



the Kindred Spirit

June
2021

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

Sunday morning worship at 9AM
Join in-person, Facebook live or on KASM radio

Wednesday night worship at 6:30PM
Join in-person or Facebook live

Facebook: OSLC56307
Tune into KASM 1150 AM Radio



June 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
5/30 9am Worship Service— In-Person/Online/Radio 10am Online Joyful Noise	5/31 OFFICE CLOSED	1 7pm NA Meeting	2 6:30 Building & Grounds Committee Meeting	3 9:30am Synod Interim Meeting 1pm Prayer Circle Meeting 7pm Bishop Zoom with Council Presidents	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5
6 Synod Assembly Begins 9am Worship Service— In-Person/Online/Radio 10am Online Joyful Noise 10:30am Welcome Pastor Anthony! Pancake & Sausage Breakfast	7	8 2pm Bishop's Zoom with Pastors 7pm NA Meeting	9 6:30pm Worship Service & Ice Cream Social	10 9:30am Great River Conference PALS 7pm Bishop Zoom with Council Presidents	11 OFFICE CLOSED	12
13 9am Worship Service— In-Person/Online/Radio 10am Online Joyful Noise 11am Fellowship Hall Reserved—Private Event	14 7pm Garden Club	15 9:30am Lady Generators 7pm Congregational Council Meeting 7pm NA Meeting 7pm Worship & Music Committee Meeting	16 12pm Mary's Circle Potluck 1pm Mary's Circle Bible Study 5:30pm Congregational Life & Mission Meeting 6:30pm Worship Service & Ice Cream Social	17 4-7pm OSLC Garage Sale 7pm Bishop Zoom with Council Presidents	18 OFFICE CLOSED 8am-5pm OSLC Garage Sale	19 8am-Noon OSLC Garage Sale
Garage Sale Donation Drop Off in Fellowship Hall						
20 Happy Father's Day 9am Worship Service— In-Person/Online/Radio 9am Pastor Anthony's Installation 10am Online Joyful Noise	21	22 7pm NA Meeting	23 6:30pm Worship Service & Ice Cream Social	24 7pm Bishop Zoom with Council Presidents	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26 8am Fellowship Hall Reserved— Private Event
27 9am Worship Service— In-Person/Online/Radio 10am Online Joyful Noise	28	29 7pm NA Meeting	30 6:30pm Worship Service & Ice Cream Social	7/1 9:30am Synod Interim Meeting 1pm Prayer Circle Meeting 7pm Bishop Zoom with Council Presidents	7/2 OFFICE CLOSED	7/3
Please check the website calendar for schedule changes and/or cancellations: OurSaviorsLutheranAlbany.org						

Pastor's Reflection



Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Greetings to you, Our Savior's Lutheran. I am Anthony Christoffels, your new pastor. This has been a long-awaited time for both of us and I am excited to begin as we start a new chapter in our ministries together. I look forward to seeing what God will do in this new chapter for all of us.

Back in March when you voted to call me as your next pastor, I gave some information about myself and my family. I would like to give you a little bit more about myself, as well as an update on our family. First of all, I grew up in Chandler, MN (a small agricultural community in Southwest Minnesota with a population of around 250). I received my undergraduate degree in Construction Management and a Business Administration minor from North Dakota State University in 2008. Afterwards I went to Luther Seminary to get a Master of Divinity degree. My wife, Stephanie, and I both graduated from Luther Seminary in 2013 and were ordained on June 1, 2013. I have been serving Circle of Faith Parish (a three-point parish) in the southern part of our synod for the last eight years.

Stephanie and I met while working at Shetek Lutheran Ministries (a Bible camp in SWMN near Slayton), and have been married for 12 years.

We have welcomed three children into the world. Nicholas is nine and will be in fourth grade. David is almost seven and will be in first grade. Emma is four and will be starting preschool in June.

Now God continues to show us how exciting this new chapter is going to be for our family, because not only are Stephanie and I beginning new calls in the Albany/St. Cloud area, we also will be welcoming a fourth child into the world in November! We look forward to celebrating this new addition with you this fall.

Some of you may already be aware, that my wife Stephanie, is also a pastor in the ELCA. She has accepted a call to Bethlehem Lutheran in St. Cloud. We would have loved to live in Albany, but unfortunately with the crazy housing market and low inventory, we were unable to find housing in Albany. Thankfully, we did find a house in St. Cloud and we look forward to calling central Minnesota our new home. In my spare time, I like to be in the great outdoors. I enjoy fishing, camping, bicycling, hiking, and woodworking. And of course, spending time with my family.

I look forward to getting to know you in the coming weeks and months. I thank God for the ministry that has happened over the years at Our Savior's and I am excited to work together with you as we continue this ministry in the Albany community.

