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Communicator  
May 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.

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.

Thank you. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

**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

There are a hundred species or so known as “resurrection plants.” These species are unrelated, but within each of them the same process has somehow developed. Resurrection plants have leaves that can be desiccated to papery brown shreds, feign death for years, and then rehydrate back to normal function. It is their unusual biochemistry that allows them to do this, an accidental trait and something that they did not choose. As they wither, their leaves fill with concentrated sucrose, thick sugar left behind during the drying. This syrup stabilizes and preserves the leaves, even when they are drained of their green chlorophyll.

Resurrection plants are usually tiny, no bigger than your fist. They are ugly and small and useless and special. When it rains, their leaves puff up but do not become green for 48 hours because it takes time for photosynthesis to start up. During those strange days of its reawakening the plant lives off pure concentrated sugar, an intense sustained infusion of sweetness, a year’s worth of sucrose coursing through its veins in just one day. This little plant has done the impossible: it has transcended the wilted brown of death. The miracle is not sustainable, of course, and within a day or two things will inevitably go back to normal. Such a crazy life takes its toll, and in the long term, even a resurrection plant withers and dies completely. But for a brief, glorious moment it knows something that no other plant has ever known: How to grow without being green.

—Hope Jahren, *Lab Girl* (Vintage, 2017)

*This article gives me hope because I think I have been sustaining myself on a year’s worth of sucrose (not true). It does give me energy. While I’m not turning green, I find myself living a new kind of life. I’m learning and doing things I’ve never done before. It is in a sense a resurrection life with new possibilities and new ideas. For us in our church life there are also new things: drive-in worship, a new way to do communion and new ways to keep in contact. It looks like we will continue to do those things through May with drive-in services on the second and fourth Sundays and online services in between. We will have to see what June brings but we may go to our summer schedule early if some restrictions are lifted. Living with uncertainty is stressful and concerning. However, we are a resurrection people and living the new life in Christ makes all things possible. As you sustain yourself on sucrose, or chips or whatever, know you are loved by our Lord and many in our church family, especially by me.*

*I will continue to keep in touch via PhoneTree and Facebook, and look forward to that time when we will see each other face-to-face.*

—Pastor Wilck



## DRIVE-IN SERVICES

Until the Governor's executive order is lifted, we will hold drive-in services on the **2nd and 4th Sundays** of each month at 10:00 a.m.

The next services are on **May 10 and May 24**.



## SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

If we can resume activities by June, our summer services will begin on:

Thursday, **June 4**, at 7:00 p.m.

and

Sunday, **June 7**, one service at 9:30 a.m.

The summer schedule is through Labor Day.

## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE (CLC)

The meeting that was scheduled for **May 17** has been cancelled. Please contact Carol Werth with any questions.



## Congregational Meeting

- ◆ If we can resume activities, the Congregational Meeting normally held in April is scheduled for **June 28** at 6:00 p.m. At this meeting, we will hold the annual election of Church Council Officers and Committee Chairpersons. Please note this year we will NOT have a supper prior to the meeting.
- ◆ The Installation of these positions will be on **July 12** at 9:30 a.m.

## PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic that has cancelled our church services and activities, we have suspended the cleaning and garbage collection. The building's heating system, except for the main office area, has been turned down to a bare minimum. As of this report, it is still not clear what will happen beyond May 15, so the church will remain closed until further notice.

Summer is here and so is our outside work. We need volunteers to help with the weekly chores such as lawn cutting, landscaping, general cleanups and outside painting. Please contact Ed Jarvis at 233-7867 if you are interested in volunteering for these activities.

**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](http://www.campjoyny.org) or call (585) 371-8851 with any additional questions.

## ***CHURCH AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE***

We are still collecting can tabs which will be taken to the Synod Assembly in **August/September**. 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.

## ***EVANGELISM COMMITTEE***

All Evangelism activities are being held off until September.

## ***JUBILEES***

Due to the on-going Coronavirus pandemic, the May 20 Canandaigua Lady Cruise has been postponed to October. Details will be forthcoming.

