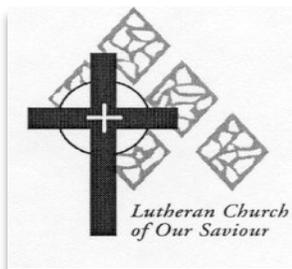


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Communicator
July & August
2020



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LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR

The Communicator



Pastor Wilck is normally in his church study Monday - Thursday 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. He is available to meet you at church or at other mutually arranged times. You may also contact him or leave a message on 269-9086. Friday is Pastor's day off, but he is available for pastoral emergencies.

We ask that you begin to use Pastor's church email as needed:
pastor@oursaviourrochester.org

Please inform Pastor whenever there is an illness or hospitalization in your family. He appreciates your help. When you are admitted to a hospital, please list your religious preference as "Lutheran Church of Our Saviour" and contact Pastor or the church office.

**THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR
MISSION STATEMENT**

We, the members of the Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, as baptized followers of Jesus Christ, will foster a living, expressive relationship with our Lord and our neighbors.

We will do this in a way that seeks to serve all segments of our congregation and community by:

- ◆ Providing a welcoming environment for youth and young adults.
- ◆ Strengthening the family unit.
- ◆ Involving the elderly and recognizing their special needs.
- ◆ Making Christ visible through worship.

Recommended by the Long Range Planning Committee on October 27, 2010.

Pastor's Page

A COVID-19 REFLECTION

Wilderness's moments, while they can look and feel like death, can also be where God meets us. In this particular disorienting season, we may feel abandoned, alone, and forgotten by God. The pandemic feels too big. Even as we go through our own losses, anxiety, or pain, we lament the situations of people experiencing poverty or displacement—people who don't seem ever to arrive in a "promised land" of their own. What are we Christians to do with so much suffering, injustice, sin, and death?

The wilderness place in the biblical story is never simply a place of abandonment. When Hagar ran from the abuse of her mistress Sarai, it's in the wilderness that she met the Lord, whom she called "the God who sees me" (Genesis 16:13 NIV). When the Israelites were delivered from slavery in Egypt, it was the wilderness wanderings that tested them and reoriented them toward God. There, they were provided for, even as their resources were limited (Exodus 15-16). In seasons such as the one we're now in, we find ourselves stripped of many comforts, any false sense of control, and other delusions we have about being autonomous from God. It's here that we're offered the chance to get to know a God who uses His power on behalf of His people—a God who hems us in, with cloud and fire.

GOSPEL POWER

While we use words like omnipotent to talk about God, we see evidence of the world's fallenness all around us: Less COVID-19 testing and medical care is available in poorer countries; people who are homeless and incarcerated have little or no recourse to care for themselves; and even those of us with stable employment struggle with anxiety about provisions running out or potential loss of work. What is our world coming to?

Wilderness moments, while they can look and feel like death, can also be where God meets us.

The wilderness reveals to us how gospel power always moves us from orientation, to disorientation, to reorientation. We want to skip the disorienting desert now, so perhaps we distract ourselves with entertainment, or certain foods, because we don't know how to move through loss, lament, and grief. But disorientation is not the end. In His own wilderness temptation, Jesus was brought up on a high mountain and told to worship Satan—to see power as something to achieve without loss. Like His temptation, ours is always to bypass suffering, to get the good life without pain.

I feel compelled to ask myself some questions:

Can I grow without pain?

Do I believe God uses loss to make me more like His Son?

Is it possible this pandemic might reorient my trust in the power of a good and loving God?

The way I answer these and similar questions has everything to do with how this troubled season will shape me—now and in the months and years to come, with whatever they'll bring.

INVITATION INTO THE WILDERNESS

Recalling the ancient Israelites, we might wonder if God has brought us out into the wilderness to abandon and kill us (Numbers 20:4). Yet this story shows us God intended the desert as a place to save. In her book *A Beautiful Disaster*, author Marlena Graves writes, "He brought us out to save us, to show us his power, to offer his comfort, and to put to death whatever is in us that is not of him." Being finite, we do not understand how the providence and goodness of God interact with the evil of this virus. But we know that in God's economy nothing is wasted. As with all of the trials we walk through, He makes use of these experiences to sanctify and lead us closer to Himself. The desert will either draw us deeper into the story of a

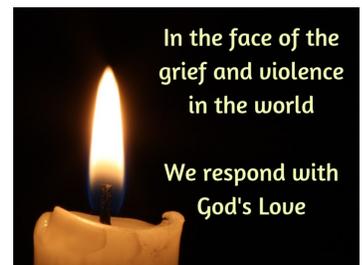
good God or cause us to turn our backs in favor of our own kingdoms of control.

