



# *THE MESSENGER*

## Our Saviour Lutheran Church

### December 2015

*From the Pastor:*

“Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.”

It may be the most important verse in the Christmas Reading. The baby is born and laid in a manger. The angels come and announce to the shepherds the birth of a Saviour—Christ the Lord. Then, the shepherds make a decision to go and see what God has told them about.

Did the shepherds believe before they went? It is hard to dismiss a multitude of angels singing in the dark. Still believing in the Christ-child and seeing and experiencing the presence of Jesus are not the same thing. The shepherds went to Bethlehem because they wanted to see—to be in the same place as—to wonder at the miracle of this birth.

It is Advent. Christmas is coming. We will celebrate again the birth of the Christ-child. You, who receive this newsletter, certainly believe all of that. Hearing the announcement, it is time to “Go now to . . . See this thing that has come to pass.” This time, during Advent, is a time to see—to be in the same place as—to wonder at the miracle of this birth.

This year during Advent we will gather on Tuesday evenings. Dinner is at 6:00. A main dish will be prepared by Gerry Presser. You are asked to bring a side dish. Then we will gather in the Keller Room. We will sing and pray and hear the stories from Luke 1—the stories that just precede the story of the birth of Jesus. It is a chance to see Jesus in the lives and faith of those who gather. It is a time to be in the same place as others who know the miracle of God who has come to live among us. It is time to wonder together at this miracle birth.

December 6 is our Annual Congregational Budget Meeting. We have a budget to pass. We have Synod Assembly members to elect. We have serious business to discuss. Jesus will be there.

December 13 we will gather to decorate for Christmas. It is fun. We will have work for everyone who comes. It is transforming our space. Jesus will be there.

December 24 we will gather for worship twice. At 7 and 9:30 we will worship and share the very presence of Jesus. At 9 we will hear the choir’s preparation for worship. It will be beautiful! Jesus will be there.

December 25 we will gather for breakfast at 9 and then worship at 10. This is a chance to share the amazing intimacy of being with the Christ-child. This is a change to know that Jesus is there.

The shepherds made the right decision. They decided to go and see to be where Jesus was. They went from there and spread the news of what they had seen to everyone who would listen. You have heard the announcements. Jesus will be here. Advent is time to put your believing into action—let it change your life—be ready to tell the story far and wide.

Looking forward to seeing you and the manager.

*Pastor Anita*



# **Our Saviour Lutheran Church**

## **ADVENT WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP**

**EVERY TUESDAY IN DECEMBER  
POTLUCK SUPPER beginning at 6:00PM  
Bring a dish and join in the fellowship  
EVENING VESPERS SERVICE  
BEGINS AT 7:00PM**



**CHRISTMAS EVE  
FAMILY WORSHIP  
AT 7:00PM**

**CHRISTMAS EVE  
MUSICAL PRELUDE  
AT 9:00PM**

**CHRISTMAS EVE  
CANDLELIGHT  
WORSHIP  
AT 9:30PM**

**CHRISTMAS DAY  
BREAKFAST  
AT 9:00AM**

**CHRISTMAS DAY  
WORSHIP  
AT 10:00AM**

**OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1640 GENESEE ST  
UTICA, NY 13502  
315-732-0134  
[oslc-utica@verizon.net](mailto:oslc-utica@verizon.net)  
[oursaviourlutheranchurchutica.org](http://oursaviourlutheranchurchutica.org)**

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## THE MESSENGER

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**REMINDER**—please mark your calendars.  
**The deadline for the January 2016 issue of  
The Messenger is December 15, 2015.**  
**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

**Church Office** ..... 732-0134  
**Pastor Anita Mohr** ..... 724-5426  
Email: [pastor-oslc@verizon.net](mailto:pastor-oslc@verizon.net)  
**Church Office Secretary** ..... Linda Arntsen  
**Organist/Music Director** ..... Richard Bostick  
**Council Members**  
Pam Donovan, Council President. .... 736-8042  
Dave Wilbur, Secretary. .... 725-0835  
Liz Douglass ..... 733-9240  
Sharon Jacintho. .... 797-2934  
Dave Dudajek ..... 736-8685  
**Coffee Hour Coordinator** ..... Barbara Magnusson  
**Hope House Coordinator** ..... Jan Dudajek  
**Altar Guild** ..... Gerry Presser  
**JAM Coordinator** ..... Pam Donovan

Sandy Lenahan, Vice President. .... 859-0747  
Paul Douglass, Treasurer. .... 733-9240  
Erma Gaspa ..... 327-8861  
Dale Klingensmith ..... 737-8382  
Youth Group Member ..... Rotates

Visit us on the Web!

