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The
Communicator
January 2021



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LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR

The Communicator



January 1st

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 use Pastor's updated church email:
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.



In their book, *Spiritual Literacy: Reading the Sacred in Everyday Life*, Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat recount the experience of author Frederick Buechner who in his autobiographical book, *Telling Secrets*, “breaks silence about a family secret: how his teenage daughter struggled with anorexia. There came a day when he, himself, was in the pits of despair, worried sick that his daughter would never get well again. But then, in a dark night, came a message of hope, from an unusual quarter.”

Buechner writes: “I remember sitting parked by the roadside once, terribly depressed and afraid about my daughter’s illness and what was going on in our family when out of nowhere a car came along down the highway with a license plate that bore on it the one word out of all the words in the dictionary I needed most to see exactly then. The word was TRUST. What do you call a moment like that? Something to laugh off as a kind of joke life plays on us every once in a while? The word of God? I am willing to believe that maybe it was something of both, but for me, it was an epiphany. The owner of the car turned out to be as I suspected, a trust officer in a bank. Not long ago, having read an account I wrote of the incident somewhere, he found out where I lived and one afternoon brought me the license plate itself, which is propped up on a bookshelf in my house to this day. It is rusty around the edges and a little battered, and it is also as holy a relic as I have ever seen.”

Maybe that’s where we need to begin in 2021. Maybe we need to start with trust. Trust in our fellow human beings, trust in our relationships, trust in our community, and more importantly trust in God. Another word for trust is faith. These words are exchangeable and in fact, trust means faith and faith means trust, so why don’t we begin there. And as we work through the year and through the virus that has affected so many, maybe putting trust in those people who are leading us out of the pandemic will be a reflection of the faith that we have in God.

I thank you for your patience as we have experienced the most difficult year in our church in quite a while. While we may be a little battered around the edges, your faithfulness, your encouragement, and your continued presence in our church community is certainly a reflection of the trust that you have in God and our Savior Jesus Christ. May God continue to hold us in the year ahead that we can be a reflection of that great faith that we have in the gospel and its message of Jesus. In doing so we reflect the trust that God has given to us.

~~Pastor Wilck

SUNDAY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS—JANUARY TO JUNE 2021 **(Subject to change)**

January 3 - Epiphany, Rally Day 2 (pending activities)
January 10 - Baptism of our Lord service
February 7 - Scouts Sunday (both boy and girl scouts), Souper Bowl Sunday
February 14 - Valentine’s Day, Renewal of Vows service, share your wedding photos
February 15-21 Monday-Sunday - Mid-winter Recess
February 17 - Ash Wednesday service, 7:00 p.m.
March 14 - Daylight Saving begins (pending Youth service)
March 28 - Palm Sunday
April 1 - Maundy Thursday service, 7:00 p.m.
April 2 - Good Friday service, 7:00 p.m.
April 4 - Easter service
May 9 - Mother’s Day
May 23 - Pentecost Sunday, Rite of Confirmation
May 30 - Memorial Day weekend
June 13 - Church picnic
June 20 - Father’s Day
June 24 Thursday - Summer Schedule begins, 7:00 p.m.



The Church Staff joins in extending their prayers for you to have a **Brighter, Healthy and Blessed New Year!**

OUR WORSHIP SCHEDULE WILL REMAIN THE SAME FOR 2021:

- * Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.
 - * Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
 - * With the exception of a Wednesday service for Ash Wednesday (2/17/21)
 - * This schedule is subject to change based on the COVID pandemic.
- ⇒ Please note that you may come indoors for both days' services or remain outdoors (drive-in). We will continue to broadcast the service through your car radio (on the 87.9 station).
- ⇒ We are set up with social distancing for indoor services.
- ⇒ Please wear your mask appropriately covering the nose and chin.
- ⇒ Please remain seated at all times during indoor worship.
- ⇒ Please do not congregate inside before or after the services. Please socialize outside.
- ⇒ We ask that the first two rows in the parking lot be left for drive-in attendees to park there.

Thank you for your cooperation to help our church family stay safe.

EPIPHANY, RALLY DAY 2 SERVICE IS ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, AT 10:00 A.M.



