



What Would Jesus Do?

THE MESSENGER

Our Saviour Lutheran Church October 2014

From the Pastor:

A few years ago it was popular to ask, “What would Jesus do?” Many people even had bracelets and tee shirts that read, “WWJD.” What would Jesus do?



As I was trying to think of a newsletter article for this month, I decided to read the Gospel texts for the month of October. They are a clear answer to the question, “What would Jesus do?” They are not easy answers. At this time in the church year, we are winding up our reading of the Gospel of Matthew. Jesus is either heading toward Jerusalem where he will suffer and die or already there. It is clear that not everyone is pleased with Jesus—especially those who are in charge—the church people—the learned ones in the temple. So Jesus tells parables about how the first people invited into the Kingdom of God might not be the ones who do God’s will, about how those invited first might not be the ones who get to enjoy the banquet. Jesus answers a tricky question about taxes (does a correct answer to taxation exist in any culture?), then Jesus asks them a tricky question about King David. None of these are ways to make yourself popular in the world. We are aware of what happened because of this behavior. Jesus was crucified.



“What would Jesus do?” becomes a different kind of question when we look closely at what Jesus did. Jesus did not always do what was popular. Jesus did not always try to please those who had power; who were the church people; or who were the people who assumed that God loved them the best. Jesus would not have been elected to any public office. You have to have a good answer to the taxing question if you want to be elected. Jesus even had a hard questions about King David, the most revered of all the kings.

“What would Jesus do?” If we know what Jesus did, do we have the courage to do it too, especially when we know how it turned out? Will we say the hard stuff in the face of authority? Will we speak political truths that are not easy to hear? Will we confront those who may be too comfortable so that they know for sure what God expects of them? Those are the questions of October. They are difficult ones.



We can only do what Jesus did if we remember that the story does not end at the crucifixion of Jesus, even though death seems like an end. Even when Jesus predicts suffering and death, Jesus never leaves it there, but says that after three days God will raise him up. We can do what Jesus did if we believe just that much—that God will raise us up. We can confront evil, even when it is very unpopular if we remember that we are not responsible for saving our own lives. God is responsible for raising us up. We can speak uncomfortable truth if we believe that God will raise us up. We can even advocate for taxes, if we believe that God is the one who raises us up. It is not our disposable income. It is not the power of the government to care for those who are in need. It is God who raise us up.



“What would Jesus do?” Speak and do the ways of God in the world and wait for the resurrection.


Pastor Anita

THE MESSENGER

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REMINDER—please mark your calendars.
The deadline for the November 2014 issue of
The Messenger is October 15, 2014.
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	Risleigh Roche		
Organist/Music Director	Richard Bostick		
Council Members			
Pam Donovan, Council President.	736-8042	David Dudajek, Vice President.	736-8685
Dave Wilbur, Secretary.	725-0835	Paul Douglass, Treasurer.	733-9240
John Andereck	738-4363	Katherine David.	732-0611
Liz Douglass	733-9240	Erma Gaspa	797-0913
Sandy Lenahan	859-0747	Youth Group Member	Rotates
Coffee Hour Coordinator	Volunteer Needed		
Hope House Coordinator	Jan Dudajek		
Altar Guild	Gerry Presser		
JAM Coordinator	Pam Donovan		

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.

Oneida County Lifeworks, peers helping peers build bridges to new lives, connecting people through enhancement of personal recovery, providing a safe, drug & alcohol free environment, providing local community resource guidance and enhancing life and social skills through peer to peer.

Supporting God's work through our giving and caring.

Commitment Sunday is November 9, 2014

The dictionary defines stewardship as “A moral responsibility that embodies that responsible planning and management of resources.” As faithful members of Our Saviour Lutheran Church we recognize that the resources that we have been given to manage were gifts from God. Our stewardship in the church is a sign that we understand how God participates with us in providing resources for our sake and the sake of the world.

Most of us think of stewardship as giving money to the church to aid in paying utility bills, employee salaries, our commitment to the synod, and the general maintenance of our building and grounds to name a few.

However, stewardship is much more than providing funding for the necessities in managing our church’s infrastructure. To manage your involvement regarding stewardship is to include your time and talents as well. Providing funding for church operations is a responsibility we all have. Managing your time to help our church provide for a variety of ministries, by utilizing the talents God has given each one of us is essential as well.

Our congregation has always risen to the occasion when the need occurs. We have provided meals for “Your Neighbors,” prepared stuffing for Thanksgiving dinners, assisted at “Hope House” and “Seeds of Hope,” volunteered at the Lutheran Home, and worked together at church ‘Clean-up’ days. We all have unique resources or talents we can utilize in being efficient stewards.

