



THE MESSENGER

Our Saviour Lutheran Church September 2012

From the Pastor:

Do you see it? Do you hear it? Do you feel it? Something is changing at Our Saviour. It is in the air. It is in the ways we are together. For the last two years the Congregation Council has been talking about being the church "out there" - meaning that church does not simply exist for what happens inside our walls -but rather for what we do with what happens inside our walls when we leave the building. We exist for the sake of the world. It is happening among us!

You can see it when you walk in the narthex. On your left is a wheelbarrow overflowing with food items we are collecting for Seeds of Hope. It is always full. It does not matter how often we empty it.

A little farther and you can see the pile of school supplies we have collected to give away for children who do not have what they need to begin school in the fall. On your left is a bulletin board with sign-ups for the Bake Sale we are having for the Malaria Campaign.

On the Narthex table is the change we have collected this week for the Malaria Campaign. Ask Paul Douglass how much we have collected so far. You will be amazed!

Talk to Sheena Andereck and Emily and Pam Donovan and ask them what they learned and how they saw God in New Orleans at the National Youth Gathering. You will also be amazed at how much our young people know about the world out there in need of God's love.

Some new faces are in worship lately. They are not people we have known before. They are new folks who are giving us a try. We are a little more multi-cultural than we have been before. It is very exciting!

All of these things are signs that God is working something new in us! God is moving us to work for people we do not even know.

When I give tours of Our Saviour to people who are new or have not seen our building before, I always point out that the windows in the front are clear. I also say that I love the clear windows - because we cannot look toward the altar without seeing the street. We must see what is going on beyond our building every time we are in the building. Our prayers are directed toward God and toward the world in need of our prayer. This is the function of Our Saviour. God has blessed us with vision beyond ourselves

Thanks be to God!

Pastor Anita

THE MESSENGER

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REMINDER—please mark your calendars.
The deadline for the October 2012 issue of
The Messenger is September 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

OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH CONTACT LIST

Church Office 732-0134

Pastor Anita Mohr 724-5426

Email: pastor-oslc@verizon.net

Church Office Secretary Erica Fuller

Organist _____

Council Members

Sally Townsend, Council President

John Adasek

Cindy Andereck

Pam Donovan, Council V. Pres.

Bruno Aploks

Katherine David

Priscilla Dygert, Secretary

David Dudajek

David Wilbur

Paul Douglass, Treasurer

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.

Congregation Council Update—



Greetings to you all.

I had a plan for one of my gardens. Over the past five years everything in that garden performed just as I planned. I planned the work and worked my plan. Now in year six, "Stuff" started to happen that wasn't in the plan. Shrubs suddenly grew out of control. Three of them got way too big and grew over the flowers that were close by. Weeds began to take over because I couldn't keep up with my gardens after I broke my leg. What to do? What to do? At first I was really discouraged because the garden wasn't doing what I expected it would do. I came to realize that I needed to develop a new plan for the garden.

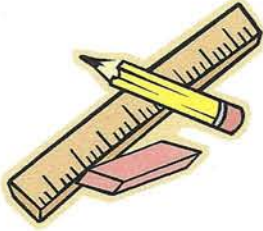
So it is with the church. Our Congregation Council is in the process of reviewing, assessing and making a new plan for the future of Our Saviour. Much has changed. Much has changed for me. I came to Utica and joined Our Saviour in the summer of 1969. I drove a Dodge van, played a guitar and worked at Children's hospital and Rehabilitation Center as the director of Occupational Therapy Department for a great salary of \$7,000.00. Life was wonderful! My life is still wonderful; however, it is so different than what I planned back in 1969.

So much has changed in our church's neighborhood. It is not the same. Buildings have deteriorated, people who live in our neighborhood are different from the people who "used to" live here. The world is in an economic crisis. Church life has also changed significantly from what it was in the past. Our Saviour is not the only church that is in need of "Economic reform" and a new plan. The Congregation Council is beginning our review of what we do and who we are with the intention of making a plan for our future. To address the changes we are experiencing, the Council is beginning the process and we are inviting all who are interested in helping with this process to participate with us. We anticipate that this group will develop a mission statement and a plan that will direct Our Saviour to carry out God's work in our community.



