

Good News



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

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

“Blaze a trail.” It’s graduation season! And this phrase came to my mind when thinking about this graduation season—Blaze a trail. There are four young people from our congregation who are graduating from high school this year. Congratulations to Clare Gibson, Hannah Logan, Justin Pitassi, and Marlee Zimmerman! Now yes, this will be a graduation our graduates will not soon forget, but I do hope and pray that their celebration is not so overshadowed by the pandemic. I do hope and pray that graduation is filled with all the joy and festivity it deserves, for our young people have reached a wonderful milestone in their lives. And now they are on to even bigger and better endeavors.

Indeed, what amazing possibilities await our young people! Your life’s journey is spread out before you, Graduates. Roads, roads, everywhere roads. There are roads that lead to new places and roads that lead to new ventures. There are roads that lead to new friendships and roads that lead to new discoveries. There are roads that lead to growth and wisdom and roads that lead to blessing and enlightenment. Roads, road, everywhere road, but even so, each of you, Graduates, is blazing your own trail in life. Indeed, God in Jesus Christ already has a plan set for you. God has already blazed a trail for you. All you need to do is walk it. And there is great comfort in that, isn’t there? That all you need to do is walk the trail with Christ.

Yes, there may be bumps along the way. There may be trials to face. But the good news, Graduates, is that Jesus Christ is there with you. That is the good news always. When the resurrected Jesus sends his disciples out into the world to do the work of the Gospel, he promises to be with them. Jesus promises that they would not be alone. He says, “I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20). And God promises to be with you, Clare, Hannah, Justin, and Marlee. That is the good news.

And please know that our congregation will pray for you. Our congregation will surround you with our love and support. Our congregation will be encouraging you as you blaze your trail in life. You are members of the body we share here at Our Saviour and we are proud of your accomplishments. For many years, you have served alongside us. You have blessed our congregation by all the ways you have served the Lord and glorified God. And so in addition to “Congratulations,” we also say, “Thank you.”

As we launch then our graduates into the world, I want to offer them a prayer, which comes from our ELW hymnal. It is a prayer that really is for all of us who continue our journey of life, but I offer it specifically to our graduates. I have always found the words of this prayer to be particularly moving. The prayer reads as follows:

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrdden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God bless and good luck to you, Clare, Hannah, Justin, and Marlee. May the Spirit of God be the wind behind your back. May the love of Christ fill your heart to do all things in thanks and praise to God. And may the peace of God be with you always, now and forever.

In Christ, *Pastor Joel Petruschke*

The Lessons for June 2020

June 7 — Holy Pentecost
Genesis 1:1- 2:4a
Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20

June 14 — Pentecost 2
Exodus 19:2-8a
Psalm 100
Romans 5:1-8
Matthew 9:35 - 10:23

June 21 — Pentecost 3
Jeremiah 20:7-13
Psalm 69:7-18
Romans 6:1b-11
Matthew 10:24-39

June 28 — Pentecost 4
Jeremiah 28:5-9
Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10:40-42

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 21st.



A Thank You

On behalf of the Manna Food Pantry Board, we want to take the opportunity to thank you for the gift of \$516.00, as we continue to serve people in need in our area. We really appreciate all the support from people such as yourselves.



We are continuing to provide food to all who are in need during this difficult period due to the pandemic. We are still providing food to children every week and have opened our pantry to serve people as needed.

More than ever, the need is great. Manna would not be able to help the number of folks we help each month if it weren't for kindhearted friends like you. Again, we thank you.

Manna Food Pantry
Penbrook UCC

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

On Wednesday, May 27th, the congregational council voted to resume in-person worship on June 14th. There will be one worship that day here at Our Saviour at 9:00am only. The service will be held outdoors, weather permitting. If the weather is clear, having an umbrella is a good idea to shield yourself from the sun. If there is inclement weather, we would not hold worship indoors, but would cancel the in-person Sunday worship altogether. If that is the case, then a pre-recorded service will be available online, like the services we have been offering these many weeks.

