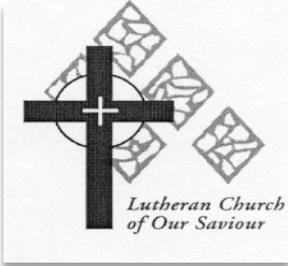


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Communicator
January 2020



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January 1st



The Church Staff join in extending their prayers
for you to have a Happy, Healthy and
Blessed New Year!

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. On Friday Pastor's day off, he is available for pastoral emergencies. When calling the church after hours, and wishing to leave a message for Pastor when prompted dial Extension 311 for his personal voicemail.

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.

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

Here's a thought and a prayer as we approach the new year.

Only God knows the future, and, more importantly, is the caretaker and Lord of the future. In Christian faith there is a bedrock truth that enables believers to move into the future with assurance: providence. The God of the Bible is above all reality, encompassing in his vision and embracing in his power our past, present, and future. God purchases no calendars, he keeps no schedule on a smartphone, he doesn't develop project charts. He is never surprised by what happens, but is alternately pleased and displeased by what does happen. God takes us toward a good future, pointing us toward a life goal that no human being would have conceived. The good path is always just the next few steps in the direction of the good end.

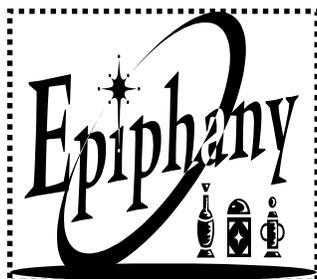
A Prayer for the New Year

Lord God, as I think about the year ahead, I do have hope, but I admit I have some fears as well. I am carrying into the new year some problems from the past year. I also know that it is always possible that unexpected things might happen. And so I throw myself on your mercy, dear God. In you I take refuge. I am glad that I can entrust the upcoming year to you, and to entrust my very self to you. Purify my heart, O Lord. Teach me your ways. Help me to make good, right, and healthy choices.

I also entrust my loved ones to you. I know how much they need your care. Please protect and guide them. And, dear God, we pray for peace in our troubled world. We ask you to judge what is evil and to protect the innocent. We take comfort in your words, "Behold, I am making all things new." ([Rev. 21:5](#))

Make my life new again.

In Christ's Name,
Amen



SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2020
SERVICES AT 9:00 AND 11:15 A.M.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Hope Everyone had wonderful Holidays

The children did a beautiful job with their Christmas pageant this year and thanks to all who helped put it together!
Sunday School resumes **January 5** with Winter Rally

Hope to see everyone in the New Year.

God Bless,
Mrs. Michelle

ANNUAL REPORTS COPY DUE, Please!

In order to have the Annual Bulletin of Reports completed in time for distribution prior to the January Congregational Meeting, all Boards and Organizations should submit summary reports for the 2019 Ministry Year by **January 6**. This gives the office staff the necessary time for preparation and printing.

Thank you for your cooperation.



EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

Christian Book Club will be at church on **January 12** at 10:15 a.m. The book is *Overcomer* by Chris Fabry. Life changes overnight for coach John Harrison when his high school basketball team and state championship dreams are crushed under the weight of unexpected news. When the largest manufacturing plant shuts down and hundreds of families leave their town, John questions how he and his family will face an uncertain future. After reluctantly agreeing to coach cross-country, John and his wife Amy meet an aspiring athlete who's pushing her limits on a journey toward discovery. Inspired by the words and prayers of a newfound friend, John becomes the least likely coach helping the least likely runner attempt the impossible in the biggest race of the year.

Christian Movie will be at church on **January 18** at 2:00 p.m. The movie is *Let There Be Light*. World-famous atheist Dr. Sol Harkens delights in debating and defeating Christians, but is emotionally empty. Isolated from Katy, the wife he divorced following the harrowing loss of their first son, and a lousy part-time dad to their two younger boys, his self-destruction culminates in a car crash that leaves him clinically dead for four minutes. The four-word message from that experience challenges his convictions, sending him into a panicked tailspin. Reluctantly leaning on his family's forgiveness, love and faith, Sol struggles to find meaning and purpose in the words "Let There Be Light."

LYO/YOUTH

Youth Happenings

The youth have been very busy during the month of December. Thank you to the youth and their families for all their hard work on the Holiday Hall. The Hall added to the Brunch with Santa festivities. Also, a big thank you to the youth, their families, and the Sunday school leaders for helping to make the Christmas pageant so special.

Upcoming events include:

January 17 - Annual Murder Mystery party

January 26 - Sledding event weather permitting

Grace and peace,
Janeen Oliver

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING Sunday, January 26



The Annual Congregational meeting of the Lutheran Church of Our Saviour is **January 26**.

