



the Kindred Spirit

December
2020

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

Worship Online—Sundays 9:00 AM

**Online Christmas Eve. Worship
Thursday, Dec. 24 at 4:30pm**

**Online Christmas Morning Worship
Friday, Dec. 25 at 9:00 AM**

Facebook: OSLC56307

Tune into KASM 1150 AM Radio



December 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
11/29 9am Emmitt Hinman Baptism 9am Farewell for Pastor Kirsten 9am Worship Service—Online 10am Goodbye Coffee Hour with Pastor Kirsten—Zoom 10am Online Joyful Noise 10:30am Sunday School Zoom	11/30 1pm Staff Meeting	1 7pm NA Meeting	2 6:30pm Building & Grounds	3 9:30am Synod Interim Meeting 1pm Prayer Circle 7pm Bishop Zoom with Council Presidents	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5
6 9am Worship Service—Online 10am Online Joyful Noise 10:30 Sunday School Zoom	7 1pm Staff Meeting	8 2pm Bishop's Zoom with Pastors 7pm NA Meeting 7pm Worship & Music Committee Meeting—Zoom	9 7pm Christmas carol sing-along (Zoom)	10 9:30am Great River Conference PALS 7pm Bishop Zoom with Council Presidents	11 OFFICE CLOSED	12
13 9am Worship Service—Online 10am Online Joyful Noise 10:30am Sunday School Zoom	14 1pm Staff Meeting	15 9am Lady Generators 7pm NA Meeting 7:30pm Council Meeting—Zoom	16 1pm Mary's Circle Bible Study 5:30pm Congregational Life & Mission meeting 7pm Christmas carol sing-along (Zoom)	17 7pm Bishop Zoom with Council Presidents	18 OFFICE CLOSED	19
20 9am Worship Service—Online 10am Online Joyful Noise 10:30am Sunday School Zoom	21 1pm Staff Meeting	22 7pm NA Meeting	23	24 Christmas Eve. OFFICE CLOSED 4:30pm Worship Broadcast 6 & 7pm "Silent Night" candlelight & parking lot communion	25 Christmas Day OFFICE CLOSED 9am Worship Broadcast	26
27 9am Worship Service—Online 10am Online Joyful Noise 10:30am Sunday School Zoom	28 1pm Staff Meeting	29 7pm NA Meeting	30	31 ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE 7pm Bishop Zoom with Council Presidents	1/1 OFFICE CLOSED New Year's Day	1/2
Please check the website calendar for schedule changes and/or cancellations: OurSaviorsLutheranAlbany.org						



The following letter from Pastor Kirsten was sent to the congregation in the first ENews in November. We reprint it here to be sure all have had the opportunity to read her well wishes.

Dear Our Savior's Siblings,

It is with mix of emotions that I announce to you that I have accepted a call to Salem Lutheran Church in St. Cloud. We knew from the beginning of my time here that it was temporary, but that does not always make it any easier to accept. Life feels like even more constant change than usual during this COVID19 pandemic, and so I pray you will join me in seeing all of life as an adventure to the extent possible.

My new adventure will keep me in the very same conference, so I hope that we will not lose touch with one another. Our work as the church is larger than any one congregation, and so I look to your leadership in the Albany area to shine God's light of love and care for your neighbors.

My final Sunday will be November 29th; I will be available for farewell conversations through Nov. 25th. I am grateful to have a few Sundays left to worship with you. Since gatherings are limited, please join me for Lunch with the Pastor at 12:30 on Wednesdays for an opportunity to study and say goodbye in a small group.

I am incredibly grateful for the time that God has put me here with you, called to serve you with Word and Sacrament. I am eager to see what God does here among you with a new pastor! I will continue to pray for the mission and ministry of your congregation as you move forward seeking a new settled pastor and through the ongoing transition.

Through the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

The Rev. Kirsten Nelson Roenfeldt
SWMN ELCA Pastor
508-422-6277
Pastor.oslc2405@gmail.com

Financial Summary as of October 31, 2020

	Oct only	Oct YTD
General Fund Offerings/Income	\$11,621	\$144,354
General Fund Expenses	\$20,476	\$196,735
Net Difference <i>(income less expenses)</i>	(\$8,855)	(\$52,381)

	Annual Budget	Actual to-date	Budget Shortfall
	<i>Amounts Needed</i>	<i>Amounts Given</i>	
General Fund Offerings/Income	\$247,272	\$144,354	(\$102,917)
Per Month	\$20,606	\$14,435	
Per Week	\$4,755	\$3,357	

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

Throughout November, we heard Pastor Kirsten's ministry series about Stewardship, encouraging us to be good Stewards of all the gifts we've been given. This culminated in us being asked to prayerfully consider our financial commitment for the upcoming year and bring our annual pledge cards to the church November 22. If you were not able to return your card in person, please mail it to the church. This information is used as we work on 2021 budgets, so we depend upon and appreciate your timely response.

Make Christmas a little merrier for people in our local area! Again, this year we will be gathering gifts for area children and seniors who may not otherwise receive Christmas gifts. Tags can be picked up in Albany at Teals or Central MN Credit Union drive-thru.



Christmas Worship Schedule

This Christmas Eve, worship will be broadcast on Facebook @OSLC56307 at 4:30pm.

Following worship, please join us at 6pm or 7pm to receive communion in the parking lot and sing "Silent Night" by candlelight. Contingent on weather, we will hold a living nativity scene.

Christmas morning worship will be broadcast online at 9am.

