Rev. Justin Johnson, pastor

Schedule

sunday Worship Worship: Sunday School:

Coffee Hour:

Weekday Office Schedule

Office Phone: Office hours:

(914) 271-4632

9:00 am - 12:00

10:00 am 9:00 am

following worship

www.oursaviourcroton.org

mail@oursaviourcroton.org

Mission Statement:

Our mission is to offer spiritual grounding and growth by

Rev. Justin Johnson, pastor

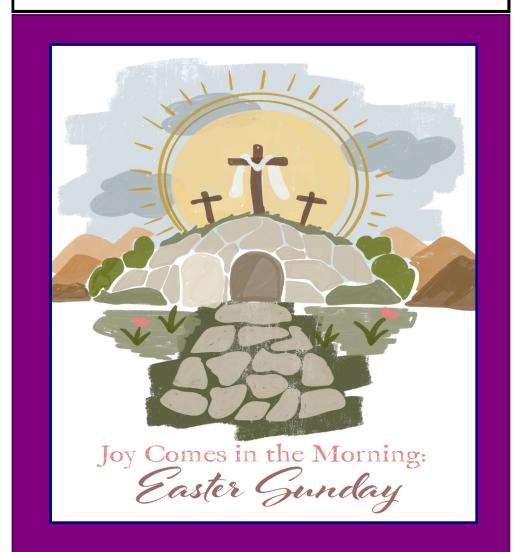
Our Saviour Evangelical Lutheran Church 56 Cleveland Drive

Croton-On-Hudson, NY 10520

Our Saviour Lutheran Church

THE SEEKER

MARCH / APRIL 2025

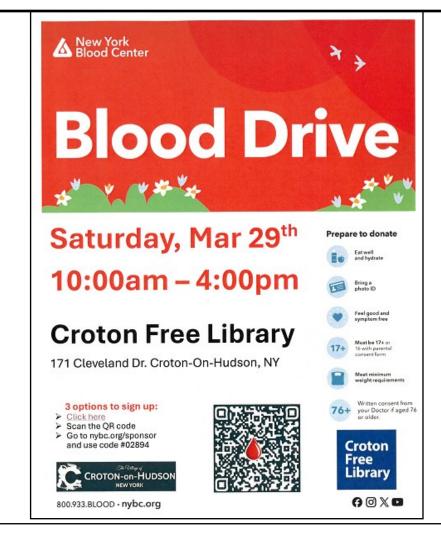




Evangelical Lutheran Church in America God's work. Our hands.

connecting with God and one another. Vision Statement:

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



2025 COUNCIL MEMBERS & OFFICERS

OFFICERS:

President: John Magerlein Vice President: Larry Moy

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: John Magerlein Christian Education: Jamie Polcari

Evangelism & Outreach: Eleanor Soderlund Mutual Ministry: Larry Moy

Pastor's Message

- Rev. Justin Johnson

Here we are in the season of Lent, already. It was nice to experience a longer Epiphany season, but in my comfort of the season, Lent kind of snuck up on me. While Epiphany is a season of "ah-ha"s about who Jesus is, Lent is a season of reflection and inner work.

This year, we will once again be using the wonderful work by Barn Geese worship. I love how their liturgy flows and having a theme each year on the common lectionary, helps me focus as well. This year, we are exploring what we need in our lives.

When we think of needs, there are the very basic things we immediately think about- air, food, water, etc. As we go further into our needs, there are things we might not think about immediately- the need for love, community, or protection. There are also communal needs as we think about the needs for all of us living together on this planet. This is what this season will focus on- the deep needs we all have as community and as individuals.

I recently started working with a reflective pastoral supervisor. My goal is to become one myself, but I wanted to experience what it was like at the same time. One of my first "assignments" was to fill a basket with 25 things. They can be anything and as of the writing of this article, I don't know what the activity is for, so it has made choosing the things more anxiety producing than the activity needs to be.

While initially, I thought I would fill the basket with 25 things that reflect my personality- maybe a Lego figure that represents me, my favorite book, or an empty A5 notebook, the more I thought about the assignment I want to fill it with things that I go to on a regular basis. Since I am already thinking about the Lenten focus, I decided to begin to fill my basket with items that I use daily- my journal, something representing my iPad, a bible, my current devotional reading, etc.

It is funny how this small shift in thinking about things that reflect me to things I use regularly and by extension reflect a different side of me, transformed the activity from stuff to needs. While I will survive if I don't journal daily, it is such a part of who I am that without listing places I find joy or thankfulness, I would feel like something is missing. It has become a deep need in my devotional life.

What are your daily and communal needs? Let's explore all Lent.



PRESIDENTS COLUMN

-John Magerlein

After my previous term as Council president including the early pandemic years, a time of great stress for the congregation, it has been good to be off the Council for the past three years. In taking on this role again, my fellow Council members and I have been thinking about our future. One can hear many discouraging messages about the church in general and about congregations such as ours. It is true that in-person attendance here and at most other churches is lower than 5 years ago and the ways of carrying out our ministry have changed. I firmly believe, however, that God continues to work in the church and that our congregation has enormous strengths.

