



# ***THE MESSENGER***

## **Our Saviour Lutheran Church**

### **March 2013**

#### *From the Pastor—*

On March 10, our Gospel reading will be the familiar parable usually known as the Prodigal Son. Jesus tells this parable in response to the Pharisees who are critical of Jesus for eating with sinners. Jesus says that a man had two sons. The younger son asked his father for his inheritance and then went out and squandered it. Finally having run out of money and being hungry, the younger son comes home to a father who greets him with open arms and an open heart - preparing a feast and giving him the finest robe. Our liturgy during Lent picks up on the themes of this parable. In confession we say "Let us come home to God, confessing our sin." What a great image it is to imagine our confession as a homecoming to God who is waiting with open arms and an open heart! Absolution continues with this theme. "God clothes you in the finest robe of all, the righteousness of Jesus Christ..." These are lovely ways to think of our Lenten journey. It is a coming home to God who is waiting to welcome us with open arms. Homecoming is what we do when we gather with our Ecumenical brothers and sisters for lunch on Tuesday. It is a way for us to demonstrate that the things that separate us are not as strong as those things that make us the same - we have been welcomed by the open arms and heart of God. Homecoming is what we do on Tuesday evening - eating dinner together - laughing and talking and telling stories of our lives. Homecoming is surely being in the same place - sharing what is important to us. Homecoming is learning or relearning what it means to be Lutheran. It is going back to the basics and remembering what it is that makes us who we are. Homecoming is what the children are doing on Sunday morning gathering money for ELCA Good Gifts to buy animals for those in need all over the world. Homecoming is knowing that we are all part of the same family of God and that all our needs belong to all of us. Homecoming is sharing all that we have received from the open arms and heart of God. "Come home" is a good theme for us as we gather for the fabulous Easter celebration the end of this month. It is a good way to invite back those folks we have not seen for awhile. We can invite them to come home to the open arms and heart of God that we experience regularly here at Our Saviour. We can invite them to come home to the fellowship and sharing of those that have cared about them. We can invite them to come home and to experience God's love anew. "Come home" is also a way to invite those who have never been a part of this worshipping community. When we, who have experienced God's warm embrace, invite others to be a part of Easter celebration, we can be certain that the heart of God is home for all God's people. We can be certain that we are inviting people back to the place from which they came - the heart of God. In the story of the Prodigal Son - the father - who is clearly God - does not wait at home for the wandering son to come to him. The Father goes out on the road to look and watch for the child that is part of God's heart. You, children of God, are the ones who are signs of God's love for God's children, when you go out and welcome in those who are looking for home.

*Pastor Anita*



**Lenten suppers & services—  
Tuesdays  
6:00p.m. supper in gym**

## THE MESSENGER

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Our Saviour Lutheran Church  
1640 Genesee Street  
Utica, New York 13502  
Phone: 315-732-0134  
[oslc-utica@verizon.net](mailto:oslc-utica@verizon.net)  
[www.oursaviourlutheranchurchutica.org](http://www.oursaviourlutheranchurchutica.org)  
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**REMINDER—please mark your calendars.**

**The deadline for the April 2013 issue of  
The Messenger is March 15, 2013.**

**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](mailto:oslc-utica@verizon.net).

## OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH CONTACT LIST



<b>Church Office</b> .....	732-0134		
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Email: <a href="mailto:pastor-oslc@verizon.net">pastor-oslc@verizon.net</a>			
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<b>Organist</b> .....	Cindy Wheeler/RoseAnn Grasso		
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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	Katherine David. . . . .	732-0611
David Dudajek. . . . .	736-8685	David Wilbur . . . . .	725-0835
Youth Group Member . . . . .	Rotates		
<b>Sunday School</b> .....	Liz Douglass		
<b>Coffee Hour Coordinator</b> .....	Marian Arntsen		
<b>Altar Guild</b> .....	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.

