

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,

Each year in October, we remember the Reformation, when Martin Luther broke away from the Catholic Church. And one of the important issues at the time of the Reformation was getting back to the Word of God. You see, within the medieval Catholic Church, alongside Scriptures were the traditions of the Church. But even though these traditions (like the belief in purgatory) were authoritative for the Church, they had no Biblical basis. And so, Martin Luther emphasized the need to return to the word of God.

We are a people of the Word. We fashion our entire Christian lives around the Word of God. But some of us might wonder just how reliable is that Word. For keep in mind that before the invention of the printing press in the 15th century, the Word of God was transmitted by scribes copying the text by hand, letter by letter, word by word. Imagine how time consuming, how labor intensive that was. For nearly 1500 years this is how the New Testament was reproduced from one generation to the next. And, for 2500 years or even more, this is how the Old Testament was reproduced.

And because the Scriptures were copied by hand, errors inevitably crept into the text. Sometimes a portion of a Bible passage might be left out by a scribe as his eye jump from one word to a similar word. This is called haplography. Or, a scribe might unintentionally copy something twice. This is called dittography. Some errors were unintentional, while others were intentional, such that the scribe was changing the text on purpose.

Scholars have studied the many thousands of manuscripts that have come down through the ages in this process of copying the text. And these scholars have discovered tens of thousands of variants, which is a discrepancy in one manuscript when compared to another. There is actually a whole field in Biblical scholarship called textual criticism, which seeks to compare the many variations in the sundry manuscripts with the focus of trying to get back to the original reading of the text. It can be a painstaking endeavor, but well worth the effort. For if we have devoted our lives to living by what the Word of God says, should we not try to be certain about what the original text actually said?

But the amazing thing is that for all the various manuscripts that have been discovered, and for all the variants that appear in all those manuscripts, by far the preponderance of those variants have no bearing on the overall doctrines of the church. For the most part, the variants are minor in significance theologically. That is all very good news. In other words, the manuscripts have received a relatively faithful transmission over the many, many centuries. And that is nothing short of a miracle! The Word of God is most certainly reliable.

It is amazing that for the most part, give or take a letter here, give or take a word there, we are reading the exact same text as our ancestors in the faith, nearly 2000 and 3000 years ago. And just as the Word had relevance for their life then, so too, does this same Word have relevance for us today. The Word of God is miraculous, and it points generation after generation of human beings toward the God of our salvation. Thanks be to God for the faithful writers of the original words in Scriptures. Thanks be to God for the work of copyists over the centuries. Thanks be to God for the scholars who do textual criticism to assure us that God's Word is reliable. And thanks be to God for Martin Luther for reminding us to return to the Word of God for it is the source of our faith lives.

In Christ, *Pastor Joel Petruschke*



The Lessons for October 2019

October 6 — Pentecost 17

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4
Psalm 37:1-9
2 Timothy 1:1-14
Luke 17:5-10

October 13 — Pentecost 18

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c
Psalm 111
2 Timothy 2:8-15
Luke 17:11-19

October 20 — Pentecost 19

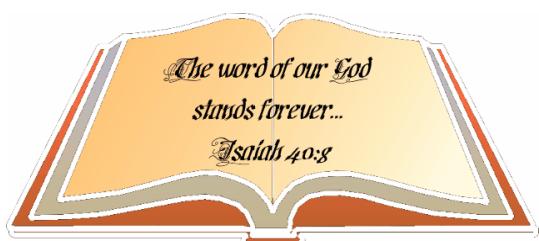
Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 121
2 Timothy 3:14 - 4:5
Luke 18:1-8

October 27 — Reformation Sunday

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 46
Romans 3:19-28
John 8:31-36

A Special Thank You

Dear Friends at Our Saviour,
Thank you for the magnificent send-off you gave me and for the generous gift card. I felt rather overwhelmed by all the well wishes and love. I have truly enjoyed being your church musician and working with both the adult and chimes choir. The beautiful photo of the choirs will hang in my office at Zion Lutheran in Newville, where I can see it and remember all the fun we had in rehearsals. Although I am sad to leave, I know I will see you soon; I intend to show up whenever I can to spend time with you, my friends, at Our Saviour.
Yours in Christ, Margaret & Abraham



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

As human beings, we tend to worship time. Many would even argue that time is our greatest commodity. A member recently asked whether we add an extra day or hour ever so often to the church calendar, that he had heard that somewhere. I was doing some research on that question, and I was unable to put my finger on such a phenomenon.

We do, of course, add an extra day every four years to our secular calendar, and such a year with 366 days is called a “leap year.” Being born myself on February 29th, I have a particular interest in the concept of leap year.