Greetings from the Call Committee:

Great News! Our Savior's has secured the service of Bridge Interim Pastor Denise Hanson, and she will be joining us beginning the week of Monday, December 7th. Pastor Denise comes from Living Waters Lutheran Church in Sauk Rapids, MN and will serve full-time until we have our new called Pastor. We look forward to introducing her to our congregation and making her feel at home during this transition. The Call Committee has also been busy setting up interviews for our called minister and have the first few interviews already scheduled. We will keep the congregation updated on our progress.

Call Committee Members include:

Deb Solarz, Melanie Voss, Mike Aronson, Greg Evenson, Andrew Hahn, Judy Fischer, and Tim Sands. Please reach out to Call Committee Chair, Tim Sands, with any questions.



We are very thankful for having Pastor Kirsten with us since Summer 2019. In addition to leading us through the interim period of developing the MSP and calling a new Pastor, she has helped us weather the storm of the COVID pandemic. We are grateful for her positive and caring attitude during these challenging times. She has been a great friend to Our Savior's and we wish her well in her new role.

Please join us in thanking and bidding farewell to Pastor Kirsten during her last service at OSLC on **Sunday, November 29th at 9am**. The service will be streamed on Facebook and also broadcast live on KASM.

**Following worship join us for a Goodbye Coffee Hour with
Pastor Kirsten at 10:00am by Zoom.**

Join Zoom Meeting

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

By Phone: +1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 805 816 506

OSLC YOUTH & FAMILIES

Adventures in Advent— Seasonal Newsletter

During Advent, we are invited to wait and prepare for the arrival of baby Jesus. Weekly “Adventures in Advent” newsletters will help your family get ready by learning, creating, serving, and exploring together. The activities in the newsletters will encourage your family to spend intentional time together this Advent season. To receive this weekly email during the Advent Season, email Diana at diana.oslc@gmail.com or look for a link in the weekly e-news starting in November.

Sunday School through Zoom!

Sunday mornings at 10:30 AM connect through Bible Stories, games, and check-ins! At home resources for families available by request. Contact Diana for the zoom links.
Diana.oslc@gmail.com

Joyful Noise

Check out children’s lesson on our YouTube channel @OSLC56307. Every Sunday we offer a video lesson that correlates to the readings used in worship. Along with the Bible story children can enjoy worship music with Mr. Mike, a craft or spiritual practice and prayer! If you would like to receive weekly children’s ministry emails, connect with Diana using diana.oslc@gmail.com.

December 6—John the Baptist
Prepares the Way:

Mark 1:1-8

Jesus is the good news to share with everyone.

December 13—John the Baptist
Proclaims Jesus’ Coming:

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Jesus is the light of the world!

December 20—Angels Visit:

Luke 1:26-38

Jesus is God’s son and one of us!

December 27—Jesus is Born:

Luke 2:1-20

Jesus came for everyone.



Operation Christmas Child Update:

Thank you to everyone who donated a shoebox to Samaritan's Purse. We were able to send 60 boxes to the children.

- Congregational Life & Mission

6-8th Grade Confirmation Lessons

— December 2: The Devil · Unit 4 · Lesson 14

Takeaway: The devil's power, though still active in the world, dissolves in the waters of baptism.

Key Verse: Hebrews 2:14 "Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil."

— December 9: Doubt · Unit 4 · Lesson 15

Takeaway: Doubt is a normal experience in the lifelong journey of faith.

Key Verse: John 20:29 "Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'"

— December 16: Martin Luther · Unit 2 · Lesson 1

Takeaway: Luther lived five hundred years ago and was inspired to teach in a way that pointed to Jesus' free gift of salvation.

Key Verse: Ephesians 2:8 "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God."

— December 23 & 30: No Lesson · Christmas

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 of the world.



Annual Meeting:
Sunday, January 31st

Annual Report Deadline:
Thursday, December 31st

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

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Deb Feeny

Welcome & Membership

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Kelly Orbeck, Education & Youth

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Our congregation currently has 6 ladies in local nursing homes. Can we make lap quilts for these ladies to add a little comfort while they are watching TV or resting in their chairs? If you can make a quilt top that measures 33" x 40", I will furnish the backing, batting, and quilt it with my long arm machine. Please let me know if you are interested. Hoping to get a few comfort quilts delivered by Christmas.

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

**Newsletter deadline
is the 15th of the month**



Wiley Eric Nieman

November 8, 2020

Parents: Nicole & Eric Nieman
Sponsors: Dennis & Diana Yorek

Violet Jean Banister

November 15, 2020

Parents: Jordan & Aaron Banister
Sponsors: Alexis & Trenton Berg

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



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

Kleenex
Paper Towels

At this time, we ask that you drop off your donations at the Food Shelf, located across the street from the church in the Senior Center building.

Albany Food Shelf Hours
1st Thursday—mornings
3rd Thursday—Early evenings
Connect with Edna
320-291-6623
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Prayer Box

December 2020
Compassion



"And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion."

— Exodus 33:19

"As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the LORD finally brought about. The LORD is full of compassion and mercy."

— James 5:11

"Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. "

— Psalm 51:1

"Praise be to the God and Father of our LORD Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God."

— 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

"Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸Ask the LORD of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

— Matthew 9:35-38

Most Heavenly Father, help me to show compassion to others. You've taught me to forgive instead of seeking revenge. When others are down, I want to lift them up. When things are confusing, help me to clarify. When others are lost, help me to share your truth. Help me to treat others like you have treated me. Give me a heart to love my neighbor and see them through their trials. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

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ALBANY, MN 56307



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Sunday Worship Online: 9:00 am

Joyful Noise Online: 10:00 am

Interim Pastor: Pastor Denise Hanson

Ministry Associate for Youth & Families:
Diana Brown

Music Coordinator: Milke 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