On June 14th, the plan is to conduct the in-person service from the church pavilion oriented toward our church's parking lot. Individuals and families are invited to bring lawn chairs so as to be able situate themselves on the lawn, maintaining social distancing guidelines. Those who would prefer may stay in their cars, which will need to be parked facing the pavilion so as to see the service. To make this process of parking cars toward the pavilion easier, we ask that those who plan to sit on chairs on the lawn, park either in the Seventh Adventist Church parking lot, or in our lot in spaces furthest from the pavilion.

To reduce the risk of spreading the coronavirus, the wearing of a mask will be required of all of those attending the service. We will refrain from singing during the service. We will not share "The Peace" during the service. Communion will be celebrated using only the bread; and we ask that you bring your own bread to be blessed. A simple slice of bread is probably enough to bring. We will be using an all-inclusive bulletin. This will be given to worship participants. And we ask that those bulletins are retained by each individual or family, as we will re-use those bulletins throughout the Sunday's in the summer season.

Please understand that we are trying to limit the foot traffic inside the church building. With that said, we will have the church building open that day only for those needing to use the restroom. If you need to use the restroom, please only use the "family restroom," the one in the hallway next to the men's room. Please wash your hands before and after using the restroom, and please wipe down any surfaces you touch, so as to leave the restroom clean for the next person.

Common courtesy and respect is of the utmost importance during this time. Just because we may not be concerned about catching the virus, does not mean everyone else feels the same. And so as to be respectful of all, we ask that everyone observe the guidelines of wearing a mask and practicing social distancing. And, of course, if you are not feeling well, we ask that you would please kindly stay home.

Thank you for your ongoing financial support. You may continue to contribute your offering as you have been doing, either by mailing in or by dropping off your offering to the church. We will have a collection box available on-site the day of the service, if folks are so inclined to bring their offering that day. Thank you.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at the church office, 717-545-9992. Please continue to keep well and safe, and I hope to see you on June 14th. God bless you and your family.



A Word on Stewardship

“Some folks like to getaway, take a holiday from the neighborhood.” Ahh, can you hear Billy Joel singing that song “New York State of Mind”? Love it. Summertime is the time of year to getaway. And having been cooped up in our houses for weeks on end, we need to getaway this year more than ever.

Now I hope it is such that we like our homes. After all home is where we find our rest and relaxation. We spend a lot of time at home. Home is a good place, maybe even the best of places. And so I wonder if it is such that maybe a little part of the reason we all have “cabin fever” is not that we have had to be at home, but because we had been told that we *have* to stay at home. Would we have minded having to be at home if we hadn’t been *ordered* to stay at home? Would we have felt as much “cabin fever” as we do? I’ll leave that question for you to ponder and answer for yourselves. Personally, give me an assortment of good books and I could be holed up anywhere for quite a long time.

All that philosophizing aside, we need to getaway. Psychologically, I think it will very essential for all of us to getaway during this summer. Whether it is even for just a few days at one time, or a handful of daytrips scattered over several weeks, we need to getaway. Even if we just go to a state park several miles away, and we simply fly a kite (I used to love to fly kites), and we then serve ourselves a picnic...even if we make it a simple experience, we need to getaway. We **NEED** to getaway. Again, think about it as stewardship of our psyche.

For too long now we have been told to “Stay home. Stay home. STAY HOME!” What does that do to one’s mental state after a while? There is something in us human beings that rebels against being told what to do. Tell a child not to touch the cookie jar, and what is the only thing that that child will think about? Getting a cookie. The apostle Paul explains that this is how humans work. The Law of God lays down all these stipulations about what the human can’t do: Thou shall not do this, Thou shall not do that. And, so the Law of God reveals to us our rebellion, our sinful nature, because all we want to do is that which we are told not to do. That is why we need God’s grace in Christ Jesus to liberate us from the power of the Law.

I wonder how the powers-that-be could have expressed the stay-at-home order differently, such that we could have been more agreeable to staying at home. How could we have been told to stay at home, such that we may have grown even to appreciate it? I don’t know. I have thinking about that, but I don’t have an answer yet. But you see where I am going with this? It is in our nature as humans to rebel against mandates, and orders, and rules. Maybe we need reverse psychology. Tell everyone to go outside, and then maybe everyone would stay inside. No, that doesn’t work either. Sorry for my rambling.

