



THE MESSENGER

Our Saviour Lutheran Church April 2016

From the Pastor...

Our Easter Gospel begins by telling us that the women came to the tomb on Easter morning with spices to anoint the dead Jesus' body. They may have heard from Jesus that he would be crucified and rise again on the third day - but it seemed to them that Jesus was dead. Their experience of dead was dead. If they were going to believe in Jesus rising from the grave, they needed evidence. The empty tomb was a sign. The men in dazzling clothes were another.

The first Sunday after Easter the Gospel lesson is always the same reading. Thomas is not with the others when Jesus appears to them. He refuses to believe. He needs to see evidence that Jesus is risen. Jesus shows Thomas his hands and feet. It is a sign - a big one.

We could be critical but the truth is that we are the same. We like evidence. Easter is passed. It is clearly the non-official beginning of Spring. We are eager to see the evidence. I can see the yellow part of my daffodil buds. It looks to me like my grass that was not really covered this winter is beginning to grow. We have slept a couple of nights with our window open just a crack. I have seen flocks of robins. I love this evidence! Something is happening!

I also see evidence of resurrection at Our Saviour. None of these are warm summer days - but they are signs that something new is happening.

- 1) Visitors have come to worship and some have even asked for a transfer.
- 2) First Communion Classes start soon. We are expecting nine children to participate.
- 3) Easter Fun Day! Children learning about resurrection, dyeing Easter eggs, frosting cupcakes, laughing, running, playing.
- 4) Holy Saturday people gathering. Getting communion ready, moving chairs around, arranging flowers, changing lightbulbs, fixing kneelers.
- 5) 50/50 conversations that are lively and are marked by new ideas and people actually willing to do the ideas.
- 6) A church full of people on Easter morning - singing, praying enjoying one another.
- 7) Lenten Worship that was well-attended and appreciated by those who were there - again laughter, again prayer, again the joy of being together.
- 8) Ten people went to support two of our teens in their school play.
- 9) When I say to new AA leaders that we really support what they are doing, they tell me that everyone already knows that.
- 10) Bible Study will begin again this month.

None of these are resurrection, but they are evidence that resurrection is among us. Jesus rose from the dead. It was difficult for those around Jesus to believe. They needed to all kinds of signs before it seemed real to them. We have chosen to believe this amazing story. It is time for us to begin looking around us for signs that God can and will raise us up to new life. It is life that is meant for those who have not seen it yet. It is life that is meant to be hope for the hopeless. It is life that exists so that others might live.

Pastor Anita

THE MESSENGER

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REMINDER—please mark your calendars.

**The deadline for the May 2016 issue of
The Messenger is April 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.

OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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



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 (JAM TIME)

All Children are invited to join Barbara Godbey-Miller, our April ***Jesus and Me*** teacher, during JAM time after the Children's sermon.

Bible Class

Bible Class after worship begins again on April 10. Both classes, the class that is intended for those who are experienced Bible Studiers with Mark Betley and Sandy Lenahan and the class that is intended for new Bible Studiers and Confirmation age with Pastor Anita begin on April 10.

Those we have been a part of Pastor Anita's class ought to have either attended all the Lenten services this year or read Luke 22:1-24:12. We will begin with the end of Jesus' life and go on to the Book of Acts.

Looking forward to seeing you all again.

MEETINGS IN APRIL

Sunday April 3rd at 11:15AM

- 50/50 PLANNING MEETING

Saturday April 9th at 10:30AM

- FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

Monday April 11th at 7PM

- EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Thursday April 21st at 6:30PM

- CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL



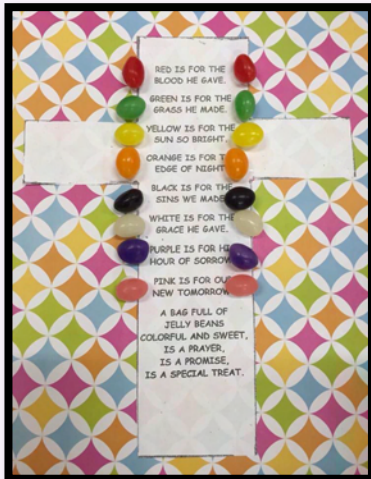
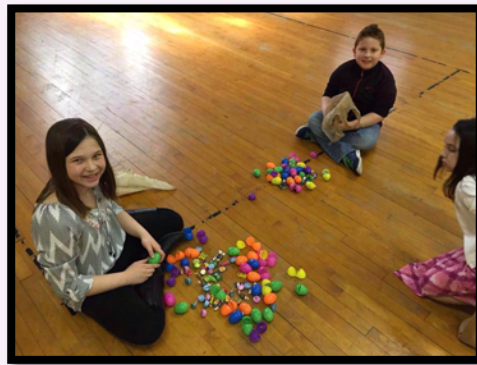
First Communion

First Communion Class is April 9th from 10:30am until 1:00 pm.

