

**Our Saviour Lutheran Church  
1640 Genesee Street  
Utica, New York 13502  
www.oslc-utica.org**

**THE MESSENGER**

Vol. 10, Issue 3

**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  
Weekly Lenten worship—Tuesdays  
Supper at 6pm—Worship at 7pm*

*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**

### **March 2012**

*From the Pastor—*

Create in me a clean heart O God  
And renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence  
And take not your holy spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation  
And uphold me with they free spirit.

These are the words of the Psalm with which we begin Lent on Ash Wednesday. The Psalm is clear to invite God to do the creating. God creates new and clean hearts in us this Lenten season.

The line of this Psalm that is striking to me is “Restore unto me the joy of they salvation.” This is a worthy goal for Lent—that God might restore in us joy in God’s salvation. In Bible Study this week we found this question, “What part of living in a relationship with God gives you the most joy?” What a great question that is! So often our relationships with God are marked more with duty and doing what we are supposed to do and following the directions rather than joy. It is a worthy goal for Lent that we might discover—for many of us again—the joy of being in relationship with God.

On Transfiguration Sunday the children marched out of church and then hid the Alleluia Banner. Children love to have a secret! On Easter Sunday morning they will march it back into the worship space. One of the secrets of children is that many of them know the joy of relationships that adults have forgotten. Expressing Easter joy is one of the goals of any Easter service.

The joy of being in relationship with God is truly a gift to us from the God who has chosen to love us. If it is possible that you are not living in that joy—experiencing it with all that you are, wondering where it went, I’d like you to join the search for retu4rning the Alleluia’s to your life. Children are not the only ones who live in the alleluia space.

During Lent many opportunities exist for assisting in the search. See other parts of this newsletter for Lenten worship and gathering opportunities. Remember that God can be found in the sharing with our neighbors—food, stories of faith, prayer and song.

If joy in the salvation of God is lacking for you, join in Lenten opportunities or call me 315-724-5426 and we can talk about what might work for you. This Lent is a good time for us to be restored to joy at the salvation of our God.

*Pastor Anita*



**Lenten suppers & services—Tuesdays**  
**6:00p.m. supper in gym**  
**7:00p.m. worship in Keller Room**

## THE MESSENGER

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**REMINDER—please mark your calendars.**

**The deadline for the April 2012 issue of  
The Messenger is March 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](mailto:oslc-utica@verizon.net).

## OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH CONTACT LIST

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**Church Office Secretary** ..... Kathy Edic  
**Organist** ..... Justin Jaramillo

### Council Members

Sally Townsend, Council President  
Priscilla Dygert, Secretary  
John Adasek  
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** ..... Gerry Presser



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 Update March 2012

Even though I have had few folks accept my invitation to participate in our Council meetings, I continue to acknowledge my appreciation for the great work that members and friends of our church do to demonstrate God's presence in our lives. If you are interested in coming to a council meeting, let me know. My phone number is (315) 404-6045.

A note of appreciation for the member(s) who:

- ◆ Have chosen to be leaders of our congregation by their participation in the Congregation Council.
- ◆ Are the Process Committee charged with development of a policy for same gender marriages and Our Saviour.

Thank you!

The Council Retreat was February 16, 2012. This retreat helped the Council members with continuing their development of effective leadership skills for Our Saviour. Mark Betley was our invited Retreat leader. Through the retreat activities facilitated by Mark the council members thought about what it means to be a leader. An active discussion followed as we were challenged to think about how we can continue to meet the needs of our church community through God's guidance. We were also challenged to think about how our council can move Our Saviour Church toward an explicit vision designed to help us to meet the ever changing needs of the members of our community while maintaining our mission of caring for others and ourselves.

Peace 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:

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.

## Lenten Worship & Study Opportunities

“When was it that we saw you?”  
Matthew 25:35—40



**2012 Downtown Ecumenical  
Noontime Lenten Lunch Series**

**St. Mary of Mt. Carmel—Blessed Sacrament  
648 Jay Street in East Utica**

**Tuesdays from 12:00—1:00 PM  
Feb. 28—March 27.**

**Lunch from 12:00—12:25**

**Program of Reflection on Biblical Texts  
12:30—1:00pm**

Participation Churches: St. Mary of Mount Carmel-Blessed Sacrament RCC, First Presbyterian, Grace Episcopal, Moriah Olivet Presbyterian, Historic St. John's RCC, Our Saviour Lutheran, Tabernacle Baptist, Westminster Presbyterian.

