



*Give thanks  
with a grateful heart*

# **THE MESSENGER**

## **Our Saviour Lutheran Church**

### **November 2012**

*From the Pastor,*

Some time ago, I began talking and writing with the theme "220 in 2020." The idea is that in the year 2020, we will have 220 people in worship at Our Saviour each week. We are not there now. In fact, we are not moving in that direction. An old saying goes, "The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results." Last month, I wrote in this space about how I might have to change in order for us to be more welcoming of new people who find their way to Our Saviour. This month, I will write about a change we will all be making, at least for a bit, so that we give some room for God to work different results.

The Worship and Music Committee has recommended and the Congregation Council has decided that we will begin one service on Sunday morning beginning on December 2—the First Sunday in Advent—the beginning of the church year. We will continue this experiment at least until next fall or if we are at 220 people in worship on Sunday morning, we may have to move to two services sooner. I am a believer that God continues to work miracles among us!

The plan is that we will have one service each Sunday morning at 10 am. On the First, Third and Fifth Sundays, worship will be in the style of the 10:30 service. On the Second and Fourth Sundays worship will be in the style of the 9am service. We will have communion each Sunday just as we do now.

I am also beginning to imagine an evening service during the week. I would love to have someone to imagine with me! The purpose of this service would be to provide a space to experience God's holiness at another time than Sunday morning. For years now, I have heard from people who are traveling on weekends and cannot get to Sunday morning worship. I have also heard from some of you about how much you appreciate Midweek Lenten Worship because it gives that experience of holiness to the middle part of your week. I would also like this worship time to be inviting for those who use our building during the week and for those who might work or live in our neighborhood—on their way home.

I am excited about the possibilities this change brings! It seems quite possible that God might just be ready to do a new thing among us! It gives us different opportunities for education time for adults, for Congregational Meetings, for Committees to meet and for coffee hours. It gives us opportunity to see people from "The other service." It gives us chances to know that people who prefer another style of worship love God as much as we do.

I look for God to use this new time in ways that will surprise us! At the same time, I am aware that change is not easy for us. It will disrupt our routines. It will mean new rhythms for all of us. I am hoping that within the new rhythms we will hear the beating of God's heart.

*Pastor Anita*



## THE MESSENGER

Published monthly by:  
Our Saviour Lutheran Church  
1640 Genesee Street  
Utica, New York 13502  
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Email: [oslc-utica@verizon.net](mailto: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 December 2012 issue of  
The Messenger is November 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](mailto:oslc-utica@verizon.net).

## OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH CONTACT LIST

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**Church Office Secretary** ..... Erica Fuller  
**Organist** ..... \_\_\_\_\_

### Council Members

Sally Townsend, Council President	John Adasek
Pam Donovan, Council V. Pres.	Bruno Aploks
Priscilla Dygert, Secretary	David Dudajek
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



Cindy Andereck  
Katherine David  
David Wilbur

## 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—

The Council has started the process of reviewing and planning for Our Saviour's future so that we can do God's work through the work of our members. I am excited about developing a strategic plan to sustain our work, our members and our future members. We are using an approach that includes our Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT Analysis.)

Our intent is to make a plan for the next eight years.

With regard to what I expressed last month about keeping up with the changes, I believe that each of us is needed to sustain our church community; each one of us is needed to support one another as our ability to actively participate in the Church's mission waxes and wanes. This is human nature and we need to ask ourselves where we are on this continuum of helping one another and helping ourselves to help others.

I am particularly concerned about the national trend that denies church community participation and the benefit of a strong spiritual foundation to support children in their daily activities. Having spent a lot of time in our public schools, I know that schools are no longer able to give children the guidance they need to become strong community members and leaders. Over the past several years, Our Saviour has given our youth members this support as they assumed leadership positions locally and nationally. As we know, they have achieved remarkable accomplishments. These experiences for children and you are at risk, if we, our church community members, don't work actively and tirelessly at sustaining our children, youth and young adults. They are all being mentored exceptionally well.

We have already changed the way we conduct our Council meetings to give us more time for inquiry about serving the needs of our changing community and our strategic planning. We decided that we want to be proactive rather than reactive to the changes. We want to anticipate our needs as best we can to the external and internal changes around us rather than wait until our responses are limited.

