



# *the* Kindred Spirit

February  
2025

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

**Sunday Morning Worship at 9AM**

**In-Person or Online**

**Broadcast on KASM 1150AM Radio**

**Sundays at 1PM**



# February 2025

Additions to the calendar? Email Our Savior's Lutheran Church office: [oursaviors@albanytel.com](mailto:oursaviors@albanytel.com) or call 320-845-2405

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>2</b> 9am Worship Service— In-Person & Online 10:15am Faith Explorers 10:15am Revelation Bible Study 1pm Worship on KASM Radio	<b>3</b> 12pm Staff Meeting 6pm Men's Garage	<b>4</b> 7pm NA Meeting	<b>5</b> 1pm Women's Bible Study 5:15 GIFT—Meal, Worship & Activities 7:30pm Choir Practice	<b>6</b> 1pm Prayer Circle 6:30pm Cub Scout Pack 32	<b>7</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>1</b> Sam Youth Pizza Making <b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 9am Worship Service— In-Person & Online 10:15am Faith Explorers 10:15am Revelation Bible Study 1pm Worship on KASM Radio	<b>10</b> 12pm Staff Meeting 7pm Garden Club	<b>11</b> 7pm NA Meeting	<b>12</b> 1pm Quilting Squares 7:30pm Choir Practice	<b>13</b> 9:30am Great River Conference PALS	<b>14</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 9am Worship Service— In-Person & Online 1pm Worship on KASM Radio 1pm Heart-to-Heart Gathering	<b>17</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 6pm Congregational Council Meeting 6:30pm Girl Scout Troop 206 Meeting	<b>18</b> 9:30am Lady Generators Meeting 7pm NA Meeting	<b>19</b> 1pm Women's Bible Study 5:15 GIFT—Meal, Worship & Activities 7:30pm Choir Practice	<b>20</b> 6:30pm Cub Scout Pack 32	<b>21</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>22</b> Sam Premarital Retreat
<b>23</b> 9am Worship Service— In-Person & Online 10:15am Faith Explorers 10:15am Revelation Bible Study 1pm Worship on KASM Radio 2pm Tea Party	<b>24</b> 12pm Staff Meeting 6pm Worship & Music Committee Meeting 6:30pm Girl Scout Troop 206 Meeting 7pm Building & Grounds Committee Meeting	<b>25</b> 7pm NA Meeting	<b>26</b> 5:15 GIFT—Meal, Worship & Activities 7:30pm Choir Practice	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>3/1</b>
<b>3/2</b> 9am Worship Service— In-Person & Online 10:15am Faith Explorers 1pm Worship on KASM Radio	<b>3/3</b> 12pm Staff Meeting 6pm Men's Garage	<b>3/4</b> 7pm NA Meeting	<b>3/5</b> 1pm Women's Bible Study 5:15 GIFT—Meal, Worship & Activities 7:30pm Choir Practice	<b>3/6</b> 1pm Prayer Circle 6:30pm Cub Scout Pack 32	<b>3/7</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>3/8</b>
Please check the website calendar for schedule changes and/or cancellations: <a href="http://OurSaviorsLutheranAlbany.org">OurSaviorsLutheranAlbany.org</a>						

# Pastor's Reflection



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

Our focus this month continues to remain on being *Filled with Trust*. Trust is a powerful thing. Often, we begin with trusting someone or something. And that's a great place to start, because they have not given us a reason not to put our trust in them. But once that trust is broken, it takes a lot of work and time to repair and rebuild trust.

As we get closer to the season of Lent (March 5th), each week in February we see and hear how Jesus builds and earns our trust by always being faithful and true. By always upholding the promises that He makes. That when He tells Peter to let down the nets even though they had fished all night and caught nothing, the sheer number of fish that they pull in shows us that when Jesus speaks things happen. When Jesus says He's going to do something, things happen.

Now as we close out this season after Epiphany, let's not place our trust in earthly things and leaders that don't uphold the promises that they make to us. Instead, let's place our trust in the Lord who has, who does, and who will always remain trustworthy and true.

