

THE MESSENGER



Our Saviour Lutheran Church Newsletter

April/May 2018

From the Pastor

We are getting close. It is almost Easter. I love Easter! I love the trumpets. I love the choir singing! I love Easter Fun Day. I love Easter Dresses. I love Easter lilies. I love seeing people we have not seen for a bit. I love to sing Alleluias until my throat hurts. It is permission to make all things new.

It is way more than Spring is finally here. It is way more than daffodils, blooming and green grass pushing its way through the brown. It is "all things new".

Easter is the amazing result of Holy Week. We will wave our Palms and sing on Palm Sunday and then we will make a quick turn. Thursday we will remember Jesus eating one last time with those that he loved. Foot washing and a reminder to love one another as Jesus loved them and bread given away "This is my body." Right there it is Holy. No one does that. No one says "Here take this. I am giving up my body."

Friday is filled with death. The political authorities are in charge. They have soldiers to do their dirty work. The religious authorities can make enough noise to get rid of Jesus to make sure he dies. It is Holy Friday. It is an amazing Holy thing that Jesus does forgiving. The struggle for that one last breath before he dies. It is Holy. It is and has been the end of every human - one last breath and then...

Then comes Easter. It is way more than Spring is finally here. Death is no longer the end. It is the beginning. All that seemed so powerful just three days ago, have no authority over resurrection. Resurrection changes everything.

Resurrection changes "me first" into I will love my neighbor first.

Resurrection changes everything is dying into Life comes from death.

Resurrection changes "I have to hang on to everything - my money, my free-time, my need for chocolate, my family, my lifestyle, my drug habit, my job, my house, the power I have at work into "all things are new."

Resurrection changes us. It is Holy. It is the work of God. Jesus did not raise from the dead because he tried so hard to be new. Jesus rose from the dead because God raised him. I love Easter because I love new! I love the possibilities of life.

We will sing together. We will celebrate - because "God makes all things new."

Pastor Anita

April/May Helpers

	April 7th	April 14 th Palm Sunday	April 18th Maundy Thursday	April 19th Good Friday	April 21st Easter Sunday	April 28th	May 5th	May 12th
Greeters	Barbara Dolan and Willie Bach	Barbara Mag- nusson and Liz Douglass			Willie Bach and Mary Ellen Riemenschnei- der	Pam and Scott Do- novan	Jim and Sandy Lenahan	Bev and Lou Lombard
Acolytes	Gavyn Burgdoff	Robbie Dygert			Anthony Ro- bles	Mia Russo	Gavyn Burgdoff	Robbie Dygert
Worship As- sistant	Clare Thiem	N/A	N/A	N/A	Michael Ro- bles	N/A	Liz Douglass	N/A
Lector	Barbara Mag- nusson	N/A	N/A	N/A	Sandy Lena- han	N/A	Barbara Mag- nusson	N/A
Coffee Hosts	Ken and Jen- nifer McCullough	Pam Donovan and Beverly Smith	N/A	N/A	Easter break- fast John Leech	Bev and Lou Lombard		

Holy Week



Holy Week Schedule

April 14, 2019 10 am

Palm Sunday

April 18, 2019 2pm and 7 pm

Maundy Thursday

April 19, 2019 2 pm and 7 pm

Good Friday

April 20, 2019 10:30 am

Easter Fun Day

April 21, 2019 10 am

Easter Sunday

Meetings for April/May

April 17, 2019 6 pm Council Meeting

May 15, 2019 6 pm Council Meeting

May 18, 2019 Spring Clean up Day



April and May Birthdays

Happy Birthday to all of our members born in April and May! 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.

Arthur Merry	4/5
Jane Merry	4/9
Jess Burgdoff	4/9
Charlotte Williams	4/11
Erma Gaspa	4/13
Kathleen Beiswenger	4/14
Walter Hedderich	4/15
Morgan Russo	4/18
Lila Burgdoff	4/19
Nixon Dudajek-Bush	4/20
Angel Robles	4/26
Beverly Smith	4/30
Jim Lenahan	5/9
Christopher Max	5/14
Stasia Aplox	5/20
John Adasek	5/23
Jim Adasek	5/23
Jan Dudajek	5/23

Prayer List

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

Baby Gavin,, Baby Leah, Baby Kia, Baby Finley, Baby Ella,
Gwen, Nate, Lorraine, Rick, Thomas, Bill, Mime, David, Carole,
Billy, Maryanne, Dennis, Tony, Larry, Debbie, Phil, Fran, Ruth-
ie, Nancy, People in Recovery, Bettie, Linda, Charlotte Lee, Lit-
tle Michael, David Jr, Joe, Beverly, Lou, Art ,Lorraine, Ruth



