



Our Saviour Lutheran Church
THE SEEKER
SEPTEMBER 2023

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

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

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Dear Members & Friends of Our Saviour,

Could you consider increasing your giving to Our Saviour to help with rising costs? The mission and services of the church depend on the contributions from you. We are so thankful for this support, including the time you give to support our church, the talents you put to use to further our mission, and the financial donations in our weekly offerings, online contributions or other gifts. We literally could not operate without this support. Your gifts make a difference.

Thank you for your continued support of our church.



2023 COUNCIL MEMBERS & OFFICERS

OFFICERS:

President: Sue Montgomery Vice President: Matt Papertsian
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: Sue Montgomery Christian Education: Jamie Polcari
Evangelism & Outreach: LeeAnn McCarthy Finance: Sue Montgomery
Mutual Ministry: MaryBeth Soucy



Croton Caring Food Drive



Croton Caring provides food baskets to individuals and families in need four times per year (Spring, Summer, Thanksgiving and Winter Holidays). Each family receives 4-6 boxes of much-needed non-perishables (and we add perishables – milk, bread, butter, eggs and meat – on delivery day).

We would be incredibly grateful if you would consider donating one or more of the items below toward our Food Basket and Boredom Buster Program.

*****Items of Greatest Need are in Red*****

Breakfast Items

- Cereal (any variety)
- Instant Oatmeal
- Complete Pancake Mix/Syrup
- Pop Tarts
- Breakfast Bars

Dinner Items

- Canned Vegetables (String Beans, Carrots, Peas, Mixed Veg.)
- Instant Potatoes
- Stuffing
- Pasta/Pasta Sauce
- Taco Kits
- Rice/Rice A Roni

Lunch Items

- Canned Soup
- Stew/Chili
- Chef Boyardee
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Mac & Cheese
- Tuna Fish

Snacks/Dessert Items

- Cake Mix/Icing
- Cookie/Brownie Mix
- Granola Bars
- Canned Fruit
- Fruit Snacks
- Snacks/Chips/Cookies

Thank You for Your Support!



I have had a running gag on Facebook recently where I have been saying it is Fall for the last few weeks. I have been joking about it, not only because it is pumpkin spice everything and you can get Halloween candy, but because the pace is picking up in terms of launching all of the things that were being prepped in summer. Classes that I have been prepping to teach are starting, the 90th anniversary is in a few weeks, and meetings have restarted on a regular basis. It is definitely Fall in my world already.

As I have been sharing, one of the main foci of the year will be the 5 marks of discipleship- weekly worship, regular study of scripture, telling our story, looking at how we give and serve in life, and prayer from the heart. Worship, Prayer, Study, Giving, and Evangelism are at the heart of the church and how we grow as Jesus' disciples. A major part of my dissertation was reclaiming these 5 marks, especially adult study of scripture, especially when they seemed to have been de-emphasized through the years. For example, I have served 4 congregations officially and only 1 ever did a face to face stewardship drive where members went to each others' homes to talk about how they could serve and give to the church. That was in my first 2 years of ministry and has never happened since.

This month, I would like to write about adult study of Scripture. Currently, we offer one ongoing Wednesday evening class at 7PM. The group is small, but have grown together in how they share with one another. The topic this year will be Exodus.

I have also tried to do a few online mini classes here and there because I recognize that not everyone can come weekly at a set time and you feel as if you miss one, it seems like you missed a big chunk. I

will try to continue to offer these as well. My hope is someone can teach me basic editing on a Mac, so I could include graphics and not lose the voiceover. I do not have that skill.

We also offer small daily devotionals in the Narthex. These are one or two page readings for the day. There is a small reflection to help enhance the reading. They tend to run out quickly, so be on the lookout.

Daily Scripture reading helps me grow in my faith. I also tend to read commentaries that challenge how I view Scripture. For example, right now I am reading Dr Daniel Kirk's latest book on Romans. I find reading and reflecting on the Word helps me look at the World differently. It is nice to see that early believers also struggled with questions such as- where is God in tragedy or what is my purpose in life. Scripture reveals that no Biblical hero was perfect, ever. No one had the right answers or always knew the will of God. There are a lot more questions posed by believers in Scripture than we can imagine.

For the next month or so, pick a single book of the Bible and read it slowly. Allow the text to wash over you and see how you feel pulled. Want to read poetry? Try the psalms. Want to read about life's purpose? Try Ecclesiastes. Want to read about what it is like to be in love? Read Song of Songs. How about the strength of women? Esther is a good one. I love Luke as a Gospel. I often recommend Romans too (although it can get convoluted). Give a single book a read and read it daily. See how it changes your perspective.

POWERWASHING REQUEST



Our Property Committee is looking for a volunteer to power wash two sides of the Parsonage. Please let us know if you can help out.

Christian Crafters

"Celebrate"

"Praise God from whom all blessing flow..."

We **celebrate** 7 years of this ministry. We have grown from the faithful 3: Evelyn Garrett, Karen Magerlein and Lois Leonard to 8 regular members including: Carol Swanson, Miquel Cosme, Katheen Corcoran, Becky Feero, Jeanette Gingold. What do you get when you put an Australian, Chinese, English, Norwegian, Puerto Rican, and German background individuals together... a lot of laughs and some exceptional creativity.

What a blessing!

