

# THE MESSENGER



Our Saviour Lutheran Church Newsletter

December 2019

From the Pastor

It is clearly time to get ready for Christmas. Each of us has an idea of what that means, when the tree goes up, what cookies are made, who gets gifts. This is my idea for this Christmas Eve. It is a combination of what is traditional and another idea.

We will sing “Silent Night” on Christmas Eve. We will light our candles. It is a lovely tradition that helps us to rejoice in the light of Jesus that shows so clearly on Christmas night. It is cozy. It is holding a candle in the dark. Then we blow out the candles and sing “Joy to The World”. That is the tradition. I’m thinking this year we will not blow out the candles. Instead we will sing “Joy to the World” as we march our candles out to Genesee Street. It is Joy to the WORLD after all. The birth of the Christ child is intended for us in our little circle of light. It is also intended for the world. It has everything to do with the Christ who came for the sake of the world.

Christmas is all about cozy and family and being with the people we love. It is good for us to rejoice in the love of those who gather. It is also good for us to let our candles shine our further than our normal circles. As we get ready for Christmas it is good for us to get ready to be aware of more of the world than we tend to include in our Christmas celebrations.

Advent - literally “Go to”. Is a good time to get ourselves ready. Here are some things we can do together.

Be in worship. The texts through Advent are wonderful promises of hope for the world. They are promises of peace. They are promises of a new world order where the powerful care for and live peaceable with those who have no power.

2. Advent Worship. A potluck dinner with folks that you know is a wonderful way to experience the love of a community who gathers around love of God, who can talk about God, who know that God’s love is for the world.

3. Take home one of those utterance World Hunger barns. Make a goal of buying an animal for someone you will probably never know. Pick up one of those ELCA Good Gifts catalogs and read the stories of how those animals change the lives of whole families.

4. Come together to talk about the budget on December 8th after worship. It does not sound all that Christmassy - but how we spend our money at Our Saviour has everything to do with who we are and how we will chose to love the world. Then stay and help us decorate the church for Christmas. It is wonderful together time. It is fun. It is a great way to get to know people who are new to Our Saviour.

5. Sing with the choir this Christmas. Luther said that when you sing you pray twice. It is a true thing. Everyone knows music that gets stuck in your head. What if that music is about Jesus? What difference will it make it your Christmas?

Just a few suggestions. It is all about the God who chose to love the world. It is the God who loved us so much that God chose to put aside God’s own power and come as an infant. It is the favorite Bible verse of many Christians “God so love the world...”. It is for all of us - all of us world people.

Pastor Anita

# December 2019

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p><b>1</b> 10 am Service 11:15 Bible Study 1 pm Women's Group 2pm UCC services 7:30 pm HA</p>	<p><b>2</b> 10am Survivor's group 7:30 pm MUCC Volleyball</p>	<p><b>3</b> 7 pm UC C services</p>	<p><b>4</b> 6pm <b>Lenten Dinner 7 pm Lenten services 6:30 pm HA group</b></p>	<p><b>5</b> 3 pm MUCC Basketball 5:30 pm HA group 6:30 pm Big Book Meeting 7:pm UCC Services</p>	<p><b>6</b> 3 pm MUCC Volleyball 6:30 pm HA group 5:45 pm Prayers around the cross</p>	<p><b>7</b> 7 am UCC prayer meeting</p>
<p><b>8</b> 10 am Service Budget meeting and decorating church 11:15 Bible Study 1</p>	<p><b>9</b> 10am Survivor's group 7:30 pm MUCC Volleyball</p>	<p><b>10</b> 10 am Bible Study 7 pm UC C services</p>	<p><b>11</b> 6pm <b>Lenten Dinner 7 pm Lenten services 6:30 pm HA group</b></p>	<p><b>12</b> 3 pm MUCC Basketball 5:30 pm HA group 6:30 pm Big Book Meeting 7:pm UCC Services</p>	<p><b>13</b> pm MUCC Volleyball 6:30 pm HA group 5:45 pm Prayers around the cross</p>	<p><b>14</b></p>
<p><b>15</b> 10 am Service 11:15 Bible Study 1 pm Women's Group 2pm UCC services</p>	<p><b>16</b> 10am Survivor's group 7:30 pm MUCC Volleyball</p>	<p><b>17</b> 7 pm UC C services</p>	<p><b>18</b> 6pm <b>Lenten Dinner 7 pm Lenten services 6:30 pm HA group</b></p>	<p><b>19</b> 3 pm MUCC Basketball 5:30 pm HA group 6:30 pm Big Book Meeting 7:pm UCC Services</p>	<p><b>20</b> pm MUCC Volleyball 6:30 pm HA group 5:45 pm Prayers around the cross</p>	<p><b>21</b></p>
<p><b>22</b> 10 am Service 11:15 Bible Study 1 pm Women's Group 2pm UCC services</p>	<p><b>23</b> 10am Survivor's group 7:30 pm MUCC Volleyball</p>	<p><b>24</b> 7pm <b>Early services 9 pm late services 7 pm UC C services</b></p>	<p><b>25</b> 9 am <b>Breakfast served by Pastor 10 am Christmas Services</b></p>	<p><b>26</b> 3 pm MUCC Basketball 5:30 pm HA group 6:30 pm Big Book Meeting 7:pm UCC Services</p>	<p><b>27</b> pm MUCC Volleyball 6:30 pm HA group 5:45 pm Prayers around the cross</p>	<p><b>28</b></p>
<p><b>29</b> 10 am Service 11:15 Bible Study 1 pm Women's Group 2pm UCC services 7:30 pm HA</p>	<p><b>30</b> 10am Survivor's group 7:30 pm MUCC Volleyball</p>	<p><b>31</b> 7 pm UC C services</p>				