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 continue 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.

Peace and Health,  
Sally Claycomb Townsend, Council President.



## THANKSGIVING STUFFING PREPARATION



### SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday, November 21 @ 9:30am

Sharpen your knives, bring your cutting boards and mini-choppers, and join the fun! We will meet in our church kitchen to prepare stuffing for First Presbyterian's Community Thanksgiving meal. See Judy Stanek (896-5023) or Betty Gallup (737-8696) with any questions.

## 10th Anniversary Celebration!!

Join us the first Sunday in Advent  
**Sunday, December 2, 2012**  
as we celebrate  
Pastor Anita's 10th anniversary  
serving Our Saviour.



## ELCA GLOBAL LINKS

Stay informed. Be inspired. Get involved.

around the world. We have chosen to be a sister to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe (ELCZ). Some of the mission activities with which our church is involved include collecting school supplies for children in Utica; the local food pantry, Seeds of Hope; working at Hope House; working with individuals for restoration in Schoharie County this past year; doing restoration in New Orleans; sending clothing and school supplies to our sister congregations in Zimbabwe; helping to eradicate malaria and many other initiatives. We know that we all are transformed as we help churches and agencies to do God's work here at home and around the world in more than 90 countries.

Barbara Godbey-Miller has taken on the leadership of the Global Mission Committee and will be asking members to join her in our mission to meet the needs of individuals in our community, country and other countries

There are a number of ways you can engage in global mission through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

- **Serve** in one of 48 countries
- **Relate** to Lutheran Christians from around the world through a companion synod relationship
- **Support** the global ministry of the ELCA through financial **gifts and prayer**
- **Learn** more about the global ministry of the ELCA by attending **events**
- Find **resources** that will help equip you and your congregation for faithful **global engagement**
- Find resources that will help you **worship in English around the world.**

Stay informed, be inspired, and get involved through **Global Links**, a brief monthly e-newsletter from Global Mission. Subscribe or view a current issue at [www.elca.org/global-links](http://www.elca.org/global-links). Sign up for **Facebook** or **Twitter @ ELCAGlobalLinks**.

Sally Claycomb Townsend



# Congregational Ministries



**Congratulations!**

Gerry Presser - a Utican

with all the right

ingredients!!



There was a wonderful article in the Observer Dispatch about our own Gerry Presser. Described as "one of the very rare angels" Gerry, despite having retired, continues to work part-time when needed, at the Rescue Mission as they continue to help provide for those in need.

**Thank you!**

Thank you to everyone who showed up on Saturday, October 21 for the Fall Clean-Up day at church.



## New Worship Time Begins—Dec. 2, 2012

On October 18 the Congregation Council approved the recommendation of the Worship and Music Committee to offer one service on Sundays rather than two. Beginning the first Sunday in Advent, 12/2, Our Saviour will hold one service at 10:00am. Traditional worship will be offered on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays. The contemporary service will be offered on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. Communion will be offered each week. If you have questions, please speak with a Council member.

## Supporting God's work through our giving.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

### September 2012

	2011			THRU	2012		
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARI		August	BUDGET	ACTUAL
INCOME	\$136,489	\$111,417	-18%		\$125,982	\$124,833	-1%
EXPENSES	\$136,489	\$120,514	-12%		\$125,982	\$107,681	-15%
OUTSTANDING OBLIGATIONS	\$ 0	(\$ 9,097)			\$ 0	\$ 17,152	
	2011			September	2012		
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARI		BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARI
INCOME	\$17,061	\$10,416	-39%		\$15,748	\$ 10,707	-38%
EXPENSES	\$17,061	\$15,110	-11%		\$15,748	\$ 10,377	-29%
OUTSTANDING OBLIGATIONS	0	(\$ 4,694)			\$ 0	\$ 330	
INVESTMENT INCOME						\$ 47,000	
TOTAL OUTSTANDING	0	(\$ 13,791)			0	\$ 17,482	

**NOTES**—Current month: Our income is 32% BELOW estimate and our expenses are 34% below budget. We are \$330 in the black for the month of September. This past month our giving is over 32% BELOW planned—over \$5,000.