In Christ,
Pastor Anthony

WELCOME

Welcome Worship & Breakfast for Pastor Anthony—June 6th

Mark your calendar!!! Come and welcome Pastor Anthony and his family to OSLC on Sunday, June 6th! The Congregational Life & Mission Team will be serving a pancake and sausage breakfast following the 9AM worship service. We will follow Covid guidelines and have tables set up in the Fellowship Hall and outside (weather permitting) to allow for social distancing. Let's celebrate the beginning of a new chapter in the life of our congregation!

Ways to Welcome your New Pastor

1. Open your hearts and decide that you are going to love your new pastor.
2. Begin praying daily for the new pastor and family, even as you continue to pray for your departing pastor.
3. Invite church members individually to send cards of welcome and encouragement to the incoming pastor.
4. Know that welcoming your new pastor in genuine and effective ways lays the ground work for a healthy and vital relationship and the development of stable, long-term ministry together.
5. Introduce yourself to the pastor repeatedly! You have one name to learn; your pastor has many names to learn.
6. Wear name tags to help the pastor learn names.



And speaking of Name Tags...

Name tags are provided for all members and can be stored in the family folders located in the narthex.

Please contact Angie in the office if you are in need of a name tag or a family folder.

OSLC 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.

Garage Sale—June 17-19

Starting June 14th, please drop off your gently used items in the Fellowship Hall. (no sooner due to a private gathering) All items must be price marked. Set up for the sale will be on Wed, June 16th starting at 9:00am. If you would like to help set up or work the sale, call Deb Solarz at 320-250-0273.

Hours: Thursday 4:00 PM—7:00 PM

Friday 8:00 AM—5:00 PM

Saturday 8:00 AM—Noon

Our friend Julie Schrader has finally made it back to Albany!

Julie has moved to Mother of Mercy (Grace Court Assisted Living, Room #229). She would love a visit or a phone call if you have a little time! It has been a long winter for Julie, with the loss of her husband Jim, and then being quarantined in Sauk Rapids. Please reach out and welcome her home; it would mean the world to her! Thank you!

Mother of Mercy
PO Box 676
220 Church Avenue
Grace Court #229
Albany, MN 56307
Phone: 320-248-2124



Heart-to-Heart Update

It has been decided to postpone the Heart-to-Heart Reveal gathering, which was to have been held in February 2021, until **February 2022**.

Please continue to remember your current Heart-to-Heart friend until that time.



Thank you to Dwight and Donna Christen for the many hours of work they have put in on the church basement over the past year! They have scrubbed and waxed floors, pulled out carpets, repainted classrooms, organized and arranged materials, and the list goes on! On any given day this past year, you could find them down in the basement, on hands and knees, hard at work! The basement is now in tip top shape and ready for the kids again! If you see Dwight and Donna around church, be sure to thank them for all of their work! 5

Financial Summary as of April 30, 2021

Current YTD vs Prior YTD

	Apr-21	Apr-20
General Fund Offerings/Income	\$69,629	\$73,231
General Fund Expenses	\$72,283	\$88,327
Net Difference	(\$2,653)	(\$15,096)

(income less expenses)

	Annual Budget	Actual to-date
Amounts Needed to meet Expenses		Amounts Given
General Fund Offerings/Income	\$252,109	\$69,629
Average Per Month	\$21,009	\$17,407
Average Per Week	\$4,848	\$4,096

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

Spreading God's Word on KASM Radio

Especially during the pandemic, we've found we can spread our message even more broadly through KASM radio. And many people have shared how much they enjoy this Sunday morning broadcast. But this ministry requires financial support to keep it going.



To help share God's word outside the walls of Our Savior's you can do so by sponsoring a service. Or do you know a business that would be interested in partnering? Donors can choose to receive recognition or contribute anonymously. To give, contact the church office 845-2405. The cost is \$50 per service streamed.

We will be collecting a special offering for KASM sponsorships throughout the summer at each worship service. Plus a new KASM donation option has been added to the online giving platform, which you can access through the church website or the Give+ app on your smart phone or mobile device.

Donations

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

General Fund:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
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"/>
KASM Radio Sponsor:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
Total:	\$0.00

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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drsolarz@albanytel.com

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(bonded), Finance

mlhartwig@albanytel.com

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Judy Fischer, Financial Secretary

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Education & Youth

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Kyle Evenson, Cemetery

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Deb Feeney

Welcome & Membership

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Kelly Orbeck, Education & Youth

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Barb Fischer, Personnel

barbfischer18@gmail.com

320-267-4290

Angie Burg

angie_ahrens23@live.com

320-260-1039



Jack MacKinsey Nygaard

May 9, 2021

Parents: Amanda (Christensen) &
MacKinsey Nygaard

Sponsors: Sarah & Sutton Amberg,
Sarah Nygaard

Ryan James Bestor

May 9, 2021

Parents: Jaclynn (Christensen) &
Blair Bestor

Sponsors: Taylor & Kathryn Bestor,
Sarah & Sutton Amberg

Rialyn Rose Ceplecha

May 9, 2021

Parents: Amy & Matthew Ceplecha

Sponsors: Nora Ceplecha & Eric
Schueler

SAVE THE DATE

Vacation Bible School
August 1st-5th

Stay tuned for registration details
to come!!!