But now that the stay-at-home orders are being loosened, I do very much encourage all of us to getaway, but again be mindful about social distancing, wearing your mask, washing your hands, and so on while you are away from home. So, this is my word of encouragement to you this summer: Take care of your psyche, and be well.

During our time of not being able to worship together if you are dropping off your offering envelopes may we suggest you either:

- 1) drop them in the egg safe mail slot that is located on the wall beside the office door that is located directly across from the library or
- 2) drop them in the wooden box that is located at the back of the sanctuary, to your left as you enter the sanctuary doors.

If you feel more comfortable not entering our building then of course you may drop them off through our mail slot located below our doorbell/entrance key pad.

Another alternative is of course mailing your envelopes to the church.



Dear Padre,

In light of this pandemic, there are some people who are so fearful of the virus that they are almost immobilized. And then, there are others who say yes, we need to be cautious, but fear should not stop us from getting back to life. How we draw the line between fear and caution?



Signed, Finding the Fine Line

Dear Finding the Fine Line,

There is a story about a man who trusted absolutely in God. Well, it so happened that torrential rains began to flood the area in which he lived. The roads in this man's neighborhood had already disappeared under water. Water already filled the man's basement.

He was out on his porch watching the rain, when his neighbor came by rowing a boat. She called to the man on the porch, "Hey, get in my boat and I will row you out of here." "No, thank you," the man said, "I trust the Lord will take care of me." So the neighbor left.

The rain continued to fall, and the water continued to rise. The man in the house had to retreat to the second floor, because the water had overtaken the first floor. This time a water rescue boat stopped by the house and the operator of the boat called into the second story window, "Anybody in there?" The man came to the window. The boat operator said, "Get in the boat and I will take you out of here." The man replied, "No, thank you. I trust the Lord will take care of me." And so the boat left.

And again, the rain continued to fall, and the water continued to rise. The man was now on the roof of his house. And a rescue helicopter came in low and hovered overhead. A person from inside the helicopter said, "We will drop you line and take you out of here." The man replied, "No, thank you. I trust the Lord will take care of me." And the helicopter left.

Finally, the waters rose so high that the man was swept away and died. The spirit of that same man came to the Pearly Gates of Heaven, where he met God. And the man said to God, "Lord, I trusted in you to take care of me. Why did you not rescue me?" To which God responded, "I sent you two boats and a helicopter. What more did you want?"

The point of that story is God gives us means to take care of ourselves. We can't turn a blind eye to those sources of care. Yes, sometimes fear does get the best of us. And yes, sometimes we need to be prudent. In light of the pandemic, is the man in the house an example of the present-day person who says we need to get back to life the way it was, we can't let fear rule our lives, because we can *trust God*? Or, is the man in the house an example of the present-day person who is so fearful of the pandemic that he or she won't leave the house? The man in the house could be either one.

Personally, I am not so much concerned about the virus with respect to my own health, but I am very concerned about the virus with respect to the health of others. In this sense, I am not "fearful," but I do think we all need to be very prudent. We need to heed the signs God is giving us so as to care for human life.

Signed, *Padre*

2020 GermanFest Cancellation

After many conversations with those involved we have made the difficult decision to cancel GermanFest this year due to the Covid-19. There are just too many unknowns and uncertainties to be able to start planning for our event this year. We do have the hope that we will be able to once again do GermanFest in September of 2021.



Council Minutes

Please Note: Council Minutes cannot be included in the newsletter until after Council has approved them. Here are the minutes from the meetings in March.

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Saviour April 2020 Meeting Information

Hello Everyone,

I pray everyone continues to remain safe and healthy during this global pandemic.

I really appreciate everyone taking a few moments to carefully review the information outlined in this document. I've attempted to clearly outline requests from Council to keep operations of the church moving forward. This specifically references a need for council members to vote in the affirmative or dissent on proposed motions. Marlee has seconded the proposed motions, so we need to put these to vote – or initiate a specific discussion on the motions. I've highlighted everything in Yellow to indicate action is requested of Council.