Free will donation for lunch appreciated—proceeds to benefit causes to be announced.

**Our Saviour Lutheran Church  
Tuesday Lenten Suppers and Worship  
February 28—March 27**

Join us at 6:00pm for supper.  
A main dish will be prepared by Gerry Presser. Please bring a side dish to share.  
Sign up in the Narthex.

Gather in the Keller Room at 7:00pm  
for Worship using Holden Prayer.

**Bring your whole family—invite a friend!**

# Congregational Ministries

## YOUNG ADULTS

It is our plan for the young adults (ages 18—25) of Our Saviour to feel connected to their church family. In order for this to take place we are assembling a list of all our 18—25 year olds with their mailing address and email address. We are planning on sending care packages to all our young people at different times throughout the year. We realize that some of our young adults are at home while some are away at school.

We recently sent care packages containing cookies to six students that we had addresses for. We are looking for assistance in obtaining appropriate postal and email addresses. We are also putting together a list of individuals that would like to assist with creating care packages. Please contact us at [dkdmwilbur@juno.com](mailto:dkdmwilbur@juno.com) or the church office to help with this new ministry.

Dave and Karen Wilbur



## Youth Group News



On Friday, March 16 the Youth Group will have a sleepover at church beginning at 7pm and ending at 11:00 am Saturday. Come join the fun!! Youth in grades 6-12



are invited. For information contact a member of the Donovan Family at 736-8042.

## CRUISE/TOUR—

Kari Max's parents, Pastor Sig and Jean Arnesen, are hosting a 16-day cruise/tour to ten Mediterranean ports next September 29. Contact them for more information at (706) 878-1306 or [Giggen@windstream.net](mailto:Giggen@windstream.net).



## Thank yous!

To my home church,  
Thank You! Thank You! for the Cookies and brownies! They were Amazing ☺ Nothing like a home made treat, while stuck in a pile of work! It is also really awesome to be reminded that at home we have a great group of people that love me! It really made my week  
Much Love! Thank You! Thank You!  
Meghan



Thank you to Pam Donovan for her service in 2011 coordinating the Altar Guild.



Thank you to Gerry Presser for her willingness to take on this ministry beginning this year. If you would like to help with Altar care or have questions about the schedule please let Gerry know, 724-0539.

# In the larger Lutheran Community



**Helping Hands Home Companions** are now approved to provide **transportation services** to customers as part of the Helping Hands service.

We will provide transportation as we accompany individuals living in Oneida and Herkimer Counties on social, medical and personal outings.

**Helping Hands** Home Companions provide assistance in the home with chores such as: light housekeeping, laundry, cooking and pet care. We shop and run errands for those who need assistance and do not want to travel themselves. Our goal is to enable the people of our community to continue living independently for as long as they are able.

Home Companions are available to give those caring for a loved one, the opportunity for respite and peace of mind. We offer flexible scheduling including days, nights, weekends and overnights to accommodate family requests.

Our Home Companions are fully trained, background checked, insured and bonded through LutheranCare. For information, please call Kathy Leslie (315) 235-7196.



**Our Saviour is now on Facebook at  
Our Saviour Lutheran Church—Utica**

**Check out our new website at [www.oslc-utica.org](http://www.oslc-utica.org)**

**Learning at the Crossroads** is an educational program of our Central Crossroads Conference that provides educational programs for all interested people. Visit the Crossroads web site at <http://LearningattheCrossroads.googlepages.com>. There are 2 programs left for this year.

Register early! Write check to "Central Crossroads Conference (\$20/workshop, includes breakfast and lunch). Mail to Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, 435 S. Main St., N. Syracuse, NY 13212. Please note on a separate sheet of paper the workshop you are registering for, your name and contact information. Registrations must be received by the Thursday prior to the workshop. Questions may be addressed to Pr. Jim Bresnahan at [JCBresnahan@yahoo.com](mailto:JCBresnahan@yahoo.com).

