



Our Saviour Lutheran Church

# THE SEEKER

MARCH / APRIL 2025

Rev. Justin Johnson, pastor



Joy Comes in the Morning:  
*Easter Sunday*



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.



**Saturday, Mar 29<sup>th</sup>**  
**10:00am – 4:00pm**

**Croton Free Library**

171 Cleveland Dr. Croton-On-Hudson, NY

**3 options to sign up:**

- ▶ [Click here](#)
- ▶ Scan the QR code
- ▶ Go to [nybc.org/sponsor](http://nybc.org/sponsor) and use code #02894



800.933.BLOOD · [nybc.org](http://nybc.org)

**Prepare to donate**

- Eat well and hydrate
- Bring a photo ID
- Feel good and symptom-free
- Must be 17+ or 16 with parental consent form
- Meet minimum weight requirements
- Written consent from your Doctor if aged 76 or older.



**2025 COUNCIL MEMBERS & OFFICERS**

**OFFICERS:**

**President:** John Magerlein                      **Vice President:** Larry Moy  
**Secretary:** Marilyn Grantner/Jamie Polcari    **Treasurer:** Bryan Montgomery

**COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:**

**Property:** Matt Papertsian                      **Stewardship:** Marilyn Grantner  
**Worship & Music:** Eleanor Keil              **Social Ministry:** LeeAnn McCarthy  
**Finance:** John Magerlein                      **Christian Education:** Jamie Polcari  
**Evangelism & Outreach:** Eleanor Soderlund    **Mutual Ministry:** Larry Moy



*Pastor's Message*

- Rev. Justin Johnson

Here we are in the season of Lent, already. It was nice to experience a longer Epiphany season, but in my comfort of the season, Lent kind of snuck up on me. While Epiphany is a season of “ah-ha”s about who Jesus is, Lent is a season of reflection and inner work.

This year, we will once again be using the wonderful work by Barn Geese worship. I love how their liturgy flows and having a theme each year on the common lectionary, helps me focus as well. This year, we are exploring what we need in our lives.

When we think of needs, there are the very basic things we immediately think about- air, food, water, etc. As we go further into our needs, there are things we might not think about immediately- the need for love, community, or protection. There are also communal needs as we think about the needs for all of us living together on this planet. This is what this season will focus on- the deep needs we all have as community and as individuals.

I recently started working with a reflective pastoral supervisor. My goal is to become one myself, but I wanted to experience what it was like at the same time. One of my first “assignments” was to fill a basket with 25 things. They can be anything and as of the writing of this article, I don’t know what the activity is for, so it has made choosing the things more anxiety producing than the activity needs to be.

While initially, I thought I would fill the basket with 25 things that reflect my personality- maybe a Lego figure that represents me, my favorite book, or an empty A5 notebook, the more I thought about the assignment I want to fill it with things that I go to on a regular basis. Since I am already thinking about the Lenten focus, I decided to begin to fill my basket with items that I use daily- my journal, something representing my iPad, a bible, my current devotional reading, etc.

It is funny how this small shift in thinking about things that reflect me to things I use regularly and by extension reflect a different side of me, transformed the activity from stuff to needs. While I will survive if I don’t journal daily, it is such a part of who I am that without listing places I find joy or thankfulness, I would feel like something is missing. It has become a deep need in my devotional life.

What are your daily and communal needs? Let’s explore all Lent.

CHURCH  COUNCIL  
PRESIDENTS COLUMN

-John Magerlein

After my previous term as Council president including the early pandemic years, a time of great stress for the congregation, it has been good to be off the Council for the past three years. In taking on this role again, my fellow Council members and I have been thinking about our future. One can hear many discouraging messages about the church in general and about congregations such as ours. It is true that in-person attendance here and at most other churches is lower than 5 years ago and the ways of carrying out our ministry have changed. I firmly believe, however, that God continues to work in the church and that our congregation has enormous strengths.

We continue to have a strong external focus, both locally and globally. We are expanding our partnership with Croton Caring to distribute good used children's books to families in need who receive food baskets, which have been put together at the church since 2023. To support the work of Lutheran World Relief, we made 189 quilts and kits last year to be distributed around the world and were recognized by an article in their magazine. We contributed 30% of all the proceeds of our annual Christmas Fair to Padres Hispanos of Ossining and Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison.

We have a strong base of members who are committed to this vision. According to the recent survey of the congregation by Holy Cow, members expressed high satisfaction with what we are doing and a high level of energy, both well above average for congregations our size. The top priority identified was "Work to renew and revitalize the community around the church by building coalitions with partners that share this vision and commitment.", while 73% of members stated that participating in church activities beyond worship is meaningful to them.

To build on these strengths, we need to continue expressing clearly who we are and what we stand for, in the belief that this will allow us to connect with individuals and groups in our community with a similar vision. Pastor Johnson's active connections with many community organizations are of great value here.

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To connect with others on a more personal level and share the good news, Pastor Johnson has encouraged members to tell their own faith stories.

