

Good News

May 2019



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

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Our Saviour Lutheran Church is hosting a free community breakfast on May 4th. We are calling it our "May the *Fourth* Be With You" Pancake Breakfast. Kind of sounds like that greeting in the movie franchise *Star Wars*, doesn't it? May the force be with you. That was the intention actually.

Now, I don't know if our cooks will create "Death Star Pancakes" or if we will have a John Williams' movie soundtrack playing over the sound system. Maybe. We just hope you join us for breakfast, and that you bring your friends and neighbors.

As Lutherans, we introduce a time of prayer with the words, "The Lord be with you." And it has become second nature for us to respond to that greeting. Somebody says, "The Lord be with you," and we immediately reply, "And also with you." There is actually a humorous joke that says, "You may be a Lutheran if when watching a *Star Wars* movie you can't help but respond to a character in the movie who says, 'May the Force be with you' with the words 'And also with you.'"

Now, I don't exactly know what the verbal exchange with respect to the Force means. The Force is explained as "an energy field created by all living things. It [the Force] surrounds us, penetrates us, and binds the galaxy together." So what does the greeting "the Force be with you" mean? No idea.

But when we, as Christians, greet one another with the words, "The Lord be with you," we are offering a blessing to one another. We are asking for God's favor to be upon the other. We asking for God's grace to come upon the other. And that is powerful.

Now, sometimes, this greeting is nuanced so as to say, "The Lord *is* with you." And this slight change I think conveys two important truths. First, this slight change suggests that the Lord is *already* with you, as opposed to the other form of the greeting that seems to wish that the Lord *would* be with you.

Second, with this latter form of the greeting, we are acknowledging that the other *is* a child of God's making. We are saying that the other *is* created in the image of God. We are declaring that that other has something of the divine in them. And, that should really make us treat that other in the most respectful way possible. To acknowledge that God is in that other should transform how we relate to one another.

"The Lord is with you." Now that is a "force" that is worth getting behind. To know that the Lord is with us... To know that the Lord is with the other... To know that the Lord is active in all the galaxy, such that God is bringing about his will, that is something worthy of all the hype the *Star Wars* franchise has garnered and then some.

On May 4th, we look forward to welcoming you to the pancake breakfast. And we look forward to welcoming our guests and visitors who come through our doors as well. It is will be an opportunity to greet one another, so as to say to one another, "The Lord is with you."

This is a greeting that we should keep in mind whenever and wherever we engage another person. God has infused the galaxy with his presence. It is a grace-filled force, a force to be reckoned with. May we align ourselves with this force of God's grace in the galaxy with the offering of God's blessing to others. The Lord is with you. And also with you.

In Christ, Pastor Joel Petruschke

The Lessons for May 2019

May 5 — Easter 3

Acts 9:1-20
Psalm 30
Revelation 5:11-14
John 21:1-19

May 12 — Easter 4

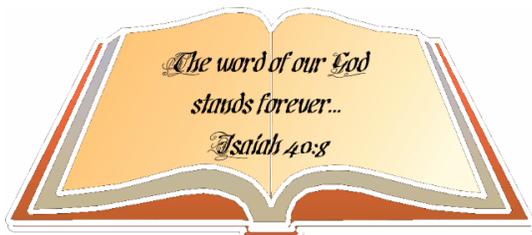
Acts 9:36-43
Psalm 23
Revelation 7:9-17
John 10:22-30

May 19 — Easter 5

Acts 11:1-18
Psalm 148
Revelation 21:1-6
John 13:31-35

May 26 — Easter 6

Acts 16:9-15
Psalm 67
Revelation 21:10, 22 - 22:5
John 5:1-9



Have You Seen These?

After last Sunday's luncheon we are missing a spatula & ladle that were used with the wok. They have been misplaced & can't be found. If you know where you last saw them please let Pastor or the office know so we can look for them again. If, by accident, you picked them up by mistake (which can easily happen), please let the office know. We appreciate your help in locating these items.