This class is designed for children who have been baptized are ready for/thinking about participating in Holy Communion. We begin with parents telling children about Communion – their experiences – what it means to them. We bake bread that will be used for First Communion on April 10th. We practice and taste so that we will be ready on Sunday morning. We spend some time talking about/learning about the many layers of meaning of Holy Communion. We make room for God to work among us. This class is very interactive.

If you know a child who ought to participate in this class please call us at 315-724-0134 or email Pastor Anita at anita.mohr@gmail.com. We are looking forward to this time together!

Easter Fun Day



Easter Fun Day was held March 26th . The children had a great time decorating cupcakes and dying Easter eggs. They made special projects to adorn the church and this creative jelly bean cross. The Easter egg hunt was a fan favorite for many of the children. Many thanks to Karen Russo who served as the Leader for the day, to Pam Donovan as the coordinator and for helpers Mary Ellen Riemenschneider and Pastor Anita.



Fearless Generosity: of Stewardship and Stuff

By Rev. Judith VanOsdol, Director for Evangelical Mission

*"...So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."
Luke 12:21*

Our relationship with money and "stuff" is deeply spiritual. The root of the word miserable is "miser"- one who is unable to give.

The rich man in Jesus' parable of the "rich fool" (Luke 12: 13-21) speaks only to himself. He has no one with whom to share his own thoughts, not even God, showing a real poverty of relationships. His solution to having "too much stuff" was to tear down his barns to build bigger ones, forgetting that all things, including his own life, belong to God. The parable could've ended differently had he prayed: "Hey God, I have a bumper crop this year; do you have any hungry folks around who need some food?"

It is often difficult for us to talk about our anxious and often addictive relationship with money and "stuff." All that we have is God's and as stewards of God's possessions we are called to live out, "embody" fearless generosity. Stewardship is NOT fundraising, but calls us to examine the deeply spiritual aspect of our living and giving, our relationship with God, with one another, with God's mission in the world and, yes, with God's stuff!

We give thanks for generous givers who embody fearless generosity with faith grounded in Christ, pure gift of our extravagantly generous God. (Read the full article in this month's [Lutheran Magazine Synod Insert](#) – page "B".)

This is My Church

It is composed of people like me.

We make it what it is

It will be friendly—if I am.

Its pews will be filled—if I fill them.

It will do great work—if I work.

It will make generous gifts to many causes—if I am a generous giver.

It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship—if I bring them.

It will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, a church with noble spirit—if I am filled with these.

We make it what it is. Therefore with the help of God, I shall dedicate myself to being all the things I want my Church to be.

- Anonymous



Thank you to Norris Ellinwood, Barbara Magnusson and Pastor Anita for working at Hope House during March. Barbara Magnusson and Jim Lenahan will be working in April.

We are looking for volunteers. Our Saviour is responsible for helping serve supper at Hope House on the first Monday of every month beginning at 3:00pm. If you are willing to help let Jan Dudajek know.

Memorial Gifts

<u>Given by:</u>	<u>In Memory of:</u>
Jane Merry	Tom Godbey

April Birthdays

Happy Birthday to all of our members born in April! This is a new column. If the information below is incorrect in any way, either wrong or absent completely, please let the office know so that we can correct our records.

Gabriel Howe	April 4
Arthur Merry	April 5
Christopher Hancock	April 6
Chelsea Abraham	April 9
Steven McNeill	April 9
Jane Merry	April 9
Adrianna Reyes	April 11
Erica Tollerton	April 11
Charlotte Williams	April 11
Erma Gaspa	April 13
Walter Hedderich	April 15
Victoria Brooks	April 16
Olivia D'Aversa	April 17
Morgan Russo	April 18
Marissa Lindfield	April 19
Michala Galanti	April 22
Cheryl Kinch	April 22
Karla Schmook	April 22
Dale Madigan	April 25
Angel Robles	April 26
Sharon Liles	April 27



SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY IS APRIL 30TH

Come on over to church Saturday from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM and pitch in to clean up the church and grounds. We will break for lunch and enjoy pizza and soda. There will be a sign up sheet in the narthex or you can call the office.

