

Good News

October 2019



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

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

When we think of the month of November, we probably think first and foremost, “Thanksgiving.” That is, of course, the major holiday in this month. And, don’t get me wrong, I recognize the significance of Thanksgiving. In fact, both the “A Word on Stewardship” article and the “About Worship” article contained in this newsletter have something to say about Thanksgiving.

But, for us Christians, we hopefully think about something more at this time of year? On the Church calendar, All Saints Sunday and Christ the King Sunday loom large in November. Yes, I know in the month of November we also observe Share the Word and Share the Harvest, during which we recognize our veterans. I don’t want to discount this important Sunday in the life of Our Saviour. But, with respect to the larger Church, this day is a not an official festival day.

I want to talk about All Saints Sunday and Christ the King Sunday, and I would have us see these two days as related to one another. Now, All Saints Sunday is the day in which we remember those sisters and brothers who have died in the past year. But, it is also the day we remember that the Church is larger than just the individual congregations here on earth. All Saints Sunday reminds us that we are part of the great cloud of witnesses that spans all time and space. Thus, the Christian witness is like a wave in a vast ocean that gathers and swells in size. The successive generations of Christians, those who have gone before us, and those whom will come after us, all add their witness and swell the wave. And the wave gathers and gathers, until one day it breaks on that far distant shore and we are home.

Christ the King is the vision of that final day, when the wave breaks. Christ the King is the day when all God’s people will be raised and will stream into the gates of heaven, and the people of God will be the Church Triumphant. On the Church calendar, this is November’s message. This is what together those festivals of All Saints and Christ the King would have us envision - a transition from this world to the world to come. And it is truly a glorious vision. It is a hopeful vision.

This All Saints Sunday we remember Nano Nanov (Irene’s husband), and Richard “Dick” and Jean Neidich, and Kallie Bechtel. And, it is also appropriate that during this month we observe the Thanksgiving holiday as well. I say that because, we do give thanks to God for the blessings we have known in the persons of Nano, Dick and Jean. We give thanks to God for how they faithfully served the gospel during their lives. We give thanks for the joy they brought to their family and friends. And as in life, so in death, they are still carried along in the wave, as each of us is being carried along in that wave.

We think of a wave, and we thus think of water. And in thinking of water, we think of baptism. And because of baptism nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, not even death itself (Romans 8:37-39). God assures us in Christ, that even in death, we are still carried along in Christ in that *baptismal* wave.

November is a time of thinking about these “end time” things. The month lends itself to it, because even creation is transforming. Trees are dropping their leaves. The landscape is browning. The light of day is getting shorter and shorter.

But then comes the new dawn. Advent marks the New Year on the Church calendar. The season of light (i.e. Christmas) will be fast upon us. The birth of a Savior will be announced. And hope will be proclaimed anew. Even now, though, we are celebrating that Christ is King! We know how the story of history unfolds. Christ is victorious. He is our sovereign Lord reigning over all the cosmos. And to be sure, all his saints, all his people, will dig their toes in the sandy shore. This is the message of November to the Christian believer. This is the message we hold each and every day of our lives.

In Christ, *Pastor Joel Petruschke*

The Lessons for November 2019

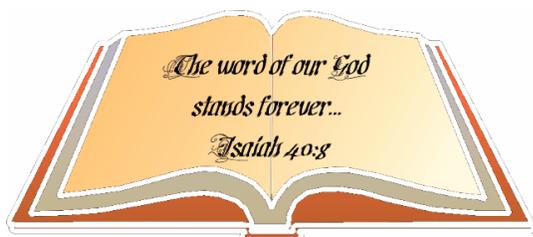
November 6 — All Saints Sunday
Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18
Psalm 149
Ephesians 1:11-23
Luke 6:20-31

November 10 — Pentecost 22
Job 19:23-27a
Psalm 17:1-9
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17
Luke 20:27-38

November 17 — Pentecost 23
Malachi 4:1-2a
Psalm 98
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
Luke 21:5-19

November 24 — Christ the King
Jeremiah 23:1-6
Psalm 46
Colossians 1:11-20
Luke 23:33-43

November 27 — Thanksgiving Eve
Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Philippians 4:4-9
John 6:25-35



Congratulations

We offer our congratulations & best wishes to Jessica (Yeater) and Jared Copeland who were united in marriage on Saturday, September 28th.



Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Please join us for worship on **Wednesday, November 27th, at 7:00 pm**, for our annual Thanksgiving Eve Service. There is no better way to begin the Thanksgiving Holiday than by gathering at church to give thanks to God for all His good gifts.



Parish Staff

Joel D. Petruschke, pastor
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

Each year on the evening before Thanksgiving we hold a service at church. This year the service falls on Wednesday, November 27th at 7:00pm. And, if I may say so, there is something very special about this service. There is something about getting ready for the holiday of Thanksgiving by gathering for evening worship.

Out in the world, people are getting off work and they are running about trying to get to their destinations. Airports are busy. The highways are busy. The grocery stores are especially busy. And, there is already the excitement of Christmas and the holiday season in the air. Indeed, department stores have had their Christmas stuff out since Halloween.

And with all this excitement going on, I personally, love driving to church on this evening before Thanksgiving and preparing to give thanks and praise to God with my fellow brothers and sisters. It is the feeling of knowing that this is exactly where I am supposed to be. I love the singing of hymns that speak of the in-gathering of the harvest. I love the display of the cornucopia on the altar reminding us of God's good gifts of food. I love the fact that there is a sense of calm and peace in the sanctuary while outside everything is frantic. And, I love coming back home after that experience of worship, and feeling that my time is really my own. I love the fact that I don't really have any obligations for the next couple of days except to be with family and to eat turkey. And I find at times that I can hardly contain my gratefulness.

This is what I am thankful for. I am thankful for time apart. I am thankful for "relaxed" time. I am thankful for time where I know where I am exactly supposed to be, while not being pulled in a hundred other directions. I am thankful for a place apart, a place of calm and peace, in the midst of a frantic world. I am thankful for where one can find sanctuary.

And, this, sisters and brothers in Christ, this is what I hope for you, too, during this Thanksgiving holiday. I pray that you might find time apart and a place apart, that you might find a sense of retreat. Do people speak of "retreat" anymore? Do people really step out of their routine for a time of refreshment and renewal? We should. Thanksgiving seems to capture that sense, at least it does for me.

This Thanksgiving Eve, please plan to join us for worship. I promise you that it will be a blessing for your life. This year we are incorporating Holy Communion into the service. It seems like a no-brainer, since Eucharist (an early name for communion) means "thanksgiving." So, before we gather with friends and family around the Thanksgiving table, let us gather around the altar, God's table, and partake of God's grace. And let us proclaim, "Thanks be to God."



Thank You, LORD!

Flue Shots!

It's that time of year again & the flue season will soon be upon us. Don't forget to protect yourself & get your flue shot!



Can You Help? Diane Lehrman is asking for help with grocery shopping , transportation appointments, and general, miscellaneous things around the house. If you would like to help or know of someone who can, please call Diane at 717-545-4899. Thank you.

A Word on Stewardship

Giving thanks is good stewardship. What I mean to say by that is when we express our thanks for the blessings we experience, we learn to appreciate those things all the more, and that translates into good stewardship. For instance, if you express gratitude for your friends or family, then you come to appreciate them even more, and you will learn to care more deeply for those relationships. Giving thanks is good stewardship.

So here are some questions which might help you grow in gratitude and then subsequently grow in greater appreciation of people and God's creation, which hopefully translates into greater care for the world and those around you. Maybe even take an opportunity during the Thanksgiving holiday to answer these when spending time with your loved ones.

- 1) What teacher are you most thankful for and why? What did you learn from him or her?
- 2) What's the season you're most thankful for and what's your favorite part of each season?
- 3) What book are you most thankful for and why?
- 4) What foods are you most thankful for?
- 5) What place do you feel most grateful for and why?
- 6) Name three days in your life that you feel especially grateful for.
- 7) What vacation are you most grateful for?
- 8) What, from this year, do you feel most grateful for?
- 9) What act of kindness has made the greatest difference in your life?
- 10) What song/piece of music are you most thankful for?

And now, consider gratitude from the other side...

- 1) What act of kindness which you performed are you most proud of?
- 2) What person's expression of gratitude to you meant the most to you?
- 3) What do you want your legacy to be? For what would you hope people remember you?
- 4) Do you feel that you are appreciated by others? Why or why not?
- 5) How specifically will you continue to be an agent of gratitude - expressing your gratitude as well as working to be someone appreciated by others?

