

Christ is Risen!

THE MESSENGER

Our Saviour Lutheran Church

April 2012

From the Pastor—

Sometimes the events of the world affect our lives as a church. Since last summer, I have wondered how Our Saviour would respond to the new New York State resolution to permit same-gender marriage. I have told couples wishing to be married at Our Saviour that Our Saviour does not wish to be a "wedding chapel," simple providing a lovely backdrop for wedding pictures. We wish to be a community where their marriage is supported through our prayers and through our actions.

At this time no same-gender couple has approached Our Saviour asking to be married here. Although dealing with this issues is not urgent at this time, it does not seem appropriate for the first couple who do ask to be married here to bear the weight of how we approach this issue. In September the Congregation Council appointed a committee which came to be known as the Process Committee to study this issue. The September minutes read:

'Future planning for Our Saviour—a group (Priscilla Dygert, Cindy Andereck, Liz Douglass and John Adasek) will meet with Pastor Anita to come up with a process regarding same gender marriages (September Council meeting minutes).'

Jan Dudajek asked to be a part of this planning group and participated in the conversations.

The Process Committee studied the resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we read the letter our bishop wrote on this issue, we shared our personal stories, experiences, feelings and thoughts on this issue, we prayed, we did Bible Study on the Biblical passages most often used in this conversation. We wrote a statement of what we believe to be true and presented it to the Congregation Council in January. We asked the Congregation Council to read that statement and to make it better. We intend for the statement that we have written to be the beginning of conversation within the community of Our Saviour. We have scheduled forums for conversation after Easter.

In January, the Congregation Council asked me to preach on this topic. Looking carefully at the texts for Epiphany, I chose the text for Epiphany 6 as a way to address this issue. All of these pieces are available in the narthex in a packet of information.

Our Saviour is called to be a safe loving community for all God's people. I encourage each of you to begin your thinking and pondering about this issue in prayer. The issues of same-gender relationships tend to be ones that affect each of us personally. Remember that we at Our Saviour do not agree on many different issues. We have differing opinions. It is not necessary to agree with every opinion of every other person. As each of us begin these conversations, we are called to see the presence of God's love in one another. We are called to listen carefully to one another. We may not agree with every opinion expressed, but we can make it safe for the opinion to be heard.

The Process Committee has scheduled forums for conversation between services on April 15, on Tuesday evening, April 17 at 6:30pm and as part of a Soup Lunch served by the Youth Group on April 22 after 10:30 worship. The Process Committee will lead these conversations.

Your prayers for Our Saviour and for its leadership are one of the ways that you can help to make this conversation good for the sake of God and the world. Thank you.

Pastor Anita

THE MESSENGER

Published monthly by:
Our Saviour Lutheran Church
1640 Genesee Street
Utica, New York 13502
Phone: 315-732-0134
Email: oslc-utica@verizon.net
Circulation: 251
Editors: Patsy and Norman Glista
Contributors: Members of the Congregation.

REMINDER—please mark your calendars.

**The deadline for the May 2012 issue of
The Messenger is April 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.

OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH CONTACT LIST

Church Office	732-0134		
Pastor Anita Mohr	724-5426		
Email: pastor-oslc@verizon.net			
Church Office Secretary	Kathy Edic		
Organist	Justin Jaramillo		
Council Members			
Sally Townsend, Council President. . .	404-6045	Pam Donovan , Council V. Pres. . . .	736-8042
Priscilla Dygert, Secretary.	794-8506	Paul Douglass, Treasurer.	733-9240
John Adasek.	735-3168	Cindy Andereck.	738-4363
Bruno Aploks.	797-9032	David Dudajek.	736-8685
Sarah Fagan.	796-3427	Youth Group Member	Rotates
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.

Easter Breakfast



Sunday, April 8

8:00—9:30am

in the gymnasium

Join us for a delicious breakfast hosted by the Youth Group.

Donations will support the trip to New Orleans.

Easter Fun Day—For Kids of All Ages

Saturday, April 7 from 10—11:30am

Decorate Easter Eggs.

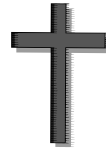
Learn the Easter Story.

Make a craft.

Hunt for Easter Eggs.