# Lenten Worship & Study Opportunities

**“Lent:” A Preparation for Easter through...**

**Restraint  
Transfiguration  
Compassion  
Understanding**

**2013 Downtown Utica  
Ecumenical Lenten Lunch Series**

**Held at**

**St. Mary's of Mt. Carmel-Blessed Sacrament Church  
648 Jay Street in East Utica**

One block north of Bleeker St. at Mohawk St.  
On-site parking. Handicapped accessible (735-1482)

**Tuesdays from 12:00—1:00 P.M.  
(March 5—March 12)**

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**Lunch from 12:00—12:25  
Program of Reflection on Biblical Texts  
12:30—1:00**

**Participating Churches:**

St. Mary of Mount Carmel-Blessed Sacrament RCC,  
First Presbyterian, Grace Episcopal, Moriah Olivet Presbyte-  
rian, Historic St. John's RCC, Bethany Presbyterian, Our Lady  
of Lourdes RCC, Our Saviour Lutheran, Tabernacle Baptist,  
Westminster Presbyterian.

**Free will donation for lunch appreciated.  
Proceeds donated for causes to be announced.**

**Our Saviour Lutheran Church  
Tuesday Lenten Suppers and  
Worship**

**February 19—March 19**

Join us at 6:00pm for supper.  
A main dish will be prepared by  
Gerry Presser. Please bring a side  
dish to share.

Sign up in the Narthex.

Gather in the Keller Room at  
7:00pm for Worship. We will use  
the Evening Prayer Service from  
the ELW for our worship. Lenten  
meditations will focus around  
some of the important teachings  
of the Lutheran Church with  
conversation about what  
Lutherans believe.

## ***Falling Upwards: Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life***

A discussion of the book by the same name  
written by Richard Rohr  
Facilitated by Rev. Brian McCaffrey

**Thursday, March 14, 2013  
8:30—10:00am**

**Boardroom in the Administration Building  
LutheranCare  
108 Utica Road, Clinton, NY**

***...the second half of life—we refresh our spirit and grow our soul.***



***Nurturing Spiritual Growth  
for the Second Half of Life***

Come whether you  
have read the book or  
not. For more informa-  
tion on this free pro-  
gram contact Pr. Brian  
at 235-7125.



# Easter Breakfast

Sunday, March 31

8:30—9:30am

in the gymnasium

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

Donations will support the youth attending Vanderkamp.

## Easter Fun Day—For Kids of All Ages

Saturday, March 30 from 10:30am—12:00noon

Decorate Easter Eggs

Learn the Easter Story

Make a craft

Easter Egg Hunt



## Holy Week Worship



**Palm Sunday, March 24:**

10:00am—Holy Communion

**Maundy Thursday, March 28:**

7:00pm—Worship with foot washing

**Good Friday, March 29 :**

7:00pm—Worship



**Easter Sunday, March 31:**

8:30—9:30am—Easter Breakfast hosted by the Youth Group

10:00am—Holy Communion



## EASTER LILIES ORDER—DEADLINE IS MARCH 24, 2013



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)

# Congregational Ministries

## Youth Group News



Youth in grades 6—12 are invited to join us for any and all Youth Group activities:

Sunday, March 3—Roller skating at Skate-a-While in Rome. Bring a bag lunch to church. We will leave from church after worship.



Saturday, March 30, 10:30am—12:00noon—Easter Fun Day for children of all ages. Decorate eggs, Easter craft, Easter egg hunt, Easter story.

Sunday, March 31—Easter pancake breakfast. Sugar free syrup available. Pancakes, sausage, hard boiled eggs and coffee cake to eat. Donations will help support youth attending Vanderkamp.



Thursday, April 11—Sleepover at church—watch for more information in April Messenger.

For information contact a member of the Donovan Family at 736-8042.

### JAM Jesus and Me Time



Each Sunday during worship a JAM time is offered for all children during worship. Children are invited to leave worship after the Children's sermon time to go with one of our JAM leaders and learn about Jesus and Bible lessons for the day.


Our JAM Leader in March will be Sally Townsend. Parents bring your children on Sunday for this special time.

### Lift Alleluia Voices!


The Choir of Our Saviour invites anyone who would like to help sing our praises of Alleluia on Easter Sunday to join us for Choir practice after worship on Sunday mornings. Come lend your voice and add to the musical Hosannas on Easter. For more information please speak with one of the choir members or our organists.

