

Good News

March 2018



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

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In light of the most recent in an unfortunate series of mass shootings in U.S. schools, I share with you a letter from our The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA.

Feb. 16, 2018

A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled because they are no more (Matthew 2:18).

As we live into these first days and weeks of Lent, we do so riveted by the news of another tragic mass shooting, this time at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., on Ash Wednesday. My heart, like yours, is filled with anguish; my spirit, like yours, laments. Rachel weeps for her children, refusing to be consoled because they are no more, and so do we.

We pray for the inconsolable loved ones and for the shooter and his family, for those terrorized by what took place and those who are unmoved. We acknowledge our own failings and ask God to guide us in finding new ways to turn the tide together on both the availability of assault weapons *and* the lack of mental health care.

But we know that those things alone won't solve this epidemic. All of us, including the church, must take a close look at ourselves. How are we cultivating a culture of violence, hatred, anger and fear, and how can we participate in building a counter-culture where people can experience God's intended peace and life abundant for all?

Lent is a time for lamentation, dwelling with our sorrow, and facing the painful reality of death. We take each step certain that God weeps with us, walks with us in our deepest sufferings, and in the end makes the ultimate sacrifice for us – through death on a cross. This is our strength for the journey.

A prayer offered by Bishop Pedro Suárez, Florida-Bahamas Synod:

Dear loving God,

There are so many things we don't understand about our world. We might not know how the families and friends of the victims of today's shooting are feeling. But we do care. May they feel your presence in spirit through those that are accompanying them right now.

Help us to be mindful of the pain around us and to do something about it. We pray this in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

God's peace,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

In my own estimation, what we need to do to begin to stem the tide of violence is cultivate a sense of the sacred, as observed in each and every person. Each and every person is made in the image of God, and so each and every person is holy. Thus, each and every person is of the greatest value. But our society has done a poor job to lift up this truth. Instead, we demonize people. We objectify people. We demean people. We

devalue people. And, thus it is no small step from there to taking another's life, and indeed taking many lives.

Thus, our bishop's words are spot on. We need to examine ourselves and consider how we have failed to uplift the value of each and every person. And, we need to initiate change, which starts with ourselves, so that we begin to see all persons as truly valuable. And, we need to be constantly in prayer, for in prayer we are reminded that God values all persons, ALL persons, even victim and perpetrator alike.

In Christ,
Pastor Joel Petruschke

The Lessons for March 2018

March 4 — Lent 3

Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22

March 11 — Lent 4

Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21

March 18 — Lent 5

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-12
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33

March 25 — Palm Sunday

Mark 11:1-11
Zechariah 9:9-12
Psalm 24
Philippians 2:5-11
John 12:12-24

March 29 — Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-14
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
Romans 4:13-2
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

March 30 — Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53:12
Psalm 22
Hebrews 10:16-25
John 18:1-19:42

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

Palm Sunday falls on March 25th. The day marks the Sunday before Easter Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week. In years past, our congregation has combined on this day the celebration of Palm Sunday with the Passion of Our Lord. Our practice has been to begin this Sunday in the narthex with a brief liturgy, followed by the processing of palms into the sanctuary. By the time we reached the Prayer of the Day for this Sunday, we had shifted the focus from Palm Sunday to the Passion of Our Lord, which then included the extended gospel reading of Jesus' suffering and death. That is how we have conducted the worship service for this given day.

However, this year, the Worship and Music Committee decided to observe Palm Sunday as Palm Sunday, and to forego combining it with the Passion of Our Lord. Thus, we will be doing things a little differently.

Now, you might have wondered why the church felt the need to combine Palm Sunday with the Passion of Our Lord, in the first place. The reason was that many Christians were missing a central piece of the salvation story, namely Christ's suffering and death. Christians would worship on Palm Sunday and then again on Easter Sunday, without coming to worship on Good Friday. Christians would go from one celebration (Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem) to the next (the resurrection of Jesus), without experiencing the cross of Jesus Christ. And so, the church had decided to include the Passion of Our Lord as part of the Palm Sunday liturgy. And yes, it can then be a little confusing. So, as I said, the Worship and Music Committee decided to revisit the former practice, relegating the events to their proper place.