Our temptation is always to bypass suffering, to get the good life without pain.

In times like these, when we've been whittled away by this desert, we see that our sense of stability and control was puffed up. We have an invitation: Will we, in the words of Andy Crouch, "expose ourselves to meaningful loss—to become vulnerable, woundable in the world?" Perhaps God can use only woundable things.

Abundant life in Christ is fashioned in barren places. The wilderness—whether literal or figurative— involves a stripping down to only what is essential. It was in this space that Jesus met the temptation of Satan and, in doing so, triumphed over the failed attempts of His people in their own desert temptations. This means that even as we are reoriented towards God, even as we fight the very process (choosing again to numb, escape, or try to control instead), Jesus is more than just an example for us: He triumphed over temptation to glory. He endured the cross. He was raised again to new life—all on our behalf.

This means that when we wake up in a sweat-soaked bed of anxiety, when we resort to numbing ourselves in countless ways, when we feel depressed and powerless at the current global struggle unfolding day by day, we can choose to rest in Christ. Even in this global health pandemic, Jesus—whom we also call Immanuel, meaning "God with us"—lives up to His name.



In the face of the
grief and violence
in the world

We respond with
God's Love

In Loving Memory

The members of Our Saviour extend Christian love and sympathy to the family of Michael R. Bonanno

Michael passed June 23, 2020 at the age of 44.

A private memorial service was held on June 29, 2020.

Rest eternal grant for him, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon him.



INTERCESSION FOR OUR LAND

Dear God, I pray You will be put in Your rightful position in this country. Give the leaders of this nation the wisdom and integrity to lead our nation in the best direction. Give each one discernment I pray, when making decisions or drawing up the legislation and laws that they pass. And may the decisions that they reach be godly and wise.

As the days become increasingly dark in our country, I pray that the light of Your love will shine on this land. May peace reign in our nation and protect us from those who would seek our downfall, I pray.

I really thank You that You have placed me in this land and I am grateful that I am a citizen of this nation. Thank You, Lord, for my country. In Jesus' name,

Amen.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- ◆ We are taking another survey for the summer services. The deadline to submit the survey is **July 6**. The survey will be provided in the following manner:
 - ◆ Survey sheets are outside the church entrance. You may drop it into our mailbox.
 - ◆ The sheets are provided at the next Thursday lawn service (7/2 at 7:00 p.m.) and Sunday drive-in service (7/5 at 10:00 a.m.)
- ◆ We will notify everyone of the summer schedule (based on the result of the survey).

Thank you for your patience and dedication to Our Saviour!

2020/2021 ELECTION

- ⇒ The Church Council Members and Committee Chairpersons were elected via written ballots at the June 25 and 28 services.
- ⇒ The Installation of these positions will be during the service on **July 12** (time to-be-determined).
- ⇒ If you would like a copy of the Organization and Staff list, please contact the church office.

Volunteer at Camp Joy this summer! CHANGE IN DATES from June to July! Since its founding in 1982, Camp Joy - a week-long overnight summer camp for developmentally disabled adults - has thrived as an ENTIRELY volunteer based organization. To maintain our Christ-centered, inspirational, fun-filled experience for the 100 individuals who attend camp every year, we need volunteers like you! Camp is held at the Rotary Sunshine Campus in Rush, NY, and this year will be **July 12 - 17** (Sunday-Friday). Both full and part-time staff are needed. Full room and board are provided for full-time staff, and there is absolutely no monetary requirement for volunteers and no previous experience with this population needed! Our need has become dire as we often keep a waiting list of campers wishing to attend but are unable to accommodate due to an insufficient number of volunteers. Please consider being a part of this outstanding organization and share the experience of a lifetime to continue to make this camp possible for so many individuals who desire this fulfilling experience. For more information or to register as a volunteer, visit our website: www.campjoyny.org or call (585) 371-8851 with any additional questions.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA



Another year has ended. Sadly, due to Covid-19, we were unable to finish out the year with our regularly scheduled meetings and our end of the year dinner. Hopefully, things will get back to normal when we are scheduled to meet on **September 8** at 6:30 p.m. for our annual potluck dinner.

