

Good News

June 2019



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

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As you may know, we have been surveying the congregation about whether we should have one worship service during the summer. Even as I write this article, the Worship and Music Committee is just compiling the responses we received from the members regarding that survey.

There are pros and cons to moving to one service for the summer; the Worship and Music Committee has discussed those pros and cons. Moving to one service would allow our congregation membership to worship together as one body. Indeed, many members have shared with me that they don't know everyone in the congregation, because we have two separate worship times. Those who worship at the early service don't necessarily have a chance to meet and interact with those at the later service, and vice versa. As one who is at both services each Sunday, I have not appreciated this sense of "two congregations" as much as I should. So, worshipping together at one service would bring a greater unity to our membership.

Worshipping together may also lend itself to a more vibrant sense of worship. Let's face it, when there are more people together in worship, there is a greater energy in the room. Not that a larger assembly is any more a sense of "church" than a smaller assembly. "Where two or three are gathered in my name," so says our Lord, "I am there among them." For some, a smaller gathering offers a more meditative worship experience. So numbers should not matter so much in this regard. But it should be said that whether we have one or two services, when members of the body are missing (choosing not to attend either service), then our praise of God is diminished.

Of course, worshipping together at one service would require some flexibility from everyone. For instance, the chosen time for worship may not be our preferred time of worship. Maybe instead of worshipping at 8:30am and 10:00am, we move to a time in between, say at 9:00am. And worshipping together may also require us to be flexible with regards to where we sit in church. It may so happen that when we enter worship, we find someone sitting where we usually do. And so, we need to accept graciously that fact and find another seat.

Sometime back, Our Saviour Lutheran did try having only one service during the summer. The result was that the attendance dropped by about 20 people each Sunday. Why this is the case, I do not know. But, this is what we would hope to avoid if we were to move to one service this summer.

For me, I see this as a pastoral issue. Although, I see the advantages of moving to one service in the summer, I would much rather we stay with two services rather than lose a significant portion of our worshipping membership by going to one service. In short, it makes very little difference to me personally whether I conduct one or two services on a Sunday morning.

With that said, with the understanding that I do want to be sensitive to the needs of our members, I plan to follow up with those who noted in the survey that they would not want to move to one service. I also plan to follow up with those who are agreeable to one service, but would not attend service other than their preferred time. If it is such that most everyone wants one service, such that that would be the direction we would go, I don't want to exclude those who feel otherwise. Like I said, this is a pastoral issue.

Stay tuned. Once the Worship and Music Committee has had a chance to discuss the results of the survey, and if a recommendation to move to one service is approved by both the committee and church council, we will get word to the congregation. Thanks for your understanding of this matter. If you have questions please see me.



In Christ,

Pastor Joel Petruschke

The Lessons for June 2019

June 2 — Easter 7

Acts 16:16-34

Psalms 97

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

John 21:1-19

June 9 — Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21

Psalms 104:24-34, 35b

Romans 8:14-17

John 14:8-17, 25-27

June 16 — Holy Trinity

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

Psalms 8

Romans 5:1-5

John 16:12-15

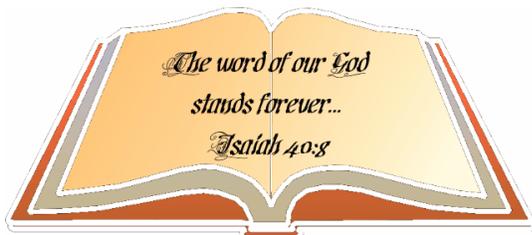
June 23 — Pentecost 2

Isaiah 65:1-9

Psalms 22:19-28

Galatians 3:23-29

Luke 8:26-39



Have You Seen These?

After last year's GermanFest 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

Let's talk about hymns!

Music serves as a means of praising and glorifying God during our worship services. Many Psalms speak of singing and playing instruments to express joy and give glory to God.

Our worship services are planned out so that the music complements the readings and Psalms. Margaret selects hymns, anthems, and organ music to support and elucidate the readings and Psalm of the day. She programs the music for an entire church season (she is currently working on Pentecost) so she and the choirs can learn the music in advance.

