

September/October 2023



"Did not our hearts
burn within us ...
while he opened to us
the Scriptures?"

Luke 24:32, ESV

Luke 24:32

They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?"

In April of 2023, God connected us (Pastor Johnson and Pastor Sean) to begin walking together with Our Savior's. These past 5 months we have been learning and growing together. It has been a wonderful time to walk together and as Luke 24:32 states, sharing in our love for the Scriptures. We began in April reminding Our Savior's that "Our Savior is with Our Savior's Church". In these few months we have seen God's mission and hope embrace Our Savior's with vision and shared positive direction. Over the summer, we have witnessed a real spirit of unity in the Body and have enjoyed being together in worship and fellowship. Both of us as Pastors have so enjoyed all the brothers and sisters at OSL and feel a deep sense of love and care for you all.

Over the course of this time together, we have walked together to lift Mark Chaffee up to the SMP (Distance training program through Concordia Seminary leading to Ordination). Mark is a faithful servant and great assistance to us as we work together across churches in Albany and Queens. In a growing way, Mark will be able to help more and more with local matters to support the daily needs of the people and administration at OSL. As your Pastors, we will continue to lead, guide, and support you in all the ways needed for your health and growth. We are looking forward to this fall season as we kick off a new School year with a new and connected relationship between the Church and School. A celebration of this will be at the installation of teachers and student blessing of backpack on September 10th. In addition, we continue to explore this fall how we can lift up more people into leadership in various capacities at OSL. We look forward to reengaging a worship team with the development of music and instrumental talent for a second service. We are also looking for how God will continue to prepare OSL and connect us to new people in the neighborhood and city. As we reflect on what God has already done in a short time, we have a lot of excitement about all the things God will do into the future at OSL. We look forward to a new season of walking together with each of you.

Pastor Sean and Pastor Johnson

GriefShare is a new ministry that Our Saviors will be sponsoring and sharing starting on September 10th.

GriefShare was founded by a Christian couple who were mourning the loss of their child and found themselves with few resources or organizations that supported believers from a Biblical perspective. It is now through a ministry known as Church Initiative.

I found out about GriefShare when I was encouraged to look into it after my late husband Bob died from cancer 6 weeks after being diagnosed in October. I was able to join a group that started in January and ran through April. The topics, lessons and group were very helpful, informative and beneficial for my growth and recovery through the mourning process. I also learned I had never properly mourned the deaths of either of my parents, as well as some other losses in my life, and I was able to work through them as well.

We are meeting on Sunday evenings, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM in the Prayer Chapel, behind the Sanctuary. The first session will be held on Sunday, September 10th. All of our 13 sessions will be held on Sunday evenings. Almost all are consecutive, except for October 17th, when I will be out of town. The sessions continue until December 10th.

You can register for the sessions at <http://www.GriefShare.org>. If you enter the 12205 zip code, the group at Our Saviors will come right up. You will need to purchase your own copy of the participant guide when you register. Unfortunately, due to the lack of space and the hours of our meetings, child care will not be provided.

I will be facilitating the GriefShare sessions, with wonderful support and help from our Elders (particularly Peter Kemmer), Church Council (most notably Tom Roemke), and of course, the incredible Pastor Sean.

I look forward to seeing the people who God brings there, and the growth we're going to go through together on our grief journeys and as we walk through life with our Savior.

Blessings,
Cathy Kilpatrick



DON'T DELAY,
SIGN-UP TODAY! A DAY TRIP TO
HILDENE IN MANCHESTER, VT.

LADIES: Please mark your calendar for Saturday, September 16th! This is the day we will carpool caravan to visit the beautiful Lincoln family home, Hildene. We are planning to arrive by 10am for a scheduled tour, followed by free time to explore and then depart for a restaurant meal. Some planning, such as departure times, drivers, etc. are still in flux, but we want you to have the basic info now. Please stay tuned for final arrangements. **COSTS:** Admission is \$23/adult, \$6/youth (age 6-16) and 5 and under free. Plan approximately \$20 for meal, and perhaps a suggested \$5 gas reimbursement, as well. **To sign-up, call/text Lori Dollard at 518-703-9855.** Thank you! And remember to invite a friend

Our Savior's Church,
63 Mountain View Ave., Albany, NY

Church Office: 518.459.2248
Office Hours: 10AM-3PM,
Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

Elders: Alan Fijal, David Hawley, Pete Kemmer, Ike Wallace, Mark Chaffee
In case of an emergency, please contact one of the elders.