I know that the past few months have been challenging for everyone. Please know that if anyone needs anything, we are all just a phone call away.

We need to continue to pray for everyone's safety. Missing you and hope to see you all soon.

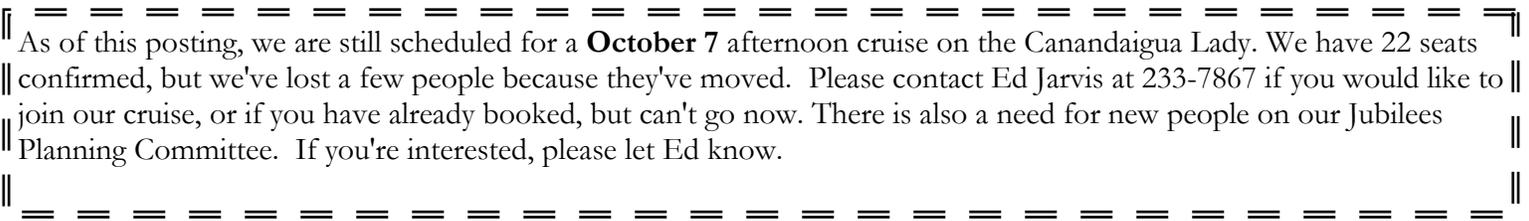
Happy Summer Everyone!

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE



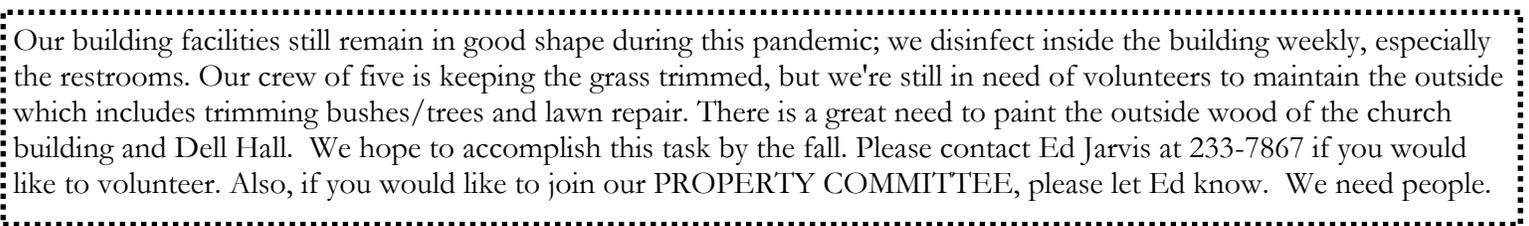
All Evangelism activities are being held off until **September**.

JUBILEES



As of this posting, we are still scheduled for a **October 7** afternoon cruise on the Canandaigua Lady. We have 22 seats confirmed, but we've lost a few people because they've moved. Please contact Ed Jarvis at 233-7867 if you would like to join our cruise, or if you have already booked, but can't go now. There is also a need for new people on our Jubilees Planning Committee. If you're interested, please let Ed know.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE



Our building facilities still remain in good shape during this pandemic; we disinfect inside the building weekly, especially the restrooms. Our crew of five is keeping the grass trimmed, but we're still in need of volunteers to maintain the outside which includes trimming bushes/trees and lawn repair. There is a great need to paint the outside wood of the church building and Dell Hall. We hope to accomplish this task by the fall. Please contact Ed Jarvis at 233-7867 if you would like to volunteer. Also, if you would like to join our PROPERTY COMMITTEE, please let Ed know. We need people.

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

We can still collect can tabs which will be taken to future Synod Assembly (the 2020 Assembly has been cancelled). In the past, after tabs are collected, they are turned in for cash and donated to World Hunger and Phoebe Hospital, to name a few. In the last several years, two car loads of tabs were taken from the Convention Center. You may still drop off the tabs in the church mailbox. We appreciate your continued participation and support.

BOTTLES AND CANS

Tired of bringing your bottles and cans with a 5 cent deposit to the grocery store? Bring them to Flower City Bottle & Can Retrieval Center across the street from church. They are open Sundays from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., so bring your cans to church and drop them off after.