Year to Date: Our income is 4.4% below estimate and our expenses are 16.7% below plan. **We are currently \$17,482 in the black.** We have currently withdrawn \$47,000 from our investments. This is compared to last year of only \$20,000.



# In the larger Lutheran Community

## When was the last time you had a *financial* checkup?

Your finances need regular checkups just as much as your body does. Most financial professionals recommend you get a financial checkup at least once a year. The experienced and knowledgeable financial representatives at Thrivent Financial for Lutherans can help.

Thrivent Financial offers simple ways to deal with changes in your life that naturally lead to changes in your financial needs. For example, if you have a new grandchild, money you invested in a CD two years ago may now make more sense in a college savings plan. Or a recent job promotion may mean it's finally time to start saving for retirement.

For a financial checkup or to discuss how Thrivent Financial can help you achieve your financial goals, contact Kyle Mumpton, CFP; Rich Roth, or Rich Hummel at (315) 451-0252 today or visit [Thrivent.com](http://Thrivent.com).

 **Thrivent Financial for Lutherans®**  
**Let's thrive!**

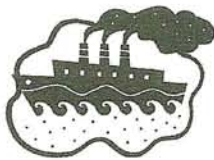
## Vanderkamp Center's Annual Food Festival & Silent Auction

Cruise on in!

Join the fun!

Including...

fellowship of friends,  
fabulous food &  
entertainment,  
while you bid on items of your choice!



**November 3 6-8:30 p.m.**

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**

Route 92, Fayetteville, New York

Donations include items such as:

Baskets for your bidding pleasure...  
Handmade post office bank  
Hand-carved Spotted Sandpiper  
Vintage Child's Folding Chair  
Cedar lined chest  
Hockey Basket including autographed copy *The Puck Hog*

Ticket donation is \$15/person  
(available at the door)

Questions feel free to call...

Bev Carrigan 476-8800

Linda Graves 451-4944

Becki Harris 696-6566

Vanderkamp 675-3651



LutheranCare and the Northeast Forum on Spirituality and Aging invite you to participate in

**RADICAL CHRISTIAN LIFE:  
Equipping Ourselves for Social Change**  
Friday, Nov. 9—7:30—9:30pm  
Saturday, Nov. 10—9:00am—5:00pm  
Sunday, Nov. 11—2:30—5:00pm

Participate in Trinity Institute's  
**42nd National Annual Theological Conference**  
featuring  
**Sr. Joan Chittister and Fr. Richard Rohr**

LutheranCare, Community Room  
108 Utica Road, Clinton, NY 13323

Please RSVP to Rev. Brian McCaffrey at (315) 235-7125 or [bmccaffrey@lutherancare.org](mailto:bmccaffrey@lutherancare.org)—leave your name, phone number and the number of persons attending.

*"Our task is now to be radical Christian communities in the here and now, not fossils of a bygone reality, not leftovers from an earlier golden age. Now we need new wisdom and a new kind of struggle to determine what we must be and do in the midst of these changing times."* Sr. Chittister

**Join us in exploring what it means to be a radical Christian community in times such as these.**



# In the larger Lutheran Community

## The Lutheran Homes Foundation



Dear Friends,

Christmas is a very special time of the year and the Christmas spirit abounds at LutheranCare. . . with your help.

As we have in the past, we are respectfully requesting the donation of unwrapped items that would surely brighten the season and bring the Christmas spirit to life for those we care for and care deeply about. This "wish list" includes:

Personal care items such as unopened boxes of tissue, hand cream and hairbrushes

Books both large print and audio

Afghans, throws and comforters

Large piece jigsaw puzzles

Slippers, slipper socks, hats, gloves and mittens

Artwork and tote bags for walkers

Room decorations and wall hangings

Button-down or zipper-front cardigans both male & female



Be assured that these simple gifts will be long remembered and treasured by all whom they touch. We deeply appreciate your kindness toward our residents and because they are not able to do so personally, allow me to thank you on their behalf. . . THANK YOU.

