



Kindred ^{the} *Spirit*

December
2021

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

Mid-Week Advent Worship & Meal

Wednesdays at Noon & 6pm

Christmas Eve Worship

Friday, December 24 at 5:30 & 10:00pm

Christmas Morning Worship

Saturday, December 25 at 9am



December 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
11/28 8am Worship Service— In-Person & Online 9:00am Worship on KASM Radio 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Fellowship 10:30am Worship Service—In Person	11/29	11/30 7pm NA Meeting	1 12pm Advent Service & Meal 6pm Confirmation 6pm Advent Service & Meal 7pm Adult Choir Practice 7:45pm Worship Team Practice	2	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4 9am Christmas Decorating
5 8am Worship Service— In-Person & Online 9:00am Worship on KASM Radio 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Fellowship 10:30am Worship Service—In Person	6	7 7pm NA Meeting	8 12pm Advent Service & Meal 1pm Quilting Squares 1pm Mary's Circle Bible Study 6pm Confirmation 6pm Advent Service & Meal 7pm Holy Communion Class 7pm Adult Choir Practice 7:45pm Worship Team Practice	9 9:30am Great River Conference PALS	10 OFFICE CLOSED	11
12 8am Worship Service— In-Person & Online 9:00am Worship on KASM Radio 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Fellowship 10:30am Worship Service—In Person 11:30am Private Event—Fellowship Hall 11:30am Acolyte Training—Sanctuary	13	14 6pm Worship & Music Committee 7pm NA Meeting	15 12pm Advent Service & Meal 5:30pm Acolyte Training—Sanctuary 5:30pm Congregational Life & Mission Committee Meeting 6pm Confirmation 6pm Advent Service & Meal 7pm Adult Choir Practice 7:45pm Worship Team Practice	16	17 OFFICE CLOSED	18
19 8am Worship Service— In-Person & Online 9:00am Worship on KASM Radio 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Fellowship 10:30am Worship Service—In Person <i>Sunday School Christmas Program</i>	20 6pm Congregational Council Meeting	21 7pm NA Meeting	22 12pm Advent Service & Meal 6pm Advent Service & Meal 7pm Adult Choir Practice 7:45pm Worship Team Practice	23	24 OFFICE CLOSED 5:30pm Christmas Eve Worship 10pm Christmas Eve Worship	25 9am Christmas Day Worship
26 9am Worship Service—In-Person 9am Worship on KASM Radio	27	28 7pm NA Meeting	29 7pm Adult Choir Practice 7:45pm Worship Team Practice	30	31 OFFICE CLOSED	1/1/2022 Happy New Year!!
2	Please check the website calendar for schedule changes and/or cancellations: OurSaviorsLutheranAlbany.org					15



Our Saviors Spotlight

Pastor Anthony Christoffels



We're happy to have you at Our Savior's. What attracted you to our congregation and the Albany area?

- The easy answer is that God called me here. Which is true, but the two things that helped bring clarity to this call were the people and my gifts lining up with the ministry's needs. After the first interview with the call committee over zoom, I really wasn't sure if I'd be called back for a second interview. I wanted to, but I also thought that I bombed the interview. So, when Tim Sands called to invite me to Our Savior's for an in-person interview, I was excited! Meeting the call committee and getting to hear why this ministry is important to them, truly drew me in. And adding the current needs of the congregation being inline with the gifts for ministry that God has given me, I would say, "God got it right!"

Tell us about your family and how you spend your free time.

- Stephanie and I have been married for almost 13 years. We have ~~three~~ four children now!! On October 27th, we welcomed Owen into the world. He joined his older siblings, Nicholas, David, and Emma. In my free-time, I enjoy woodworking, gardening, camping, fishing, and hiking .

What is your favorite part of your job?

- Oh my! It is hard to narrow the wonderful aspects of my ministry to only one because there are so many. I enjoy building relationships with some amazing people, and it's an honor to be welcomed into some of the most holy moments in people's lives. I celebrate with new parents as they bring their child to the font. I walk alongside couples as they navigate what a lifelong marriage will be like. At the bedside of a loved one, I bring comforting words from scripture as we await the fulfillment of God's promise of the Resurrection to come. From birth to the grave, I have the honor of walking with people in some holy, special moments.

How did you choose a career in ministry?

- That's an easy question... I didn't! This was totally a God thing. I was pursuing a degree in Construction Management and planning for a summer internship. Instead, I got a call from a lead pastor to join their staff as the youth director. I tried to say no, and God laughed. I worked in youth ministry for my remaining two years of college and found I really enjoyed it. After graduation I began furthering my education at seminary.