**Check us out!**

[www.oursaviourlutheranchurchutica.org](http://www.oursaviourlutheranchurchutica.org)



## 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.

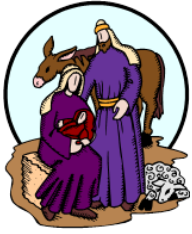
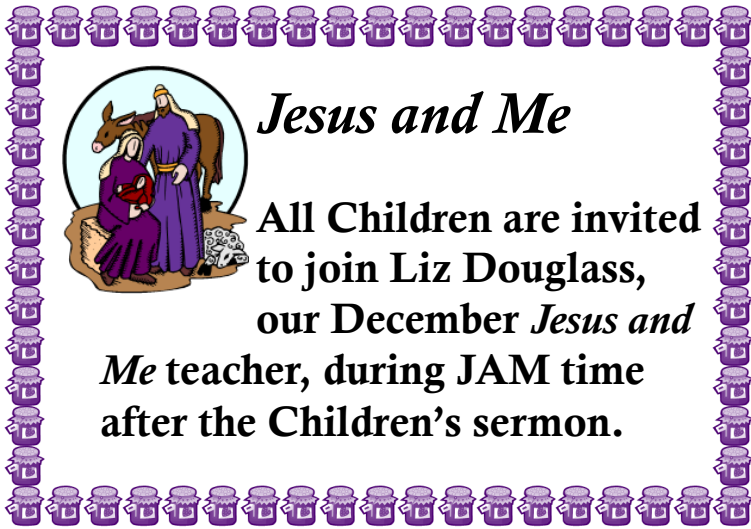
**Hope House**, a safe haven providing meals and other services in Utica is supported by volunteers from our congregation.

**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 generated programs and support. Program offices are located at Our Saviour on the 2nd floor.

# Our Congregation's Ministeries



## *Jesus and Me*

All Children are invited to join Liz Douglass, our December *Jesus and Me* teacher, during JAM time after the Children's sermon.



## WINTER IS HERE!

Volunteers are needed to help with snow shoveling and snow blowing to keep our sidewalks and church entrances clear throughout the week. If you can help, please let Jim Lenahan know. Shoveling not only helps prevent slips and falls, but it makes our facility a more welcoming place.



**Help Decorate the Church  
Sunday,  
December 13, 2015  
after worship**

All are invited to stay after worship on Dec. 13 and help us prepare the sanctuary for Christmas—hang the wreaths, decorate the trees and ready the church for the coming of our Saviour!

## Congregational Budget Meeting 2016 Budget

Sunday, December 6, 2015  
11:00am—following worship



Budget information is available in the Narthex. Please also prayerfully consider the Stewardship information sent out by the Council in November. The Budget Meeting is your opportunity to give input for God's work through Our Saviour in 2016.

## At the Font



Addison Jolene Graves  
Daughter of Heidi and Nathan Graves  
November 8, 2015

Nathan Scott Graves  
Father of Addison Jolene Graves  
November 8, 2015

Gabriella Lillian Carrier  
Daughter of  
Lucas Carrier and Joan Cassevah  
Granddaughter of Judy Stanek  
November 28, 2015

