

Good News

April 2018



**Newsletter of The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Saviour
420 North Progress Avenue
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17109**

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In this article I want to talk about “entry points,” which are the ways by which persons become familiar with our church. Entry points are the means by which people come to know about our church. Entry points are the channels by which individuals learn of our church. Entry points are how our church comes to be on an outsider’s radar. Entry points are extremely important to sustaining the church. We need many and various ways to attract persons to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Our church, for instance, has a website. And, some people have come to our church because they were searching the web for a Lutheran congregation near them. Others have come to our church because of GermanFest. GermanFest brings many people through our doors, and many folks have become members because of this annual event. Other persons have come to know about our church through our candy Easter egg sales. Our church name and address are on our eggs. Many of our members have come to church through the encouragement of our members. Indeed, the best entry point to our congregation is the invitation we share with our friends and neighbors.

Are there other entry points that I am missing? Our community garden, Family Promise, and our Second Sunday food offering, serve as important ministries, but are not necessarily direct entry points to the church. Those ministries have not been channels by which we have received new members. But who knows, maybe in the future we will receive members from among those who benefit from those ministries, or from among those who participate in those ministries, that is, members of our partner organizations like the Interact Club at Susquehanna Township High School or Rotary. So, even though we haven’t received new members from these programs, at the very least it provides visibility to our church.

I want to share with you another entry point that I have been brainstorming, and which I have been describing in various circles around the church. The idea is that of a “hospitality corner” at the location of where Progress Avenue and Trinity Road meet. We are probably aware that there is a bus stop at that corner, and oftentimes there are individuals awaiting the bus. Not to mention that there is quite a bit of foot traffic along that sidewalk on Progress Avenue. The idea is to create a welcoming place for folks waiting for the bus or who are just passing by. Diane Lehrman has been gracious enough to research the possibility of a canopy and bench, so persons need not have to be completely exposed to the elements while waiting for the bus. In addition, we have been looking into creating a “book nook” where books, magazines, and information about our church could be displayed. You may have seen these free libraries at various locales, where one can take a book or give a book. We also have been thinking about a food cabinet with the same function—take what you need, give what you can. A nice welcoming sign could also be displayed at the corner, pointing to our building, stating, “This way to church. All are welcome.”

The cost of the whole project may run a couple thousand dollars, when we look at purchasing and installing the canopy, bench, book nook, and food cabinet. There are also some other logistical details we will need to be mindful of, including who is going to tend to the book nook and food cabinet.

I am excited about this project because not only will it be something very visible to the community around us, but it will also be a means of serving our neighbors. It will be another great entry point to our church, but it also may be a larger gateway to additional ministries that we do on our campus. Perhaps, in the future, we develop something of a senior citizen program like what Ripe Apples once was, but for the larger community. Or, maybe we create a health clinic for the wider community. And, perhaps, individuals who would benefit from such programs are not able to get to our church other than by public transportation. So, I see this hospitality corner as a part of our larger vision where this project feeds into the greater ministry of our church.

Please give some serious reflection to this project. Please consider not only what obstacles we might face, but what could be done to overcome those obstacles. Furthermore, please give some thought about what else we might do as a church to attract people to the work of the gospel here at Our Saviour. Entry points, entry points, entry points...it should be what is foremost in our mind when it comes to bringing people to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

In Christ, Pastor Joel Petruschke

The Lessons for March 2018

April 1 — Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Mark 16:1-8

April 8 — Easter 2

Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 133
1 John 1:1 - 2:2
John 20:19-31

April 15 — Easter 3

Acts 3:12-19
Psalm 4
1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48

April 22 — Easter 4

Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18

April 29 — Easter 5

Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8

Parish Staff

Joel D. Petruschke, pastor
Margaret Quintanar, director of music
David & Alta Shadel, sextons
Barbara Johnson, administrative assistant

Good News is a monthly publication of **The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Saviour**, 420 North Progress Avenue, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17109, 717-545-9992, ossec@comcast.net. **Deadline** for submission is the third Monday prior to publication month.

If you do not have email or internet access, your addressed copy of *Good News* will be available in your church mailbox the first weekend of each month.



About Worship

It is probably a good idea every so often to ask ourselves, "What we do we think about worship?" In other words, we should scrutinize the worship experience we provide at Our Saviour. What do we like about worship? What aspects of worship uplift our spirits? What is it we dislike about worship? What do we find boring? Are there aspects of worship that could be done better? Do we even know why we do what we do in worship? Do we understand the various portions of the liturgy? What is the Kyrie, the Preface to Holy Communion, and the like? What is the whole of worship to be about anyway? What should worship mean for us?