The concept of leap year started because it takes the earth 365½ days to orbit the sun, and because we typically have 365 days in a year, we have to add an extra day every four years to make up for that lost day. In truth, the earth doesn’t orbit the sun exactly in 365½ days, but the earth’s orbit is just shy of that figure by about 11 minutes. So neither 365 days nor 365½ days is a *true* solar year, that is the time it takes the earth to get around the sun. So, because the solar year is 11 minutes shy of 365½ days, the leap year is omitted three times every four hundred years. In other words, a century year cannot be a leap year unless it is divisible by 400. Thus 1700, 1800, and 1900 are not leap years, but 1600, 2000, and 2400 are leap years. In other words, I didn’t miss a birthday in 2000, but I would have missed an additional birthday if I was born a hundred years earlier or later. I already miss my birthday often enough; I don’t need to miss anymore.

This is all fascinating stuff, but what does it all mean? A couple of things. First, it is remarkable that we humans can calculate so precisely the earth’s orbit around the sun, and that we are then able to develop a method of keeping time so that our calendar doesn’t get out of whack. Indeed, if we didn’t have a leap year, in the span of a hundred years our calendar would be off by nearly a month (25 days), so instead of children getting out of school in early June, they would be getting out in July. And no child wants that. Second, this little exercise in time reminds us of the preciousness of time. Each of us only gets a certain about of orbits around the sun. Each of us only has a certain number of summers, falls, winters, and springs to experience. What will you do with your journey around the sun this year? How will you use that time to give honor and glory to God?

Finally, some of you may be wondering when I, as a leap year person, celebrate my birthday. That always seems to be question most people want to know. Growing up, my family and I usually celebrated on the weekend closest to February 28/March 1, because it was on the weekend when my friends and I would be free to celebrate my birthday. Now, I tell my wife and kids, that in the year when I don’t have a birthday, I still have a birth month, and so feel free to pamper me all of February.

Live Music Festival

Epiphany Lutheran Church (1100 Colonial Road in Harrisburg) will be having a live music festival in their outdoor pavilion (indoors if inclement weather) on **Saturday, October 5th** from 1-6 pm. The festival will feature performances by Split Rooster & Two Hour Delay. There will be games for all ages & homemade food for sale. A free will offering will be taken to benefit Lutheran Disaster Response.



A Word on Stewardship

At the GermanFest wrap-up meeting held on September 18th, we got into some discussion about our need for help from additional volunteers. So I was asked to offer a gentle reminder to the congregation of the importance of GermanFest to our congregation. First and foremost, the GermanFest committee wants to recognize everyone who helped out with the event this year. It was a very successful year with nearly 500 people coming through our doors and nearly 400 meals sold. This does not include the sales from the outside grill, nor the sales at the bake table, nor the proceeds from the silent auction. GermanFest not only helps to support our church budget, but it also allows us to showcase our congregation to the greater community, by extending our hospitality. So again, thank you to all that helped in preparation for GermanFest, as well as those who worked during the event. It was a very good day.

With that said, all the volunteers were pretty wiped out by the end of GermanFest. It is a lot of work. And so, I was asked to encourage all our members to keep the date of GermanFest sacred on the calendar. As we probably know, GermanFest always falls on the Saturday after Labor Day. Next year, GermanFest will fall on September 12th. So, if at all possible, please refrain from scheduling other events on that day, because our congregation would really appreciate all the help we can get.

In addition to GermanFest, we also need help for our candy egg project. I know none of us wants to be thinking about that next fundraiser, particularly after just finishing up GermanFest. But, our candy egg project also requires a great amount of effort to be successful. So as we approach the egg making season in the New Year, please also plan to help out by serving on one of the egg making teams, as well as help out by selling our eggs.

I bring all this up in this stewardship article, because I would remind us all that in addition to offering our financial resources to the church, we are called also to offer our time and energy. Serving together not only benefits others and our congregation, but it also provides great comradery for us as individuals. We are blessed with a great congregation of members, but we need to care for one another, by helping each other carry the workload together. No segment of the body of Christ should be expected to shoulder the entire burden. So please do consider how you can get involved. And thanks again for being part of the body of Christ here at Our Saviour.

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 Host Week”

The next host week for Family Promise is the **week of October 20th**, and will be held here at Our Saviour. Georgia Rehm from Good Shepherd in Paxtang is coordinating the volunteers. Our Saviour will support the program as strongly as it always has. With that said, volunteers are encouraged to sign-up to volunteer by contacting Georgia Rehm at 717-460-4706. Please continue to keep this vital ministry in your prayers. Thank you. Sara Smith.



