

Our Saviour
Lutheran Church
1640 Genesee Street
Utica, New York 13502

THE MESSENGER

Vol. 10, Issue 2

Rev. Anita Mohr, Pastor



*Contemporary Worship at 9:00am
Adult Bible Study at 9:00am
Traditional Worship at 10:30am
Children's Time—during 10:30 worship
Ash Wednesday Worship—Feb. 22, 7:00pm*

*As faithful believers of Our Saviour Lutheran Church
we profess the covenant God made with us in our Baptism:
to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God
in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.*



THE MESSENGER

Our Saviour Lutheran Church

February 2012

From the Pastor,

The Congregation Council has been thinking together about what it means to be a church that is “out there.” That is, ‘what does it mean for Our Saviour to consider what it is about for the sake of the world,’ rather than concentrate our time and efforts on making sure that we continue to exist. What does it mean to exist for the sake of the world around us rather than for our own sake? We are having a good time wondering together. We are having a good time imagining what that might mean for us.

For three weeks in a row our Gospel lessons in worship have centered around being called. The call of Jesus in baptism, the call of Samuel, Philip and Nathanael, the call of Peter and Andrew, James and John are all part of the lectionary series of Epiphany. So, what does it mean to be called? What are we called to do? How can each of us exist for the sake of the world? How can God’s call to us be clear?

During Advent and again during Lent, (Yes, Lent begins this month – February 22 is Ash Wednesday) we sing the Kyrie as part of worship. We ask for God’s mercy on the world. During Advent we sang “Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way. Kyrie eleison, ev’ry day.” We asked for God mercy for the world and for ourselves. We prayed for God’s mercy “for peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all, for this holy house, for all who worship and praise, that we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor; that we may live out truth and justice and grace.” God certainly has mercy. God certainly listens to our prayer.

One way that God has mercy is sending us out to be those signs of mercy for the sake of the world. So what does God desire for us? Where should we start?

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and it is a good time for us to wonder together what it might mean to exist for the sake of the world. It is a good time for us to continue to pray for God’s mercy. We have been and continue to be a praying congregation. Our list of people to pray for every Sunday is very long! We add to that list every Sunday a considerable list of others we are concerned about. We pray long for those we care about and those whose needs we know.

During Lenten worship this year, we will consider what it means to pray and listen. We will consider the petitions of the Lord’s Prayer. We will wonder together what it means to ask that God’s Kingdom come and God’s will be done. This Lent is a good time to spend some time listening for the voice of God so that we might hear what God wills for us.

My experience is that God prefers to work in the midst of us – “where two or three are gathered...” Together we listen for God’s voice – the voice that calls us. God calls us to be near God, to be near one another and to be near the world in need.

Pastor Anita

Read the Upstate New York Synod Annual Report to
Congregations here (link— [http://www.upstatenysynod.org/
document-center/synod-annual-reports-to-congregations/288-
2011-annual-report-to-congregations-color](http://www.upstatenysynod.org/document-center/synod-annual-reports-to-congregations/288-2011-annual-report-to-congregations-color))

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REMINDER—please mark your calendars.

**The deadline for the March 2012 issue of
The Messenger is February 15, 2012.**

Be sure that your group's upcoming events are included. All members of the congregation are welcome to submit information for the monthly Messenger. Articles may be sent to the church office, dropped off in the office or e-mailed to **oslc-utica@verizon.net**.

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Bruno Aploks
Sarah Fagan

Pam Donovan , Council V. Pres.
Paul Douglass, Treasurer
Cindy Andereck
David Dudajek
Youth Group Member

Financial Secretary Paula Klingensmith
Women of ELCA Coordinator Liz Douglass
Sunday School Superintendent Liz Douglass
Coffee Hour Coordinator Marian Arntsen
Altar Guild Pam Donovan

If you have a committee question, please speak to one of the Congregation Council members.



Our Community Outreach

Members of Our Saviour live among God's faithful people, serve all people, and strive for justice and peace in all the earth by sharing our building and supporting these programs:

Alcoholics Anonymous® a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism holds regular meetings in our facility.

Seeds of Hope, a local food pantry is a collaborative effort of First Presbyterian—Utica, Our Saviour, New Hartford Presbyterian, and New Hartford United Methodist churches.