In Christ,  
Pastor Anthony

**“TRUST IN HIM AT ALL TIMES, YOU PEOPLE; POUR OUT YOUR  
HEARTS TO HIM, FOR GOD IS OUR REFUGE.”**

~ PSALM 62:8 ~

# Save the Date for the OSLC Tea Party

All are welcome to attend a Tea Party hosted by the Hospitality Team of Our Savior's. Join us at church on Sunday, February 23rd from 2-4:00pm. Attendees are asked to bring their favorite teacup, along with the story of how they got it! Tea and treats will be provided. Free-will donation with proceeds going to the roof project. Please sign up on the sheet provided in the Narthex by February 2nd if you plan to attend. The team is looking for volunteers to make goodies and help set up. If you are interested, please connect with Kim Kubat or one of the Hospitality team members.



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## Raise the Roof

On October 13th, we voted to replace our hail damaged roof with a metal shake roofing material. Our congregation decided that of all the options available, this is the best structural and financial option for Our Savior's. Doing this upgrade will require an additional \$50,000 after the insurance proceeds. In the coming weeks, you will be invited to participate in our **Raise the Roof** campaign.



So far, we have over \$23,000 in cash and intents, which means that we're nearly 50% of the way there. Keep up the great work! If you would like to contribute to the **Raise the Roof** project, you can give online at [www.oursaviorslutheranalbany.org/give](http://www.oursaviorslutheranalbany.org/give)

# REVELATION BIBLE STUDY

Our Revelation Bible Study continues on Sundays after worship at 10:15am.

† February 2nd—Revelation 6:15—7:17

† February 9th—Revelation 12:1-17

† February 16th—Revelation 18:1-24

† February 23rd—Revelation 21:1-8



*“And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood.” ~ Revelation 1:5*

## HEART-TO-HEART GATHERING

Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 pm

Church Fellowship Hall



*All women of Our Savior's are invited to attend our annual Heart-to-Heart gathering on February 16<sup>th</sup>. Even if you did not participate in 2024, come and enjoy FUN, FOOD, and FELLOWSHIP.*

The Heart-to-Heart program is an outreach ministry for women in our church fellowship. It is about encouraging, praying for, and supporting each other in small ways as well as with personal notes, cards, and small gifts if you prefer.

Please join us on February 16<sup>th</sup> and consider participating in this caring and sharing program.

If you have questions or want more information please contact  
Lisa Beuning at 320-291-1114 or [lisab@albanytel.com](mailto:lisab@albanytel.com)

# OSLC YOUTH & FAMILIES

## Summer Mission Trip

This summer we are partnering with Green Lake Lutheran Ministries for our summer youth mission trip. We will be going to Milwaukee, WI from June 15-20. Students who have completed grades 8-12th are eligible to participate in the trip. For more information and how to sign up, please talk to Pastor Anthony.



## NO Faith Explorers or GIFT

Due to the extended President's Day weekend, there will be no GIFT on Wednesday, February 12th and no Faith Explorers on Sunday, February 16th. Enjoy the break!

## Youth Pizza Sales

The youth, and their families, of Our Savior's will be selling pizzas again this year. These pizzas are delicious and work great as a frozen pizza! Last day to order pizzas is Sunday, February 2nd. The pizzas will be made on Saturday, February 8th.



## 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](http://www.oursaviorslutheranalbany.org/employment) or at the QR code above.

# LUTHER CREST HAPPENINGS

## SAVE THE DATE—Summer Day Camp at OSLC

Luther Crest will be coming to lead a day camp this summer from June 23-26. The day camp runs from 8:45am—3:00pm Monday through Thursday. Day camp is for students that have completed kindergarten through fifth grade. And because of a generous donor, the cost for the week of day camp has been reduced from \$130 to **\$30!** More information and how to register is coming soon!