We **celebrate** 3 years in the LWR (Lutheran World Relief) room located below the church nave. This expanded space enables us to make quilts and bookbags; and store layettes and personal care kits for LWR (Lutheran World Relief.) We have also made quilts for Padre Hispanos of Ossining.

What a blessing!

We will **celebrate** the blessing of all the quilts and kits on September 10 during church service. Please meet all our member particularly the four members from our community that will join in this celebration. Then we pack everything to go the "Ingathering" at Grace Lutheran on Sept. 16.

What a blessing!

We are also joining in on the 90th Anniversary of Our Saviour by making a special banner for the event. We are asking all of you to help **celebrate** by signing the banner on Sept. 10 or Sept. 17. We would like everyone to be a part of our 90th Anniversary.

We **celebrate** you, the member of Our Saviour and the Croton Community for your steadfast support over the years. Your donations have enabled this ministry to thrive. With your continued support, we look forward to many more celebrations. *What a blessing!*

We **celebrate** LWR that has enabled us the opportunity to help those around the world that are suffering and in need. We can not do this on our own, but together with other Lutheran churches across the nation... *we are able to be a blessing to others.*

Your Christian Crafters



"God's work. Our hands." Sunday is Sunday, September 10, 2023.

This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

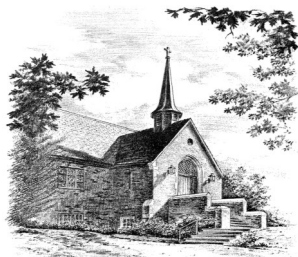
Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday Hymn

A hymn titled "God's Work, Our Hands," written by Wayne Wold, was selected as the winning entry in the ELCA's "God's work. Our hands." Sunday hymn contest in 2019. More than 120 entries were submitted to be considered as a hymn for the ELCA's annual dedicated day of service. The selected hymn represents the official tagline of the ELCA and expresses how the people of this church live in service for the life of the world. We offer our thanks to all who submitted original compositions — the large number of entries gives witness to the enthusiasm that "God's work. Our hands." Sunday has inspired throughout this church and in our communities. The selected hymn includes music to a familiar tune as well as music to an original composition. The hymn is available as a year-round worship resource. Wold is a professor and chair of the music department at Hood College in Frederick, Md., where he also serves as concert manager and college organist. He is also the director of music ministry at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ellicott City, Md.

OUR SAVIOUR'S 90th ANNIVERSARY

We are celebrating the congregation's 90th anniversary on October 15th with a special worship and a luncheon to follow. Bishop Paul Egensteiner will be the preacher for the event and will bring the good news with his wonderful words. A luncheon of appetizers, sandwiches, and a cake all catered by Coles Market will follow the worship service. We are asking if you can RSVP to the luncheon, it would be helpful. You can call or email the church office or sign up in the link. We are hoping members current and former will be present for this joyful event.



PINECREST IS COMING TO OUR SAVIOUR!

On October 7th and 8th, Pinecrest Camp is having its reunion weekend at Croton Gorge Park. Following the event, those wishing to stay for a lock-in will be arriving at Our Saviour around 7:30 PM. A group of us can be there to welcome them and show them around. They will sleep in the building overnight.

The following morning, if there is a group who would like to coordinate breakfast, I am sure they would appreciate it. The Pinecrest campers will be joining us in worship Sunday the 8th.

Pinecrest is one of the longest Lutheran leadership camps that has hosted leaders of congregations, assistants to Bishop, and even several Bishops. This camp has helped grow leaders since 1927!

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bryan Montgomery

Thank you! At this point our finances are looking better than this point last year. We have continued to receive some very helpful and generous gifts that help towards our running costs. We have received enough donations for property maintenance that has covered the cost of the new heat pump for the parsonage. This means that we have not had to dip into our savings.

Thanks to an IRS refund, it looks like the church will end this year in the black. However, as we start the preparations for next year's budget, as I'm sure you know, inflation is still taking a bite out of everything. It looks like the budget next year will still forecast a deficit. We are continuing to search for ways to generate income from our assets. We are receiving some income from use of some of our space for yoga classes. If you have ideas on how we can generate additional income, please speak to someone on council.

Thanks again for your support



Finance Update

SEPTEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 YOGA Class 9:45am AA 7:00pm
3 Fourteenth Pentecost Worship Service 10:00am via Facebook & IN SANCTUARY	4	5 Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	6 NA 7:00pm	7 AI Anon Mtg 1-2pm	8	9 YOGA Class 9:45am AA 7:00pm
10 Fifteenth Pentecost Worship Service 10:00am via Facebook & IN SANCTUARY COUNCIL MTG following Service God's Work Our Hands Sunday	11	12 Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	13 NA 7:00pm	14 AI Anon Mtg 1-2pm	15	16 YOGA Class 9:45am AA 7:00pm
17 Sixteenth Pentecost Worship Service via Facebook & IN SANCTUARY	18	19 Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	20 Bible Study 7:00pm NA 7:00pm	21 AI Anon Mtg 1-2pm	22	23 YOGA Class 9:45am AA 7:00pm
24 Seventeenth Pentecost Worship Service 10:00am via Facebook & IN SANCTUARY	25	26 Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	27 Bible Study 7:00pm NA 7:00pm	28 AI Anon Mtg 1-2pm	29	30 YOGA Class 9:45am TAG SALE 9am-3pm AA 7:00pm