Who has impacted your career the most?

- I have had many amazing people who have mentored and helped shape me over the years. From Pr. Dan, who first called me to be a youth director, to Pr. Wayne who was my internship supervisor. And I can't forget about my colleague and friend, Pr. Eric who was my counterpart at Circle of Faith Parish for the last eight years. Besides clergy, the people that I have served have also shaped who I am today. I am a better pastor today because of the grace, love, and support that they have given me over the years.

What are some of your hopes and goals for Our Savior's?

- My ultimate goal for Our Savior's is to continue doing the work that God has called us to do—which is to share the Good News of Jesus in this place. The mission and the message of Jesus never changes, but our methods and ways of doing that certainly change over the years. For example, think about our forms of communication. Long ago, placing a letter in a self-addressed, stamped envelope was our primary form of communication. Now these messages can be sent via text or email. The message hasn't changed, but the method of communication has. Our ministry is similar. Our message of Christ crucified for all hasn't changed, but how we deliver that message changes over time. My goal is for us to continually find that effective method of delivering the Gospel message to those who need to hear it.

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

- My Bachelor's degree is in Construction Management and the whole construction process is still fascinating for me. I enjoy seeing the progress—beginning from nothing and ending with a magnificent structure. If I could do another job, I'd want to be onsite of a construction job. However, I wouldn't want to do that for just one day, because I would want to see the job through to completion. This is why I do woodworking at home in my free time (although with four kids now, I'm not quite sure what free time is).

Christmas Service Worship Schedule:

Christmas Eve—December 24

5:30pm Service: Join In-person or on Facebook Live.

10pm Service: Join In-Person ONLY

Christmas Day—December 25

Christmas Morning service will be held at 9am. Join In-person, on Facebook Live, or tune in on KASM 1150AM Radio.

Sunday, December 26

Only one service at 9am. Join In-person, Facebook Live or on KASM 1150AM Radio.

Advent Services & Meal

Join us on Wednesdays in December at Noon and 6pm as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus with a series titled “Out of Bethlehem—Gifts of New Beginnings”. A soup and sandwich meal will be provided following each service.



Tree Donation & Decorating

Christmas decorating the church is scheduled for Saturday, December 4th at 9AM. The team is looking for a 7-foot “slim” Christmas tree for decorating the Sanctuary. If you have a tree you are willing to donate, please contact the church office.

Christmas Poinsettias

We have Poinsettias that would love sponsors. You can request In Memory Of, In Honor Of or Just Because. You can keep the plant or donate it and we will share with someone who could use a little cheer. \$20-\$50 cost. See Lisa Beuning after service.

Operation Christmas Child Update:



Thank you to everyone who packed and contributed a shoebox this year. 61 children will be receiving boxes and will have a much happier holiday season because of you. And a special thank you to Chuck and Kaye Schmainda for delivering the boxes to the collection site in St. Cloud.

OSLC YOUTH & FAMILIES

Confirmation Class Schedule

12/1—Lesson #9

12/8—Lesson #10

12/15—Christmas Party

12/22—No Class—Christmas Break

12/29—No Class—Christmas Break

Please note schedule change during Advent:

6:00pm—Worship

6:30pm—Soup & Sandwich Meal

7:05pm—Lesson

7:45pm—Depart

Luther Crest Bible Camp

Registration is now open for 2022 Summer Bible Camp!! OSLC has a campership fund that will cover the cost for first time campers at 100%, second time campers at 50%, and as needed. Connect with Diana at diana.oslc@gmail.com for more information on camperships.

July 24-28, 2022

Minneapolis, MN

The 2022 ELCA National Youth Gathering is open to all 8-12th graders. If you are interested in attending, being an adult volunteer, or want more details email Diana!

Holy Communion Class

Save the Date—Wednesday, December 8 at 7PM for those families that have younger students that are wanting to participate in the Sacrament. We are holding a class that introduces students to the Sacrament of Holy Communion. All ages are welcome.

Acolyte Training

It's not just fire and big sticks!

Students in 6-8th grade that have not participated in an Acolyte Training are expected to take this half hour introduction on serving in worship. There will be 2 opportunities in December: Sunday, December 12 at 11:30AM or Wednesday, December 15 at 5:30PM. Meet in the Sanctuary.

Pizza Update

Thank you so much for all the support for the Fall 2021 Pizza Fundraiser!



The numbers are still being crunched but we sold over 750 pizzas! That is a lot of contributions and the youth appreciate your ongoing support!!

