



THE MESSENGER

Our Saviour


Lutheran Church

July—August 2012

From the Pastor,

When I go to Subway, I have the person behind the counter put EVERYTHING on my sandwich. Usually the person behind the counter continues to ask me about each item – but I just shake my head and say, “Yes, I want to include that too.” By the time the sandwich is finished it is a mess. The only real hope for the sandwich is the bread. The bread is what holds it together so that I can get it into my mouth – and usually down the front of what I am wearing. It was the smell of the bread, remembering the warm taste in my mouth, the delicious bite of the sandwich which got me in the door in the first place.



 Every third year in the middle of the summer the people who choose the readings that we use for worship, choose five readings in row from the Gospel of John organized around the theme that Jesus is the Bread of Life. It seems important during these summer months that we consider what it means that Jesus is the one who gives himself to the world so that the world can be given life. Bread in one form or another is known by many of the world’s cultures. I think of Italian and French loaves, German ryes, pita bread from the Middle East, naan from India, corn bread from Native Americans, tortillas from Mexico – just for a start. It is the sustainer of life - it is what holds the food together and life together for a great deal of the world.

In this newsletter, you will see the statement written by the Process Committee and affirmed by the Congregation Council. We have studied and considered. We have listened and talked. We are very clear that we are not all the same. Our opinions are as different as tomatoes, peppers, green chilies and onions are from one another. If the person behind the counter at Subway were asking, we would say, “Yes, we have that opinion too.” It can be a bit messy – because it does not all match.

Jesus is the bread of life who holds us together. Jesus is the one who takes the mess that adding all the opinions together can make and makes it work. What the Process Committee and the Congregation Council heard those of us who shared opinions saying is that whatever makes us different – Jesus holds us together – all of us. It is because Jesus holds us together that we are brave enough to open ourselves to people who may be different from us and invite them to be held together with us by the bread of life. It is because we know that it is Jesus who gives us life, that we are willing to mix together with all kinds of flavors and opinions and allow ourselves to be given to the world.

This summer let’s pray that we are held together and offered to the world by the warm, fragrant, delicious embrace of Jesus, Bread of Life.

Pastor Anita



THE MESSENGER

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REMINDER—please mark your calendars.
The deadline for the September 2012 issue of
The Messenger is August 15, 2012.
Be sure that your group's upcoming events are
included. All members of the congregation are wel-
come 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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Katherine David David Dudajek
David Wilbur 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

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.

PROCESS COMMITTEE REPORT

The State of New York passed a law permitting same-gender marriage July 24, 2011. Marriage is one of the rare places in the United States where the role of the church and role of government cross paths. Clergy are given the responsibility of signing and mailing the document that makes marriage legal.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in American (ELCA) understands marriage to be between a man and a woman. However, the ELCA leaves the discretion for participating in a same-gender marriage up to the pastoral authority of the local pastor. In other words, it is Pastor Anita's decision to make whether we have same-gender marriage at Our Saviour.

Pastor Anita began to give this matter some thought last summer. She has told couples wishing to be married at Our Saviour that Our Saviour does not wish to be a "wedding chapel" - simply providing a beautiful backdrop for weddings. Our Saviour wishes to be an instrument of God's blessing for couples being married here. We wish to pray with and support couples being married at Our Saviour. No rules have ever been made that required couples to attend worship a certain number of times or become a member at Our Saviour.

In the fall Pastor Anita began a conversation with the Congregation Council about this issue. She wondered aloud if Our Saviour could be a place that supported same-gender marriages. Some Congregation Council members volunteered to form a committee in order to find a way for Our Saviour to have conversation around this issue. The Process Committee, John Adasek, Cindy Andreck, Liz Douglass, Jan Dudajek and Priscilla Dygert began to meet in the Fall of 2011. We began by sharing our own stories and concerns about same-gender marriage. We looked at the sexuality statement of the ELCA. We wondered together what the Bible had to say about same-gender relationships. We did Bible Study. Finally we made a recommendation to the Congregation Council on how to approach the conversation of same-gender marriages to the congregation.

The Process Committee asked Pastor Anita to preach about same-gender relationships and write about it in the newsletter (The Messenger). We asked for input from the congregation through individual contact with committee members, anonymously through a comment box or through a series of three forums inviting members to discuss their ability to support same-gender marriage. We were delighted by the conversations. It is clear to us that Our Saviour does not completely agree about having same-gender marriages here. In none of the conversation, though, did we hear from people who are not supportive of same-gender relationships. Our conversations included talking and listening and laughter but no one was vindictive. God has blessed Our Saviour with a great deal of care for one another and for the opinions of one another.

