



Our Saviour Lutheran Church

THE SEEKER

MAY/JUNE 2023

Rev. Justin Johnson, pastor



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
Website: 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.

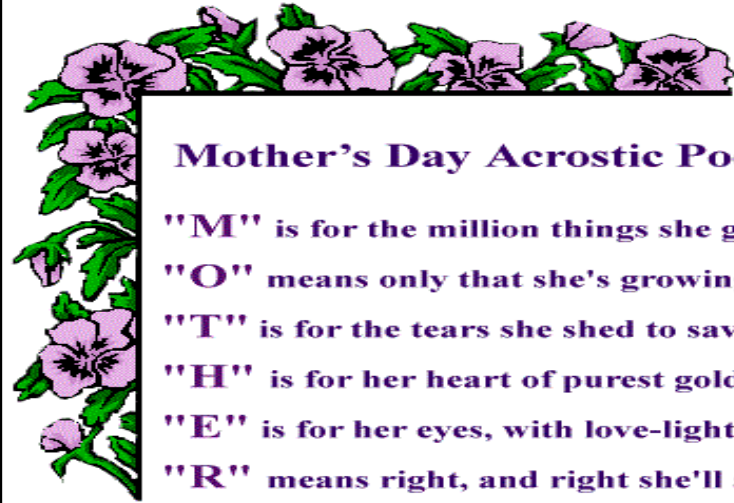
COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

-Sue Montgomery

Did you know that Our Saviour Lutheran Church operates under a Constitution? We do! And that Constitution sets out important terms of how we come together as a church. For my column this month, I thought I would share the section of the Constitution that sets out the role of the Church Council. This is what we try to do in our role as servant leaders of the congregation, and we always appreciate your prayers and support, as well as ideas for our work.

C12.04. The Congregation Council shall have general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation, and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The duties of the Congregation Council shall include:

- a. To lead this congregation in stating its mission, to do long-range planning, to set goals and priorities, and to evaluate its activities in light of its mission and goals.
- b. To seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support.
- c. To oversee and provide for the administration of this congregation to enable it to fulfill its functions and perform its mission.
- d. To maintain supportive relationships with the rostered minister(s) and staff and help them annually to evaluate the fulfillment of their calling or employment.
- e. To be examples individually and corporately of the style of life and ministry expected of all baptized persons.
- f. To promote a congregational climate of peace and goodwill and, as differences and conflicts arise, endeavor to foster mutual understanding.
- g. Arrange for pastoral service during the sickness/ absence of pastor.
- h. To emphasize support of the synod and churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as well as cooperation with other congregations, both Lutheran and non-Lutheran, subject to established policies of the synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- i. To recommend and encourage the use of program resources produced or approved by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- j. To seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel.



Mother's Day Acrostic Poem

"M" is for the million things she gave me,
"O" means only that she's growing old,
"T" is for the tears she shed to save me,
"H" is for her heart of purest gold;
"E" is for her eyes, with love-light shining,
"R" means right, and right she'll always be,

Put them all together, they spell "MOTHER,"
A word that means the world to me.

Happy Mother's Day

To All Our Mom

BLESSED IS THE FATHER
WHO SHARES HIS HEART,
LIVES HIS FAITH, GIVES HIS TIME,
AND LOVES HIS FAMILY.

PROVERBS 20:7 ESV

Happy Father's Day

To All Our Dads



Happy soon to be Pentecost everyone! Pentecost is the longest season of the year and it is meant to reflect new growth and transformation. The Spirit blows through the people and are transformed and moved to be a new community. In the church, Pentecost seems to be a slower season as committees take a break, lessons end, and people take time off for summer. I will remind everyone the church itself doesn't take a break as there are still activities happening, so remember to continue your financial support through the summer.

This Pentecost, I have cast the vision to use this time to really reflect on who we are as a congregation. We are currently discerning to publicly affirm being a Reconciling in Christ congregation. While a main focus of that group is the 2SLGBTQIA community, it also includes a call to focus on anti-racism. In June, I will be asking the congregation if we want to publicly affirm this as we attend the Lorraine Hansberry celebration. Will we commit to re-being a congregation that advocates for anti-racism and live it in our daily lives? Is this part of our congregation's DNA?

I believe it is, don't get me wrong, but there is always room for growth and transformation as the Spirit calls us. I'll give one minor example. When I was a youth pastor, one activity I would have the kids do is go around the church and look at the images of Jesus and to tell me about them. They would often notice his hair (often blond), his eyes (often blue), and other details. I would then take the kids into my office and ask them to look at the images of Jesus found there. They would notice Jesus had darker skin (often olive), he had darker hair (often black), and some other details. The vision of Jesus in my office was very different from the Jesus they found in the church.

Continued === >

Growing up, I never saw an image of Jesus in any of the churches that represented me. Jesus was often White, blue-eyed, and blond-haired. Jesus never was Native American, for example. If you go into my office today, you will see a very different view of Jesus than our church. You will see a Jesus that looks like this, for example:

While the print was made by a White monk named Fr John Giuliani, it represents the Jesus he saw within the Native American community. It is a Jesus that represents me.



