

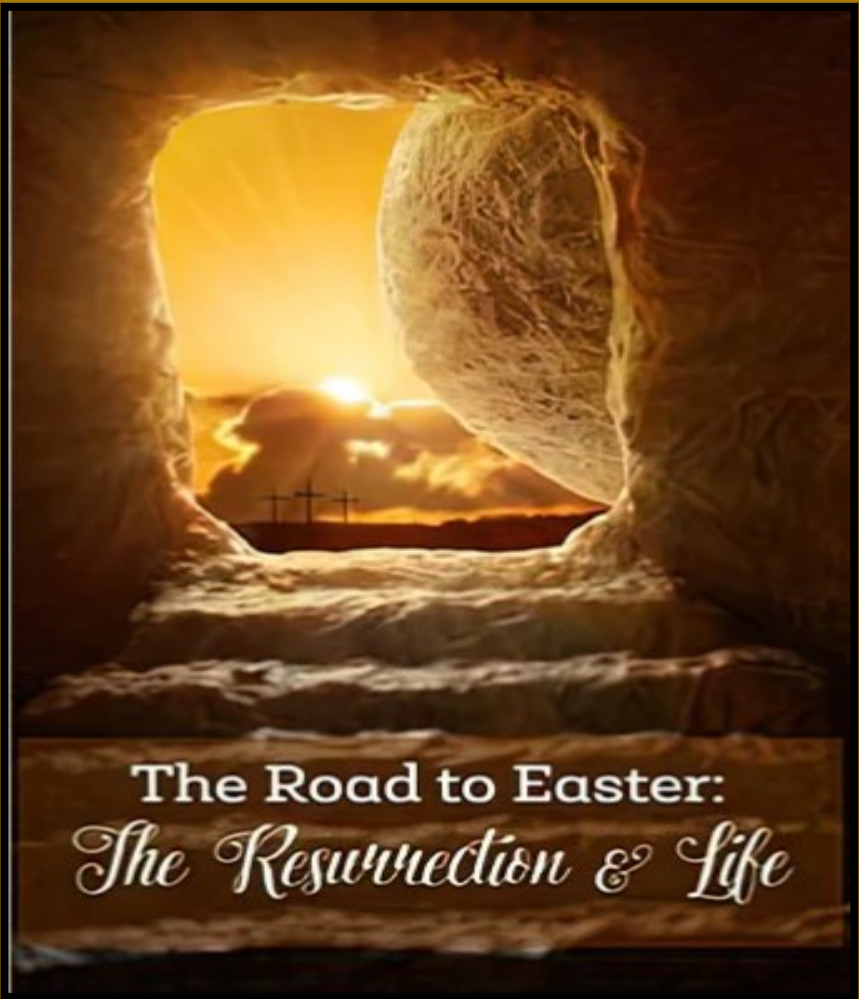


Our Saviour Lutheran Church

# THE SEEKER

MARCH/APRIL 2023

*Rev. Justin Johnson, pastor*



The Road to Easter:  
*The Resurrection & Life*



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](mailto:mail@oursaviourcroton.org)  
**Website:** [www.oursaviourcroton.org](http://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.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**-Sue Montgomery**

When I was a little girl, I was amazed by what God could do - his son Jesus was born in December, and by April he was a grown man with a beard riding a donkey. Surely our God is an awesome God.

Sooooo, I figured out eventually that it didn't all happen in the same year. And Lent has become for me a time that I want to focus on wandering and wondering. A lot happens between the humble and miraculous beginning and the terrible but then glorious conclusion of Jesus' time among us. Lent is a good time to settle in and wander also through the 40 days spent in the wilderness, the lessons and parables Jesus shared, and try not to jump ahead to what we know is coming. To abide with the awareness of God's presence in this moment.

2023 is off to a good start at Our Saviour. The new Council has met twice, and elected officers for the year: Sue Montgomery, President, Matt Papertsian, Vice President and Marilyn Grantner, Secretary. We are very thankful for the ongoing support from the congregation and will continue to seek ways to fulfill our mission. We're very excited about the new relationship with Croton Caring and will keep looking for ways we can help our neighbors, whether we share a village, a county, a synod, or a world. The celebration of our 90th anniversary planned for later this year is sparking ideas from different areas on how we can recognize the accomplishments of our first 90 years and prepare for the future! Thank you for being a part of this church.

