



the **Kindred Spirit**

January
2021

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

Worship Online—Sundays 9:00 AM

Facebook: OSLC56307

Tune into KASM 1150 AM Radio

Happy New Year!

January 2021

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 Worship Service—Online 10am Curbside Communion 10am Online Joyful Noise 10:30am Sunday School Zoom	4 12pm Staff Meeting	5 7pm NA Meeting	6 6:30pm Building & Grounds Committee Meeting	7 9:30am Synod Interim Meeting 1pm Prayer Circle 7pm Bishop Zoom with Council Presidents	1 OFFICE CLOSED 8 OFFICE CLOSED	2 9
10 9am Worship Service—Online 10am Curbside Communion 10am Online Joyful Noise 10:30 Sunday School Zoom	11 12pm Staff Meeting 7pm Garden Club	12 2pm Bishop's Zoom with Pastors 7pm NA Meeting	13 1pm Quilting Squares	14 9:30am Great River Conference PALS 7pm Bishop Zoom with Council Presidents	15 OFFICE CLOSED	16
<i>Office Closed—Pastor Denise available by appointment only</i>						
17 9am Everett Herding Baptism 9am Worship Service—Online 10am Curbside Communion 10am Online Joyful Noise 10:30am Sunday School Zoom	18 MLK Holiday OFFICE CLOSED 12pm Staff Meeting	19 7pm NA Meeting 7pm Council Meeting—Zoom	20 1pm Mary's Circle Bible Study	21 7pm Bishop Zoom with Council Presidents	22 OFFICE CLOSED	23
24 9am Worship Service—Online 10am Curbside Communion 10am Online Joyful Noise 10:30am Sunday School Zoom	25 12pm Staff Meeting	26 7pm NA Meeting	27	28 7pm Bishop Zoom with Council Presidents	29 OFFICE CLOSED	30
31 9am Worship Service—Online 10am Curbside Communion 10am Online Joyful Noise 10:30am Sunday School Zoom 11am Annual Meeting—Zoom	2/1 12pm Staff Meeting	2/2 7pm NA Meeting	2/3 6:30pm Building & Grounds Committee Meeting	2/4 9:30am Synod Interim Meeting 1pm Prayer Circle 7pm Bishop Zoom with Council Presidents	2/5 OFFICE CLOSED	2/6
Please check the website calendar for schedule changes and/or cancellations: OurSaviorsLutheranAlbany.org						



Pastor's Message

For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

- Galatians 3:26-28

At the beginning of a new year (goodbye 2020!!!), and with an upcoming presidential inauguration and all of the turmoil that exists in our country politically, I wanted to talk a little bit about how we live with one another during these divisive times. I myself grew up in a family that was politically divided, and I live in a family now that has varying political views. So I've been shaped by the reality of trying to navigate differences.

Author Brene Brown coins a phrase in her book, "Braving the Wilderness," that I think speaks to our current situation. She writes that we have developed a "counterfeit intimacy," which happens when we find our belonging by being with people who all share a common enemy. We all hate the same person or idea so we are bonded as a group though we don't actually know anything about the people and are afraid to say,

"I actually might disagree with something," or "Maybe there are nuances to the other point of view." It makes people afraid to reach across to the other side.

As Christians, though, our faith doesn't align with any one political party; it aligns with Jesus. We don't see sides, we see people. And we recognize that some of our Christian values are found in this bunker, and some are found in that one. We are willing to see the nuances in the opposing view, and to listen in such a way that we are seeking to genuinely hear and learn from people who don't agree with us.

In the gospels, we see that Jesus could never be pinned down to one political or religious party, though people continually tried to align him with their point of view. Many Jews at the time wanted Jesus to align with the Zealots, who were a group of radicals who believed that violence was the only way to take down the Roman oppressors.

Others wanted Jesus to align with the Essenes, who were a group of religious people who believed that the only way to continue to be God's chosen people under Roman oppression was to separate themselves from the world. John the Baptist was most likely an Essene. The Essenes lived in the wilderness, and lived a life of asceticism. Some religious scholars believe that Jesus actually began as an Essene, but then separated from them.

