

THE MESSENGER



Our Saviour Lutheran Church Newsletter

December 2017

From the Pastor

Advent began this Sunday. You have to love Advent! Children lighting the Advent wreath in the midst of the darkest days of the year, pulling down an Advent candle in our windows, just being their adorable selves. You have to love all of that. Advent is all about getting ready. It is about getting ready for Jesus to come.

So, here are some of the ways that Our Saviour gets ready for Jesus to come this month:

December 5, 12, 19: We have Advent potluck and worship. This is traditional potluck time. It is time to gather and eat together and laugh together. It is time to be together for worship and prayer. It is time to remember that Jesus comes in the quiet times, in the times when we take time to sign and pray with one another. This year we will spend some time with Mary's wonderful words of the Magnificat.

December 10: We have a Budget Meeting. We will talk about the ways that we spend money at Our Saviour. We will look at the numbers. You should have gotten another email with budget figures this week. The numbers are important. They help us to know where we are. They are also important because they are signs of how we are looking for Jesus. What do we expect Jesus to do at Our Saviour in the coming year? How do the numbers reflect the presence of Jesus among us? Let's talk about that on Sunday.

Then, we will decorate the building for Christmas. We need all kinds of help for this. It is fun working together time. We will take a break for pizza and conversation. When we leave the building, it will be festive. It will remind us that Jesus is coming.

December 17: The Robles twins wish to be confirmed. If you want to look for Jesus' coming this Advent, look there. Look at how Jesus has been active in these young lives. Look for the ways you see Anthony and Michael acting the ways of the Jesus in the world. Look at the ways that they have been formed by this congregation to be signs of Jesus' coming in our midst.

December 24: Yeah, it is Christmas Eve. It is also the Fourth Sunday in Advent. So, Sunday morning will be Advent worship. Then Sunday evening will be Christmas Eve Worship. We know that Jesus comes among us at Christmas. We put the baby Jesus in the manger. We see the face of Jesus in one another. Jesus comes to be with us in bread and wine. Jesus comes to be with us in the love and care of one another. Jesus comes among us in the trumpet, the choir, the carols we sing. Jesus comes among us in the wonderful words of Christmas Gospel.

Jesus is coming!

Pastor Anita

At the portal



John Friedel
Erica Tollerton

thank you

11/30/17

Dear Pastor Laura and The
People of Our Saviour's,

The memory of the 60th Anniversary
remains sweet. What a fabulous
time we had! It was so good to
reconnect with at least some of the
people who were so much a part of
our lives in the mid 70's.

Thanks to you and the committee
for a wonderful banquet and a
memorable service. Blessings To All,
Ed + Janet Larson



December Birthdays

Happy Birthday to all of our members born in December!
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.

David Dudajek	Dec 6
Judith Petroski	Dec 6
Sandra Maggi	Dec 11
Lavon Rechsteiner	Dec 14
Sandy Lenahan	Dec 24
Bev Lombard	Dec 25

Prayer List

As you pray, please
remember these people who we have been
praying for on Sunday in your daily prayers:

Baby Gavin, Kari, Gwen, Nate, Lorraine, Eddie, Janie,
Bonnie, Steven, Kristen, Bea, Judy, Sharon, Dennis, Paul, Jr,
Lily Ann, Marilyn, Bea, Jane M, Judith, Owen,
Evelyn, Antonio, Sabrina, Tony,
Charlotte Lee, Harold, Cheryl, Stephanie, Mike, Emily, Katie,
Joe, Paul and John



Liz and Pam helping to make tied blankets at the Women of the ELCA Biennial Convention at Hotel Utica.



LCM/ STEP Center December News:

It has been a wonderful semester of renewal and nurture and preparing for the future.

THANK YOU FOR THE GIFTS YOU HAVE GIVEN OUR GOSPEL MISSION ON CAMPUS!

Our STEP Center service learning outreach programs for Refugees has been GIFTED by volunteer teachers and childcare providers, food, clothes, Scholastic books, transportation and support for our college student volunteers from St. Stephens, Good Shepherd, Atonement, Luther Memorial & St. Peters, churches.

A significant GIFT to move us into the future is: The Central New York Refugee Ministry Committee formed this year*

LCM STEP is GIFTED to be welcomed as contributors to the exciting growth of Appleseed Ministry's Community Dinner at Atonement Lutheran.

The GIFT of the Rev. Brian Konkol, ELCA, as the new Dean of Hendricks Chapel.

THE GIFT OF YOUR PRESENCE and/or PRAYERS in the Mission of LCM!

