



THE MESSENGER

Our Saviour Lutheran Church

December 2012

'Come, O Come, Emmanuel'

From the Pastor,

Do you remember waiting for Christmas as a child? Do you remember the anticipation? The hope? The, "I can hardly sleep I am so excited?" Do you remember what you were so excited about? Was it the gift you were anticipating? Was it giving the gift you had carefully selected? Was it wearing the new clothes that needed to be saved until Christmas Eve? Was it the cookies or fudge or roast turkey? Was it gathering with relatives and playing games with your cousins? What made you so that you could hardly wait until it was there?

It is that season again. Advent begins December 2. Advent is meant to be the "I can hardly wait!" season of the church year. It is meant to be a time when our anticipation of what is coming is so great that it makes it hard for us to sleep. No one has to sing, "Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying," to children on Christmas morning. They tend to be only too aware of the passing of the night. They wish for morning to come sooner. Many parents have been waken up on Christmas morning by children whose idea of morning is earlier than their parents.

This is what Advent is supposed to do for us. Advent is supposed to awaken in us a hope, a yearning, an excited anticipation that cannot be contained by sleep. Advent is supposed to get us on the edge of our seats to wait. The Kyrie returns to our liturgy in Advent. We begin worship each Sunday praying for peace—for ourselves—that comes from God—for the whole world. We begin worship during Advent with hope—for what is to come. Our readings for the first Sundays in Advent center around Jesus coming at the end of time. We hope that it will be soon—that Jesus will come and bring peace. Advent is a season of wondering how many days are left until we can open the gifts of God's peace for the whole world.

During Advent we proclaim our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed. We speak of Jesus who is God incarnate—who came down from heaven. It is for this that we wait expectantly at Advent—for the coming and living among us of God. It may even be better than grandparents and cousins all coming over for the day. It is the warmth and affection and love of being surrounded by family who loves you. It is Jesus, who we taste and smell and eat each Sunday morning. It is Jesus here with us. We anticipate and we participate in the very presence of Jesus with us.

While the days get shorter, we light candles during Advent. When the darkness of longer nights seems to be winning, we bring light. We celebrate that the light will triumph Like children on Christmas morning turning on the hall lights so that parents might think the dawn is near, we light candles and remind ourselves and God of the nearness of God's light coming to live among us.

Blessings on your Advent! May the anticipation of the nearness of God's light and life and peace fill you with hope and joy!

Pastor Anita

Christmas Season at Our Savior

December 2, 2012—Advent 1

10:00am Traditional Worship

11:30am Celebration Brunch in honor of
Pastor Anita's 10th Ordination Anniversary



December 9, 2012—Advent 2

10:00am Contemporary Worship

Congregational Meeting—2013 Budget
follows worship



December 16, 2012—Advent 3

10:00am Traditional Worship



December 23, 2012—Advent 4

10:00am Contemporary Worship

December 24, 2012—Christmas Eve

7:00pm Family Worship

9:00pm Christmas Prelude Music

9:30pm Candlelight Worship Service



December 25, 2012—Christmas Day

9:00am Breakfast

10:00am Worship

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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.
www.oursaviourlutheranchurchutica.org

REMINDER—please mark your calendars.
The deadline for the January 2013 issue of
The Messenger is December 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.

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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—December 2012:

Greetings to you all:

The Council continues 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. We are working our way through the SWOT Analysis that I wrote about last month. We have only one part remaining before we begin analyzing and strategic planning. We would welcome anyone interested in helping us plan for the future. Our next meeting is January 10, 2013 at 7:00pm.

We are planning a very special celebration brunch for Pastor Anita's 10th Anniversary of ordination at 11:30 after the service on Sunday, December 2.

December 9 is our annual budget meeting. We will meet after church to review the budget, field questions and eagerly take comments and questions. I encourage you all to come and participate in this review.

I want to remind everyone that we will be moving to a one service format beginning on December 2. The service will be at 10:00am on December 2 and will be at 10:00am thereafter.

