



*Rev. Justin Johnson, pastor*

Our Saviour Lutheran Church

# THE SEEKER

FEBRUARY 2023



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

**Our Saviour Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**56 Cleveland Drive**  
**Croton-On-Hudson, NY 10520**  
**(914) 271-4632**

**Sunday Worship Schedule**

**Sunday School:** 9:00 am

**Worship:** 10:00 am

**Coffee Hour:** following worship

**Weekday Office Schedule**

**Office hours:** 9:00 am - 12:00

**Office Phone:** (914) 271-4632

**Office E-mail:** [mail@oursaviourcroton.org](mailto:mail@oursaviourcroton.org)

**Website:** [www.oursaviourcroton.org](http://www.oursaviourcroton.org)



**Rev. Justin Johnson, pastor**

**Mission Statement:**

Our mission is to offer spiritual grounding and growth by connecting with God and one another.

**Vision Statement:**

Our vision is to provide meaningful, well-attended, active, and growing worship, education, fellowship and service opportunities.

## Presidents Message

-Sue Montgomery

Happy New Year to you all and many wishes for a grand year to come!

I want to start by thanking the many hands that contributed to a wonderful Advent and Christmas season. The successful Christmas Fair brought folks together and raised over \$3,000, which including a special matching funds gift. Proceeds benefit Our Saviour and three community organizations near and far.

The pop-up Christmas pageant brought all ages together to remember the simple tale of a babe in a manger and the extraordinary love of God in this gift. The sanctuary was beautiful for services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and the music and services brought the joy of the season to all who attended.

As we start this new year, I'd like to invite more opportunities for feedback from each member of the congregation to the Council. I'm sharing a specific question here, but your input on all the activities of the church is always welcome! For January, I invite your thoughts on what one thing the council should focus on 2023?

Lastly, I want to send kudos to Pastor Justin as he finishes his dissertation for his D-Min course of study. Way to set a challenge for yourself, and make it happen!



### 2023 COUNCIL MEMBERS & OFFICERS

#### OFFICERS:

President: Sue Montgomery  
Secretary: Karen Polacek

Vice President: Jamie Polcari  
Interim Treasurer: Bryan Montgomery

#### COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

Property: Ken Gabrielsen  
Worship & Music: Dianne Carroll  
Finance: Bryan Montgomery  
Evangelism & Outreach: Karen Polacek

Stewardship: Sue Montgomery & Estomih Mtui  
Social Ministry: Marilyn Grantner  
Christian Education: Jamie Polcari  
Mutual Ministry: MaryBeth Soucy & Jamie Polcari



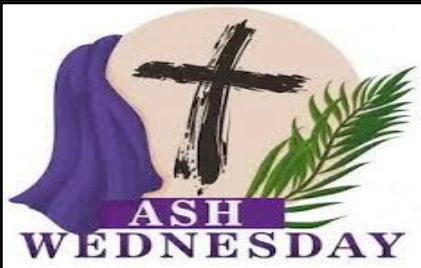
"*These times, they are a changin';*" sang the great Bob Dylan. As we enter into 2023, Our Saviour will see some changes. For example, we know two members will move next year. We also know the post-Covid world has changed everything from the literal price of eggs to church attendance. Nothing seems to stay the same anymore, which is quite offputting to many.

To be honest, I am not a huge fan of change, but in church life, one has to expect it continually. The Church I started my ministry in is not the same Church 23 years later. People change, the world changes, and life continues to move forward.

Recently, I borrowed a lesson from one of Aesop's Fables- "Be the reed, not the oak." While Aesop borrowed this fable from the Greeks, the story is a mighty wind storm was coming. The oak tree boasted of its strength to withstand the storm. The reeds relied on their willingness to bend but not break. The storm comes and knocks down the oak as the winds challenge the oak by constantly changing the direction they are blowing from. The reeds survive because of their willingness to change direction with the wind. The idea is when facing change, and it is better to flow with it than resist it. Stubbornness will get you nowhere.

