



the Kindred Spirit

August
2024

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

Sunday Morning Worship at 9AM
In-Person or Online

Worship & Picnic in the Park
Sunday, August 4th at 9AM

Vacation Bible School
August 4th—8th



August 2024

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 |
|---|--|--|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| 7/28 9am Worship Service— In-Person & Online 1pm Worship on KASM Radio | 7/29 12pm Staff Meeting | 7/30 9:30am Lady Generators 7pm NA Meeting | 7/31 10am VBS Decorating | 1 1pm Prayer Circle | 2 OFFICE CLOSED | 3 Albany Heritage Day 7pm Heritage Day Parade |
| 4 9am Worship Service— In-Person & Online 1pm Worship on KASM Radio | 5 | 6 7pm NA Meeting | 7 | 8 OFFICE CLOSED 9:30am Great River Conference PALS 6:30pm VBS Program & Water fight | 9 OFFICE CLOSED | 10 |
| Vacation Bible School — 5:30-8:30pm | | | | | | |
| 11 9am Worship Service— In-Person & Online 1pm Worship on KASM Radio | 12 7pm Garden Club | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 OFFICE CLOSED | 17 |
| 18 9am Charlotte Muellner Baptism 9am Worship Service— In-Person & Online 1pm Worship on KASM Radio | 19 | 20 7pm NA Meeting | 21 | 22 | 23 OFFICE CLOSED | 24 |
| 25 9am Worship Service— In-Person & Online 1pm Worship on KASM Radio | 26 6pm Worship & Music Committee Meeting 7pm Building & Grounds Committee Meeting | 27 7pm NA Meeting | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| 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.

Where'd the cabinet in the lobby go?

I've heard that question asked many times throughout the summer. Well, it was not stolen, and it did not disappear. Instead, it has been relocated into the fireside room. The next time you are in the building, please stop by and check out its new location.

What's going to take the cabinet's place?

For now, there are two chairs and an end table. The vision is to eventually upgrade the seating to something more comfortable and inviting. We're also looking into a couple small high top tables for putting down your coffee cup while you connect with each other before and after worship.

Why all of this change?

Well, imagine the lobby of Our Savior's as your living room (or whatever you call your gathering space) in your home. Our lobby is the first room that most visitors and members of our community see when they enter the doors of our building. And most of the time, we enter this space to *Connect with God and each other*. So, we want this space to be warm, comfortable, and inviting.

Who's paying?

Funding sources are still being explored at the present time. If you have an interest in this project, let's grab a cup of coffee, pull up a chair in the lobby, and chat.

Remember, here at Our Savior's, we connect with God and each other. Have a great rest of your summer!

**In Christ,
Pastor Anthony**



2024 Vacation Bible School

CAMP FIRELIGHT: A SUMMER CAMP ADVENTURE WITH GOD

Vacation Bible School at Our Savior's will be August 4-8th from 5:30-8:30pm each night

VBS is an opportunity for children to connect with God and each other. The program is open to children ages 3 (potty trained) through 5th grade. This year's theme is Camp Firelight with a focus on Psalm 56:3

"Whenever I'm afraid, I put my trust in you." At Camp Firelight, we'll learn that we can trust God no matter what challenges we face in life, even when we might be afraid.



Each evening will include: a meal, Bible stories, music, crafts, games, and more! On Thursday evening, there will be a short program at 6:30pm for families to hear all about our week together. And then at 7:00 students will be invited outside for a water fight.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!!!

Register online or by scanning the QR code below.



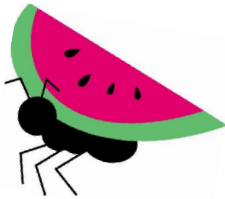
Thank you to Stearns Bank and Albany Fire Department for partnering with us to make VBS possible.

Vacation Bible School isn't only for kids... Join us for Adult VBS!

Do you miss the Vacation Bible School from your youth?? Well, take heart!!!! An Adult version of VBS will be held at the same time as the children's VBS—evenings of August 4-8th. Experience the same Bible stories as the children along with some interesting crafts and science projects designed especially with adults in mind. Please contact Kaye Schmainda at 320-356-7149 or 320-333-2088 to reserve a spot.

Church Picnic & Worship in the Park—August 4th

You are invited to come Connect with God and each other at our



third annual worship and picnic in the park on Sunday, August 4th at North Park Pavilion (Jaycee's Shelter).

Worship at 9:00am with a Potluck Picnic to follow.