Hope House, a safe haven providing meals and other services in Utica is supported by volunteers from our congregation.

SPAN, a resource program for individual nurses who are affected by an alcohol or drug-related problem or related mental health problem meets weekly in our building.

HIV dinners which provide dinner and a place for people who are HIV positive to network and learn about the latest trends in treatment are held each month at our church.

Boy Scouts of America, has a chartered scouting program including a Cub Scout Pack. Paul Douglass serves as our congregation liaison to the scouting program.

Congregation Council Up-date

February 2012

Even though I have had few folks accept my invitation to participate in our Council meetings, I will continue to invite members of our congregation to come to the meetings to help us communicate better and meet the needs of the congregation.

Note of appreciation for the member (s) who:

- Have come to Council meetings with suggestions and ideas for our consideration;
- Volunteered to attend and represent Our Saviour at the annual Synod Conference/Assemblies, Paul and Liz Douglass, alternates Erica Tollerton and John Andereck;
- Volunteered for the Audit Committee, Alex Dudajek and John Andereck;
- Has responded to the needs of the furnace;
- Continue to volunteer and financially support the *Seeds of Hope* food pantry.

Thank you.

The Council members continue to read and study Kelly Fryer's book, *Reclaiming the C Word*. Discussions have included topics that encourage us to rethink our call to serve our church and community.

The Council Retreat was rescheduled for February. This retreat is designed to help the Council members continue with their development of effective leadership skills.

Peace, Joy and Health,
Sally Claycomb Townsend, Council President

Our Saviour Congregation Council
Council Meetings are held in the Keller Room on the 2nd Thursday of the month and begin at 7:00pm. The meeting schedule is:

February 9, 2012
March 8, 2012
April 12, 2012
May 10, 2012
June 14, 2012

Our Saviour members are welcome to attend meetings and come to share ideas and questions with our council.

Congregational Ministries

Youth Group News



On Sunday February 5, 140 million Americans will tune in to The Super Bowl football game. There will be parties and abundant food, friendship and fellowship. At the same time, there will be people worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and a warm meal. Please join young people around the country as they demonstrate God's love by loving their neighbors through the *Souper Bowl of Caring*. Our youth group will be serving a soup lunch. Donations of cash and/or nonperishable food items will be given to *Seeds of Hope* food pantry. Our young people are developing hearts for giving that can last a lifetime. Please support their efforts.

Save the Date—**March 16 sleepover** at the church. All youth in grades 7 through 12 are invited to join us. Meetings are usually held the second Sunday of each month. For more information contact the Donovan Family, 736-8042.



You're Invited



to a Pasta Dinner

at the OSLC Café

1640 Genesee Street, Utica

Saturday, February 11, 5—7pm

Hosted by the Youth Group

Donations will support the youth

attending the

National Youth Gathering in New Orleans.



Congregational Ministries continued

WORSHIP AND MUSIC NOTES



Happy New Year! Congratulations and a heartfelt “Thank you” goes out to our organist and choir director, Justin, as well as all the musicians who provided beautiful music throughout the Advent and Christmas season. Your hard work is appreciated!

It’s hard to believe Christmas is behind us, and discussion at our January meeting turned to Lent and Easter! The Lenten season begins in late February this year. We will once again gather for a meal and worship on Tuesday evenings. Please join us for a dish to pass dinner at 6:00PM and worship at 7:00pm. We will once again be using Holden Evening Prayer. For those of you who have joined us in the past, you know how lovely this service is. We hope you will join us again and bring a friend!

Sarah Fagan



Ash Wednesday Worship
February 22, 2012
7:00pm

Weekly Lenten Suppers and Services begin Tues., Feb. 28 in the Keller Room. Supper at 6:00pm—worship at 7:00pm.

Gerry Presser will cook our main dish. Please sign up to bring complimentary dishes. Lenten meditations will be on the Lord’s Prayer.



While we do not presently have regular Women of the ELCA meetings at our church there are lots of things going on in Women of the ELCA and opportunities for women of our church to be involved if they wish. On the WELCA bulletin board near the parking lot entrance are copies of *Evangel Lines*, the newsletter of the Upstate New York Synod Women of the ELCA. Please take a copy to read. Inside is information about—

- 2012 Ingathering project—Back Packs
- Instructions for assembling School Kits for Luther World Relief
- Save the date for the Sept. 14—16, 2012 WELCA Convention to be held in Mayville NY at Chautauqua Suites Meeting & Expo Center.
- WELCA commitment to support the Malaria Initiative by raising \$15 million over 3 years.
- *ANGELS AMONG US Spiritual Gathering*, April 27-29, 2012 at Camp of the Woods in Speculator, NY.



