zoom Session 12:30pm Lunch with the Pastor - Zoom 8pm Inspired Book Club	20 7pm Bishop Zoom with Council Presidents	21 <i>office closed</i>	22
<i>Week Five - At Home Vacation Bible School - Five-Week Series</i>						
23 9am Worship on the Grass 10am Online Joyful Noise 10:30 am Zoom Coffee Hour	24 <i>office closed</i> 1pm Staff meeting	25 <i>office closed</i> 7pm NA Meeting	26 12:30pm Lunch with the Pastor - Zoom	27 7pm Bishop Zoom with Council Presidents	28 <i>office closed</i>	29
30 9am Worship on the Grass 10am Online Joyful Noise 10:30 am Zoom Coffee Hour	31 1pm Staff meeting	9/1 2:15pm Bishop's Zoom with Pastors 7pm NA Meeting	9/2 12:30pm Lunch with the Pastor - Zoom 6:30pm Building & Grounds Meeting 8pm Inspired Book Club	9/3 9:30am Synod Interim Meeting 7pm Bishop Zoom with Council Presidents	9/4 <i>office closed</i>	9/5
Please check the website calendar for schedule changes and/or cancellations: OurSaviorsLutheranAlbany.org						

Sally Sands FAQ

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

Dear Church,

On June 28th, Sally Sands, our congregation member and local public health emergency preparedness official, shared her knowledge of the current pandemic with us. Below are my notes from the discussion we had with her. We will schedule another August 9th to receive updated information. As we know, God has given us all different gifts. A big thanks to Sally for sharing her gifts with us! If you have a question for Sally, please send it to

the church office by August 5th and we will collect them for her to answer on the 9th.

I don't know anyone with COVID now, are we in the clear?

In the last two days the case numbers have gone up in our county and across the state. We do not know yet if this is a new trend or just a blip. The majority of new cases are coming from younger people (20's -30's) who are going to bars and restaurants who aren't following the social distancing guidelines. The concern is that on top of these cases, they may spread it to older or more vulnerable people with whom they have contact at home or in the community.

How many people are actually getting sick, and how bad is it?

The current situation is that younger people are getting sick now. The average hospital stay is 11 days, across all age groups. 12% of people diagnosed are hospitalized and 4-5% die. There very likely are cases that go undiagnosed, but this is what we know of those who do. For example: Albany is a population of 2700. To reach herd immunity we will need a minimum of 1,620 (60%) to be infected. With that many infections we could expect that the 5% death rate would mean that 81 people in Albany would die. This virus is 10 times more deadly than the flu. Even if

people don't die from the disease, there are a lot of potential long term effects of the disease- lung scarring, heart inflammation, irregular heartbeat, and worsening of kidney and liver function have all been reported in people who have recovered from COVID.

Do people actually die from COVID or do they just die "with" COVID?

People with COVID often ultimately die from a heart attack, stroke or pneumonia. This is similar to cancer, influenza, HIV, etc. So just like we say someone died from cancer, we say that they died from COVID. Without COVID, they would most likely not have died at this time. People don't die from the disease itself, they die from what the disease has done to weaken their body and the strain it causes on other body systems. COVID effects the lungs and causes inflammation throughout the body. This can cause pneumonia to set in or cause a strain on the heart, which ultimately causes the persons death. But without the COVID infection they never would have developed the other conditions that ultimately caused their death. Therefore we refer to this as a death caused by COVID.

Are hospitals naming more cases as COVID cases in order to earn more money from reimbursements?

If hospitals do this, it is fraud. Hospitals do not get paid for

someone's death, they get paid for treating someone with a disease. COVID patients require a lot of extra equipment (masks, gowns, special treatment rooms) to safely and effectively treat them. In order to cover those costs, the federal government decided to increase Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement rates for those patients.

We seem to have flattened the curve in MN, why can't we just open up again and go back to normal?

It is easy for the healthcare system to get overwhelmed. So we need the opening to continue to stay slow and controlled. That way when smaller outbreaks happen like those in Mankato and Minneapolis this week, we can continue to contact trace and monitor the situation to be sure there is not an explosion of spread that grows from that outbreak. We are all depending upon individual actions of each person to be careful so that we can have a manageable number of cases in each hospital service area.

What does it mean when people talk about a "New Normal"? What does that look like?

We all realize that people need to be connected to one another. It is important to balance the need to be social with the need to have distance and masks. The new normal is to wear a mask as much as possible, to physically distance from people, even when you are

connecting with them. That may be in-person, but 6 or more feet apart, or that may be using phone calls, online tools or letters to stay connected.

What is the big deal about masks?

If everyone is wearing a mask, the likelihood that anyone will get sick is 6 times less, only 3% spread to others. However, without masks, the likelihood of others catching the virus is 18-20%. We do not want mask-wearing to become political. Mask-wearing is something we can all do to care for one another. Centracare is starting a campaign, just like we had anti-smoking campaigns or seat belt campaigns, to be sure that everyone knows that mask-wearing is simply a safe practice. It is not meant to be any more controlling than a seatbelt.