## Family Camp for \$100

This summer, your family (parents and children, grandparents and grandchildren) can attend one of Luther Crest's family camps for only \$100! Typically, this week can cost up to \$800, but because of a generous donor, you and your family can spend a week on the beautiful shores of Lake Carlos in Alexandria for only \$100. The available weeks are:

- † June 29—July 2 (half week)
- † July 27—August 1
- † August 3—8

Talk to Pastor Anthony for more information on how to get registered.

**THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS  
LUTHER CREST DONOR!!!**

# February Worship Volunteers

## Lesson Reader

## Audio/Visual

9am Sunday, Feb. 2nd

Pat Johnson

Eric Ruch  
& Jerry Stark

9am Sunday, Feb. 9th

Jolene Lobitz

Matt Eggert &  
Pat Johnson

9am Sunday, Feb. 16th

Barb Fischer

Kevin Beuning &  
Matthew Rafteseth

9am Sunday, Feb. 23rd

Paul Fauk

Lisa & Kevin  
Beuning

## Financial Summary as of December 31, 2024

### Current YTD vs Prior YTD (actuals)

General Fund Offerings/Income  
General Fund Expenses  
Net Difference  
*(income less expenses)*

Dec-24	Dec-23
\$255,767	\$194,954
\$253,173	\$238,234
<b>\$2,594</b>	<b>(\$43,280)</b>

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	\$255,767
\$22,126	\$21,314
\$5,106	\$4,919

*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!!







*An update from Kristin Wolford,  
missionary to the Dominican Republic  
from December 22, 2024—“A gift  
that changes life”*

During my visit the Dominican Republic in August, as we were waling to see one of the new homes our team had built, locals explained the life-changing impact a new home has for families living in harsh conditions. With leaking roofs, there is no rest for a family. Every time it rains (which could be daily during certain seasons in the DR), families are looking for refuge, placement of buckets, moving clothes, mattresses, everything gets damaged, and they're afraid to leave the house unattended.

When there are holes in the walls, critters of all types can get in the house at night, they can destroy, bite and cause illness. You have to be watchful as children play. Even at night, there's no rest.

A new home for these families means peace of mind in a way that we may never fully understand—safety and refuge. **One family said, “It’s a miracle. Only God could have saved us from how we were living. Now we know anything really is possible with God.”**

In 2024, thanks to special donations by specific families and visiting teams, we were able to build FOUR (4!!!) new homes for families living in extremely challenging conditions.

If you're looking to give towards a gift that absolutely changes life for a family this Christmas, after what I've seen this year, I'm convinced more than ever of the tremendous impact a new home has for those in need. Enjoy these before and after photos of four homes built this year.



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.

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

**Baked Beans**  
**Cake Mixes**

### **Albany Food Shelf Hours**

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



“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

“How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word.”

— Psalm 119:9

“Sin is not ended by multiplying words, but the prudent hold their tongues.”

— Proverbs 10:19

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”

— Ephesians 4:29

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.”

— Romans 12:1

“But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgement for every empty word they have spoken.”

— Matthew 1:36

*Dear God, I am praying for Your guidance in recognizing the areas of my life where self-control is needed. Help me to have a discerning heart, so that I may identify those moments and situations where I am prone to lose control or act impulsively. Grant me the strength to resist temptations and the wisdom to make choices that align with Your will. Give me the clarity of mind to see the consequences of my actions and to choose restraint over indulgence. Lord, I surrender my desires and weaknesses to You, knowing that through Your Holy Spirit, I can find the self-control I need. Empower me to live a life that honors You in every aspect, and to walk in the freedom that comes from self-control. In Jesus Name I pray, Amen.*

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Albany, MN 56307-0670



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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

GIFT every Wednesday beginning at 5:15PM

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

Director of Music Ministry: Mike Aronson

Administrative Assistant: Angie Mosman

Custodian: Shannon Cameron

GIFT Coordinator: Angie Burg

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

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www.OurSaviorsLutheranAlbany.org  
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