Though overshadowed by falling so soon after Christmas, Epiphany is one of the three major Christian celebrations along with Christmas and Easter. It is always celebrated on January 6th and commemorates the presentation of the infant Jesus to the Magi or the three wise men. The church calendar recognizes the season of Epiphany from January 6 until the last Sunday (2/14) before Ash Wednesday (2/17) which is celebrated as the Transfiguration of our Lord. The Epiphany is an ancient Christian feast day and is significant in a number of ways. It celebrates the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist and also celebrates Jesus' birth.

ANNUAL REPORT

In order to have the Annual Report completed in time for distribution prior to the January Congregational Meeting, all committees and groups should submit summary reports for the 2020 Ministry Year by **January 7**. This gives the office the necessary time for preparation and printing.

Thank you for your cooperation.



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



The Annual Congregational meeting of the Lutheran Church of Our Saviour is **January 31** (time TBD) The committees and groups of the congregation will present their annual reports. Copies of the Annual Reports are available for members on January 24. Your participation is important.

**THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD IN 2021 IS ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 10.
COME WORSHIP WITH US AT 10:00 A.M.**



On this day, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. This brings to an end the season of Christmas. The Church recalls Our Lord's second manifestation or epiphany which occurred on the occasion of His baptism in the Jordan. Jesus descended into the River to sanctify its waters and to give them the power to beget sons of God. The event takes on the importance of a second creation in which the entire Trinity intervenes.

In the Eastern Church this feast is called Theophany because at the baptism of Christ in the River Jordan God appeared in three persons. The baptism of John was a sort of sacramental preparatory for the Baptism of Christ. It moved men to sentiments of repentance and induced them to confess their sins. Christ did not need the baptism of John. Although He appeared in the "substance of our flesh" and was recognized "outwardly like unto ourselves," He was absolutely sinless and impeccable. He conferred upon the water the power of the true Baptism which would remove all the sins of the world: "Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him Who takes away the sin of the world."

Many of the incidents which accompanied Christ's baptism are symbolical of what happened at our Baptism. At Christ's baptism the Holy Spirit descended upon Him; at our Baptism the Trinity took its abode in our soul. At His baptism Christ was proclaimed the "Beloved Son" of the Father; at our Baptism we became the adopted sons of God. At Christ's baptism the heavens were opened; at our Baptism heaven was opened to us. At His baptism Jesus prayed; after our Baptism we must pray to avoid actual sin.



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, under the Weather menu)
- ◇ WHEC/CHANNEL 10/NBC : On television and website (WHEC.com, under the Weather menu)
- ◇ WHAM/CHANNEL 13/ABC/FOX ROCHESTER. Please note that you can only check via their website (13wham.com, under the Weather menu) instead of your television.

If the church network is operational, we will also initiate a phone tree distribution to the congregation.



The members of Our Saviour extend Christian love and sympathy to the family of Donna Miller.

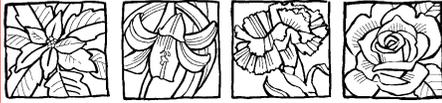
Donna passed December 18, 2020 at the age of 73.

A Celebration of Life event to take place at a later date in 2021.

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

ALTAR GUILD

· FLOWER CHART ·



The 2021 flower chart is posted on the Narthex bulletin board. The Altar Guild invites you to indicate the date on which you wish to place flowers on the altar as expression of devotion to the Lord, in memory of a loved one, as an expression of joy and thanksgiving on an anniversary or birthday, or other special occasions in life.

The cost for the flowers is \$30.00. We encourage and appreciate your participation.

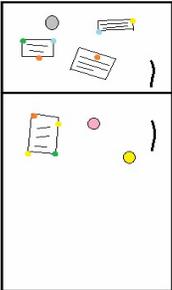
Continue praying,
Cheryl Stone

COME JOIN OUR
BIBLE
Study

Bible Study resumes on **January 12,**
at 10:00 a.m.

REFRIGERATOR/FREEZER USE

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 future events.

Thank you for your cooperation.

CARING AND SHARING

We all have loving hearts and stressful lives during this pandemic. 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 them to the box.



CHURCH AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

The Church & Community Committee hopes everyone had a blessed Christmas and New Year.

On December 21, twenty-three Christmas gifts identified from our Angel Tree were delivered to some very lucky children from LCOS and from the Coldwater House (Open Door Mission).

We want to thank everyone who provided gifts for this wonderful and amazing project.

With the winter months upon us, we have no new projects pending.