# Supporting God's work through our giving.

TREASURER'S REPORT				January 2013			
					<b>2013</b>		
					BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARI
INCOME					\$188,973	\$176,586	- 6.6%
EXPENSES					\$188,973	\$164,878	-12.8%
OUTSTANDING OBLIGATIONS					\$ 0	\$ 11,707	
INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS							
<b>TOTAL OUTSTANDING</b>	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00			\$ 0	\$ 11,707	
					<b>2012</b>		
					BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARI
INCOME				<b>January</b>	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARI
EXPENSES	\$15,748	\$10,773	-32%		\$ 8,064	\$ 8,659	7%
OUTSTANDING OBLIGATIONS	\$15,748	\$14,955	- 5%		\$ 14,749	\$ 22,628	53%
INVESTMENT WITHDRAWALS	0	(\$ 4,182)			(\$ 6,685)	(\$ 4,182)	
<b>TOTAL OUTSTANDING</b>	0	(\$ 4,182)			(\$ 6,685)		
<hr/>							
NOTE: Current month	Our income is 7.4% ABOVE estimate and our expenses are 53.4% ABOVE budget. We are \$13,969 in the RED for the month of January.						
Last Year:	We had a balance of \$11,707. This was due to the withdrawal of \$47,000 from our investments.						
	Paul Douglass, Treasurer						



## Welcome!



On Sunday, February  
17, 2013 the following new members  
were welcomed by our congregation—

Alicia Turner

Erika Fuller

Erma Gaspa

Please take a moment to greet them,  
introduce yourself and welcome them  
to our church family.

Our Saviour is on Facebook at  
*Our Saviour Lutheran Church—  
Utica*



Read The Messenger on the web—  
share it with a friend!

www.oursaviourlutheranchurchutica.org

# In the larger Lutheran Community



**Vanderkamp Christian Retreat and Summer Camp** operates with its partners in the Lutheran and Presbyterian churches, offering facilities for retreats, meetings, gatherings, and offers Christian summer camp. It isn't too early to start planning for summer camp. Check out their great programs at [www.vk.org](http://www.vk.org) or call (315) 675-3651.

Do you shop on Amazon.com? You can help support Vanderkamp and still get all the great Amazon bargains. Click on the Amazon box on the front page of Vanderkamp's website for a direct link to Amazon that supports



**NEW VISIONS: Leadership for Mission**  
A training program for congregational leaders.  
April 26 and 27, 2013. 9am—4pm  
Nolte Auditorium at LutheranCare  
Sponsored by the  
Upstate New York Synod—ELCA

**New Visions** is a training program designed for leaders to raise mission consciousness, to plan mission activity, and to implement mission efforts in their congregations. Recognizing that change will be resisted less if associated with mission, the training includes effective ways to process change. Dr. Peter L. Steinke, who initiated the "Bridgebuilder" program for conflicted churches and "Healthy Congregations" to help leaders create and sustain healthy congregation functioning is the designer of **New Visions** and will lead the workshop. Registration and more information on the Synod website at <http://upstatenysynod.org/phocadownload/steinke-workshop2013.pdf>.



**Learning at the Crossroads** is an educational program of our Central Crossroads Conference that provides educational programs for all interested people. Visit the Crossroads web site at <http://LearningattheCrossroads.googlepages.com>.

Register early! Write check to "Central Crossroads Conference". Fees cover the workshop, breakfast and lunch. Mail payment to Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, 435 S. Main St., N. Syracuse, NY 13212. Please note on a separate sheet of paper the workshop you are registering for, your name and contact information. Registrations must be received by the Thursday prior to the workshop. Questions may be addressed to [LearningattheCrossroads@yahoo.com](mailto:LearningattheCrossroads@yahoo.com).



**What Does the Holocaust Mean to Christianity?** led by Tom Henry, historian. Saturday, March 23 2013, 9:30am—2:30pm, \$20. Location—Luther Memorial Church.

At the Yad Vashem in Jerusalem they are called "The Righteous Among the Nations." We know the names: Sendler, Schindler, Trocme, and we would add Bonhoeffer to many others. Were they exceptional or were they acting as Christians ought to? We will look at the "righteous," who they were, what they did, what motivated them and why and how we, as Christians and citizens, should remember them.

**Coming in the FALL—Fall Retreat for Lay People at Vanderkamp Center, Saturday, Oct. 5, 2013, 9:30am—3:30pm., \$35.**

Mark your calendars now and watch for more information at [LearningattheCrossroads.googlepages.com](http://LearningattheCrossroads.googlepages.com) and in The Messenger.



