

# Good News

July & August 2018



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

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

When I was in seminary, one of books I was exposed to was *Generation to Generation* by Edwin Friedman. I still refer to the book on occasion. It is book about family process in the church and synagogue. In other words, it is a book about how to create a healthy community. And, one of the key phrases that emerges from the book is “non-anxious presence”.

The phrase “non-anxious presence” is paramount to maintaining health not only for one’s self but also for the sake of the community. You see, we as people tend to get caught up in the anxiety expressed in a community. Impassioned people might convey to us their grievances and complaints, and in the process we ourselves might become riled up. Anxiety is easily transferrable from one human to the next, and it can infect a whole community. In order to diffuse that anxiety it is important to maintain a “non-anxious presence.”

Now, the trick of the matter is to stay differentiated, not to be pulled into the anxiety. In other words, the individual needs to maintain their own identity as opposed to be subsumed into the anxious identity of the other. But make no mistake about it, it is hard work to stay differentiated.

The other side of this “non-anxious presence” is the focus on staying connected. Embodying a “non-anxious presence” is just that, maintaining a presence in the community. Sometimes all we want to do when anxiety ramps up in a community is to leave the situation behind, because let’s face it, anxiety is stressful. But, Friedman asserts that in order to help the community it is best to maintain our role in the community as an embodiment of a “non-anxious presence.”

So often we think we can change a community for the better by forcing our will on the community. But that is like trying to push a mountain with a piece of string. But, ironically, if the members of the community can embody each in their own persons a strong sense of differentiation, that is, if the members of the community can stay connected without becoming consumed by the anxiety of the other, then the communal system can change because the anxiety of the particular individual is not allowed to spread.

Of course, another learning for any community is that of empowering its members to address, in a healthy manner, those situations that would tend to cause anxiety in the first place. But, that is a topic for a different newsletter article.

I hope this helps shed some light on healthy communal living. And, please note, this idea of “non-anxious presence” serves for other communities of which we are a part, namely our families, or work environments. It is a helpful tool for many-a-setting in life.

I continue to pray that God strengthens our community of faith, that we can live with one another in God’s peace and serve the gospel as Christ’s body in this place and time. Thanks be to God.

In Christ, Pastor Joel Petruschke

**On a personal note**, I need to inform the congregation that I have been accepted to a three-year doctoral program at Evangelical Seminary in Myerstown, Pa. The program is tailored so as to allow pastors to continue their ministries with minimal interruption. In other words, much of my studies will take place online. There is very little residency required. With that said, balancing family life, pastoral responsibilities, and my studies will be a learning curve for me. So, I do ask for your prayers as I begin this endeavor in the fall. If you should have any questions, please contact me. Thanks in advance for your understanding and patience.



### The Lessons for July 2018

**July 1** — Pentecost 6  
Lamentations 3:22-33  
Psalm 30  
2 Corinthians 8:7-15  
Mark 5:21-43

**July 8** — Pentecost 7  
Ezekiel 2:1-5  
Psalm 123  
2 Corinthians 12:2-10  
Mark 6:1-13

**July 15** — Pentecost 8  
Amos 7:7-15  
Psalm 85:8-13  
Ephesians 1:3-14  
Mark 6:14-29

**July 22** — Pentecost 9  
Jeremiah 23:1-6  
Psalm 23  
Ephesians 2:11-22  
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

**July 29** — Pentecost 10  
2 Kings 4:42-44  
Psalm 145:10-18  
Ephesians 3:14-21  
John 6:1-21

### The Lessons for August 2018

**August 5** — Pentecost 11  
Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15  
Psalm 78:23-29  
Ephesians 4:1-16  
John 6:24-35

**August 12** — Pentecost 12  
1 Kings 19:4-8  
Psalm 34:1-8  
Ephesians 4:25 - 5:2  
John 6:35, 41-51

**August 19** — Pentecost 13  
Proverbs 9:1-6  
Psalm 34:9-14  
Ephesians 5:15-20  
John 6:51-58

**August 26** — Pentecost 14  
Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18  
Psalm 34:15-22  
Ephesians 6:10-20  
John 6:56-69



### 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

My brother and his wife are Quakers, and they tell the joke about a first time visitor to a Quaker meeting. This visitor was sitting in the meeting (i.e. worship), and everyone was completely quiet for some time. Eventually, the visitor leaned over to his neighbor and asked, "When does the service begin?" The person responded, "When the meeting ends." In other words, our worship or our service is everything we do in the world. We often have it backwards, though, where we see worship as the hour we gather on Sunday morning at church. But, worship for Quakers is everything that is done between Sunday mornings.