Thanks again to Sally for sharing her gift of knowledge with us!

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.

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

Zoom Coffee Hour!

Sunday after worship

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.

NOW:

Worship On The Grass!

With Communion

Parking Lot Opens at 8:30 AM

- Bring your printed worship order to participate!
- Begin parking 30 minutes prior to worship, at 8:30AM
- Bring your lawnchair, Wear a mask and Stay 6 feet from folks as you find your seats on the lawn!
- Park our cars in the lot as directed by volunteers at a minimum of 6 feet apart
- Have our volunteers wear masks and gloves
- Use the bathroom before you come; No bathrooms will be available
- Stay home if we have a cough, fever, fatigue or any other possible COVID19 symptoms
- Stay home if we are At-Risk

We will continue to broadcast on KASM 1150AM, Facebook Live and Public Access TV (with a week delay) for those who are safest worshipping at home.

Newsletter deadline
is the 15th of the month

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

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Kelly Orbeck, Education & Youth
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320-293-1331, 320-845-4656



Quilting Squares

We will have no meeting with the “Quilting Squares” until further notice. We could take tables outside and tie the quilts on a nice day, but taking the equipment and tables out, is to much work for the ladies. SO, keep on sewing at home until we meet again.

Elaine

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

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.

Albany Food Shelf

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

Cake Mix
Frosting

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!



The Women’s groups will meet as soon as we are able.

We miss you all!

Financial Summary as of June 30, 2020

	June only	June YTD
General Fund Offerings/Income	\$ 11,101	\$102,865
General Fund Expenses	\$ 17,458	\$121,415
Net Differences <i>(income less expenses)</i>	\$ (6,357)	\$(18,549)

Annual Budget Annual to-date

General Fund Offerings/Income	\$ 247,272	\$102,865
Needed each month	\$ 20,606	\$ 17,144
Needed each week	\$ 4,755	\$ 3,956

Please note: above information does not include designated funds or grant proceeds.



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

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)

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!

Absentee Balloting for August 11th Primary

Absentee voting begins June 26, 2020 for the August 11th Primary. Because of the current pandemic residents who wish to vote by absentee are encouraged to request an absentee ballot online at mnvotes.org.

Vote absentee by mail

Voters apply for an absentee ballot online at mnvotes.org or contact the Auditor-Treasurer's office and an application will be mailed or faxed to you.

- Ballot will be mailed with instructions on how to complete process and return to the Stearns County Election Office.
- Voters will have the option to track their ballot online at mnvotes.org.

Voting is another way we practice living in two kingdoms: The kingdom of God and the "kingdom" of the World. As Christians, we allow Christ to lead us everywhere we go, including the ballot box! When we vote, we help to express God's kingdom values in the world. Minnesota is encouraging us to consider voting by absentee ballot to keep each other safe during this pandemic. Thanks for thinking of your neighbors and planning ahead!

Pastor Kirsten

OSLC YOUTH & FAMILIES

At-Home VBS

In August, we will hold At-Home VBS for weeks three, four and five. Each week is a combination of prerecorded videos, live Facebook, and zoom sessions.

Zoom sessions are on Wednesdays at 10 am. Facebook Live weekly Kickoffs are Sundays at 6pm. Access to other videos and useful activities through out the week are sent in emails weekly. Be sure to have your email so that you and your family will receive VBS updates.

Parent and guardian support and help through text, phone calls, and zoom can be arranged! Please don't hesitate to reach out. Check in email will happen mid-week.

Please know that we are praying that you will "Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power!" as we walk together through this discipleship journey.

Thanks to you for joining in ministry through VBS!

Joyful Noise

10:00 am every Sunday by Zoom. Contact the church office for the log-in information.



Southwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

What Might the "Next" Normal Look Like for Your Church?

Many of us remember asking our parents on the way to Grandma's house, "When will we get there?!" In the midst of Stay-at-Home 2020, all of us wondered when things would get back to normal for daily life and for church life. And if someone had told you last February, that there would be no Easter services in your building this year, people would thought it was the worst thing ever to happen in your church. Under your watch: the end of the church!

Well, guess what? Easter services did not take place in your building, and it was O.K. Everything moved ONLINE. The church left the building and was the church. Congregations immediately began engaging people to love one another in new ways: learning technology, cheering on health care workers, buying groceries, telephoning members, giving online, helping with home schooling, pitching in at food shelves, delivering food, helping folks who are homeless, and sewing masks. You did all of that!

Life before COVID seems like a long, long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away. But our people still

want to know, "When will things get back to normal?!"

Then on Memorial Day, life became more grievous and complex. The murder of George Floyd has moved the people in small towns and cities across the country to listen to each other and speak out against the sin of racism, and examine the privileges known to white people in ways we haven't addressed as a nation and as church. We pray we will not return to the old normal of ignoring racial justice.