As we know, we have a Worship and Music Committee at Our Saviour. The members include Hope Bowling (chair), Marcia and George Schreffler, Jim Lubrecht, Margaret Quintanar, and Pastor Joel. We also have an Altar Guild Committee that serves as a subcommittee of Worship and Music. This subcommittee is chaired by Carol Ranck and Connie Johnson, and has numerous members, which are too many to name here. But, the truth is that the responsibility of worship belongs to all of us. After all, the word *liturgy* means "the work of the people."

I bring this to your attention, because the Worship and Music Committee and the Altar Guild Committee welcome your input regarding our worship life here at Our Saviour. The next meeting of the Worship and Music Committee is April 16th at 7:00 pm. Anyone is welcome to attend our meetings and provide their feedback and ideas. Or, if you have thoughts about worship you can bring them to a committee member and we will bring them to the meeting for discussion.

My hope is that all of us can take a more vested interest in our worship life, because it is the most important thing we do as a church. Worship is the pulse of the church. Worship is the lifeblood from which all other mission and ministry emerges. Worship should empower us as God's people. Worship should shape our discipleship in the world.

And so, it is most important that we constantly bring questions to our worship life. And, the place where those questions can be discussed is at the Worship and Music Committee, and to the larger congregation when necessity dictates. So, my question is this, "What are your questions about worship?" I and the Worship and Music Committee really do want to know.

In-Betweeners Upcoming Events

1. Dinner at Harper's Tavern in Annville on April 14th at 6:00 P.M. Anyone over 21 is welcome to join us. See sign-up sheet in Narthex or contact Mike or Doris Balas for reservations.
2. One November 17, 2018, the In-Betweeners will be going to dinner and a comedy show at Rainbow's Comedy Playhouse in Paradise, PA (Lancaster County). There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for those who wish to go. The deadline to sign-up is no later than 1:00 pm after the 2nd service on April 22nd. Please see Dan or Anneke Fleming, you can also call them at 717-652-8367 for any questions you may have. Thank you.

Prayer Shawl Ministry Meetings to begin for 2018

The first meeting of the year for the Prayer Shawl Ministry will be Tuesday, April 24 (always the fourth Tuesday of the month), beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the church. You need **not** know how to knit or crochet to participate; nor must you be a member of the church. We will teach you – young and not-so-young! Prayer Shawls, as well as other items such as chemo caps and lap afghans for those in wheelchairs, are available on the wall display in the Narthex by the Sanctuary door. Also, in a basket by this display, are mini-shawls. Help yourself.



Andrea Faber, Prayer Shawl Ministry Coordinator

A Word on Stewardship

There is a lot of irony when it comes to thinking about stewardship. Let me give you an example or two or three. When we speak of possessions, we think of those things we possess. Yet, the irony is that oftentimes the very things we think we possess, actually possess us. Particularly, when it comes to all the things we do to protect our possessions regarding security and safeguards. Do we possess our things, or do our things possess us? Or, think about control. In life, we often seek out every means possible by which we can have control over life: control of our finances, control of our health, control of our kids and or parents or both, control of our future, so on and so forth. And, in our effort to have control over life, we suddenly realize that ironically we are controlled by our efforts to be in control. Or, consider what it means to serve. We may love the idea of serving others, of being a help to our neighbors, and of being a benefit to individuals in need. But, is it not the case, more often than not, that when we think we are serving our neighbor, we are in fact really serving some need in us? We call this perverted sense of service the "Messiah complex."

The root of this irony in stewardship is sin. Sin makes us cling to our possessions so passionately that they possess us. Sin is what makes us feel we need to be in control of everything, such that we are controlled. Sin is that which warps our sense of service, and makes us believe that we are the Savior of the world.

How we remove the irony from our life of stewardship, that is, how we remove the sin from the equation is to look to God in his Son Jesus Christ. We need to remember that everything we think we possess has come to us through the grace of God in Christ Jesus. Everything belongs to God. And, we need to remember that we are ultimately not in control. God in Jesus Christ is in control. His Son is all in all. And, we need to remember that we are not the Messiah. That, too, is under the purview of God's Son.

What is it to have things for our daily use, but not to be possessed by them? What is it to give up control and yet to know that everything will be okay? And, what is it to serve without the accompanying human arrogance? It is to know that we are but humble human creatures, and that we entrust all that we are and all that we do to God's care. God is God. And we are not. But, God in Jesus Christ becomes like us, and that is enough to redeem us of our sin. Thanks be to God. Amen.

