

Good News

May 2018



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

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Did you know that the Church commemorates Nicolaus Copernicus on May 24? You might ask why the Church would commemorate a scientist of all things, particular a scientist who proposed that the sun (and not the earth as the Bible would suggest) was the center of the universe. Aside from his revolutionary idea in science, Copernicus was also a devout Christian. He studied medicine and put his medical knowledge to use in helping the poor. He also earned a doctorate in canon law, and he served as a canon of Fauenburg Cathedral in Polish Prussia. (A canon is a member of the clergy living with other clerics within the precinct of or close to a cathedral and conducting his life according to the rules of the church.) But he is most remembered as a teacher, specifically of the heliocentric model. Interestingly enough, it was a couple of Lutherans who helped see to the publication of Copernicus' book containing this newfangled theory. Copernicus died on May 24, 1543.

There is another scientist by the name of Johannes Kepler, who was a devout Lutheran. He is perhaps the greatest astronomer of the all, because he was able to show for the first time that the astronomical bodies (stars, planets, moon, etc.) do not wander chaotically about one another, but are governed by precise mathematical laws. He developed equations to describe the motion of the orbits of planets. With such calculations, the movements of the stars, planets, and moons could be predicted. This predictability allows for space travel as we know it. It is why, for instance, astronomers were able to predict so precisely last summer where and when the shadow of the solar eclipse would travel. For Kepler, this precision smacked not of a godless universe defined simply by math and science, but a universe so finely tuned by a good and gracious God, a God who gives us order and a comforting certainty as to the arrangement of things. Unfortunately, there is no feast day on the Church calendar for Kepler, as there is for Copernicus.

In Bible Study, we have been exploring the prophets of the Old Testament. And, we were talking about how it seems that there are no great prophetic voices in our society at the present time. Perhaps, the last and greatest such voice was Martin Luther King, Jr. But, I would argue that another great prophetic voice that has since faded is Carl Sagan, astronomer, professor, and author. His books and his 1980 television series entitled *Cosmos* provide a powerful prophecy against the threat of nuclear annihilation and global climate change. Although, he argues strictly from a scientific perspective, I think his insight and his passion are tremendous. I would only add that what science lacks, a certain moral compass (science focuses solely on how and why things work), religion and faith can provide in spades.

My point in the writing of this article is that we do need to be open to the power of God to work through the great scientific minds of the past and present. So often, theologians, I believe, are utterly scared of what science will discover and how it will bear on our understanding of God. For instance, if science is able to definitively prove that the universe is eternal (without beginning or end), what will that mean for us who proclaim belief in a God, who creates at the beginning of time, and belief in a Savior, who comes again at the end of time? Part of the wonder of science, as I see it, is that God has blessed us with our incredible brains to examine and to plumb the nature of the universe. It is simply astonishing our ability to fathom what seems unfathomable; and in our exploration, we are all the more amazed and astonished by what we find. It is truly like delving into the mind of God. It is for me anyway.

In Christ, Pastor Joel Petruschke



The Lessons for May 2018

May 6 — Easter 6

Acts 10:44-48

Psalm 98

1 John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17

May 13 — Easter 7

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Psalm 1

1 John 5:9-13

John 17:6-19

May 20 — Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Romans 8:22-27

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

May 27 — Holy Trinity

Isaiah 6:1-8

Psalm 29

Romans 8:12-17

John 3:1-17



Upcoming Concert

Our Saviour will be hosting the spring concert of the Praise Him Singers, which Dawne Veet is a member. The concert will be on May 17th beginning at 7 pm with a prelude at 6:30 pm.



More information can be found on their website www.thepraisehimsingers.com or on Facebook "The Praise Him Singers." A freewill offering will be taken.

Interfaith Service

There is an interfaith service scheduled for May 7th at Beth El Temple, 2637 N. Front St., Harrisburg, beginning at 6 pm. Come early for music prior to the service. Parking is free. For more information call 717-545-4761.

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

There is a particular term in the words that comprise the blessing of the bread and wine of Holy Communion. It is a term we probably pay very little or no attention to. But it is a term of great significance. The word is covenant. When we bless the elements for communion we say, "In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: 'Take and eat; this is my body give for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.' Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: 'This cup is the new **covenant** in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.'"

Why is that term so significant? What does the phrase "the new covenant in my blood" mean? In short, it is an allusion to the covenant God made with God's people in the Old Testament. God said to the Israelites, "You will be my people and I will be your God." This is the covenant God made with the people of old through the blood of the lamb, the blood painted on the doorposts and lintel of the Israelite homes in Egypt during the time of Passover. God freed God's people from their enslavement in Egypt by the Passover event. God liberated God's people through the spilling of blood, and a covenant was formed between God and God's people. The Jewish people today celebrate this covenant during the celebration of Passover, particularly in the sharing of a meal.