April 2019

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1 10am Survivor's group	2 4:30 pm Nurses Group 7 pm UCC services	3 5 pm HA group 6 pm Lenten Meal 7pm Lenten Worship	4 5 pm HA group	5 3 pm MUCC volley- ball 7:45 pm Prayers around the cross	6
7 10 am Ser- vice 11:15 Lutheran for adults 2pm UCC services	8 10am Survivor's group	9 4:30 pm Nurses Group 7 pm UCC services	10 5 pm HA group 6 pm Lenten Meal 7pm Lenten Worship	11 5 pm HA group	12 3 pm MUCC volley- ball 7:45 pm Prayers around the	13
14 Palm Sunday 10 am Service 2pm UCC ser- vices	15 10am Survivor's group	16 4:30 pm Nurses Group 7 pm UCC services	17 5 pm HA group 6 pm Council Meeting	18 5 pm HA 2 pm and 7 pm Maundy Thursday Ser- vice	<i>19</i> 2 pm and 7 pm Good Fri- day Services 3 pm MUCC volleyball	20 10:30 3m Easter Fun Day
21 8:30 am Easter Brunch 10 am Service 2pm UCC services	22 10am Survivor's group	23 4:30 pm Nurses Group 7 pm UCC services	24 5 pm HA group	25 5 pm HA group	26 3 pm MUCC volley- ball 7:45 pm Prayers around the	27 9 am-3 pm Spring Clean up day
28 10 am Service 2pm UCC services	29 10am Survivor's group Dona- tion Drop Off for Garage Sale	30 4:30 pm Nurses Group 7 pm UCC ser- vices Drop Off for Garage Sale				

Every Day : All R Welcome 6:30 pm Red Room/

May 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 5 pm HA group Garage Sale Drop off 9 am -3 pm	2 5 pm HA group	3 9 am—3pm Garage Sale 7:45 pm Prayers around the cross	4 9 am—3pm Garage Sale <i>Esper Funeral</i>
5 10 am Ser- vice 2pm UCC services	6 10am Survivor's group	7 4:30 pm Nurses Group 7 pm UCC ser- vices	8 5 pm HA group	9 5 pm HA group	10 3 pm MUCC volley- ball 7:45 pm Prayers around the	11 Brown wedding
12 10 am Service 2pm UCC services	13 10am Survivor's group	14 4:30 pm Nurses Group 7 pm UCC ser- vices	15 5 pm HA group 6 pm Council Meeting	16 5 pm HA group	17 3 pm MUCC volley- ball 7:45 pm Prayers around the	18
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26 10 am Service 2pm UCC services	27 10am Survivor's group	28 4:30 pm Nurses Group 7 pm UCC services	29 5 pm HA group	30 5 pm HA group	31 3 pm MUCC volley- ball 7:45 pm Prayers around the cross	

Every day @ 6:30 pm All R Welcome Group



Building Usage for the month of March totaled \$2495.68. Included in this was a large payment to cover 2018-2019 for one of our renters, so this will not be repeated every month.

Karen Wilbur was elected as a voting member of the National Church Assembly!

One of the AA members , stopped in and gave us a \$200.00 check to help pay for new lights in the Augsberg room. An unexpected and very generous surprise, that he said is in appreciation of Our Saviour and all we do.

If you have items to sell, such as girl scout cookies, we have decided to set up a “community corner” in the narthex for this purpose. The JAM time kids had great success with selling the children’s jewelry and were able to raise \$143.00 for Easter Fun Day.

Seeds of Hope Food Pantry sent us a letter stating we contributed 264.5 pounds of food, with a value of \$449.78 from Jan 2018-June 2018.

Great work!!



Alice Emily was born yesterday 4/7/2019
She weighs 7lbs and 5oz and is 20 inches long.
Congratulations to all!!!



"Seeds of Hope" Food Pantry.

First Presbyterian Church maintains a well-stocked food pantry. We provide nutritional food and food products to those individuals and families, living in the region around the church. The pantry is a partnership of New Hartford First Methodist, New Hartford Presbyterian, Our Saviour Lutheran and Utica First Presbyterian Churches and is located in First Presbyterian Church at 1605 Genesee St. The pantry is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 to 11:30 am.