Sue Montgomery  
Council President

**2023 COUNCIL MEMBERS & OFFICERS**

**OFFICERS:**

**President: Sue Montgomery**                      **Vice President: Matt Papertsian**  
**Secretary: Marilyn Grantner**                      **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**



**Easter Lilies & Tulips will adorn our  
Easter Altar this year.  
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



Last month, I wrote my newsletter article stating there was change in the air. As we approach the Easter season, we come to the reminder that things are always being made new. Things die and from death, resurrection happens. It is the central aspect of the Christ narrative.

As we approach Spring and new life is in the air, I wanted to talk about changes and shifts that will be happening at Our Saviour. We are in the third year after Covid and now we have an idea of what we are keeping, what we have needed to let go, and what the church looks like now. As your pastor, I have wanted to allow the dust to settle, so we can see what it all looks like.

There were some exciting changes we wanted to start pre-Covid, such as becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation. What this means is to openly state that we are a welcoming congregation to the LGBTQIA+ community. We started the process in 2020, took a survey, changed our welcoming statement, and were ready to vote. Since that time, the World shifted. We are now seeing bills against drag shows, for example. We have a “don’t say gay” bill in Florida. There has been a shift in how the LGBTQIA+ community is being treated. It is now more important than even in 2020 that we make a commitment to be welcoming. We will start from a beginning again in that we will resend a survey. I will be in contact with the group in charge of the RIC process and see what new things need to be done. We will finish what we started in 2020.

The other major change you will see at Our Saviour is a recommitment to the 5 aspects of discipleship. I introduced this at our annual meeting, but if you were not there, those 5 aspects are- weekly worship, daily Scripture reading, telling our story to others, a focus on stewardship and how we give, and daily prayer. Worship, reading, giving, evangelism, and prayer are often how individuals measure the strength of a congregation and its commitment to being disciples of Christ. There isn’t guilt if you do not do these things, but they are goals to continue to build toward. For example, if you have never read the Bible at home, maybe it means to you reading a Gospel or buying a Bible that speaks to you.

====> continued

If you have not prayed, maybe it means welcoming the day with “dear God” and ending it with “Amen.” We often hear marks of discipleship and think about things we fall short when we compare ourselves to others. Comparing yourself to others does violence to the soul. It is about personal growth instead, as disciples. We will talk more about this in the coming months.

In short, I am using Easter and the idea of new birth to look to begin the next phase of our ministry together. My studies are completed at this time, we know who is on board and who has stepped back for a bit, we have added new ministries and new members, and it is time to begin looking at the post-lockdown time as a congregation. I have stated time and time again, I do not know where the Spirit will blow and it is so exciting to think about that.

Happy Easter! Services will be 8AM and 10AM with a breakfast at 9AM. Maundy Thursday will be at 7 PM and Good Friday will be at 7 PM. There will be extra special music on Palm Sunday and Easter at 10. Wait until you hear what Phill has been up to.

## **SOCIAL / CHRISTIAN MINISTRY**

**- Marilyn Grantner**

Spring is approaching quickly, but we have been working all winter on projects for Lutheran World Relief. With donations from you and funds from a Thrivent grant, Karen P and I have assembled 18 Infant Care Kits. We worked diligently to obtain the many items that go into these kits at a low price to make the best use of our funds. Frya Barnes is currently working on gathering the items needed for Personal Care Kits. Once everything is obtained she will let the congregation now when assembly will be scheduled for a Sunday coffee hour.

It has been a pleasure to be the church council representative for Social and Christian Ministries. Moving forward I have taken on a different commission. I will be assisting with the Stewardship ministry. Lee-Ann McCarthy will now be representing Social/Christian Ministry and Evangelism and Outreach on church council.

# Christian Crafters

March 29 we had an opportunity to share quilting and bookbag making with Grace Lutheran Church in Yorktown Heights. We were warmly greeted and found many men, women and children eager to help tie quilts. We shared our humble beginnings of doing 6 quilts six years ago to 60 quilts last year. When we started, Evelyn, Karen and Lois had never made a quilt before. Here we are, 6 years later, putting on a workshop at another church. It took a lot of planning, but we pulled it off. You need not go so far. Join us Tuesdays from 9am to noon. We work hard, but we have fun. Our next event is National Quilting Day March 18, Saturday, 1-4:00 in the LWR room. We could use your help.