When Jesus says that the wine of communion is symbolic of the new covenant, he is connecting this ritual of holy communion to the spilling of his own blood on the cross. Remember that it was at the last supper where Jesus instituted the communion meal. It was the *last* supper, so that we are reminded that communion is intimately connected to Jesus death on the cross. Jesus is the lamb who is now killed, and whose blood is now the symbol of God's liberating power. God frees us from our enslavement to sin through Christ death on the cross. God in Jesus Christ liberates us, as God once liberated God's people in Egypt. And God now forms a new covenant with God's people. God says to us, "You will be my people and I will be your God."

Thus, when we celebrate Holy Communion, we should keep in mind that we are sharing a meal where we acknowledge that special covenant that God has established with us in Jesus Christ. Blood has been spilled for our liberation. And now, God is our God, and we are God's people. Let us remember that by taking particular note of that term "covenant" in Holy Communion.

Prayer Shawl Ministry Meetings Has Begun!

The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry will be Tuesday, May 22nd (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

Save the Date!

We will again be hosting Family Promise week starting on June 24th. Please consider volunteering to help this project be successful. More information to follow in June.



A Word on Stewardship

In this article, I want to provide you with another update regarding the goals I set forth for this 2018 calendar year. If you remember I stated that I wanted to 1) conduct an all-member visit, as well as 2) meet with community leaders, with the purpose of learning from our members and from our community partners how we as a church might better do the work of the gospel in the future.

So, let me share with you that I have been attending what is called the "Faith Advisory Board" for the Susquehanna Township School District. This board was convened by the STSD superintendent, Dr. Tamara Willis. She invited me and other faith leaders to participate in a roundtable discussion focused on meeting the needs of the students of the school district and their families. And, I must say that the experience has been very fruitful.

Diane Lehrman and I attended a meeting back on January 24th, and I attended a subsequent meeting on April 11. At that last meeting, we specifically heard from the high school nurse, Jennifer Halfond, who is a member of Our Saviour, as well as from Patrician Green who serves as the district's human resource person. And, we learned from them about the needs of the students, which were described as diverse as the student population itself. Students and families have needs revolving around housing, clothing, food, transportation (to doctor's appointments and to parent meetings), emotional trauma (from divorce situations, the incarceration of a parent, etc.), so on and so forth. A particular student was even in need of a prom dress, and this young woman was distraught that she would not be able to attend prom without it.

A couple of ideas were shared with us. The school district is planning a "Family and Community Partnership" event on August 25th from 10:00am to 2:00pm at the high school. It will take place the Saturday before school starts. There will be activities and food, as well as the opportunity for individual organizations to have a table to share what they are doing, what programs they are offering, and how students and families can participate. So it is a chance for community groups to present themselves and hopefully provide students and families a menu of all the programs and events in the community, which then might lend support to those students and families.

Our plan is to take part in a couple of ways. We plan to sponsor a table, and our youth and young families are in the process of arranging for such a table, whereby we can share information about say GermanFest, our Harrisburg Conference Youth Program, Sunday worship and Sunday School, and so on. Secondly, we have been asked to help fill backpacks with donations of school supplies. These backpacks would then be given to students on the day of the event. Our Social Ministry committee will be looking into collecting such donations from our church membership.

Another idea that was presented at the meeting of the Faith Advisory Board was the need for personal hygiene kits for students. Apparently, not all students practice good hygiene. Some families come into the community, having come with very little. Some are unaware of how to maintain good hygiene. And so, there is a need of creating hygiene kits, including deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, dry shampoo, etc. So, once we learn more specifics about these kits from the school district, we, as a church, may want to put together some kits and provide them to the school district. This might be our next Advent or Lenten project.

Anyway, this is an update on what I have been learning from my meetings at the Faith Advisory Board. The next meeting we are hoping to have someone speak from the Susquehanna Township Police Department regarding the community needs they are observing. I will keep you posted.

GermanFest Silent Auction

We will once again have a Silent Auction at GermanFest in September. Please start gathering your new or gently used items. We will be collecting them beginning this summer!

Thank you, Dawn Veet, Silent Auction Chair

Dear Padre,

On the internet, there were some facts about the superstition surrounding Friday the 13th. It mentions that the superstition started with the Last Supper, since there were 13 people (12 disciples and Jesus) present. And Friday, was the day on which Jesus died. Is there any truth to this? Or, is it just human beings making up stuff?



