

Good News

September 2018



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

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

September is a month of “returning.” Of course, children and teachers are returning to school. Vacationers are returning from time away. Now, don’t get me wrong, I do enjoy the more relaxed summer season, the time for going on trips, and all of that. But there is something pleasing about returning to a sense of normalcy. There is something about returning to routine that has been always very appealing to me. I always have appreciated the transition back to the fall schedule. There is joy that comes from seeing faces returning to church, and diving again into the mission and ministry of the church.

In the history of faith, God and God’s people have always known something about “returning.” When God’s people had been exiled in Babylon for many years, there was much rejoicing when those same people could return to the Holy Land. In the final book of the Old Testament, in the prophetic writing of Malachi, God says, “Return to me, and I will return to you” (3:7). And, there is the longing we have still today as God’s people for God’s return in the Second Advent, when Christ will come again. Yes, God and God’s people know something about “returning.”

God calls us to return to him, and he will return to us. And, this process of “returning” to God means turning again to God with our heart. This process of “returning” to God means returning to worship God. It means reordering our lives so as to make again our praise of God and service to our neighbor a priority. “Returning” to God means that we recognize that God has never left us in the first place. That our good and gracious God has been accompanying us every day of our lives, and we just need to realize this truth. “Returning” to God is letting go of our self-will and embracing the presence of God already at work in us.

So, we return to God. We return to God by returning to GermanFest on September 8th, by coming as a guest or if possible as a helper during the day. We return to God by partaking of Sunday School which begins on September 23rd. This year we will be having intergeneration Sunday School for all ages, and our focus will be on “The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss.” We return to God by participating in Bible Study, which will begin again on September 13th. We return to God by lending our musical gifts in Adult Choir beginning on September 19th, and in Chimes Choir beginning on September 20th. We return to God getting involved in the many activities in the life of the church, whether it is through committee work, serving on church council, or contributing to the ministries we sponsor like the 2nd Sunday Food Offering, Family Promise, Spiritual Stitches, and so on and so forth.

And, most of all, we return to God by praising God with our grateful hearts in Sunday worship. There, in worship, is where we exemplify our return to God most clearly. “Returning” to God is being grasped by God. God claims us and we are his own. Our return to God started in baptism, but it is something that is ongoing, as we go throughout life. We return again and again, because we have gone wayward again and again. In short, there is a joyful homecoming every time we step into the sanctuary.

We have returned. Like our ancient ancestors who were exiled in Babylon and who returned to their spiritual home in the Holy Land, we live a brief exile until each week we step into our refuge which is the church.

God welcomes your return with open arms. Your church family welcomes your return with loving hearts. Step into God’s grace and be assured your return will bless your life. “Return to me, and I will return to you,” says our Lord. God has already made his presence known in your life. It is then our turn to return to God and know again his mercy and love.



In Christ, Pastor Joel Petruschke

The Lessons for September 2018

September 2 — Pentecost 15
Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9
Psalm 15
James 1:17-27
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

September 9 — Pentecost 16
Isaiah 35:4-7a
Psalm 146
James 2:1-17
Mark 7:24-37

September 16 — Pentecost 17
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 116:1-9
James 3:1-12
Mark 8:27-38

September 23 — Pentecost 18
Jeremiah 11:18-20
Psalm 54
James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a
Mark 9:30-37

September 30 — Pentecost 19
Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29
Psalm 19:7-14
James 5:13-20
Mark 9:38-50



Upcoming HAYI Events for September

The 1st meeting for the fall will be on Sunday, September 9th from 6-8pm here @Our Saviour. We will be joined by Deacon Marsha Roscoe, who will be helping the group explore their unique spirituality types.

On Mondays throughout September (10th, 17th & 24th) we will gather at Trinity Lutheran in Steelton (221 S. 2nd St.) to put together graft kits for Caitlin's Smiles from 6-7pm!

On September 16th, we will be partnering with Helping Hands Ministries to serve food to the homeless at St. Michael's in Harrisburg (118 State St.) from 4-6pm. If you are interested in participating, please email and RSVP to Deacon Dave (dtringali52@gmail.com) by September 10th.

Finally on Sunday, September 23rd, join us for worship at Little Amps Coffee Shop in Harrisburg (1836 Green St.). All youth are welcome, so feel free to bring a friend as we worship to the beautiful music of Holden Evening Prayer and share a potluck meal together.

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

What is your image of God? What God do you worship? It is an important question. How would we describe the God we worship? We might say that our God is loving, compassionate, and forgiving. Our God showed his love, compassion, and forgiveness by sending his Son to die for us on the cross.