We will gather at 5:00 p.m. for a light supper,

with the meeting following at 6:00 p.m. The boards,

committees, organizations and staff of the congregation will present their annual reports. Copies of the Annual Bulletin of Reports are available for members on January 19. Your participation is important.

The by-laws will be presented at the meeting.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

The Women of ELCA hope everyone had a Blessed Christmas and New Year.

A special thank you to Ann Marie MacBride for again opening up her beautiful home and hosting our Annual Christmas Party. Great fellowship and food were the order of the day. Secret pals were revealed and new ones chosen.

Cheryl Stone, Debbie Macksamie and Ann Marie MacBride will provide refreshments for fellowship on Sunday, January 12.

As we take our winter break, no meeting will be held in January. The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, **February 11**, at 12:00 noon. Please bring your own lunch. Beverage and dessert will be provided. Donna Miller will be the hostess for this meeting and Barbara King will provide the devotions.

At this meeting, we will be discussing future projects for the upcoming year.

We continue to increase our membership and hope that this will continue as we move through the year.

There is always room for more!!!

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

As an ongoing mission, Women of ECLA plan to act boldly in their faith by providing food and toiletries for St. Theodore's, a local food pantry in Gates. Deb Housel has volunteered there for eight years, and she will be transporting the food collected at LCOS to the Cupboard.

St. Theodore's Food Cupboard began in 1982 and is run completely by volunteers. Located in two classrooms of the former school building at 168 Spencerport Road, its entrance is accessible from Dunn Tower Drive. The Cupboard serves two types of clients: monthly and emergency. Sixty families are supported in the monthly program. These families receive three bags of food each month. To become a monthly client, a person must go through a personal interview and disclose finances to demonstrate a true need. This qualification process is repeated annually, so the monthly client list changes as clients' situations improve.

Between 30 and 50 families each month request emergency food. They are given a 3-5 day supply of food and a small bag of toiletries. St. Theodore's serves people living in the 14606 and 14624 zip code area, but will not turn away anyone outside that area. If a person comes and says they need food, food is *always* given. No appointment is necessary, but proof of ID and address are required. People are strongly discouraged from declaring an emergency more frequently than every three months, and records are kept to prevent abuse of the program. The Emergency Food Program hours are: Monday 12-2 p.m., Wednesday 11-1 p.m., Thursday 10-12 p.m. Emergency clients are informed about social service programs (such as food stamps) and given the paperwork to apply for them.

Who are the people who rely on St. Theodore's Food Cupboard? You might be surprised. It's within walking distance of Dunn Tower, and some of the elderly living there couldn't make ends meet without it. It's often the working poor. Sometimes it's someone who's been laid off at age 57 and told to use up their entire 401K before they can qualify for food stamps.

To help, bring your donations to church and leave them in the wicker basket below the table in the Narthex. There's a Women of ELCA sign on the table above the basket. If the basket is full, terrific! Just pile your groceries nearby for Deb to collect.

St. Theodore's receives help from Foodlink and New York State. As a result, it must follow guidelines about offering healthy foods. Here's a list of the items most needed:

jello	dry pasta	canned vegetables
rice	canned fruits	canned pasta (like Spaghetti-os)
tuna	salad dressing	cake or brownie mix
jelly/jam	spaghetti sauce	canned or crushed tomatoes
cereal	pie filling	applesauce
soup	mac & cheese	pork and beans
juice	peanut butter	baked beans
coffee	Hamburger Helper	Chicken Helper, Tuna Helper
tea	hot chocolate mix	applesauce
hand soap	toothpaste	toothbrush
shampoo	toilet paper	facial tissue

Note: Household cleaning supplies (laundry soap, dishwashing liquid, paper towels, etc.) are ***not distributed***.

St. Theodore's is the only food cupboard in the Gates area, and due to the economic climate, in the past four months there has been a significant increase in clients. If you have any questions, you can email the director, Kathy Nicol, at knicol7@rochester.rr.com.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

A group of eight from our congregation went to the Creekview Nursing Home on December 11 to spread the good cheer of the Christmas season by singing several carols. Those in attendance were Cheryl Stone, Dick Ransom, Ed and Daryl Jarvis, Debbie Frey, Donna Miller, Nancy Austin and Simone Harter. A special thanks to Dick and Ed for reading Christmas stories.

Special thanks to Donna Evenson for organizing this event and playing the piano!

BINGO PRIZES FOR CREEKVIEW NURSING HOME

The Women of the ELCA here at Our Saviour continue to collect items for bingo prizes at Creekview Nursing Home. Members of the congregation are invited (and encouraged) to participate in this activity. Please put the items in bags and place at the WELCA table in the Narthex.

