



# *the* **Kindred Spirit**

March  
2025

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

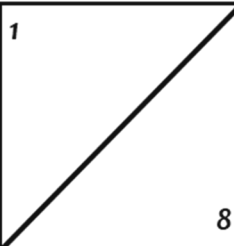


**Ash Wednesday Service & Meal**  
**Wednesday, March 5th**

**Lenten Worship with Soup & Sandwich**  
**Wednesdays at Noon—starting March 12th**

# March 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 10am Shrove Sunday—Pancakes & Waffles 10:15am Faith Explorers 1pm Worship on KASM Radio	<b>3</b> 12pm Staff Meeting 6:30pm Girls Scout Troop 206 Meeting	<b>4</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 7pm NA Meeting	<b>5 Ash Wednesday</b> 1pm Women's Bible Study 5pm Church Meal 6pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service 7:30pm Choir Practice	<b>6</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 10am Prayer Circle 6:30pm Cub Scout Pack 32	<b>7</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>1</b>  <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>Daylight Savings</b>	<b>10</b> 12pm Staff Meeting 7pm Garden Club	<b>11</b> 7pm NA Meeting	<b>12</b> 12pm Lent Worship & Meal 1pm Quilting Squares 5:15 GIFT—Meal, Worship & Activities 7:30pm Choir Practice	<b>13</b> 9:30am Great River Conference PALS	<b>14</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>15</b> 10am Lake Wobegon Community Expo (BECC)
<b>16</b> 9am Worship Service— In-Person & Online 10:15am Faith Explorers 10:15am Revelation Bible Study 1pm Worship on KASM Radio	<b>17</b> 12pm Staff Meeting 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> 12pm Lent Worship & Meal 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>
<b>23</b> 9am Worship Service— In-Person & Online 10:15am Faith Explorers 1pm Worship on KASM Radio	<b>24</b> 12pm Staff Meeting 6pm Worship & Music Committee Meeting 7pm Building & Grounds Committee Meeting	<b>25</b> 7pm NA Meeting	<b>26</b> 12pm Lent Worship & Meal 5:15 GIFT—Meal, Worship & Activities 7:30pm Choir Practice	<b>27</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>28</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9am Worship Service— In-Person & Online 10:15am Angela Mergen: Estonia Mission Trip Recap 10:15am Faith Explorers 1pm Worship on KASM Radio	<b>31</b> 12pm Staff Meeting	<b>4/1</b> 7pm NA Meeting	<b>4/2</b> 12pm Lent Worship & Meal 1pm Women's Bible Study 5:15 GIFT—Meal, Worship & Activities 7:30pm Choir Practice	<b>4/3</b> 1pm Prayer Circle 6:30pm Cub Scout Pack 32	<b>4/4</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>4/5</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.

On March 5th, we begin the season of Lent and our journey to the cross and the empty tomb. Often, Lent is a time of self-reflection on where we are in error with our relationship with God, and how we can get better.

With our ministry theme this year *FulFilled*, our focus during this Lenten season is on being *Filled with Abundance*. Since it is Lent, we certainly could say, “Being filled with an abundance of sin.” But instead, we’re going to focus on the abundance of God. Specifically, God is filled with an abundance of *Faithfulness, Mercy, Compassion, Forgiveness, and Love*.

The Gospel readings throughout Lent this year show us God’s abundance. We hear about God’s *Faithfulness* during Jesus’ temptations in the wilderness. We read about God’s *Mercy* when Jesus talks about gathering God’s children together. We sense God’s *Compassion* when Jesus heals a woman who was bent over for 18 years. We feel God’s *Forgiveness* when Jesus tells the parable of the Prodigal Son. We experience God’s *Love* when Mary anoints Jesus with oil at Lazarus’ house.

As we begin this season of Lent, may you be filled with God’s abundance.

In Christ,  
Pastor Anthony

## SHROVE SUNDAY — MARCH 2ND



In preparation for the season of Lent, we will celebrate Mardi Gras (also known as Fat Tuesday/Shrove Tuesday) on Sunday, March 2nd. For this celebration, we will be serving pancakes and waffles after worship. There will be a free-will offering for the roof project. Come hungry!!