# Supporting God's work through our giving and caring.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

October 2015

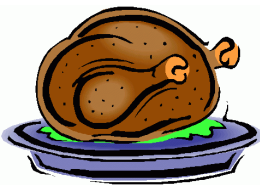
	2014			THRU Sept.	2015		
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARI		BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARI
INCOME	\$ 98,609	\$ 85,189	-14%		\$ 88,049	\$ 94,483	7%
EXPENSES	<u>\$157,477</u>	<u>\$117,105</u>	-26%		<u>\$155,142</u>	<u>\$149,376</u>	-4%
OUTSTANDING OBLIGATIONS	(\$58,868)	(\$31,916)			(\$ 67,093)	(\$ 54,893)	
	2014			THRU Oct.	2015		
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARI		BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARI
INCOME	\$ 9,861	\$ 55,834	466%		\$ 8,805	\$68,332	676%
EXPENSES	<u>\$15,748</u>	<u>\$ 44,145</u>	180%		<u>\$15,514</u>	<u>\$11,324</u>	-27%
OUTSTANDING OBLIGATIONS	(\$ 5,887)	\$ 11,689			(\$ 6,709)	\$57,008	
INVESTMENT INCOME		\$ 47,000				\$59,181	
TOTAL OUTSTANDING	(\$64,754)	(\$ 20,227)			(\$73,802)	\$ 2,115	

**NOTES**—Current month: Our income is 676% ABOVE estimate due to the withdrawal of \$35,000 from investments and our expenses are 27% BELOW budget.  
 We were \$57,008 in the black for the month of October.

Year to Date: Our income is 84.9% ABOVE estimate and our expenses are 3.6% above plan.  
We are currently \$2,115 in the black for the year.  
 We have currently withdrawn \$59,181 from our investments.

Information presented by Paul Douglass, Treasurer

## Thank you!



Thank you to everyone who helped with stuffing for the Community Thanksgiving Dinner! We always have a great turnout and the feedback from First Presbyterian Church is always a positive one of thankfulness.

Judy Stanek

As we edit our last Messenger issue, we would like to thank everyone who has provided articles and other information over the years for The Messenger. Beginning with the submission deadline for the January Messenger (December 15), please submit all news for the newsletter to the church office either by email or in person.

We have enjoyed our time as the editors for The Messenger.

Patsy and Norm Glista

# Peace on Earth!

# In the larger Lutheran Community



## An Invitation from the

### Women of Zion Lutheran



All women are invited to “Share Your Holiday Traditions” on Sunday, December 6 from 2:00—

4:00pm in the Zion Fireside Room at Zion Lutheran Church, French Road, New Hartford.

Please bring one dozen cookies and the recipe, if possible. Or, just come, we’ll have plenty of cookies. Let’s get in the Christmas spirit together!



Lutheran Care can usually use help bringing residents to Christmas Eve Worship on December 24. If you can volunteer please call Chaplain Rev. Janet Griffiths at 235-7125 or the Therapeutic Recreation Dept. for information as to times and how you can assist.



## Vanderkamp Center Winter Fun

Vanderkamp Center is a great place for winter fun—sledding and cross country skiing as well as just taking a slow walk along the lake in the winter sunshine.

The camp also has volunteer projects they can always use help with.

This is one of two Upstate New York Synod camps. Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center in Chautauqua County is the other. Visit their websites to learn more about opportunities for the whole family.

Vanderkamp—[www.vk.org](http://www.vk.org)

337 Martin Road Cleveland, NY, 13042

Bill and Penny James, Directors 315-675-3651

LCLC—<http://lclcenter.org/>

5013 Route 430, Bemus Point, NY 14712

Lee Lindeman, Director (716) 386-4125



## COMING IN DECEMBER TO CRTC!

**An Evening with Nadia Bolz-Weber**  
Friday, December 11, 2015, 7:00—8:30pm

**A Day of Learning with Nadia Bolz-Weber**  
Saturday, December 12, 2015, 9am—4pm

Nadia Bolz-Weber’s theological memoir, *Pastrix: the Cranky, Beautiful Faith of a Sinner & Saint* came out in 2013, to critical acclaim and popularity.

An ELCA pastor, Nadia is the founding pastor of House for All Sinners and Saints, an ELCA mission church in Denver, CO. She’s a leading voice in the emerging church movement and her writing can be found in *The Christian Century* and Jim Wallis’ *God’s Politics* blog. Phylis Tickle remarks, “Nadia Bolz-Weber has probably done more than any other pastor in recent times to poke therapeutic fun at the misdemeanors and flaws of overly-churched Christianity and Christians.”