Holy Week Worship



Palm Sunday, April 1:

9:00am—Holy Communion
10:30am—Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday, April 5:

7:00pm Worship with foot washing

Good Friday, April 6:

7:00pm Worship



Easter Sunday, April 8:

8:00—9:30am—Easter Breakfast

hosted by the Youth Group

10:00am—Holy Communion



Alleluia!

EASTER LILIES ORDER—DEADLINE IS APRIL 1, 2012

I wish to have the Altar Guild purchase a plant for the Easter Altar. (\$7.00/plant—enclosed donation). Enclose check with order made out to Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 1640 Genesee Street, Utica, NY 13502 or place in offering plate.

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

NUMBER OF PLANTS: _____ IN MEMORY OF: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

IN THANKSGIVING FOR: _____

(If more than one memorial, please use another sheet.) Please PRINT names. If you plan on taking your plant(s), please plan to take them after the 10:00a.m. service on Easter Sunday, or during the week following Easter.

_____ Deliver to a shut in.

_____ I WILL DELIVER a plant to a shut in _____
(name of shut in)

Congregation Council Update April 2012

“... And have we had winter yet?” I am still wishing for the snow. I actually ordered and was fortunate to receive a spankin’ brand new knee joint this fall so I could ski this winter. Well that skiing never happened for me because I couldn’t find the snow. Sadly, I am acknowledging that weather patterns, life, the world and many other things change and I have to adapt to the changes. I clearly have no control over many of the situations and world dilemmas that are with us on a daily basis. I can only control myself and have learned to be prayerful about the changes that I have no control over. Zimbabwe and the Sudan are both examples of disastrous situations that I can only raise awareness and pray for those caught in the cross fire of militia. I wish that our church community continues to be prayerful of those who are oppressed by power and world change.

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.

Note of appreciation for:

- Gerry Presser who has cooked and donated so much to us.
- Sandy and Jim Lenahan who have maintained and beautified our physical church.
- Tom Godbey for his music and beautification of the space between the two buildings.
- Sarah Fagan for her service on the Congregation Council and her music.

Thank you!

I am elated to report that our council meetings continue to be honed in a way that permits the council to think about and discuss Our Saviour’s future. Over the next month, council members will be talking with some of the members in our congregation who have taken the responsibility for organizing others and getting work done for Our Saviour. The intent of this activity is to learn why each of these people do what they do for the church. I am heartened by how much is volunteered and how many of us contribute to God’s work.

The Process Committee members continued to follow their plan to explore and discuss same gender marriages at Our Saviour.

I ask that each of you keep the members and work of Our Saviour in your thoughts and prayers throughout the week so that we can continue to do God’s work and grow in our faith.

If you are interested in coming to a council meeting, let me know. My phone number is (315) 404-6045.

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:

April 12, 2012

May 10, 2012

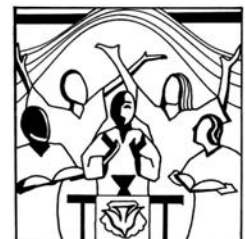
June 14, 2012

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



Invite a friend to Easter Worship!
Share the Resurrection story!

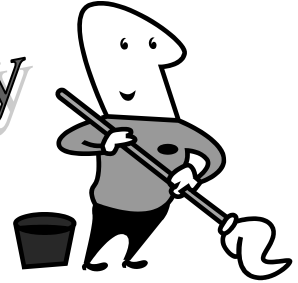
Breakfast – 8:00 – 9:30am
Worship – 10:00am



Congregational Ministries

Spring Clean-Up Day

Saturday, April 21, 2012
9:00am—3:00pm



Please come and help to clean-up and fix-up our church both inside and out. We have a list of jobs we want to accomplish. Volunteers with all skill levels and of all ages are welcome to join the FUN!! Come for an hour—come for the day. Sign up in the Narthex.

Coffee, breakfast foods and lunch will be provided.



Sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex so that we can plan for food and job opportunities.

Property Committee

Process Committee Forum Invitation

The Congregation Council PROCESS COMMITTEE invites all members and friends of Our Saviour to join them at one or all of the scheduled PROCESS FORUMS for conversation, thinking and pondering around the issues related to same gender marriages at Our Saviour. Forum dates are:

- Sunday, April 15 between worship services;
- Tuesday, April 17 at 6:30pm.
- Sunday, April 22 after 10:30 worship. The Youth Group will provide a Soup Lunch.

See Pastor Anita's message (p. 1) for more information.
Additional information is also available in the Narthex.

Supporting God's work through our giving.

