

Good News

September 2019



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

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As Church Council President, it is with regret that I write to inform you, the members of Our Saviour, that our Music Director Margaret Quintanar has resigned from her position. She has faithfully served our congregation for a little over five years. Her presence and that of her husband Abraham and daughter Marielena will be sadly missed.

Margaret has graced our congregation in numerous ways over the years. In addition to playing the organ for worship each Sunday, she has facilitated the Adult Choir. She also introduced the Chimes Choir into worship, which further served to enhance our praise of God. Throughout the church year (particularly on Christmas Eve, Easter, and during the summer), she has incorporated the musical talents of our members into our worship life; several members have offered their gifts of singing and playing an instrument. Margaret has also sought to expand our worship experience by introducing liturgical dance and the boom whackers. The presence of the harpsichord in worship had also been well-received. Margaret has played at funerals when we have had to say “goodbye” to our loved ones. She has played at weddings when couples have joined their lives in matrimony. She has played at joint services when we have gathered with our sisters and brothers from Zion and Good Shepherd. Along with these things, Margaret has also shared her craft talents at the time of GermanFest, teaching others how to make German etched eggs and German stars. She has participated in Prayer Shawl (now Spiritual Stitches) and other activities in the life of the church. She and her family have been a vital part of our church family.

Although we are sad to see Margaret leave, we pray that her new position will be a blessing to her. She will be serving as Music Director at Zion Lutheran in Newville. Margaret’s last Sunday with us will be September 15th. We hope you will join on this Sunday as we wish Margaret and her family “Farewell and Godspeed.” We will have one service that Sunday at 10:00am. Following worship, we will gather in the narthex for refreshments and fellowship.

We thank you, Margaret, for your years of service here with us. You have filled our worship space with music. You have filled our hearts with joy. All of it has been done to give honor and glory to God. We could ask little more from you. So again, thank you.

In Christ, *John Zimmerman, Church Council President*



The Lessons for September 2019

September 1 — Pentecost 12

Proverbs 25:6-7
Psalm 112
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
Luke 14:1, 7-14

September 8 — Pentecost 13

Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Psalm 1
Philemon 1-21
Luke 14:25-33

September 15 — Pentecost 14

Exodus 32:7-14
Psalm 51:1-10
1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15:1-10

September 22 — Pentecost 15

Amos 8:4-7
Psalm 113
1 Timothy 2:1-7
Luke 16:1-13

September 29 — Michael and All Angels

Daniel 10:10-14; 12:1-3
Psalm 103:1-5, 20-22
Revelation 12:7-12
Luke 10:17-20



Worship Times for September

Please make a note:

On September 1st we will have 1 worship at 9am.

On September 8th (day after GermanFest) we will have 1 worship at 10am.

On September 15th we will again have 1 worship at 10am followed by a "Farewell Fellowship" for Margaret.

On September 22nd **we will resume our regular worship times of 8:30am and 10:45am.** In between our worships we will be having our Annual Congregational Meeting.

On September 29th Sunday School resumes at 9:30am.



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

As apparent from the lead article in this newsletter, Our Saviour Lutheran is going to be in a time of transition. With the departure of Margaret as our Music Director, things will be in flux. That being said, we are asking the congregation to be patient and understanding during this time.

In the short term, we will have to make do with substitute organists. Hopefully, we can find someone that will substitute long term until the time we would hire a new Music Director. But, that may not be the case. We might have various persons substituting over a series of weeks. And so, we will have to realize that not everyone plays the organ the same way. Furthermore, there may be some Sundays when we are unable to secure an organist, which might mean we sing *a cappella*, that is without musical accompaniment. Some of the liturgy, which is normally sung, may even have to be spoken. We may also have to go without an Adult Choir and Chimes Choir for a while. So again, please bear with us.

In order to hire a new Music Director, a search committee will be formed. This search committee will have to review the job description for the position. They will have to generate questions for the interview process. They will have to advertise for the position. Once names of candidates are received, they will have to interview said candidates, check references, and recommend a specific candidate to council. All of this will take some time.

Change is never easy. Change creates a time when we exist in the unknown, between what was and what will be. But the witness from Scripture is that in those times of change, God is there. Think about when Adam and Eve left the Garden of Eden, God was still with them. Think about when God called Abram to go to a land that God would show him, God was still with him. Think about when the disciples were commissioned by Jesus to go and baptize, God promised to be with them. Great change faced all of these persons, but God was still there.

As a congregation we are in a time of transition. But it is not a time without hope and promise. It just requires of us a little patience, a little understanding, and a little faith. God will provide, as God has provided in the past. Of that, we can be sure.

Spiritual Stitches

Our Spiritual Stitches Ministry began eleven years ago this fall. We began making prayer shawls, but have evolved to include other items – lap covers, chemo caps and mini shawls to encourage prayer. These items can be found on a display in the Narthex and are for anyone who is in need, whether a church member or not. Please help yourself.