Now think about what our neighbor's image of God might be? In particular, our neighbor who does not worship, who might even be an atheist. They probably don't have an image of God in the same way we do, or why would they not worship?

My point being is that many of us probably have the idea that the image of God is univocal, that is, that the term "God" has only one possible meaning, that it is the same for everyone. But that is just not the case. The image of God we worship is no doubt different from the image of God that others don't worship.

And so, in talking with people about why they don't worship, or even why they are atheists, it is important to ask them to describe "God." Maybe they have an image of God as being indifferent and aloof. That God is not lending a finger to help the human race and the hurting planet. Maybe they have an image of God as being condemning. That God is ready to pounce on any and everyone who steps out of line and commits sin. Maybe they have an image of God as being their own personal deity, who they can call on when they like, and so don't need church.

It is important for us to understand the image others have of God, in order for us to talk about how our image of God is different and what then moves us to want to worship the God we do. And, it is important then for us to understand our own image of God. I started out this article by briefly describing how we might see God, but certainly we need to fill that out more. Ask yourselves, "Why do I come to worship? What is the God I am worshipping?" Do we come to worship to give thanks to God? Do we come to worship God to keep in good standing with God so as to get into heaven? Do we come to worship God because God is truly present among God's people? Do we come to worship God because it helps set us right for the rest of the week? Asking ourselves why we come to worship, helps us understand what kind of God we really worship.

My hope is that we come to worship because we want to give thanks and praise for all that God has done and is doing in our lives. We want to thank God for his constant mercies, for the promise of salvation, for the gifts of life, and for the joy of being a new creation. That is the image of God we worship, and hopefully many nonbelievers may find that same image of God's love in Jesus Christ whereby they are moved to worship God.

Ministry News...

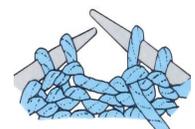
Prayer Shawl Ministry began ten years ago this fall. We began making prayer shawls, but have evolved to include other items – lap covers, chemo caps and mini shawls to encourage prayer. These items can be found on a display in the Narthex and are for anyone who is in need, whether a church member or not. Help yourself.

Since we are now more than *just* prayer shawls, we wanted the name of the ministry to reflect what we offer. Therefore, the ministry formerly known as Prayer Shawl, will *from this day forward* be known as...

Spiritual Stitches Ministry

We will hold our last meeting of 2018 in the church Tuesday, September 25th, from 6 to 8 p.m. Members continue to create items during the winter. A huge **THANK YOU** to all who came out this year. Items created and blessed are on the display in the Narthex. Help yourself.

Andrea Faber, Coordinator 717-576-3329 (Cell Phone)



A Word on Stewardship

In this stewardship article, I want to talk about the stewardship of our emotions. Now, my wife Kathy often reminds me of the truism that nobody can make another person feel anything. We, as individuals, choose to feel what we feel. So for instance, if we get mad at someone for something they did, and then say to ourselves, "So and so makes me so angry," it really isn't a true statement. That other person did not crawl inside our skin and tinker with our emotional gadgetry and suddenly we were angry. That just didn't happen. We chose to allow the other person's actions to affect us emotionally.

The question then that needs to follow on the heels of this truism is "Why would we let anyone have such control over us?" Think about it. We might get all riled up over the actions of another person, and we harbor then in us some constant animosity toward this other person. And, that negative emotion can eat away at us. That negative emotion can work to infect us, such that we become sickened by it, not just physically, but sickened such that our character is polluted by it. Indeed, why would we let anyone have such control over us?

I think of Peter in our Bible. He didn't want Jesus to suffer and die on the cross, and so he rebuked Jesus when Jesus explained how he would suffer and die. And it is not just that Peter didn't want Jesus to suffer and die, but that he wanted Jesus to be the Messiah who would rise up and destroy the oppressors of the Jewish people, namely the Romans. And, how does Jesus respond to Peter, but with the words, "Get behind me, Satan." Jesus saw a transformation in Peter, and not a good transformation. Peter's character had become polluted with his animosity toward the Romans. He was controlled by his anger, and Jesus called him on it.

We need to ask ourselves, "What do I chose to do with my emotions?" We all feel anger and animosity at times. It is only natural. But, emotions can take over and control us, if we don't chose take to back the control. Nobody can make us feel a certain way, unless we allow them that control. So again, we need to ask ourselves, "What do I chose to do with my emotions?" What can we do to decompress? What can we do to talk ourselves down from the escalating anger within? What can we do? Go for a walk. Talk to a friend or to the pastor. Try to see the situation from the other's perspective. Ask ourselves, why does the other person bother us so? Pray about it.