The suggestions that follow were provided by the Recreation Leader at Creekview Nursing Home:

Women

Stuffed animals
Jewelry*
Lotion (small bottles)
Cards
Non-slip stocking slippers
Large print Word Search books
Nail polish (bright or sparkles)
Polish remover

Men

Stuffed animals
Shaving cream
Large print playing
Non-slip stocking slippers

*clip-on earrings only, necklaces long enough to fit over the head, and bracelets large enough to fit over the hand. Jewelry with clasps are difficult to handle.

Thank you for your support of this activity and to Donna Evenson who delivers our donations.

*In Loving
Memory*

The members of Our Saviour extend Christian love and sympathy to the family of
Edith Pharmakis
and
Erika Sheremeta

Edith passed November 24, 2019 at the age of 87.
Erika passed December 9, 2019 at the age of 60.

Memorial Services were held at
Our Saviour in December 2019.

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



- ♥ *Mary Ellen Saur, Ann and Gordon Seppa, Colleen Forsey, Elaine De Vantier, Linda Loughlin, Cheryl Stone and Donna Miller for stapling, addressing and mailing the December newsletter.*
- ♥ *Mary Ellen Saur, Sharon and Richard Yackel for assembling the bulletins each week.*
- ♥ *Mary Ellen Saur for continuing to change the message on the sign and doing other various tasks in the office.*
- ♥ *To all the Sunday Modern Traditional PowerPoint volunteers.*
- ♥ *To all the video recording of our services volunteers.*
- ♥ *Linda Loughlin for maintaining the oil candles in preparation for Sunday services.*
- ♥ *Margie Kowalski for continuing to care for the plants in the Narthex and replacing the flowers in the planters and vases.*
- ♥ *Cindy Borzilleri and Carol Werth for maintaining the Time and Talent and Worship documentation, as well as the volunteers.*
- ♥ *Sharon Yackel for coordinating our coffee (Equal Exchange) order and keeping track of our coffee supply.*
- ♥ *Jerry Stich for shoveling snow from our walk-way.*
- ♥ *Jerry Stich and Ed Jarvis for working on the new sound system.*
- ♥ *To Thrivent for their continued support, sponsorship, and contributions.*
- ♥ *Rick Chapin for printing a very large 2020 calendar for the office.*
- ♥ *Ed Jarvis for setting up the Advent Wreath.*
- ♥ *To the fourteen members who helped set up, prepared, and came to decorate our Christmas tree and church and who brought delicious food to share.*
- ♥ *LYO and NG'sUs for decorating Christmas Hall this year. How beautiful and merry it was to see!*
- ♥ *To everyone for being flexible with the rescheduled Advent Workshop. We all had such a fun time making the gingerbread houses and crafts. The children are getting more and more creative!*
- ♥ *To everyone for being flexible with the changes for the Christmas caroling.*
- ♥ *To everyone bringing snacks to the Tuesday/Wednesday Bible Study with Pastor.*
- ♥ *To the Altar Guild for the Christmas preparations.*
- ♥ *To everyone who ordered poinsettias and made our church joyful, festive and beautiful!*
- ♥ *To those who made monetary gifts to the ELCA Upstate NY Synod.*
- ♥ *To those who served during the Christmas Eve evening services.*
- ♥ *To those who have already signed up for Altar flowers in 2020 and for to those who may sign up.*

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.

BOARD FOR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

Thank you to all who provided Christmas gifts for the children identified from our Angel Tree. Gifts were given out to the Rochester Family Mission, the Coldwater House Open Door Mission and children from LCOS. A special thank you to our Youth who provided gift cards for the Rochester Family Mission. Everyone's generosity has ensured that all 35 children will have a Merry Christmas.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

Thank you to all who led the Advent Wreath Lighting portion of our Sunday Worship during the four Sundays in Advent. We value the involvement of members of the congregation in various aspects of worship leadership. Thank you to Carol and Dick Ransom, Daryl and Ed Jarvis, Michelle Coval and family, the Foltz family, Pam and Brian Spencer, Ann Marie and Jim MacBride, Carol Werth, and Karen Osterling and family.

Special thank you to Carolyn Hane for recruiting our "Advent Wreath Lighters".

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL BRUNCH WITH SANTA

Brunch with Santa was on December 14 and once again we had a great showing. This was the first year we advertised to the community! We had three outside families come. The children and families enjoyed grilled cheese sandwiches, mac and cheese, and snacks followed by a personal visit with Santa. Many thanks go out to Santa's elves: Pam and Brian Spencer, Sheila Foltz, Simone Harter, Michelle Coval, Brayden Spencer, Ann Seppa, and Jim Palmer who helped with preparation, serving and clean-up. SPECIAL THANKS TO SANTA!