2022 ELCA
YOUTH GATHERING
boundless
GOD BEYOND MEASURE

Congratulations to the Affirmation of Baptism Class of 2021:



Faith Beuning, daughter of Brian & Cindy Beuning

“Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whatever I am weak, then I am strong.” 2 Corinthians 12:20

Allison (Alli) Hahn, daughter of Kim & Jordan Hahn

“Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.” Isaiah 12:2

James (Drew) Lehner, son of James & Christina Lehner

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you.” Jeremiah 29:11-12

William (Billy) Schmitt, son of Tim & Amy Schmitt

“Do not rejoice when your enemies fall, and do not let your heart be glad when they stumble.” Proverbs 24:17

Financial Summary as of October 31, 2021

Current YTD vs Prior YTD

General Fund Offerings/Income	\$155,961	\$152,227
General Fund Expenses	\$189,485	\$196,735
Net Difference	(\$33,524)	(\$44,508)
<i>(income less expenses)</i>		

Oct-21	Oct-20
\$155,961	\$152,227
\$189,485	\$196,735
(\$33,524)	(\$44,508)

General Fund Offerings/Income

Average Per Month

Average Per Week

Annual Budget	Actual to-date
Amounts Needed to meet Expenses	Amounts Given
\$252,109	\$155,961
\$21,009	\$15,596
\$4,848	\$3,545

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

Women of the ELCA

Successful Craft Sale

Thank you to everyone who helped out with the Women's Group Craft, Bake, Lefsa, and Flea Market Sale. This has been our best sale ever with proceeds totaling over \$4,100. Great job everyone!!

Pockets of Hope Donations

The ladies of WELCA have been busy sewing. After the craft sale, there were 31 beautiful, child size quilts to donate to Pockets of Hope. This is an organization that gathers items in a backpack and donates them to Social Services to give to children that are being removed from their homes for safety reasons. These children are being put into foster care and this backpack may be the only items they get to take with them. Each backpack is filled with a quilt, book, and clothes suited to the child's age and size. Thank you ladies for your generous gift!

Layette Sets

There will be no Advent Breakfast this year, but that does not mean the ladies group will not be doing the layette sets for newborn babies. We are asking for the following donations between now and December 19th: socks, gowns or sleepers, jackets, receiving blankets, hand towels, cloth diapers, diaper pins, t-shirts, and bar soap. Items can be new or gently used. We will also set out the small white church in the Narthex to collect cash donations so that we can buy more items that are needed. Contact Deb Solarz with questions.



**Annual Meeting:
Sunday, January 30th
between services**

**Annual Report Deadline:
Sunday, January 16th**

Our Savior's Church Staff

Pastor:

Anthony Christoffels

Cell: 507-848-0017

pastor.oslc2405@gmail.com

Ministry Associate for

Youth & Families:

Diana Brown

Cell: 320-260-7654

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Music Coordinator:

Mike Aronson

Administrative Assistant:

Angela Mosman

Office: 320-845-2405

Custodians:

Bestman & Josephine Dennis

Church Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday from 9am-1pm



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

Coffee

Kleenex

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.



Quilting Squares

The Quilting Squares will be meeting the second Wednesday of the month on December 8th at 1:00 in the afternoon. Come and join us in the Fellowship Hall for about an hour as we finish tying two quilts. The tables are set up high so it's very comfortable to tie the quilts. It's lots of fun! Call Elaine Randall with any questions 320-260-8977

Items can be dropped off in the box in the Narthex at church or delivered directly to the Food Shelf 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!

Coffee Fellowship

All are invited to gather in the Narthex between Sunday services from 9:00-10:30AM to reconnect and catch-up after being apart for so long due to COVID. It's time to enjoy each other's company once again. Plus, there will be coffee and treats each week! If you are interested in hosting a coffee fellowship, please contact Deb Feeney at 320-260-6666.



“that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith, both yours and mine.”

Romans 1:12

Creating Traditions

Traditions create meaningful memories for your family. They can be anywhere from silly to sentimental, but are a way to bring the family together. Often times families find themselves in a bit of a tradition rut, or they have to create new traditions because of COVID, or they have family traditions that a parent grew up with that conflicts with a tradition from the other parent. However you find your family traditions, trying something new is a way to shake things up a bit.

The Christmas season is a fantastic time to try some new ideas! You may just create a new tradition that will continue for generations. Think about trying one of the following:

1. Find traditions in family meals on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. For example, in the Brown family when we visit Papa & Meme Salzer we often have Chinese food on Christmas Day.
2. Explore a new tradition in Advent leading up to Christmas. You may want to create a family Advent Wreath or make a Jesse tree!
3. Find a way to serve. You can collect food during Advent and take time each day to pray for the people that will be fed and nourished by it.
4. Celebrate your family’s heritage(s). This is a great way to expose your kids to family roots. As a person of German heritage, we sometimes hid a pickle in the Christmas tree (an ornament—but you could use a real one). The tradition is that the person that finds the pickle received an extra gift.
5. Letters to Jesus. Before opening your gifts, take a moment to write thank you letters to Jesus. Be sure to collect the letters so that you can read them again the next year. Keep adding letters annually!