Your donations are GIFTS that sustain our ministry of WORD and SACRAMENT with students who are searching for God as they are choosing their path in life.

* We are looking for representatives from each congregation in Central Crossroads conference. Our next meeting is Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2:30 pm to 4 pm.



Children and SU student volunteers at the Learning to Read, Families Together, STEP Center Program



Some Lutheran supporters at Dean Konkol's installation reception.

DECEMBER 2017

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 2

Advent Potluck and services

Dinner 6 pm/ services to follow in Keller room Dec

3 10 am service
11:15am Bible study and choir practice

4 Survivors Group 10 am
Nurses Group 4:30pm

5 Primary Purpose 12 noon
Nurses Group 4:30pm

6 7 Primary Purpose 12 noon
Big Book Group 6:30 pm

8 9 10 am Worship and music committee meeting

10 10 am service
After services: Annual Meeting and Christmas decorating

11 Survivors Group 10 am
noon Nurses Group \$4.4:30pm-Advent Potluck

12 Primary Purpose 12 noon
Nurses Group

13 14 Primary Purpose 12 noon
Big Book Group 6:30 pm

17 10 am service
11:15am Bible study and choir practice

18 Survivors Group 10 am
Primary Purpose 12 noon
Nurses Group 4:30pm

19 Bible Study 10am
Primary Purpose 12 noon
Big Book Group 6:30 pm

20 21 Primary Purpose 12 noon
Big Book Group 6:30 pm

24 10 am service
Services 7 /9 pm preserve music; 9:30 services

25 9 Am Breakfast
10am Service

26 Primary Purpose 12 noon
Nurses Group 4:30pm

27 28 Primary Purpose 12 noon
Big Book Group 6:30 pm

31 10 am service
11:15am Bible study and choir practice

Everyday: All R Welcome
6:30 pm

M-W-F: Basketball 7:30

	Dec 3	Dec 10	Dec 17	Dec 24 10 am	Dec 24 7 pm	Dec 24 9 pm	Dec 31
Greeters	Ed and Barbara Dolan	Scott and Pam Donovan	Willie Bach and Mary Ellen Riemenschneider	Jim and Sandy Lenahan	Dave and Karen Wilbur Ushering and Greeting		Katherine David and Norris Elinwood
Acolytes	Joey Abraham	Anthony Robles	Michael Robles	Gavyn Burgdoff	Joey Abraham	Anthony Robles	Michael Robles
Worship Assistants	Barbara Godbey Miller	N/A	Clare Thiem		Barbara Godbey Miller	Barbara Godbey Miller	Clare Thiem
Lector/Reader	Betty Gallup	N/A	Scott Donovan	N/A	Barbara Magnusson		Pam Donovan
Coffee Hosts	Charlotte Williams and Barbara Magnusson	Pam Donovan and Beverly Smith	Willie Bach				

Jam Leader: Liz Douglass Alter Guild: Gerry and Paul Presser Ushers: Scott Donovan, Dennis Ready, Jim Lenahan

Oneida County Office for Aging and Continued Care has reached out to both Zion and Our Saviour Lutheran churches to help a family in need. I've reached out to my contact for more specific information related to if the family needs specifically winter clothing and boots but have not heard yet.

We will be accepting cash donations for purchasing items or you can sign up in the narthex for a specific item if you'd like. All items should be returned to church by December 17th.

The family lost everything in a fire earlier in the year and need of the following items:

Kitchen items – items do not need to be new but should be in good condition

- Flatware
- Pots and pans
- Drinking glasses

Towels – new towels only please

Sleeping items

- Twin bed in a bag – 12 year old boy
- Twin bed in a bag – 15 year old girl
- Full bed in a bag – parents

Personal hygiene

- Washcloths
- Bath towels

Clothing – doesn't need to be new but should be in good shape

- Father – 45 years old – size XL-2XL BOYS

 - Shoes size 9 – dad needs these

 - Clothing

- Mother – 40 years old – size woman's small

- Girl – 15 years old – size woman's extra small

- Boy – 12 years old – XL-2XL BOYS

Non-essentials but fun to have

- Boy likes electronic games – I've asked for more specifics are they hand held or other

- Girl likes make-up – new makeup only

For more information please contact Pastor Anita or Barb Godbey-Miller (315) 269-7032

God Bless you for your generosity!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES--SEEDS OF HOPE FOOD PANTRY—

