



Rev. Justin Johnson, pastor

Our Saviour Lutheran Church
THE SEEKER
SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2025



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

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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	Social Ministry: Lee Ann McCarthy
Worship & Music: Eleanor Keil	Mutual Ministry: Sue Montgomery
Christian Education: Jamie Polcari	
Social Ministry: Lee Ann McCarthy	



Happy Fall everyone! It has been a while since we have had a newsletter, so I have to get the pastor's article rust off.

It has been an exciting time in the church right now as we had 5 new ministry opportunities with a few extra here and there, we had 3 baptisms, 1 wedding, and 7 new members join our church. We have been regrowing since Covid and it has been exciting.

With that and with a new newsletter cycle, I wanted to share a different discussion with the council, other than what our Council President John has shared. That discussion has been on staffing our congregation and what the expectations are of our staff.

Since some are new, my call, for example, is a 3/4th time call meaning I am not full time and I work about 30-35 hours a week. When I say Thursday, Friday, and Saturday are my days off, it doesn't mean they are days off from a full time schedule, but rather I am only called to the congregation 4 days a week (with a few exceptions such as funerals or important activities). My salary is 3/4th the salary of the Synod guidelines as well.

These hours would include any activities I do for the church such as office hours, visitations, hospital runs, funerals, community connections, Bible study, as well as sermon prep and lesson prep. The prep parts are included in the number of hours I am called to the congregation and some might forget that part. The council and congregation asked that I spend more time in the community than the office to grow the church, grow connections, and be the face of the congregation.

I share this because in the past, the pastor was called full time and had days off. Things changed 8 years ago when I was called. I am not a full time pastor, but a part time one. Right after I was called, the Synod changed the guidelines for preaching and worship leadership for part time pastors, so if I had been called a year later, it would have meant that I would be leading 3 out of 4 Sundays and not every Sunday.

The other part of my call is vacation and education weeks. I have 2 education weeks and 4 vacation weeks. These are full weeks including Sundays. When I was called, they were translated into hours rather than weeks.

The same is with Phill, Melanie, and Mary. We are all part time staff members. Phill's time is approximately 12 hours a week which includes practice time, service prep, etc. We were used to two musicians in the past and now there is one who has limited hours. Melanie works 12 hours a week Monday, Tuesday, and Friday from 9-1. Mary is only a few hours per week.

I share this with all of you and the council because as things grow and get more demanding, we are still working with all part time staff. This means if certain activities are desired, either members or readjustment of schedules would be needed.

My hope is to clear some questions up and share part of the conversation the council and I have been having.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

- John Magerlein, Council President

I hope you have had a relaxing and enjoyable summer. It's been great to see so many members of our congregation at church on Sundays throughout the summer.

At our August meeting, the Council began to think about goals and programs for the upcoming year. The word which kept coming up was "connection", both among our members and with the local community. That word also came up in an earlier discussion I had with past president Sue Montgomery during coffee hour, where she emphasized the importance of connecting to different people in different ways, according to their individual needs and personalities.

Sunday coffee hours have long been a primary way to connect with other members. The recent special barbecue coffee hour gave more time for informal conversation. Other events involving food are anticipated. Pastor's Wednesday Bible study, which will resume in September, is an opportunity both to study scripture and to connect with other participants. The quilts and kits we make for Lutheran World Relief connect us to people around the world, while also connecting those who make them, both congregation members and others from the community. While the Christmas Fair raises much-needed funds for the church and other groups we support, its most important function is strengthening connections within the congregation and with the community members who attend. Recently several different groups of members have worked together to improve our property, and a fall property work day is on the horizon. Our collaboration with Croton Caring has given us a strong connection to the Croton community.

I encourage you to participate in the activities of the congregation. If you have ideas of other ways to increase connections of all types, please discuss them with me, any other Council member, or Pastor Johnson.

PROPERTY

- Matt Papertsian, Council Member

Good news fellow parishioners, we will be fixing the church roof this fall! The roof is long overdue for some serious repairs. No more falling or slipping tiles, no more risk of severe water damage.

We have secured **Arthur Vincent Roofing**, who come with excellent references and who work exclusively with churches.

Here is a rooftop view of the tiles which require replacement, as captured via drone, 85 in total.