Karen Anne Ostinett

Director of Funds and Volunteer Development

**Donations may be placed in the box in the Church Narthex no later than Sunday, December 2, 2012 and they will be delivered to LutheranCare or you may deliver items yourself to LutheranCare no later than Friday, November 30. Questions—call Judy Stanek at 896-5032.**

## Seeds of Hope Food Pantry

Don't forget Seeds of Hope Food Pantry—bring canned goods and other non-perishable food items and leave them in the wheelbarrow in the Narthex.

In this time of Fall Harvest—let us remember to help our neighbors.

**Love someone  
not because  
they are a Christian,  
but because you are.**



**November 2012**  
**Sunday Worship Schedule**



**NOTE: Beginning the First Sunday in Advent, December 2, 2012 we will have ONE WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:00am.**

<b>November 2012 Worship</b>				
	<b>November 11 10:30am</b>	<b>November 18 10:30am</b>	<b>November 25 10:30am</b>	<b>December 2 10:00am</b>
<b>Greeters</b>	Sandy and Jim Lenahan	Emily Donovan and Alex Dudajek	Mary Ellen Riemenschneider and Pam Donovan	Liz and Paul Douglass
<b>Acolytes</b>	Mariah Thrasher and Sheena Andereck	Kenny Douglass and Joey Abraham	Derek and Noah Thrasher	Emily Donovan and Michael Robles
<b>Worship Assistant Lector</b>	John Anereck No lector	Barbara Godbey-Miller / Scott Donovan (L)	Clare Thiem Dave Wilbur (L)	Patsy Glista Mary Tollerton (L)
<b>Nursery</b>	Katherine and Kathy David	Sue Arntsen	Liz Douglass	Susan Morris

**Ushers, 9:00am in November ONLY** —Sally Townsend  
**Ushers, 10:30 (10:00am on Dec. 2)**—Alex Dudajek, Rick Dygert,  
 Ed Dolan, and Peter Lincoln.  
**Altar Guild**—Liz Douglass and Karen Wilbur





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

THE MESSENGER

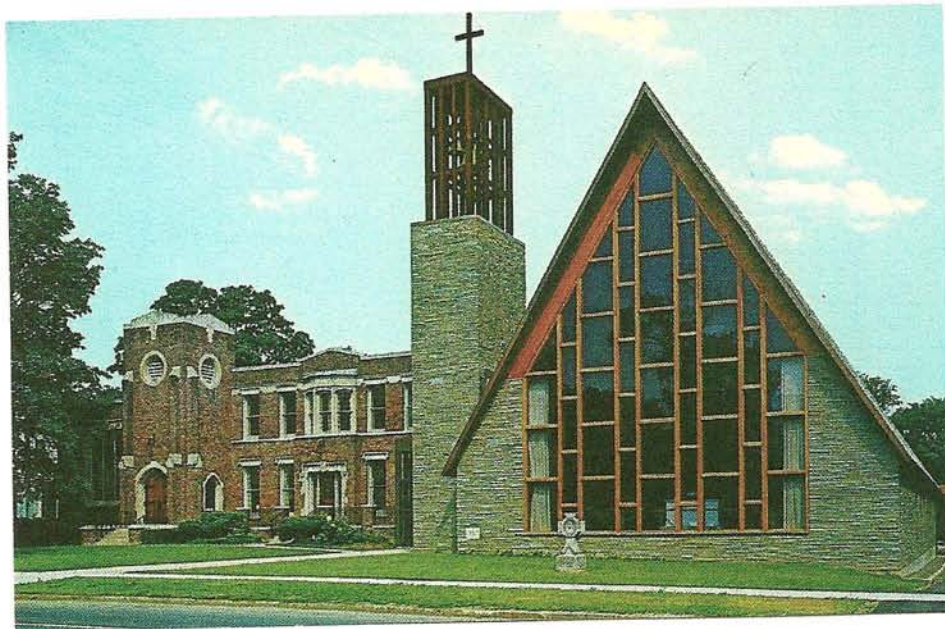
November 2012  
Vol. 10, Issue 10

Rev. Anita Mohr, Pastor

Join us on Sunday!

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.*