Please bring an entrée, side, or dessert to share. Worship will be done by 10:00am, so think brunch. All paper products, utensils, and beverages will be provided by the Hospitality team.

BYOC—Bring Your Own Chair

Please note, there will be no worship service in the sanctuary on August 4th. Everyone is invited to the park.

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.

Find the Pickle Scavenger Hunt

During the church picnic on August 4th, the Hospitality Team is hosting a scavenger hunt for all the kiddos in attendance. In the park, there will



be 10 pickles hidden. Look around and when you find one, return the pickle to the shelter and you will be awarded with a prize! Happy hunting!

FAITH FORMATION RESUMES IN SEPTEMBER

At Our Savior's, we have two exciting programs for families to connect with God and each other.

Faith Explorers

Age 3 through 2nd grade
Sundays at 10:15am

Faith Explorers is our newest program, specifically focused on connecting young students with God through familiar Bible stories and activities. Faith Explorers meet in the basement of OSLC on Sundays after worship from 10:15-11:15 from September to May.

GIFT (Generations in Faith Together)

3rd grade through 12th grade
Wednesday at 6:00pm

GIFT is a midweek worship and education program, specifically focused on connecting families with God and each other through conversations about faith and life. GIFT families meet in the fellowship hall at OSLC on Wednesdays from 6:00-7:15 from September to May. There is a family meal offered from 5:15-6:00 each week.



To register and get more information on Faith Explorers and GIFT, please go to www.oursaviorslutheranalbany.org

**“FOR WHERE TWO OR THREE ARE GATHERED IN MY NAME,
THERE AM I AMONG THEM.” -- MATTHEW 18:20**

Faith Formation Teachers Needed

This fall, we are starting a new program on Sunday mornings that will be similar to Sunday School. Faith Explorers, is specifically focused for children age 3 through 2nd grade. If spending time with children brings you joy, would you consider being a teacher or helper? We need a few more adults to help teach familiar Bible stories to our young students. Faith Explorers meet in the basement of OSLC on Sundays after worship from 10:15-11:15 from September to May. Pr. Anthony is excited to answer any questions you have.

Six+

6th grade through 12th grade
Wednesdays at 6:00pm

During GIFT, many of the activities are family orientated. Students who are in grade 6 and older will take part in separate group activities for a portion of GIFT. The whole family will start and end the evening at the same time.

There is no need to complete a separate registration for Six+. Please register your whole family for GIFT.



SIX+
L E A R N I N G &
G R O W T H

Open Position at OSLC—Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Our Savior's is looking for a part-time, Director of Youth and Family Ministry. This position focuses on building disciples for Christ within relational environments and equip our students and families to share their faith with others. We're looking for someone who can build relationships with people of all ages, especially ages 3-18.



The full job description is available at www.oursaviorslutheranalbany.org/employment or at the QR code above.

Heritage Day Parade Float—August 3rd

OSLC will once again be participating in the Albany Heritage Day Parade on Saturday, August 3rd. We are looking for volunteers to help decorate and participants to walk/ride along during the parade and represent Our Savior's. All ages welcome. Connect with Pastor Anthony.



Men's Garage

There will be no Men's Garage in August. Our next Men's Garage gathering will be Monday, September 9th at 6:00pm. There's great food and cold drinks.

We are looking for hosts for September and beyond. If you would like to host a Men's Garage gathering, please talk to Pr. Anthony for all the details.



Women's Bible Study

There is no Women's Bible study in August. Bible study on Wednesdays will resume in September with a new book—Ecclesiastes. Pr. Anthony will lead this study as we look at the writing of King Solomon in his later years. Chapter One of Ecclesiastes will be on Wednesday, September 4th at 1:00pm.



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

Baked Beans
Brownie Mixes

Items can be dropped off in the box in the narthex at church or delivered directly to 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

Michelle Polaski, President

Personnel

Michelle_boundy@yahoo.com

Kyle Evenson, Vice President

Cemetery

kyleev@atsinc.com

Kim Kubat, Secretary, Hospitality

kimkubat755@gmail.com

Lynda Hartwig, Treasurer

(bonded), Finance

mlhartwig@albanytel.com

Michelle Evenson, Financial Secretary *(bonded)*

kmevenson@albanytel.com

Deb Solarz, WELCA, Building & Grounds

drsolarz@albanytel.com

Barb Fischer, Personnel, Worship & Music

barbfischer18@gmail.com

Angie Burg, Education & Youth

angie_ahrens23@live.com

Kurt Thell

kurtthell50@gmail.com

Wendy Womack, Generosity

womack@albanytel.com

Ryan Polaski

ryanpolaski22@gmail.com



Lark Leona Hanson

Born: 9/8/2023

Parents: Thomas & Jaqueline Hanson

Sponsors: Myles Dziengel,

Addison Rowan, Samantha Lenertz,

Henry Lenertz

Baptized: June 2, 2024

Our Savior's Church Staff

Pastor:

Anthony Christoffels

Cell: 507-848-0017

pastor.oslc2405@gmail.com

Director of Music Ministry:

Mike Aronson

Cell: 320-290-9814

mikearonson4217@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant:

Angie Mosman

Office: 320-845-2405

oursaviors@albanytel.com

Custodian:

Bella Kedrowski

Church Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday from 9am-1pm

August Worship Volunteers

Lesson Reader

Audio/Visual

9am Sunday, Aug. 4th

Sandy Paulsen

Matt Eggert

9am Sunday, Aug. 11th

Dwight Christen

Kevin Beuning &
Pat Johnson

9am Sunday, Aug. 18th

Lisa Beuning

Kevin Beuning &
Jerry Stark

9am Sunday, Aug. 25th

Judy Evenson

Eric Ruch &
Matthew Rafteseth

Financial Summary as of June 30, 2024

Current YTD vs Prior YTD (actuals)

General Fund Offerings/Income

General Fund Expenses

Net Difference

(income less expenses)

| Jun-24 | Jun-23 |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| \$98,593 | \$84,078 |
| \$123,878 | \$120,688 |
| (\$25,285) | (\$36,610) |

General Fund Offerings/Income

Average Per Month

Average Per Week

| Annual Budget | Actual to-date |
|--|------------------------------|
| <i>Amounts Needed to meet Expenses</i> | <i>Amounts Given YTD</i> |
| \$265,508 | \$98,593 |
| \$22,126 | \$16,432 |
| \$5,106 | \$3,792 |

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

Don't forget about your offering!!

Give in-person, online through the link found on the church website home page, or the Give+ app!!



Say CHEEEEEEESE! - We're Looking for Volunteers with Design Inspiration

The Church Council is seeking a team of 3 to 4 volunteers to coordinate with Universal Church Directories and produce an updated photo directory for our congregation. Our hope is to implement this fall ~September/October. Tasks primarily include implementing a scheduling system for photography sessions (they suggest three days) and making design decisions for the directory in collaboration with Universal Church Directories. This is an excellent opportunity to support our efforts to “Connect and Serve.” The commitment is time limited, Council Members will help, and the work is guided by Universal Church Directories. Contact Pastor Anthony, or any Council Member if you're thinking, “this is a perfect way for me to serve!”



Committee Reports

Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee continues to seek a candidate to fill our Director of Youth and Family Ministry position. At our July 22nd meeting, we explored other ways to creatively address the tasks associated with the job description as we move into the fall/winter/spring seasons. Any decision-making regarding offers of employment must be approved by the Church Council. God will continue to guide us in our work and bless our congregation gifted individuals to help us worship, learn, connect, and serve.

Worship & Music

The Worship and Music Committee efficiently covered summer planning during their May meeting, and they come together again in August. The next big event for this team is Worship in the Park at 9:00am on Sunday, August 4th. Don't forget to mark your calendars and head to Albany's beautiful North Park!



“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”

— Galatians 5:22-23

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

— John 14:27

“The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.”

— Romans 8:6

“Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.”

— James 3:18

“Great peace have those who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble.”

— Psalm 119:165

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

— Philippians 4:7

Most Precious Heavenly Father, I will always have peace with you, through my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I delight myself in the abundant peace you give to me. Thank you for the fruit of peace you give me through the Holy Spirit. I praise you for filling me with your joy and peace that comes through your word. I now know hope and peace. Thank you for the promise of peace of mind. Thank you for the blessing of peace in my life. May it always live in my heart, no matter what conflict is going on around me. Through the saving grace and mercy of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Sunday Morning Worship at 9AM—Join
In-Person or Online. Broadcast on KASM
1150AM Radio at 1PM each Sunday

Vacation Bible School—August 4th-8th

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

Director of Music Ministry: Mike Aronson

Administrative Assistant: Angie Mosman

Custodian: Bella Kedrowski

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

oursaviors@albanytel.com
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