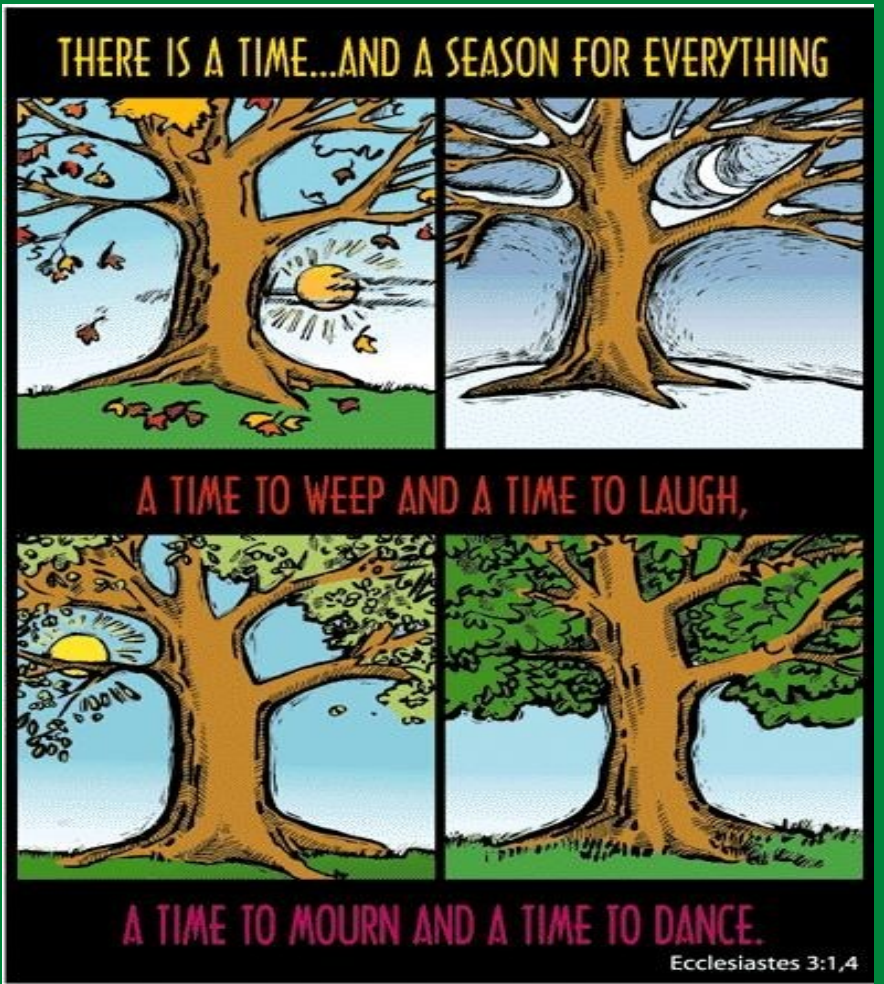




Our Saviour Lutheran Church
THE SEEKER
SEPTEMBER 2024

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

2024 COUNCIL MEMBERS & OFFICERS

OFFICERS:

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

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

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

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.



As Summer wanes and Fall arrives, we shift back into gear at Our Saviour and ready for the start of our regular programming. Adult Bible study will be back, a few special events will be announced, and we begin again as the leaves change outside. Fall is my favorite season, especially in the Hudson Valley.

Throughout the summer, the council and I were making plans for what is to come this Fall. In the Spring, we shared the idea of surveying the congregation to get a sense of where we are as a congregation. The council asked the congregation if we wanted to move forward with a survey tool called the Congregational Assessment Tool or CAT for short. The tool will be used to survey the congregation and the results will be shared with the council president and council. The results are compared to other congregations our size, so we can get a sense of the health and feelings of the congregation.

This September, we will be launching the survey. There will be two different ways one could take this- online which is the preferred method or with a paper survey. If one chooses the paper survey, a member of the council will need to input the responses on your behalf. With online input, only you will see your responses to the questions. The survey length will be two weeks long and it will then take another 3-6 weeks before we get our results.

Why we are doing this is the congregation has shifted after the shutdown from 2020-2021. Average attendance and giving has changed since Covid, as expenses increased. Our congregation has shifted with who is attending and who is no longer attending. Families moved and change occurred. It is not just our congregation, but faith organizations across the US have shifted following Covid. The council and I would like to get a sense of how the congregation is feeling a few years after the reopening of the congregation. Is the pastor still the right person? What direction and priorities should we have? Are people content?