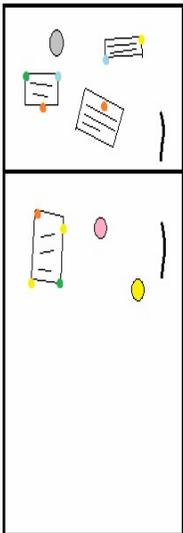
DID YOU KNOW? You can designate Lutheran Church of Our Saviour Youth Group to receive credit for your returns. Just drop off the bottles and cans, and they will credit Our Saviour's account. Every little bit helps!



PHONETREE

If you suspect that you are not receiving PhoneTree calls or you are encountering other problems, please contact THE OFFICE DIRECTLY. It is best for the office to speak with you to troubleshoot and/or find a resolution. Adequate analysis of the issue is critical so that we can provide details to the PhoneTree company as needed. Thank you very much!

REFRIGERATOR/FREEZER USE—Unfortunately our refrigerator had broken down, so we purchased a new one. It is a larger industrial size model that better suits our needs. Thank you to Ed Jarvis and Brian Spencer in helping us make the purchase. When things are back to normal (or the “new normal” ☺), please utilize the refrigerator accordingly.



A notice to anybody who stores food and drinks in the church's refrigerator and freezer: you must date and identify everything that goes into the refrigerator and freezer especially if you want to stay the owner of such items. Periodically we will check and purge any unmarked items if they look bad or spoiled. Also, it is very important that we keep the top three shelves cleared for supporting events that may occur periodically like funerals and special church celebrations.

Thank you for your cooperation.



- ◇ Please contact the church office if you have prayer requests.
- ◇ In addition, please let the office know if prayer requests can be removed from the Prayer List.

July Celebrations



13-Emma Grace Bonanno
14-Miles Sovereign
17-Bailee Evans
18-Colleen Forsey
22-Vera Scuderi
22-Meshia Eggert
24-Ava Bonanno
26-Norma Chapin
29-Hans Witt
30-John Erbeling
30-Joshua Blank

HAPPY BIRTHDAY and BEST WISHES to these members of Our Saviour who celebrate birthdays during this month. We pray for your continued growth in God's grace.

1-Janine Lyons
2-Jenny Emerson
3-Jill Evans
4-Jan Carmichael
4-Ann Seppa
8-Tiffany Francisco
8-Cynthia Blank
9-Brad Morningstar
10-Zachary Blank
11-Rebecca Sovereign
12-Tamara Mochrie
12-Teri Vogel
13-Michael Palumbo



Anniversaries

CONGRATULATIONS and BEST WISHES to these members of Our Saviour who celebrate Wedding Anniversaries during this month. May God continue to bless you and increase your love for one another!

2—James and Linda Flick
3—Rodney Potter and Diane Parke-Potter
4—Anton and Bronislava Suk
6—Emil and Christa Witt
9—Carl and Marjorie Kowalski ♥♥HAPPY 60TH ANNIVERSARY♥♥
16—Deb and Ed Housel
22—Jan and Pam Carmichael ♥♥HAPPY 25TH ANNIVERSARY♥♥
25—Eugene and Ann Northrop ♥♥HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY♥♥
28—Andrew and Julie Lowe
30—Joseph and Vera Scuderi



August Celebrations



HAPPY BIRTHDAY and BEST WISHES to these members of Our Saviour who celebrate birthdays during this month. We pray for your continued growth in God's grace.

1-Desi Voorhies
1-Jennifer Kelly
2- Andrew Pond
2- Karen Preston
3-James Hauck
3-Sally Shannon
5-Virginia McMullen
6-Jakob Witt
8-Jaime Walberger
9-Skip Kipybida
9-Jennifer Guiles
9-Evan Palmer
10-Mary Pleten

11-Michael Perkins
11-Janie Baker Pehur
15-Joyce Perkins
16-Christine Gear
17-Patti Schulz
21-Michele McDonough
22-Keely Lyons
22-Carl Kowalski
23-Sharon Castrichini
26-Alexandra Pond
26-Alexander Sovereign
27-Deb Yackel
31-Stacey Hamblin



Anniversaries

CONGRATULATIONS and BEST WISHES to these members of Our Saviour who celebrate Wedding Anniversaries during this month. May God continue to bless you and increase your love for one another!