We are currently using the blue hymnal, *With One Voice (WOV)*. This hymnal was originally published to "stand beside the principal worship book" and "supplement its contents," as stated in the Introduction on page 4 of *WOV*. This presents a challenge when programming for an entire church season. There are fewer hymns included. For example, *WOV* contains only nine Easter hymns.

Our Saviour plans to purchase One License, which grants permission to copy and use music from many publishers for congregational singing. This will provide us with a larger body of music from which to choose hymns and anthems for our worship services. It will also give us the opportunity to include copied hymns in the bulletin, thereby eliminating switching back and forth between hymnals.

Thank you to the members of Our Saviour who have taken to the time to ask about or comment on the music used in our worship services.

Do you have a favorite hymn?

Please use the cards provided in the narthex to drop a note in Margaret's mailbox (one hymn per card, please). If the hymn is not in one of our current hymnals, please provide some direction as to where it may be found, or share a copy. Please include your name so Margaret can let you know when your favorite hymn will be sung. It may take some time for your selection to be included in a service, as it needs to fit with the readings and Psalm of the day.

Hope Bowling, chair

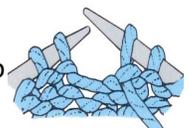
Worship and Music Committee

The Worship and Music Committee oversees the many facets of worship services at Our Saviour Lutheran Church, including music, choir, bulletins, hymnals, acolytes, altar guild, and worship service schedules.

Spiritual Stitches Ministry Meetings Have Begun

The Spiritual Stitches Ministry has begun for 2019 and we will continue to meet 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. Please help yourself. Andrea Faber, Spiritual Stitches Ministry Coordinator



A Word on Stewardship

In this article on stewardship, I want us to consider the importance of “story” in our lives. Everyone has a “story” by which they live their life. Now I am not talking about your life’s story, that story that says, “You were born on such and such a date, in such and such a town. You went to such and such a high school. You worked at such and such a job. You married such and such a person, and started a family. So on and so forth.” That is our life’s story; that story eventually finds its way into our personal obituary. This is not what I am referring to. No, what I am talking about is that each of us has a guiding “story” that shapes *how* we live our life. As an aside, it would be great if a person’s guiding “story” was noted within his or her life story, such as in their obituary.

Now, for some, their “story” is that all of life is an accident. There is no rhyme or reason for why they are here. And so, they make of life what they will while they have their being. For others, their “story” is one of faith in a Creator who has made humanity and all creation for a purpose. There is a plan, an endgame to all of life. And so, these persons live their lives in a different fashion. And, between these two basic “stories” there are a whole host of permutations.

It is said that “story” is everything. Indeed, our mind does not consist of “words,” but “metaphors” that are strung together to make a story. Consider the dreams we have when asleep. We don’t dream “words,” but “images” which our minds then connect to create narratives. The Christian author Len Sweet calls this end product of the mind “narraphor.” Yes, “story” is everything.

Annette Simmons, in her book *The Story Factor*, says that when we are trying to persuade people to a certain viewpoint, we do so by trying to convince the other with our story. Think about how advertising works. Commercials are not about selling us a product, as much as selling us a story, by which we are moved emotionally to buy a product. Simmons writes, “Telling a meaningful story means inspiring your listeners...to reach the same conclusions you have reached and decide *for themselves* to believe what you say and do what you what them to do. People value their own conclusions more highly than yours. They will only have faith in a story that has become real for them personally. Once people make your story, *their* story, you have tapped into the powerful force of faith” (*The Story Factor*, p. 3).

Brothers and sisters in Christ, our “story” is the story of Jesus Christ. This is the story that guides our life. It is the story of a Jewish carpenter who was born of a virgin, who ministered to people in ancient Palestine, who suffered death on a cross, and who rose again. This story is captured succinctly in our creeds. Why this story has come to be our guiding story is because someone (maybe many “someones”) shared this story with us and embodied its truth in his or her life. Because the gospel story was enflashed by persons who then blessed us, we now live this story ourselves. And so, stewardship of this story is now our responsibility.