### **CONFIRMATION CLASSES AND FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES**

***Blessings to all Our Saviour's children!***

At this time, we are planning:

- ◆ the Rite of Confirmation service to be held on Reformation Sunday.
- ◆ A letter will be sent to parents in September regarding the First Communion Classes. The children will receive First Communion on Reformation Sunday.

**† Reformation Sunday is October 25 †**



# WOMEN OF THE ELCA



While we are all under a mandatory quarantine, we hope that everyone had a Blessed Easter! It was so nice that our church was able to provide us with a drive-in Easter Service and so thankful that church services will be held on all Communion Sundays at 10:00 a.m. Thank you to Pastor Wilck, Simone Harter and all the volunteers who are making this possible.

Due to the pandemic and quarantine, all the upcoming WELCA events have been cancelled until further notice.

Please pray for everyone's safety. Pray for all the people who have passed from this virus and pray that soon we will be able to get our lives back. Please pray for all the people on the front lines risking their lives for everyone.

Miss you and wishing everyone a Happy Mother's Day!

I have been calling to say "hi" and to check on the "ladies" while under quarantine. It is so nice to hear that everyone is doing well.

Ann Seppa, Secretary

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

For Easter, our Sunday School Superintendent (Michelle Coval) personally delivered an Easter treat bag to each one of our Sunday School children. The treat bags included some candy, a few little toys, puzzles and coloring pages for them.

She is continuously in contact with the children through her LCOS Sunday School/Youth Flock group on Facebook where she shares:

- Live messages and readings
- An Emoji Pictionary game
- A story of the beginning of creation
- What doesn't belong in the pictures for the younger kids
- Word puzzles for the older kids
- A Boggle Bible game that Janeen Oliver created for the Youth group
- Music from Alexandra Pond
- And more

Be sure to check out her group for something new regularly. There are new posts all the time.

Not a member of her private group, reach out to Michelle Coval (Michelle Lynn) on Facebook, and she will be happy to add you.

Stay well. Stay happy. And Stay connected.

***Many thanks go out to Michelle for continuing to inspire the school children to stay in touch with our Lord and our church. Even though the teachers and children are not meeting, she still makes everything fun for them to be engaged in. She is doing an amazing job! Our Saviour sends you our appreciation, Michelle!***

# LYO/YOUTH

Hello All,

Blessings to all. I hope you are all healthy and well. Keep a look out for more weekly devotions and Bible trivia games coming via email. I miss you all and look forward to the time when we can all meet together in Christ's name.

Grace and peace

Ms. Janeen

*Thank you to Janeen for going above and beyond during our church cancellation period. Even though she cannot be with the Youth, she is creatively in contact with them. Her "virtual" activities are Christ-centered, putting the youth in action, and are so much fun. What an awesome job, Janeen. Our Saviour greatly appreciates you!*

- ♥ *Mary Ellen Saur for continuing to change the message on the sign.*
- ♥ *Daryl Jarvis and Simone Harter 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.*
- ♥ *Ed Jarvis for repairing the wall paint at the lift.*
- ♥ *Cheryl Stone, Daryl and Ed Jarvis for maintaining the Altar during our cancellation period; the eternal candle keeps flicking.*
- ♥ *Ed Jarvis for fixing Simone's office chair.*



*A note from Our Saviour:*

*We hope everyone is healthy and doing well. You are all in our prayers.*

*As our State is on pause due to the Governor's executive order, Pastor, the Church Council and Office continue to meet virtually to ensure the needs of our Church and Church family are met. If anyone needs any assistance, please call the Office or Pastor.*

*Although the Church activities have been cancelled, some members continue to do things behind the scenes. Thank you to Pastor for keeping us in the Word as we all struggle through these difficult times. He has been very creative using the PhoneTree, online services, Facebook Live and drive-in services.*

*We also want to thank our **wonderful** congregation for your continued commitment to our Church family. Many have sent in their financial contributions via the mail, drop off or using the new electronic donation on the website. Thank you! It is much appreciated!!*

*We hope to see you all soon. Meanwhile stay safe, healthy and trust in God. We will get through this.*

Thank you to Simone Harter for her dedicated work in the office. It is hard to believe it's been over a year since she became the Office Manager. She has spent many hours making updates and changes. During the pandemic, she went in every day to keep the office running, volunteering a lot of her time. We had the pleasure of covering the office during Simone's vacation. We did only a small portion of the work and realized she has a much bigger job. She is determined to get things done and find solutions to problems. If anyone in the congregation needs help, she will gladly give it. She has our appreciation and support. We hope you will join us in thanking Simone for all her hard work.

