

THE MESSENGER

Our Saviour Lutheran Church

March 2014

From the Pastor—

Lent begins March 5th—Ash Wednesday. Lent is a special time in the Church Year. I think of Lent as a time when my relationship to God might just grow closer. Lent has none of those expectations that we associate with Advent. So much is going on during Advent in the rest of the world that just seems to scream—"you should be filled with joy and be having a wonderful party with your family and loved ones!" Sometimes it is difficult for even the Christmas celebration to match up to those expectations.

It has been our tradition on Transfiguration Sunday, the last Sunday before Lent begins, to take an Alleluia banner out of the worship space. We usually have children march it out. The children then take the banner and hide it until Easter morning when they march it back into the worship space. We do not sing or say "Alleluia" all during the Lenten season. We set it aside and save it for Easter. It is almost like giving ourselves a break.

During Lent, we set aside the "you should be happier" thinking. In worship we do not sing a Hymn of Praise. We sing instead the Kyrie "Lord have mercy." During Lent, we admit to ourselves and to God that the Kingdom of Heaven has not arrived in its fullness just yet. We look around at our world and bring it to God in prayer, "Lord have mercy." We look around at ourselves and how we live and bring that to God in prayer as well, "Lord have mercy." We spend some time hearing the Word of God and God's intention for the world and prayer, "Lord have mercy." Let the wonderful images of your Kingdom be ours as it is in heaven. Lent is a time for growing.

It seems so counter-intuitive. We are clearly looking at piles of snow and ice everywhere. We are not seeing plants springing up and growing. Lent is a time for the growing to happen underground. Lent is a time when the wonderful nurturing growth of God happens so that those daffodils and crocuses can spring up in their time. Lent is a time when God works in side of us—so that God's Spirit will spring forth from us with newness and freshness.

Here are some opportunities for God's Spirit here at Our Saviour this Lent:

1. Ash Wednesday—March 5, 7 pm. It is time to gather with your brothers and sisters at Our Saviour and know again that you are God's dust—created, shaped and breathed into by God's Spirit.
2. Lenten Devotions. They are available in the narthex. Stephen Bouman who was the Bishop of the Metro New York Synod of the ELCA during the September 11th tragedy has written devotions for each day of Lent. They are challenging. They give us chances to grow.
3. Lenten Worship. Tuesday evenings during Lent, we will gather at 6 pm for dinner. Gerry Presser is cooking a main dish. We simply need to bring side dishes. At 7pm, we gather for worship. God's people together around food and around prayer—God does the growing.
4. Holy Week worship—Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday.

It is God who causes the growth. It is God who gives us chances together to experience once again the love and mercy of God in worship, in fellowship, in good food, in prayer, in music. I can hardly wait until Easter morning to see what new God has worked in you!

Pastor Anita

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REMINDER—please mark your calendars.

**The deadline for the April 2014 issue of
The Messenger is March 15, 2014.**

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.

OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH CONTACT LIST



Church Office	732-0134		
Pastor Anita Mohr	724-5426		
Email: pastor-oslc@verizon.net			
Church Office Secretary	Erika Fuller		
Organist/Music Director	Anthony Marris		
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Priscilla Dygert, Secretary.	794-8506	Paul Douglass, Treasurer.	733-9240
John Adasek.	735-3168	Bruno Aploks.	797-9032
Katherine David.	732-0611	Liz Douglass.	733-9240
David Dudajek.	736-8685	David Wilbur.	725-0835
Youth Group Member	Rotates		
Coffee Hour Coordinator	Marian Arntsen		
Hope House Coordinator	Jan Dudajek		
Altar Guild	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.



SEEDS OF HOPE FUNDRAISER

For the 17th consecutive year, Alan Shawn Feinstein will divide \$1 million among non profit hunger fighting agencies nationwide using it as a spur to help them raise funds this March and April. Seeds of Hope is participating in this matching grant program.

Donations received from March 1—April 30 for Seeds of Hope will be reported to the Feinstein Foundation to help us raise matching funds. Donations include cash, checks and food items (valued at \$1.00 per item or pound) or pledges, as long as they were obtained ONLY from use of the Feinstein challenge.

