

# *THE MESSENGER*

## Our Saviour Lutheran Church February 2016

### **From the Pastor:**

*So, we have begun to have conversations about the future of Our Saviour Lutheran Church. What happens next? We have heard dire predictions about our financial situation. It is so easy to get focused on the finances. It is so easy to imagine that what we need to do is figure out how to cut our expenses and increase our income. It is the bottom line. Nothing else matter much besides how we can find ways to get enough money to survive.*

*It is interesting to consider stories of survival - people who have been in very tenuous situations. Have you heard stories of people who are in dangerous situations? They tend to go something like this. I was afraid that I would die. I believed that I did not have a chance to get out of where I was. Then, I remembered my children, or my spouse, or the important work that I have been doing and I knew that I could not give up. We hear about the heroic things people do to survive—but beyond all of it is the motivation to survive. Why does Our Saviour need to survive? What is it that we have to give to the world? What is God doing at Our Saviour that is so important that God will work with us so that we survive?*

*As important as it is for Our Saviour to consider its finances and we are considering finances. More people are now involved in finding ways to save money and paying attention to our financial situation. Our first conversation was amazingly lively! All kinds of ideas were shared. Copies of those ideas are printed if you want to hear what some of them are. Mary Tollerton has already found ways to cut our telephone and Internet bill nearly in half. She is also working comparisons to our copier expenses. Linda Arntsen is making a bulletin each week that is intended for people who love to look things up in their hymnals - so that we save paper. We are forming a Finance Committee to keep track of where we are financially. We have more people using our building and donating money to us for the use. All of these are good ways for us to save money and increase our income.*

*In January of 2017, Our Saviour will be 50 years old. We are thinking that further conversations will be called 50/50 conversations. They are meant to celebrate who we have been for 50 years and imagine what we will be for the next 50 years. They are meant for us to consider what we still have to do on this corner of Genesee St. And Burrstone Road. They are meant for us to wonder together about why we might want to go through the pain of getting out of this situation so that we can go on.*

*On February 15 at 7 p.m., we are going to have a Phonathon Party. They idea is that we will each bring our cell phones to church and a snack to share. We will make telephone calls for one hour. You, who receive this newsletter are people who have told us your email address or told us you would like to receive this newsletter by regular mail or pick it up in church. Well, we have sent this newsletter to 300 people in past. This is another way we are saving money. We have been printing nearly 3000 copies a month and mailing them. We are no longer doing this. We have not heard from all of the people we have mailed newsletters to. So, we are going to call as many of them as we can. One thing God has been doing among us is calling us together - calling us Body of Christ together. We need to remember who we are. I believe that God has important work to do at Our Saviour. I believe that God will support our efforts to survive. It will certainly take all of us working to together - all the time remembering that God has work for us to do.*

**Pastor Anita**

## THE MESSENGER

Published monthly by:  
Our Saviour Lutheran Church  
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Utica, New York 13502  
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Email: [oslc-utica@verizon.net](mailto:oslc-utica@verizon.net)  
Circulation: 200  
Editor: Linda Arntsen  
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**REMINDER—please mark your calendars.**  
**The deadline for the March 2016 issue of**  
**The Messenger is February 15, 2016.**

**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

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Email: [pastor-oslc@verizon.net](mailto:pastor-oslc@verizon.net)

**Church Office Secretary** ..... Linda Arntsen

**Organist/Music Director** ..... Richard Bostik

### **Council Members**

Pam Donovan, Council President. .... 736-8042

Dave Wilbur, Secretary. .... 725-0835

Liz Douglass ..... 733-9240

Dale Klingensmith ..... 737-8382

Youth Group Member ..... Rotates

Sandy Lenahan, Vice President. .... 859-0747

Seymour Morris, Treasurer. .... 580-2305

Erma Gaspa ..... 327-8861

Dave Dudajek ..... 736-8685

**Coffee Hour Coordinator** ..... Barbara Magnusson

**Hope House Coordinator** ..... Jan Dudajek

**Altar Guild** ..... Gerry Presser

**JAM Coordinator** ..... Pam Donovan

**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.

## Message from the Council President—

It seems that there is a fear of death at Our Saviour, not personal death but death of our church. Though we are having significant financial difficulties, we are not dying!! Even if drastic changes need to be made, we will continue to be a living Part of the Body of Christ.