With that said, I need to emphasize to our congregation the importance of hearing the whole story of Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection. So, I would encourage our membership to make every effort to attend the Good Friday Tenebrae Service. That service will still be held on the Friday (March 30th) before Easter at Our Saviour. It will still consist of the same liturgy. What will change is that we won't hear the extended Passion reading on Palm Sunday. So, if you are unable to attend the Good Friday service, I would encourage you to read the Passion of Our Lord on your own, so that you experience the whole story of salvation. The Passion reading this year is from Mark 14:1-15:47.

I hope this explains what we are doing this year, and why we are doing it. Indeed, I pray that our endeavor to revisit Holy Week will enhance your experience of the mystery of our faith—the suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (Please see the church calendar in this newsletter for a full listing of worship days and times.)

Join Us For Worship!



Palm Sunday Worship 8:30 am and 10:45 am



Maundy Thursday Worship 7:00 pm

Good Friday Tenebrae Service 7:00 pm

Easter Vigil @Good Shepherd, Saturday, March 31st 7:30 pm



Easter Sunday Worship 7:00 am and 10:45 am

A Word on Stewardship

In last month's newsletter, I mentioned my two goals for 2018: 1) to do an all-member visit, and 2) to reach out to community leaders. The hope is that through these two goals, we, as a church, might begin to discern how God is leading us into the future, indeed how God is stewarding our congregation in the years to come. As 2018 goes along, I plan to update you regarding ideas that have emerged from my visits with members and conversations with community leaders. I will share ideas with you in the newsletter as a way to keep the congregation informed, as well as to allow the ideas to marinate within the congregation and to promote further conversation among us.

So, I want to share two ideas that have emerged already. The first is the idea of creating a "buddy system" within our congregational membership. The idea is that we would pair up "family units" (a family unit being defined as those living under one roof, whether, a family, a couple, or individual). And, these family units would then be responsible for checking in on each other. For instance, if one family unit was not present at church for a given week, their buddy would give them a call to see if everything was alright. The buddy system might also work such that those two family units might begin a carpool, whereby one family unit drives both parties one week or one month, and then the other family unit drives the next week or month. The buddy system could also work such that they would be available to provide support or seek out additional support from within the congregation for their buddy when a hardship emerges, such as ill health.

Our Stewardship Committee had been working on something similar to this idea of a buddy system, but we were looking at forming neighborhood groups, which would provide care for one another. But, that may have been too large of an undertaking. The buddy system would provide the same services, but would greatly simplify it.

The other idea that has emerged from conversation with the superintendent of the Susquehanna Township School District, Dr. Willis, is that of a recreation center for youth or a senior citizen community center. In specific, Dr. Willis mentioned that within the school district there is no recreation center for youth. But, I could also not think of any local community center for senior citizens, so I throw both of these ideas out there. I realize that those are probably huge endeavors. However, I also think back to the time when we did have a group for senior citizens called Ripe Apples. What would such a project look like, I don't know exactly. Is it worth considering the notion of resurrecting a group like Ripe Apples, only we would be more intentional about opening it up to the community? Would it be worth considering the possibility of partnering with some agency and making some of our land available to erect a recreation and/or community center? I pose these questions for your consideration. Perhaps, these above ideas will spark other ideas from you, which would be great.

Please come to me with your thoughts. In the meantime, I will continue to bring to your attention ideas that are generated from my membership visits as well from my conversations with community leaders. Thank you.

Dear Padre,

From here does the term "Easter" come? What does the term mean?

Signed, "Just Wondering"

Dear "Just Wondering,"



The term "Easter" is believed to derive from the name of an Old English goddess called *Ēostre*, mentioned by a monk named Bede. Bede lived during the 7th and 8th century in England. He speaks in his writings about *Ēosturmonað* (translated in Bede's time as "Paschal Month"). This month corresponded to the month of April. Bede says this month was once called this name after the goddess *Ēostre*, whose festivals or feasts were celebrated in that month. The goddess *Ēostre* was associated with spring, and no doubt then, with new life. We can see then how followers of Christ adopted this name for the great Christian festival of Jesus' resurrection.

Another connection is to the German word *ostern*, which means "east." Of course, the new day dawns in the east. The sun rises in the east and life awakens as a result. So, it would make sense that the word "east" would come to be associated with the awakening of Jesus from the grave. As an aside, it is believed that when Jesus comes again, he will come from the east. Indeed, many churches' altars are what are called "east-facing," that is, they are set against the east-facing wall of the church building. This is called Orientation. Thus, many congregations worship facing east, because it is from there that Christ will come again.

Thanks for your question.