There is some reason to think that our message is starting to be heard. Our average worship attendance, both in person and online, was slightly greater in 2024 than in 2023. We added 6 new members in 2024 and continue to declare that we see every person as a valued child of God. Due to the generosity of our members, we finished 2024 with a small and manageable budget deficit, much smaller than anticipated. Along with my fellow Council members and Pastor Johnson, I look forward to working with everyone as we find our way along in this journey of faith.



## MAUNDY THURSDAY

APRIL 17 6:00pm

We have an opportunity on Maundy Thursday to have Dinner Church. This is a wonderful mix of a full dinner along with worship. Worship is at tables and will include communion. Throughout the meal, we hear the word and discuss what we heard together.

Having a dinner on Maundy Thursday brings an extra layer of connection to the Gospel narrative.

We will be joined by our guest Rev Lena Warren, who has graciously offered to lead us through this unique experience. She has brought this service to both of her former congregations and it is always a meaningful service.

Look for a sign up sheet in the hallway for attendance and for meal prep.



**PALM SUNDAY  
SERVICE**  
Sunday April 13  
at  
10:00 AM



**MAUNDY THURSDAY  
SERVICE**  
Thursday April 17  
at  
6:00PM



**GOOD FRIDAY  
SERVICE**  
Friday April 18  
at  
7:00PM



**EASTER SUNDAY  
SERVICE**  
Sunday April 20  
at  
10:00AM



**Easter Lilies & Tulips  
will adorn our Easter Altar  
If you would like to sponsor a plant...**

**ORDER FORM**

I would like to contribute \_\_\_\_\_

Easter Plants at \$15 per plant.

Total Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor or Memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

From:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Thank You for making our Easter Season more festive. Orders due no later than Palm Sunday

# MARCH 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						<b>1</b> YOGA Class 9:45am AA 7:00pm
<b>2</b> Third Lent WorshipService 10:00am via YouTube & IN SANCTUARY	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon  AA 7:00pm	<b>5</b> Ash Wednesday Ash Wednesday Service 7PM  NA 7:00pm	<b>6</b> AI Anon Mtg 1-2pm	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> YOGA Class 9:45am  AA 7:00pm
<b>9</b> First Lent WorshipService 10:00am via YouTube & IN SANCTUARY	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon  AA 7:00pm	<b>12</b>   NA 7:00pm	<b>13</b> AI Anon Mtg 1-2pm	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> YOGA Class 9:45am  AA 7:00pm
<b>16</b> Second Lent WorshipService 10:00am via YouTube & IN SANCTUARY	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon  AA 7:00pm	<b>19</b>   NA 7:00pm	<b>20</b> AI Anon Mtg 1-2pm	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> YOGA Class 9:45am  AA 7:00pm
<b>23</b> Third Lent WorshipService 10:00am via YouTube & IN SANCTUARY	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon  AA 7:00pm	<b>26</b>   NA 7:00pm	<b>27</b> AI Anon Mtg 1-2pm	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> YOGA Class 9:45am  AA 7:00pm
<b>30</b> Fourth Lent WorshipService 10:00am via YouTube & IN SANCTUARY	<b>31</b>					

# APRIL 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> <b>Christian Crafters</b> <b>9:00am –noon</b>  AA                      7:00pm	<b>2</b>   NA                      7:00pm	<b>3</b> Al Anon Mtg    1-2pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  YOGA Class 9:45am AA                      7:00pm
<b>6</b> Fifth Lent WorshipService 10:00am via YouTube & IN SANCTUARY	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>Christian Crafters</b> <b>9:00am –noon</b>  AA                      7:00pm	<b>9</b>   NA                      7:00pm	<b>10</b> Al Anon Mtg    1-2pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  YOGA Class 9:45am AA                      7:00pm
<b>13</b> Palm Sunday WorshipService 10:00am via YouTube & IN SANCTUARY	<b>14</b> Holy Monday	<b>15</b> Holy Tuesday <b>Christian Crafters</b> <b>9:00am –noon</b>  AA                      7:00pm	<b>16</b> Holy Wednesday	<b>17</b> Maundy Thursday <b>Maundy Thursday</b> <b>Dinner Church 6PM</b>  Al Anon Mtg    1-2pm	<b>18</b> Good Friday <b>Good Friday</b> <b>Service 7PM</b>	<b>19</b> Holy Saturday  YOGA Class 9:45am AA                      7:00pm
<b>20</b> Easter Sunday WorshipService 10:00am via YouTube & IN SANCTUARY	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>Christian Crafters</b> <b>9:00am –noon</b>  AA                      7:00pm	<b>23</b>   NA                      7:00pm	<b>24</b>   Al Anon Mtg    1-2pm	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Funeral            2:00pm YOGA Class 9:45am AA                      7:00pm
<b>27</b> Second Easter WorshipService 10:00am via YouTube & IN SANCTUARY  Wedding 11:30 am	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>Christian Crafters</b> <b>9:00am –noon</b>  AA                      7:00pm	<b>30</b>   NA                      7:00pm			