Prayer List

This is a new column, an extension of our Sunday prayers. As you pray please remember these people who we have been praying for on Sunday in your daily prayers:

Jen, Jim, Gary, Fred, Frank, Caryn, Paula, Patty, Kari, Mona, Eddie, Jay, Colleen, Sharon, Lucy, Jerry, Lorraine, Shirley, Michelle, Susan, Kristen, Megan, Mary Jo, Lucy, Morgan, Baby Trevor, Baby Gavin, Michaela Galanti, Christina Galanti, Steve Max, Liz Douglass (Shingles), Marsha Cornish-Colp (healing from car accident, and Melinda and Brian Sierson (healing)



Seeds of Hope

Seeds of Hope is operated by four Ministry Partners: First Presbyterian, Utica, New Hartford Presbyterian. Our Saviour Lutheran Church and New Hartford United Methodist.

The Mission Statement of the Pantry is: "Seeking to reflect God's Love, we are an interactive community providing Supplemental nutritional needs, offering hospitality, education and advocacy for our neighbors."

Volunteers are always needed to keep the pantry operating. There are many ways to help. Some volunteers do pick ups at Price Chopper, Panera Bread or The Outback Steakhouse. The Pantry receives "day old" or "that day" food that is frozen in portions. Volunteers help guide clients through the pantry and do the intake paper work. The volunteers are involved with the Steering Committee that meets every four to six weeks.

The Pantry is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. Clients must bring proof of receiving assistance and current mail to show evidence of where they live. They are provided with three days of food according to the size of their family. Clients can receive assistance once a month.

Seeds of Hope has been in operation since 2009. When Our Saviour became part of this Ministry it was with the understanding that our church would commit to an annual benevolence of \$3000 to their budget. Over the last couple of years we have had to withdraw money from our endowments to meet our financial obligations. I would like you to consider a monthly donation to help meet our yearly commitment to Seeds of Hope.

Seeds of Hope is another way that you can support a program that helps people in and around our church. That help can be as a volunteer at the Pantry or by making a financial donation . Help reach out to those who need a helping hand.

Liz Douglass, member of Steering Committee



Annual Garage Sale

to benefit the Your Neighbors program

Friday & Saturday, May 6 & 7, 2016

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Our Saviour Lutheran Church Gymnasium

1640 Genesee Street, Utica

Donations of household items, lawn & garden equipment, furniture in good working condition books, games, etc. are very much appreciated.

Donations can be dropped off at the Church on
Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday, May 2, 3 & 4 **between** 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. **To**
schedule a pick-up, please call 315.235.7149

-- Please, no clothing, luggage, sporting goods, computers or damaged merchandise



Your Neighbors Inc. is an affiliate of the Lutheran Home of Central New York

Easter Lilies Given 2016

Given by

Willie Bach
Paul & Liz Douglass
Katherine David
Helen Dudajek
Betty Gallup
Betty Gallup
Edward Gille
Sally Hedderich
Walter Hedderich
Lombard Family
Lombard Family
Jane Merry
Anita Mohr & Mark Betley
Seymour & Susan Morris
Gerry & Paul Presser
Ready Family
Kenneth, Jr & Sharon Schmidt
Kenneth, Jr & Sharon Schmidt
Stanek & Carrier Families
John Steinhorst
John Steinhorst
Clare Thiem
Clare Thiem
Cindy Wheeler
David & Karen Wilbur
Paul & Charlotte Williams
Paul & Charlotte Williams

Given by

Kenneth, Jr & Sharon Schmidt
Clare Thiem

Given by

Katherine David
Scott & Pam Donovan
Gerry & Paul Presser
Ed & Mary Riemenschneider
Kenneth, Jr & Sharon Schmidt

Clare Thiem

David & Karen Wilbur
Paul & Charlotte Williams
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In Memory of