**First Presbyterian Church
1605 Genesee Street
Utica, NY 13501**

Phone: 315-732-5111 Fax: 315-732-5577

**What began with the distribution
of government surplus food has grown
into a vital community service.
We are excited about the many resources
that enhance what Seeds of Hope
offers our neighbors. See behind the scenes,
and discover what the food pantry
does for those in need.
Enjoy a tour and a continental breakfast.**

**To learn more about Seeds of Hope and to
R.S.V.P to this event please contact us at
315.732.5111**

*When I was hungry, you gave me something to eat, and
when I was thirsty, you gave me something to drink...
"Whenever you did it for any of my people, no matter
how unimportant they seemed, you did it for me."
~Matthew 25:35,40*



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.

Easter Fun Day Volunteers Needed

Organizer

Arrange donations of hardboiled eggs, candy and small toys to put in plastic eggs,

Work with other leaders to arrange the schedule and keep students moving from activity to activity.

Assist the children and leaders as necessary.

Plan/lead egg coloring

Bring materials needed (egg dye, vinegar, crayons, stickers, etc.)

You can use mugs from the church kitchen to mix the dye

In the past we have used cookie cooling racks for drying the eggs.

In past years, eggs have been put out at church on Easter morning. After church, eggs are brought home by those who brought them if wanted and by others.

Tell the Easter story

Choose how you would like to tell the story. Possibilities include, but are not limited to, reading a picture book, showing a video – you can find some on youtube, telling the story with pictures found online – one site you can check is teachers pay teachers.

Share your plan with Pastor Anita.

Share the story with the children on April 20th.

Plan and lead the children in decorating the sanctuary windows.

With Pastor Anita, decide on a project. There are many ideas online.

Gather needed materials and prepare items as needed.

Lead and assist children with project on April 20th

Plan/lead the Easter egg hunt

Fill plastic eggs with treats and toys donated (we have many plastic eggs at the church)

Hide eggs

Give children instructions for hunting. Sometimes we have sent children by age to different areas. Other times we have set the eggs up so that similar treats are in the same colored egg and everyone is told to get one of each color. There are many ways to run this. It's up to you to set this up so that all children can be a part.

Plan/lead cookie or cupcake station

bake or have others bake cupcakes or sugar cookies

bring frosting and other decorations

supervise decorating

children can each eat one and the rest can be used for coffee hour on Easter

Happy Easter!





We Need Inventory!

We need furniture donations!

**Have something to donate? Bring it down during our hours!
Or call the ReStore and we can set up a pickup.**

ReStore Hours:

Monday - Closed

Tuesday - 12pm-4pm

Wednesday - 10am-4pm

Thursday - 10am-4pm

Friday - 10am-4pm

Saturday - 10am-3pm

Sunday - Closed



Spiritual and religious

By Elizabeth A. Eaton



Is “Lutheran spirituality” an oxymoron? When we consider Martin Luther and the early reformers, we think of great theologians, prolific writers and musicians. We are well aware of Luther’s earthy language and direct communication. But spirituality? Luther as mystic?

Not so much. And yet, Luther was a deeply spiritual person who also cared for the spiritual well-being of his parishioners.

Luther was a monk before he was a college professor and reformer. By his own account he out-monked everyone in his monastery. He took his vows seriously. He longed for God. He wrestled with God. He argued with God. Well before he came to an understanding of grace, Luther nevertheless knew that his life was found in God. He was spiritual *and* religious.

“Spirituality” covers a lot of things. Church historian and writer Martin Marty once said: “‘Spirituality’ is the code word used to convey everything from profound quests to warm tingles between the toes.”

As a parish pastor I often heard people declare that they were spiritual and not religious. I was suspicious that this was an excuse for not coming to church, but I now think there is more to it than that. We are created to search for meaning. Mary Jane Haemig, a professor at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn., wrote: “Today people hear many words but long for authentic words and authentic relationships. They ask whether they can trust what they hear and whether they can trust that anyone will hear what they say. This longing for authentic communication is part of the longing for relationship. The church can help people identify that this longing includes a longing for God.”

This issue’s cover story is about prayer (page 14). Even in an increasingly secular society, prayer in some form is practiced by most Americans. What happens when we pray? Why do we pray? How


should we pray? Is prayer just a lot of words spoken into emptiness? Is prayer efficacious?

Luther wasn’t too worried about these questions. He was more concerned that people actually did pray, that they were in communication with God who hears prayer, commands us to pray and gives us the words we need through the Spirit. He could be pretty blunt: “You must learn to call. Do not sit by yourself or lie on a couch, hanging and shaking your head. Do not destroy yourself with your own thoughts by worrying. Do not strive and struggle to free yourself, and do not brood on your wretchedness, suffering and misery. Say to yourself: ‘Come on, you lazy bum; down on your knees, and lift your eyes and hands toward heaven!’ ”

For Luther, God was real, and this real God wants real people to be in real communication with God. We are not to fret about elegant phrases or creative and original prayers. We shouldn’t worry about folding hands or raising hands or standing or kneeling. It’s not about technique. Prayer is about relationship with God. God has created us for God’s self and we are not whole apart from this relationship.