Council Agenda:

- I. Approve Prior Minutes – click hyperlink to review
 - a. I make a motion to approve the March Council Meeting Minutes.
 - b. Marlee Zimmerman seconds this motion.
 - c. Can everyone please vote – Yes or No to the acceptance of the minutes?
 - i. Voting members – 8 – passed in favor
- II. Treasurers Report – click hyperlink to review
 - a. I make a motion to approve the submitted Treasurers report.
 - b. Marlee Zimmerman seconds this motion.
 - c. Can everyone please vote – Yes or No to the acceptance of the minutes? If there's any discussion / clarifications, please reply and indicate who you would like to respond (i.e., Treasurer, Pastor, Me, etc.).
 - i. Voting members – 8 – passed in favor
- III. Committee Reports
 - a. Pastor's Report – click hyperlink to review
 - b. Facility Report – click hyperlink to review
- IV. New Business
 - a. Recorded Service Appreciation – click hyperlink to review

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**Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Saviour
Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting
Thursday, March 12, 2020**

Members Present: Pastor Joel Petruschke, President John Zimmerman, Treasurer Jim Lubrecht, Secretary Jessica Burigana, Marlee Zimmerman, Brad Neil, Arno Miller

Members Absent: Vice-President Herb Logan, Andrea Faber, Anneke Fleming, Kathy Sheetz

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:32pm. The group began with a leadership and spiritual growth exercise. The group went around the table sharing where they have seen God in their lives in the last week. Pastor then led the group in prayer. Minutes: No amendments were offered to the minutes. The minutes were approved as distributed.

Treasurer's Report: Jim reviewed the treasurer's report. He noted that the giving is up for the year. Egg sales are also up. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Jessica. The motion was seconded by Marlee. Without objection, the motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education - No report.

Fundraising - No report.

Property - Report attached and made a part of the record.

Welcome - No report.

Worship and Music - No report.

Child Protection Policy - Report attached and made a part of the record.

Social Ministry - Report attached and made a part of the record. The committee's Lenten Project is to gather items for the Bethesda Mission.

Stewardship - No report.

Pastor's Report - Report attached and made a part of the record. Pastor highlighted a few things from his report. After this Sunday (3/15), the council will have reviewed all sections of the bylaws. We are looking to hold an informational meeting/review of the bylaws for the congregation before meeting to vote to approve the updated bylaws. Dawne Veet offered to donate some equipment (smartboards and floor mats) from her place of work. Pastor is going to get more details from her, but the council feels these items would benefit the congregation. Also, our food inspection took place earlier this week. Pastor shared that the inspector was not pleased with the use of foil to wrap our chocolate Easter eggs. We need to find out if the foil is food grade. If not, we are going to need to look at other options to cover the eggs (i.e. wax paper bags).

Worship Protocols - With the news on the spreading COVID-19 virus, it is important that we take some precautions to keep all of our members safe and healthy. We are encouraging members to limit physical contact. For the sake

of not spreading germs, we will not serve wine during communion. Pastor will take extra caution while distributing the wafers. All members are encouraged to partake in communion and the church service as they feel comfortable.

Pastor made a motion to approve all committee reports. Arno seconded this motion. Without objection, the motion carried.

Old Business:

Capital Improvement Leadership - John plans to speak with Sue DeArmitt and Otis Martin about possibly taking on leadership roles in this area.

Synod Assembly Voting Members - Still looking for voting members.

New Business:

Lighting - Discussed

Committee Template - Still in the works.

Heating Units - Arno made motion was made to purchase and install two heating units in the Youth Room. Pastor seconded the motion. Without objection, the motion carried.

Facility Use Update - We are still looking to get a shed. This will be discussed further at our next meeting.

At 8:25, the meeting was adjourned. A motion was made by Arno and seconded by Jim. Without objection, the motion carried.

The next regular council meeting is to be held on April 15, 2020 at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Burigana (Secretary)

Treasurers Report Overview:

Overall, we as a congregation remain in a very strong financial position. Our very generous congregation members and friends continue to provide weekly offerings and supportive donations throughout this timeframe. We also continued to fill incoming egg orders!

