



# *the* **Kindred Spirit**

March  
2021

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



**Worship in-person, Online or KASM  
radio Sundays at 9:00 AM**

**Lenten Services each Wednesday at  
12 & 7pm (streamed online only at 7)**

**Facebook: OSLC56307  
Tune into KASM 1150 AM Radio**

# March 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
<b>2/28</b> 9am Worship Service—In-Person/ Online/Radio 10am Curbside Communion 10am Online Joyful Noise 10:30am Sunday School Zoom	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 7pm NA Meeting	<b>3</b> 12pm Lenten Service In-Person 6:30pm Building & Grounds Committee Meeting 7pm Lenten Service In-Person/ Online	<b>4</b> 9:30am Synod Interim Meeting 12pm Staff Meeting 1pm Prayer Circle 7pm Bishop Zoom with Council Presidents	<b>5</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9am Worship Service—In-Person/ Online/Radio 10am Online Joyful Noise 10:30 Special Congregational Meeting 10:30 Sunday School Zoom	<b>8</b> 7pm Garden Club	<b>9</b> 2pm Bishop's Zoom with Pastors 7pm NA Meeting 7pm Worship & Music Committee Meeting	<b>10</b> 12pm Lenten Service In-Person 1pm Quilting Squares 4pm Welcome to the Table Class—Grade 5 7pm Lenten Service In-Person/ Online	<b>11</b> 9:30am Great River Conference PALS 12pm Staff Meeting 7pm Bishop Zoom with Council Presidents	<b>12</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9am Worship Service—In-Person/ Online/Radio 10am Online Joyful Noise 10:30 Sunday School Zoom	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 7pm NA Meeting 7pm Council Meeting— Zoom	<b>17</b> 12pm Lenten Service In-Person 1pm Mary's Circle Bible Study 5:30pm Congregational Life & Mission Meeting 7pm Lenten Service In-Person/ Online	<b>18</b> 12pm Staff Meeting 7pm Bishop Zoom with Council Presidents	<b>19</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <b>New Member Sunday</b> 9am Worship Service—In-Person/ Online/Radio 10am Online Joyful Noise 10:30 Sunday School Zoom	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 7pm NA Meeting	<b>24</b> 12pm Lenten Service In-Person 7pm Lenten Service In-Person/ Online	<b>25</b> 12pm Staff Meeting 7pm Bishop Zoom with Council Presidents	<b>26</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9am Worship Service—In-Person/ Online/Radio 10am Online Joyful Noise 10:30 Sunday School Zoom	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 7pm NA Meeting	<b>31</b>	<b>4/1</b> 9:30am Synod Interim Meeting 12pm Staff Meeting 1pm Prayer Circle 7pm Bishop Zoom with Council Presidents	<b>4/2</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>4/3</b>

Please check the website calendar for schedule changes and/or cancellations: [OurSaviorsLutheranAlbany.org](http://OurSaviorsLutheranAlbany.org)

# Pastor's Reflection



*Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness...."*  
- Genesis 1:26

Let me tell you a story about myself. When I was 29, a new mother and serving as a pastor in Dickinson, ND, I was at the park one day with my baby, swinging him in the baby swings. Another young woman pushed a stroller up to the park, and we began to visit with each other, like new parents do. She was a beautiful Hispanic woman, like so many who had moved to the area to work the farms for the summer.

As we chatted, I found myself excited to welcome her into the community, and to offer her any resources she and her family might need. I felt a warm happiness inside of myself as I was able to extend a welcome to this woman and her little child.

As we talked a while longer, she asked what I did for a living, and I said that I was a pastor.

Awhile later, between kids crying and pushing little ones on the swing, I asked her what she did for a living. "I'm a surgeon at the hospital," she said. And thus began my anti-racist journey.

None of us wakes up in the morning and says to ourselves, "I think I'll be racist today." None of us wakes up in the morning intending to be a white

supremacist. But we have these biases of which we are entirely unaware until something wakes us up to them, like what happened to me at the park in Dickinson 22 years ago.

In the midst of our country's turmoil around racism and white supremacy, I haven't said very much about that from the pulpit. This is because I believe that the work of anti-racism is best done not in a sermon, but in conversations with each other. Not in a monologue from the pulpit, where I'm the only one allowed to have a voice, but within the safe places we create in which everyone has a voice, and in which we can be most honest with ourselves and each other.