And it is here that this Lutheran began to understand and resist and, finally, imperfectly come to know and trust God more deeply. There is a little stubbornness in me. I like to be in charge. I want to set the terms of engagement. I will decide when God can come in. But here is the truth: God is already and always present.

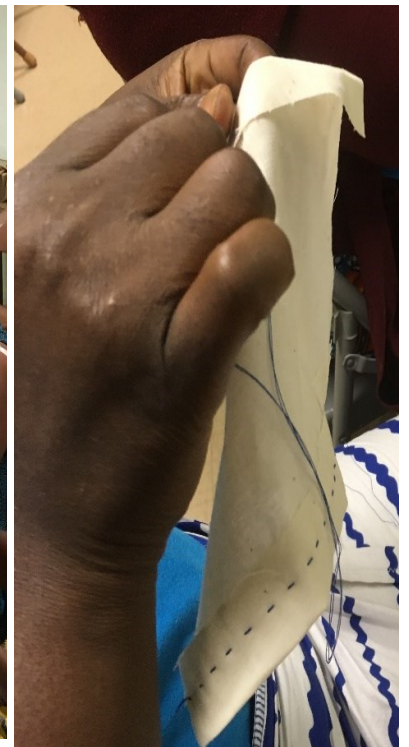
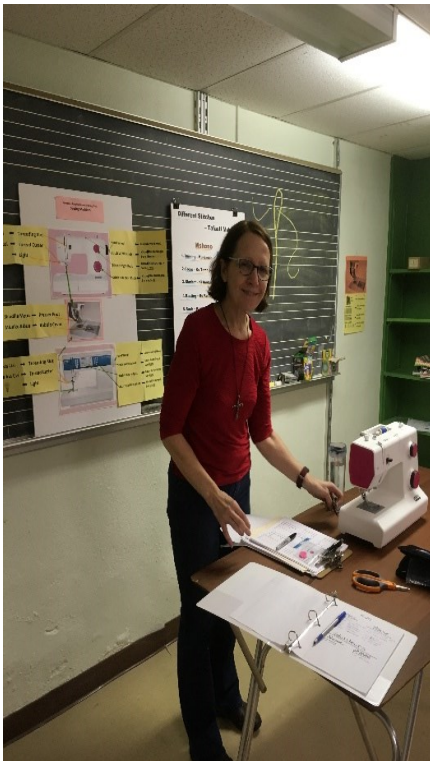
Luther wrote: “The entire divine nature is wholly and entirely in all creatures, more deeply, more inwardly, more present than the creature is to itself.” That kind of makes resistance pointless.

Prayer is an invitation into divine love. Prayer is God seeking us. In God’s seeking, in God’s speaking and listening we find ourselves. 

A monthly message from the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Here email address: bishop@elca.org.

LCM/STEP Women's Empowerment Sewing Project

Sewing classes on Friday afternoon and Saturday have resumed. During the winter break, volunteers organized the sewing center storage areas. We have received an abundance of material from many sources. One of the great things about this project is that we have volunteers from many area congregations. Lynn Strumlok and Doris Plochko are from Atonement, Lynn Weeks is from King of Kings, Delores Green and Marie Wilkie from St Stephen's volunteer each week. Our sewing teacher is Lynn Strumlok who develops curriculum as well as leads all three of our classes. On Friday, I teach vocabulary and on Saturday, Pastor Deb Stein takes this responsibility. From the university we have four college students, two each day who care for children while their mothers are in sewing class. My intern Basadi Dibeela helps organize the project and coordinates workshops that will connect the women to resources in the university community. Their present sewing project is making pillows from strips of decorative material. Thanks to everyone who gives so much time and energy to this project! If you know how to sew and would enjoy meeting our wonderful students please give me a call at 315-251-4739 or email me at griina@syr.edu. Class times now through July are Friday's 3-5pm, Saturdays 12-2pm and 2pm – 4 pm.



Our Saviour Lutheran Church Contact List

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315-404-6045

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315-736-8685

Seymour Morris, Treasurer
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Hope House Coordinator: Jan Dudajek

Altar Guild Coordinator: Gerry Presser

JAM Coordinator: Pam Donovan

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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.



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.*

Our Saviour Lutheran Church Newsletter

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

**Our Saviour Lutheran Church
1650 Genesee St
Utica, NY 13502**