



Our Saviour Lutheran Church

THE SEEKER

MAY /JUNE 2024

Rev. Justin Johnson, pastor

*"I will pour out my Spirit
on all people."*

Joel 2:28, NIV



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.



I've been talking a lot about change recently.

I finished teaching a class about evangelism in 2024, for example, to members of the Growing in Faith class. While some of the students are there to become deacons, several are members of church communities who want to grow deeper. The class I taught was on how to talk about Jesus in 2024.

I shared that when I was trained as a pastor, much of what I learned about evangelism was knocking on doors, creating flyers, creating programs, and "selling" your church. This was known as the programming model of church- having the right programs in place to make people want to come to your church. It was part of the church growth movement, which was a focus on growth and numbers in the pews. Flash forward to 2024 and the results of both ways of being church didn't work. Look at where most congregations are membership wise and discipleship wise.

What I taught is evangelism in 2024 is much more about listening to the community, working with the community, and being actively involved in the community by growing relationships and being present. There isn't a focus on numbers in the pews, but rather how connected we are with the community and building trust.

Compare the two of these models and you see how much change that involves. It means shifting at least 2-3 decades (yes, decades) of learning to back to a way of being church found originally in Acts. That is a lot of change and with change comes a lot of resistance and a desire to go back to thinking if we have the right thing in place, people will come. There is such a high mistrust of organized religion right now that even if the magic program were in place, no one would know. Building trust and relationship is how we become better disciples of Jesus. It was never about numbers.

Continued ==>

The other major change is we have a new deacon! Think about how that will change ministry. Lifting up members of the community who want to serve in new ways, grow their faith, and lead aspects of ministry is what the church originally looked like in Acts.

(Having professional pastors and ministers do all the roles was never a good idea. Again, you see how well it worked and the results of this model. The church was always supposed to be a place where individuals grow their faith, use their spiritual gifts, and talk about their faith. It was never about 1 person doing all of the work of the church because 1 person cannot have all the gifts.

We have witnessed burn out of clergy, overworked clergy, and from 2020-2022 40% of clergy resigned on top of the 50% who quit within their first 1-2 years of ministry. Working together to be the body of Christ was always the model. Paul wrote about it at least 3 times.

Imagine if we had at least 4 people who were skilled in preaching, what might worship look like? What if more than 1 person was visiting the sick or homebound? What would relationships look like? This is what ministry in the church was always supposed to be, but to modern ears this is a huge change. Isn't it the pastor's job to do all those things? This question is usually the pushback I hear when I talk about this type of communal ministry, and it represents a desire for status quo.

We are entering the season of Pentecost when the Spirit blows and change happens. This was the lesson when she came the first time and it is the constant movement of church. The Spirit is moving, will we move with her?



PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

— Sue Montgomery

Would you consider a special donation to help cover the costs of lawn care? Our church building and property looked wonderful for Easter, thanks to many people's efforts. In Spring, our grass grows again. We use a local lawn service to mow our lawn, and the first visit was the day before Easter. You can donate any amount and indicate the donation is for our designated fund for Property Maintenance. Thank you!!



GOD BLESS DEACON LEE ANN



On April 20th I became a Synodical Deacon in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America for my Congregation at Our Savior in Croton-on-Hudson. Four other ladies and I were Set Apart on that day at St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Huntington Station in Long Island. The week before I was voted in by the congregation to be their Deacon, I was honored and also was given a beautiful Red stole for the Setting Apart ceremony with a

monogrammed dedication in the inside of the stole. I have realized that the stole is meant for people 5' 8" and up so Lois and the Quilting Guild fixed my stole for me before Saturdays service. It was perfect!

I have been trying to get to this day since 2015 when I finished 2 years of classes with Diakonia. When Pastor Justin asked me if I was still interested in December of 2022, I was thrilled and he has been helping me all the way to get to this day. My daughter was able to come to the Setting Apart and Sue Montgomery, Eleanor Soderlund and Lois Leonard were able to make the long trek to Long Island which was very nice. Along of course with Pastor as my Sponsor. I thank everyone for the special coffee hour that was given in my honor and the wonderful gift that people gave to help me in buying my many colorful stoles that I will need in the calendar year. Thank you so much and God willing I hopefully will do my best for this Congregation and my Pastor.