**Aluminum can tabs - start collecting now!** This year at the Upstate New York Synod Assembly (June 7—8, 2013 in Rochester), we have a project

in which every congregation in the Synod can participate. We will be collecting aluminum **can tabs** prior to and throughout the assembly. The collected tabs will be given to the Ronald McDonald House, which established this collection program in February of 2012 to raise funds to help support their organization. Each congregation in the Synod is encouraged to start collecting can tabs now and to bring the collection to the Synod Assembly. The collection will be turned over to the Ronald McDonald House staff at the conclusion of the assembly.



**Day of Service, June 6, 2013**—A Synod pre-assembly event offering opportunities for community service at Food Link and the Ronald McDonald House in Rochester. Watch for information on the Synod website at [www.upstatenysynod.org](http://www.upstatenysynod.org). This is open to anyone—you do not have to be attending the Assembly to participate.

**Jesus and Me (JAM) Time Supports Hunger Needs**

Our children have been learning about the hunger needs in our community and the world and ways to help through the Good Gifts program. They have constructed a box which is located in the Narthex and will be collecting change throughout Lent to help feed those in need. Add you loose change and donations to the box on Sunday morning and help us buy chickens so that a family can not only feed themselves but also raise funds to support all their needs.



**Alleluia!**



**We've made tax time a little easier for you!**

The new Tax Resource Center on Thrivent.com provides easy-to-understand information anytime, anywhere as you complete your taxes.

- + View and print tax forms from Thrivent. It provides answers to many of your frequently asked questions. If you've had a taxable event, we've already mailed your tax forms to you. (You'll need to be logged in/registered to access this section of the Tax Resource center.)
- + Learn about recent tax law changes.
- + Find out why you may have received a tax form or why you didn't.
- + Download your mutual fund and brokerage tax information into TurboTax®

Learn more about these programs at <https://www.thrivent.com/community/outreach/volunteering/>  
For more information contact the area Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Office at (315) 451-0252.



**Always**  
being made  
**New.**  
25 YEARS TOGETHER IN CHRIST

## Let's celebrate!

(Information in this article is from the elca website—[www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org))



The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2013 under the theme, "**Always being made new.**" What God is doing through us here at home and around the world is worth celebrating. As you embark in ministry during this anniversary year, take a look back at the people and events that have shaped us as a church while looking toward the future together anew.

In 2 Corinthians 5:17 Paul writes, "*So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!*"

**We are a church that is deeply rooted—and always being made new.**

### **If anyone is in Christ...**

We are a church that is deeply rooted. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is still comparatively new as a church body, and yet our roots are much deeper than our 25 years together. The taproot of our life extends through the histories of predecessor churches in the United States, through the formative witness of the 16th century evangelical reformers and their confessional writings, to the scriptures and the word of Christ. Our life is in Jesus Christ. We are deeply rooted in his word of forgiveness and the promises of God's steadfast love and mercy. The word of Christ dwells in us richly. God nourishes us as one body in Jesus Christ with companions from around the globe who meet us at Christ's table of grace. — and always being made new. Our roots are in Scripture, tradition and the Lutheran Confessions, as well as in the vibrant communities and rich histories of our congregations. These roots are an ongoing source of nourishment, enabling us to be a church that is resilient, always reforming and guided by the Holy Spirit.

### **...there is a new creation**

We are being made new every day. In Jesus Christ we are not unchanged. What God does in Christ is as radical as the death and resurrection of baptism, where new creatures in Christ rise to live "no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them." God is bringing that new creation to life among us in the ministry of reconciliation. In that service we no longer see each other as we did before. We are no longer strangers, competitors or enemies to each other. We are beloved companions in one body, restored to a communion where the rich diversity of our experiences, wisdom and abilities serve the common good in Christ. The new creation in Christ rises to life among us every day.