Assessment and evaluation is always important in the life of the congregation as we move forward in mission. This will help the council make decisions and help with strategy on how we move forward. Thank you ahead of time for participating.



2024 Christmas Fair!

How does **Dec. 7** sound?

Time: 10:00-3:00?

It is not too early to think ahead and reserve the date on your calendars. Let's sit down together to toss some ideas around and see what we come up with.

Planning Meeting Oct. 6 during coffee hour.

This a wonderful opportunity for our congregation to work together to:

Invite the community into or building

Experience Christian Fellowship

Support local and national organization with some of our proceeds.

Blessings!

Christian Crafters

By the time you read this, another **blessing** of the quilts and kits will have happened here at Our Saviour. All the quilts and kits will be packed up and brought to Grace Lutheran Church in Yorktown loaded in a semitrailer and sent on its way to LWR headquarters in Baltimore. Each quilt, personal care kit, fabric kit, baby care kit and school kit will be a **blessing** to someone somewhere in the world.

We, the Christian Crafters appreciate your many **blessings** as a congregation. We want to thank you for the **blessings** of your sheets, fabric and financial support of our efforts making quilts and school bags. We also appreciate the council **blessing** us with the space below the sanctuary as the 'LWR Room.'

As we count our **blessings** , we are looking forward to the Christmas Fair in December and continuing National Quilting Day next March.

You can be a **blessing** by joining us Tuesday mornings from 9am to noon or the first Saturday of every month between 1-4:00 to create, cut, iron, tie or machine stitch quilts and school bags.



With your continued **blessings** we will continue this ministry,

Your Christian Crafters

TREASURERS REPORT

A mid-year financial update

With the first half of the year gone, it might be useful to review how we are doing financially against our target budget. Like most things in life, there is good news and bad news. The good news is that our expenses for the first half of the year are about \$6,000 or 5% less than we planned. I will say that our expenses are not exactly equal each month, although we have made changes to equal it out. We are paying our benevolence monthly – which probably helps Synod and LWR as well to smooth out their income. Hopefully we will continue on this path with our reduced expenses and less of them than we expected.

On the other side of the coin it is not quite so good. Our income is about 15% down on where we wanted to be. This amounts to \$12,000. If this remains the same for the second half of the year – a big if, our deficit would be about \$12,000 worse than our approved budget. So instead of a deficit of almost \$29,000 it may be closer to \$41,000. The good thing is we have reserves available to cover this additional expense this year.

We do ask that each one of us can consider our own individual situations and see if we can increase the amount we give to the church. Karen and John Magerlein will be happy to help setup or change the Vanco automatic giving.

The last thing I have is that as you may have seen, in one of the recent storms we had a large tree come down in the old preschool playground. We have received a quote of \$2,100 to clean this up. We also have a quote of \$3,500 to remove the large spruce tree in front of the parish hall doors; however, Council has agreed that this can be held off for now. If you feel able to help financially with the removal of the downed tree, you can add to your donation and if you want it can be designated to property maintenance.

Thank you,

Bryan Montgomery

Treasurer.

SEPTEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Fifteenth Pentecost WorshipService 10:00am via Facebook & IN SANCTUARY	2	3 Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	4 NA 7:00pm	5 AI Anon Mtg 1-2pm	6	7 YOGA Class 9:45am QUILTING 1-4pm AA 7:00pm
8 Sixteenth Pentecost WorshipService 10:00am via Facebook & IN SANCTUARY 1:00pm Blessing of Quilts & Kits By LeeAnn	9	10 Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	11 NA 7:00pm	12 AI Anon Mtg 1-2pm	13	14 YOGA Class 9:45am AA 7:00pm
15 Seventeenth Pentecost WorshipService 10:00am via Facebook & IN SANCTUARY	16	17 Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	18 NA 7:00pm	19 AI Anon Mtg 1-2pm	20	21 YOGA Class 9:45am AA 7:00pm
22 Eighteenth Pentecost WorshipService 10:00am via Facebook & IN SANCTUARY	23	24 Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	25 NA 7:00pm	26 AI Anon Mtg 1-2pm	27	28 YOGA Class 9:45am AA 7:00pm
29 Ninteenth Pentecost WorshipService 10:00am via Facebook & IN SANCTUARY	30					