## 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
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, Baby Leah, Baby Kia, Baby Ella, Gwen, Nate, Lorraine, Rick, Billy, Dennis, Tony, People in Recovery, Betty, Linda, Charlotte Lee, David, Lou, Lorraine, Ruth, Lucy, Gus, Joe, Paul, Jr, Jerry Remy, Theoryn, Anthony, Sonny, Viola, Ann, Becky, Ken, Sue, Sharon Matt, Diana, Jerry, Denise, Emily, Jan B, Al, Verna, Parker, Lenore, Rylie, Adam, Lynn, Woody





Each Wednesday evening during advent, 12/4-12/18, we are planning a potluck dinner and worship. Dinner is at 6 pm. The main dish is not provided. Those attending are encouraged to bring a dish to share. Advent Worship is at 7 pm. We will use the Holden Evening Prayer and we will be donating this year's collections to ELCA Good gifts. We are hoping to raise enough to make a generous livestock purchase.



### Christmas Eve Worship

7 pm - Family Friendly service with Holy Communion. Candles are lit.

9 pm - Musical prelude

9:30 pm - Traditional Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion

### Christmas Morning

9 am - Breakfast served by Pastor and Spouse

10 am - Intimate (gathered around the altar) Christmas Service with Holy Communion

Following are examples of the replacement signs for the front lawn. As you may have been made aware of, our sign was broken by vandals. We had to file with both the police department and our insurance carrier. We have received funds to replace the sign, minus our deductible..

**Renew Conversion LED Series 10mm, 32 x 192 - RGB**  
**Existing 3'x8' Cabinet, 1'x8' LED Cabinet, Existing 1' Base**





On the following page are examples of the replacement signs for the front lawn. As you may have been made aware of, our sign was broken by vandals. We had to file with both the police department and our insurance carrier. We have received funds to replace the sign, minus our deductible..

Reference #: **22234**  
 Sketch #: **3**  
 Date: **November 12, 2019**

**SPECIFICATIONS**

Cabinet/Leg: **EXISTING**  
 Sign Face: **PM67610c Brown**  
 ID Letters: **White**  
 Draft: **White**  
 Font: **KabellicTDem**  
 Symbol: **#22936**  
 Symbol Colors: **Digital**

**SIGN CAPABILITIES**

10 mm-24 x 192		
# of Lines	Character Size (H)	# of Characters per Line
4	24	22
3	36	24
2	60	16
1	122	7



**APPROVAL**

DATE

PRINT NAME

SIGNATURE

A 6% AMOUNT OF ORDER TOTAL PRICED





**800-848-4262**  
 SignsPlusSigns.com  
 48-62 Malcolm Lane, Sarasota, FL 34232

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**EXISTING RC-24 - 3'x8' Cabinet, 1' Base**