Large empty rectangular area with a dashed horizontal line at the top and a dashed vertical line on the left side, extending downwards.



**Join us for
A Daughters Hat Tea
Sunday, May 20—2:30pm**



Dig out those old hats or make one to wear to the Tea from odds and ends around the house.

**Deck your hat with May flowers!
Prizes for—**

**the most creative hat,
most beautiful hat,
most unusual hat, and
most faithful hat.**

Serving tea and a variety of desserts



An afternoon tea for daughters of ALL ages.
Bring your daughter, bring a friend.
Join us for a special program with fancy 'tea' fixings and dessert.
Sign up in the Narthex.

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 or the church office to help with this new ministry.



In the larger Lutheran Community



Spring Cleaning

Everyone is invited to come join us April 21 at 9am to help do a little "Spring Cleaning!"

We'll be setting up our community garden, painting, taking our summer equipment, beginning water front set up and more! There is also a lot of skilled work to do—carpenters, electricians, mechanics or plumbers are needed. All are welcome to come share in a great day.



Farm Project Underway! We've begun planning our new community garden. Eagle Scout candidate John Dromms has agreed to build a shed for tools, we're getting a discount rate on our irrigation system, and volunteers are lining up to help. There will be 2 work days over Memorial Day weekend—help is welcomed!

Looking for beds—We are still in search of beds. We are dedicated to making our lodges more adult friendly for retreats. Tax deductible donations of gently used twin, double or bunk beds are appreciated.

Alternative Spring Break (STEM) - April 10—13 High School aged youth are invited to join King of Kings Lutheran Church and Vanderkamp for a few nights of fellowship and 2 days of work to help relieve flood damage in Schoharie County. YNN will be covering the event, so join us for your 15 minutes of fame! Anyone who wants to make a difference **during their Spring Break call and let us know.**

VK Garage Sale—Vanderkamp will be holding our annual fundraising garage sale on May 12 at the First Presbyterian Church, 603 Tulip St., Liverpool. To help with the event or for more information call Linda Graves (315.451.4944).



For information about Summer Camp 2012 Registration or any of these events, call 315-675-3651 or email us at vkcenter@vk.org. We also encourage you to visit our website at www.vk.org.



Thrivent Financial News:

Important changes in 2012—

- ◇ In 2013 recurring direction will be eliminated;
- ◇ You will be able to direct Choice Dollars online or by phone.
- ◇ 2012 is a transitional year. You can renew your recurring direction for one more year to the same organization. Visit Thrivent.com/choicedollars to set this up or call 1-800-847-4836.
- ◇ If you don't want recurring direction in 2012, you don't need to do anything.
- ◇ Thrivent Choice Dollars is one way for benefits members to direct dollars to support ministries of your choice including Our Saviour.



6th Annual Lutheran Campus Ministry Music Festival and Basket Auction

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Liverpool
Sunday, April 29, 2012
2:00—5:00pm

Tickets—\$5.00

Honoring

The Rev. Craig Herrick, Pastor, First English (FEL where faith enters life) and Paula Hughson, Pastoral Associate

For their outstanding work in urban and campus ministry.

Come enjoy the Music!

Mass Choir led by Mary Lohr

Music coordinated by Gayle Ross

Basket Auction Includes:

Giant Death by Chocolate Basket

Cherry Wood piano

Matching funds from Thrivent Financial.



**When Things Get Difficult:
A Spirituality of
Surrender and Prayer
With Father Tim Reger
April 12, 2012**

Tim Reger is an Episcopal Priest and the Rector of St. James in Clinton. He is a spiritual director and senior staff member at the Spiritual Renewal Center in Syracuse, NY. Tim is a retreat leader and has given many talks on the subjects of Christian spirituality, mysticism, meditation, personality, and prayer.

Thursday, April 12, 2012 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

**Katherine Luther Conference Room
LutheranCare, 108 Utica Road, Clinton, NY**

Church leaders, professional aging services providers, organizations, and individuals are encouraged to join us.

R.S.V.P. and more details contact:

Rev. Brian McCaffrey, (315) 235-7125 or bmccaffrey@lutherancare.org.



Mobile for Mission is the theme for the 2012 Upstate New York Synod Assembly being held in Rochester, June 7—9. Youth CONVO is held simultaneously beginning June 6.