I ask that each of you keep the members and work of Our Saviour in your thoughts and prayers so that we can continue to do God's work and grow in our faith. I also thank those of you who have come to council meetings and given your time and thoughts to us. We continued to be appreciative of your ideas. If you are interested in coming to a council meeting, let me know. My phone number is 315-404-6045.

Back to School Sunday



September 2, 2012

Donate school supplies for Utica students.



Have your backpack blessed for a new school year.



Learn about Jesus, the teacher.

Congregational Ministries

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

During the 2011/2012 academic year the Young Adult Ministry group sent numerous care packages to members of our congregation between the ages of 18 and 25. We also arranged for *The Messenger* and other communications to be sent to them.

We will continue the program for the upcoming academic year and are in need of current addresses for mailing care packages. Please submit addresses to the church office by filling out the form at the right, emailing them to the church office at oslc-utica@verizon.net or emailing them to dkdmwilbur@juno.com.

If you are interested in helping assemble care packages or assisting in any way with this ministry, please let us know. Help us maintain contact with our young adults.

Karen and Dave Wilbur

Young Adults Living Away Contact Info (College students, Military, etc.)

In order to keep in touch with our Young Adults we need some information! If you or one of your family members will be away this academic year, please complete the information below and return it to the church office or drop in the offering plate.

Name _____

Email _____

Mailing Address _____

Home contact (parent, spouse, other)

Home contact number _____

Congregational Ministries

Youth Group News



Youth Group Family Meeting

September 16 after worship

Sherrillbrook Park in New Hartford

Potluck picnic

Hot dogs and drinks will be provided

All youth, grades 6—12
are invited with their families

For more information see the
Donovan Family

Women of the ELCA



Two of our women, Liz Douglass and Beverly Smith will be our representatives to the synodical Women of the ELCA conference, *Rejoice* at the Mayfair on the shores of Lake Chautauqua. The keynote speaker for this 25th anniversary conference is Jane McDermott of the Chautauqua County Child Advocacy Program. We look forward to hearing about their experience.

The Central Crossroads Conference Women of the ELCA Fall Assembly will be held on Saturday, Oct. 13, 2012 at Atonement Lutheran Church, 116 W. Glen Ave., Syracuse. The program will be presented by Rev. Gail Riina, Lutheran Campus Ministry Chaplain at Syracuse University. The cost is \$6.00. Please register by Oct. 8 by calling Emily at (315) 422-7873.

Patsy Glista

Sunday School Transformed



Our church will be offering different opportunities for Christian Education in the coming school year in place of traditional Sunday School. Very few children have been coming to Sunday School for the past few years. We are committed to helping families to raise children according to the promises made in Baptism. We are committed to giving children the opportunity to see God in many different faces, and to learn about his love in many ways.



Each Sunday during worship there will be the children's message with Pastor Anita that we are used to, followed by an additional lesson time led by members of the congregation. In addition, special family events are being planned throughout the year including an All Saints Celebration, making of advent wreaths, and Lent and Easter activities. We are looking for more teenagers and adults to help lead lessons and events.



Please talk to Pam Donovan for more information or to volunteer.

Choir Resumes on Sunday, Sept. 9.

We invite all who enjoy singing to join us. We rehearse following the 10:30 worship service in the balcony. If you would like to help to praise God in song, please Mary Tollerton for more information.



Thank You!



Those members who shared their musical gifts to enhance our Sunday worship over the summer.

Dear Pastor Anita and friends at
 Our Saviour,
 Thank you so much for your generous gift to me. My years as your secretary were wonderful because of all of you.
 I'm enjoying my retirement but miss you all.
 Thank you again.

Sincerely,
 Kathy Edic

Treasurer's Minute



This is an update of our financial standings. We are currently in a very severe decline of our giving. During the last three months (May—July) we have been averaging 45% below our budget. Currently I have withdrawn a total of \$47,000 to pay our bills. During the last 2 years I have withdrawn only \$20,000 each year.

At the July Congregation Council meeting the Council approved the spending of up to \$23,000 for the repair of the outside bricks on the parish hall part of the building; also the repair of falling ceilings in upstairs rooms. This money will come from the Werner estate.

Paul Douglass, Treasurer

Supporting God's work through our giving.