Congregational Council

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Angie Burg
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Spreading God's Word on KASM Radio

Many people have shared how much they enjoy the Sunday morning worship broadcast on KASM radio. 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.

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

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.

December Worship Volunteers

			<i>Reader</i>	<i>Audio/Video</i>
Wednesday, Dec. 1	6:00pm		-----	Jerry Stark
Sunday, Dec. 5	8:00am	Sandy Paulsen	TBD	Kevin Beuning & Jerry Stark
	10:30am			Pat Johnson
Wednesday, Dec. 8	6:00pm		-----	Kevin Beuning
Sunday, Dec. 12	8:00am	Lisa Beuning	TBD	Eric Ruch & Lisa Beuning
	10:30am			Matt Eggert
Wednesday, Dec. 15	6:00pm		-----	Jerry Stark
Sunday, Dec. 19	8:00am	Angie Aronson	Christmas Program	Kevin Beuning & Matthew Rafteseth
	10:30am			Lisa Beuning
Wednesday, Dec. 22	6:00pm		-----	Lisa Beuning
Friday, Dec. 24	5:30pm	Sandy Paulsen	Angela Mergen	Kevin & Lisa Beuning
	10:00pm			Matthew Rafteseth
Saturday, Dec. 25	9:00am	Clarence Fisher		Eric Ruch & Jerry Stark
Sunday, Dec. 26	9:00am	Barb Fischer		Lisa Beuning & Pat Johnson



Volunteers Needed!

The AV team is looking for Audio/Video volunteers to assist with worship on Sunday mornings. If interested, connect with Kevin Beuning or Mike Aronson.

Giving back to area Food Shelves this Holiday Season

Christmas is a time of year for families and friends to come together to celebrate. We go to church, open presents, sing Christmas carols, play games, and most of us will gather around the dinner table to share a meal. But that isn't the case for everyone. One woman in Florida, took the opportunity to speak to those in line at a food bank and ask them what they really need this holiday season. Here is what she learned:

1. Everyone donates Kraft Mac and Cheese in the box. They can rarely use it because it needs milk and butter which is hard to get from most food banks.
2. Boxed milk is a treasure as kids need it for cereal, which they also get a lot of.
3. Everyone donates pasta sauce and spaghetti noodles.
4. They cannot eat all the awesome canned veggies and soup unless you put a can open in too.
5. Oil is a luxury but needed for Rice a-Roni, which food banks also receive a surplus of.
6. Spices or salt and pepper would be a real Christmas gift.
7. Tea bags and coffee make them feel like you care.
8. Sugar and Flour are treats.
9. They fawn over fresh produce donated by farmers and grocery stores.
10. Garden seeds are cool in Spring and Summer because growing their own produce can be easy for some.
11. They rarely receive fresh meat.
12. Tuna and crackers make a great lunch.
13. Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.
14. They get lots of peanut butter and jelly but usually not sandwich bread.
15. Butter or margarine are nice too.
16. Eggs are a real commodity.
17. Cake mix and frosting makes it possible to make a child's birthday cake.
18. Dishwashing detergent is very expensive and always appreciated.
19. Feminine hygiene products are a luxury and women will cry over them.
20. Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.





“And He said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

— Luke 7:50

“And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall be secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.”

— Micah 5:4-5

“For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, not height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

— Romans 8:38-39

“I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety.”

— Psalm 4:8

“And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

— Philippians 4:7

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.”

— John 14:27

Most Precious Heavenly Father:

Sometimes I wonder if you shake your head at how scattered we are! We're pulled in one direction after another... our lives must look anything but peaceful. Lord, please bring peace to my heart and soul. These are trying times in our world and nation. We are worried for our future and for those we love. As we struggle, give us the peace that passes all understanding. This peace that only your love and grace can bring. Please restore that peace in our hearts, that others can see the difference. We ask this not just for us, but for all who long for the calm in storms of life. Peace to us all. In the saving name of Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen.

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PERMIT #2
ALBANY, MN 56307



Lutheran Church Vol. 27, No. 12

In-Person Sunday worship at 8 and 10:30AM

Streamed on Facebook Live at 8AM

Broadcast on KASM 1150AM Radio at 9AM

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

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Monday-Thursday from 9am-1pm

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