Jesus lives in us. His gospel story is our guiding story. As such, Jesus not only lives in us, but through us, that through our witness others may come to receive the gospel story as their guiding story. Yes, each of us has his or her own life’s story that will find its way into the obituaries one day, but the hope is that it can be said in those life’s stories, that we were guided by the gospel story, and that through us others were convinced themselves of the gospel story, too.

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.



Dear Padre,

I have some old Bibles that are not in good enough repair so as to be of use to any one, so I can't in good conscious donate them to the church. So, how does one go about disposing Bibles? Just throwing them out with the trash doesn't seem appropriate.

Signed, "Conscientious about the care of God's Word"

Dear "Conscientious,"

Your question is good one. And after doing a little research (i.e. calling the synod office), I was told that one can bury, or burn, or recycle old Bibles. There is actually a brief liturgy that can be used when disposing of Bibles, which can be found on the ELCA's website. The link is as follows:

<http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/>

[An Order for the Disposal of Deteriorating Bibles.pdf?_ga=2.265653519.1206431610.1557931339-1111146163.1494271266](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/An%20Order%20for%20the%20Disposal%20of%20Deteriorating%20Bibles.pdf?_ga=2.265653519.1206431610.1557931339-1111146163.1494271266)

Note, the liturgy from this website is noted for specific use when recycling Bibles, but it could be nuanced when burying or burning Bibles. The liturgy says that "The pages once read, now brittle and yellowing, are now returned for renewal. May they make new paper on which truth, beauty, and joy may be known." We can see how those words could also speak to burned or buried Bibles, as they would be "recycled" by the earth and utilized by creation to grow new trees, from which paper would be made.

It may seem strange to bury or burn Bibles, but keeping in mind that they are "re-used" then by creation may help us appreciate these means of disposing God's Word. At the dawn of creation, through God's Word all things came into being. God's Word (in Scripture) returns to God's good earth to be re-created once more.

Thanks for your question.

Signed, *Padre*



Did You Miss Your Photo Opportunity?

For those people that were not available on the dates that we had our photos taken you do have the option to go to one of these 2 churches to have you photos taken. The 2 churches are:

St. John's United Church of Christ, 161 North Main Street, Red Lion

Saturday, June 1

Church Code is PA847

Calvary Lutheran Church, 208 Woods Drive, Mechanicsburg

Friday, June 7 and Saturday, June 8

Church Code is PA846

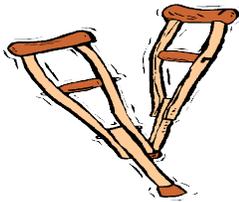


To schedule your photography appointment online, simply go to www.ucdir.com, click on schedule your photography session on the right side, enter the code above relative to either St. John's UCC or Calvary Lutheran as noted above. The password field is photos - just as it was for us.

Should you go on-line and schedule a time, please let Nadine Martin know. Also, if you would like help in scheduling Nadine is happy to assist you. You may contact her on her cell at 717-497-1200.

Medical Equipment “Loan Closet”

Dauphin County has a medical equipment “loan closet” that is designed to allow Dauphin County senior citizens to borrow (*free of charge*) medical equipment/supplies such as wheelchairs, walkers, canes, crutches, portable toilets, shower chairs, and incontinent supplies (excluding hospital beds and scooters). Because such medical equipment and supplies are expensive and often needed for only a short term, their loan closet helps those in need of the



necessities that they may not otherwise be able to afford. The Agency is committed to replenishing their loan closet. All items are donated by Agency consumers or their family members, or people from the community who learn about this program. Donating to the Agency’s loan closet will not only assist in maintaining this free service but will allow them to better serve Dauphin County senior citizens in the rendering of patient care. If you have any of these items around your house or if you know of someone who does, you may contact the Dauphin County Area Agency on Aging at 717-780-6130 to donate these items. Thank you.



Just a Reminder

Our next edition of the newsletter will be our summer combined issue for July & August! The deadline for submission of items to be included in that edition will be Sunday, June 16th.



Silent Auction Items Are Being Collected

Please place your new or gently used items in the Silent Auction box near the water fountain. Please place your name & value of each item. If you would like to package your item for display, that would be wonderful - but it’s not required. Thanks!