Dear Padre,

While the committee working on the Constitution and Bylaws has been meeting, a question emerged. What is *The Book of Concord*? In Chapter Two, Section 6, of the Church Constitution entitled “Confession of Faith,” it states, “This congregation accepts the confessional writings in *The Book of Concord...*” Could you please explain what this book is?



Signed, The Members of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee

Dear Committee,

The Book of Concord is similar to the Apostles’ Creed, Nicene Creed, and Athanasian Creed. But whereas these three comprise what are called the “ecumenical creeds,” *The Book of Concord* is a “particular creed.” Ecumenical creeds are those statements of faith accepted by various Christian denominations, such as Catholicism, Anglicism, and Lutheranism. One could also call them the “Christian creeds.”

Now, in addition to ecumenical creeds, some denominations have other writings that serve as their particular statements of faith. For example, the confessional writings of the Presbyterian Church are contained in the book entitled *The Westminster Confession of Faith*. The Lutheran confessions are contained in *The Book of Concord*.

The Book of Concord contains a number of writings by Martin Luther and Philip Melanchthon, including “The Small Catechism,” “The Large Catechism,” so on and so forth. A writing of particular importance in the book is “The Augsburg Confession.” This writing was solicited by Luther’s patron, the elector of Saxony (a state in Germany). He asked Luther and other theologians in Wittenberg (a city in Saxony) to prepare an account of the beliefs and practices of the churches in his land. This writing was then presented to Emperor Charles V at an imperial diet (meeting) in Augsburg, Germany. At the time, the Emperor was trying to bring unification to his divided empire, because he was dealing with the outside threat posed by the Turks. “The Augsburg Confession” gave definition to the Reformation movement. The writing was approved and the Lutheran Church was born.

I hope this answers your question. Thanks for asking.

Signed, *Padre*

Volunteers Needed To Help Working Families With Tax Preparation

Volunteers are needed to offer free tax preparation to help working families receive the federal and state tax credits they are eligible for. The service is offered through the *Money in Your Pocket* program, a community collaboration of organizations committed to the economic stability of local families.



Volunteers are also needed to serve as greeters (no tax preparing required for this position). **No previous experience is required and training is provided.** Scheduling is flexible.

For those interested in learning more, several informational sessions will be held throughout the Capital Region during October and November. For more information about the program, contact Heidi Neuhaus at 717-724-4055 or email hneuhaus@uwcr.org.

Council Minutes

**Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Saviour
Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting
Wednesday, June 12th, 2019**

Members Present: Pastor Joel Petruschke, President John Zimmerman, Vice President Herb Logan, Nancy Pinko, Arno Miller, Joan Bateman, Anneke Fleming, Jessica Logan

Members Absent: Treasurer Jim Lubrecht, Andrea Faber, Kathy Sheetz

Call to Order: At 6:38pm, with a quorum of members, Pastor Joel began the meeting with a short devotion and prayer.

Minutes: A motion was made by Arno Miller, seconded by Nancy Pinko, to approve the minutes of the May 8th meeting. Without objection, the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Jim Lubrecht was absent. The Council reviewed the report. A question was asked as to where the money for Pastor Joel's continuing ed. money came from. Someone will follow up with Jim to have this answered. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Nancy Pinko. Herb Logan seconded. Without objection, the motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education - No report.

Fundraising - No report. Pastor Joel noted that the GermanFest Committee met on 6/11/19. They have decided to shorten the hours for the event. GermanFest will be held on Sept. 7th from 11am-4pm.

Property - Report attached and made a part of the record. Nancy Pinko has a layout for an address for the front sign coming soon. We still need to change the front door code. The new code will be shared with the congregation. Herb Logan continues to mow. There will be someone filling in for him on a few occasions. This individual will be given a key to the shed.

Welcome - No report. The committee continues to work on getting the new church directory completed. The Father's Day Pancake Breakfast will take place this Sunday, June 16th, after the service at 9am.

Worship and Music - No report. Pastor reported the committee has been discussing finding a way to hold blended services. They are discussing what this would look like for our church. The committee plans to look at the church calendar and see when during the year this type of service would be most appropriate.

Social Ministry - Report attached and made part of the record. Reminder that the "Lunch Bunch" will be meeting on 6/29 at Olive Garden.

Stewardship - No report.

Pastor's Report - Report attached and made a part of the record. Pastor highlighted a few items. Pastor noted that he plans to hold a bible study after the 9am service each Sunday during the summer.

Thank you to Alice Lubrecht for attending the Synod Assembly.

Thank you to the Neil family for helping to clean the church.

Thank you to John Zimmerman and Daniel Logan for helping with the Lily Cross.

Pastor also introduced the Council to a program called R3 (reFORM, reNEW, reVISION) which would act as a form of a Congregational Renewal. Pastor just asked that we might look into the program on our own time and consider its benefits. This might be something for the Stewardship Committee to take on.