This year's assembly hi-lights include: Visitors from our companion synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe; a Hunger Action goal to raise \$45,000 to provide 56 Global Barnyards equipping persons less fortunate with a 'farm' to make a living; ELCA Churchwide representative, Tammy Jackson, Director of International Leadership Development for Global Mission; workshops, synod business, worship and fellowship.

Representing Our Saviour as our elected voting members are Liz and Paul Douglass. Dave Wilbur is a member of the Synod Assembly Planning Team. Some of our youth will be attending CONVO. The Assembly will be streamed live on the web so those who will not be in attendance can participate as well. You may also wish to participate by donating to the Hunger Action fundraiser or by helping support our youth to attend CONVO.

Learn more at upstatenysynod.org.

Learning at the Crossroads
An Educational Program of our
Central Crossroads Conference Presents
“Creation and Christian Faith”
A Day Apart at Vanderkamp Center
Learning, Discernment and Personal Refreshment

Led by Pastor Gail Wolling
with James Davis, Vanderkamp Director
Saturday, May 12, 2012

9:30am—3:30pm

Vanderkamp Center, Cleveland, NY

“In the beginning” is where we will begin to explore the role of God as creator and the complex relationship between humankind and creation in the Bible. We go on from there to consider the effects of our human use and abuse of God’s creation and to look at our calling as Christians to care for the earth. The ELCA Social statement on the Care and Creation will guide us in our reflection. James Davis will also lead us in an outdoor exploration of the interconnectedness of all life.

The \$35 registration cost includes program, lunch, and refreshments. To register email or call Luther Memorial Church, (315) 458-1481 x1, or info@luthermemorialns.org with your name, phone and email address.

Lutheran Charities Appeal

“Things hoped for. . .”

The Lutheran Charities Appeal asks for your support of eight ministries that help and serve communities in Central NY.



Watch for Designated Sundays to participate.

- **The Samaritan Counseling Center** provides therapy and support to people who cannot afford it.
- **Vanderkamp Center** is a camp and retreat center located north of Oneida Lake.
- **Watertown Urban Mission** is an ecumenical outreach to the poor and powerless in Jefferson Cnty.
- **Lutheran Campus Ministry** at Syracuse University meets the needs of students, faculty and staff through worship, education and counseling.
- **LutheranCare** provides spiritual care and counsel to the residents of all LutheranCare facilities.
- **Appleseed Scene 1** is a community theatre ministry of Atonement Lutheran Church.
- **Ministry of the Central Crossroads Conference** provides care for Rostered leaders and supports congregations.
- **Seeds of Hope Food Pantry** a four church collaborative supports hunger needs in the City of Utica.

In our Community

Your Neighbors Inc. Garage Sale May 4 and 5, 2012—9am—3pm Our Saviour Lutheran Church



Plan now to support *Your Neighbors, Inc.* sale. If you are doing spring cleaning, sorting or are just ready to part with items you have accumulated, please set them aside for the *Your Neighbors* annual sale. Your discarded items can become someone else's treasure. This is a large fundraiser for *Your Neighbors* and also a great way to pick up some bargains. *Your Neighbors, Inc.* is an affiliate of the Lutheran Home of Central New York.

Sale items may be dropped off at the church Mon., April 30—Wed., May 2 between 9am and 3pm. Household items such as furniture, small appliances, baby items, home decor, toys and holiday decorations are good. Or call 235-7149 to schedule a pick up.

You can donate:

- ◆ Household items
- ◆ Furniture
- ◆ Lawn and Garden Equipment
- ◆ Books
- ◆ Toys
- ◆ Games, puzzles, etc.



Please DO NOT Donate:

- ◆ Clothing
- ◆ Luggage
- ◆ Sporting goods/equipment/bowling balls, winter sports items
- ◆ Computers or computer parts
- ◆ Christmas trees
- ◆ Appliances not in working condition.



Volunteer Help Us Help Others

**Wednesday, April 11
at 2:00p
LutheranCare**

Volunteer educators will help area refugees prepare for emergency situations, winter storms, heat waves, and various health concerns including flu prevention.

As refugees make the transition to life in the United States, one of the most important things we can do to help is to prepare them for emergency situations. Learn to be a presenter of various preparedness information.

The meeting will be held in the Board Room in the Arntsen Administration Building, LutheranCare, 108 Utica Rd., Clinton, NY. For more information and to register contact Patsy Glista—pglista@lutherancare.org or by phone (315) 235-7106. This is a collaborative program of the Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees, Oneida County Health Department and LutheranCare.