I do want you to know, however, that my silence from the pulpit is not an indication that this issue in America doesn't matter to me. In my view, it is THE issue of our time. Some of the questions I ask myself daily are, "How is this activity that I'm engaged in...what I'm buying at the store, what authors I'm reading, what music I'm listening to, what podcasts I subscribe to, what voices I'm allowing to speak into my life...how is this either supporting white supremacy in my own life and in our country, or dismantling it?"

Some of the books I've read are: *White Awake*, *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*, *I'm Still Here*, *My Grandmother's Hands*, *Jesus and the Disinherited*, *How to be an Anti-Racist*, *Uprooting Racism*, and *Strength to Love*.

Once my eyes were opened to my own implicit biases, and to the fact that I unconsciously evaluate all people against the measuring stick of whiteness and make assumptions about them on that basis, I could never again NOT see racism and white supremacy within myself. It was there 22 years ago, and it's still there today. It is the work of a lifetime to dismantle it.

I hope that you are and will continue to engage the work. I hope that you will consider the assumptions you make, through no fault of your own, because of the culture of white America in which we live. White supremacy blinds us to the image of God that exists within each human being, imprinted by the Creator.

The Lord, through these times of unveiling, in which we have been able to see clearly what has always been there—the white supremacy that once was hidden, now in plain sight—is offering us the tremendous opportunity to heal and mend our world. I hope that we can be a part of it. And I believe that if the church in America fails to engage this issue, we will have lost a generation of young people who will still find Christ, but not in any institution that has endorsed racism by its silence.

If you are interested in talking about this issue, please reach out, whether you are in agreement with me or not!

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Denise

## Welcome to the Table—First Communion for 5th graders:

5th graders will learn about communion on Wednesday, March 10 from 4-5pm at the church. They will receive their First Communion during worship on April 11 at 9 or 10:30am. Families can choose which service they would like to attend and should RSVP ahead of time on the church website. Thank you!!



## Would you like to become a member of Our Savior's?

We will be receiving new members on Sunday, March 21 at the 9am worship service!

Whether you can be there in person or not, if you are interested in joining, please call the church office, message us on Facebook, or email and let us know. There will be one informational meeting on zoom prior to New Member Sunday, and a social event later in the spring when we can be outside!



# Call Committee Updates:

Dear Friends in Christ,

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Our prayers are with everyone during this time of important decisions for the ministry of Our Saviors Lutheran Church. I am very excited to bring you this news.

The call committee has completed the interview process and after weeks of reflection, prayer, and thoughtful discernment have made a recommendation to the council for a vote. On February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 council voted unanimously to bring forward our candidate of choice.

We are calling on the congregation of Our Saviors Lutheran Church to attend a specially called congregational meeting on Sunday March 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:30AM to vote to extend the letter of call.

The congregational meeting will be held in-person, as well as via Zoom. You can vote in 3 ways: Voting will be available via zoom, in-person, and via drive-in ballot. Please note, in order to vote you must attend the meeting. Zoom does allow you to call in as well so if you don't have a computer you can listen on your phone and then drive in your ballot.

- **To join Zoom online go to [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) and select “Join a Meeting” Enter the Meeting ID and Passcode when prompted.**
- **To join by phone, dial +1 312 626 6799 and follow the prompts to enter the Meeting ID and Passcode.**
- **Meeting ID: 983 5121 0206 and Passcode: 026784**

We are very excited to introduce our candidate of choice and vote to extend the letter of call to become our pastor at Our Saviors Lutheran Church!

Gods peace,

Tim Sands—OSLC Call Committee Chair

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## Financial Summary as of January 31, 2021

<u>Current Year vs Prior Year</u>	<u>Jan-21</u>	<u>Jan-20</u>
General Fund Offerings/Income	\$8,741	\$12,071
General Fund Expenses	\$18,858	\$19,896
Net Difference <i>(income less expenses)</i>	<b>(\$10,117)</b>	<b>(\$7,825)</b>

\*\*Please watch your mail for an important letter from President Matt Eggert concerning our 2021 offerings\*\*

## Midweek Lenten Services will be at Noon and 7pm on March 3, 10, 17 and 24th.



RSVP for in-person worship by signing up on the church website or calling the church office. The 7pm services will also be streamed on Facebook live.