Parish Staff

Joel D. Petruschke, pastor
Margaret Quintanar, director of music
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

During the season of Lent, we kept the baptismal font closed. Some churches will also cover the baptismal font with a purple cloth, not to mention other items like the cross and icons. Instead of covering the font, some churches drain the font and then fill it with sand, or stones, and even cacti. So what is all this about?

These practices alert us to the special time that is Lent. But this all seems counterintuitive. One would think that during Lent we would want to focus all the more on the baptismal font and the cross. So why cover them?

Lent is a time in the “wilderness.” We remember that Jesus was tempted by the devil for 40 days in the wilderness. And so by closing the baptismal font, and covering the font and other items in the church with purple, conveys the sense of journeying through a “wilderness.” This is why some churches put sand, stones, and even cacti in the font—to create the sense of a desert (i.e. wilderness).

But then comes the resurrection of the Lord, and the font is opened, and filled. And the waters flow in the desert. It makes us think of Isaiah 43:19, “I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and the rivers in the desert.”

During the Easter Vigil, there is a powerful ritual where the large Paschal candle is dipped into the baptismal font, which symbolizes the blessing again of the waters of life. The image of the candle dipped into the font is sexual in nature, which is intended, for the font is then described as the womb of life.

Baptism is the greatest gift we have received as Christian people. It is the assurance that God in Christ Jesus loves us and will never forsake us. In baptism, God forgives us our sins, receives us into the family of God, and promises us eternal life. Thanks be to God.

In-Betweeners

Ed and Malane Digon will be hosting this event on May 18th with Dinner at the Progress Grille at 6:00 p.m. After which we will meet at their house - 3605 Hillcrest Road, a short distance from Our Saviour church to enjoy dessert and social time. We have hosted this event for several years and were asked to do it again this year. We are happy to do so. Final date for reservations will be May 14th. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.



Looking for a summer job?

Both Kirchenwald and Nawakwa still have positions available on their summer camp staffs for summer staff. College students interested in serving the church in the capacity of camp staff can apply online or download an application on the Camping Website. The camp season runs from the beginning of June to mid August. For details regarding employment, please visit <https://www.lutherancamping.org/employment> or call the camp directors, Zach Weiss (Kirchenwald) at 717-964-3121 or Sister Marianne Brock (Nawakwa) at 717-677-8211.



Synod Assembly Voting Member Still Needed

We are **in need of one voting member** to go to the Synod Assembly held at Messiah College June 6-8, 2019. If you are interested please see Pastor Joel.



A Word on Stewardship

Do you have a lot of stuff in your house? Is your home in need of purging the excess junk that has accumulated over the years? Well, the Christian writer Leonard Sweet offers a “game” to help with this process. In his book *From Tablet to Table*, he writes, “Everything in the Sweet home has a story; you don’t fill your home with stuff, but with stories” (p. 104). He explains then that their family plays a game, usually around the dinner table when conversation is lagging, whereby the kids try to stump him and his wife. The kids will point out some object in the home—an item of furniture, or something hanging on the wall, or something displayed in a bookshelf or hiding in a cabinet or cupboard—and he and his wife see if they can tell the story behind it. If the item has lost its story, the item goes.

Now I guess that this ritual would not work as well for someone whose mind is like a “steel trap.” But this game would work very well for someone whose mind is like that of a “sieve.” In the latter case, things would be flying out the door. As we are sitting in our home, looking around at the things we have acquired, consider the story behind each thing. For there is a lot of truth in what Sweet is saying. Our homes should speak “stories” to us. Our homes should convey a lifetime of memories to us, as opposed to being a storehouse of things that have invaded our space.

If we have ever watched the show “Antiques Roadshow,” we know exactly what Sweet is getting at. What makes that TV show so interesting are the stories. Sure, we all want to know what each item is worth, and the show does tell us this. But apart from that, there is the story about how each particular item came to be. There is the story of the creator/artist. And, there is story of the context, “when” and “where” the item was made. And there is the story about how the owner (the one who has brought the item to the show for appraisal) happened to come to possess the item. And there is the story about what the owner might do with the item now that they have learned its value. It is a fascinating show, because of all these stories.