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

Merry Christmas and may you all have Peace and Health,
Sally Claycomb Townsend, Council President



PEACE ON EARTH

Christmas Eve Services

7:00pm—Family Worship
9:30pm Candlelight Service

Christmas Day

9:00am Breakfast
10:00—Worship



**Congregational
2013 Budget Meeting
Sunday, Dec. 9, 2012**

**11:00AM—immediately
following worship.**

**Budget information is
available in the Narthex.**

Congregational Ministries

Youth Group News



Thank you to everyone who supported our Chili/Soup Luncheon in November. Your generosity helped us raise money to support Youth programs including helping to save for future regional and national youth events.

Watch the Sunday bulletin for upcoming activities in December and January.

For more information about Youth Group contact Mr. and Mrs. Donovan.

Thank you!

"O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good; for his mercy endures forever."

II Chronicles 16:34



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Mission of Mercy to help provide much needed items for those impacted by Hurricane Sandy. In just three days of collecting, there was a van filled with donations from Our Saviour which were added to many others gathered at First Presbyterian Church and then transported to Elizabeth, NJ.

Global Mission Committee

Sent by God's grace
for the sake of the world



2012 Global Mission Ornament Sale



The Global Mission Committee will once again be selling ornaments from one of the fair trade organizations. Ornaments will be on sale in the Narthex after each worship service near the Fair Trade coffee cabinet. Complete your Christmas shopping with a truly unique gift or purchase an ornament and hang it on one of the trees in the sanctuary.

Women ^{of the} ELCA 



An Advent Devotional from Women of the ELCA is available in the Narthex and on the WELCA Bulletin board in the hall. Advent is a journey we undertake as individuals, as families and as congregations. This devotional, *A Different Kind of Journey, Advent as a Walk, Not a Spring*, could be used with a group of friends or your family but is really written to facilitate your individual Advent journey. It includes Bible reading, reflection, questions, and a suggestion for an Advent calendar. It is also available on the web at <http://www.womenoftheelca.org/filebin/pdf/resources/ADifferentKindofJourney.pdf>.

Patsy Glista

Supporting God's work through our giving.

TREASURER'S REPORT

October 2012

	2011			THRU September	2012		
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARI		BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARI
INCOME	\$153,550	\$112,568	-27%		\$141,730	\$135,540	-4%
EXPENSES	\$153,550	\$122,250	-20%		\$141,730	\$118,058	-17%
OUTSTANDING OBLIGATIONS	\$ 0	(\$ 9,682)			\$ 0	\$ 17,482	
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARI	October	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARI
INCOME	\$17,061	\$15,992	-6.3%		\$15,748	\$ 14,545	- 8%
EXPENSES	\$17,061	\$10,217	-40.1%		\$15,748	\$ 5,035	- 68%
OUTSTANDING OBLIGATIONS	\$ 0	\$ 5,775			\$ 0	\$ 9,510	
W/DRAWN FROM INVESTMENTS						\$ 47,000	
TOTAL OUTSTANDING	\$ 0	(\$ 3,907)			\$ 0	\$ 26,992	

NOTES Current month: Our income is 8% BELOW estimate and our expenses were 68% BELOW budget. We were \$9,510 in the POSITIVE for the month of October.

Year to Date: Our income is 4.7% BELOW estimate and our expenses are 21.8% BELOW PLAN. **We are currently \$26,991 in the BLACK.** We have currently withdrawn \$47,000 from our investments.

Information presented by Paul Douglass, Treasurer

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS ABSOLUTE DEADLINE—SUNDAY, December 9, 2012



Our Saviour hopes to have a large number of poinsettias decorating the Chancel area on CHRISTMAS. Any plants you do not wish to take with you will be donated to a shut-in.

I wish to have the Altar Guild purchase a plant for the Chancel for Christmas. (\$6.50 per plant enclosed donation. Enclose a check with your order and drop it in the offering plate or mail to: Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 1640 Genesee Street, Utica, NY 13502.

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 are taking your plants, please arrange to do so following the service on DECEMBER 25.

_____ I will take my plants after the service.

_____ I will take a plant to a shut-in.

_____ I will leave my plant for a shut-in.

Where your offering goes



TOGETHER WE FUND THE FOLLOWING MINISTRIES:

- 60 new congregations approved, 50 percent in multicultural communities
- 163 existing congregations intentionally focused on renewal
- \$2.5 million in grants awarded to support ELCA ministries in congregations
- 240 missionaries in 50 countries, including 50 young adult volunteers
- Advocacy work with the United Nations and the federal government
- 26 ELCA colleges and universities
- 8 ELCA seminaries
- Over 180 campus ministries, with cooperating congregations in campus ministries at an additional 400 campuses nationwide
- Partnerships with The Lutheran World Federation, World Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches in Christ



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

Thank you!