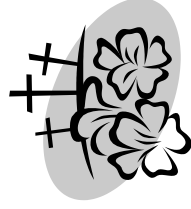


**Visit us on the Web
oursaviourlutheranchurchutica.org
And on Facebook
Our Saviour Lutheran Church-Utica**

Christ is risen,
He is risen indeed!

April 2012

Easter Worship - April 8 at 10:00



	April 5 Maundy Thursday 7:00pm	April 6 Good Friday 7:00pm	April 8 EASTER 10:00am	April 15 10:30am	April 22 10:30am	April 29 10:30am	May 6 10:30am
GREETER	Judy and Myron Sierson	Sandy and Jim Lenahan	Gerry Presser and Sharon Jacinto	Helen and Alex Dudajek	Pam and Emily Donovan	Dennis Ready and Mary Ellen Riemenschneider	Liz and Paul Douglass
ACOLYTE	Sheena Andereck	Emily Donovan	Joey Abraham	Noah Thrasher	Emily Donovan	Sheena Andereck	Moeisa Andereck
WORSHIP ASSIS- TANT	Liz Douglass	Clare Thiem	Patsy Glista	John Andereck	Barbara Godbey-Miller	Norris Ellinwood	Clare Thiem
LECTOR	Jane Anello	None	Myron Sierson	Mary Tollerton	Scott Donovan	Erica Tollerton	Dave Wilbur
NURSERY 10:30 worship	None	None	None	Susan Morris	Judy Petroski	Katherine and Kathy David	Sue Arntsen



Ushers—Liz and Paul Douglass, Karen and Dave Wilbur
Altar Guild—Patsy and Norm Glista





April 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 11:45 Choir Rehearsal 12:00 New Orleans Traveling Group	2	3	4 Pastor's Sabbath Day	5 7:00pm Worship Maundy Thurs.	6 7:00pm Worship Good Friday	7 10—11:30am Easter Fun Day
8 8—9:30am Easter Breakfast 10:00 Holy Comm.	9	10 Youth & Pastor	11 Alternate Spring Break	12 7:00 Council Mtg.	13 Schoharie disaster mission trip.	14
15 9:00 Worship 9:15 Bible Study 9:50am Same Gender Forum 10:30 Holy Comm.	16 MESSENGER DEADLINE	17 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Same Gender Forum	18 Pastor's Sabbath Day	19	20	21
22 9:00 Worship 9:15 Bible Study 10:30 Worship 11:45 Choir Soup Lunch & Same Gender Forum	23	24	25 Pastor's Sabbath Day	26	27	28 10am—2:30pm 1st Communion Class
29 9:00 Worship 9:15 Bible Study 10:30 Holy Comm. 1st Communion 11:45 Choir	30					

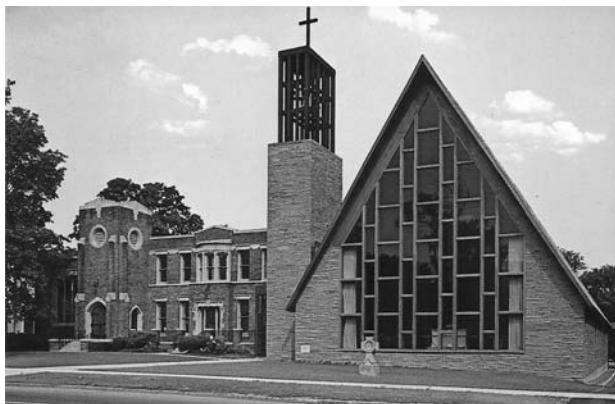
Our Saviour Lutheran Church
1640 Genesee Street
Utica, New York 13502

Rev. Anita Mohr, Pastor

THE MESSENGER

Vol. 10, Issue 4

**U.S. Postage
Permit 175
Non-Profit Org.
New Hartford, N.Y. 13413
Dated Material
Do Not Hold**



*Contemporary Worship at 9:00am
Adult Bible Study at 9:15am
Traditional Worship at 10:30am
Children's Time—during 10:30 worship

Maundy Thursday Worship—7:00pm
Good Friday Worship—7:00pm
Easter Breakfast—8:00—9:30am
Easter Holy Communion—10:00am*

*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.*