~Mary Ellen Saur, Ann Seppa, and Patti Schulz

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## May Celebrations

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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-Donna Evenson  
1-Chloe Osterling  
2-Simone Harter  
3-Michael O'Connor  
4-Ronald King  
5-Robyn Griffin  
6-Carmalena Loughlin  
8-Susan Yackel  
8-John David Coval  
10-Dillon Griffin  
11-Jeffrey Blank  
11-Richard Forsey

12-Jennifer Forsey  
12-Lucas Noll  
13-Christopher Cuyler  
14-Daryl Jarvis  
14-Victor Harter  
15-Benjamin Morningstar  
16-Donna Miller  
18-Anton Suk  
20-Nicholas Gatto  
23-Vincenzo Loughlin  
24-Douglas McDonough  
27-Ann Morningstar  
27-Annabelle Guiles  
28-Alice Popen  
29-Donald Voorhies  
29-Carolyn Hane  
30-Vera Suk  
30-Michael Henry Pehur



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## Anniversaries

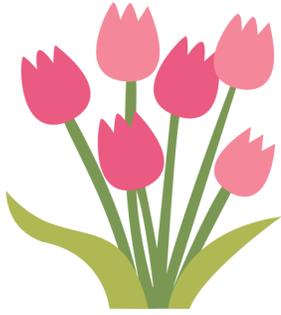
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CONGRATULATIONS and BEST WISHES to these members of Our Saviour who celebrate Wedding Anniversaries during this month. May God continue to bless you and increase your love for one another!

6—Michelle and John Coval  
10—Richard and Carol Ransom  
12—Jason and Brenda Stone  
13—Larry and Jennifer Guiles ♥♥**HAPPY 20TH ANNIVERSARY**♥♥  
20—Pastor Joachim and Debbie Wilck  
21—Jeff and Cynthia Blank  
24—Mark and Jill Evans  
26—David and Cheryl Stone  
28—Paul and Peggy Hamblin  
29—Robert and Norma Snyder ♥♥**HAPPY 60TH ANNIVERSARY**♥♥  
31—James and Linda Palmer ♥♥**HAPPY 40TH ANNIVERSARY**♥♥



HAPPY  
*Mother's*  
DAY



**May 10th**



**Happy Memorial Day**  
**May 25th**



Over two centuries ago on the **Day of Pentecost**, the Holy Spirit manipulated the words of Jesus' disciples so that their message was understood in all languages. Now the divided could be united, the alienated could be reconciled, the human-centered could become Christ-centered. God brought about this history-making event with amazing ease, but in such a serendipitous way that the disciples were thought to be drunk!

An even greater surprise, however, is still waiting for us. John reports Jesus' announcement in the Gospel. God intends that the Holy Spirit shall engage our hearts, minds, and tongues, enabling us to witness God's mighty deeds of loving and saving the world. We are given the privilege of being the earthly vessels that bring the message of salvation to the world. Our Lord promises that the dynamic power of the Holy Spirit will mingle with our meager witness so that we become agents of God's good news to a world that is continually covered by bad news.

The feast of Pentecost or "firstfruits" of the harvest celebrated God's gracious giving of the crops that supply our food. These crops, given by the grace of God, are indicative of, or point to, a more important gift of God: the ones that will be harvested at the end of the world and brought into God's storehouse. The powerful coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost provides cause for a greater celebration---a celebration of God's redemption of all humankind in Jesus, and the first gathering in or harvest of people who realize what He has done for them.