Overwhelmingly, of those who expressed an opinion, it is the observation of the Process Committee that Our Saviour could support same-gender marriages at Our Saviour. We realize that some would not approve, however, we have always found ways to love and care for the people who gather here. God has blessed Our Saviour with a great deal of love. It is one of the gifts that we offer to the world.

The Process Committee recommends that the congregation of Our Saviour supports Pastor Anita's decision to perform same-gender marriages if she so chooses.

The Process Committee

Congregation Council Resolution

John Adasek made a motion stating:

The Congregational Council of Our Saviour Lutheran Church endorses the recommendation of the Process Committee that the congregation of Our Saviour Lutheran Church supports the pastor's decision to perform same-gender marriages if he/she so chooses.

The motion was seconded by Dave Dudajek, put to vote and passed unanimously.

Congregational Ministries

Congratulations!

To our newly elected Congregation Council members: Katherine David and David Wilbur.

We welcome the following young people who took their First Communion to the Lord's Table:



Mariah Thrasher
Derek Thrasher
Anthony Robles
Michael Robles
Anthony
Rebecca Brunet
Eric Fagan

Youth Group News

The following young people and adults will be attending the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July—

Sheena Andereck
Emily Donovan
Pam Donovan
Pastor Anita Mohr

Citizens with the Saints is the theme for the Gathering where more than 30,000 youth will join together. They will gather as citizens with the saints to learn to love like Jesus by practicing discipleship through peacemaking that works for justice. We wish our group a safe journey and look forward to hearing about the event upon their return.



Report from our voting members to the 2012 Upstate New York Synod Assembly—

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, Your God reigns." Isaiah 52:7

This was the Bible verse for the 2012 Synod Assembly of Upstate New York held on June 8 and 9, 2012 at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center.

Preceding the Assembly on June 7 there was a Global Cafe. There was an opportunity to see how Global Mission Programs are happening throughout our Synod as well as an opportunity to meet Bishop Stephen Dube and his wife, Effina and Munatsi Dube, General Secretary for the ELCZ.

Assembly was opened on Friday at 9:00A.M. by Bishop Marie Jerge. Various reports and business was covered until lunch time. "The Mission Faire" was available to participants from 12—5. Workshops were available in the afternoon. Pastor Anita and Liz Douglass attended a workshop on "Godly Play." This workshop teaches a form of story telling that can be used as a way to teach Bible stories to children. Paul Douglass attended "Common Questions and Answers about Congregational Administration." This workshop offered an opportunity to discuss guidelines about managing your congregational finances and guidelines for updating your congregation's constitution. Paul felt this workshop made him aware of new ways to handle administrative things for our congregation. We returned to business from 2:30 till 4:00pm.

At 7:00P.M. we had a Eucharist Celebration. During communion there was opportunity for Footwashing and individual prayer time.

Saturday morning we began our last business session. We heard a report from the Churchwide Representative Tammy Jackson. We also had a report on the Malaria Initiative. We closed Assembly with a thanks to all who helped plan the Assembly, a thanks to outgoing Synod Council members and a sending for our National Youth Gathering attendees.

Two of our youth were "Convo Kids", Sheena Andereck and Emily Donovan. They both did a fine job and also were banner bearers during our Friday evening worship. Caitlin Donovan served on the Convo staff.

Paul and I would like to thank our congregation for giving us the opportunity to be your voice and vote at our Synod Assembly.

Respectfully Submitted,
Liz and Paul Douglass

Read the Synod Assembly Wrap-Up Report at
www.upstatenysynod.org/document-center/synod-assembly

Supporting God's work through our giving.

TREASURER'S REPORT

May 2012

	2011			THRU	2012		
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARI		April	BUDGET	ACTUAL
INCOME	\$68,244	\$58,943	- 14%		\$ 68,244	\$ 71,740	5%
EXPENSES	\$68,244	\$53,212	-22%		\$ 68,244	\$ 46,056	-33%
OUTSTANDING OBLIGATIONS	\$ 0	\$ 5,731			\$ 0	\$ 25,684	
	2011			May	2012		
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARI		BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARI
INCOME	\$17,061	\$17,185	1%		\$ 15,748	\$ 8,148	-48%
EXPENSES	\$17,061	\$19,739	16%		\$ 15,748	\$ 23,174	47%
OUTSTANDING OBLIGATIONS	0	(\$ 2,554)			\$ 0	(\$15,027)	
INVESTMENT INCOME						\$ 30,000	
TOTAL OUTSTANDING	0	\$ 3,176			0	\$ 10,657	

NOTES—Current month: Our income is 48% BELOW estimate and our expenses are 47% ABOVE budget. This month we are \$15,027 in the RED

Year to Date: Our giving income is 4.9% BELOW estimate and our expenses are 17.6% below plan.