We will hold our last meeting of 2019 in the church Tuesday, September 17th, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Members continue to create items during the winter. A huge **THANK YOU** to all who came out this year. Andrea Faber, Coordinator

Congregational Meeting

Please plan to attend the congregational meeting scheduled for Sunday, September 22nd between worship services starting at 9:30am. Mark your calendars! At this meeting we will have our election of new council members & handle other business.



A Word on Stewardship

What did you do over the summer? It is a question that is often asked of children returning to school. It is a question that I often ask our shut-ins and other members when I visit them toward the end of the season. Summer is sort of that magical time of the year when “things” happen. Many folks get busy outside, whether it is gardening or some other house project. Many families get away for a little while, taking a vacation to a distant or maybe not so distant location. Many people break from their norm.

What did you do over the summer? In many ways then, summer is a unique time in the calendar year. It is “extraordinary” time. It is time that is truly a gift from God. I know, for instance, that summer is the time when I see my neighbors more, because we all tend to be outside more. Whether children are playing in the cul-de-sac, or people are mowing their lawns, or neighbors are walking their dogs, it is a delight to see other people, because the weather is more pleasant. True, sometimes it is just too hot for anyone to be outside, but usually in the evening (and early morning) folks are outside enjoying the day. And for many families, summer is a time for family reunions. In short, summer allows us the chance to enjoy our neighbors’ company and the company of our family and friends, more so than other times of the year.

What did you do over the summer? During the summer season, people tend to be more active. People are walking more, or riding their bikes, or hiking, or swimming. You name it. Summer is usually considered a more leisure time of year, when we can take the opportunity to exercise by enjoying recreational activities. Summer affords us that occasion to be out and about. The blue skies and shining sun just seem to beckon to people. New adventures await us, places to see and things to do, which at other times of the year are not so readily available.

What did you do over the summer? Something else the season of summer provides is fresh fruits and vegetables. I don’t know about you but I love that summertime promises fresh tomatoes, corn, and other delicious produce. There is nothing like having *pico de gallo* made from tomatoes and cilantro that came straight from one’s garden. I do believe that summer summons us to eat healthier because fruits and vegetables are seemingly ubiquitous. Most everything is in season, so it is cheaper in the store, or we can go out to our garden and pick it ourselves.

Yes, summer offers us such blessings. So maybe instead of asking, “What did you do over the summer?” we should ask, “What did the summer do for you?” Did this past season give you a chance to interact more with others (your neighbors, your family, your friends)? Did this past season give you a chance to get out and be active? Did this past season give you a chance to partake of the delicious produce available? Summer reminds us to be better stewards in these areas of our lives. It reminds us to tend to our emotional health by nurturing relationships. It reminds us to tend to our physical health through exercise and eating right. And so, I hope you had a good summer, and I look forward to hearing what you did over the summer.

Mark Your Calendars!

GermanFest 2019 will be held this year on **Saturday, September 7th**. This year we are changing the time of our event to **11 am until 4 pm**. Prior to the start of GermanFest, there will be a 9/11 Remembrance Service at 10:30 am. We look forward again to having a great day with our family, friends & neighbors! We will need “all hands on deck” that day to help with GermanFest. There will be a “set-up” day after our worship on Sept. 1st. Our food preparation days will be September 4th, 5th, and 6th. **Help will be needed** those days as well. Please consider helping at GermanFest this year - we will find a job that you can do! Sign-up sheets will be in the Narthex closer to that time. Thank you in advance for your support of GermanFest!



Dear Padre,

I understand that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) met in assembly this past month. Can you tell me about it?

Signed, ELCA "Groupie"



Dear Groupie,

The ELCA did hold its churchwide assembly on August 5-10 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Like our synod that has a synod assembly each year to conduct the business of the synod, the ELCA meets to conduct the business of the larger church. However, the ELCA does not meet every year, but once every three years, and the location of the churchwide assembly moves around.

In this newsletter, I have included some information about this past churchwide assembly, namely a letter from our Synodical Bishop (Bishop Dunlop) and a letter from our Presiding Bishop (Bishop Eaton). Bishop Eaton's letter directs the reader to "talking points" that can be found on the ELCA's website: elca.org, where additional information about the churchwide assembly can also be found.

Thanks for being a "fan" of the ELCA and for your interest in the work of the larger church, and thank you for your question.

Signed, *Padre*



Lower Susquehanna Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 God's work. Our hands.

The Rev. James S. Dunlop
 Bishop

jdunlop@lss-elca.org

August 15, 2019
Mary, Mother of Our Lord

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Having just returned from the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, I am excited by the important work we accomplished together. Thanks to all the voting members who worked diligently to make this Assembly a success. You can read the impressive **summary of actions** on the ELCA website. The highlights included:

- Adopting a constitutional change for deacons (**Rostered Ministers of Word and Service**) to be ordained, rather than the previous practice of consecration.
- Adopting "**Faith, Sexism and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action**" condemning patriarchy and sexism and calling for action on a range of issues, including gender-based violence and workplace discrimination.
- Witnessing the presentation of the ELCA Church Council's "**Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent**," which apologizes for the historical role of Lutherans in slavery and racism.