97 Student-Athletes Recognized For Their Leadership On and Off the Field

The Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) has named 97 student-athletes to its Winter MAC Sportsmanship Teams. The teams include one student-athlete from each institution for each sport, including men's and women's basketball, men's and women's ice hockey, men's and women's indoor track & field, men's and women's swimming and wrestling.

The MAC Sportsmanship Teams recognize student-athletes who exemplify great character and demonstrate the act of sportsmanship both on and off the field. These student-athletes were selected by the head coaches from their respective teams. They represent their team, institution and the conference with high integrity, and exhibit respect for themselves, teammates, coaches and opponents. Congratulations to Daniel Logan (Messiah's men's swim team) for this outstanding recognition!

Another Congratulation!

Congratulations also to Max Reilly on making the CD East JV baseball team for this spring season! Play ball!

Dear Padre,

I have a Bible question of a botanical nature. What is hyssop? It is mentioned in Psalm 51, which we read on March 18th.

Signed, The Green Thumb

Dear Green Thumb,

Hyssop is a small shrub that grows to about 27 inches high. It produces white flowers in bunches at the end of the stem. In addition to Psalm 51, there are several references to hyssop in the Bible. In Exodus 12:22, hyssop was used to apply the lamb's blood to doorposts during the festival of Passover. Hyssop was also used to sprinkle a blood and water mixture on a healed leper or a renovated house (see Leviticus 14:4, 6, 49, 51-51). Moses sprinkled blood on the people in the ceremony of Exodus 24:6-8 using hyssop. John 19:29 says that hyssop was used to put a vinegar-soaked sponge to Jesus' lips (see Matthew 27:28; Mark 15:36). And, Psalm 51:7 speaks of hyssop being used to purify.

So, what is so special about hyssop? Well, if you notice above, the use of hyssop in these various references all have to do with applying some liquid, whether it was blood, water, or vinegar. The plant, then, with its flowers may have served as a good sponge, which could soak up a liquid and allow it to be applied to materials like doorposts (i.e. a paintbrush of sorts), or to people.

Thanks for your question.

Signed, Padre

**Where Will You Be on Tuesday, May 8th at 6 p.m.? Mother's Day Banquet**

Of course you will be enjoying a fabulous dinner in Fellowship Hall and special "Chalk Talk" entertainment from Ms. Elva Hurst, a regionally renowned artist from Lancaster County. You will be truly inspired. Tickets for this event will be sold in the narthex starting on Sunday April 8 until Sunday April 29. The dinner, dessert, and entertainment are included. Adults will be \$15 per person and persons under 10 years of age are \$5. Make this event a family and friends affair in honor of all mothers and women who have been like "mothers" to others. Reservations must be made in advance. Your ticket is your reservation!

If there is anyone whose circumstances require assistance with the cost of the event or may need transportation, please contact Pastor Joel. We look forward to celebrating with you on May 8th. The Welcome Committee.

Welcome Committee Hosts "First Sunday Socials"

Every first Sunday of the month, the Welcome Committee hosts a "First Sunday Social". The purpose of the "social" is to provide a time for fellowship for all members. We often hear "I didn't know you were a member because I go to first service and you go to second". The time between services is used for Sunday School and fellowship. We will be wearing "name tags" during these socials to get to know one another better. [IF YOU NEED A NAME TAG, LET THE CHURCH OFFICE, Ms Barb Johnson, KNOW].

The Committee provides coffee, tea, juices. The baked goods, fruits, other items are donated by members. You are welcome to donate your favorite cookie or morning "goodie". You can sign up on the sheet that is posted on the WELCOME COMMITTEE BULLETIN BOARD located just inside the front doors of the church. Take a minute to read a few of the exciting stories that Julie posts there.

Thank you for taking the time to think about joining us for "FIRST SUNDAY SOCIAL"!

An Important Letter from Bishop Dunlop

March 14, 2018

Wednesday of the 4th Week in Lent

Dear partners in Christ:

The United Lutheran Seminary (ULS) Board of Trustees held a formal Board meeting on Wednesday, March 14, to address Seminary and Board leadership issues. As you may know, Bishop Dunlop is a member of the seminary board of directors and served as chair of the transition committee leading to the creation of the United Lutheran Seminary.

During today's meeting, the Board voted to end Dr. Theresa F. Latini's position as President of the United Lutheran Seminary. This decision was made based on the Board's concern that the ongoing controversy surrounding her naming as President make it extremely difficult to overcome the issues related to trust as the president of this institution. With the understanding that there is much work to be done in healing, the Board recognized that her ongoing tenure would present a significant obstacle to moving forward. The primary obligation of the Board is to our Seminary and the perpetuation of its critical mission in training leaders for the church.