Treasurer Comments:

For the period March 15 to April 15 Income was \$13475.00 and expense was \$15772.32 for a deficit in that period of \$2297.32. The congregation is donating through mail and eggs continue to be sold.

Facility Update:

A motion to engage Paxton Cleaning Services (PCS) Street Ministries to conduct a 'deep' cleaning effort throughout our facility. We prioritized the cleaning areas to include – Narthex, Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, Offices, Sacristy, Restrooms, Library, Nursery, New Choir Room, Youth Room and new storage room. We still have some time to amend this approach, so if there's any concerns or questions, please submit in writing to the entire council. If no questions/concerns raised by Friday, April 24th, we will move forward with the initial proposal.

A motion on replacing lights throughout the facility – except the Sanctuary – was sent to council via e-mail. We only received 3 yes votes. As a result of poor council response via e-mail, we will suspend this motion until council resumes in person. I will communicate with Phoebe accordingly.

Recorded Service Appreciation:

In recognition for the production and recording of our services while under COVID-19 quarantine along with agreeing to tend our lawn last year (and will do so for this coming year), a motion via e-mail to council to authorize purchase of \$1,000 Giant Gift cards for Herb Logan for our appreciation of his time and production equipment in so many special ways. Herb continues to serve our congregation with his many talents and we sincerely thank him! This motion passed with a majority voting in favor (5) out of 8 (e.g., Jessica Burigana and Herb abstaining).

Congratulations To Our Graduates!

Our Saviour congratulates our youth who are graduating from high school: Clare Gibson, Hanna Logan, Justin Pitassi, and Marlee Zimmerman.



Some of their accomplishments are:

Hannah will graduate from high school in June. As you may or may not know, Hannah and her two older siblings, Jessica and Daniel, were homeschooled throughout their twelve years of school. Those years have been a blessing to us as a family! Academics has always been an important part of Hannah's life and she especially enjoys the field of science. She likes staying busy and has enjoyed taking dance classes since she was three and has swam competitively since she was 8 years old. Her favorite summer jobs include coaching younger swimmers on the Devon Crest Swim Team and lifeguarding at Devon Manor Swim Club.

In the fall Hannah will attend Messiah College where she will work toward receiving a Masters Degree in Occupational Therapy. She has always enjoyed working with children and her hope is to be able to find employment in the field of Pediatric Occupational Therapy after graduation.

Our Saviour has always been an important part of her life and the loving congregation here has been a family to her. We are very proud of her accomplishments and we look forward to seeing how God will work through her throughout this next chapter of her life.

Marlee will be graduating from Susquehanna Township High School. She was on the swim team and sang in the chorus all four years of high school. Outside of school, she danced for Hershey School of Dance and basically swam year round for various club teams. She will be attending HACC in the fall as a general studies student. She is thinking of pursuing a career in the health care field.

If we have missed anyone, please submit your graduate's information to the church office & we will highlight him or her in our next edition of the newsletter. Thank you.

Note: As of now, the activities of the church are “up-in-the-air.” We will send a revised calendar when we know more about the re-opening of the church.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Tessa Minnich's birthday	2	3 Jenna Neil's birthday	4	5 Pastor Joel begins vacation	6
7 - Holy Trinity	8	9	10	11	12 Lauren Redman's birthday	13
Pastor Joel on vacation						
14 - Pentecost 2 9 am - Outdoor Worship Danyelle Crosby's birthday Michael Zart's birthday	15	16 Arno Miller's birthday	17	18	19	20 Peter Ingavo's birthday
21 - Pentecost 3 9 am - Outdoor Worship  Margaret Ingavo's birthday newsletter deadline	22	23	24	25 Connie Johnson's birthday	26	27 Donna Zimmerman's birthday
28 - Pentecost 4 9 am - Outdoor Worship Robert Trea's birthday	29	30				

Reminder: If there is inclement weather, we would not hold worship indoors, but would cancel the in-person Sunday worship altogether. On-line video of worship will then be provided.

The Evangelical Lutheran
CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR
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Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17109

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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

Online service June 7th.
Beginning June 14th we will be holding outdoor worship starting at 9 am (weather permitting). For inclement weather we will have an online service.
Holy Eucharist is celebrated every Sunday.

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.