We are going to see some changes at Our Saviour, but I witnessed many changes throughout my career. The question we have to ask as a congregation is- do we resist these changes as the oak, or do we bend with them as reeds do?





**Wednesday, February 22**  
**Service with Imposition of**  
**Ashes**  
**7:00pm**

Since **Our Saviour will be celebrating its 90th anniversary** this year and since the world is beset by lots of disasters and wars it was decided that we would try to get together 90 Health Care Kits to send to Lutheran World Relief. I have for years been getting these together, although not in this number, I am willing to coordinate this. I am hoping that the rest of the congregation would love to help with this through their donations. We will all be involved in assembling these kits at a future Coffee Hour.

Thanking you in advance, Frya

In honor of the 90th anniversary of our church this year, the Social and Christian action committee members have decided to make 90 Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. This will require assistance from all who are able to do so. The contents of the kit are:

- 1 dark colored light weight towel size 27" X 52"
- 1 toothbrush in its wrapper
- 1 comb
- 1 nail clipper
- bar soap (8 to 9 ounces total) in original wrapper

These items may be brought to the Narthex of the church for collection. Monetary funds will also be used to purchase needed items to complete the kits.

Frya is the lead person for this project and can be contacted with questions. She will be announcing when the kits will be assembled by congregation members at a future date.

Marilyn Grantner

## **FIVE TOWNS, ONE BOOK:** **The Life of Lorraine Hansberry** **Saturday February 11: 2-4pm** **Ottinger Room, Croton Library**

Join us for the kickoff event of CURE's third annual Five Towns, One Book celebration! Croton is thrilled to be a part of the county-wide event this year, as we focus on the multifaceted and brilliant Lorraine Hansberry with a new, inspired biography of her life.


Dr. Soyica Diggs Colbert — Georgetown professor and author of *Radical Vision, A Biography of Lorraine Hansberry* — will participate in a roundtable chat with Lynda Jones of The Lorraine Hansberry Coalition in Croton, Tejash Sanchala, Executive Director of the Westchester Human Rights Commission, and Nicole Alifante of CURE. Dr. Colbert will answer questions from the audience and sign books afterwards.

The biography opens many entry points for discussion, reflection and learning as Ms. Hansberry was a writer, playwright, activist, feminist and part of the gay community at a time when it was not as accepted. She died of cancer at 35 years old but contributed more to the Freedom movement than most in her short life.

This is the kickoff for Five Towns, One Book! Additional events include:

- March 2 at 7pm: Rye Free Reading Room – Hansberry: Civil Rights & Freedom Practices
- March 18 at 2pm: Larchmont Public Library – A Raisin In The Sun, film screening & Talk Back
- March 29 at 7pm: Harrison Public Library – Hansberry & Activism in Black Art
- April 15 at 3pm: New Rochelle Public Library – Hansberry & A Theatrical Exploration of Redlining.

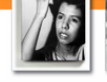

# Five Towns: One Book



Bringing our communities together to explore the life and work of

Lorraine Hansberry:

Radical Artist and Activist

**February 11, 2023**  
at 2 PM: Croton Free Library  
Discussion with Author Soyica Diggs Colbert

**REGISTER NOW at: [learnwithcure.com/events](https://learnwithcure.com/events)**





### **Christian Crafters - Happy New Years!**

We had a very productive year as you have read in previous newsletters. We ended the year with a Christmas Party to celebrate our good work. And...we started planning goals for 2023.

- Challenge ourselves to match and maybe beat 2022 LWR record of 60 quilts.
  - Support Padre Hispanos with blankets. (we donated 4 already)
  - Meet our 2022 number of 40 bookbags for LWR
  - Participate in National Quilting Day again this year.
  - Work on Christmas Fair crafts earlier in the year
  - Outreach to Grace Lutheran Church with a demonstration and assistance in starting a possible LWR group there
- Continue to support each other with joy and thanksgiving

We really do enjoy meeting every Tuesday from 9am to noon. We would love to have you join us. Thank you for your continued donations of cotton or cotton blend fabrics, threads and financial support. We would not be able to do what we do without you.