Also during today's meeting, the board of directors of the United Lutheran Seminary elected Bishop James S. Dunlop as acting president of the seminary until an interim president is elected by the board of directors. Because of his rich history with the seminary, he feels a deep calling to serve the seminary in this important position at this critical time in the seminary's short history. Offering full support, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton encouraged Bishop Dunlop to accept this acting position, saying that he is the person best suited to fulfill this role at this time. A search for an interim president will begin in earnest. (For more information regarding the outcomes of the meeting, read today's **Board of Trustees' statement on the next page.**)

To successfully carry out this role, Bishop Dunlop will be taking a temporary leave of absence from serving as our bishop. His responsibilities as our bishop will be adjusted and shared with staff. Bishop Dunlop said that he could agree to accepting this position because he has complete faith in our staff. He is confident our staff will be able to continue to perform their ministry tasks and to continue to carry out the mission of our synod.

Vice President Lucinda L. Bringman has called for a special meeting of the Synod Council on Thursday, March 22, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is in accord with *S8.58. of our synod constitution: "If the bishop is *to be temporarily* absent from the synod for an extended period, the bishop, with the consent of Synod Council, may appoint as acting bishop for such period an ordained minister of this church." Until an acting bishop is appointed and confirmed by Synod Council, the staff will continue to function as it has whenever the bishop is away from this synod.

With the help of God and with requests for prayers, Bishop Dunlop has accepted this temporary position. We are a people whose story is centered in the death and resurrection. We are prayerful that out of these recent painful and difficult events will come new life. We invite your prayers for God's light and guidance for healing, trust, wisdom, and compassion.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop James S. Dunlop

Vice President Lucinda L. Bringman

Secretary Thomas E. McKee

ULS Board Letter – March 14th

MARCH 14, 2018

Dear United Lutheran Seminary Family and Supporters:

On March 6, the United Lutheran Seminary (ULS) Board of Trustees underwent a daylong series of listening sessions. These meetings had a profound effect on the Board of Trustees. We wish to once again thank all of those who took the time, effort and courage to share with us during these events, as well as those who have called or written. You have made a significant difference in this process.

After last week's sessions, the Board made a number of commitments that are integral to moving forward. First, we vowed to take a stronger leadership role while making the necessary changes to secure the long-term interests of our Seminary. That commitment to leadership played an important role during our discussions this week. In addition, as an initial first step, we would like to report on the following updates:

1. In 2018, we have received resignations from several Board members. Robert King and Nancy Dering Mock stepped down earlier this year due to personal reasons. Lisa Leber, Audrey Moody, Phillip Harrington and Elise Brown tendered their resignations in advance of today's board meeting. Cheryl Meinschein, Charles Miller, Emma Porter and Janet Montelaro resigned immediately following the meeting. The Board will begin work immediately with the ELCA and relevant Synods to identify new members, with an eye toward finding those with skill sets that can best assist us going forward.
 2. The Board has hired La Torre Communications to guide and assist in improving our long-term communication processes. We must do a better job of communicating to our Seminary family and supporters.
 3. The Board has approved the Administration's requests for the funding of:
 4. An increase in access to Pastoral and Behavioral Health services.
 5. The hiring of a specialist in communal trauma to assist with healing, justice and reconciliation.
- A full outside audit focused on diversity, equity and inclusion audit within the ULS.

Understanding that there is much more to be done, we hope these initial steps will help, in some small way, to exemplify our resolve in meeting our responsibilities and commitments to the ULS. The primary obligation of the Board is to our Seminary and the perpetuation of its critical mission in training leaders for the church.

The United Lutheran Seminary (ULS) Board of Trustees held a formal Board meeting on Wednesday, March 14, to address Seminary and Board leadership issues. Guided by our wish to act decisively and seeking God's blessed guidance, the Board voted to end Dr. Theresa F. Latini's position as President of the United Lutheran Seminary. This decision was made based on the Board's concern that the ongoing controversy surrounding her naming as President made it extremely difficult to overcome the issues related to trust as the President of this institution. With the understanding that there is much work to be done in healing, and recognizing her significant value and gifts, the Board recognized that her ongoing tenure would present a significant obstacle to moving forward.