We continue to have a strong external focus, both locally and globally. We are expanding our partnership with Croton Caring to distribute good used children's books to families in need who receive food baskets, which have been put together at the church since 2023. To support the work of Lutheran World Relief, we made 189 quilts and kits last year to be distributed around the world and were recognized by an article in their magazine. We contributed 30% of all the proceeds of our annual Christmas Fair to Padres Hispanos of Ossining and Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison.

We have a strong base of members who are committed to this vision. According to the recent survey of the congregation by Holy Cow, members expressed high satisfaction with what we are doing and a high level of energy, both well above average for congregations our size. The top priority identified was "Work to renew and revitalize the community around the church by building coalitions with partners that share this vision and commitment.", while 73% of members stated that participating in church activities beyond worship is meaningful to them.

To build on these strengths, we need to continue expressing clearly who we are and what we stand for, in the belief that this will allow us to connect with individuals and groups in our community with a similar vision. Pastor Johnson's active connections with many community organizations are of great value here.

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To connect with others on a more personal level and share the good news, Pastor Johnson has encouraged members to tell their own faith stories.

There is some reason to think that our message is starting to be heard. Our average worship attendance, both in person and online, was slightly greater in 2024 than in 2023. We added 6 new members in 2024 and continue to declare that we see every person as a valued child of God. Due to the generosity of our members, we finished 2024 with a small and manageable budget deficit, much smaller than anticipated. Along with my fellow Council members and Pastor Johnson, I look forward to working with everyone as we find our way along in this journey of faith.



MAUNDY THURSDAY

APRIL 17 6:00pm

We have an opportunity on Maundy Thursday to have Dinner Church. This is a wonderful mix of a full dinner along with worship. Worship is at tables and will include communion. Throughout the meal, we hear the word and discuss what we heard together.

Having a dinner on Maundy Thursday brings an extra layer of connection to the Gospel narrative.

We will be joined by our guest Rev Lena Warren, who has graciously offered to lead us through this unique experience. She has brought this service to both of her former congregations and it is always a meaningful service.

Look for a sign up sheet in the hallway for attendance and for meal prep.



PALM SUNDAY **SERVICE**

Sunday April 13 at 10:00 AM



MAUNDY THURSDAY **SERVICE**

Thursday April 17 at 6:00**PM**



GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Friday April 18 at 7:00PM



EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE

Sunday April 20

at

10:00AM







Easter Lilies & Tulips will adorn our Easter Altar 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

MARCH 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						YOGA Class 9:45am AA 7:00pm
2 Third Lent WorshipService 10:00am via YouTube & IN SANCTUARY	3	Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	5 Ash Wednesday Ash Wednesday Service 7PM NA 7:00pm	6 Al Anon Mtg 1-2pm	7	8 YOGA Class 9:45am AA 7:00pm
9 Fírst Lent WorshipService 10:00am via YouTube & IN SANCTUARY	10	Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	12 NA 7:00pm	13 Al Anon Mtg 1-2pm	14	YOGA Class 9:45am AA 7:00pm
16 Second Lent WorshipService 10:00am via YouTube & IN SANCTUARY	17	18 Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	19 NA 7:00pm	20 Al Anon Mtg 1-2pm	21	YOGA Class 9:45am AA 7:00pm
23 Third Lent WorshipService 10:00am via YouTube & IN SANCTUARY	24	25 Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	26 NA 7:00pm	27 Al Anon Mtg 1-2pm	28	YOGA Class 9:45am AA 7:00pm
30 Fourth Lent WorshipService 10:00am via YouTube & IN SANCTUARY	31					

APRIL 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	2 NA 7:00pm	3 Al Anon Mtg 1-2pm	4	YOGA Class 9:45am AA 7:00pm
6 Fifth Lent WorshipService 10:00am via YouTube & IN SANCTUARY	7	8 Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	9 NA 7:00pm	10 Al Anon Mtg 1-2pm	11	YOGA Class 9:45am AA 7:00pm
13 Palm Sunday WorshipService 10:00am via YouTube & IN SANCTUARY	14 Holy Monday	15 Holy Tuesday Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	16 Holy Wednesday NA 7:00pm	17 Maundy Thursday Maundy Thursday Dinner Church 6PM Al Anon Mtg 1-2pm	18 Good Friday Good Friday Service 7PM	19 Holy Saturday YOGA Class 9:45am AA 7:00pm
20 Easter Sunday WorshipService 10:00am via YouTube & IN SANCTUARY	21	Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	23 NA 7:00pm	24 Al Anon Mtg 1-2pm	25	26 Funeral 2:00pm YOGA Class 9:45am AA 7:00pm
27 Second Easter WorshipService 10:00am via YouTube & IN SANCTUARY Wedding 11:30 am	28	29 Christian Crafters 9:00am –noon AA 7:00pm	30 NA 7:00pm			