CANS & BOTTLES: Tired of bringing your bottles & cans with a 5 cent deposit to the grocery store? Bring them to Flower City Bottle & Can Return 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. **DID YOU KNOW? You can designate Lutheran Church of Our Saviour Youth Group** to receive credit for your returns. Just drop off the cans & bottles and they will credit Our Saviour's account. Every little bit helps!

CARING AND SHARING

We all have loving hearts but busy lives. To make life easier for you to show others you care, we are providing a CARD BOX.

Help yourself to cards and envelopes. Our LCOS Directory is there to help you find addresses. You can write your notes and address the envelopes now while you are thinking of it. Just add a stamp and drop it in the mail.

The card box is located on the small round table next to the lift/elevator.

Do you receive free cards in the mail? Bring them in and add to the box.



Closing of the church due to weather

If the church closes due to hazardous weather conditions, we will post the closing in the following forums:

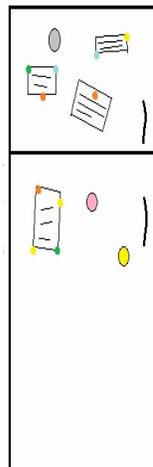
- ◇ WROC/CHANNEL 8: On television and website (RochesterFirst.com).
- ◇ SPECTRUM/CHANNEL 9: On television and website (spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/rochester)
- ◇ WHEC/CHANNEL 10/NBC : On television and website (WHEC.com).
- ◇ WHAM/CHANNEL 13/ABC/FOX ROCHESTER. Please note that you can only check via their website (13wam.com) instead of your television.

If the phone system is operational, we will also initiate a phone call distribution (aka phone tree) to the congregation.

REFRIGERATOR/FREEZER USE—Now that the church activities are in full swing...

...a reminder to anyone 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.



IMPORTANT DATES



SPECIFIC TO OUR SAVIOUR

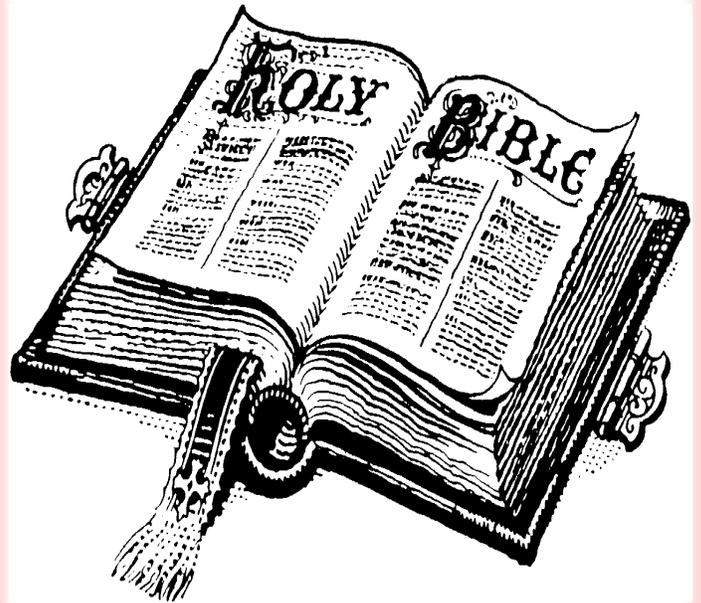
- † Church Office Closed, 1/1
- † Rally Day 2 (Winter Carnival), Bring Gifts for ELCA Hunger, Recognition of College Students, 1/2, at both services
- † Annual Reports Due to the Office, 1/6
- † *Epiphany, Jesus' Birthday!* January 12
- † Christian Book Club, 1/12, 10:15 a.m.
- † CLC Meeting, 1/12, 12:15 p.m.
- † Church Council Meeting, 1/13, 6:30 p.m.
- † LYO Annual Murder Mystery Party, 1/17, 6:00 p.m.
- † Christian Movie, 1/18, 2:00 p.m.
- † *Martin Luther King, Jr Day!* January 20
- † LYO Sledding, 1/26, after 11:15 a.m. Service
- † Annual Congregational Meeting, 1/26, 5:00 p.m. Supper, 6:00 p.m. Meeting

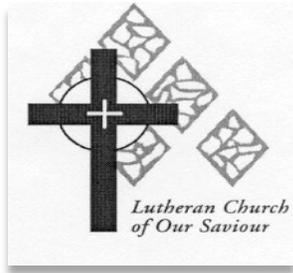
"Create
in me a
clean heart,
O **God,**
and put a
new **and right**
spirit
within me."
Psalm 51:10



SPECIFIC TO OUR SAVIOUR

- † Scout Sunday (both boy and girl scouts), Souper Bowl Sunday, 2/2
- † LYO 30-Hour Famine, 2/7 and 8
- † Renewal of Vows Sunday, 2/16
- † Winter School Break, 2/17 - 23
- † Ash Wednesday Service, 7:00 p.m.





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

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