Do not forget that the long summer is here. If you do not plan to attend worship, please send your offering to the church.

Information provided by Paul Douglass, Treasurer

God doesn't take vacations - please help us continue our congregation's ministry even when you are on vacation.



Thrivent Financial for Lutherans™

It's the time of year to kick back, enjoy the lake cabin, the backyard or a nearby park. It's also a good chance to take advantage of the lull and spend some time reviewing your financial strategy. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has resources available to assist you. Visit www.thrivent.com and check out the Summer Issue for information on the following:

- ⇒ Determining the right financial strategy;
- ⇒ Learn more about Thrivent's credit union;
- ⇒ Learn to do one thing differently to improve your finances;
- ⇒ Why Thrivent was named One of the "World's Most Ethical Companies";
- ⇒ Market View to learn strategies to help moderate risk;
- ⇒ Identity Protection options for Thrivent Members.

You may also contact the Thrivent Office to speak with a local representative at (315) 451-0252.

Special Offering Collections—

- ⇒ Lutheran Charities \$170
- ⇒ Seeds of Hope \$986
- ⇒ Malaria Initiative \$345

Thank you to everyone who supported these important ministries with your dollars.

Women of the ELCA

Information about the Upstate NY Synod Women of the ELCA conference, *Rejoice*, which will be held September 14—16 at Chautaugua Suites in Mayville, NY, is available on the WELCA bulletin board. Registration deadline is August 24. The keynote speaker will be Jana McDermott of the Chautaugua County Child Advocacy Program. Rev. Jordan-Miller Stubbendick, will be the Chaplain. Bishop Marie Jerge will lead a workshop on Clergy Misconduct. The Swedish musical group, Svenska Spelman will play during Saturday night's banquet. A special commemoration with celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Women of the ELCA. Plan now to attend!

Community Outreach

BBQ Chicken



DRIVE THRU



A fundraiser to benefit Your Neighbors, Inc.
an affiliate of the Lutheran Home of CNY



Saturday, July 14, 2012

Zion Lutheran Church

corner of French & Burrstone Roads, New Hartford
Beginning at 11:30 a.m. until sold out



Tasty BBQ chickens sold by the
half chicken at **\$6** per half

Chicken only; side dishes not included

Call 235.7149 to pre-order



VANDERKAMP
EST. 1963

Incredible Work Groups! Volunteers from the First Presbyterian Church in Oneida and Marcellus have come to camp and completed great

work projects. Thanks to them we were able to put a brand new roof on half of our maintenance barn and to paint our staff house. We welcome church groups to help with projects at camp.

Thank you to the two Presbyteries who have agreed to cover our mortgage for the months of June—September, a tremendous help to Vanderkamp distancing itself from past financial woes.

Junior High Retreat this Fall! We are hosting our 2nd annual fall Junior High Christian Retreat Sept. 21—23, 2012. Children in grades 6—9 from any denomination are invited to join us to grow in faith, meet new friends and have a blast.

Still looking for beds. Thank you to those who have been generous in donating beds. We are still seeking more tax-deductible donations of gently used twin,



Does a child's education mean something to you?



We are hoping to provide school supplies to needy children that attend John F. Hughes Elementary School for the upcoming school year of 2012-2013. All children deserve the right to be fully prepared with the correct supplies that the grade asks for. We can help ensure that by helping out with the supplies that are listed below.

Our Saviour will be collecting these items until **September 2, 2012**. The following supplies that are needed for each grade are listed below:

- + Glue sticks/white glue bottles
- + Plastic box/container
- + Notebooks 70 wide ruled spiral
- + Composition notebooks
- + Colored pencils
- + Small ziplock bags
- + Pens (black & blue only)
- + 2—3 subject notebooks
- + Yellow folders (specific)
- + Folders (any colors & 2 pocket)
- + Book bags
- + Scissors
- + Tissues
- + Ruled index cards
- + Loose leaf paper
- + Pencils
- + Crayons
- + Pencil sharpeners
- + Highlighters
- + Green folders



Please make sure that all donations are received on or before September 2, 2012 to assure they get to the child before school starts.

double, or bunk beds so that we can make our lodges more adult friendly for retreats. Mattresses are helpful, too!

Farm Project Underway! In spite of lots of rain more than 800 plants are in the ground. We are on the way to planting an acre. The irrigation system is in, the fence is going up and more plants are on the way. We have jobs for people of any skill level including kids.