We recognize that this decision will not satisfy many of our constituencies, but our responsibility as a Board is to make decisions that we believe will best strengthen and sustain ULS. Through prayer, thoughtful discussion and

active listening, we have reached the conclusion that ending our relationship with Dr. Latini will be the most positive approach to our process of healing and to the health and well-being of ULS.

The Board's struggle during this voting process was reflective of the ULS community's struggle. The Board is a diverse group in ways, much like the Seminary community. As leaders with fiduciary responsibilities, this result accurately reflects the will of the Board and, as such, we are moving forward as a united body.

Bishop James Dunlop has been named as Acting President. His responsibilities as the Bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod will be adjusted and shared with staff in order for him to take on this role. We pray for his strength to lead us during this difficult time. A search for an Interim President will begin in earnest, and we commit to as transparent a process as is possible while still meeting legal requirements for privacy.

These were very tough decisions to make, and we can assure you, they were not made lightly. We are aware that many of you will applaud our choices, while many others will be bitterly disappointed. We ask you all to be mindful that these issues are complicated and multi-faceted and, as such, there can be no "one right or true answer." We affirm that all points of view are valid and meaningful, and we ask that you recognize on good faith that we did our best to take all into full account as we endeavored to find the best answer for ULS. We humbly ask our Lord to guide us in resolving these differences of opinion and direction so that we may all move forward united in our shared calling.

We thank you for your ongoing commitment and ask for your continued prayers for our church, the world, and the United Lutheran Seminary.

In the Unity of Christ, we are your

United Lutheran Seminary Board of Trustees



Sun

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Tue

Wed

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Fri

Sat

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|--|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| <p>1 - Easter Sunday</p>  <p>7:00 am - Word & Sacrament Easter Sunday Social 10:45 am - Word & Sacrament</p> | <p>2</p> <p>Office closed</p> <p>6 pm - Welcome Committee</p> | <p>3</p> | <p>4</p> <p>7 pm - Adult Choir Bible Study</p> | <p>5</p> <p>6 pm - Chimes Choir</p> <p>Madalynn Brittelli Lori Provencher</p> | <p>6</p> <p>Ashley Brittelli</p> | <p>7</p> <p>Isabella Kessler</p> |
| <p>8 - Easter 2</p> <p>8:30 am - Word & Sacrament 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:45 am - Word & Sacrament</p> | <p>9</p> <p>Hope Bowling</p> | <p>10</p> <p>7 pm - Altar Guild</p> <p>David Shadel</p> | <p>11</p> <p>7 pm - Adult Choir</p> | <p>12</p> <p>6 pm - Chimes Choir</p> <p>7 pm - Council</p> <p>4-9:30 pm - Private Event in Fellowship Hall</p> | <p>13</p> <p>Barbara Ecklund Clara Forrest</p> | <p>14</p> <p>6 pm - In-Betweeners Dinner @Harper's Tavern</p> <p>Kevin Ecklund George Sheleman</p> |
| <p>15 - Easter 3</p> <p>8:30 am - Word & Sacrament 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:45 am - Word & Sacrament</p> <p>newsletter deadline Toby Drake Lauren Trea</p> | <p>16</p> <p>7 pm - Worship & Music</p> | <p>17</p> | <p>18</p> <p>7 pm - Adult Choir Bible Study</p> | <p>19</p> <p>6 pm - Chimes Choir</p> <p>Robert McIntyre</p> | <p>20</p> | <p>21</p> <p>Dan Fleming</p> |
| <p>22 - Easter 4</p> <p>8:30 am - Word & Sacrament 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:45 am - Word & Sacrament</p> | <p>23</p> | <p>24</p> <p>6 pm - Prayer Shawl</p> | <p>25</p> <p>7 pm - Adult Choir</p> <p>Herbert Logan</p> | <p>26</p> <p>6 pm - Chimes Choir</p> <p>Mary Petruschke</p> | <p>27</p> <p>Randy Brittelli</p> | <p>28</p> |
| <p>29 - Easter 5</p> <p>8:30 am - Word & Sacrament 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:45 am - Word & Sacrament</p> | <p>30</p> | | | | | |

Good News

The Evangelical Lutheran
CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR
420 North Progress Avenue
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Phone: 717-545-9992
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Mission Statement

Our Saviour Lutheran Church, a caring congregation dedicated to the word of Christ, welcomes all people to worship and to grow with us as we share His love and salvation with our neighbors, our children and ourselves.

Worship

8:30 am & 10:45 am
Holy Eucharist is celebrated
every Sunday.
Sunday School
9:30 am

Church Office

9:00 am -12:00 pm Monday through Friday

Phone: 717-545-9992
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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.