The monthly WELCA Prayer letter from Sue Nalle is also posted on the board. If you would like to receive this by email, please let Patsy Glista know.

Check us out!

‘Like’ Our Saviour on Facebook at *Our Saviour Lutheran Church—Utica*
And coming Jan. 22—our website!

www.oursaviourlutheranchurchutica.org

In the community around us.

Thea Bowman House Annual Pasta Dinner

Saturday, February 4, 2012

4:30—7:00 PM

DeSales Center, 309 Genesee Street
(former St. Francis DeSales School)

BENEFITS—Thea Bowman
House Programs for Children



Tickets: Available at the door or purchased ahead
at 731 Lafayette St. Site.

Adults—\$6.00

Children—\$4.00 (under 12)

TAKE OUTS AVAILABLE!

Donations: Accepted at 731 Lafayette St. Site.
For information call 797-0748

Seeds of Hope

Our Saviour is responsible for snacks
(JUICE, COOKIES and COFFEE) for
Seeds of Hope for the months of
Jan—March.

For 3 months we need 36 cans of frozen
juice (punch or fruit), 54 packages of
cookies (NO NUTS), 2 large cans of cof-
fee (270 servings per can) and 2 small
bags or cans of Fair Trade Coffee.
There is also a need for napkins and
large containers of creamer. The pantry
is open Tuesday and Thursday from
9:30—11:30am.

For information contact Liz Douglass.

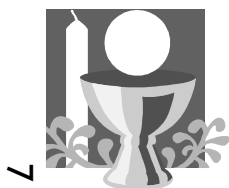


February 2012 Schedule



CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP is every Sunday at 9:00am

	Feb. 12, 2012 10:30am	Feb. 19, 2012 10:30am	Feb. 22, 2012 7:00pm Ash Wednesday	Feb. 26, 2012 10:30am	Mar. 4, 2012 10:30am
GREETERS	Dennis Ready and Alex Dudajek	Pam Donovan and Mary Ellen Riemenschneider	Sandy and Jim Lenahan	Helen and Alex Dudajek	Liz and Paul Douglass
ACOLYTES	Emily Donovan	Noah Thrasher	TBA	Joey Abraham	Moeisa Andereck
WORSHIP ASSISTANT	Barbara Godbey-Miller	Norris Ellinwood	Liz Douglass	Sarah Fagan	Clare Thiem
LECTOR	NA	Scott Donovan	Myron Sierson	NA	Erica Tollerton
NURSERY 10:30am	Kathy and Katherine David	Sue Arntsen	No Nursery	Susan Morris	Judy Petroski



Ushers—Norris Ellinwood, Myron Sierson, Alex Dudajek, and Mel Merry
Altar Guild—Barbara Godbey-Miller and Judy Petroski



FEBRUARY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>Pastor's Sabbath Day</i>	2	3	4
5-9:00-Holy Comm 9:15-Bible Study 10:30-Worship 11:45-Choir Rehearsal Souper Bowl of Caring	6	7 10:00-Bible Study	8 <i>Pastor's Sabbath Day</i>	9 7:00-Congregation Council	10	11 5:00- 7:00-Youth Spaghetti Dinner
12-9:00-Worship 9:15-Bible Study 10:30-Holy Comm. 11:45-Choir Rehearsal	13	14	15 <i>Pastor's Sabbath Day</i> MESSENGER DEADLINE	16 6:30-Worship & Music	17	18
19-9:00-Holy Comm 9:15-Bible Study 10:30-Worship 11:45-Choir Rehearsal	20 <i>Office Closed</i>	21 10:00-Bible Study	22 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 7:00 p.m.-Worship	23	24	25
26-9:00-Worship 9:15-Bible Study 10:30-Holy Comm. 11:45-Choir Rehearsal	27	28 6:00-Lenten Dinner 7:00- Lenten Worship	29 <i>Pastor's Sabbath Day</i>			