We do need to be gentle on ourselves. We do need to recognize the effect of anger on our psyche and our body. We do need to let God enter in and bring us peace. Peter eventually understood what Jesus was up to, and I have to believe that that changed his emotional well-being from then on. Anger and animosity were not the solution. The answer was in the form of grace which gives over the control of our emotional lives to God.

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

We will be holding a Spaghetti Dinner as a fundraiser for Jamie Barr.

When: Sunday, October 7th from 12 noon until 3 pm.

Menu: Spaghetti, salad, bread, beverages & cake for dessert.

Cost: \$10 for adults & children 12 or order; \$5 for children 5-12 years of age and children 4 & under are free

You may RSVP by either calling the church office or sending an email.



GermanFest 2018 Our annual GermanFest Celebration will be held this year on

Saturday, September 8th from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm. Prior to the start of GermanFest, there will be a 9/11 Remembrance Service at 10:30 am. Also, as in the past, we will be having just one service the next day, Sunday, September 9th starting at 10:00 am.

There are sign-up sheets now in the Narthex for all the areas we will need help with to make this another successful GermanFest. Please check them out & sign up for the areas that you would like to help with.



Dear Padre,

Next month, in October, we have the Pet Blessing. With that said, is there any mention of dogs or cats in the Bible?

Signed, Pet Lover

Dear Pet Lover,

Yes, dogs are mentioned dozens of times in the Bible. The instances include Exodus 11:7, 22:31; Deuteronomy 23:18; Judges 7:5; I Samuel 17:43, 24:14; 2 Samuel 9:8, 16:9; I Kings 14:11, 16:4, 21:19, 21:23, 21:24, 22:38; 2 Kings 8:13, 9:10, 9:36; Job 30:1; Psalms 22:16, 22:20, 59:6, 59:14, 68:23; Proverbs 26:11, 26:17; Ecclesiastes 9:4; Isaiah 56:10, 56:11; Jeremiah 15:3; Matthew 7:6, 15:26, 15:27; Mark 7:27, 7:28; Luke 16:21; Philippians 3:2; 2 Peter 2:22; Revelations 22:15.

Cats are not mentioned at all. There is one mention of cats in the Letter of Jeremiah (1:22), which is a book in the Apocrypha.

Why dogs are frequently mentioned in the Bible while cats are not I do not know. Of course, Egyptians depicted cats frequently in their hieroglyphs. Some bible scholars speculate that because Egyptians held cats in high esteem, and Egypt was the enemy of the Jews, this may account for the absence of cats in the Bible.

Thanks for your question.

Signed, Padre



PRAYER REQUEST

Please keep Zion Lutheran Church in Penbrook and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Paxtang in your prayers as the congregation of Zion merges with the congregation of Good Shepherd on Sunday, September 1st. We ask God to provide a smooth transition for both congregations. May our sisters and brothers in Christ at Zion be consoled as they leave their church building to begin worshipping full time at Good Shepherd. And, may our sisters and brothers at Good Shepherd provide a place of compassion and care to welcome them in. Our God, through his Son's death and resurrection, proved to be a God of new beginnings, and so we trust that God will empower God's people in this new endeavor. Thanks be to God.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Please plan to attend the congregational meeting scheduled for Sunday, September 16, 2018, at 9:30am. In addition to electing new council members and conducting other business representatives from Advoz will be present at the meeting to provide information regarding next steps in the process of working towards healing in our congregation, so it is very important that all members make every effort to attend. We look forward to seeing you there.





Dear Members of Our Saviour,

Thank you so very much for the generous gift I received from Our Saviour. I am very blessed to know such kindness and love in my life. I appreciate all the prayers and good thoughts coming from congregation. I have been very positive during this illness and know that my surgery will be my ticket back to a long healthy life. Blessings to all Jamie Barr

Andrea & Members,

Thank you for the beautiful prayer shawls. It was so thoughtful of you to think of us. We know prayer comforts us. It has given us peace during this difficult time. Thank you also for the delicious cookies. They were gone quickly. Our memories of our year at Our Saviour are filled with thankfulness. Thank you again for your support. Betsy, Mark, Andrew, Peter & Nathan Borseth.

Dear Friends in Christ,

On behalf of the Manna Food Pantry Board, we want to take the opportunity to thank you for the gift of \$100.00, as we continue to serve the hungry in our area. We really appreciate all the support from people such as yourself. There is a great need out there, and Manna wouldn't be able to help the number of folks we help each month if it weren't for kind hearted friends like you.