Signed, Curious

Dear Curious,

First off, the number 12 is a very common number in the West. We have 12 months in a year. There are twelve hours to mark time (12 hours am, 12 hours pm). And, in ancient times the number 12 was seen as a divine number. There were 12 tribes of Israel. There were 12 disciples. And, so to add one more number brings in an element of chaos and uncertainty. And so, people have made much ado about 13. They have subscribed ill omens because there were 13 persons at the Last Supper. Also, in the biblical book of *Esther*, an edict is issued by the king to destroy the Jews on the 13th day of the 12th month. So, the number 13 has had a bad rap. Some hotels don't even have a 13th floor.

The superstition surrounding Friday the 13th, may have come about from Jesus' crucifixion happening on a Friday. It may also have emerged from the time when King Philip IV of France ordered the arrests of thousands of the Knights Templar on accusation of heresy, resulting in the executions of more than a hundred of the Crusades warriors. This arrest occurred on Friday, October 13th, 1307.

With all of this said, we need to remember that it is still just a superstition, like the breaking of a mirror, or the crossing of a black cat's path. Superstitions only have the power we give them. They can become self-fulfilling prophecies. I, on the other hand, would be interested to know of the positive events in history which have happened on a Friday the 13th, so as to debunk the superstition.

Thanks for your question.

Signed, Padre

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"!

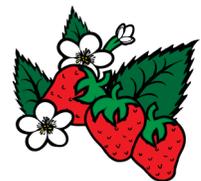
**OUR SAVIOUR
FINANCIAL REPORT
March 31, 2018**

ENVELOPES AND PLATE	\$36,321.96
FUND RAISING	\$12,832.00
FELLOWSHIP HALL RENTAL	<u>\$115.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$49,268.96
EXPENSES	<u>\$62,318.22</u>
DEFICIT	<u>(\$13,049.26)</u>
MORTGAGE BALANCE	\$12,319.28
PNC ACCOUNTS:	
CURRENT FUND	\$24,471.65
MEMORIAL FUND	\$36,884.51
THRIVENT ACCOUNTS	
REGULAR MUTUALS	\$96,504.04
SCHOLARSHIP MUTUALS	\$113,258.05
SANTANDER ACCOUNT	
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	\$5,119.39



Frey Village's Annual Strawberry Festival

Save the date! This event will be held on Saturday, June 2nd from 8:30am - 1pm. Join the fun & enjoy vendors, strawberries, silent auction, raffles, entertainment & so much more. More information can be obtained by calling 717-930-1228. All proceeds benefits their Activity Fund.





Sun

Mon

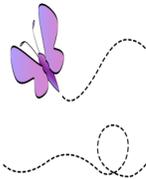
Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1	2	3	4	5
			7 pm - Adult Choir Bible Study	6 pm - Chimes Choir		
6 - Easter 6 8:30 am - Word & Sacrament 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:45 am - Word & Sacrament 1st Sunday Social	7 3 pm - Welcome Committee 6 pm - Interfaith Service @Beth El Temple	8 6 pm - Mother's Day Banquet	9 7 pm - Adult Choir	10 6 pm - Chimes Choir 7 pm - Council	11	12
13 - Easter 7 8:30 am - Word & Sacrament 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:45 am - Word & Sacrament 6-8 pm - HAYI @St. John's, Steelton	14 5:30 - 8:30 pm - private event	15 vacation day for Barb	16 7 pm - Adult Choir Bible Study	17 6 pm - Chimes Choir 7 pm - Praise Him Singers' Spring Concert	18	19
20 - Pentecost 8:30 am - Word & Sacrament 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:45 am - Word & Sacrament newsletter deadline 4:30 pm - private event	21	22 6 pm - Prayer Shawl	23 7 pm - Adult Choir	24 6 pm - Chimes Choir	25	26
27 - Holy Trinity 8:30 am - Word & Sacrament 10 am - Word & Sacrament	28  office closed	29	30 6:30 - 9:30 pm - private event	31 Synod Assembly @Messiah College begins		

Good News

The Evangelical Lutheran
CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR
420 North Progress Avenue
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17109

Phone: 717-545-9992
Email: ossec@comcast.net
Web Site: www.oslutheranharrisburg.org



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

Beginning May 27th

our summer worship times are 8:30 am
& 10 am. There is no Sunday School until
the fall.

Church Office

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

Phone: 717-545-9992
Email: ossec@comcast.net
Web Site: www.oslutheranharrisburg.org



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.