- Adopting the policy statement, “**A Declaration of Our Inter-Religious Commitment**,” which will serve as church policy for inter-religious relations.
- **Re-electing** the Rev. Elizabeth Eaton as ELCA Presiding Bishop and **electing** Deacon Sue Rothmeyer as ELCA Secretary, both for six-year terms.

These are all significant accomplishments; however, the action that generated the most attention – and controversy – was the Churchwide Assembly’s declaring the ELCA a “sanctuary church” body. A bold declaration, it is intended to affirm and deepen our church’s longstanding commitment to legally assisting immigrants and refugees in their transition to the United States of America. There is no call in the action for civil disobedience or any illegal actions. The specific actions mentioned are all legal.

This is work that the renowned Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) has done since 1939. More recently, the ELCA adopted the AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities) initiative, which our own Synod Assembly voted in June to implement in Lower Susquehanna.

Unfortunately, news reports and social media postings have been quick to jump to false conclusions and spread misinformation about the designation and what it means. The media storm has left many ELCA members upset and confused about the actions of their church and its implications for them and their congregations.

To clarify the issue, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has released **this letter** explaining what the Churchwide Assembly’s designation of sanctuary church means for us all. I commend Bishop Eaton’s letter to you and urge that it be shared with anyone who may find it helpful. I hope and pray that her letter can allay fears and put to rest the rumors, so that we can continue our focus on the work God has given us, including caring for the least among us.

Yours in Christ,



†James S. Dunlop, bishop
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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Dear siblings in Christ,

As many of you know, last week the ELCA Churchwide Assembly adopted a resolution that, among other things, declared the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) a sanctuary denomination. Many of you are asking, "What does this mean?"

Our call to love our neighbor is central to our faith. In our baptismal covenant we promise to strive for peace and justice in all the world. One of the ways we live out this vow is through our commitment to welcoming the stranger. With this declaration, we publicly state that walking alongside refugees and immigrants is a matter of faith.

We have prepared [talking points](#) to provide a better understanding and further clarification on what sanctuary means for you and your congregations. We acknowledge this will look different in different context across the ELCA.

We also hope the [Talking Points](#) resource will help guide conversations with your parishioners and your community about what our faith says about immigration.

*"Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you,
for the glory of God" (Romans 15:7)*

In Christ,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop

"Save the Date"

Our next hosting week for Family Promise will begin on October 20th. We need lots of volunteers to make this a success. More information to follow. Thank you, Sara Smith



Council Minutes

Please Note:

Council did not meet over the summer. Publication of the minutes will begin again in the next issue of our newsletter.



Steve Hinkle	9/2
Amy Hinkle	9/2
Linda Kunz	9/2
Brad Neil	9/4
Nicole Condran	9/5
Trinity Mummert	9/5
Cameron Capp	9/7
Connor Ecklund	9/7
Maria Kunz	9/10
Tara Beachtel	9/14
Irene Nanov	9/16
Betty Hammell	9/23
Betty Nickle	9/25
Mary Louise Shuler	9/25
Hanna Zimmerman	9/25
Alta Shadel	9/26
Julie Drake	9/27
Kameron Rohacek	9/27
Matthew DeArmitt	9/30



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p>1 - Pentecost 12 9 am - Word & Sacrament 1st Sunday Social GermanFest set-up</p>	<p>2 office closed</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 8 am - GermanFest prep day</p>	<p>5 8 am - GermanFest prep day</p>	<p>6 8 am - GermanFest prep day</p>	<p>7 GermanFest 11 am - 4 pm</p>
<p>8 - Pentecost 13 10 am - Word & Sacrament</p>	<p>9 6 pm - Praise Him Singers Rehearsal 6:15 pm - Scholarship Board of Trustees 6:30 pm - Welcome Committee</p>	<p>10 6:30 pm - Welcome Committee</p>	<p>11 6:30 pm - Council</p>	<p>12 1 pm - Constitution & By-Laws Committee</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 - Pentecost 14 10 am - Word & Sacrament Reception for Margaret newsletter deadline</p>	<p>16 6 pm - Praise Him Singers Rehearsal</p>	<p>17 6 pm - Spiritual Stitches</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 <<Pastor Joel at residency >>>></p>	<p>20 residency >>>></p>	<p>21 >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>></p>
<p>22 - Pentecost 15 8:30 am - Word & Sacrament 9:30 am - Annual Congregational Meeting 10:45 am - Word & Sacrament</p>	<p>23 6 pm - Praise Him Singers Rehearsal</p>	<p>24 vacation day for Barb</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 8:30 am - 4:30pm - Private Event 7 pm - InBetweeners Event @Sight & Sound</p>
<p>29 - Pentecost 16 8:30 am - Word & Sacrament 9:30 am - Sunday School 10:45 am - Word & Sacrament</p>	<p>30 6 pm - Praise Him Singers Rehearsal</p>	<p></p>	<p></p>	<p></p>	<p></p>	<p></p>

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.

September Worship

September 1 - 9am
September 8 - 10am
September 15 - 10am

Starting September 22 we resume our regular worships at 8:30am & 10:45am

Holy Eucharist is celebrated every Sunday.

Sunday School resumes on September 29.

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.