Signed, Padre

The Hobart Mixer", aka "The Monster"

Once upon a time in the kitchen of OSLC lived the huge mixer that the Easter Bunny calls "*The Monster*." It came to pass about 3 months ago that a part to the monster was broken! So the "helpers" contacted Hobart to replace the broken part at a cost of \$289. The part arrived but lo and behold the part did not fit.



Therefore the helpers returned the part. Another part was ordered and lo and behold this part did not fit either. So now the second part was returned to Hobart. One Sunday the week before the Monster was to be used the helpers were discussing the problem when a man with an M.D. behind his name was passing along when he nonchalantly said, "Oh I cut the original part so that it fit!" The helpers just stood there with their mouths open, unable to respond! Hilarious! Questions about this story call Julie, Chair-Bunny at 717-652-7618.

Thank You

The youth would like to thank everyone who supported the Souper Bowl. Thank you to everyone who donated soups, bread, drinks, and desserts. We had a great turnout and we raised \$499.00 for the Manna Food Pantry!



Lenten Collection for 2018

The Social Ministry Committee and The Youth Group are sponsoring a Lenten collection for 2018. This year we are asking members to donate an item each week for "Caitlin Smiles". This organization was started by Cheryl Hornung in 2003 in memory of her daughter, Caitlin, who died from cancer at age seven. The organization encourages children with serious health challenges to use their talent with arts and craft activities. These activities encourage smiles on the children's faces. Items are delivered to 73 hospitals and clinics in Pennsylvania, 8 other states and the District of Columbia.



Items for collection:

Week Three - 3/4/2018 - Puzzle Books

Week Four - 3/11/2018 - Drawing pads

Week Five - 3/18/2018 - Gift Cards form AC Moore, Michaels, Dollar Tree, Walmart (minimum of \$5.00)

Week Six - 3/25/2018 - Zip Lock Bags - Sandwich size or Snack size

A display is set up in the Narthex. The display will list items needed and samples will be displayed. Items will also be listed in the bulletin during Lent. Thank you to the congregation who we know will be generously helping us with our collection.

Any questions, please see Jeanette Logan, Nadine Martin or Donna Miller.

MARCH

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1 11 am - Memorial Service for Elaine Kepler 6 pm - Chimes Choir Bobbi Roach	2	3 8 am - Egg Making Spencer Gervasio Julie Pitassi Suzanne Reilly Aaron Ripka Mahone
4 - Lent 3 8:30 am - Word & Sacrament 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:45 am - Word & Sacrament 1st Sunday Social Egg Making 2:00 pm - Conf. Class @St. Peter's, Highspire	5 8 am - Egg Making 6 pm - Welcome Committee	6	7 8 am - Egg Making 4 pm - Egg Making 7 pm - Adult Choir 6:30 pm - dinner 7:30 pm - Lenten Service @Good Shepherd Hannah Logan	8 6 pm - Chimes Choir Jennifer Halfond	9 Bob Lisse	10 8 am - Egg Making Craig Miller
11 - Lent 4 8:30 am - Word & Sacrament 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:45 am - Word & Sacrament Egg Making 2:00 pm - Conf. Class @St. Peter's, Highspire Jessica Miller	12 8 am - Egg Making John Zimmerman	13 7 pm - Council	14 8 am - Egg Making 4 pm - Egg Making 7 pm - Adult Choir 6:30 pm - dinner 7:30 pm - Lenten Service @Good Shepherd	15 6 pm - Chimes Choir	16 Fay Nelms	17 8 am - Egg Making Samantha Ingavo
18 - Lent 5 8:30 am - Word & Sacrament 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:45 am - Word & Sacrament Egg Making Easter Flower and Newsletter Deadlines 2:00 pm - Conf. Class @St. Peter's, Highsoire	19 8 am - Egg Making Ethan Stump	20 Robin Donley Kenzie Koppenhaver	21 8 am - Egg Making 4 pm - Egg Making 7 pm - Adult Choir 6:30 pm - dinner 7:30 pm - Lenten Service @Good Shepherd	22 6 pm - Chimes Choir Linda Schreier	23 Edward Seneca	24 8 am - Egg Making
25 - Palm Sunday 8:30 am - Word & Sacrament 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:45 am - Word & Sacrament 	26  Daniel Kreischer Connor Landis Daniel Logan	27	28 7 pm - Adult Choir Louis Simmons	29  6 pm - Chimes Choir 7 pm - Worship	30 - Good Friday  7 pm - Worship	31 Heidi Haas

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

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.