



Our Saviour Lutheran Church
THE SEEKER
JULY/AUGUST 2024

Rev. Justin Johnson, pastor

THERE IS A TIME...AND A SEASON FOR EVERYTHING

A TIME TO WEEP AND A TIME TO LAUGH,

A TIME TO MOURN AND A TIME TO DANCE.

Ecclesiastes 3:1,4



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.

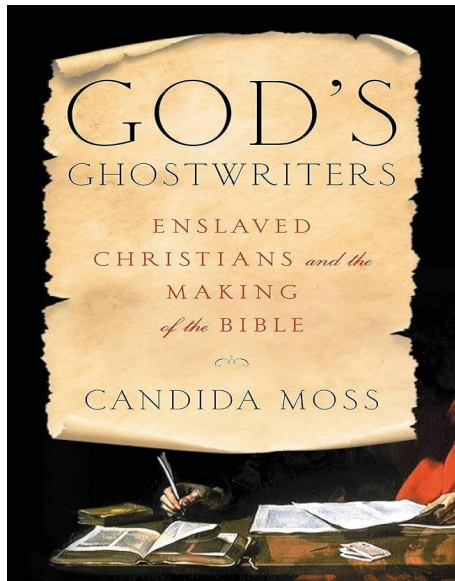
Vision Statement:
Our vision is to provide meaningful, well-attended, active, and growing worship, education, fellowship and service opportunities.



Happy Summer! While some of the congregation's activities slow for summer, behind the scenes, I am planning and getting ready for Fall. Next year, we will have a first year class for confirmation with possibly 7 students in it, adult Bible study, a silent movie night with live organ performance, and several other planned activities.

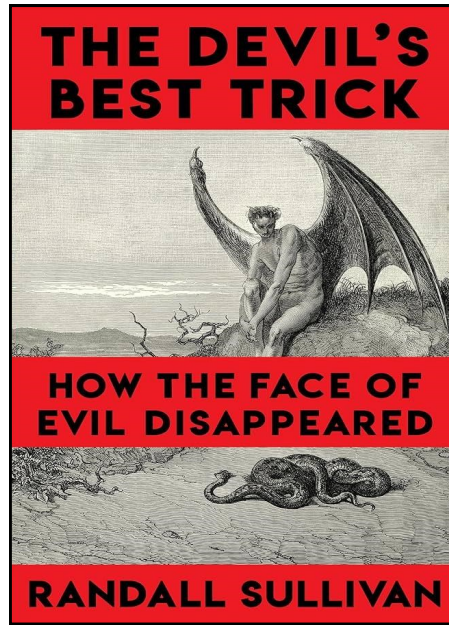
Coming up will be a discussion on how to put a funeral together at the end of June and when we get the 5 weeks of bread readings at the end of July into August, I am planning to focus on different breads each week. It will just add a different aspect to the texts.

I use the summer for a little relaxation and to catch up on some reading. A number of people ask me to share what books I've found to be interesting or will help them grow in some way. Here is a list of 4 books that I've read this year that I've found the most interesting.



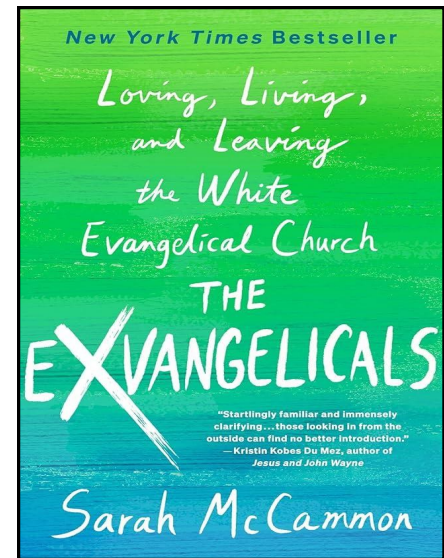
God's Ghostwriters is about the role of scribes, who were indentured servants or slaves in the creation of the New Testament. Some were named in the writings of Paul, but many go unnamed, yet were needed to get letters and the Gospels written. Moss looks at who scribes were, how they functioned in society, and who are some of the named slaves in the Bible. I learned a lot about Paul's writings, for example, only in Galatians does he say he wrote something himself meaning all the other letters were transcribed. An important aspect in the making of the Bible.

Evil exists in the World and religions have been trying to explain why it exists. This book is written by two journalists who tell the story of a Satanic cult throughout the whole book and talk about how religion has discussed evil. This book doesn't focus primarily on Christianity, but does talk about the personification of evil as the Devil in ==>



Christianity. The Devil has different roles throughout all of Scripture, but his role would be later fleshed out by European theologians, including Martin Luther. One of the questions this book raises is - what if Christianity listened to Origen, who said there is no Satan, but rather humankind is capable of evil and it is an internal struggle, rather than Augustine, who said evil is done by the Devil who enters human hearts and makes them do evil? What would Christianity look like if we took a different path? Again, these are journalists and not theologians, so if you read this, read it as you would any other look at religion from outside of religion.