Sincerely, Manna Food Pantry

I want to send a very special thank you to everyone who helped in any way during our June host week for Family Promise. As most of you know, I was unable to participate this time because of my husband's illness and hospitalizations. Our next hosting week will be the second week in October and I will be getting that all organized after GermanFest is over. By that time, the new Day Center should be up and running and also the new van will be in operation. More news to follow as it becomes available.

Thanks again to everyone. Sara Smith

Unwanted/unused Medical Equipment Have you been wondering what to do with medical equipment your family is no longer using? Are you in need of a wheelchair or walker? United Cerebral Palsy of Central PA has a reuse program called **Changing Hands**. Manual wheelchairs, shower seats and benches, over bed tables, walkers, canes, lift chairs, raised toilet seats, and portable ramps are being accepted. Because of limited space we cannot accept hospital beds or stair glides. All items must be in good to excellent condition.

Changing Hands will clean the items and make them available to people who need them. If you have questions about certain items, or would like to arrange to drop off items at their Camp Hill location, please call 717-737-3477, or 1-800-998-4827 (toll free) or email atucp@ucpcentralpa.org.





Fellowship Hall Usage Reminder

We would like to remind everyone that all events must have a request form filled out. There are copies of the form in the Narthex in the magazine rack, or see Brad Neil. As our form states it would very much be appreciated if there is a 3-4 weeks advance notice of usage. Brad must sign off on any event that is being held in our church. Thank you very much.

Confirmation Classes Resume

Confirmation Classes will resume for the school year in September. The class time is 2-3:30 pm. The schedule for September & October is as follows:

- September 16th at St. John’s in Steelton
- September 23rd at St. John’s in Steelton
- October 7th at St. Peter’s in Highspire
- October 21st at St. Peter’s in Highspire





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<p>2 - Pentecost 15</p> <p>8:30 am - Word & Sacrament</p> <p>10 am - Word & Sacrament</p> <p>1st Sunday Social</p> <p>GermanFest Set-Up</p>	<p>3</p> <p>LABOR DAY</p>  <p>office closed</p>	4	<p>5</p> <p>8 am - GermanFest Prep Day</p> <p>1 pm - Family Promise Meeting</p>	<p>6</p> <p>8 am - GermanFest Prep Day</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8 am - GermanFest Prep Day</p>	<p>8</p>  <p>11 am - 6 pm</p> <p>GermanFest</p>
<p>9 - Pentecost 16</p> <p>10 am - Word & Sacrament</p> <p>1 service only</p> <p>6-8 pm - HAYI @Our Saviour</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6 pm - Welcome Committee</p> <p>6 pm - HAYI's Caitlin Smiles project @Trinity, Steelton</p>	11	<p>12</p> <p>7 pm - Council</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7 pm - Bible Study</p>	14	15
<p>16 - Pentecost 17</p> <p>8:30 am - Word & Sacrament</p> <p>9:30 am - Ann'l Congregational Meeting</p> <p>10:45 am - Word & Sacrament</p> <p>newsletter deadline</p> <p>2-3:30 pm - Confirmation @St. Johns, Steelton</p> <p>4-6 pm—HAYI @St. Michael's, Hbg</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7 pm - Worship & Music</p> <p>6 pm - Praise Him Singers' rehearsal</p> <p>6 pm - HAYI's Caitlin Smiles project @Trinity, Steelton</p>	18	<p>19</p> <p>7 pm - Adult Choir</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6 pm - Chimes Choir</p>	21	22
<p>23 - Pentecost 18</p> <p>8:30 am - Word & Sacrament</p> <p>9:30 am - Sunday School</p> <p>10 am - Word & Sacrament</p> <p>2-3:30 pm - Confirmation @St. John's, Steelton</p> <p>6-8 pm - HAYI @Little Amps Coffee House</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6 pm - Praise Him Singers' rehearsal</p> <p>6 pm - HAYI's Caitlin Smiles project @Trinity, Steelton</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6 pm - Spiritual Stitches (last one until spring)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7 pm - Adult Choir</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6 pm - Chimes Choir</p> <p>7 pm - Bible Study</p>	28	29
<p>30 - Pentecost 19</p> <p>8:30 am - Word & Sacrament</p> <p>9:30 am - Sunday School</p> <p>10 am - Word & Sacrament</p>						

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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 am

Holy Eucharist is celebrated every Sunday.

Beginning Sept. 23rd

Worship is at 8:30 am & 10:45 am

Sunday School is at 9:30 am

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.