A motion to approve all committee reports was made by Arno Miller. The motion was seconded by Joan Bateman. Without objection, the motion carried.

Old Business:

John Zimmerman made a few comments on the Memorial Fund Policy and wish-list. The policy is still being revised.

The Scholarship BOT is still working hard to get a Scholarship Policy together.

Thank you to Nancy Pinko for her work on getting bids for the cost of mowing and a shed.

New Business:

A note will be added to the newsletter to update the list of committee leaders.

Community calendar is still to be placed in the Fellowship Hall.

Hope Bowling will be contacted to decide what will be done with the Baptismal Font that was given to the church.

A request was made to move Margaret's office into the Old Fellowship Hall/Trinity Room and move some of the items in the Old Fellowship Hall/Trinity Room out and into the old music room/Margaret's office. This would give her more space for choir rehearsals.

A motion was made by John Zimmerman for movement of storage in Old Fellowship Hall/Trinity Room to the Music Room. The Music room/Margaret's office would relocate to the Old Fellowship Hall/Trinity Room. Nancy Pinko seconded this motion. Without objection the motion carried.

We are looking to move the fridge from the Old Fellowship Hall/Trinity Room to the electrical closet. This is to be researched.

Herb Logan changed the timer on the lights in the parking lot to better fit the summer daylight hours.

It was noted that the Martial Arts program might need to be canceled or relocated during our host week for Family Promise.

The Council will not meet in the month of July. During the month of August, we will need to begin to choose new Council members.

Next formal meeting will be held on Sept. 11, 2019 at 6:30pm at the church.

A motion to adjourn was made by Nancy Pinko and seconded by John Zimmerman.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Logan





Eva Farling	10/6
David Shertzer	10/11
Kallie Beachtel	10/12
Tyler Cristaldi	10/13
Nadine Martin	10/14
Anneke Fleming	10/16
Jamie Barr	10/17
Stephen Flournoy	10/17
Ashleigh Gill	10/21
Malane Digon	10/22
Rickey Ecklund	10/22
George Schreffler, III	10/24
Larry Wilt	10/24
Madeline Schreffler	10/27
James Lubrecht	10/28
Ada Heberle	10/31

GermanFest Wrap-Up

GermanFest has come & gone. We had 491 people come through our doors and we served 396 dinners. Overall another successful GermanFest. **Thank you** to all the volunteers and attendees.



Our New Council Members for 2019-2020

At our congregational meeting in September Brad Neil & Marlee Zimmerman have agreed to become council members. We thank them, and all our current council members, for their willingness to serve Our Saviour. **Thank you** also to Joan Bateman & Nancy Pinko for their faithful years of service as their council terms have come to an end. Our officers are:

President - John Zimmerman
Vice-President - Herb Logan
Treasurer - Jim Lubrecht
Secretary - Jessica Logan



Pet Blessing on October 6th.

It is time again to have your pets blessed. We will meet on Sunday, October 6th, at 3:00 pm in the church pavilion. There will be doggie and kitty treats for our four-legged friends. Invite your neighbors and their pets.



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.



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1 5 pm - Martial Arts Class	2	3 Barb out of the office 5 pm - Martial Arts Class	4	5
6 - Pentecost 17 8:30 am - Word & Sacrament 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:45 am - Word & Sacrament 1st Sunday Social 12-3 pm - Private Event 3 pm - Pet Blessing	7 6:30 pm - Praise Him Singers Rehearsal 6:30 pm - Welcome Committee	8 5 pm - Martial Arts Class	9 1:00 pm - Bible Study	10 5 pm - Martial Arts Class	11	12 9 am-5 pm - Altrusa 11 am - Women's AA Group in Library
13 - Pentecost 18 8:30 am - Word & Sacrament 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:45 am - Word & Sacrament	14 6 pm - Praise Him Singers Rehearsal 6:15 pm - Scholarship Board of Trustees	15 5 pm - Martial Arts Class	16 7 pm - Worship & Music	17 Barb out of the office 5 pm - Martial Arts Class	18	19 11 am - Women's AA Group in Library
20 - Pentecost 19 8:30 am - Service of Healing 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:45 am - Service of Healing newsletter deadline Family Promise host	21 6 pm - Praise Him Singers Rehearsal	22	23 1:00 pm - Bible Study	24	25	26 11 am - Women's AA Group in Library
27 - Reformation 8:30 am - Word & Sacrament 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:45 am - Word & Sacrament	28 6 pm - Praise Him Singers Rehearsal	29 5 pm - Martial Arts Class	30	31 5 pm - Martial Arts Class		

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

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.