I have learned a lot from Quakers. During my first summer in seminary, I did my Clinical Pastor Education (CPE, as it is called) at Jeanes Hospital, which is associated with the Quakers. And, my colleagues and I regularly participated in Quaker meetings. As you may know, Quaker meetings entail sitting quietly until moved by the spirit to say something. Sometimes individuals would say something. Sometimes not. Sometimes I said something. And, sometimes I sat quietly.

Probably, as Lutherans, we would have a tough time with this practice of sitting quietly. After all, we are part of what is called a liturgical church. In other words, we have a regular order of service contained in a bulletin, which provides structure to our worship. Without it, we would probably feel quite loss. But there is something to be said for a non-liturgical service. There is something powerful about not having to feel confined to a liturgy where one is constantly checking to see where they should be in the worship service. It can be quite liberating.

Sitting in silence, listening in quiet for God's voice to speak is a unique experience. Granted that which comes into our minds may not always seem "religious." Sometimes the strangest things might enter into our heads, like our grocery list, or what we are going to do in the afternoon, or what we are going to have for lunch. But, I learned that these thoughts, too, could be divinely inspired. They could be brought into the realm of the "religious" if we could see them as guidance from God.

So, yes, service is everything we do outside of worship. Service, for us as Lutherans, is also what we do in worship. God is always directing us, and we should give glory to God in all things, both in those things that are structured and those things that happen by happenstance.

## Prayer Shawl Ministry Meetings Has Begun!

The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry will be Tuesday, July 24<sup>th</sup> (always the fourth Tuesday of the month), beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the church. Come join us! 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

## Puzzles Needed

If you have any unwanted puzzles around the house that you no longer need/want please consider donating them to the Ecumenical Center in Harrisburg. Puzzles of 500-750 pieces are preferred. They don't have room to build 1,000 piece puzzles. Donations can be brought here & placed on the bottom shelf of the mail slots with a note in Jeanette Logan's box that you have placed them there. Thank You!



### **A Word on Stewardship**

Part of good stewardship of the church is tending to the security and well-being of our congregation. During my pastorate here at Our Saviour, the question of reducing risk in the church has come up at various times. Indeed, when I first started at Our Saviour, the congregation was in the midst of creating a Child Protection Policy. It is important to talk about these things, especially given the current milieu of our society. It is a balancing act, however, between being a welcoming, hospitable community and being a safe place to gather. We would never want to create the sense that our congregation is under siege, but at the same time we don't want to be casually indifferent about safety either. With this in mind, I invite you to read an article that was in a recent edition of the *Living Lutheran* magazine. You can access it online at [www.livinglutheran.org/2018/staying-safe-in-church/](http://www.livinglutheran.org/2018/staying-safe-in-church/). The article provides a sense of what it is to walk this fine line between the two extremes.

At this past synod assembly, Nadine and I also had the opportunity to attend a workshop on this very topic. One of the presenters of the workshop was a man by the name of Glenn Beard. He serves as a pastor in our synod, as well as director of the Lower Susquehanna Synod's Lutheran Disaster Response Task Force. Thus, he is a resource for congregations who are discerning how to reduce risk in their congregations. My hope is that he might meet with our congregation council and begin a conversation with us about what we can do to continue to keep our congregation safe, while at the same time being a congregation that is welcoming.

God has graced us with a wonderful community. And, we want to do everything we can to extend that grace to everyone who comes through our doors. Part of sustaining the grace of God in this place is seeing to the well-being of all who gather. Thanks be to God.

### **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



### **Mark Your Calendars!**

GermanFest will be held this year on Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. We look forward again to having a great day with our family, friends & neighbors! We will need "all hands on deck" that day to help with GermanFest. There will be several food preparation days prior to September 8<sup>th</sup> and help will be needed those days as well. Please consider helping at GermanFest this year - we will find a job that you can do! Sign up sheets will be available in the Narthex in August. Thank you in advance for your support of GermanFest!



### **A Thank You We Received**

Rev. Petruschke, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your kind hospitality in allowing "The Praise Him Singers" to use your facility for rehearsals and for opening your doors to allow us the privilege of presenting a concert of sacred music to the people of your community on May 17, 2018. Our desire is to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in song, to edify believers present and to point those who need the Savior to him.