LWR (Lutheran World Relief) has already sent quilts and kits to Turkey and Syria and continues to send quilts and kits to Ukraine, Poland and Romania. With each new disaster LWR is there, yet continues their support to areas less heard about in the news. Go online to [lwr.org](http://lwr.org) to read about all the wonderful work being done.

We ask for your continued support in our efforts to help LWR.org help those that cannot help themselves through:

Prayers of support

Financial donations

Clean cotton fabric: curtains, sheets, tablecloths, etc

Thank you for your continued support of this ministry,

Christian Crafters: Carol, Evelyn, Kathleen, Karen and Lois



## STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

- Marilyn Grantner

When I hear the word stewardship I have to go back to the dictionary to make sure I know the meaning. According to Webster the word steward has 3 meanings.

- 1) a person who manages another's property or financial affairs
- 2) a supervisor of dining and housekeeping services on a passenger ship
- 3) an employee on a plane or train who services drink or food and looks after the comfort of passengers

As a child going to church stewardship was frequently associated with tithing. There was always a conversation of "a tenth of one's income offered for the support of a church" or 'to pay a tithe'. Through my life journey I found tithing is one aspect of stewardship, but there is so much more.

Jesus spoke of stewardship in parables and his teachings.

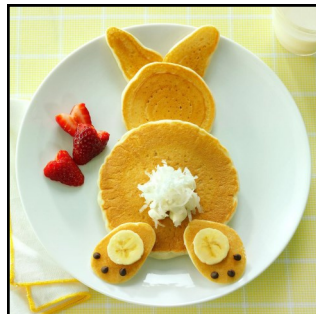
During this upcoming year I would like to investigate more about the meaning of stewardship. The actions of stewardship we see in our church community as well as the greater community in which we live. I'm sure there are many thoughts on this subject and would love to hear some of your stories. As I learn more, I look forward to sharing ideas and thoughts with you.

## EASTER BREAKFAST

- John & Karen Magerlein

Please join us for fellowship and a delicious Easter breakfast from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. between our two Easter services. This year we will feature a breakfast casserole, hot hors d'oeuvres, fresh bagels, fruit, orange juice, and coffee. As we write this article, people have already signed up to bring most of the food we need.

We're looking for a few people to help out, some with set-up during the 8:00 a.m. service and some to do clean-up during the 10:00 a.m. service. Please sign up on the list on the table in the link or talk with one of us.



# NATIONAL QUILTING DAY

**MARCH 18 1:00 – 4:00**

Celebrating 75 years of comforting the world with quilts, nearly 28 million. Light refreshments will be served.

Downstairs in the LWR (Lutheran World Relief) Room, please join us to be a part of this wonderful event to show "God's work our hands." Invite friends and neighbors to experience this opportunity to help those in need around the world. Lutheran World Relief has already sent quilts to Turkey and Syria and is continuing to send quilts to Ukraine and surrounding countries taking in refugees of these disasters. But more is needed. Do you have some cotton or cotton blend material that you can donate? This could be in the form of drapes, curtains, sheets, tablecloths or yardage. Financial donations are always appreciated to purchase batting and keep our sewing machines going. But most of all, your helping hands to cut, tie, pin, iron and sew are always needed. We look forward to seeing you

**March 18,  
1-4:00pm,  
downstairs in the  
LWR room.**

**Sponsored by:  
Christian Crafters**

## National Quilting Day



1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Our Saviour Lutheran Church  
56 Cleveland Drive, Croton

Light refreshments will be served

For more information visit [www.oursaviourcroton.org](http://www.oursaviourcroton.org)

## COMING SOON - OUR 90<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY IN 2023

Recently, we rediscovered a historical church photo album which is now on a table in the link. After studying the album, Pastor realized that we have a significant anniversary coming up in 2023. It will be the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Our Saviour Evangelical Lutheran Church. We would like to begin planning a celebration. One of the things we will do is create a slide show of members and activities throughout the years. If you have any photos to contribute, whether prints or digital, please contact John Magerlein so he can add them to our photo database. Also, if you can identify anyone in the historical album, please let him know.

## OUR SAVIOUR QR CODE

-Bryan Montgomery

We're moving even more into the 21<sup>st</sup> century! We've set up a 'QR' code for PayPal. You may have seen these at museums, or restaurants for example.