Finally, in thinking about giving thanks as good stewardship, consider measuring your progress with respect to gratitude. Keep a journal and note how often you say, "Thank you," to someone; as well as note how often someone says, "Thank you," to you. Keep a record and see if indeed your "thank you quotient" continues to increase. And, while I am at, thank you, brothers and sisters in Christ, for all you do in service to God's holy name.

Puzzles Needed

If you have any unwanted puzzles around the house that you no longer need/want please consider donating them. Puzzles of 500 pieces or less are preferred. 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!



"Family Promise Thank You"

Thank you to everyone who helped make Family Promise Host Week a success. From people who helped prepare a meal, to van drivers, to folks who served as overnight hosts and those who donated food, your efforts are greatly appreciated! This program can only exist because of volunteers like YOU! Georgia Rehm



Dear Padre,

Who were the Essenes and what is their connection to the Dead Sea Scrolls? What are the Dead Sea Scrolls?

Signed, "Trying to Understand "

Dear "Trying to Understand,"



The Essenes were a Jewish sect that existed at the time of Jesus Christ. According to the Jewish historian, Josephus (37-100 A.D.), there were three major Jewish sects: the Pharisees, the Sadducees, and the Essenes. Because of the New Testament, we are somewhat familiar with the Pharisees and the Sadducees. The Pharisees were mainly in Palestine from the 2nd century B.C. to the 1st century A.D. They were extremely devoted to the Jewish law and observed ritual purity. In the New Testament they are often portrayed as "legalists." The Sadducees also were in existence from 2nd century B.C. to 1st century A.D. They were more the power brokers in Judaism. They hailed from the more elite Jewish families. The Sanhedrin (the Jewish court) consisted of Sadducees. They also served as the priests of the Temple. A distinguishing characteristic between Pharisees and Sadducees was their understanding of the afterlife. The Pharisees believed in the resurrection of the dead, whereas the Sadducees did not.

And then there is the third major Jewish group that Josephus mentions, the Essenes. Interestingly enough, this group is not mentioned in the gospels, nor anywhere else in the New Testament. Interest in this group increased when the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in 1947. Squirreled away in eleven caves on the northeast shore of the Dead Sea were a cache of ancient scrolls. It was an incredible archeological discovery. This collection not only contained all the books of the Old Testament (except for Esther), but it also contained scrolls about the community to whom the scrolls belonged. The scrolls were found near the site of Qumran, where an ascetic Jewish group once lived apart from the rest of society. They lived out in the wilderness awaiting the Messiah and final great war. Ultimately, the Romans destroyed the community in 68 A.D. Scholars believe that their library of scrolls was hidden in caves when the Romans were bearing down on the Qumran community, and these scrolls then comprise what are the Dead Sea Scrolls.

There has been some speculation that John the Baptist may have been a member of the Essenes, because he was out in the wilderness living a very ascetic lifestyle (eating locusts and wild honey). And since Jesus himself went out to John to be baptized, the interest in Qumran has been great. But, with that said, there has been many scholars who argue that John the Baptist and Jesus may have had nothing to do with Qumran. Surely, in addition to the three major Jewish sects Josephus mentions, there were many other smaller Jewish groups running around with their own understanding of the Messiah. John and Baptist and Jesus may have been doing their own thing apart from everyone else. But the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Qumran community does provide a lot of food for thought.

Signed, *Padre* I hope this helps. Thanks for your question.

Thank You

We received the following thank you from the ELCA

"Thank you for your gift of \$100.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response. With your Spirit-filled generosity you bring help and hope to families and communities reeling from disasters here in the United States and around the world. No matter the variety of disaster, no matter the variety of need, your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response make possible short- and long-term recovery and rebuilding of lives and livelihoods. Thank you for sharing the gifts God has activated in you!"



Council Minutes

Please Note: Council Minutes cannot be included in the newsletter until after Council has approved them. Our next newsletter will contain the minutes from the meetings in September & October.

The Praise Him Singers Fall Concert Series

The Praise Him Singers, an ecumenical choir dedicated to worshipping God through song, will be in concert on Thursday, November 7th and Thursday, November 14th. Please see the times and locations below. You may also visit their website at thepraisehimsingers.com or find them on facebook. Please join us. You will be blessed! Our theme this season is "ALWAYS PRAISING HIM."