TREASURER'S REPORT

July 2012

	2011			THRU	2012		
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARI		June	BUDGET	ACTUAL
INCOME	\$102,367	\$83,871	-18%		\$102,367	\$ 88,450	-14%
EXPENSES	\$102,367	\$85,541	-16%		\$102,367	\$ 82,910	-19%
OUTSTANDING OBLIGATIONS	\$ 0	(\$ 1,670)			\$ 0	\$ 5,540	
		2011		July	2012		
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARI		BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARI
INCOME	\$17,061	\$15,412	-10%		\$ 15,748	\$26,569	69%
EXPENSES	\$17,061	\$29,540	73%		\$ 15,748	\$13,634	-13%
OUTSTANDING OBLIGATIONS	\$ 0	(\$14,127)			\$ 0	\$12,935	
INVESTMENT INCOME					\$47,000		
TOTAL OUTSTANDING	\$ 0	(\$15,797)			\$ 0	\$18,475	

NOTES—Current month: Our income is 40% BELOW estimate and our expenses are 13% below budget. We are \$4,065 in arrears for the month of July.

Year to Date: Our income is 2.6% BELOW estimate and our expenses are 18.3% below plan. We are currently \$18,475 in the black. This is due to the removal of \$47,000 from our investments.

Information presented by Paul Douglass, Treasurer

National Youth Gathering – New Orleans – 2012

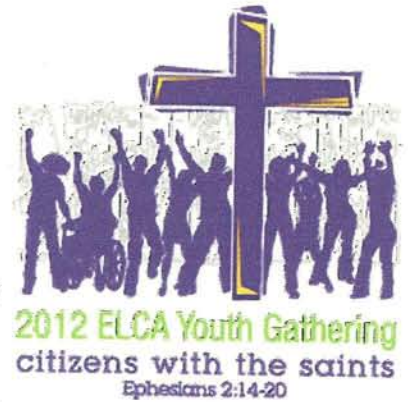
Those of us who went to New Orleans first want to thank all of you for the opportunity to go. We had a GREAT TIME! We learned. We laughed. We walked and walked and walked. We sweated. We walked in the rain! We danced. We learned the “dance move of the day.” We sang. We ate Granola Bars. We had our feet washed. We tried new things. We could go on and on. Each of us has written a little about our experience – so that you can have some chances to see what we saw through each of our eyes.

The Gathering participants were divided into three rotating groups. One day a third of us had as our emphasis Discipleship, another day the emphasis was Justice. On our Justice Day, we were taken to the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans – which was the hardest hit area from Hurricane Katrina. We helped folks with yard work and clean up. After our work, a pastor from that area took us on a tour of the Lower Ninth. We saw the levy – newly rebuilt, taller, thicker, with a better foundation. We heard the stories of how it had been neglected for years. We learned that what seems like a distant project, in a distant place, with distant technologies affects lives of flesh and blood people. They were the people we met. They were generous and sharing. They told us their stories.

God broke down walls between us and strangers that day. God broke down walls between us and engineers that day. God was at work in the Lower Ninth.

God’s face was reflected to us in the kindness of strangers again and again on our trip. God’s face was in a van driver who made an extra trip to get us to our hotel. God’s face was reflected in a cab driver who got us to the airport on time. God’s face was reflected in a group of teens from Wisconsin who gave up their seats on the floor for the sake of the rest of their group. God’s face was reflected in the patience of the people of New Orleans with 33,000 teens crowding their streets.

Thank You! We had so many opportunities to see God to learn and to grow. You made that happen.
Sheena Andereck, Emily Donovan, Pam Donovan, and Pr. Anita



Sept. 11 National Day of Service & Remembrance Regional Event Tuesday, September 11, 2012

7:30am—Prayer Breakfast, Harts Hill Inn

9:15am—Remembrance Ceremony at 9/11 Memorial on
Memorial Parkway, Utica

9:30am—Herkimer Remembrance Ceremony
at Herkimer County Community College

9:30—11:30am Volunteer Service Project
Utica—Parkway Recreation Center
Rome—Ava Dorfman Senior Center
Herkimer—HCCC

12:00pm—Closing Memorial Ceremony
Parkway Recreation Center Gym
220 Memorial Parkway, Utica

VOLUNTEER—donate non-perishable food items, sort and assemble food packages for Veterans. Volunteers receive commemorative T-shirts (while supplies last) and a lunch courtesy of local restaurants.