### Ash Wednesday Worship

Wednesday, March 5th

5:00pm—Congregational Meal (Tacos)

6:00pm—Worship with Holy Communion and  
Imposition of Ashes



### Lent Midday Services

We will be offering a midday prayer service throughout the season of Lent on Wednesdays at noon (beginning on March 12th). These services will be followed by a soup and sandwich meal. Our midweek Lent schedule is:

#### Wednesdays in Lent

12:00pm—Worship

12:30pm—Soup & Sandwich Meal

5:15pm—GIFT Family Meal

6:00pm—GIFT Worship



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### ***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.*

# REVELATION BIBLE STUDY

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

† March 9th —Revelation 21: 1-8

† March 16th—Revelation 22:8-21



*“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*

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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)



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

**Brownie Mix**  
**Kleenex**



## Worship & Music Team

The Worship and Music Team meets the 4th Monday of the month. The last meeting was January 27, 2025; there was not a meeting in February. Members of this team include Pastor Anthony, Kevin Beuning, Lisa Beuning, Renee Stark, Ruth Faulk, Kay Schmainda, and Mike Aronson who organizes and facilitates their meeting.

Items on the agenda included planning for upcoming worship experiences in February and March with notable dates for Adult Choir and the Praise team. They celebrated the addition of a drummer to the praise team. The team does a great job anticipating and coordinating the "extras" that may be needed for special services - such as Audio Visual (AV) knowing to prep additional microphones for the passion reading on Palm Sunday (thanks Kevin!)

Some time was spent discussing optimum timing and services for the Lenten season as well as Holy Week. Using attendance data from last year, the team decided to hold one evening service for Ash Wednesday at 6:00 with dinner served at 5:00. Additionally, the team discussed leadership needs for organizing the Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 19. Pastor Anthony will consider modifications that could be made and will think about other options.

Finally, the team also debriefed the change in our timing for Christmas services. The 3:00 pm service was received favorably, it worked well for many families. Our attendance was 131 at 3:00 pm and 121 at 5:30 pm; this was an overall increase over last year when services were held at 5:30 and 10:00 pm. The team recommended we use this same schedule for Christmas 2025.

The Worship and Music Team will meet again on March 24, 2025.

# LUTHER CREST HAPPENINGS

## Save the Date — Summer Day Camp at OS LC

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.

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## Angela Mergen's Mission Trip Recap

Angela Mergen, a student at Trinity Bible College, is going on a Spring Break Mission Trip to Estonia in March. When she returns, she will be sharing about her experience. Come and hear about Angela's trip on Sunday, March 30th following worship.



# March Worship Volunteers

## Lesson Reader

## Audio/Visual

9am Sunday, March. 2nd

Judy Evenson

TBD

9am Sunday, March. 9th

Angie Aronson

TBD

9am Sunday, March. 16th

Dwight Christen

TBD

9am Sunday, March. 23rd

Denise Croatt

TBD

9am Sunday, March. 30th

Lynda Hartwig

TBD

## Financial Summary as of January 31, 2025

Current YTD vs Prior YTD (actuals)

General Fund Offerings/Income

General Fund Expenses

Net Difference

*(income less expenses)*

Jan-25	Jan-24
\$18,037	\$16,834
\$19,593	\$18,840
<b>(\$1,556)</b>	<b>(\$2,006)</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>
\$257,333	\$18,037
\$21,444	\$18,037
\$4,949	\$4,509

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



## Men's Garage

Unfortunately, there will be NO MEN'S GARAGE in March as there is no one to host the evening. If you are interested in hosting a gathering of men in your garage or shop, talk to Pastor Anthony for more details.

## The Bishop is COMING!

At the annual assembly in 2021 of our SWMN Synod, we elected Pastor Dee Pederson to be our next bishop. On Sunday, April 6th, Bishop Dee will join us for worship and proclaim God's Word to us. You are invited to stay after worship to meet and visit with Bishop Dee.



## 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.



## Women's Bible Study— Ecclesiastes

Our Bible study on Ecclesiastes continues on the following Wednesdays at 1:00pm

† March 5th—Ecclesiastes 10

† March 19th—Ecclesiastes 11

## Personnel Committee Update

The Personnel Committee continues to seek a candidate for our Youth and Family Ministry Position. The Committee typically meets quarterly and often communicates via email to address needs that may occur between meetings. A first quarter (January—March) meeting will be held in March.

# Prayer Box

March 2025  
Blessings



“and he began to teach them. The Beatitudes he said: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

— Matthew 5:2-12

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty. “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”

— Malachi 3:10

“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.”

— John 14:18-19

*Heavenly Father, Thank you for all the Blessings you bring into my life. You didn't ask us to follow you just so we can receive your blessings; but when walking in faith and trusting you, we know your ways are the best. In the Old Testament times, blessings were only bestowed on the first-born son. Now, You, in all your goodness and generosity, have bestowed upon us the most precious gift: Eternal life through Jesus Christ. Thank you for sharing your gift with each and every one of us. How abundant is your love, God! Every day I am reminded that the kingdom of Heaven is spread out before me. Thank You, in the Holy Name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.*

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840 Lake Avenue  
P.O. Box 670  
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

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