As you know, members of the congregation met on January 31<sup>st</sup> and will meet again on February 21<sup>st</sup> and March 13<sup>th</sup>. We are already taking some steps forward: researching phone, internet and copier expenses and options and gaining information regarding the value of our property. We have scheduled a phon-a-thon gathering to reach out to members and friends who we haven't seen in a while. Many other suggestions were made that will be taken into serious consideration. We are alive!

At the last Congregation Council meeting, we approved use of the building requests from a gamblers anonymous group and from a youth basketball group. We are still waiting to hear about the grant from NY State that might fund a program for youth in recovery from substance abuse that has been proposed for our building. We are alive and helping others to live also!

We will be celebrating ministries of Our Saviour each week during announcements. We want to make sure that everyone knows what we are doing. We are LIVING, LIVING the Life that CHRIST wants for US!!

Pam Donovan, Council President



## Hope House Notes ...

One of the church's outreach programs is Hope House. Presently, we serve the dinner meal on the first Monday of each month. This requires 3—4 people to be at Hoe House from approximately 3:15pm to 5:30pm to help set up the dinner, serve and then help clean up.

Eventually, I would like to see our church take a more active role by possible cooking a meal and/or serving more often. This, however, means that we need more helping hands.

Thank you to Barb Magnusson, Jim Lenahan and Pastor Anita for covering the first Monday on January 4th . February coverage will be provided by Jan and Dave Dudajek, their friends, Bev and Ken Mangine, and Barb Magnusson.

If interested in helping with this very worthy outreach, please contact Jan Dudajek at 736-8685 or the church office at 732-0134.

God Bless You All,  
Jan Dudajek

## Stewardship - Finance

### Financial Notes:

Paul Douglass has hung up his calculator and retired as the Treasurer effective on the past December 31st. We thank him for his many years of dedicated service to Our Saviour. In his place we welcome Seymour Morris as our new Treasurer. Seymour has been very busy getting the tax statements and payroll ready for our employees and getting the bookkeeping in ship shape. A big thanks also to Seymour for his willingness to step into this difficult job, especially in our challenging financial times.

### Financial Report for December 2015:

Income Received: \$19,101.70

Expenses: \$25,500.43

### End of Year Report for 2015:

Income Received Year 2015: \$137,292

Expenses Year 2015: \$156,660

### To update the

### Stewardship Drive for 2016

We received 44 pledges for a total of \$79,963 this year.

In 2015 we had 45 pledges for a total of \$80,208.

The amount actually given toward the pledges for 2015 was \$80,681, \$473 over the pledged amount.





# Congregation Notes

## *Jesus and Me (JAM TIME)*



All Children are invited to join Pam Donovan, our February *Jesus and Me* teacher, during JAM time after the Children's sermon.

### **MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY**

Monday Feb 8 at 7PM

- EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Monday Feb 15 at 7PM

- WORSHIP & MUSIC

Thursday Feb 18 at 7PM

- CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Sunday Feb 21 at 11:15AM

- 50/50 FUTURES PLANNING  
MEETING

***Thank you from Chris Needham:***

***My Sister, Vikki Thiem, loved Our Saviour Church and its members. It's easy to see why given the care and consideration given to our family during this difficult time.***

***Thank you so much for the touching funeral service and luncheon afterwards—it was comforting to meet with so many friends and family.***

***Always,  
Chris Needham***

### **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.





## **Phonathon**

If you are reading this newsletter, you have let us know how you prefer to receive it. For three months we asked the readers of this newsletter to let us know if they wished to receive it by email or regular mail or if they would just pick it up at church. We heard from all of you who are now reading this. Some of your brothers and sisters did not respond. We are wondering what they are thinking. We could easily assume that they do not care about the newsletter – but we all know that careful reading of everything that comes in the mail does not always happen.