Happy New Year, Christian Crafters





# Christmas Fair 2022

## (follow-up)

Drum roll please.... The total earned as this article is being written is \$1903.75. Then with a generous matching gift and additional sales, and with the addition of the tag sale added to the fair total, the final total is: \$ 3555.35    Somehow **"Thank You"** seems so simple to say to all of you that helped make this happen.

**Padres Hispanos of Ossining, Darajani Secondary School in Tanzania and ELCA "Good Life"** will each receive 10% of the final total. **Padres Hispanos** can buy food 800 needy families and pay rent for their modest facility in Ossining, **Darajani Secondary School** can look forward to a new roof in the dining hall, and **ELCA "Good Life"** can purchase farm animals for those in need around the world. We may be a small church, but our Christian outreach is amazing... thanks to all of you.

A fair just doesn't happen, there is planning, publicity, crafting, knitting, baking, soup making, decorating, setting up, tending the fair, attending the fair, cleaning up and follow through.    First announcement was September 25th and just about every Sunday after that. First planning meeting was Oct. 3, then Nov. 6 and again Dec. 3. Thank you to all that attended and helped with the planning, particularly Karen Polacek and Dianne Carroll for all the work done on publicity. Thank you to Laura Keil and Marybeth Soucy (café), LeeAnn McCarthy (boutique), Karen Magerlein (cash boxes and totals), Eleanor Soderlund (Bake Sale), Karen Polacek (children's coloring contest), Lois Leonard and Christian Crafters (crafts), Frya Barnes and Marilyn Grantner ( knitting and crafts), Lois Leonard (vendors), Larry Moy and Phill Greenland (live music), Lois Leonard and Marilyn Dreyer (raffles) and Jamie Polcari and our Sunday School with Dianne Carroll (decorations).

Then all the additional people that helped prepare and set up during the week prior, the bakers, soup makers. Thanks to Naomi K. and Zoe N. from Croton High School Student; Pastor and Carter moving tables and bring up boxes from downstairs, additional shout outs of thanks to John and Melanie Mueller, Chris Moy, Heinz Schlenkermann,

Ken Gabrielsen and John Magerlein . Then thanks to all of you that tended the tables during the fair, and all those that attended the fair, and cleaned up after the fair. I do not have all the bakers name and soup maker names, but thank you to you all.

Thanks to all the people that reviewed the fair at Dec.4 meeting. Your comments and suggestions will be kept for future fairs. If you missed the joy/fun of being a part of this Christmas Fair, ...there is always next year.

It has been a privilege to be your organizer of this 2022 fair,

Lois Leonard





# FEBRUARY 2023



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1  NA 7:00pm	2  Al-Anon 1-2:00pm	3	4  AA 7:00pm
5 Fifth Epiphany Worship Service 10:00am via Facebook & in Sanctuary	6	7 Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon  AA 7:00pm	8  NA 7:00pm	9  Al-Anon 1-2:00pm	10	11  AA 7:00pm
12 Sixth Epiphany Worship Service 10:00am via Facebook & in Sanctuary	13	14 Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon  AA 7:00pm	15  NA 7:00pm	16  Al-Anon 1-2:00pm	17	18  AA 7:00pm
19 Transfiguration of Our Lord Worship Service 10:00am via Facebook & in Sanctuary	20	21 Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon  AA 7:00pm	22  ASH WEDNESDAY  NA 7:00pm	23  Al-Anon 1-2:00pm	24	25  AA 7:00pm
26 First Lent Worship Service 10:00am via Facebook & in Sanctuary	27	28 Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon  AA 7:00pm				