Early bird pricing available until Nov. 6. Visit [crtc.org](http://crtc.org) or call (518) 462-2470.

It is our intention to send The Messenger to you electronically beginning in **January 2016**.

We will continue to post The Messenger on our website:

[www.oursaviourlutheranchurchutica.org](http://www.oursaviourlutheranchurchutica.org).

We will begin to send The Messenger to you via email.

We will have paper copies available in the narthex at the beginning of the month.

Please complete this form and return it to the church either by mail or bring it to church and hand it to an usher.

*Choose only one (1) option please:*

1) I wish to receive my newsletter through email or the website.

My email address is \_\_\_\_\_

2) I will pick my newsletter up at church. \_\_\_\_\_

3) I cannot get to church, please send my newsletter through regular mail.

My address is \_\_\_\_\_

4) I do not wish to receive a newsletter any longer.

Name/Address (if not above) \_\_\_\_\_

**POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS**  
**ABSOLUTE DEADLINE—SUNDAY, December 13, 2015**



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. (\$6.00 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: \_\_\_\_\_

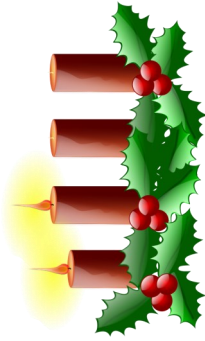
(If more than one memorial, please use another sheet.) Please PRINT names. If you are taking your plants, please arrange to do so following the service on DECEMBER 25.



\_\_\_\_\_ I will take my plants after the service

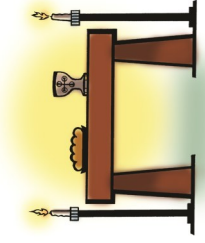
\_\_\_\_\_ I will deliver a plant to a shut-in. Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I will leave my plant for a shut-in



**December 2015**  
**Sunday Worship is at 10:00am**

	Dec. 6 Advent 2	Dec. 13 Advent 3	Dec. 20 Advent 4	Dec. 24 Christmas Eve 7:00pm	Dec. 24 Christmas Eve 9:30pm	Dec. 25 Christmas 10:00am	Dec. 27	January 3 2016
<b>GREETER</b>	Pam Donovan and Sandy Lenahan	Liz and Paul Douglass	Willie Bach and Alex Dudajek	Sandy and Jim Lenahan	Barb Magnusson And Mary Ellen Riemenschneider	Volunteers	Liz and Paul Douglass	Willie Bach and Katherine David
<b>ACOLYTE</b>	Joey Abraham	Anthony and Michael Robles	Joey Abraham	Michael and Anthony Robles	Joey Abraham	Volunteers	Anthony and Michael Robles	Joey Abraham
<b>WORSHIP ASSISTANT</b>	Norris Ellinwood	N/A	Clare Thiem	Patsy Glista	Emily Donovan	Volunteers	N/A	Barbara Godbey-Miller
<b>LECTOR</b>	Betty Gallup	N/A	Barbara Magnusson	Betty Gallup	Scott Donovan	Volunteers	N/A	Pam Donovan
<b>COFFEE HOSTS</b>	Judy Sica and Susan Morris	Garry Brombacher	Erma Gaspa and Larry Hajdasz	N/A	N/A	N/A	Charlotte Williams and Barb Magnusson	TBD



**Ushers—Norris Ellinwood, Rick Dygert, Clare Thiem, Dave Wilbur**  
**Altar Guild—Patsy and Norm Glista**





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

**THE MESSENGER**

Vol. 13, Issue 11

Rev. Anita Mohr, Pastor



*Join Us for Worship*  
*Worship at 10:00am*  
*Jesus and Me (JAM) children's time*  
*Christmas Eve—7pm Family Worship*  
*Christmas Eve—9pm Music Prelude*  
*9:30pm Candlelight Worship*  
*Christmas Day Worship —10am*

*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.*