God Bless,
Lee Ann



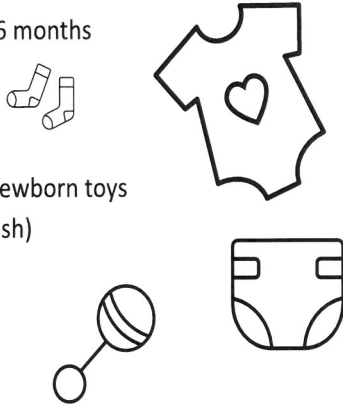
JOIN WOMEN OF

Asbury United Methodist Church - Our Saviour Lutheran Church
Temple Israel of Northern Westchester.

HELP US MAKE PLAYTIME BUNDLES FOR NEW BABIES TO BENEFIT OSSINING OPEN DOOR

WHAT THE BABIES NEED:

- NEW Clothing: Sizes newborn, 3 months, 6 months
 - Onesies (snap at crotch t-shirts)
 - Long sleeve onesies with feet
 - Pants, Socks
- NEW Rattles, teething rings, other small newborn toys
- NEW Board books (Bilingual Spanish/English)
- Disposable diapers (newborn, size 1)
- Diaper wipes and Diaper rash cream
- NEW Small bibs (for drooling, etc.)



3 WAYS YOU CAN HELP THE BABIES:

1. **Buy any of the NEW items** above and drop them off at any of these locations:
 - Asbury United Methodist Church, 17 Old Post Rd S in Croton: Saturdays/Sundays 10:00-12:30
 - Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 56 Cleveland Drive, Croton, Sundays 9am-12
 - Temple Israel of Northern Westchester, 31 Glengary Rd, Croton: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays 11:00-3:00
2. **Send check donations** to Ossining Open Door, 165 Main St. Ossining NY 10562. Make check out to "Open Door Foundation" with "Baby Bundle" on the memo line. Enclose a note saying "In coordination with Croton Interfaith Women"
3. **Join us to assemble** Playtime Bundles on Sunday, June 9 at Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 56 Cleveland Drive in Croton at 1:00 pm

Deadline for drop off donations - Monday, June 3

RSVP and Questions: Contact Beth Deckert: 914-419-8825 bdeck75456@aol.com

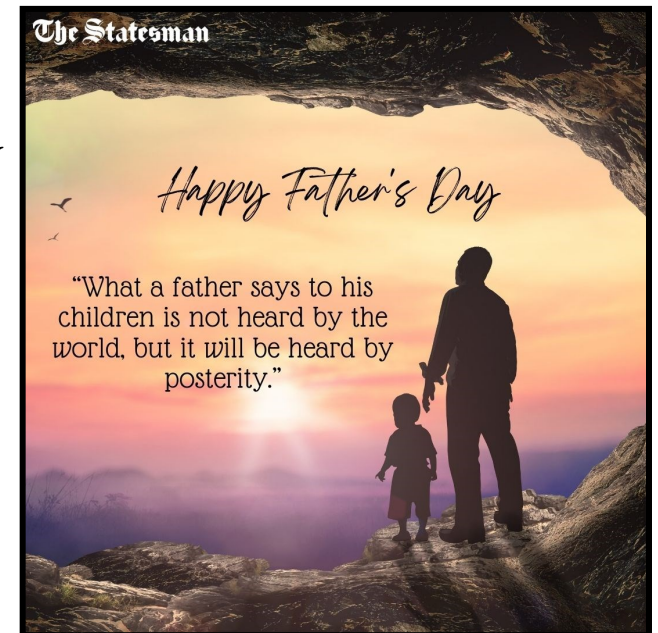
Her children
rise up and
call her blessed.

Proverbs 31:28



HAPPY
MOTHERS DAY
To All Our
MOMS

HAPPY
FATHERS DAY
To All Our
DADS



Happy Spring!