Dawne Veet, Silent Auction Chair



Save the Date

We will again be hosting Family Promise families beginning on June 23 for one week. Sign up sheets will be in the Narthex. Please consider helping with this important ministry.

Thank you. Sara Smith



Thank You!

The Welcome Committee would like to thank everyone who participated in our 2 picture taking days. We appreciated your understanding as we were running late at times, hopefully it wasn’t too much of an inconvenience of your time.

Thank you, Welcome Committee



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 April council minutes that were approved at the May meeting now appears here, in the June newsletter.

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

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

Members Absent: None.

Call to Order: All members present, President Zimmerman called the meeting to Order at 6:32 p.m. Pastor Joel offered a brief explanation and history of the palms for Palm Sunday, followed by prayer.

Organist Margaret Quintanar, being present, was invited to speak. Margaret presented her view to allow her to continue bringing her dogs into the church. Unbeknown to the current Council members, Margaret revealed she had been given permission by others to do this, only to then be informed she could not. Council apologized to Margaret for the confusion and committed to formulating a policy on pets in the building. Margaret left the meeting and the subject was tabled to be considered under New Business.

Minutes: A motion was made by Arno Miller, seconded by Joan Bateman, to approve the minutes of March 12. Without objection the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Jim Lubrecht high-lighted the Treasurer's report. Pastor's Education Expense to be added separately in Excel to create a better audit trail. All invoices for AdVoz and snow removal to date have been paid; therefore, the current reports are an accurate reflection of our finances. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Nancy Pinko, seconded by Jessica Logan. Without objection the motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education – Jim Lubrecht reported that the Scholarship Policy group will meet again Monday, April 15.

Fundraising – Egg-making will finish this week.

Property –Property Committee report attached and made part of the record. Paxton Ministries has begun cleaning the church. A motion was made by Anneke Fleming, seconded by Kathy Sheetz, to approve the purchase of a Roomba to be used in the Sanctuary for vacuuming the carpet. Without objection the motion carried, with the understanding that Nancy will inquire if a 10% military discount would apply, in addition to other discounts already recognized.

Center City Building Services March 19 bid for mowing and snow removal attached. The bid was tabled awaiting two more bids from other companies.

Welcome – Pastor reported that Welcome Committee will meet May 1. Plans for the new church directory are moving forward. Universal Church Directory staff will be taking photographs Monday, May 13, between 2 and 8:30 p.m. Members are encouraged to sign up, even if they do not want to purchase their photographs. They will still receive a free 8 x 10, their photograph will be in the directory and they will receive a copy of the directory. Purchases are not required. For those who do not participate but want to be included in the directory and receive a directory, the church will incur a \$10 fee. Therefore, it's important to have the company take the photographs.

The Committee continues to plan the June Fathers' Day Pancake Breakfast.

Worship and Music – Pastor reported that Worship and Music Committee will meet after Easter. We have received a gift of a Baptismal Font from the former Zion Lutheran Church in Penbrook. The Committee will discuss what is to be done with it at their meeting. John emphasized that if it is not to be utilized we need to let it go, as storage is an issue.

Social Ministry – Report attached and made part of the record. Pet Collection of items for donation continues through Lent.

Stewardship - No report.

Pastor's Report – Attached and made part of the record. Pastor hi-lighted a few items. Jim Lubrecht will be attending the Synod Conference June 6-8.

Jansen Copeland, who is to be baptized May 5, is the great grandson of our deceased member James Griffith. Kathy Sheetz is organizing the April 28th luncheon for the Shadels. Sign up sheets are in the Narthex. Chicken, sausage and ribs will be offered, along with side dishes donated by members. Anneke offered a basket to be used for cards.

Russ Faber is looking into a black light to be focused on the chalk painting in the Fellowship Hall.

New Business:

Council agreed to meet for a Dutch Treat dinner meeting at Peachtree Restaurant, Wednesday, May 8, beginning at **6:00 p.m.** Andrea will make a reservation.

John reported that Council minutes, once approved, will be placed in a binder that will be put in the Narthex for members to access.

Pastor relayed the request of the Martial Arts group using our facility to store 36 puzzle mats. Since storage was a concern originally, when the group first requested to use our facility, Pastor was asked to let the group know it is not possible.