***The Blessings and Challenges of Religious Diversity***, by Pastor Jim Bresnahan. **Saturday, March 24, 2012, 9:30am—2:30pm** at Luther Memorial Church.

What do I know about the faiths of my neighbors? How has my mind or attitude changed from relationships with those of other faiths? What do our Scriptures say about other faiths? Is Christianity the way? Join us in this time of sharing, probing, and learning about our own faith through reflection on others' faiths. *All registrants are encouraged to participate beforehand in one of the many inter-faith dinner conversations to be held in the greater Syracuse area on the evening of Tues., March 20. Register for the dinner online by March 9 at <http://interfaithworkscny.org>.*

***Boundary Awareness***, by Pastor Diane Wheatley. **Saturday, April 14, 2012, 9:30am—2:30pm.**

This workshop will help you identify areas where boundaries are needed, characteristics of healthy boundaries, examples, implications, and consequences of boundary violations, dangers and weaknesses that lead to boundary violation, and steps and techniques for creating and strengthening healthy boundaries. *For everyone who works or intends to work in Christian ministry: pastors, AIMS, deacons, deacon candidates, teachers, youth workers, council leaders and all other interested persons. (Satisfies deacon training requirement for workshop on Boundary Awareness.*

*For more information contact Pr. Jim Bresnahan at [JCBresnahan@yahoo.com](mailto:JCBresnahan@yahoo.com).*





**Grant Approved for Community Farm Project!** The Walmarts of Cicero and E. Syracuse have contributed \$4,000 to Vanderkamp's community farming project. We will plant 1 acre of land and give half away to those in need, and use half to make our food healthier at camp. There is a lot of work to do—volunteer and mission trip groups are invited to help.

**Alternative Spring Break with VK**—from April 10—13, high school youth are invited to join King of Kings Lutheran Church and the Vanderkamp team for a few nights of fellowship and 2 days of work to help relieve flood damage in Schoharie County. We are looking for 9—12 graders who want to get their hands dirty and make a difference over spring break to join us.

Vanderkamp is happy to serve any needs a group has, from running outdoor education, to spiritual retreat, to leading team building activities, and more! If you can dream it up, we'd love to help you accomplish it. Please call (315) 675-3651 or email James at vkcenter@vk.org.



Mike Lindau is a lifelong ELCA member, but he had never been to a

Churchwide Assembly until 2011. He found it to be an “amazing, Christ-filled experience” and an exciting opportunity to swap stories and “grasp the strength and size of our church.”

Mike was especially proud to be a voting member when the assembly officially launched the ELCA Malaria Campaign. He also made a personal financial pledge to help contain a disease that claims the life of a child every 45 seconds.

Learn more about the ELCA Malaria Initiative at [www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Stories-of-Faith-in-Action.aspx](http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Stories-of-Faith-in-Action.aspx) and at this year's Synod Assembly.



## March 2012 Schedule



**Weekly Lenten suppers and worship on Tuesdays beginning February 28. Supper at 6pm / worship at 7pm in Keller Room.**



	March 11	March 18	March 25	April 1 Palm Sunday
<b>GREETER</b>	Mary Ellen Riemenschneider and Emily Donovan	Judy and Myron Sierson	Pam Donovan and Dennis Ready	Liz and Paul Douglass
<b>ACOLYTE</b>	Sheena Andereck	Moeisa Andereck	Emily Donovan	Noah Thrasher and Joey Abraham
<b>WORSHIP ASSISTANT</b>	Barbara Godbey-Miller	Patsy Glista	John Andereck	Norris Ellinwood
<b>LECTOR</b>	None	Pam Donovan	None	David Wilbur
<b>NURSERY 10:30 worship</b>	Liz Douglass	Katherine and KathyDavid	Sue Arntsen	Susan Morris



**Ushers**—Clare Thiem, Dave Dudajek, Dennis Ready and Lou Lombard  
**Altar Guild**—Karen Wilbur and Liz Douglass





**The ABC's of Flood Recovery**

CRTC is focusing some of their efforts on Congregational Resourcing. One of the areas they have provided significant help with is disaster recovery efforts—they have created this helpful list.