~~Ann Seppa, Committee Chair

January 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-William Neal
1-Emily Yackel
2-Kendall Rae Austin
2-Shelly O'Connor Borrelli
2-Peter Sitter
3-Sharon Yackel
5-Nancy Austin
5-Madison Johnson
5-Jamie Mitchell
5-Reagan Jane Schmitt
7-Allison Keller
8-Peggy Hamblin

8-Mary Voorhies
8-Jacob Doherty
10-Katherine Cuyler
10-Hendrik Michael Terhart
12-Wendy Forrest
13-Michael Castrichini
13-James Grimes
14-Cynthia Borzilleri
15-Ronald Hagberg
17-Kyle Mochrie
17-Janie Hopkins
19-Heike Pleten
19-Katie Doherty
20-Joyce Tesch
21-Jacob Walberger
23-Richard Pearce
23-John Pleten
23-Kyle Wiesmore
23-Damon Pond
23-Cassidy Wiesmore
24-Nicholas Sihto
25-Ryan Grimes
26-Thomas Oliver
27-Marcocello Loughlin
28-Jennifer Bonanno
29-Gary Perkins
29-Teliah Cramer
29-Dakota Francisco

30-Alfred Saucke
30-Helga Mitchell



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!

30—Frederick and Leslie Brightman



LYO/YOUTH

The Christmas pageant was very special this year. It was a big success and there was a lot of positive feedback. We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to the parents and family members of our children and youth for encouraging their participation, the Youth Ministry Team: Paul Denz, Wendy Forrest, Frank Johnson and Dick Ransom, Diane Parke-Potter (Children's Bell Choir Coordinator), and Michelle Coval (Co-chair Sunday School Superintendent).

A special word of thanks to Jerry Stich for sharing his technology gifts and graces by putting together all the recorded readings and music heard during the pageant on the FM radio station.

Thank you all for sharing your time and talents which helped our children and youth present God's Good News of the Christmas Story.

Janeen is looking forward to planning some winter events while staying safe and is talking to the parents about upcoming plans.

Grace and peace,
Janeen Oliver

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!

- ♥ *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, Larry Hopkins, Mary Ellen Saur and Hans Witt for continuing to maintain and sanitize the church.*
- ♥ *Jerry Stich and Sarah Denz for continuing to record the services and updating them on our website.*
- ♥ *Cheryl Stone, Daryl and Ed Jarvis, and Debbie Frey for maintaining the Altar care and Christmas preparations.*
- ♥ *Mary Ellen for updating the attendance and communion logs.*
- ♥ *Jerry Stich for snow shoveling the church entrance and sidewalk.*
- ♥ *Alice Popen for continuing to coordinate weddings held during the pandemic.*
- ♥ *Mary Ellen Saur, Ann Seppa and Ann Marie MacBride for assembling the weekly bulletins.*
- ♥ *Jennifer and Connor Large for continuing to fill the oil in the altar candles.*
- ♥ *The CLC/Caring and Sharing members for continuing to provide meals to Rudy Vogel.*
- ♥ *Our Saviour Sunday School teachers for doing a great job with the children and keeping them engaged and safe.*
- ♥ *Mary Ellen Saur, Daryl Jarvis, Jean Lombard and Cheryl Stone for assembling the December newsletter.*
- ♥ *Ed Jarvis for setting up the Advent Wreath.*
- ♥ *Rod Potter for the Christmas Eve Services seating arrangements.*
- ♥ *The Christmas decorating committee would like to give a big THANK YOU to the many volunteers who came into church on short notice to decorate because the Jarvis and Frey families were not able to leave their homes due to the COVID-19 quarantine protocol.*
- ♥ *Thank you to the Adult Bell Choir for performing at the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Your flexibility and dedication in continuing to enhance the worship service with your beautiful music is appreciated.*
- ♥ *To everyone who ordered poinsettias and made our church joyful, festive and beautiful!*
- ♥ *To all the families who performed the Wreath Lighting during the Advent services.*
- ♥ *To those who served during the Christmas Eve evening services.*
- ♥ *The WELCA and Cindy Borzilleri for recently providing food to Jerry Miller.*

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 Chairs and others are asked to share these names with the Office Manager, Simone Harter, for inclusion in future issues of the Communicator.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

As we approach the hardest part of winter, we are in more need of volunteers to help with our snow removal work. If anybody has an interest in learning about church maintenance, please contact Ed Jarvis. There are many interesting skills in learning how a church building functions such as fire/security alarm systems, heating system, electrical system, water/plumbing systems and more.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA



The Women of the ELCA hope that everyone had a blessed holiday.