May God bless your ministry to the people who call Our Saviour their home church, and to those you touch in your community.

James Hess

President, The Praise Him Singers.



**Dear Padre,**

Do you have a good book suggestion for my summer reading?

Signed, Bibliophile

Dear Bibliophile,



That is a good question. But, it is hard to answer that question not knowing what your interests are. I tend to be a rather eclectic reader, such that I like to read books from a whole gamut of topics, including history, science fiction, classics, religion, etc. But, regardless of what book I am reading, I often find myself thinking about the connections between what I am reading and my faith.

For instance, I really enjoyed reading the book *Endurance* by Scott Kelly. The book was about Kelly's year in space. What I found fascinating about this book was how his experience related to the journey of life.

When his Soyuz capsule docked with the International Space Station (ISS), and Kelly went through the airlock, it was as though he was "birthed" into this new world of the ISS. When he arrived, he was welcomed by the others residents of the ISS, much as we are by our family at the time of birth. During his time on the ISS, new arrivals came to the station and others left the station, much in the same way life blesses us with new acquaintances and death takes those acquaintances away. And, when Kelly left the station, it was like his own sort of "passing on", only he was also coming to a new life back on earth.

Each day in space, he received from the "outside" (from Mission Control on earth), his assignments for the day. I kind of liken this experience to God detailing to us what our assignments are for the day. But, do we though truly receive our chores for the day as though coming from God, from the outside? Or, is it something we take for granted as those things we simply need to do?

I also was thinking about all the preparation and training Kelly had to do before he even arrived at the ISS. We don't go through such training before we arrive in our lives, or do we? Is there some sort of preparation that has taken place within the human species as a whole, such that when we arrive in life, we are among a system that provides for us, such that biologically, we have adapted as a species for all the trials that might come at us.

So, you see, my reading habits are a bit quirky, to say the least. I always seem to read books with my own personal theological bent. I guess you could say it is an occupational hazard. Recently, I just finished the science fiction book *Dune* by Frank Herbert and really enjoyed that book. But again, I found a lot of interesting theology in that book. I am now reading *Legends of the Outer Banks and Tar Heel Tidewater* by Charles Whedbee. Many of the legends speak of divine acts at work, and so yet again it speaks to my nature.

I don't know if that is of any help to you in finding a summer book. But, whatever you do happen to read, if you find God in it, I would be interested to know. Thanks for your question.

Signed, Padre



**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.





Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1 - Pentecost 6 8:30 am - Word & Sacrament 10 am - Word & Sacrament 1st Sunday Social	2	3	4  office closed	5	6	7
8 - Pentecost 7 8:30 am - Word & Sacrament 10 am - Word & Sacrament	9	10 7 pm - Council	11	12	13	14
15 - Pentecost 8 8:30 am - Word & Sacrament 10 am - Word & Sacrament	16	17	18	19	20 Pastor way for continuing education ----->	21
22 - Pentecost 9 8:30 am - Word & Sacrament 10 am - Word & Sacrament Pastor away for continuing education----->	23	24 6 pm - Prayer Shawl	25	26	27	28
29 - Pentecost 10 8:30 am - Word & Sacrament 10 am - Word & Sacrament	30	31 6:30 pm - GermanFest Meeting				

# AUGUST



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
<b>5 - Pentecost 11</b> 8:30 am - Word & Sacrament 10 am - Word & Sacrament 1st Sunday Social	<b>6</b> 6 pm - Welcome Committee  Pastor on vacation →	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 7 pm - Council	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12 - Pentecost 12</b> 8:30 am - Word & Sacrament 10 am - Word & Sacrament	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19 - Pentecost 13</b> 8:30 am - Word & Sacrament 10 am - Word & Sacrament 11 am - Christian Ed Meeting Sept. newsletter deadline	<b>20</b> 7 pm - Worship & Music	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26 - Pentecost 14</b> 8:30 am - Word & Sacrament 10 am - Word & Sacrament	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 6 pm - Prayer Shawl	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

*Good News*

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**CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR**  
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Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17109

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Web Site: [www.oslutheranharrisburg.org](http://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.

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](mailto:ossec@comcast.net)

Web Site: [www.oslutheranharrisburg.org](http://www.oslutheranharrisburg.org)



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.