Through the Foundation a million dollars will be divided proportionately among all participating agencies (a minimum of \$250 and a maximum of \$35,000).

Help Seeds of Hope fight hunger in our community. Make a financial donation to Seeds of Hope or bring in canned goods donations. For more information, please contact Liz Douglass, 733-9240.



Congregational Ministries

Our Saviour Lutheran Church
Tuesday Lenten Suppers
and
Worship

March 11—April 8

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 using the Holden Evening Prayer.

Bring your whole family—invite a friend!

HOPE HOUSE WISH LIST

Volunteers from Our Saviour help prepare and serve dinner each month at Hope House. To help with this ministry please contact Jan Dudajek, 736-8685.



Hope House Wish List—

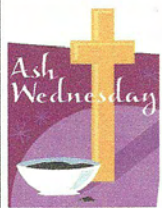
Lasagna Noodles Seasonings (unopened)
Hot chocolate packets, tea bags, coffee
Granulated sugar, Sweetener packets



Toilet paper, Sanitary Napkins,
Razors, Soaps and Shampoos

Lift Your Voices!

The Choir of Our Saviour practices on Thursday evening at 7:00pm. All are invited to join us. Come lend your voice and help sing praises on Sundays and in the coming Easter season.



JAM—Jesus and Me Time

JAM time happens each Sunday during worship. Children are invited to leave worship to go our JAM leader and learn about Jesus and Bible lessons for the day.

Our March JAM Leader is Sally Townsend.

Oneida County Lifeworks holds a Children's Movie Night and Family Dinner Night once a month at Our Saviour. The March Movie Night will be March 28 at 6pm. Family Night will be held March 29, 4—7pm. To learn more contact Dawn Muldoon at 768.2459.

The program is in need of two people to join the Board of Oneida County Lifeworks. Individuals need experience in the areas of local business management and fundraising as well as the ability to connect the program with other local non-profits or partnerships. Passion for the recovery community is a must.

Watch for the announcement of their new website coming soon at www.oclifeworks.org.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE

Our Saviour's Worship and Music Committee have been hard at work. Members on this committee include Pastor Anita, Cindy Wheeler, Dan Hoffman, Liz Douglass, Mary Tollerton and Anthony Marris. January meeting hi-lights included:

- Pastor Anita sharing that she is considering the use of a Narrative Lectionary which is geared to teaching stories from the entire Bible over a 4 year cycle.
- Discussion about the Contemporary Worship Service format including
 - Carl Schleicher has resigned his job of choosing music for the service. We appreciate his long time service to this ministry. Anthony and Pastor Anita will now choose music.
 - Similarity between the contemporary and the traditional worship service and the need to differentiate more. Ideas include having the contemporary service focus more on learning new things.
 - A meeting will be held after worship on February 25 to make recommendations for possibly revising format and for choosing a new name for the contemporary service.
- Kerner and Merchant has assessed our organ and made repair recommendations. Two items were approved by the committee for recommendation to the Congregation Council: console problems including dead notes and electrical problems (\$1200); and the expression louvers and motor repairs (\$2500)
- Musical fundraising ideas including a Bach concert to receive a bequest for the organ from the George Harrar estate and a possible raffle.
- The committee's next meeting will be held March 15 at 10am.

EASTER LILIES ORDER—DEADLINE IS APRIL 6, 2014



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)

In the larger Lutheran Community

The Memory Café

A Café for people with memory loss
and their care partners

Tuesday, March 18, 2014

1:00—3:00pm

In the Active Day area of
LutheranCare

108 Utica Rd., Clinton, NY

The Memory Café provides:

- An opportunity to get out and socialize in a safe environment
- No judgment, no expectations—just support
- Good food and fun.

Questions—contact Pastor Brian McCaffrey
315.235.7125 or bmccaffrey@lutherancare.org.



Aluminum can tabs - start collecting now!