Together we do God's work in ways that no individual, congregation or synod can do alone.

In the wider Lutheran Community



Thrivent Financial for Lutherans™

Charitable giving, through volunteering and financial gifts, is a value we share with our members. You don't need to be wealthy to contribute to your favorite charity. You can make gifts without taking a bite out of your income or assets. In some cases, your charitable gifts can provide tax advantages, meaning more financial security for you and your loved ones.

Helping others has been a cornerstone of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for over 100 years. We are called to give Lutherans a better way to manage their finances while giving back to the people and organizations that mean the most to them. Learn how Thrivent can help by visiting www.thrivent.com or calling one of our area representatives, Rich Roth, Rich Hummel or Kyle Mumpton, at (315) 451-0252.



Winter Reunion—anticipating the Winter blues? Vanderkamp has a cure—Winter Reunion! Whether you want to cross-country ski, sled down Cherry Hill, drink hot chocolate, reconnect with old friends from summer camp, it will be a blast! Come and see your friends and favorite VK staff members, but be sure to bring a hat and gloves. Children and Adults are all welcome! Register early—last year's winter reunion sold out. For registration information visit www.vk.org or call the camp at (315) 675-3651.



Short Term Experience in Mission—an Alternate Break Retreat—During Winter Break 2012 and Spring Break 2013, Vanderkamp in collaboration with King of Kings Lutheran Church in Liverpool will offer a Short Term Experience in Mission designed to help fill your time away from school with meaningful experiences, new friends, and personal growth. It doesn't matter what denomination of Christian you are, Vanderkamp would love to have you on this trip! Participants must be age 16 and older to participate in the event which is scheduled for December 27—29, 2012. Begin at Vanderkamp getting to know one another and then head to Schoharie County to help people there who are still in need of assistance after the 2011 flooding from Hurricane Irene. Join us in taking a retreat from the rest of your life to both physically help and raise awareness for those people who are coping with gutted houses and basements full of mud. Information on the web at www.vk.org or call.



December 2012 Schedule



One worship service at 10:00am begins on Sunday, Dec. 2nd
 Traditional worship on 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays and
 Contemporary worship on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

	Dec. 9, 2012 10:00am	Dec. 16, 2012 10:00am	Dec. 23, 2012 10:00am	Dec. 24, 2012 7:00pm	Dec. 24, 2012 9:30pm	Dec. 25, 2012 Christmas Day 10:00am	Dec. 30, 2012 10:00am	Jan. 6, 2013 10:00am
GREETERS	Liz and Paul Douglass	Emily and Pam Donovan	Mary Ellen Riemenschneider and Dennis Ready	Karen and Matt Wilbur	Judy and Myron Sierson	Volunteers	Helen and Alex Dudajek	Sandy and Jim Lenahan
ACOLYTES	Emily Donovan	Sheena Andereck and Kenny Douglass	Sheena Andereck	Derek and Mariah Thrasher	Sheena Andereck	Volunteers	Noah Thrasher and Ken Douglass	Joey Abraham and Michael Robles
WORSHIP ASSISTANT	N/A	Norris Ellinwood	N/A	John Andereck	Norris Ellinwood	Volunteers	Patsy Glista	Mathew Wilbur
LECTOR	N/A	Pam Donovan	N/A	Mathew Wilbur	Myron Sierson	Volunteers	Dave Wilbur	Erica Tollerton
NURSERY	Judy Petroski	Katherine and Kathy David	Sue Arntsen	No nursery	No nursery	No nursery	Liz Douglass	Susan Morris

Ushers—Paul Douglass, Dave Dudajek, Lou Lombard, Myron Sierson

Altar Guild—Andereck Family

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

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Vol. 10, Issue 11

Rev. Anita Mohr, Pastor



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

*Christmas Eve Worship
7:00pm—Family Worship
9:30pm—Candlelight Worship Service
Christmas Day—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.*