Family Camp Fun—Join our family camp program August 11—15. Come for the weekend, for one day or the whole time.

Visit www.vk.org or call (315) 675-3651 for info.

July—August 2012

DATE	GREETER	ACOLYTE	WORSHIP ASSISTANT/LECTOR	NURSERY
July 8, 2012	Helen and Alex Dudajek	Sheena Andereck Mariah Thrasher	Mathew Wilbur	Liz Douglass
July 15, 2012	Emily Donovan and Mary Ellen Riemenschneider	Moeisa Andereck	Patsy Glista Jane Anello (L)	Susan Morris
July 22, 2012	Pam Donovan and Dennis Ready	Emily Donovan	Meghan Wilcox	Judy Petroski
July 29, 2012	Liz and Paul Douglass	Joe Abraham	Barbara Godbey-Miller Scott Donovan (L)	Katherine and Kathy David
Aug. 5, 2012	Judy and Myron Sierson	Noah and Derek Thrasher	Norris Ellinwood Dave Wilbur (L)	Sue Arntsen
Aug. 12, 2012	Sandy and Jim Lenahan	Sheena Andereck	Clare Thiem	Liz Douglass
Aug. 19, 2012	Emily and Pam Donovan	Moeisa Andereck	Liz Douglass Mary Tollerton (L)	Susan Morris
Aug. 26, 2012	Mary Ellen Riemenschneider and Dennis Ready	Emily Donovan	John Andereck	Judy Petroski
Sept. 2, 2012	Helen and Alex Dudajek	Noah Thrasher	Norris Ellinwood Myron Sierson (L)	Katherine and Kathy David

July Ushers—Bev and Lou Lombard
July Altar Guild—The Andereck Family

August Ushers—Sandy & Jim Lenahan
August Altar Guild—Bev Lombard and Betty Gallup

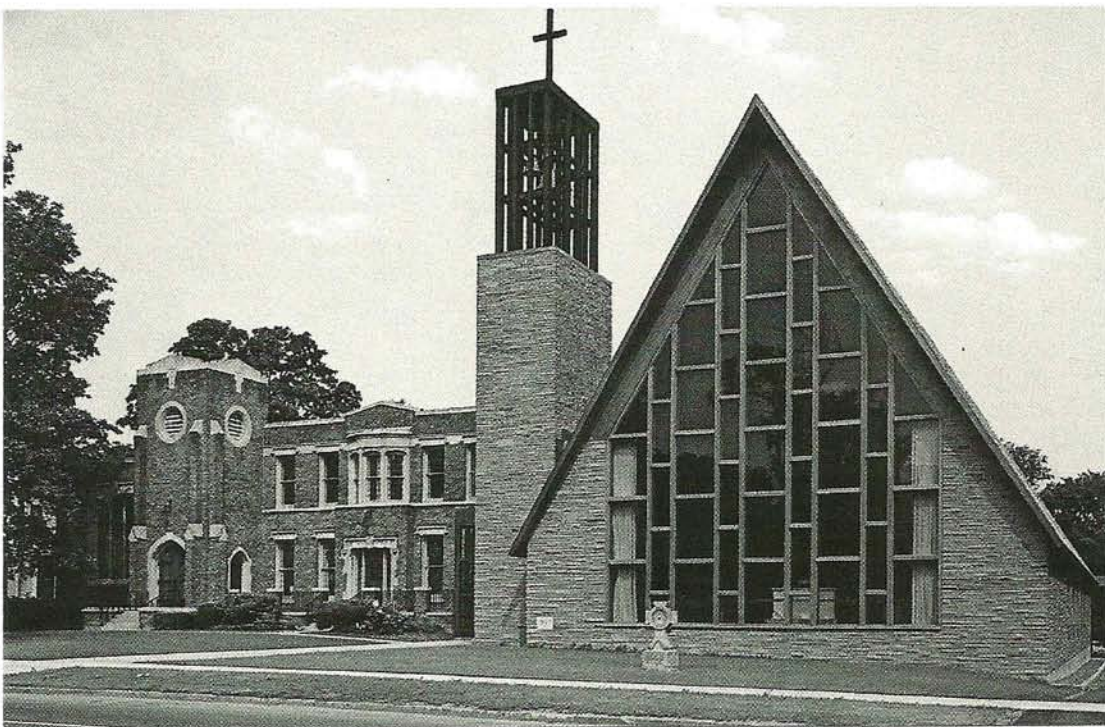
Our Saviour Lutheran Church
1640 Genesee Street
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THE MESSENGER

Vol. 10, Issue 8

Rev. Anita Mohr, Pastor

*Summer worship begins
July 1, 2012
One service at 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.*