Church Council President: Tom Roemke
Church Secretary: Linda Swartz
Principal: John Richardson
School Office: 518.459.2273



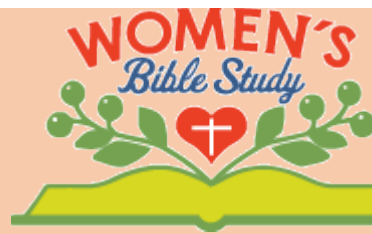
A MEN'S

BREAKFAST will be held on Saturday, September 16th, 8:30-10 a.m. in the Fellowship Room. Our speaker will be Brian Dollard, who has served in many leadership positions at Our Savior's; but is best known for his servant's heart. Come for a delicious meal, inspiring worship, good fellowship and encouraging words shared by Brian. Invite other men to join you. There is no charge for the breakfast, but an offering will be taken to help defray the cost. Sign up sheets are in the narthex, or you may contact Tom Roemke (troemke115@gmail.com) if you plan on coming.



TRAIL LIFE USA

Trail Life Troop 7 is a ministry of Our Savior's Christian Church and School and our mission is to raise a new generation of young men to honor God, lead with integrity, serve others, and experience outdoor adventure. Troop 7 meets on the first and third Sunday of each month during the school year, and our first meeting will be Sunday Sept 17th from 4pm-530pm. The K-12 program is open to all, and we look forward to seeing you there! For more information visit www.tlusatroop7.com or call 518-952-2858, or traillifetroop7.eny@gmail.com.



There has been a clamor for the Women's Thursday morning Bible Study! There is a definite hunger for the Word and for fellowship!!!! We will begin again September 7th, in the Fellowship Room at 10 AM. Come and join us as we gather for great discussion and wonderful fellowship as we study God's Word.

We will continue our study of Proverbs as a guide to godly living. We will look at chapter 4 and review chapter 3. We will be contrasting between "the way of wisdom" the way of evildoers". The choice is clear. Why?

Do you know?

No nation has ever set the child at the center stage as did the Jews. They believed that of all people, the child was the dearest to the heart of God. Therefore, education was a high priority. This is one reason why the proverbs were held in high esteem and considered to be one of the primary educational tools. Using proverbs, parents could train their children in the art of godly living.

"Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not turn from it."

Proverbs 22:6



Joy in the Word of God

Oh! how great and glorious a thing it is to have before one the Word of God! With that we may at all times feel joyous and secure; we need never be in want of consolation, for we see before us, in all its brightness, the pure and right way. He who loses sight of the Word of God, falls into despair; the voice of heaven no longer sustains him; he follows only the disorderly tendency of his heart, and of world vanity, which lead him on to his destruction.

—The Table Talk of Martin Luther



Turn on the Light! Instinctively we do this when entering a dark room. We want to see where we are going, and we don't want to trip over something. God's Word is called a *lamp for our feet and a light for our path* (Psalm 119: 105), showing us the way to go and helping us avoid dangerous obstacles or pitfalls. September marks the beginning of a new school year, providing a fresh opportunity to grow in the study and application of God's Word. May the Holy Spirit enlighten and equip us as we spend time together in the light of God's Word.

Here are some specific opportunities for spiritual growth through Bible studies at Our Savior's this fall:

-Sunday morning Adult Bible Class is held between the two worship services, beginning on September 17th. The study for September-October is hearing and discerning God's voice, based on a RightNow Media teaching entitled *Whisper* by Mark Batterson. Come and learn how to tune in to our Good Shepherd who calls us by name to rescue, restore and guide us.

-Sunday morning Bible Class for Young Adults led by Arin Cross will also begin on September 17th, meeting in the Youth Room between services. All are welcome to participate in lively discussion of God's Word.

-Women's Bible Class - a study of Proverbs led by Cheryl Pangburn. The Women's Bible Class meets on Thursdays, 10-11 a.m. in the Fellowship Room

-Men's Bible Fellowship - *Radiant Faith*, a study of the book of Philippians led by Tom Roemke. The MBF meets on Thursdays, 7-8:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. All men are invited to this interactive study of Scripture and time for prayer.