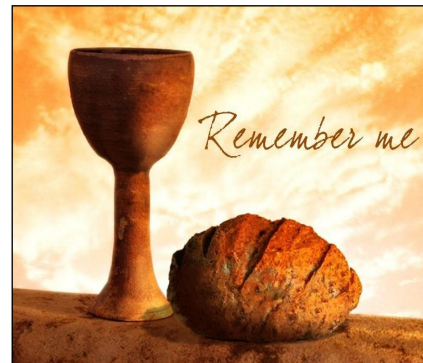
Scanning these with a relatively modern phone's camera or other app will take you to a link that is just for Our Saviour.

If you have the PayPal app, it may ask you to do some setup initially. If you don't have PayPal, it will encourage you to sign up, but you don't have to, you can just put your debit or credit card details in.

We're also looking at adding Venmo as another option – equal opportunity for taking everyone's money. More to come...



## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

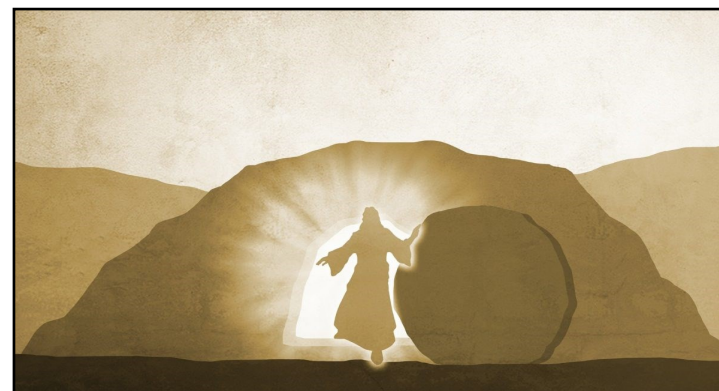


**MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
**April 6 at 7PM**



**GOOD FRIDAY**  
**April 7 at 7PM**

**EASTER SUNDAY**  
**April 9**  
**8:00AM Service**  
**9:00AM Breakfast**



# MARCH 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b> Bible Study 7:00pm at Church  NA 7:00pm	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  AA 7:00pm
<b>5</b> Second Lent WorshipService 10:00am via Facebook or ZOOM & IN SANCTUARY	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon  AA 7:00pm	<b>8</b> Bible Study 7:00pm at Church  NA 7:00pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  AA 7:00pm
<b>12</b> Third Lent WorshipService 10:00am via Facebook or ZOOM & IN SANCTUARY  Daylight Savings Time Begins	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon  AA 7:00pm	<b>15</b> Bible Study 7:00pm at Church  NA 7:00pm	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>  National Quilting Day in LWR room 1-4pm  AA 7:00pm
<b>19</b> Fourth Lent WorshipService via Facebook or ZOOM & IN SANCTUARY	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon  AA 7:00pm	<b>22</b> Bible Study 7:00pm at Church  NA 7:00pm	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  AA 7:00pm
<b>26</b> Fifth Lent WorshipService 10:00am via Facebook or ZOOM & IN SANCTUARY	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon  AA 7:00pm	<b>29</b> Bible Study 7:00pm at Church  NA 7:00pm	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

# APRIL 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						<b>1</b> AA 7:00pm
<b>2</b> Palm Sunday Worship Service 10:00am via Facebook or ZOOM & IN SANCTUARY	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	<b>5</b> Bible Study 7:00pm at Church NA 7:00pm	<b>6</b> Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00pm	<b>7</b> Good Friday Service at 7:00pm	<b>8</b> Holy Saturday AA 7:00pm
<b>9</b> Easter Sunday Worship Service 10:00am via Facebook or ZOOM & IN SANCTUARY 8:00am Service 9:00am Breakfast 10:00am Service	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	<b>12</b> Bible Study 7:00pm at Church NA 7:00pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> AA 7:00pm
<b>16</b> Second Easter Worship Service 10:00am via Facebook or ZOOM & IN SANCTUARY	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	<b>19</b> Bible Study 7:00pm at Church NA 7:00pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> AA 7:00pm
<b>23</b> Third Easter Worship Service 10:00am via Facebook or ZOOM & IN SANCTUARY	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	<b>26</b> Bible Study 7:00pm at Church NA 7:00pm	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> Fourth Easter Worship Service 10:00am via Facebook or ZOOM & IN SANCTUARY						