John donated a Zeki iPad to be used to enhance our security system. He shared a video showing a non-member of OSL gaining access to the church using the keypad. It was agreed that the code will be changed, and all members notified. Also, members will be informed that the code should not be shared with non-members. Long-term renters will be provided a key, which is not to be duplicated. Short-term renters will be provided access by a member.

John announced the creation of a Special Committee, to be chaired by Carol Ranck, to recommend updates to our Constitution and By Laws. Pastor was asked to relay the information he has collected on this subject to Carol. Recommendations by others should also be forwarded to Carol.

Council discussed the issue of Margaret bringing her dogs into the church. With differing opinions and in order to provide clear direction for Margaret and others, Council agreed that her dogs should not be brought into the building. John will relay this to Margaret, emphasizing our apology for the confusion and expressing the concerns of Council. Jim, in the meantime, will inquire of our insurance carrier regarding liability and Andrea will draft a pet policy for consideration at the May meeting. The policy will focus on accommodating those with special needs, whether required by law or otherwise.

Leaders List to be updated. Pastor will check with Committees and others as to who should be listed. Andrea will be sure Barb has the document in her computer to maintain.

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

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Faber, Council Secretary

Special Congregational Meeting

We will be having a special congregational meeting on Sunday, June 2nd, in between our 2 services. The sole purpose of this meeting is to discuss the purchase of a shed for the church. Any questions, please call the church office.



Message from Council President:

Did you know that our church's Bylaws are over 10 years old? Our Constitution is almost 7 years old? We have had changes occur over the years and it's time to "review" and "refresh" these two governing tools of our church. As President I have appointed a Bylaws Committee. The purpose of the Committee is to review both the Constitution and Bylaws and prepare any amendments for Council and the Congregation. Carol Ranck has agreed to serve as chairperson with support from Donna Miller, Daniel Logan, and Mike Balas.

As part of the process, I am asking that each Council member, committee chairperson review the documents and provide any recommendations, questions, proposed language or suggestions directly to Carol. Members of the Congregation are welcome to do the same. Please use her mail slot at the church or her home email at cscanck@comcast.net. All comments should be submitted by June 25, 2019.

Peace,
John Zimmerman
OSL Council President



Tessa Minnich	6/1
Jenna Neil	6/3
Kamden Fowler	6/4
Lauren Redman	6/12
Jaxon Shertzer	6/13
Danyelle Crosby	6/14
Michael Zart	6/14
Arno Miller	6/16
Peter Ingavo	6/20
Margaret Ingavo	6/21
Connie Johnson	6/25
Donna Zimmerman	6/27
Robert Trea	6/28
Joshua Flournoy	6/29





Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1
2 - Easter 7 8:30 am - Word & Sacrament 9:30 am - Special Congregational Meeting 10:45 am - Word & Sacrament 1st Sunday Social	3 1 pm - Worship & Music Committee 6:30 pm - Welcome Committee	4	5 10 am - Bible Study 7 pm - Choir	6 Synod Assembly @Messiah College begins Pastor out of the office	7 Synod Assembly @Messiah College	8 Synod Assembly @Messiah College concludes 1-10 pm - Private Event
9 – Pentecost 8:30 am - Word & Sacrament 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:45 am - Word & Sacrament	10 6 pm - Scholarship Board of Trustees Meeting	11 6:30 pm - GermanFest Meeting	12 6:30 pm - Council	13 Barb on vacation ----->	14	15
16 - Holy Trinity  8:30 am - Word & Sacrament 10:00 am - Word & Sacrament newsletter deadline Pancake Breakfast	17 6 pm - Scholarship Board of Trustees Meeting	18	19 Pastor out of town ----->	20	21	22
23 - Pentecost 2 8:30 am - Word & Sacrament 10:00 am - Word & Sacrament	24	25 6 pm - Spiritual Stitches	26	27	28	29 12 noon - Lunch Bunch @Olive Garden
30 - Pentecost 3 8:30 am - Word & Sacrament 10:00 am - Word & Sacrament						

The Evangelical Lutheran
CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR
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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.

Summer Worship starting June 16th

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

Web Site: www.oslutheranharrisburg.org



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.