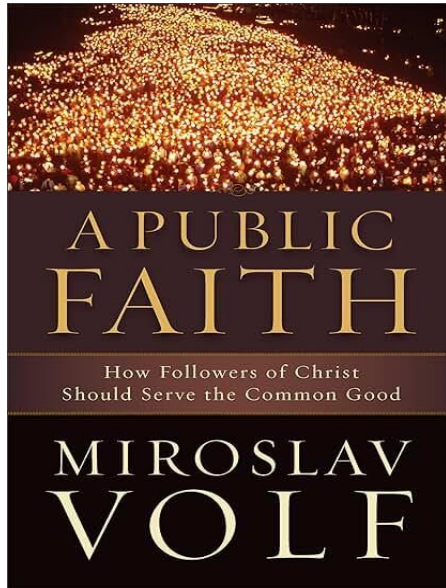
The Evangelicals is a heartbreaking discussion about the harm the White, Evangelical church has done in the role of the rise of Christian Nationalism and on culture wars. It also looks at how individuals are drawn into belief about things they might not necessarily agree with, but peer pressure and preaching pressures them into agreement. This is written by a member of the Evangelical church who left the church. The term Exvangelicals is a social media term referring to the



large number of people leaving the church and abandoning religion altogether. Since it does cover the rise of Christian Nationalism, there are political discussions in the book as McCammon worked for NPR covering the 2020 election and the role Christianity had in the election. So, if you do not want to read about politics ==>

skip this one, but it is eye opening.

I put Volf's book on the list because some of you asked why I was excited about the opportunity to take a class with him in June. He is not a familiar name to many, except in theological nerd circles, but his works are shaping modern Christianity. I will warn this is a scholarly level theology book that one would read in seminary, but it is very short, so bonus! The looks at the role of Christianity to serve neighborhood and global good rather than individual needs. Volf uses Jesus' words to talk about a faith that is beyond self and to look at how a Christian can live to serve the world. It takes the role of individual faith and expands it beyond the self and into the world. He argues this is the true calling of a follower of Christ, yet the personal relationship with Jesus has somehow taken over Christianity. To be a Christian means to serve others, according to Volf.



I hope one of these is something you are interested in. There are devotional books as well, but I wanted to share some meatier reads. Happy Summer!

2024 SUMMER MUSIC at OUR SAVIOUR

Our Music Minister, Phill Greenland will be taking some personal time off this Summer.

We would like to thank Larry Moy, Eleanor Keil and Joe DiRanieri for sharing their musical talents with us as they take over for Phill during this time.

Larry Moy will be our organist on July 7, July 28 & August 11.

Eleanor Keil will be playing on July 14 & August 25.

Joe DiRanieri will be playing on July 21, August 4 and August 18.



TREASURER'S REPORT

-Bryan Montgomery

With thanks to the Christmas spirit, and the generosity of our congregation I am glad to say that we ended 2023 with a higher amount in the black than I expected. We ended up receiving \$13,250 more than we spent. Thank you for everyone's generosity. It probably won't be the last time, but last year we did receive a Covid tax refund of \$23,693. That is partly why we passed a budget for this year that has us almost \$29,000 in the red. We are hoping this is very conservative. It is challenging to budget our contributions and so we used conservative numbers based on our regular contributions. We were fortunate to have a few months where the contributions were significantly higher, if we experience that again this year, it should help this year's financial picture.

Last year it was agreed that a portion of the funds and matching donations for the Christmas Fair would be gifted to several charities with special meaning to Our Saviour. One of these is the Darajani Secondary School in Tanzania that Dr. Mtui volunteers at. I have been in contact with the Headmistress and she has said that our gift will help them to renovate the students dining room. Included are a few pictures from the school.



BLOOD DRIVE

DONATIONS SAVE LIVES

Saturday July 27th

10:00am – 4:00pm

Croton Free Library

171 Cleveland Dr, Croton-On-Hudson, NY

To sign up call 800-933-2566, visit nybc.org/donate or scan this code:

Croton
Free
Library

The Village of
CROTON-on-HUDSON
NEW YORK



Appointments are preferred however walk-ins will be welcomed if space permits.
Please remember to eat, drink, and bring your donor ID card or ID with name and photo.

 New York
Blood Center

800.933.BLOOD · nybc.org [#nybloodcenter](https://twitter.com/nybloodcenter)

CHRISTIAN CRAFTERS

SUMMER 2024

Your Christian Crafters are a busy bunch this summer. We are up to 45 quilts completed with 10 more in various developmental stages. Karen M. is completing 45 book bags to be ready for Frya B. to fill with school supplies soon.

We took some time off for our first picnic in June. It was 90 plus degrees, sooo...it was moved into our nice cool fellowship hall. Great picnic food, games and fellowship was had anyway.

September we will have the quilt and kit blessing. Then every quilt and kit will be packed and brought to the "In-Gathering" at Grace Lutheran Church, Yorktown. There they get loaded on to a semi-tractor trailer bound for Baltimore. Mary Tereskiewicz of LWR informed us that recently 18,000 quilts and unnamed number of kits went to Lebanon to help with the refugee crisis in that area of the world.

We sincerely want to thank you for the donations of fabrics dropped off by our 'mystery donors.' Despite all the quilts and book bags made the fabric cabinet is still full? Mystery for sure! Many thanks.

We are in need of clean cotton sheets. We use them for quilt backings. Also, financial support would greatly be appreciated as the cost of fiberfill, for the inner layer of quilts, has risen substantially. Your help on Tuesday morning 9:00 to noon and the first Saturday of each month 1-4:00 is always welcome.

Happy Summer Everyone,

Lois Leonard and 22 other Christian Crafters.

PS. It is not to early to give some thought to our annual Christmas Fair!!



CHRISTIAN CRAFTERS 2024 PICNIC

2024 COUNCIL MEMBERS & OFFICERS

OFFICERS:

President: Sue Montgomery

Vice President: Matt Papertsian

Secretary: Marilyn Grantner/Jamie Polcari

Treasurer: Bryan Montgomery

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

Property: Matt Papertsian

Finance: Bryan Montgomery

Stewardship: Marilyn Grantner & Sue Montgomery

Worship & Music: Eleanor Keil

Social Ministry: LeeAnn McCarthy

Christian Education: Jamie Polcari

Mutual Ministry: Sue Montgomery

Social Ministry: Lee Ann McCarthy