The special manifestation of the Holy Spirit in the speaking in different languages made two essential points about the work of Christ. First, the Gospel of Jesus is accomplished and affects salvation immediately in people who hear the Word. Second, the Gospel of Jesus is accomplished for all people. God's gift of the ability to speak, immediately, in the languages of all these people is unmistakable evidence for God's universal redemption of all nations. All things are possible with God. If God confused the languages of people in a moment at Babel, certainly He can grant the reversal of that confusion by making the apostles able to speak in the native language of others in an instant, without previously knowing the language.

So again, this Pentecost, we are reminded that we the church are called to proclaim this gospel. We are called to be united in our mission and focus, that being the Gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ. It should be our only focus for then the spirit of God will truly be upon us.

~Pastor Wilck

# IMPORTANT DATES



## SPECIFIC TO OUR SAVIOUR

† Until the Governor's executive order is lifted, we will hold drive-in services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 10:00 AM:  
5/10 *Happy Mother's Day!*  
and 5/24

† Congregational Life Committee (CLC),  
the 5/17 meeting has been cancelled

† Thursday Summer Worship begins, 6/4, 7:00 PM

† Sunday Summer Worship begins, 6/7, 9:30 AM

† Congregational Meeting, 6/28, 6:00 PM  
We will not be holding a supper prior to the meeting.

† Installation of Church Officers  
7/12, 9:30 AM service

† LYO Garage Sale postponed until September  
(date pending)

† Evangelism Committee activities on hold until  
September (dates pending)

† Jubilees May cruise postponed until October  
(date pending)

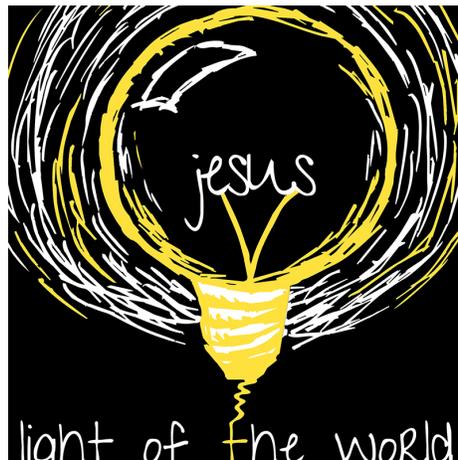
† Reformation Sunday, 10/25, 10:00 AM  
Includes Rite of Confirmation and  
First Communion

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

† Camp Joy, 7/12 - 7/17

† Upstate NY Synod Assembly, 8/30 - 9/1

† Upstate NY Synod Convention (WELCA),  
10/4 - 10/6



Someone is stuck in a small town, wanting to get to a highway and a bigger town, but the locals just laugh and say, "You can't get there from here."

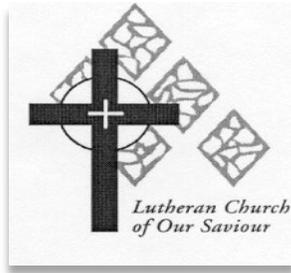
As Christians, we often feel like that. We hear talk of heaven and joy and happiness, and we feel as if we can't get there from where we are. We are stuck in sadness and do not know joy or peace. What is the way out? Where is the road to joy and peace?

Jesus says, "I am the way" (John 14:6). What He meant was not that we walk a smooth, paved highway to ecstasy and happiness. Jesus meant that we follow Him on His path. His road was one of crucifixion and pain, then glory and resurrection. His way is the way of death, then life. First humiliation, then exaltation.

Our Baptism places us on that path. When we are baptized into Christ, we are made members of His body. We walk on His path. We first know hardship and pain. God promises that they mark the way to heaven with Jesus. He will never forsake or leave us. He will raise us to be like Him.

The truth is that we *can* get there from here, for we follow a crucified and risen Lord!

*Lord, You are my light and salvation. Stay with me. Amen.*



*Newsletter of the Lutheran Church of Our Saviour*  
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 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](http://WWW.OURSAVIOURROCHESTER.ORG)  
 AND  
 CLICK ON WATCH AND LISTEN**

**THE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
 OF OUR SAVIOUR  
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 CHANGE SERVICE  
 REQUESTED**