Once we have a Fall date for the work to commence, we will share it with the congregation. The total cost for the work is \$8,750 and the church is happy for any and all donations to help offset the cost of this vital and necessary work.



CELEBRATE THE
HOLIDAY SEASON WITH US!

Our Saviour
Lutheran Church
Christmas
Fair

DECEMBER 6TH | 10AM - 3PM

56 CLEVELAND DR.
CROTON-ON-HUDSON

- Handmade Crafts
- Baked Goods & Café
- Christmas Tag Sale
- Live Holiday Music

Vendors Needed

- \$40 per space - payable by cash or check
- Deadline to sign up is Nov. 25th
- Limited space - Sign up early



For more information visit: www.oursaviourcroton.org
or facebook.com/oursaviourcroton

SCHOOL KITS

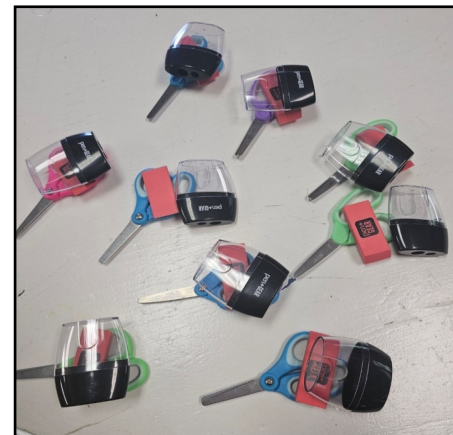
- Frya Barnes & Eleanor Soderlund



This year we are happy to inform all that we were able to assemble 73 Health Care Kits and 48 School Kits for Lutheran World Relief.

Shortly before our Christmas Fair I will assemble the Christmas Gifts for the Seafarers.

These will be due about December 1st.



FINANCIAL SECRETARY

- Karen & John Magerlein

We hope everyone has had a restorative summer. As we prepare to get back to “real life”, we encourage you to bring your financial contributions up to date if you have taken a break.

We have two methods of online giving available. Vanco allows you to set up a regular contribution (weekly, biweekly, or monthly) which is deducted from a bank account or debit card and goes to the Current and Benevolence Fund for general church expenses. The church pays a small fee for this service. A second option is PayPal, which allows you to make donations at times of your own choosing, and in addition to C&B you can specify a different fund by adding a note. PayPal charges a higher fee.

If you prefer to give by cash or check, we can supply a set of envelopes which will enable us to give you a record of your contributions for tax purposes. Please speak to either of us if you are interested.



SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

- Karen Magerlein

We have many opportunities for service within our church which would benefit by having more people to share in the work. There's something for every personality type.

We love our coffee hours, but we need people to sign up each week to host them if we want to have these opportunities for fellowship. This involves bringing milk, juice, and some kind of snacks (bake some brownies, buy some donut holes or chips and dip, whatever you like), setting up the coffeepot and mugs, and cleaning up and starting the dishwasher at the end. Some people enjoy doing more elaborate coffee hours, but all that's essential is to give people an excuse to hang around and enjoy one another's company.

We like the variety of having different people to read the lessons each week, but for that to happen we need to have people sign up to be lectors. All you need to do is read over the first and second lessons before the service so that you have time to check the pronunciation of any unfamiliar words if necessary.

If you prefer to stay behind the scenes, talk to me about joining the Altar Guild. We set up the altar for the weekly services, which involves doing some minor setup during the week (or the previous Sunday), coming in early to put out the bread and wine, and washing up the communion vessels after the service.

Do you have a skill in painting/plumbing/electrical work/etc.? The church has an unending supply of maintenance jobs, large and small, which need to be done. Talk to Matt Papertsian (the Council property liaison) or John Magerlein about individual projects which would be useful. Yard work is almost always in season; watch for a work day once the leaves come down.

QUILTERZ

- Lois Leonard, Council Member



March 18, we were honored to have Pr. Krick from LWR (Lutheran World Relief) visit us. He shared with us several videos on the work that LWR has accomplished in the last 80 years.

He profusely thanked us for the work we are doing here at Our Saviour to support their efforts. As one of our newer community members to our group said, "Wow, he really made us feel we are making a difference." Another one said, "It makes me feel like I want to continue to help."

I do not have the exact numbers, but I believe we have contributed over 300 quilts in our 9 year existence. Our first year, 2016, we sent 8 quilts, in 2024 we sent 77 to LWR headquarters in Baltimore.