As we look at our commitment to being an anti-racist community, we can examine the images and the language we use around the Divine. In our church, for example, are all the Jesus prints representative of a Palestinian male or of our congregation's ethnic makeup? What does our art say about how we view Jesus and God's people?

I know it is a small example, but it helps us view our space in a new way. What messages are we sending, without knowing we are sending them when we look at our congregation's interior? Are we sending a message of welcome?

Looking at who we are is never easy, but it is rewarding in the end. As we enter this season of Pentecost, let's explore our congregation's DNA, so we can share it with the community around us. I guarantee there are individuals looking for a place like ours to worship in, but just don't know who we are or what we stand for.

We are now in the Easter season
and welcome to the
return of flowers to the altar.

Please consider signing the flower
chart in the link to sponsor a week.
The donation to sponsor has been \$35,
but we are requesting \$40 as of May 7.
Many upcoming weeks are open.



2023 COUNCIL MEMBERS & OFFICERS

OFFICERS:

President: Sue Montgomery
Secretary: Marilyn Grantner

Vice President: Matt Papertsian
Treasurer: Sue Orts

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

Property: Matt Papertsian Stewardship: Marilyn Grantner
Worship & Music: Eleanor Keil Social Ministry: LeeAnn McCarthy
Finance: Sue Montgomery Christian Education: Jamie Polcari
Evangelism & Outreach: LeeAnn McCarthy Finance: Sue Montgomery
Mutual Ministry: MaryBeth Soucy

SEAFARERS INTERNATIONAL HOUSE CELEBRATES 150 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

- Frya Barnes

Seafarers International House (SIH) is the Lutheran response to the urgent needs of vulnerable seafarers and immigrants since 1873.

SIH offers hospitality, social assistance, and advocacy in maritime ports on the Eastern Seaboard and Albany. In 2022, SIH served a total of 19,920 people.

This is the year of its 150th anniversary, celebrating fifteen decades of uninterrupted services to over 2 million seafarers and immigrants in New York City and beyond! SIH is not a place, but rather a service to people on the way.

SIH' services are more urgently needed today than ever before. From merchant mariners caught in the crew change crisis of a pandemic and supply chain disruptions, to refugees from Afghanistan and Ukraine needing a safe place to be, to asylum seekers arbitrarily transported from the southern border to New York City – Seafarers International House always stands ready to serve.

Founded in 1873 as a Lutheran maritime ministry, Seafarers International House today is an affiliate of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). SIH is one of the largest shore-based ministries dedicated to the welfare of active merchant mariners, including crew members on today's container ships entering ports along the Eastern Seaboard and since winter 2023 to seafarers in the Port of Albany. Since its inception, SIH has cared for the needs of seafarers and vulnerable immigrants



RIC UPDATE

Last month, we polled the congregation to get a sense of where we were post-Covid regarding becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation. This means we will publicly declare that we are affirming and welcoming to 2SLGBTQIA individuals and families and focused on becoming an anti-racism congregation. We received 23 responses representing over half the congregation and met as a council to decide the next steps.

As a council, we recognize we have already been living as a RIC congregation, and the congregation responded with 100% favorability to taking the next step. The council decided to hold a 2-week vote on June 11th and 18th. As a member, you will have an opportunity to answer yes or no to this statement-

“Our Saviour should become a Reconciling in Christ congregation recognizing God in all people. We publicly affirm and recognize all people in the 2SLGBTQIA community as loved by God and loved by our congregation. We will continue striving to be an anti-racist congregation in our actions and words. We condemn hate against POC and the 2SLGBTQIA communities as Christ calls us to do so.”

So, what will change if we vote yes? We will register with Extraordinary Ministries as a RIC congregation, placing us into a database of 2SLGBTQIA churches. We will add a sentence to our welcoming statement about anti-racism. We will also use a rainbow heart, as was presented in the survey, on our bulletin, newsletter, and websites. We will continue to love as we are called to by Jesus. In other words, not much will change as we have pretty much been living this way as a congregation already. It puts us on the right search engines to help those looking for queer-friendly churches to help them find us. This is already who we are as a congregation, we are making it official is all.

Thank you all for your help. If there are any questions, please contact Pastor or Sue M.

FINANCE UPDATE

- Bryan Montgomery

The results are in now for the first four months of the year. Last fall we passed a budget that we felt was realistic but had a significant deficit of \$41,279. Based on the first four months we are typically spending about \$4,500 more a month than we receive and would be looking at a deficit closer to \$48,000.

Council is looking to increase our income, however, if everyone is able to increase their contributions that would help tremendously. From a budgeting perspective using Vanco helps tremendously in predicting regular income. If you have questions on the process John Magerlein is happy to help. We also have QR codes and website below where you can setup your gift.