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

Our Savivors Spotlight

Mike Aronson
Music Coordinator



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

- We moved to Albany, Sept-2005, when Hope was just FOUR days old. Both my wife and I were raised in ELCA churches (for me, it was even an Our Saviors Lutheran, in Albert City IA), so it just seemed logical that we would check out OSLC. My first "visit" to OSLC was a drop-in to check out the church on one of my walks around Albany, with Hope in her stroller. Pastor Brad met us at the door, we had a great visit ... and although I hadn't necessarily planned on sharing my musical abilities (at least not right away), he shared that the church was looking for an organist, and well, the rest is history as they say.

Briefly describe your responsibilities within your role at OSLC.

- My primary staff roles within OSLC are my staff music positions—coordinating music ministry opportunities, assisting with worship leadership, directing the adult choir, and leading VBS and Sunday School childrens' music. Along with my staff roles, I am also a devoted member of the OSLC family, doing my best to do what I can to help with the mission of our church.

As Music Coordinator, what do you find most challenging and rewarding?

- The most rewarding part of my role is definitely being able to share my talents, and lead others to share their talents to worship and glorify God. The most challenging is the busyness of our lives, and the conflicts that are there on Sundays that pull us away from church, especially for those that would otherwise be more involved.

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

- Based on my interest and enthusiasm for the weather, especially when the radar starts to light up like a Christmas tree, my wife thinks that I should have been a meteorologist.

What do you wish other people knew about Our Savior's?

- The welcoming nature of the OSLC people - from our very first Sunday (15 ½ years ago) when Vernice offered to hold our crying baby, Hope, we have always felt a sense of welcome and hospitality. I have heard it, time and time again, how people appreciate the welcoming atmosphere ... that's not something that just happens, truly spirit filled members who are the hands and feet of God!

What has been your favorite OSLC memory over the years?

- It's actually probably a compilation of memories, but I truly believe that God has put the right leaders in our church for the time and place that was needed.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

- ... free time, is that supposed to be a thing? I enjoy golfing, camping (in a camper, not a tent), walking, and spending time with my family.

What's the best place you've traveled to and why?

- Orlando and San Diego....few of my family's favorite places to visit, between Sea World, Disney, Universal Studios, and the beach.

Congratulations to the Class of 2021



Alex Aronson

Wynter Johnson

Alayna Kolb

Emily Evenson

Erin Juhl

Bobbi Jo Schmitt

Dylan Fisher

Erica Jungles

Brandon Springer

Andrew Hahn

Brooke Klaphake

Carissa Stark

Kjersti Halverson

Natalie Kohout

Gina Wege

Aluminum Can Collection

If you have aluminum cans, please consider donating them to the church! There is a small fenced in area beside the church garage where you can put your bags of aluminum cans. The youth are collecting them and the proceeds will go towards youth ministries at OSLC. Thank you for your donations!



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

**Brownie & Cake
Mixes**

Prayer Box

June 2021 Abiding in Christ



“For it is impossible to be in the presence of Jesus and not be changed.” - Joanna Weaver

“Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty. This I declare of the LORD: He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; he is my God, and I am trusting him.”

— Psalm 91:1-2

“Who may worship in your sanctuary LORD? Who may enter your presence on your holy hill? Those who lead blameless lives and do what is right, speaking the truth from sincere hearts.”

— Psalm 15:1-2

“Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

— John 15:4-5

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

— 2 Timothy 3:16-17

“I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,”

— Ephesians 3:16-17

“To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.”

— 1 Peter 2:21

Most precious and loving Father, teach me to abide in you so that all that is of me, will melt away as the Spirit of Christ fills my soul. I desire with all my heart to keep your Word. Perfect your love in me so that I will constantly abide with Jesus and walk as He walked. Strengthen me, train me and help me to grow in you. Jesus is the vine, and I am a branch; may His Word flow through me as I am continually grafted into the parent stem. Enable me to produce Spirit filled fruit, from your abundant Grace. In the Holy Name of Jesus, Amen.

Sunday Worship at 9AM: Join in-person or
live via Facebook or KSAM radio

Joyful Noise Online: 10:00 am

Pastor: Anthony Christoffels
Cell: 507-848-0017/pastor.oslc2405@gmail.com

Ministry Associate for Youth & Families:
Diana Brown—diana.oslc@gmail.com

Music Coordinator: Mike Aronson

Administrative Assistant: Angela Mosman

Custodians: Bestman & Josephine Dennis

Church Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday from 9am-1pm

oursaviors@albanytel.com
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Office: (320) 845-2405



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