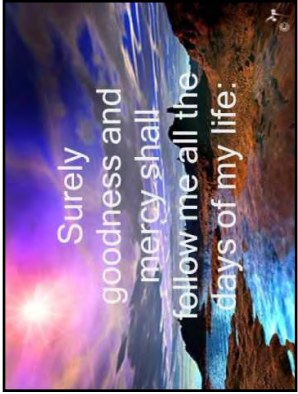
My Loved Ones
Donald Appleton & Eleanor Koenig
Loved Ones
Susan Dudajek
Gerald H. Gallup
Kenneth A. Gallup
Beatrice Gille
Winn & Sarah Zehring
Ray & Doris Hedderich
My sister Carolyne Moore
Our Parents
Mel Merry
Arthur & Dorothy Mohr and Barbara Betley
Gladys Morris
Our Departed Members
Loved Ones
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Schmidt, Sr
Mr. & Mrs. William A. Cole
Loved Ones
Betty Steinhorst
Donna Devaney
Vikki Thiem
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Grandpa Dave
Our Parents: Otto & Ida Brucker
Our Parents: Paul V. & Elsie Williams

In Honor of

Our Children: Kelly, Kenneth III, Karen & Kyle
Loved Ones

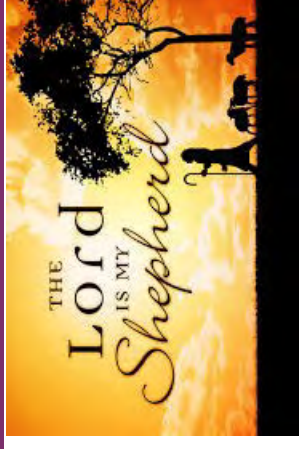
In Thanksgiving for

My Family
All that we have
Our Blessings
Our grandchildren: Elise, Luke & Emma
Grandchildren: Noah, Laurel, Avery, Kayleigh,
Keegan & Oakley
Our Saviour Lutheran Church and its members
Our children
Karen Williams & Lawrence Baumgartner
Paul & Amy Williams
Our grandchildren: Rebecca & Charles Williams &
Kathryn Baumgartner

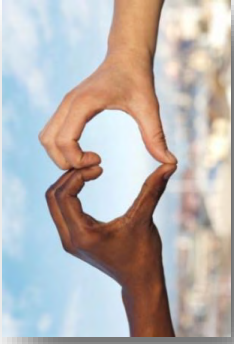


April 2016 Serving in Worship

	April 3 Easter 2	April 10 Easter 3	April 17 Easter 4	April 24 Easter 5	May 1 Easter 6
Greeters	Jim & Sandy Lenahan	Norris Ellinwood Willie Bach	Pam & Scott Donovan	Mary Ellen Riemenschneider Barb Magnusson	Liz & Paul Douglass
Acolytes	Michael Robles	JT Passolt	Anthony Robles	Joey Abraham	Michael Robles
Worship Assistant	Barbara Godbey-Miller	NA	Patsy Glista	NA	Peter French
Lector / Reader	Mary Tollerton	NA	Betty Gallup	NA	Pam Donovan
Coffee Hosts	Garry Brombacher	Bev & Lou Lombard	Linda Roser & John Adasek	Judy Sica & Susan Morris	Sandy Lenahan & Mary Ellen Riemenschneider



Ushers—Scott Donovan, Jim Lenahan, Lou Lombard, Dennis Ready
Altar Guild—Barbara Godbey-Miller & Judy Petroski
JAM Time Leader—Barbara Godbey-Miller



April 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 OCLW Spring Dance 3-11pm
3 10:00 Traditional Worship 11:00 Choir Practice 11:15 50/50 Meeting	4 Our Saviour at Hope House 3pm	5 10am Bible Study	6 Pastor's Sabbath	7	8	9 First Communion Class 10:30am—12pm NA Dance in the GYM 3—11pm
10 10:00 Kairos Worship 11:00 Choir Practice 11:15 Bible Study	11 7pm Executive Council	12	13 Pastor's Sabbath	14	15	16
17 10:00 Traditional Worship 11:00 Choir Practice 11:15 Bible Study	18	19 10am Bible Study	20 Pastor's Sabbath	21 7pm Congregation Council	22	23
24 10:00 Kairos Worship 11:00 Choir Practice 11:15 Bible Study	25	26	27 Pastor's Sabbath	28	29	30 Spring Clean-up 10am—4pm

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

THE MESSENGER

Vol. 14, Issue 4



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.*