1. GUIDING and/or COORDINATING NUMBERS AND BREAD TABLE ON PANTRY DAYS:
We are open Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 except for Thanksgiving week and on days that the Utica schools are closed due to weather. We need 4 to 6 people on each pantry day for 2.5 to 3 hours. Interested people should give their contact information to The Coordinator of Volunteers (Sonya Linakis) or to a coordinator in their home church (if your church does it that way). Assignments are made as needed or on a rotating basis. Need to arrive by 9:20 AM in time to get the guiding information you'll needed for consistent operation that day.
2. CLIENT CHECK IN ON PANTRY DAYS: Same general 2.5 to 3 hour requirements as above but these people perform the entry interview of each Head of Household who visits that day. This requires a good and friendly spirit and the asking of specific questioning and noting of the answers given. Volunteers are coordinated the same as above and we prefer to have at least 3 people registering each pantry day.
3. STOCKERS & CLIENT HELPERS ON PANTRY DAYS : Two or three people are needed to oversee the supply of food on the serving shelves and to help load clients' cars or carts as they exit. These folks also need to be ready to clean up spills and to provide help where needed.
4. TRUCK UNLOADERS ON ALTERNATE MONDAYS: FBCNY trucks deliver food orders on (roughly) alternate Mondays at a time between 8:00 AM and 3:00 PM. We usually get our scheduled time the prior Friday or Saturday and call you. We need between 4 and 6 helpers each time depending upon the size of the delivery. The volunteers are coordinated by the Coordinator of Purchasing (Bill Wescott).
5. OUTBACK STEAKHOUSE COLLECTOR ON MONDAYS: Pick up surplus frozen food at the New Hartford store between about 11:15 AM each Monday and brings it to the pantry for storage in our freezers. Logistics of getting into the church and the pantry need to be arranged EACH TIME. An electronic report on the amount received needs to be filed within a day or two. (Bill Wescott and Bill Pfeiffer can do this.)
6. PANERA BREAD COLLECTIO ON TUESDAY NIGHT & WEDNESDAY AM: One or two people pick up surplus baked goods from the New Hartford store at 10 PM EACH TUESDAY NIGHT and takes it home, leaving it in the car. The product is delivered to Seeds of Hope about 9 AM on Wednesday for repackaging (with additional helpers) for Thursday's Pantry Day. It is a big help (but not vital) for the person(s) picking up can also help repackage the goods. This takes from 1 to 2 hours on Wednesday morning...many hands make light work.
7. PRICE CHOPPER BAKED GOODS COLLECTOR: These people picks up surplus baked goods from the Price Chopper in North Utica on Monday and Wednesday mornings by 9:15 AM and delivers this food to Seeds of Hope as soon as possible. A form is signed at Price Chopper each day. Logistics of getting into the church and pantry need to be arranged EACH TIME.
8. PRICE CHOPPER FROZEN MEAT and DAIRY/DELI SURPLUS COLLECTORS ON MONDAY AND FRIDAY: Coordinated by FBCNY through FEDING AMERICA, two or three people pick up this food at 9:30 AM each Monday and Friday at the nearby Price Chopper on Genesee St. and deliver it immediately to Seeds of Hope. The food is weighed, placed in our freezers and refrigerators, and a form is filled out and faxed to FBCNY.



St. Peter's Lutheran Church

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November 27, 2017

The Rev. Anita Mohr
Our Saviour Lutheran Church
1640 Genesee Street
Utica, NY 13502

To Pastor Anita and the people of Our Saviour:

On behalf of your sister congregation, St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Verona, let me wish you hearty congratulations on fifty years together as Our Saviour Lutheran Church. I am sure your marking of this major milestone has been not only a joyful celebration of the past, but has continued to propel you into mission.

I and my husband, the Rev. Jeff Kane, were honored to come and celebrate with you at your banquet on Saturday, November 18. Thank you for your hospitality and for sharing this special occasion with us! When another member of the body of Christ is celebrating, we rejoice as well.

May God continue to bless your congregation as we move forward into the future!

In Christ,

The Rev. Katie Yahn

The Rev. Katie Yahn
St. Peter's Lutheran Church

Memories from 50th anniversary Dinner Celebration













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315-580-2305

Dave Dudajek
315-736-8685

Coffee Hour Coordinator: Barbara Magnusson

Hope House Coordinator: Jan Dudajek

Altar Guild Coordinator: Gerry Presser

JAM Coordinator: Pam Donovan

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Reminder—
Please mark your calendars.

The deadline for the October
2017 issue of **THE MESSENGER** is
September 23, 2017

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 or
emailed to: oslc-utica@verizon.net
The Editor reserves the right to edit

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.

Healthy Relationships Group Meetings which provide a place for people who are HIV positive to network and learn about the latest trends in treatment are held at our church sponsored by St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

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.



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.*