We will use the Holden Evening Prayer for the 7pm services and are inviting members of the congregation to share their faith story as a part of our worship. During these challenging times, we could use a little faith, and there's nothing better than hearing what God has done and is doing in the lives of God's people to build up our faith together!

We will not be able to serve soup & sandwich supper this year, so please eat before you come!

### Would you consider sharing a little bit of your faith story for one of our Wednesday Lenten services?

We are hoping to have a different person each Wednesday in Lent share 5-15 minutes of their faith story. You could talk about an experience you had that deepened your faith, some difficulty or challenge in your life in which you felt the Lord's presence, a person in your life who has touched you and whom Christ has used to strengthen your faith, something that you've learned about God in your life and the way God works....the list could go on and on!

If you are a little bit shy and don't want to speak in public, or if you are staying home because of COVID, you could still share your faith in many ways! Here are some options for you:

- You could send us a video (or we could come take a video) of you sharing your faith story.
- You (or we) could record just your voice reading your faith story, which we would then play through our sound system.
- You could write your faith story out, and Pastor Denise or someone else could read it aloud. In this case, no one would hear or see you, but you would still be able to share your faith!

Please consider this, and bring it to the Lord in your prayer time. If you are interested and willing, please reach out by emailing Pastor Denise ([pastor.oslc2405@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.oslc2405@gmail.com)), calling or texting her at 701-713-5530, or by contacting the church office. Thank you!!

# Holy Week & Easter Service Schedule

**Maundy Thursday (4/1):** In-person/Online services at 4 & 7pm. KASM 1150AM will broadcast the 7pm service ONLY.

**Good Friday (4/2):** Service at 7pm. Attend in-person, Facebook or listen live on KASM.

**Easter Sunday (4/4):** In-Person/Online services at 7:30 and 9am with KASM broadcasting the 9am service ONLY.

***LET GO,  
LET GOD***

<b>Guilt</b>	<b>Trust</b>	Regret
ANGER	<i>Priorities</i>	
Arrogance		Stuff
GREED	PRIDE	Self-Image

We were blessed to have Pastor Denise's friend Warren Christie speak at the Ash Wednesday evening service. Warren was a shop teacher at ROCORI when the tragic school shootings occurred on September 24, 2003, a day he will never forget. Warren shared his powerful faith story of how that event shaped his life. Using blocks of wood, Warren talked of the many "blocks" he struggles with that build a wall and keep him from loving Christ. But when you ***Let Go*** and ***Let God***, you let go of all the hurt and anger, tear down the walls and make room for God in your life. Truly inspirational! If you missed it, you can catch Warren's story on the church Facebook page.

## Spread God's Word

OSLC is touching our community in new and exciting ways with live weekly worship broadcasts on KASM Radio, but in order to continue this ministry we need support. If you would like to take this opportunity to share God's word outside the walls of Our Savior's you can do so by sponsoring a service.

Do you know a business that would be interested in partnering? Receive recognition or contribute anonymously. Give online by going to [tinyurl.com/OSLCKASM](http://tinyurl.com/OSLCKASM) or contact the church office 845-2405. The cost is \$50 per service streamed.



A graphic of a spotlight shining from the top left towards the text.

# **Our Saviors Spotlight**

**Congregational President  
Matt Eggert**



**Tell us about your family and what brought you to Our Savior's.**

- When we moved back to Minnesota from South Dakota we wanted a church that was welcoming to families and was more upbeat. We attended during a Sunday School kick-off and the kids were hooked.

**What has been your biggest accomplishment and what have you found to be most challenging in your time as congregational council President?**

- I would say my biggest accomplishment would be working through all the changes due to the pandemic and changes in pastors. I think one of the biggest challenges is trying to keep looking forward through all the obstacles I've encountered.

**What has been your favorite OSLC memory?**

- The water fights at the end of Vacation Bible School, just the unbridled joy of a bunch of kids (and a few adults) getting soaking wet.

**If you could share a meal with any person, dead or alive, who would it be and why?**

- This is extremely hard to decide. I can think of many musicians, scientists, and leaders throughout time whose brain I'd love to pick about different things. JFK, Jerry Garcia, John Lennon, Jimmy Hendrix, George Washington, Winston Churchill....The list is too long to pick.

## If you could do another job for just one day, what would it be?

- I would love to be an astronaut, always have wanted to be since I was young.

## What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

- I enjoy playing games with my family, kayaking and fishing in the summer, and movies.