The next time a sign-up sheet is posted, take the time to include our ministries into your schedule. Think of the God-given talents you have and how they might support the missions of our congregation.

Stewardship Commitment Sunday is November 9. Please give some prayerful consideration regarding your resource involvement in maintaining our mission now and in the future.

Thank you.

Richard and Priscilla Dygert



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Seeds of Hope Food Pantry—donated food items may be left in the wheelbarrow in the Narthex. To learn about other ways to help speak with Liz or Paul Douglass.

Hope House—volunteers from Our Saviour help to prepare and serve the evening meal at Hope House the first Monday of each month. To volunteer speak with Jan Dudajek.

Your Neighbors, Inc.—provides meals for home bound and recently hospitalized persons, transportation to doctor’s appointments and other services. Volunteers always needed. Speak with Betty Gallup for more information.



*Fall
Clean-up*



Saturday, October 11, 2014

9am – 3pm

Coffee, juice & goodies at 9:00

Lunch served at 12:00 noon

Bring your muscles, tools and appetite and help us get our Church ready for the Fall and Winter. Check the jobs list and sign up sheet in the Narthex. Bring the tools needed for the job you wish to do. Come for a few hours or the whole day.

Plenty of jobs for all!!

Jim Lenahan



TREASURER'S REPORT

August 2014

	2013			THRU July	2014		
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARI		BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARI
INCOME	\$ 64,514	\$ 68,025	5%		\$ 70,439	\$ 85,900	22%
EXPENSES	<u>\$117,990</u>	<u>\$ 99,743</u>	-15%		<u>\$124,113</u>	<u>\$106,616</u>	-14%
OUTSTANDING OBLIGATIONS	(\$53,476)	(\$31,718)			(\$ 53,674)	(\$ 20,716)	

	2013			August	2014		
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARI		BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARI
INCOME	\$ 8,064	\$ 7,384	- 8%		\$ 8,805	\$ 7,123	-19%
EXPENSES	<u>\$14,749</u>	<u>\$ 14,272</u>	- 3%		<u>\$15,514</u>	<u>\$ 14,020</u>	-10%
OUTSTANDING OBLIGATIONS	(\$ 6,685)	(\$ 6,889)			(\$ 6,709)	(\$ 6,897)	
INVESTMENT INCOME		\$ 47,000				\$30,000	
TOTAL OUTSTANDING	(\$60,161)	(\$ 38,606)			(\$60,383)	(\$27,613)	

NOTES—Current month: Our income is 19% BELOW estimate and our expenses are 10% below budget. We are \$6,897 in the RED for the month of August.

Year to Date: Our income is 17.4% ABOVE estimate and our expenses are 13.6% below plan We are currently \$7,613 in the RED for the year BECAUSE we have withdrawn \$30,000 from our investments. Last year we had withdrawn \$47,000 at this time

Information presented by Paul Douglass, Treasurer



Upstate New York Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

On Wednesday, October 15, 2014 the Upstate New York Synod offices will relocate to 5811 Heritage Landing Drive, 1st Floor, East Syracuse, NY 13057-9360. St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Camillus, from whom the synod currently rents the old parsonage building, is selling the property to USA Realty. The property will be demolished to make room for USA Realty expansion. Our new office location is owned by the Synod of the Northeast, Presbyterian Church USA, and offers possibilities for ecumenical partnership. Our phone numbers and email contacts will remain the same.

On Sunday, September 7, congregations throughout Upstate New York participated in God's Work. Our Hands. Check out the pictures on the Upstate New York Synod website at <http://upstatenysynod.smugmug.com/Walking-Together-2014/>.



Over 600 pictures are also posted from the September 6 Installation service for Bishop John S. Macholz - <http://upstatenysynod.smugmug.com/Installation-of-Bishop-Macholz/>.



In the larger Lutheran Community



Fall Retreat, Living Christian in 2013 and Beyond...October 31—November 2.

Every year kids from summer camp come out during the fall to reconnect with each other, with God, and with their best selves. Kids ages 7—17 are invited to come spend time with each other and their favorite summer camp staff members. More information and registration forms are available on the Vanderkamp website or **contact us at (315) 675-3651 or vkcenter@vk.org.**



ACTS Comes to Vanderkamp. Vanderkamp is working with the Catholic Church to provide an intentional spiritual retreat for adults to come and re-ignite their faith. The ACTS Retreat is presented by fellow lay parishioners and is based on Holy Scripture. During this Holy Year of Faith you are invited to take advantage of this opportunity. Men's Retreat Dates—October 16—19, 2014. Visit Vanderkamp website or call for more information.