**A is for Action**

Each locality that is rebuilding can use help. Service teams can find ways to help daily, weekly or monthly:

- + Help prepare and/or serve meals;
- + Adopt a home—your church family can support a specific home & help fill their needs;
- + Mission teams are needed—stay local and make a difference;
- + Spring cleanup—raking and yard work;
- + Donate items to local centers—winter clothing, quilts, even wedding & prom materials;
- + Skilled labor—accountants, electricians, plumbers, dry wall installers needed;
- + Kids can help too—plenty of work for hands of all ages!

**B is for BEING Proactive**

What can YOU do to help? You'd be surprised. Simple jobs could be just the fit.

- + Stories—personal tales of rescue, recovery and relationship—listen/document/share!
- + Homecoming Cleaning—help in preparing homes for residency;
- + Deliveries—transport donations and deliver materials;
- + Photography—get the message out via pictures;
- + Baskets—gifts baskets that say “Welcome Home!”
- + Office Help—several agencies are looking for part time office help—flexible hours.

**C is for CARING for your Neighbors**

Prefer to make direct contact? Here are links to recovery organizations that need help. Call today—tell them what you have to offer and we are confident they can use your skills!

- Flood Recovery Coalition for Schenectady County
- Middleburgh Area Volunteers
- Rebuild 123 Resource Listings
- Schoharie Recovery, Inc.
- Schoharie Area Long Term Recovery
- UMC Albany District Flood Coordinator

**Z is for zzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz. . . Don't fall asleep**

We skipped right to “Z” because it’s very easy to forget about flood recovery when the media spends less and less time talking about it and cold weather would seem to limit volunteers.

(The Capital Region Theological Center (CRTC) is a joint effort and ecumenical mission in theological education and resourcing among several denominations in the greater Capital Region of Upstate NY. The Upstate NY Synod—ELCA is a supporting member.)



Thrivent volunteering programs provide resources to Thrivent Financial members who come together to help individuals and communities.

**Care Abounds in Communities**<sup>®</sup> is a program that supports activities conducted by our members to help individuals, families and nonprofit organizations in your community.

The **Care in Regions**<sup>®</sup> program brings Thrivent Financial for Lutherans members, financial representatives and other volunteers together to make a significant difference for a cause that is meaningful in their region. In 2011 Thrivent provided a Care in Regions Challenge grant to support Lutheran Disaster Response efforts in Schoharie County.

Learn more about these programs at <https://www.thrivent.com/community/outreach/volunteering/>  
For more information contact the area Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Office at (315) 451-0252.



# MARCH 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4-9:00-Holy Comm 9:15-Bible Study 10:30-Worship 11:45-Choir Rehearsal	5	6 10:00-Bible Study 12:00 - Ecumenical Lenten lunch 6:00—Lenten Dinner 7:00—Lenten Worship	7 Pastor's Sabbath Day	8 7:00-Congregation Council	9	10
11-9:00-Worship 9:15-Bible Study 10:30-Holy Comm. 11:45-Choir Rehearsal	12	13 12:00—Ecumenical Lenten Lunch 6:00—Lenten Dinner 7:00—Lenten Worship	14 Pastor's Sabbath Day MESSENGER	15 MESSENGER DEADLINE 6:30-Worship & Music	16 7:00—Youth Group Sleepover	17
18-9:00-Holy Comm 9:15-Bible Study 10:30-Worship 11:45-Choir Rehearsal	19	20 10:00-Bible Study 12:00—Ecumenical Lenten Lunch 6:00—Lenten Dinner 7:00—Lenten Worship	21 Pastor's Sabbath Day	22	23	24
25-9:00-Worship 9:15-Bible Study 10:30-Holy Comm. 11:45-Choir Rehearsal	26	27 12:00 Ecumenical Lenten Lunch 6:00-Lenten Dinner 7:00—Lenten Worship	28 Pastor's Sabbath Day	29	30	31