Christ is Risen!

Christian Crafters has risen to the occasion and is springing into action!

It has been a very busy spring for us. As a result of Nat'l Quilting day in March we have a new member to our Tuesday morning group. Ada is a wonderful addition. She is pictured here making a quilt top. Before she joined us, she had never sewn before. Our Saturday group, this month, had 9 quests. This group of ladies included an 11 year old who was disappointed we only meet the first Saturday of every month. They are sandwiching and tying like pros. Conversation yielded great connections with each other. The common thread: "I like the idea that we get to help people in need around the world." They are an inspiration. The two groups have completed 26 quilts since the last ingathering last fall.

If you work during the week, consider joining us the first Saturday of each month from 1-4:00. If you are free during the week, join us Tuesday mornings from 9am- 12:00. Better yet come to both! Also, when doing your spring cleaning, please consider donating your old clean sheets to our group. We use them for the backings of our quilts. And of course, financial donations sure would help keep our machines in working order.

Sincere thanks from: Ada, Becky, Carol, Evelyn, Janette, Karen, Kathleen, Lois and Miguel



2024 COUNCIL MEMBERS & OFFICERS

OFFICERS:

President: Sue Montgomery **Vice President:** Matt Papertsian
Secretary: Marilyn Grantner/Jamie Polcari **Treasurer:** Bryan Montgomery

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

Property: Matt Papertsian **Finance:** Bryan Montgomery
Stewardship: Marilyn Grantner & Sue Montgomery
Worship & Music: Eleanor Keil **Social Ministry:** LeeAnn McCarthy
Christian Education: Jamie Polcari
Mutual Ministry: Sue Montgomery
Social Ministry: Lee Ann McCarthy

MAY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 NA 7:00pm	2 AI Anon Mtg 1-2pm	3	4 YOGA Class 9:45am QUILTING 1-4pm AA 7:00pm
5 Sixth Easter WorshipService 10:00am via Facebook & IN SANCTUARY	6	7 Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	8 NA 7:00pm	9 AI Anon Mtg 1-2pm	10	11 YOGA Class 9:45am AA 7:00pm
12 Seventh Easter WorshipService 10:00am via Facebook & IN SANCTUARY Happy Mothers Day	13	14 Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	15 NA 7:00pm	16 AI Anon Mtg 1-2pm	17	18 YOGA Class 9:45am AA 7:00pm
19 Day of Pentecost WorshipService 10:00am via Facebook & IN SANCTUARY Council Ecumenical Activity 1-3pm Chris Metlowski preaching	20	21 Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	22 NA 7:00pm	23 AI Anon Mtg 1-2pm	24	25 YOGA Class 9:45am AA 7:00pm
26 Holy Trinity WorshipService 10:00am via Facebook & IN SANCTUARY	27	28 Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	29 NA 7:00pm	30 AI Anon Mtg 1-2pm	31	

JUNE 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 YOGA Class 9:45am QUILTING 1-4pm AA 7:00pm
2 Second Pentecost WorshipService 10:00am via Facebook & IN SANCTUARY	3	4 Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	5 NA 7:00pm	6 AI Anon Mtg 1-2pm	7	8 YOGA Class 9:45am AA 7:00pm
9 Third Pentecost WorshipService 10:00am via Facebook & IN SANCTUARY Ossining Open Door Event at 1:00pm	10	11 Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	12 NA 7:00pm	13 AI Anon Mtg 1-2pm	14	15 YOGA Class 9:45am AA 7:00pm
16 Fourth Pentecost WorshipService 10:00am via Facebook & IN SANCTUARY Happy Fathers Day	17	18 Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	19 NA 7:00pm	20 AI Anon Mtg 1-2pm	21	22 YOGA Class 9:45am AA 7:00pm
23 Fifth Pentecost WorshipService 10:00am via Facebook & IN SANCTUARY	24	25 Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	26 NA 7:00pm	26 AI Anon Mtg 1-2pm	28	29 YOGA Class 9:45am AA 7:00pm
30 Sixth Pentecost WorshipService 10:00am via Facebook & IN SANCTUARY						