## What has been the silver lining for you during the COVID pandemic?

- The ability for us to spend more time as a family and rely less on aftercare programs.

## What is one thing on your bucket list and why?

- I want to see Ireland and Scotland. Growing up in central Minnesota everyone is Scandinavian (myself included) or German. I have some Irish and Scottish in me and I was always drawn to that because it made me different. This history and culture has always been something I've wanted to see.

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Our Savior's has been invited to participate in an epic fundraiser for LuMin in St. Cloud. LuMin is creating a team, or two, to participate in the Reebok Ragnar Minnesota event, **August 20-21, 2021**. A team is made up of a group of 12 runners with the help of 2 van drivers willing to run 200 miles in 36 segments from St. Paul to Duluth in support of ELCA campus ministry in St. Cloud. LuMin is looking to the future, finding ways to shine bright, and redefine Lutheran Campus Ministry in St. Cloud. For more information about Ragnar events follow this link: <https://www.runragnar.com/event-detail/relay/minnesota#overview>.

If you are interested in running, being a van driver, volunteering during the run, providing financial support, or would like more information you can contact Steven Roenfeldt at [steven@luminstcloud.com](mailto:steven@luminstcloud.com) or visit the LuMin website at [www.luminstcloud.com](http://www.luminstcloud.com).

*Pandemic Note: LuMin is fully aware of the uncertainty COVID-19 brings to our lives. Ragnar Minnesota is committed to all participant and community safety. Should the event be cancelled, or LuMin decides we are safer not participating, we will organize a virtual event in August. We are not running for the fun of it. We are running to Support LuMin in St. Cloud!*

# OSLC YOUTH & FAMILIES

## 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 lessons 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](mailto:diana.oslc@gmail.com).



## We Celebrate! - Affirmation of Baptism

Coming together to publicly acclaim their Affirmation of Baptism, students of the Confirmation Class of 2020 will be celebrated during worship on April 18th at 9am. These students have studied and prepared for this day and ask that you join them in-person, via Facebook Live or by listening on KASM 1150AM radio. We ask that you continue praying for these students and their families: **Hope Aronson, Mitchel Bartell, Joseph Hoff, Daniel Mueller, and Charlie Sundet.**

### 6-8th Grade Confirmation Lessons

#### — March 3: Apostles' Creed Article 2 · Unit 2 · Lesson 9

Jesus' life, death, and resurrection happened, and it happened for me, so that I may live to serve others.

#### — March 10: Apostles' Creed Article 3 · Unit 2 · Lesson 10

The Holy Spirit sustains life and faith for me and the church.

#### — March 17: The Lord's Prayer · Unit 2 · Lesson 11

The words of the Lord's Prayer empower us to approach God and world more boldly.

#### — March 24: Holy Baptism · Unit 2 · Lesson 12

Through baptism God forgives sin, redeems us from death and the devil, and gives salvation to all who believe it.

#### — March 31: Holy Week

## OSLC Reconnect BBQ May 2nd at 11:30AM!!

It's been a looong winter and we are missing each other!

So, let's get together for an outdoor BBQ (weather permitting). The



Outreach Team is planning a fun get together after the 10:30am service on May 2nd. The meal will be free will offering. We will be COVID-safe outside, and will continue to social distance, even as we visit with each other. If you would prefer to stay in your vehicle, we will bring the food to you in the parking lot! Mark your calendar and bring your friends! Everyone's welcome!!

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

### Our Savior's Church Staff

Interim Pastor:

Pastor Denise Hanson

Cell: 701-713-5530

pastor.oslc2405@gmail.com

Ministry Associate for

Youth & Families:

Diana Brown

Cell: 320-260-7654

Diana.oslc@gmail.com

Music Coordinator:

Mike Aronson

Receptionist/Secretary:

Angela Mosman

Office: 320-845-2405

Custodians:

Bestman & Josephine Dennis

Church Office Hours:

by appointment only at this time



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

**Men's and Women's  
Deodorant**

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!**

## Congregational Council

**Matt Eggert, President, Personnel**

[Matt.eggert@gmail.com](mailto:Matt.eggert@gmail.com)

605-376-5104

**Tim Sands, Vice President**

*Worship & Music*

[timsands5@gmail.com](mailto:timsands5@gmail.com)

320-291-4593, 320-845-2389

**Deb Solarz, Secretary, WELCA**

[drsolarz@albanytel.com](mailto:drsolarz@albanytel.com)