Others wanted Jesus to align with the Pharisees. They were the religious conservatives of the day, the law keepers. And although Jesus followed Jewish law, he refused to be pinned down by it if mercy and love were at stake. So he was always confronting the Pharisees, and yet he also reached out to them and loved them. Nicodemous was a Pharisee, and it's believed that after his night time encounter with Jesus, he would later become a follower of him.

Then there were the Sadducees, the liberals of the day and the religious intellectuals. They were wealthy because they were aligned with Rome for money and power. They, too, struggled with what to do with Jesus, and in fact, chose to team up with their usual enemy, the Pharisees, in order to get rid of him.

It is interesting to think that Jesus called both Matthew and Simon to be his disciples. Matthew was a Jewish tax collector who had chosen to work for Rome in collecting exorbitant taxes from his own Jewish people. And Simon was a zealot, believing that the only way to overthrow Rome was by violence. So here were two people directly opposed to each other politically...and yet both called to follow Jesus.

Can it be for us?

May God bless and keep you in these trying times! And may we continue to be one together in Christ Jesus!

Curbside Communion

Coming in January.....Curbside Communion!!

Please join us following online worship to receive communion from 10-10:30am in the parking lot every Sunday morning in January.



Congregational Annual Meeting:

Sunday, January 31, 2021

@ 11:00 AM

Below is the Zoom information to join the meeting. Mark your calendars!

To Join Zoom Meeting:
Go to join.zoom.us and enter Meeting ID: 943 1197 9559. Select Open Zoom Meetings. A new window will open and ask for meeting password: 425596.

To Join by Phone:
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Meeting ID: 943 1197 9559
Passcode: 425596

Greetings from the Call Committee:

The call committee has been conducting meetings and so far, have interviewed 4 wonderful candidates for the call at Our Saviors. After a great deal of prayer, thought, and consideration we have narrowed the list down and will be holding second interviews in January. We welcome prayers as we handle the discernment, search, and call process and will keep you updated in January. Happy New Year to all!!

Call Committee Members include:

Deb Solarz, Melanie Voss, Mike Aronson, Greg Evenson, Andrew Hahn, Judy Fischer, and Tim Sands. Thank you to these members for dedicating their time in shaping the future of OSLC.

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.

Financial Summary as of November 30, 2020

	Nov only	Nov YTD
General Fund Offerings/Income	\$23,317	\$167,671
General Fund Expenses	\$21,053	\$217,788
Net Difference <i>(income less expenses)</i>	\$2,264	(\$50,116)

	Annual Budget	Actual to-date	Budget
	<i>Amounts Needed</i>	<i>Amounts Given</i>	Shortfall
General Fund Offerings/Income	\$247,272	\$167,671	(\$79,600)
Per Month	\$20,606	\$15,243	
Per Week	\$4,755	\$3,493	

Please note: above information is based on actual General Fund giving and does not include designated funds or grant proceeds.

Join us at the Annual Meeting January 31 to hear about 2020 financial results and the 2021 projected budget.

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 at diana.oslc@gmail.com,

January 3—Simeon & Anna:
Luke 2:22-40

January 10—Jesus the Word:
John 1:10-18

January 17—Jesus' Baptism:
Mark 1:4-11

January 24—God Calls Samuel:
1 Samuel 3:1-20

January 31—Jonah and the Big Fish:
Jonah 1-4

6-8th Grade Confirmation Lessons

— January 6: The Reformation · Unit 2 · Lesson 2

Takeaway: Liberating communities to explore their own faith leads to a diversity of practices and beliefs.

Key Verse: Galatians 3:28 "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."

— January 13: The Reformers · Unit 2 · Lesson 3

Takeaway: Martin Luther was one of many people sparked by the Protestant Reformation.

Key Verse: 1 Corinthians 3:11 "For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ."