Karen M. has almost single handedly made 45 bookbags a year now for several years. Outside of this sewing group, Frya B. has taken responsibility for personal care kits and contents of the school kits, and Marlyn G. has taken responsibility for baby care kits.

With your donations and donations/volunteers from our community, we have grown in our ministry to help those in need around the world. Unfortunately, natural disasters, war and refugees continue to happen and we will continue to work to enable LWR to continue their work.

Thank you for the support you have given us and any way you might support us in the future.

BLESSING OF QUILTS & KITS

- Lois Leonard, Council Member

It was with great joy to see all the quilts and kits present on September 7th for the congregation to see. Pastor and Bishop Foster emphasized our calling to help those in need around the world including here in America no matter their religious, political or any other affiliation. This doesn't just happen though. There are many of you that have donated their time, finances, labor, supplies, fabric and sheets to accomplish this. Thank you!

Special thanks:

Frya Barnes for organizing the 63 Personal Care Kits, Karen Magerlein and Frya Barnes for organizing the 48 School Bag Kits,

Marilyn Grantner for the 12 Baby Care Kits & Lois Leonard for leading the Christian Crafter that created 74 Quilts.

Tuesday, Sept. 9 we will pack up all the kits and quilts in boxes. Saturday John Mueller and myself will deliver them to Grace Lutheran Church for the "In Gathering." From there, a semi-truck will carry boxes donated by many churches in the northern area of our synod to the LWR warehouse in Baltimore.

Next week we start all over again. So you didn't miss out. You have an opportunity to help continue this ministry at Our Saviour. Contact any of the above mentioned people as how you can be a part of this ministry.



SEPTEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 After School Program 3-4:30pm	2 Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	3 NA 7:00pm	4 Al Anon Mtg 1-2pm	5	6 YOGA Class 9:45am QUILTING 1-4pm AA 7:00pm
7 Thirteenth Pentecost WorshipService 10:00am via YouTube & IN SANCTUARY Blessing of Quilts & Kits	8	9 Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	10 NA 7:00pm	11 Al Anon Mtg 1-2pm	12	13 YOGA Class 9:45am AA 7:00pm
14 Fourteenth Pentecost WorshipService 10:00am via YouTube & IN SANCTUARY BAPTISM of Lily Rose Jernejec	15 After School Program 3-4:30pm	16 Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	17 NA 7:00pm	18 Al Anon Mtg 1-2pm	19	20 YOGA Class 9:45am AA 7:00pm
21 Fifteenth Pentecost WorshipService 10:00am via YouTube & IN SANCTUARY	22 After School Program 3-4:30pm	23 Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon After School Program 9am-1pm AA 7:00pm	24 After School Program 9am-1pm NA 7:00pm	25 Al Anon Mtg 1-2pm	26	27 YOGA Class 9:45am AA 7:00pm
28 Sixteenth Pentecost WorshipService 10:00am via YouTube & IN SANCTUARY	29 After School Program 3-4:30pm	30 Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm				

OCTOBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 NA 7:00pm	2 Al Anon Mtg 1-2pm	3	4 YOGA Class 9:45am QUILTING 1-4pm AA 7:00pm
5 Seventeenth Pentecost WorshipService 10:00am via YouTube & IN SANCTUARY Croton Caring Coffee Hour	6 After School Program 3-4:30pm	7 Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	8 NA 7:00pm	9 Al Anon Mtg 1-2pm	10	11 YOGA Class 9:45am AA 7:00pm
12 Eighteenth Pentecost WorshipService 10:00am via YouTube & IN SANCTUARY Christmas Fair Planning Mtg during Coffee Hour	13 After School Program 3-4:30pm	14 Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	15 NA 7:00pm	16 Al Anon Mtg 1-2pm	17	18 YOGA Class 9:45am AA 7:00pm
19 Nineteenth Pentecost WorshipService 10:00am via YouTube & IN SANCTUARY	20 After School Program 3-4:30pm	21 Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	22 NA 7:00pm	23 Al Anon Mtg 1-2pm	24	25 YOGA Class 9:45am AA 7:00pm
26 Reformation Sunday WorshipService 10:00am via YouTube & IN SANCTUARY	27 After School Program 3-4:30pm	28 Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	29 NA 7:00pm	30 Al Anon Mtg 1-2pm	31	