The goal of LutheranCare's Helping Hands program is to enable the people of our community to continue living independently for as long as they are able. Through compassionate care, staff helps those in need maintain their independence and quality of life. Companions provide services which respect self-determination, fully recognize individuality, privacy and the importance of community integration as well as respite and peace of mind for those caring for a loved one. The program serves Oneida, Herkimer and parts of Lewis & Madison Counties.

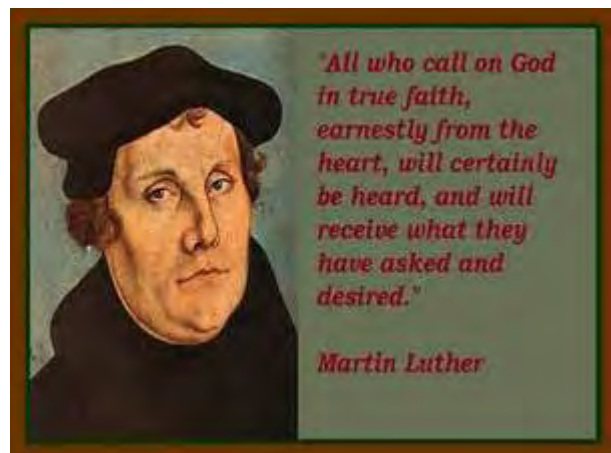
- + Companions are Fully Insured & Bonded
- + Available 24 hours a day/7 days a week
- + Flexible Scheduling based on Family Needs
- + Consistent, Reliable, Well-trained staff
- + Locally Owned & Operated
- + Simple In-home Registration Process
- + No Long-term Contract Required



Learning at the Crossroads
An Educational Program of
Central Crossroads Conference

presents

Oct. 18, 9:00am —2:30pm —“WHY PAUL MATTERS—The Creative Genius of the Apostles the Gentiles” Presenter Rev. Dr. Mark Lawson, Pastor of United Church of Christ in Bayberry (Liverpool), adjunct professor in religious studies at LeMoyne College, and author of *Cracking the Book: How to Start Reading the Bible*. Because Paul's letters have been canonized as Scripture, his words have traditionally been given authority equal to the teachings of Christ and laying the groundwork for Christian anti-Semitism, sexism, racism, and homophobia. Contending that the Apostle has been misunderstood and misappropriated by both critics and admirers, Dr. Lawson will place Paul in his religious, cultural, and political context and help participants appreciate how his developing theology ensured that the “Way” begun by Jesus would grow into a world religion. The course will be taught at Luther Memorial, North Syracuse. Cost is \$20 and includes lunch.



Reformation Sunday October 26



October 2014
Sunday Worship is at 10:00am

	Oct. 5	Oct. 12	Oct. 19	Oct. 26 Reformation Sunday	Nov. 2 All Saints Day
GREETER	Sandy and Jim Lenahan	Mary Ellen Riemenschneider and Pam Donovan	Alex Duddajek and Dennis Ready	Liz and Paul Douglass	Sandy and Jim Lenahan
ACOLYTE	Anthony and Michael Robles	Michael Robles	Joey Abraham	Anthony and Michael Robles	Anthony and Michael Robles
WORSHIP ASSISTANT	Liz Douglass	N/A	Clare Thiem	N/A	Patsy Glista
LECTOR	Pam Donovan	N/A	Mary Tollerfon	N/A	Dave Wilbur
NURSERY	Susan Morris	Judy Petroski	Liz Douglass	Katherine and Kathy David	Susan Morris

Ushers—Don Arntsen, Jim Lenahan, Don Nahumck, Lou Lombard
Altar Guild—Barbara Godbey-Miller and Judy Petroski

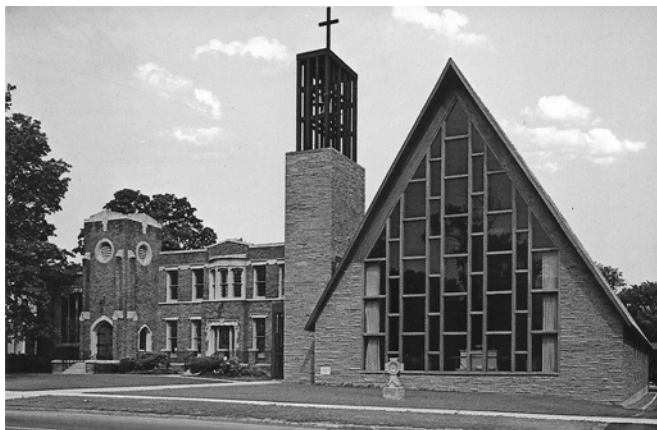
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1640 Genesee Street
Utica, New York 13502

Rev. Anita Mohr, Pastor

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Join Us for Worship

*Worship at 10:00am
Jesus and Me (JAM)
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.*