— January 20: Lutheran Confessions · Unit 2 · Lesson 4

Takeaway: The catechisms and other confessional writings were written to bring focus to the Bible's main teachings.

Key Verse: John 11:27 "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

— January 27: Adiaphora · Unit 2 · Lesson 5

Takeaway: The movement started by Luther inspired people to be led by the Holy Spirit in their own time, place, and culture.

Key Verse: 1 Corinthians 10:23 "'All things are lawful,' but not all things are beneficial. 'All things are lawful,' but not all things build up."

Epiphany Prayer

Lord Jesus, may your light shine our way, as once it guided the steps of the magi: that we too may be led into your presence and worship you, the Child of Mary, the Word of the Father, the King of the nations, the Savior of mankind; to whom be glory for ever. Amen



from Kristin Wolford, missionary to the Dominican Republic

Responding to Challenges with love and grace

I couldn't be more proud of the way our leaders have responded to the unique challenges of 2020.

Many of the plans we made for 2020 never came to fruition because of the pandemic and the governmental restrictions for large group gatherings, but by God's grace and with your prayers and financial support our team found new ways to respond to needs, ways to continue growing together and to keep sharing the love of Christ with children and families in need in our community.

- With your help, we responded when Tropical Storm Isaiah devastated so many homes in our area by giving new mattresses, stoves, washing machines, groceries and a message of hope.

- We shared groceries and prayed with families from several neighborhoods where folks lost jobs due to the pandemic.
- We united online for prayer, worship and online classes.
- We built a home for a single mother and her five children.
- We started a mentorship program for children from single-parent homes, meeting individually with children three times a week.
- We continue to pray regularly for our ministry partners in the USA.

The Ramas Vivas team thanks you for your partnership in 2020!

To donate to Ramas Vivas go to www.igo-worldwide.org/ramas-vivas or send a check payable to IGO WORLDWIDE with RVMinistry or RVPersonal in the memo line to P.O. Box 2164 Stillwater, MN.

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

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 Feeny

Welcome & Membership

dahrenholz@charter.net

320-260-6666, 320-845-7515

Kelly Orbeck, Education & Youth

orbeck5@albanytel.com

320-293-1331, 320-845-4656



We will be meeting on Wednesday, January 13 at 1pm in the fellowship hall. Backing fabric and poly batting have been purchased by the WELCA group so we are ready to make quilts for Terebinth Refuge as soon as restrictions are lifted. Our quilting angles have also been busy at home creating lap quilts for congregation members and shut-ins. 30 quilts were made and delivered by Christmas. Thank you to all who made this possible.



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



Emmitt Keith Hinman

November 29, 2020

Parents: Andrew & Jocelyn
(Schwartz) Hinman

Sponsors: Brett & Celeste Hinman

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:

Shampoo
Dish Soap

Donations can be dropped off at the Senior Center across from the church. Edna Goebel, would like to thank the members of OSLC for their generosity in supporting the food shelf throughout the year.

Albany Food Shelf Hours

1st Thursday—mornings
3rd Thursday—Early evenings
Connect with Edna
320-291-6623

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously without finding fault, and it will be given to you.”

— James 1:5

“For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.”

— 1 Corinthians 14:33

“Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”

— 1 Peter 5:8

“Submit yourselves, then to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

— James 4:7

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.”

— Proverbs 3:5

“And he said to them, ‘Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?’”

— Luke 24:38

Dear Father God, we lack wisdom and ask you, who give generously to all without finding fault, to fill us with wisdom. Your word promises that you will do that for us. We thank you for reminding us that we’re not alone in this life quandary. Your light will clear up our confusion. Help us to hear your voice, your wisdom and truth. We pray this in the guiding light of our LORD and Savior, Jesus the Christ.

“Be confused, it’s where you begin to learn new things. Be broken, it’s where you begin to heal.... Be whatever you are right now. No more hiding. You are worthy, always. S.C. Louris

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ALBANY, MN 56307



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



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: 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**