So we are going to have a party. The plan is for people who have cell phone minutes to share to come to church on Monday, February 15 from 7-8 p.m. We are going to make as many calls as we can. We are going to bring snacks along with us to share. This is also a way for us to be in touch with some people we have not seen in awhile. It is not intended to be high-pressure stuff – just we are wondering if you still want to get the newsletter and “How are you?”

## **Lent Worship Schedule**

**It is nearly Lent! Can you believe it! This is what we are planning.  
We have invited the people from Zion, New Hartford to participate with us.**

**February 10, Ash Wednesday Worship - 2 & 7 pm**

**February 16, 23, March 1, 8, 15 – Potluck Dinner at 6 and Worship at 7.**

**We will be looking at the Passion Narrative – the story of the last days of Jesus  
from the Gospel of Luke We will use Holden Evening Prayer for our liturgy.**

**March 20 – Palm Sunday worship 10 am**

**March 24 – Maundy Thursday worship at 2 & 7 pm**

**March 25 – Good Friday worship at 2 & 7 pm**

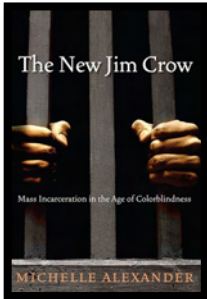
**March 27 – Festival Easter Worship 10 am.**

**It is good to be together and find ways together to turn toward  
the God who has chosen to love us.**





## Upstate New York Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



**All Synod Book Read** - As part of the suggestions from the synod's Racial Justice Task Force that the Synod Council adopted in September 2015, an all-Synod book read was recommended that would address some aspect of the racial justice topic. ***The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*** by Michelle Alexander is the book that was chosen. We hope that as many individuals, congregations, conferences across the Synod will take time to read this book, the Study Guide and Call to Action that accompany the book and to participate in opportunities for book group discussions. It ties in with our 2016 Synod Assembly theme, *In Christ One New*

*Humanity* as well. As part of carrying on the work of Christ in tearing down the barriers that separate us as people of God, and removing the hostility that is between us, through the cross of Christ and the love poured out there, we hope you will join us in this important work of living into the kingdom of God.

### Bishop's Convocation

In an ever-changing world, how do we continue to offer the *Means of Grace*, inviting all into these as gifts and not legalistic prescriptions to our faith?

How do we as church leaders offer the *Means of Grace*, but also receive the *Means of Grace*? How do these gifts of grace help shape our liturgy and our own lives of study and prayer?

What are the biggest challenges facing worship today and pastoral care?

The Rev. Kevin Strickland, Executive for Worship/Assistant to the Presiding Bishop will be with us to lead us in learning and conversation around the Means of Grace. Some of the conversation will focus on the questions listed above while others may direct us toward conversations around the issue of lay presidency and best practices regarding the preaching, teaching and sacramental life of the church.

We will gather at St. Michael's in Camillus on Saturday, March 12. Registration will begin at 9:30 with the morning session starting at 10:00 am. Cost is \$10, lunch is included. All are invited to attend. This is for lay leaders as well as rostered leaders so that together we may learn and grow and strengthen the witness of the church in this place.





# ELCA Across the World



## ***ELCA presiding bishop visits Syrian refugees in Jordan 12/21/2015***

CHICAGO (ELCA) –The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), met with Syrian refugees living in the Za’atari refugee camp during a Dec. 12-15 trip to Jordan.

Eaton, who was joined by Archbishop Antje Jackelen of the Church of Sweden and Gloria Rojas Vargas, former church president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile, visited the camp’s Peace Oasis, a compound operated by The Lutheran World Federation (LWF). While there, the church leaders talked with refugee families, listening to their stories about life in the camp. Many families are facing their fifth winter being displaced from their homes.