Sometimes aging couples, when they recognize that they are in their twilight years and won’t be in their home much longer, will invite their kids to their home, so as to allow them to mark things they would like to have. And to me, the value of such items isn’t measured in dollars as much as it is in “stories.” I have told my parents, for instance, that there is only one thing (actually it is a collection of items) that I would want from their home. It is a set of hand irons that my dad has. These irons are from the laundry business my family owned and operated many, many years ago in Berlin, Wisconsin. At the time, it was the second oldest laundry business in the state. And so, these hand irons have a lot of history associated with them. In truth, they helped forged what our family has become.

Hand irons and other items like it are the kinds of items that families should cherish. We should jettison everything else that really has no “story” value. Sweet is right, “You don’t fill your home with stuff, but with stories.”

Pancake Breakfast

The Social Ministry Committee is sponsoring a free "Pancake Breakfast" on Saturday, May 4th from 8:00 am to 11:00 am. This is a free breakfast which will be paid for by a Thrivent Action Grant. We are asking church members to invite family, friends, neighbors and anyone who might enjoy a free meal. We are hoping to attract possible new members for our church. We will be serving pancakes, sausage and beverages. Since our committee consists of four members and Pastor Joel we are also looking for some volunteers to help with the event.

Please see, Pastor Joel, Nadine Martin or Donna Miller for any questions or if you could help with the event. We will have a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for volunteers and if you are attending. We hope to have a great response from our congregation to show our community what a great "church family" we have at Our Saviour Lutheran Church.



Dear Padre,

I was reading about the ancient Egyptian religion and came across something called “Execration Texts.” Can you explain to me what these are?

Signed, “Examining Egyptians”

Dear “Examining Egyptians,”



Execration texts were pieces of pottery which were inscribed with Egyptian hieroglyphs (Egyptian writing). These inscriptions contained lists of enemies of Pharaoh and of the Egyptian nation. These pieces of pottery were then smashed and buried. This practice apparently had some sort of magical power. Indeed, it was believed that by smashing the names of one’s enemies in this way, it would result in the destruction of those enemies. It is similar to “voodoo.”

Interestingly enough, the earliest known reference to Jerusalem apart from the Bible is found on one of these execration texts and dates to around 1900 B.C. Ostensibly, at some point Jerusalem was enough of a threat to Egypt that “magicians” in Egypt felt it necessary to include them on the execration texts.

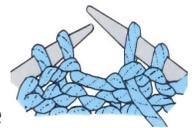
One can appreciate this idea of smashing pottery with the name of one’s enemies on them. It might have been therapeutic on an emotional level. In present day, one suggestion given to children when dealing with anger, so as to get their emotion out, is to rip up paper or to punch your pillow. It is not so different from smashing pottery.

Thanks for your question.

Signed, Padre

Spiritual Stitches Ministry Meetings Have Begun

We had our first meeting of the year for the Spiritual Stitches Ministry and we will continue to meet, always on the fourth Tuesday of the month), beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the church. We welcome anyone who would like to 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 for encouragement and support. Help yourself. Andrea Faber, Spiritual Stitches Ministry Coordinator

**Phone Chain**

Please notify the office if you **do not** have an email address so that we can create a “Phone Chain.” We would use this “Phone Chain” to notify our members of anything of importance before our next Sunday worship service. An example would be a death of one of our member.



OUR SAVIOUR
FINANCIAL REPORT
MARCH 31, 2019

ENVELOPES AND PLATE	\$43,105.43
FUND RAISING	\$7,517.00
FELLOWSHIP HALL RENTAL	<u>\$725.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$51,347.43

EXPENSE	<u>\$55,558.10</u>
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DEFICIT	<u>(\$4,210.67)</u>
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PNC ACCOUNTS:

CURRENT FUND	\$14,884.03
MEMORIAL FUND	\$27,726.74

THRIVENT ACCOUNTS

REGULAR MUTUALS	\$80,282.64
SCHOLARSHIP MUTUALS	\$117,738.83

SANTANDER ACCOUNT

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	\$3,119.39
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1st Quarter Contribution Statements

The contribution statements for the 1st quarter of 2019 are now in your church mailbox.

**Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Saviour
Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, March 12, 2019**

Please Note: Council Minutes cannot be included in the newsletter until after Council has approved them. Because of this the minutes will always be 1 month late. Example: this month the March council minutes that were approved at the April meeting now appears here, in the May newsletter.

Members Present: Pastor Joel Petruschke, President John Zimmerman, Vice President Herb Logan, Treasurer Jim Lubrecht, Secretary Andrea Faber, Arno Miller, Jessica Logan, Joan Bateman and Anneke Fleming.

Members Absent: Nancy Pinko and Kathy Sheetz.

Call to Order: Quorum being confirmed, President Zimmerman called the meeting to Order at 6:32 p.m. Pastor Joel offered a brief history and the symbolism of the ashes on Ash Wednesday, and offered a prayer.

Minutes: A motion was made by Arno Miller, seconded by Joan Bateman, to approve the minutes of February 13th. Without objection the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Jim Lubrecht high-lighted the Treasurer's report. The amount for snow removal should be \$3,000. Since we budgeted \$4,500 for the year, we are still within our budget. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Joan Bateman, seconded by Jessica Logan. Without objection the motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education — John Zimmerman read a report from the group working on the Scholarship Policy. The report is attached and made part of the record.

Fundraising — Egg making is in full swing.

Property — Property Committee report attached and made part of the record.

In Nancy Pinko's absence, Pastor shared copies of bids received to date on sheds. More information is needed, such as township limitations and/or needed permits, as well as information on a shed base. Anneke suggested we inquire of any possible military discounts.

As noted on the report, Nancy is resigning as Chair of the Property Committee. Pastor to ask Nancy for a job description, so we know what she has been doing, as well as a list of all vendors she has used, with contact names and information, including phone numbers and what they supply or service.

John Zimmerman to draft a letter to Nancy acknowledging her dedication and contribution over the years as Chair of Property Committee.

Welcome — Welcome report is attached and made part of the record.

Thank you to Russ Faber for hanging the chalk artwork in the Fellowship Hall. A black light will enhance the art and will be considered.

Pastor reported that the dates are scheduled for church directory photos. They are May 13 and 14 from 2:00

to 8:00 p.m. Also, Jack Gibbins, of Universal Church Directory, will attend the next Welcome Committee meeting April 1.

Worship and Music – No report.

Social Ministry – Report attached and made part of the record. In addition, the committee is planning a pancake breakfast May 4th and, also, for Fathers' Day after second service June 16.

Stewardship — No report.

Pastor's Report – Attached and made part of the record.

Advoc conducted the Conflict Resolution training Sunday, February 17. Jessica Logan, having attended, offered a brief overview of the training. Mutual Ministry will be reorganized to include some members who participated in this training.

Kathy Sheetz has agreed to coordinate the celebration of thanks for Dave and Alta Shadel for their years of service as our sextons. The date is set for April 28. Council agreed to give the Shadels a gift of \$100 in cash from the Current Fund. Anneke will talk with Kathy about some type of collection from church members.

The rental contract with the Martial Arts group to use our Fellowship Hall Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. has been changed to delete "parents of participants" and insert "attendees" as it relates to distributing church information. A motion was made by Arno Miller, seconded by Anneke Fleming, to approve the contract as changed. Without objection the motion carried. The contract is ready for signatures. The group actually began using the church this evening.

The pastor of a local Seventh Day Adventist Hispanic congregation has approached Pastor Joel about renting our facility. Pastor Joel earlier emailed details of this request to all council members. Discussions followed. Many felt very positive about learning about Seventh Day Adventist and, also, embracing the Hispanic congregation. However, many were concerned that this congregation would be using our facility more than we would. A motion was made by Arno Miller, seconded by Joan Bateman, to disapprove the rental request. Motion carried, with Herb Logan opposing. President Zimmerman requested Pastor Joel relay this decision to their pastor, and to let them know that we would be open to a rental for specific events or short-term rentals, but we do not want to get into such a long-term, extensive rental of our facility.