Thursday, November 7th. Piano Prelude 6:45 PM. Concert 7:00pm.
Charlton United Methodist Church 5920 Jonestown Rd. Harrisburg

Thursday, November 14th. Piano Prelude 6:45 PM. Concert 7:00 pm.
Our Saviour Lutheran Church 420 North Progress Ave. Harrisburg

American Sign Language

A free-will offering will be gratefully accepted

Family Promise Art from the Heart

Friday, November 8, 2019

5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Dickinson College

8 North College Street

Holland Union Center

Carlisle, PA 17013

Family Promise will hold their 6th annual Art From The Heart Auction. It will be an amazing evening of great food, drink and fellowship as you find that perfect piece of art for your collection.

For more information feel free to contact their office at 717-737-1100. Each ticket purchase include entrance into the event, food and beverages. You will also receive a ticket for a chance to win door prizes.



Hospice of Central PA

Hospice of Central PA (HCP) will be having a *Peace for the Soul*, an Interfaith Service to be held on **Tuesday, November 12th** at Tree of Life Lutheran Church on Linglestown Rd. in Harrisburg. This is a free community event, a healing interfaith service to acknowledge and recognize Veterans and those who care about them. There will be Fellowship & Welcome at 4 pm followed by the Healing Interfaith Service at 4:15 pm. After the service there will be a dinner & community resources event. Services include HCP Family Services Staff, professional resources from the Lebanon VA Medical Center, Dauphin County Veterans Affairs Director and much more. For more information or to register please call 717-732-1000 for visit the events page at www.hospiceofcentralpa.org.



Poinsettias

You have the opportunity to order Christmas poinsettias to beautify God's House. This year the cost for the red or white poinsettias is \$10.00 for a 5+ bloom plant. Please look in the bulletins, starting this week, for the order form. If you have any questions, please call Connie Johnson at 717-652-4394 or the church office.



Remember: Deadline is November 24th.



Jansen Copeland	11/1
Kathy Sheetz	11/2
Mike Metzger	11/3
Mike Pitassi	11/8
Diane Gill	11/11
Max Reilly	11/11
Megan Neil	11/12
Eva Lang	11/14
Otis Martin	11/17
Bernie Kunz	11/22
Paige Fowler	11/25
Caleb Halfond	11/26
Linda Freed	11/28
Tiffany Crosby	11/29
Anthem Hanton	11/29

OUR SAVIOUR
FINANCIAL REPORT
September 30, 2019

ENVELOPES AND PLATE	\$	107,144.23
FUND RAISING	\$	24,380.62
FELLOWSHIP HALL RENTAL	\$	<u>2,425.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$	133,949.85

EXPENSE	\$	<u>144,947.68</u>
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DEFICIT	\$	<u>(10,997.83)</u>
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PNC ACCOUNTS:

CURRENT FUND	\$	14,417.83
MEMORIAL FUND	\$	28,108.75
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	\$	2,024.70
FUND RAISING	\$	825.83

THRIVENT ACCOUNTS

REGULAR MUTUALS	\$	75,653.86
SCHOLARSHIP MUTUALS	\$	118,374.21

NOVEMBER

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1	2 11 am - Women's AA Group in Library 2-6 pm - Private Event
3 - All Saints 8:30 am - Word & Sacrament 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:45 am - Word & Sacrament Social Ministry Council By-Law Review 1st Sunday Social	4 6 pm - Praise Him Singers Rehearsal 6:30 pm - Welcome Committee	5  Election Day	6 1 pm - Bible Study 6 pm - Mutual Ministry	7	8	9 11 am - Women's AA Group in Library
10 - Share the Word, Share the Harvest 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:45 am - Word & Sacrament Luncheon after worship	11 6 pm - Praise Him Singers Rehearsal 6:15 pm - Scholarship Board of Trustees 	12 5 pm - Martial Arts Class	13 5 pm - Martial Arts Class 6:30 pm - Council	14 5 pm - Martial Arts Class 7 pm - Praise Him Singers Concert	15	16 11 am - Women's AA Group in Library
17 - Pentecost 23 8:30 am - Word & Sacrament 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:45 am - Word & Sacrament Council By-Law Review newsletter deadline	18 6 pm - Praise Him Singers Rehearsal	19 1 pm - Bible Study 5 pm - Martial Arts Class	20	21 5 pm - Martial Arts Class	22	23 11 am - Women's AA Group in Library
24 - Christ the King 8:30 am - Word & Sacrament 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:45 am - Word & Sacrament	25	26 5 pm - Martial Arts Class	27 5 pm - Martial Arts Class 7 pm - Thanksgiving Eve Worship	28  office closed	29 office closed	30

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.