2—Peter and Jacqueline Sitter ♥♥HAPPY 45TH ANNIVERSARY♥♥
3—Gerald and Patricia Stich
3—Drew and Jenny Emerson
5—Richard and Carole Chapin ♥♥HAPPY 20TH ANNIVERSARY♥♥
7—Richard and Sharon Yackel ♥♥HAPPY 60TH ANNIVERSARY♥♥
8—Michael and April O'Connor
11—George and Shelly Borrelli
14—Donald and Desi Voorhies
14—Glen and Simone Harter
18—John and Linda Loughlin
19—Richard and Tina Sihto
20—Charles and Cynthia Borzilleri
21—Kevin and Wendy Forrest
25—Tony and Mary Pleten
28—Karl and Nancy Schwach
31—Richard and Colleen Forsey





- ♥ *Mary Ellen Saur for continuing to change the message on the sign.*
- ♥ *Daryl Jarvis for continuing to care for the plants in the Narthex.*
- ♥ *Thrivent for their continued support, sponsorship, and contributions.*
- ♥ *Ed Jarvis for maintaining the facility/church during our activities cancellation period.*
- ♥ *Jerry Stich for doing the extra recording of the services and updating them on our website.*
- ♥ *Deb Housel for taking the food donations to St. Theodore's.*
- ♥ *Cheryl Stone, Daryl and Ed Jarvis for maintaining the Altar during our cancellation period; the eternal candle keeps flicking.*
- ♥ *Service Leaders for helping with the upcoming services.*
- ♥ *The Council for meeting more frequently during this period to help make appropriate decisions for the church.*
- ♥ *Mary Ellen for updating the attendance and communion logs.*
- ♥ *Peter Sitter, Frank Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Chuck Borzilleri, Ed Jarvis for mowing the lawn.*
- ♥ *Mary Ellen Saur for trimming the bushes and cleaning up outside.*
- ♥ *Ann Seppa and John Tesch, for Service Leaders help with Mike Bonanno's memorial service.*
- ♥ *Simone Harter for video recording of the memorial service.*

☺ *A personal Thank You for the many phone calls I have received asking "how are you doing?". It is so reassuring to know, that at a time like this, there are so many people who care and who are there to help in time of need. A special thanks to both Daryl and Ed.*

God Bless, Helga Mitchell

The commitment and dedication of all members of Our Saviour are important to the congregation's mission and ministry. We want to recognize the tasks done by members. Committee/Board Chairs and others are asked to share these names with the Office Manager, Simone Harter, for inclusion in future issues of the Communicator.



IMPORTANT DATES



SPECIFIC TO OUR SAVIOUR

- † Summer Services Schedule is pending
- † Installation of Church Leaders, 7/12, time pending
- † LYO Garage Sale postponed until September (date pending)
- † Evangelism Committee activities on hold until September (dates pending)
- † Jubilees Canandaigua Lady Cruise, 10/7, 3:00 PM
- † Reformation Sunday, 10/25, 10:00 AM
Includes Rite of Confirmation and First Communion

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- † Camp Joy, 7/12 - 7/17
- † 2020 Upstate NY Synod Assembly has been cancelled
- † Genesee Finger Lakes and Central Crossroads Conferences Fall Retreat (dates pending)
- † Upstate NY Synod Convention (WELCA), 10/4 - 10/6



**What do you think are the
Three Daily Reminders
for when we wake up each day?**

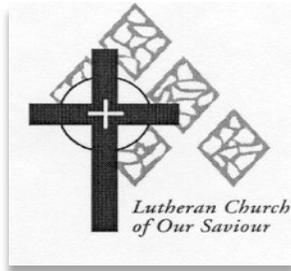


Look Up to God today.

Now Look Around at the world today.

Finally Look Ahead to your life today.





*Newsletter of The Lutheran Church of Our Saviour
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Website: www.OurSaviourRochester.org
The Rev. Joachim Wilck, Pastor
Office Manager: Simone Harter
A member congregation of the Upstate New York Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*



**THE CHURCH SERVICES ARE
RECORDED AND ARE ON YOUTUBE
GO TO
WWW.OURSAVIOURROCHESTER.ORG
AND
CLICK ON WATCH AND LISTEN**