



Our Saviour Lutheran Church

THE SEEKER

DECEMBER 2024

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

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



I am writing this newsletter article on the day before one of my favorite days in December—my annual trip to NYC to see the lights and the store windows. Since I was a child, living in Brooklyn, this has been a tradition in my life. The lights, the crowds, the crisp air, and the smell of street vendors toasting pecans and chestnuts. All of these things bring back so many memories and so many good times.

One of my newer annual traditions is to take December to read the book “Wintering” by Katherine May. It is a cozy book of reflections during a troublesome time in her life while being surrounded by the glitz and lights of Christmas. Wintering, for May is a time when we slow down and reflect, even though the world is telling us to speed up and go. She was writing when her husband got sick, her body started to give out, and she needed time to just be.

When I was a HS student one of my favorite activities during this time was to sit in the busy mall, where I worked (Poughkeepsie Galleria, whoop, whoop!), on one of the benches, and watch people. This was during the time when malls were packed during Christmas and I wasn’t always in the best of moods because I was working in a retail store during the Christmas season. I took this moment to just be and see joy all around me. While there was certainly grumpy faces because of too many Christmas songs, too many people, long lines, etc., I knew that underneath the exterior, people were thinking about their loved ones and that is why they were in the craziness of the mall.

I share these reflections because the Christmas season is a mixed bag for communities of faith. Some are ready for the season and are filled with happiness, some are struggling because a loved one died and this season is a reminder of loss or life is too stressful, and for others it is a season of rushing and pressure. I hope, in the midst of everything, there will be

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time to take a moment and just be. A time where you can reflect and feel what you need to feel.

The coming of the Christ child into the world wasn’t about happiness all the time, but holding the tension between the world’s hurts and the world’s joys. To embrace the love of God means to hold all of these things together giving thanks to God for all those we come across. It means praying for those who are hurting as well as celebrating with those who are joyful. This is what the Christ child is born into and it is why we celebrate this season.

I do hope you have a Merry Christmas and a hopeful New Year.



OUR SAVIOUR CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2024

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE WITH CANDLELIGHT

DECEMBER 24 7:00PM



**CHRISTMAS DAY
SERVICE**

DECEMBER 25

10:00AM

2024 CHRISTMAS FAIR ALREADY AMAZING!

It was an **amazing** fair! So many people are **already** talking about next year, 2025. We had an **amazing** crowd despite 5 other fairs going on in the surrounding communities at the same time. The vendors were pleased and **already** expressing interest in next year. There were so many unexpected little **amazing** happenings that brought smiles' Grace Lutheran Church lent us 5 six foot tables for our vendors, Croton DPW showed up Saturday morning to suck up the piles of leaves in front of the church to avail more parking spaces; the fellowship hall was filled with **amazing** smells from the café, live music, busy shoppers, baked goods galore, and an **amazing** boutique ever. Space was tight in the fellowship hall, but we made the best of it. **Already**, there are ideas for next year. Next Sunday, December 15 we will have time to discuss what went well and make suggestions for next year....**already**. At our last planning meeting, before the fair, there were discussions about possibly choosing a different Saturday for the fair. Do we still feel this way after this successful fair? Let's sit together and discuss during coffee hour, while our experiences from the fair are still fresh in our minds.

Already, I tried to remember to thank all the people that helped months ago to plan, to the people that helped break down and clean up after the fair. If I have left someone out, please forgive me, I know so many of you participated because you love Our Saviour. You welcomed our community with smiles and did a job **amazingly**. Thank you to each and every one of you for all you did to make it such an **amazing** event, It has been a whirlwind for me. It is **already** over, with a few loose ends to finish up before Christmas. It has been a privilege to serve as the coordinator of the 2024 Our Saviour Annual Christmas Fair.
Sincerely,
Lois

P.S. The latest **amazing** financial total is **\$2,516.50**.