Andrea Faber suggested instead of looking outside to rent our facility to generate revenue that we look inside to make changes to what we do to attract new and younger members. President Zimmerman directed Pastor Joel to deliver to Worship and Music Committee a request to empower our youth to develop worship alternatives to attract a younger generation.

Pastor indicated that the Facility Use Policy and the Memorial Fund Policy should be ready for council's review at the April meeting.

Pastor asked that we keep the church secretary, Barb Johnson, in prayer. Barb is also the secretary at Trinity Lutheran of Steelton, which is in merger discussions with St. Peter's.

No one has yet to come forward to attend Synod Conference June 6-8. Nadine Martin is helping Pastor to encourage someone to attend.

Old Business:

John Zimmerman reported that the contract with Paxton Ministries has not yet been executed. The copy emailed to all council members did not include the changes council recommended. The contract will be resent to council members as soon as those changes are made.

A motion to adjourn was made by Arno Miller, seconded by Jessica Logan. Without objection the motion carried.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Faber, Council Secretary



Jessica Shertzer	5/3
Myles Reilly	5/7
Lisa Neil	5/8
Mason Roach	5/8
Don DeArmitt	5/10
Margaret Munz	5/13
Luke Gervasio	5/17
George Schreffler	5/17
Christine Schreffler	5/18
Sara Smith	5/23
Barbara Sheetz	5/28
Mildred Horvath	5/30
Katelyn Miller	5/30
Jean Lisse	5/31

New Pictorial Church Directory

In collaboration with the company Universal Church Directory, Our Saviour is producing a new pictorial directory. Our date for photography will be Monday, May 13th from 1-9:00pm. You can sign-up online for a time slot that works for you. To schedule your photography appointment online, simply go to www.ucdir.com, click on schedule your photography session on the right side, enter **pa852** in the Church Code field and enter **----photos** in the Church Password field. Follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment time. If you have 6 or more in your family please use 2 consecutive time slots. The online scheduling option is available Monday through Friday. **Appointments fill up quickly, so schedule as soon as possible to secure your preferred date and time.** There are coupons on the Directory table in the Narthex. These coupons can be shared with others to invite them to have their photo taken and receive a free 8 x 10 portrait. Any questions about these coupons, please see Nadine Martin.





Sun

Mon

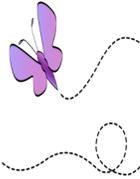
Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			<p>1</p> <p>7 pm - Choir</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6 pm - Chimes Choir</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8-11 am - Pancake Breakfast</p> 
<p>5 - Easter 3 8:30 am - Word & Sacrament 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:45 am - Word & Sacrament 1st Sunday Social</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6:30 pm - Welcome Committee</p>	<p>7</p> <p>11:00 am - Bible Study</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:30 pm - Council 7 pm - Choir</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6 pm - Chimes Choir</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 - Easter 4 8:30 am - Word & Sacrament 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:45 am - Word & Sacrament <i>Mother's Day</i></p>	<p>13</p> <p>1-9:00 pm - Church Directory Photos</p> 	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>5:30-8:30 pm - Private Event 7 pm - Choir</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6 pm - Chimes Choir</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>1 pm - Private Event 6 pm - InBetweeners Dinner @Progress Grill</p>
<p>19 - Easter 5 8:30 am - Word & Sacrament 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:45 am - Word & Sacrament newsletter deadline 5:30-8:30 pm - Private Event</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>11:00 am - Bible Study</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7 pm - Choir</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6 pm - Chimes Choir</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 - Easter 6 8:30 am - Word & Sacrament 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:45 am - Word & Sacrament</p>	<p>27</p>  <p>office closed</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6 pm - Spiritual Stitches</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7 pm - Choir</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6 pm - Chimes Choir</p>	<p>31</p> <p>5:30-8:30 pm - Praise Him Singers Coffee House</p> 	

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.