SMALL GROUP LAUNCH: One of the best ways to grow spiritually and foster unity within the body of Christ is through participation in Small Groups. These groups, usually consisting of 8-12 people, meet in homes or at church during the week. Zoom Small Groups may also be offered. This fall, Our Savior's will launch a six week Small Group study entitled *Discipleship Demonstrated by David*. All members are encouraged to sign up for a Small Group. (Non-members of Our Savior's are also welcome to participate). Consider hosting a small group in your home and/or serving as a Small Group facilitator. You may sign up on line or on the sign up sheets that will be in the breezeway beginning in September. Small Groups will be formed based on the sign ups and will begin meeting in early October. Plan now to participate and grow together in the faith.

Mission Information meeting

When you think about a Short Term Mission trip with IAM Builders,
remember who God called!

There will be an Informational meeting at Our Savior's School Library, 63
Mountain View Ave., Colonie, on Sunday, September 17 at 7 PM about
2024 South America and Africa.

Start seeking the Lord now and ask the Lord of the Harvest: who will He
call and who will say,
Here am I, send me.

Church COUNCIL FROM THE COUNCIL

Under the leadership and encouragement of Pastor Sean and Pastor Johnson, the Church Council has taken steps to provide for vibrant on-going ministry and has also been setting ministry goals for the next four months.

-SMP: Mark Chaffee will be entering the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) program at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne this fall via distance learning. This four year program will lead to Mark's ordination as a pastor in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Our Savior's will be the sponsoring church and location where Mark will be serving as a vicar (intern) as he provides pastoral care and administrative leadership. Pastor Johnson will serve as Mark's mentor and supervising pastor during his vicarage.

Grief Share: The Council has approved the formation of a new ministry called Grief Share under the direction of Cathy Kilpatrick. This support group will be meeting on Sunday evenings, 7-9 p.m. for 15 sessions beginning on September 10th.

Finances: Our Savior's ended the fiscal year (8/1/22-7/31/23) with an income of \$536,300 and expenses totaling \$574,039, leaving a negative balance of \$37,739. The Voters have approved a budget of \$544,594 for the new fiscal year. This past spring we also received nearly \$300,000 from the Employee Retention Tax Credit, a Covid-related federal reimbursement. The Voters have approved designating a tithe of that money (\$30,000) to be equally distributed among the following six ministries; Alpha Pregnancy Center, Capital City Rescue Mission, Life Song, Spiritual Awakening Ministry, Teen Challenge and Youth for Christ.

Projects: ERTC funds were also used to complete several projects relating to our property and facilities: re-paving the entry drive from Dewey Ave and resurfacing the playground with wood chips. Additional projects that were approved but not yet completed include: security doors in the school, changing locks throughout the facilities and resurfacing the stucco around the school.

Ministry Plan: A revised Ministry Plan for October-December will be presented at the next Voters Assembly scheduled for Sunday, September 24th. This plan will include goals, specific events and action steps relating to six key areas vital to the life of Our Saviors: Worship, Christian Education/Discipleship, Outreach, Church-School Connections, Fellowship and Service.

Members of the Church Council are: Tom Roemke, President; Greg Schoonmaker, Secretary; Fred Dignon, chief financial officer; and the following members-at-large: Heather Baird, Toni Cramer, Heidi Lenge and Lori Smith. John Richardson, Head of Our Savior's School; Ike Wallace, Head Elder and one of our pastors also attend Council meetings.

INSTRUMENTS OF CONNECTION

Following Jesus involves much more than attending worship, as Pastor Stan Purdum points out in a sermon titled "The Hug":

"The spiritual life, in addition to some outwardly religious and inwardly devotional acts, also includes such mundane activities as sending thank-you notes for gifts received, returning phone calls, greeting fellow worshipers Sunday after Sunday, surprising our spouse with a spontaneous act of appreciation, helping out at funeral dinners, seeking common ground during disagreements, listening to our children, working at not being a grouch, visiting friends and relatives and, perhaps, even sending an electronic hug. All those things are instruments of connection. The spiritual aspect is the intentionality behind them."