Reference #: **22235**  
 Sketch #: **1**  
 Date: **October 22, 2019**

**SPECIFICATIONS**

Cabinet/Leg: **EXISTING**  
 Sign Face: **PM67610c Brown**  
 ID Letters: **White**  
 Draft: **White**  
 Font: **KabellicTDem**  
 Symbol: **#22936**  
 Symbol Colors: **Digital**



**APPROVAL**

DATE

PRINT NAME

SIGNATURE

A 6% AMOUNT OF ORDER TOTAL PRICED





**800-848-4262**  
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· Council · Meeting November 20, 2019

Call to Order

Devotions

Property Committee: See Following Pages

Treasurer's Report: See Following Pages

Correspondence

Flyers from Oneida County Health Department  
Reports

Pastor's Report

- o Church plumbing work payment: Approved work to be paid  
Cameras at entrances

Unfinished Business

Congregational Sexual Harrassment Policy Meeting Report

Masonry work on Portico

Cameras (exterior and interior) on church property

Stained glass windows

Get keys from AA Group

New Business

Decoration of Church for Christmas

Secretary for Council meetings: Pam Donovan volunteered to take over recording minutes

Advent plans

Policy for all groups or individuals using the Church about their opinions of groups using so-  
cial media

Closing prayer

# Property Committee Report

November 20, 2019

Church members: here is what we have going on at Property

Oct. 19 was our Fall Clean up Day at Church and many tasks were completed with the help of several groups who utilize our buildings including the UCC members, AA Groups, and HA Group. It also marked the start of the Floor project in the basement.

Oct. 29 we Finished the Epoxy paint project in the AA room of basement with the help of several AA members at a material cost of approximately \$1700

Tackled a flood in the basement on Nov. 1 after just completing the floor project 2 days prior.

Need to address this flooding issue to prevent it from happening again. Jim believes sealing the crack between the driveway and building wall will help.

The lights and ceiling tiles still need to be addressed in the AA meeting room in basement. Maybe part of the energy audit/upgrade?

Sanctuary windows got cleaned inside and out by New Hartford Window Cleaners for \$1325 on Nov. 13.

Snow Plowing contract got signed with Ricci Plowing for same price as last year, \$2000. Has plowed once already.

Rieben Roofing completed the new roofs on the Bell Tower, Front Narthex, and Communion prep room. There was an overrun on the Front Narthex roof, so the total bill paid was \$ 29,000 +/-

# **Property Committee Report**

November 20, 2019

The crumbling brick issue on the rear Porch columns is still an on going problem that will need to be addressed in the Spring. 1 quote so far of \$6800. Some masonry issues on outer wall on north driveway were identified during Fall Cleanup and will also need to be addressed in spring.

Work continues on church sound system to correct echo and improve sound quality after speakers were rebuilt. Waiting on parts.

We are continuing examining best approach to repair church sign in front yard. Pam has reached out to a local company and Clare has received options from SignPlus for replacement panel with 2 lines of changeable text or upgrading to a LED replacement configuration. The estimate for those options will be forwarded.



Here is a peek into some of the hard work done fixing up the basement meeting room floor with an epoxy paint finish. A big thank you to everyone who contributed their time and labor to this project. It came out beautiful!











## **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.

Some pictures of the annual “making of the Thanksgiving Stuffing Day”.



POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

**ABSOLUTE DEADLINE—SUNDAY, December 15, 2019**

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. (\$6.50 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



## Our Saviour Lutheran Church Contact List

**Church Office:** 315-732-0134

**Pastor Anita Mohr:** 315-724-5426  
email: anita.mohr@g.mail.com

**Church Office Secretary: Beth Acee**  
email: oslc-utica@verizon.net

**Organist/Music Director:** Richard Bostik

### **Council Members:**

Sally Townsend, President Pam Donovan  
315-404-6045

Barbara Godbey-Miller  
315-269-7032

Seymour Morris, Treasurer  
315-580-2305

Jan Dudajek  
315-736-8685

**Coffee Hour Coordinator:** Barbara Magnusson

**Hope House Coordinator:** Jan Dudajek

**Altar Guild Coordinator:** Gerry Presser

**JAM Coordinator:** Pam Donovan

## **THE MESSENGER**

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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.

**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.*

***Our Saviour Lutheran Church Newsletter***

**page 18**

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

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