Christian Crafters

By the time you read this, another **blessing** of the quilts and kits will have happened here at Our Saviour. All the quilts and kits will be packed up and brought to Grace Lutheran Church in Yorktown loaded in a semitrailer and sent on its way to LWR headquarters in Baltimore. Each quilt, personal care kit, fabric kit, baby care kit and school kit will be a **blessing** to someone somewhere in the world.

We, the Christian Crafters appreciate your many **blessings** as a congregation. We want to thank you for the **blessings** of your sheets, fabric and financial support of our efforts making quilts and school bags. We also appreciate the council **blessing** us with the space below the sanctuary as the 'LWR Room.'

As we count our **blessings**, we are looking forward to the Christmas Fair and continuing National Quilting Day next March.

You can be a **blessing** by joining us Tuesday mornings from 9am to noon or the first Saturday of every month between 1-4:00 to create, cut, iron, tie or machine stitch quilts and school bags.

With your continued **blessings** we will continue this ministry,

LWR BABY CARE KITS

-Marilyn Grantner

Christmas is a time for giving. Our Saviour Church will again be making Infant Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. Please bring in any of the following items if you wish to donate.

Infant socks
Lightweight T-shirts
Long or Short Sleeve
Sleep Gowns
Sleepers with no feet
Receiving Blankets (36-42 inches)
Jacket with hood or add a cap
Bars of Mild Soap wrapped in original wrapper



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS ORDER FORM

I would like to donate (quantity) _____

Poinsettias at \$20 per plant.

Total submitted: _____.

Please circle one:

In Honor / Memory of:

Remembrance / Thanks

From:

Dedications must be received by
Sunday Dec. 15 for inclusion in our
Christmas bulletins.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Please join us for caroling on Friday, December 13
for our traditional Christmas Caroling in the
church neighborhood.

We will gather at Our Saviour Church
at 6:45 p.m.

As in prior years, we have no rain date, so dress
appropriately and wear comfortable shoes.

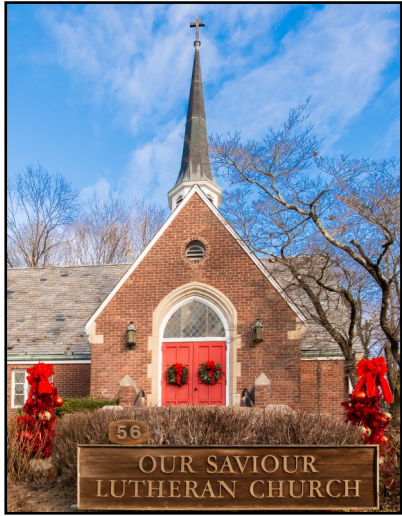
Please bring a flashlight or headlamp,
as we will be singing outside around the
Harmon area, and it will be dark.

Please bring friends and cookies to share!

All are welcome.



2024 CHRISTMAS FAIR



2024 CHRISTMAS FAIR



DECEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 First Advent WorshipService 10:00am via Facebook & IN SANCTUARY	2	3 Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	4 NA 7:00pm	5 Al Anon Mtg 1-2pm	6	7 YOGA Class 9:45am QUILTING 1-4pm AA 7:00pm
8 Second Advent WorshipService 10:00am via Facebook & IN SANCTUARY 1:00pm Blessing of Quilts & Kits By LeeAnn	9	10 Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	11 NA 7:00pm	12 Al Anon Mtg 1-2pm	13	14 YOGA Class 9:45am AA 7:00pm
15 Third Advent WorshipService 10:00am via Facebook & IN SANCTUARY	16	17 Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	18 NA 7:00pm	19 Al Anon Mtg 1-2pm	20	21 YOGA Class 9:45am AA 7:00pm
22 Fourth Advent WorshipService 10:00am via Facebook & IN SANCTUARY	23	24 Christmas Eve Service at 7:00PM AA 7:00pm	25 Christmas Day Service at 10:00am NA 7:00pm	26 Al Anon Mtg 1-2pm	27	28 YOGA Class 9:45am AA 7:00pm
29 First Christmas WorshipService 10:00am via Facebook & IN SANCTUARY	30	31 New Years Eve				