Sadly, on December 18, Donna Miller passed away from COVID-19. She was a very active member of the ELCA and was an amazing woman and will be missed by all. She was also the Church Council President and was the first person to help anyone in need. Please pray for her family as they mourn her loss.

As we continue our winter break, due to the pandemic no meetings will be held. We will re-evaluate in March 2021.

We must continue to pray for everyone's safety and health.

~~Ann Seppa, Secretary

I Am There

Now God says to us
What He has already said to the earth as a whole
Through His grace-filled birth:

I am there. I am with you.
I am your life. I am your time.
I am the gloom of your daily routine. Why will you not hear it?
I weep your tears - pour yours out to me.
I am your joy.
Do not be afraid to be happy; ever since I wept, joy is the standard
of living
That is really more suitable than the anxiety and grief of those who
have no hope.

I am the blind alley of all your paths,
For when you no longer know how to go any farther,
Then you have reached me,
Though you are not aware of it.

I am in your anxiety, for I have shared it.
I am in the prison of your finiteness,
For my love has made me your prisoner.

I am in your death,
For today I began to die with you, because I was born,
And I have not let myself be spared any real part of this experience.

I am present in your needs;
I have suffered them and they are now
transformed.

I am there.
I no longer go away from this world.
Even if you do not see me now, I am there.

My love is unconquerable.
I am there.
It is Christmas.
Light the Candles! They have more right to exist
then all the darkness.
It is Christmas.
Christmas that lasts forever.

- Karl Rahner, S.J., "The Eternal Year"



IMPORTANT DATES



SPECIFIC TO OUR SAVIOUR

- † 2021 Worship Schedule,
Indoor and Drive-in
Thursdays, 7:00 p.m.
Sundays, 10:00 a.m.
- † NO Vocal or Bell Choir Rehearsals in January
- † Church Office Closed, 1/1
- † Epiphany, Rally Day 2 Service, 1/3, 10:00 a.m.
- † Articles for Annual Report Due 1/7
- † LYO/Youth Meeting, 1/7, 6:00 p.m.
- † Baptism of Our Lord Service, 1/10, 10:00 a.m.
- † Bible Study resumes 1/12, 10:00 a.m.
- † Worship & Music Committee Meeting, 1/14,
10:00 a.m.
- † Church Council Meeting, 1/18, 6:30 p.m.
- † LYO/Youth Meeting, 1/21, 6:00 p.m.
- † Annual Congregational Meeting, 1/31, time TBD
- † Scouts Sunday, Souper Bowl Sunday Service, 2/7,
10:00 a.m.
- † Valentine's Day, Renewal of Vows Service, 2/14,
10:00 a.m.
- † Mid-winter Recess, 2/15-2/21
- † Ash Wednesday Service, 2/17, 7:00 p.m.



Joy of Discovery

The joy of discovery
that moment
when hope and expectation
were gloriously met
by the illumination of one bright star.
We cannot imagine
what words were spoken by visitors
or if first impressions
left them somewhat confused.

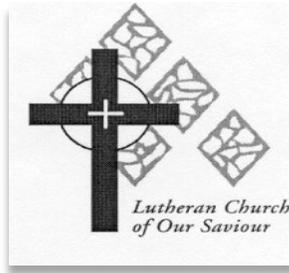
Messiah, Savior, a King
born in the barest of palaces.
Yet they saw and fell down
on their knees in adoration.
Lord, they saw you and knew
whom they had met.
As we meet around crib
candle or advent wreath
draw us into that stable
in our imagination.

In the quiet moments of prayer
this Christmas, that brief oasis
from the bustle of the world
bring alive to us
the smell of the hay
the sound of the animals
the cry of a baby.

Draw us close to our Savior
Messiah and King as we bring
not Gold, Myrrh or Frankincense
but the gift of our lives
the only offering we can bring.

- Found on: *Contemporary and traditional
prayers for Christmas,*
www.faihandworship.com





*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
AND
CLICK ON WATCH AND LISTEN**

**THE LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF OUR SAVIOUR
2415 CHILI AVENUE
ROCHESTER, NY 14624
CHANGE SERVICE
REQUESTED**