320-250-0273, 320-845-4534

**Lynda Hartwig, Treasurer**

*(bonded), Finance*

[mlhartwig@albanytel.com](mailto:mlhartwig@albanytel.com)

320-248-6479

**Judy Fischer, Financial Secretary**

*(bonded), Cong. Life & Mission,*

[jfischer@albanytel.com](mailto:jfischer@albanytel.com)

320-250-6452, 320-845-2342

**Emily Evenson**

*Education & Youth*

[enjo5179@icloud.com](mailto:enjo5179@icloud.com)

320-266-2179, 320-845-6628

**Kyle Evenson, Cemetery**

[kyleev@atsinc.com](mailto:kyleev@atsinc.com)

320-260-3826, 320-845-6628

**Deb Feeny**

*Welcome & Membership*

[dahrenholz@charter.net](mailto:dahrenholz@charter.net)

320-260-6666, 320-845-7515

**Kelly Orbeck, Education & Youth**

[orbeck5@albanytel.com](mailto:orbeck5@albanytel.com)

320-293-1331, 320-845-4656

**Barb Fischer**

[barbfischer18@gmail.com](mailto:barbfischer18@gmail.com)

320-267-4290



The month of January was productive with a car full of quilts delivered to Terebinth Refuge. Thanks to many people for giving their time and talent to make these quilts.



## A Thank you from Terebinth Refuge

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your support of the residents of the Terebinth Refuge. Your gift of quilts is greatly appreciated and offers comfort to our women. We truly appreciate your kindness and support.

Blessings & Thanks—Terebinth Refuge



**Everett Matthew Leander  
Herding**

*January 17, 2021*

Parents: Samantha & Greg Herding  
Sponsors: Nick Herding & Nolan  
Blonigen

# Have you considered Online Giving???

During 2020, we saw a large increase in our online giving numbers. While this was a convenient way to submit offerings while we could not worship in person, it remains a quick and easy offering solution provided by Vanco (our online servicing agent).

- You can enroll using a convenient link on our website at [www.OurSaviorsLutheranAlbany.org](http://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!

### Donations

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

General Fund:	<input type="text" value="50.00"/>
Good Samaritan/COVID 19 Crisis Fund:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
Missionary Fund:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
Cemetery Fund:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
Youth Event Fee:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>

Donation Frequency:

#### Consider Recurring Donations

Recurring donations provide a steady stream of support. It is a great way to manage charitable giving without the worry of missing a payment- you set the frequency, select the payment method and your gift continues to give over time.

Donation Start Date:  mm/dd/yy 



Another easy solution is the Give Plus+ app you can access from your Smart Phone or tablet. Once downloaded, enter 56307 and search to select OSLC. From there, you can Create an Account for regular giving or select Give Now for a one-time gift.

Make a fresh start in 2021 and give these tools a try. Though we have been apart for many months, it is important to remember the financial needs of the church remain ongoing to support our mission and meet our budgeted obligations. We are grateful for your continued support.

# Prayer Box

March 2021  
Strength



"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

— Isaiah 41:10

"Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always."

— 1 Chronicles 16:11

"The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. He is my God and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him."

— Exodus 15:2

"I can do everything through him who gives me strength."

— Philippians 4:13

"though princes sit together and slander me, your servant will mediate on your decrees."

— Psalm 119:23

"No temptation has seized you, except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand under it."

— 1 Corinthians 10:13

"It is God who arms me with strength and makes my way perfect."

— Psalm 18:32

Most heavenly Father,

Lord, I reach out to you for your guidance. Please show me which way to turn. Calm my anxious thoughts, come speak into my mind. Strengthen me as I falter and feel weary. May I feel strength rising up within my heart. Bring clarity into my visions and dreams. I trust that you are with me, no matter where I go, or what I decide to do. You journey with me always.

You are the light that guides my feet. You are the map that gives me direction. You are the peace that makes me strong. You are the leader whom I faithfully follow.

May your light illuminate my life and your guidance brings direction. May I find inspiration in your word and peace in my heart as I follow you.

14 In the name of Jesus the Christ, Amen.

**Sunday Worship at 9AM: Join In-Person,  
Facebook Live or KASM 1150 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](mailto:oursaviors@albanytel.com)  
[www.OurSaviorsLutheranAlbany.org](http://www.OurSaviorsLutheranAlbany.org)**



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