As we do all of this, the Gov. is slowly turning the dials on in-person gatherings ever so gently. After months of being apart from each other, people are so looking forward to that great day when we can get back to normal in so many ways - get back together in the sanctuary, see the people we love, sing our favorite hymns, have discussions and Bible study, and be together just like we've always done.

But BEFORE the COVID dials turn much more, this is a time to push the HOLD button, and even hit the RE-SET button on the way we did ministry and what those ministries might look like. "Normal" the way we used to know it is not coming back. Maybe the word itself is no longer

helpful. All we know is that we are here now, and God is here now – whatever “here” means. And this summer of 2020 provides a tremendous opportunity to have honest conversation about where we’ve been, what we’ve learned, and the future God might be envisioning for our congregation.

Biblical Foundation: *Isaiah 49:1-6*. God’s people were in exile, away from the place where they worshiped God, feeling isolated and forsaken. Their hope was that they would eventually be able to return home to worship and enjoy the calling God had given them as God’s servant. But God said, “Hold on a minute. When you get back home life isn’t going to be like it was before. Things have changed. There’s a new normal you have to adapt to, and then another next normal. You need to prepare yourselves for that reality. And actually, I haven’t just called you to roll up yourselves and serve yourselves; I’ve called you to be a light to the nations, that my saving power may reach everyone on earth.”

What if God is calling the church today into a whole new reality? For 20 years, many of us have been acknowledging that we need to press a re-set button for the church. Attendance has been dwindling, mobility increasing, loyalty lagging, communications technology changing the world as significantly as the printing press once did, and we wondered: If this

is another reformation, what exactly is God calling us into as the church in the 21st century?

With the pandemic of COVID-19, the church left the building and learned new ways of communicating, gathering, worshiping, and loving others. People are tuning in. Families are comfortable worshiping at home. People who haven’t shown up in years are joining in and - even affirming the sermon. The kids of our congregation who long ago moved away and remain without a church, are tuning in, and saying, “That’s my church!” People are offering prayers for friends, emojis of love, hosting watch parties, and thanking their pastors for hanging in there. We wonder: Will people want to come into a church building for worship again? Predictions are that some will not.

With growing recognition of the pandemic of racism, the church began talking about our history in this country, young people are speaking out, people are having deep conversations, and this is a moment when we don’t want to fall asleep on this issue ever again.

While we’re together, apart – we’re recognizing what’s most important in life, what we seem to be able to live without, what we truly value. It’s an opportunity to ask how we will live out the greatest purpose God has for our congregation – building life-giving relationships with God, one another, and the world.

Process: Right now, God is here and giving leaders, church councils, and congregation participants, time to step back, push the re-set button, and reflect: How has the pandemic impacted the ministries we do and how we do them? What are you seeing and hearing in your congregation and in your community? What do we need to put on hold before resuming things again? What do we never want to do again? What is God calling us to improve or grow? Most importantly how is God showing us WHY our congregation exists?

Using Zoom meetings of church councils, staff, key leaders, and/or committees:

- Begin with the entire group in the Biblical devotion.
 - Provide the background on why it is important to have this conversation now.
 - Be sure everyone has a copy of the discussion questions, or create your own response page for people to write notes. Participants could break into rooms. Group: designate a note-taker.
 - Focus intentionally on each of the 3 areas of building life-giving relationships with God, one another, and the world; or apply the questions to a particular ministry.
- What have you noticed about your congregation’s response to life

these days in terms of life-giving relationships with God, one another, and the world?

- What behaviors are you seeing?
- What do we really miss?
- What have we stopped doing, but do not miss, because honestly, it was more life-sucking than life-giving?
- What does this response indicate about what our congregation values?
- Back in the large group, groups report what they heard.
- For discussion: What new possibilities might God be opening up if our congregation pursues these behaviors or values in the coming months?
- What first steps do we need to take? Who will take them? By when? How?
- How can we involve more people in our decision-making or planning?
- What resources do we have – and/or need - to move forward these steps?

These questions or others could be repeated for a congregation’s ministry areas as they reflect on the vitality of their life-giving relationships with God, one another, and the community.

How is God leading us into a “next normal”?



Psalm 23 (*KJ version*)

“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. ² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. ³ He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. ⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. ⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.”

Psalm 42:11 “Why are you downcast, O , my soul? Why so disturbed within me?”

Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.”

Lamentations 3:25-26 “The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.”

Matthew 5:4 “Jesus said, “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”

Psalm 18: 1-2 “ I love you, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. “

Most Precious Heavenly Father, let my life be filled with your hope, joy, peace and faith so that I may continue to abound in hope through the power of the Holy Spirit. As I pray, I experience your hope as the sure and steadfast anchor of my soul. From now on I will hope continually and praise you more and more. Thank you for giving me a sense of your abiding hope. In the Name of my Savior and LORD, Jesus the Christ.

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 On the Grass &
Online: 9:00 am
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
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