This QR code on the left will take you to the Vanco page <https://oursaviourcroton.org/give-now-using-vanco> on our website. The page explains how you can set up a recurring gift

We are all about flexibility here at Our Saviour.

An alternative method is to use the QR code on the right. This links to our PayPal account and may be better if you would like to make a one-off gift.

If you have any questions on the finances, please feel free to speak to me, or anyone on Council.

Thank you,
Brian Montgomery

Christian Crafters

Christian Crafters

Opportunities!

On March 18 Our Saviour Lutheran Church had the opportunity to open our doors to the community to give them an opportunity to share in helping others by participation in our 2nd annual “National Quilting Day.” We were ready, but unsure if anyone would cease the opportunity and venture in our doors. What a wonderful surprise! We had about 30 happy visitors, received 12 bags of donated fabric and sheets, and gained two new members to our quilting group. Since then, we have received two generous checks which has given us the opportunity to buy a needed new sewing machine and more fiberfill. Wow! We are most certainly blessed! Will we have a 3rd annual “National quilting Day?” Yes! What a wonderful opportunity for us and our community. We are now averaging 1-2 new quilts a week instead of 1 quilt every 2 weeks.

Thank you to all of you that have and continue to support this ministry, Becky, Carol, Evelyn, Janette, Kathleen, Karen and Lois





It is Summerfest time again and Our Saviour will once again be part of the festivities with a booth. Last year, we raffled a beautiful rainbow quilt and raised funds for Ukraine. This year, we will once again raffle a different rainbow quilt and raise funds for the soup kitchen run by Pastor Arden Strausser's church.

Pr Strausser was an interim here and his congregation is located around the corner from Port Authority in NYC. Recently, Texas and Florida have been sending immigrants from these two states to NYC and other locations, as you have read in the news. The people often arrive malnourished and without adequate clothing. Pr Strausser's church has been feeding those who have gone days without food from this political stunt and has become overwhelmed with the number of people arriving. It is our way of supporting this needed ministry in the city and helping feed those who are hungry.

We will need your help!

We need people who can set up around 9AM on Sunday June 4th.

We will also need people who can be present in the booth throughout the day.

We will also need individuals to help tear down the booth in the evening.



YOGA

Second Saturday of each Month
Vinyasa Flow with Kellen
Our Saviour Lutheran Church



Humble Warrior Spirit
www.humblewarriorspirit.com

9:45-10:50A
PAY AS YOU CAN



56 Cleveland Dr
Croton-on-Hudson

MAY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Girl Scouts 2729 11-1pm	2 Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	3 Bible Study 7:00pm at Church NA 7:00pm	4 AI Anon Mtg 1-2pm	5	6 AA 7:00pm
7 Fifth Easter WorshipService 10:00am via Facebook or ZOOM & IN SANCTUARY	8	9 Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	10 Bible Study 7:00pm at Church NA 7:00pm	11 AI Anon Mtg 1-2pm	12	13 YOGA Class 9:45am AA 7:00pm
14 Sixth Easter WorshipService 10:00am via Facebook or ZOOM & IN SANCTUARY Happy Mothers Day	15	16 Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	17 Bible Study 7:00pm at Church NA 7:00pm	18 AI Anon Mtg 1-2pm	19	20 AA 7:00pm
21 Seventh Easter WorshipService via Facebook or ZOOM & IN SANCTUARY Service of the Word led by Lee Ann McCarthy Pastor Off	22	23 Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	24 Bible Study 7:00pm at Church NA 7:00pm	25 AI Anon Mtg 1-2pm	26	27 AA 7:00pm
28 Day of Pentecost WorshipService 10:00am via Facebook or ZOOM & IN SANCTUARY	29	30 Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	31 Bible Study 7:00pm at Church NA 7:00pm			

JUNE 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 AI Anon Mtg 1-2pm	2	3 AA 7:00pm
4 Holy Trinity Worship Service 10:00am via Facebook or ZOOM & IN SANCTUARY Croton Summerfest Set-Up 9am	5 Girl Scouts 2729 11-1pm	6 Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	7 Bible Study 7:00pm at Church NA 7:00pm	8 AI Anon Mtg 1-2pm	9	10 YOGA Class 9:45am AA 7:00pm
11 Second Pentecost Worship Service 10:00am via Facebook or ZOOM & IN SANCTUARY	12	13 Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	14 Bible Study 7:00pm at Church NA 7:00pm	15 AI Anon Mtg 1-2pm	16	17 AA 7:00pm
18 Third Pentecost Worship Service via Facebook or ZOOM & IN SANCTUARY Happy Fathers Day	19	20 Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	21 Bible Study 7:00pm at Church NA 7:00pm	22 AI Anon Mtg 1-2pm	23	24 AA 7:00pm
25 Fourth Pentecost Worship Service 10:00am via Facebook or ZOOM & IN SANCTUARY	26	27 Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	28 Bible Study 7:00pm at Church NA 7:00pm	29 AI Anon Mtg 1-2pm	30	