“The Syrian refugees are incredibly resilient,” said Eaton. “We met a family where the father lost two of his sons in the Syrian war. He had worked 30 years to have his own farm and lost it all. A young girl was showing me images of burned bodies on her cellphone. And yet the parents are doing everything to keep their children engaged and out of trouble. Some have painted their houses, trying to bring some beauty to such a stark place. It’s incredible.”

According to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, nearly 80,000 Syrian refugees are housed at Za’atari refugee camp. At the Peace Oasis, LWF offers psychosocial support to the refugees through workshops, training, music and crafts. LWF is a global communion of 145 churches in the Lutheran tradition, representing over 72 million Christians in 98 countries. The ELCA is the communion’s only member church from the United States.

“The suffering of the people in Syria is real,” said Eaton. “Bombs are falling on these people who just want to live their lives.”

The church leaders also met with Jordan’s prime minister, Abdullah Ensour, and several members of the Jordanian cabinet.

In their conversation, Ensour spoke of how important Christians are to Jordanian society. “God would not consider me a good Muslim if I didn’t love Christ,” he said.

Stressing the need for help from the Christian community in dealing with the influx of refugees, Ensour said of the 7 million people living in Jordan, 1.5 million are refugees and only 600,000 of those are registered.

“We believe that the cross of life is where there is suffering,” said Eaton. “It certainly is in that camp in Jordan, and it’s our calling in God’s world to alleviate these people’s suffering.”



# February 2016 Serving in Worship

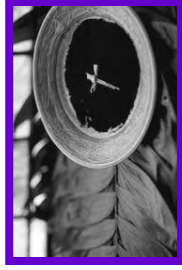
	February 7 Transfiguration	February 10 Ash Wednesday 2 pm & 7pm	February 14 Lent 1	February 21 Lent 2	February 28 Lent 3	March 6 Lent 4
<b>Greeters</b>	Willie Bach Katherine David	2pm—NA 7pm - Bev & Lou Lombard	Mary Ellen Riemenschneider Barb Magnusson	Pam Donovan Bev Lombard	Jim & Sandy Lenahan	Liz & Paul Douglass
<b>Acolytes</b>	Michael Robles	2pm-none 7pm—Joey Abraham	Jason Passolt	Anthony Robles	Joey Abraham	Michael Robles
<b>Worship Assistant</b>	Liz Douglass	2pm - 7pm-Patsy Glista	NA	Peter French	NA	Barbara Godbey-Miller
<b>Lector / Reader</b>	Scott Douglass	2pm— 7pm-Sandy Lenahan	Mary Tollerton	Barbara Magnusson	Betty Gallup	Pam Donovan
<b>Coffee Hosts</b>	Judy Sica Susan Morris	NA	Sandy Lenahan Mary Ellen Riemenschneider	Priscilla Dygert Jan Dudajek	Willie Bach	Charlotte Williams Barb Magnusson





**Ushers**—Betty Gallup, Willie Bach, Bev Lombard & Linda Roser

**Altar Guild**—Pam Donovan & Beverly Smith

JAM Time Leader—Pam Donovan



# February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Our Saviour at Hope House	2 10am Bible Study	3 Pastor's Sabbath	4	5 Globetrotters in Section 115	6
7 10:00 Traditional Worship Reception of New Members 11:00 Choir Practice	8 7pm Executive Council	9	10 Ash Wednesday Worship at 2pm & 7pm	11	12	13 Pastor's Sabbath
14 10:00 Kairos Worship 11:00 Choir Practice	15 7pm Worship & Music	16 10am Bible Study 6pm Lent Potluck 7pm Lent Worship	17 Pastor's Sabbath	18 7pm Congregation Council	19	20
21 10:00 Traditional Worship 11:00 Choir Practice 11:15 50/50 Futures Planning Meeting	22	23 6pm Lent Potluck 7pm Lent Worship	24 Pastor's Sabbath	25	26	27
28 10:00 Kairos Worship 11:00 Choir Practice	29 Leap Year 					

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

**THE MESSENGER**

Vol. 14, Issue 2



***Join Us for Worship***

***Worship at 10:00am***

***Jesus and Me (JAM) children's  
time***

*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.*