Malaria Campaign

The overall goal of the ELCA's Malaria Campaign is to raise \$15 million by 2015. Already nationwide \$3.8 million has been pledged. Our Saviour is helping with our coin collection and our Bake Sale for Malaria.

 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

ELCA GLOBAL LINKS

Stay informed. Be inspired. Get involved.

Learn about how Lutherans are living out their faith around the world by visiting www.elca.org/global-links.



September 2012
Contemporary Worship—9:00am
Traditional Worship—10:30am



GREETER	Sept. 9 10:30am Liz and Paul Douglass	Sept. 16 10:30am Judy and Myron Sierson	Sept. 23 10:30am Sandy and Jim Lenahan	Sept. 30 10:30am Dennis Ready and Alex Dudajek	Oct. 7 10:30am Pam and Emily Donovan
ACOLYTE	Joey Abraham And Kenny Douglass	Sheena Andereck and Mariah Thrasher	Moeisa Andereck and Emily Donovan	Noah and Derek Thrasher	Joey Abraham And Michael Robles
WORSHIP ASSISTANT	Barbara Godbey-Miller	Clare Thiem	Patsy Glista	Liz Douglass	Norris Ellinwood
LECTOR	None	Erica Tollerton		Scott Donovan	Dave Wilbur
NURSERY 10:30 worship	Sue Arntsen	Liz Douglass	Susan Morris	Judy Petroski	Katherine and Kathy David

Ushers—9:00AM—Norm Glista
Ushers—10:30AM—Youth Group Members
Altar Guild—Barbara Godbey-Miller and Judy Petroski



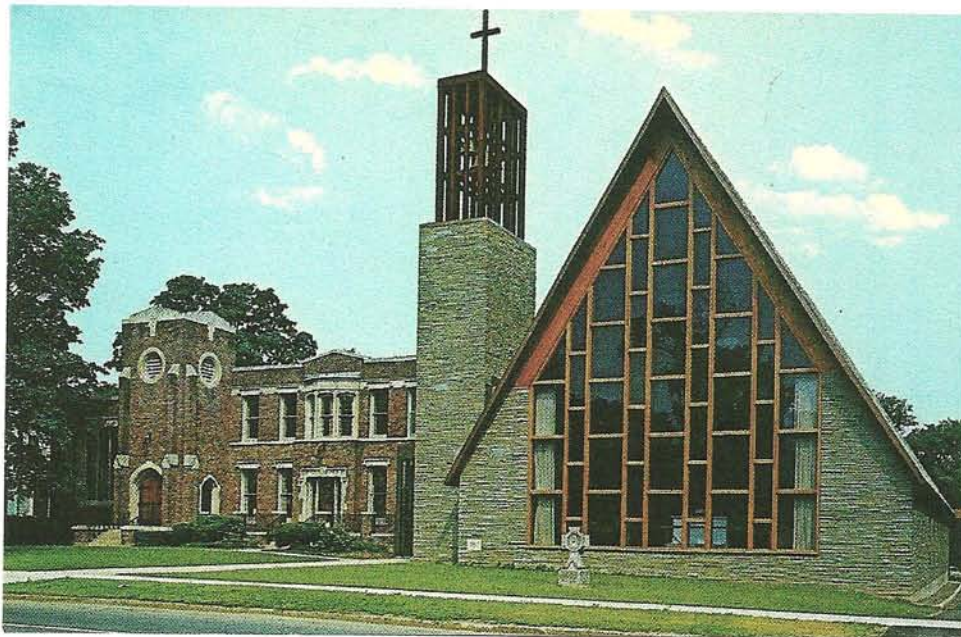
Our Saviour Lutheran Church
1640 Genesee Street
Utica, New York 13502

THE MESSENGER

Vol. 10, Issue 8

Rev. Anita Mohr, Pastor

We return to our regular Worship
Schedule on Sunday, Sept. 2, 2012
Contemporary Worship at 9:00am
Traditional Worship at 10:30am
including a Children's sermon
and learning time.



*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.*