At the Upstate New York Synod Assembly (June 1—3, 2014 in Rochester), we will again be collecting aluminum **can tabs** prior to and throughout the assembly. The collected tabs will support ministries like Cherish the Children and Lutheran Disaster Response within our synod. Add your can tabs to the box in the Narthex. We will send them with our voting members to Assembly.



Exciting things at Vanderkamp!

4/21—4/23, **STEM Trip**—Short Term experience in **Mission**—Schoharie County continues to suffer the devastation from Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. Young people are invited to help again this year.

4/25—4/26, **Acclaimed Youth Ministry Author Kenda Creasy Dean coming**—a 2-day lecture series on “Youth Ministry as a Laboratory for Hope,” \$99.

Boat House renovation continues—The historic boat house at VK is being renovated for use beginning summer 2015! Volunteers can help with this work.

Summer Camp Registration— Call for a brochure for your children, grandchildren or a friend.

For more information visit www.vk.org or call the camp at 315.675.3651.



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>. Upcoming programs include:

SOCIAL MINISTRY & JUSTICE IN ACTION—Sat. March 8, 2014 (9:30 am—3:00 pm) Cost: \$20. Rev. Craig Herrick of First English Lutheran Church in Syracuse, NY will guide you through an inner-city experience learning about and experiencing issues of social ministry and Justice as it relates to poverty. Meet at First Lutheran Church in Syracuse.

LUTHERAN PERSPECTIVES IN HISTORY—Sat, April 12, 2014 (9:30 am—3:00 pm) Cost \$20. Popular History teacher Tom Henry from St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Baldwinsville will lead us in lively learning and discussion about how the Church regains its voice in the political environment of our nation. Place: Luther Memorial Church, N. Syracuse.

PRAYER RETREAT at VANDERKAMP, Cleveland, NY—Saturday, May 10 (9:30 am—3:00 pm) Cost \$35. A series of Bible stories and prayer experiences will guide you through a variety of prayer styles and experiences and provide a base for a journey with God. Questions: Call retreat leader Rev. Wheatley at 315-243-7121.

Write check to “Central Crossroads Conference” (\$20 each, \$35 for retreat) and mail to Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, 435 S. Main St., N Syracuse, NY 13212. Registrations must be received by the Thurs. before the workshop, and by Wed. before the retreat. Cost includes lunch.

March 2014 Schedule

**Weekly Lenten suppers and worship on Tuesdays,
Mar. 11—Apr. 8. Supper at 6pm / Worship at 7pm in Keller Room.**

**March JAM
leader is
Sally Townsend**

	March 5 Ash Wednesday	March 9	March 16	March 23	March 30	April 6
GREETER	Sandy and Jim Lenahan	Alex Dudajek And Dennis Ready	Mary Ellen Riemenschneider and Pam Donovan	Liz and Paul Douglass	Sandy and Jim Lenahan	Dennis Ready and MaryEllen Reimenschneider
ACOLYTE	Michael Robles	Joey Abraham	Derek Thrasher And Michael Robles	Anthony Robles	Noah Thrasher and Joey Abraham	Michael Robles
WORSHIP ASSISTANT	Patsy Glista	N/A	Liz Douglass	N/A	Clare Thiem	Norris Ellinwood
LECTOR	Scott Donovan	N/A	Mary Tollerton	N/A	Pam Donovan	Erica Tollerton
NURSERY	No nursery	Katherine and Kathy David	Sue Arntsen	Susan Morris	Liz Douglass	Judy Petroski
COFFEE HOSTS	N/A	Garry Brombacher	Barb Magnusson and Charlotte Williams	Jan Dudajek and John Adasek	Willie and Chuck Bach	TBA

March 2 Coffee Hosts—
Sandy Lenahan and Linda Roser

Ushers—Clare Thiem, Dave Dudajek, Peter Lincoln, Paul Douglass
Altar Guild—Pam Donovan and Bev Smith

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Rev. Anita Mohr, Pastor

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JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

Worship at 10:00am
Children's Jesus and Me (JAM)
time during worship

Tuesday Lenten suppers & services
Supper—6:00p.m. Worship—7:00p.m.

*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.*