**Our Saviour is an ELCA congregation.** As such we are part of the celebration. We are a congregation within the Upstate New York Synod. The Synod will also celebrate its 25th anniversary this year. The theme for this year's annual Synod Assembly is "*Transformed, Always Being Made New.*" The Assembly will welcome Rev. Andrew Genszler as our ELCA Representative. Rev. Genszler works in the ELCA Washington D.C. Advocacy Office. The Assembly keynote speaker will be Don Johnson, an expert in motivating young people to determine their vocational direction through faith and theological discernment. He has been named Vice-President of Student Development at The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (LTSP).

Watch the ELCA website, [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org), for 25th anniversary activities and information.

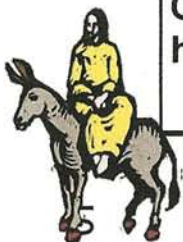


## March 2013 Schedule

**Weekly Lenten suppers and worship on Tuesdays,  
Feb. 19—Mar. 19. Supper at 6pm / Worship at 7pm in Keller Room.**

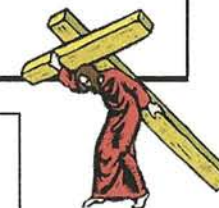


	March 10	March 17	March 24 Palm Sunday	March 28 Maundy Thursday	March 29 Good Friday	March 31 Easter	April 7
<b>GREETER</b>	Pam and Emily Donovan	Judy and Myron Sierson	Judy and Myron Sierson	Liz and Paul Douglass	Pam and Emily Donovan	Sandy and Jim Lenahan	Dennis Ready and Mary Ellen Riemenschneider
<b>ACOLYTE</b>	Sheena Andereck	Michael Robles and Noah Thrasher	Joey Abraham	Sheena Andereck	Emily Donovan	Derek and Mariah Thrasher	Kenny Douglass and Joey Abraham
<b>WORSHIP ASSIS- TANT</b>	N/A	John Andereck	N/A	Norris Ellinwood	Patsy Glista	Liz Douglass	Sheena Andereck
<b>LECTOR</b>	N/A	Erica Tollerton	N/A	Myron Sierson	N/A	Pam Donovan	Mary Tollerton
<b>NURSERY 10:30 worship</b>	Liz Douglass	Susan Morris	Judy Petroski	No nursery	No nursery	No nursery	Katherine and Kathy David
<b>Coffee hosts</b>	Sandy Lenahan And John Adasek	Myron Sierson	Willie and Chuck Bach	N/A	N/A	Youth Group	



**March 3 Coffee Hosts—**  
Paula and Dale Klingensmith

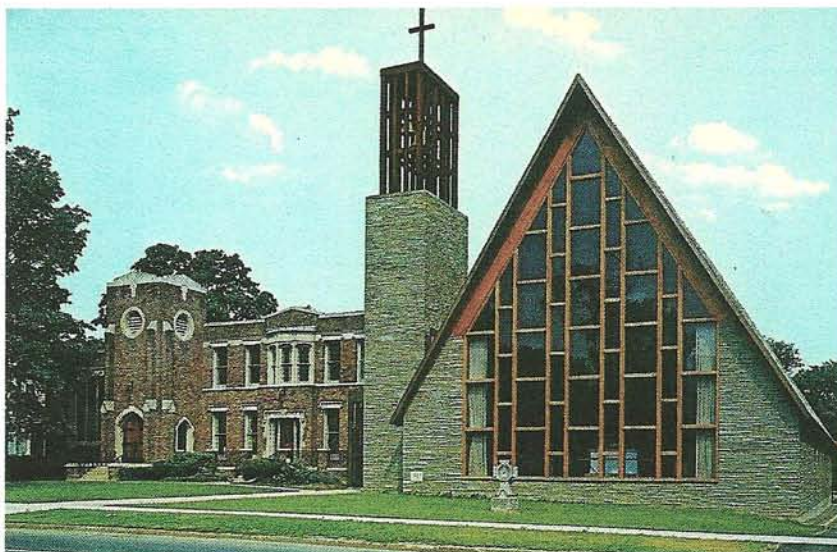
**Ushers—**Paul Douglass, Dave Dudajek, Peter Lincoln, Dennis Ready  
**Altar Guild—**Sharon Jaciatho, Gerry Presser



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Rev. Anita Mohr, Pastor

**THE MESSENGER**

Vol. 11, Issue 3



*Join Us for Worship*

*Adult Bible Study at 9:00am*

*Worship at 10:00am*

*Children's Time—during worship*

*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.*