

Good News

November 2020



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

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This month is just chock-full of with wonderful worship experiences. Every Sunday something is going on. In addition, we also have our Thanksgiving Eve Service toward the end of the month. So I hope you take advantage of these many opportunities to worship and give praise to the Lord, whether you gather in person with us at church or watch the service from the comfort of your home. Here is the list of worship offerings:

November 1st, 9:00am—All Saints' Sunday: We gather with the whole church in heaven and on earth, as we remember on this day the saints who have died since last All Saints. We are comforted with the knowledge that by God's grace in Jesus Christ, we will all gather one day around the throne of God to sing our eternal praises.

November 8th, 9:00am—Veteran's Day Recognition: Our annual event to honor our servicemen and women will be a little different this year, as we will not have a luncheon to follow the service. Nonetheless, we recognize all those persons who have faithfully served our country so that we might enjoy the freedom we cherish.

November 15th, 9:00am—Pulpit Exchange with Tabernacle Baptist Church: We welcome the Rev. Arthur Brown and members of the Tabernacle Baptist congregation to worship this morning. Rev. Brown will offer the sermon at Our Saviour, while Pastor Joel will preach at the Tabernacle Baptist Church. This is an opportunity to get to know each other's congregations better. We look forward to more occasions to share fellowship with the people at TBC.

November 22nd, 9:00am—Christ the King Sunday: This Sunday marks the end of the church year, as well as provides a vision of the end times when Christ will be King of Kings and Lord of Lords. We gather to celebrate the victory of Christ the King when all powers and dominions will be placed at his feet, and he will reign forever and ever.

November 25th, 7:00pm—Thanksgiving Eve Service: Before we enjoy our thanksgiving feast, before we gather with family and friends for football, before we enter the holiday season full force, we pause and come before God to give thanks for all of his blessings. We give thanks most of all for his Son Jesus Christ. Come, we thankful people, come.

November 29th, 9:00am—First Sunday of Advent: This Sunday marks the beginning of a new church year. We are now preparing for the coming of God's Son as the child of Bethlehem. Let us gather to light the Advent wreath. Let us gather to prepare the way of the Lord. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain shall be made low.

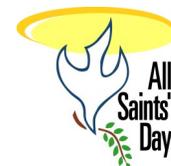
What a wonderful month we have before us. This month indeed promises so many offerings for the worship of God. Let us then take full advantage of gathering in the presence of God throughout this entire month. Let us embrace the gift of worship, and we will see how our lives are truly blessed. Thanks be to God.

In Christ, *Pastor Joel Petruschke*

All Saints Sunday 2020

This All Saints' Sunday, on November 1st, we remember in these saints who have died since last year:

| | |
|------------------|----------|
| Eva Lang | 12/15/19 |
| Dave Shadel | 2/14/20 |
| Pastor John Lamb | 8/4/20 |
| Shirley Logan | 8/12/20 |
| Viola Heberle | 10/5/20 |



The Lessons for November 2020

November 1 — All Saints Day

Revelation 7:9-17

Psalm 34:1-10, 22

1 John 3:1-3

Matthew 5:1-12

November 8 — Pentecost 23

Amos 5:18-24

Psalm 70

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 25:1-13

November 15 — Pentecost 24

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Psalm 90:1-12

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30

November 22 — Christ the King

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalm 95:1-7a

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46

November 25 — **Thanksgiving Eve**

Deuteronomy 8:7-18

Psalm 65

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Luke 17:11-19

Our New Council Officers for 2020-2021

At our council meeting in October Executive Officers were elected. We thank them for their willingness to serve in these positions.

President - TBD

Vice President – Brad Neil

Secretary – Mike Metzger

Treasurer – Jim Lubrecht



Thanksgiving Evening Eve Worship

Please join us for worship on **Wednesday, November 25th, at 7:00 pm**, for our annual Thanksgiving Eve Service. There is no better way to begin the Thanksgiving Holiday than by gathering at church to give thanks to God for all His good gifts.



Parish Staff

Joel D. Petruschke, pastor

Barbara Johnson, administrative assistant

Good News is a monthly publication of **The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Saviour**, 420 North Progress Avenue, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17109, 717-545-9992, ossec@comcast.net. **Deadline** for submission is the third Monday prior to publication month.

If you do not have email or internet access, your addressed copy of *Good News* will be available in your church mailbox the first weekend of each month.



About Worship

Do you like sing Christmas carols? Sure you do. I mean, who doesn't, right? So here is your opportunity to share your gift of song with the congregation. This year, since we are unable to sing as a congregation on Christmas Eve, we are asking families and friend groups to record their voices ahead of time. We will compile a series of carols on a recording which we will then use during worship on Christmas Eve, instead of us singing live.

So here is how this will work. We will plan to record after worship on Sunday mornings. We will schedule several Sundays, so that we have maybe two or three groups each week record. We will plan to record immediately after worship, so that we have an organist to accompany the singing, as well as Herb Logan to record. We will ask you to call the church office (717-545-9992) to sign up for a particular Sunday to record, as well as to assign you a particular carol or two. Then, we will record you singing on your scheduled date. And then come Christmas Eve, we will enjoy hearing the many voices of our congregation singing their praises in honor of the birth of Jesus Christ our Savior. Sounds like fun, doesn't it?

Now, you may be saying to yourself, "But I don't have a great singing voice." It doesn't matter. In Psalm 100:1, the psalmist writes, "Make a joyful noise to the Lord." The psalmist doesn't say, "Make a harmonious noise to the Lord." You just have be joyful, not necessarily harmonious. So, please assemble your family or assemble your friends, and schedule a time to sing to the Lord.

Christmas Eve is going to be a little different this year anyway. So, it will be fun to create a more "homey" kind of Christmas. But we will need your help to do so. Yes, a big part of Christmas Eve is the singing of Christmas carols, so it is up to us to sing. *O come, all ye faithful*, and sing. *Good Christian friends, rejoice*, by signing up and singing a carol or two. Again, I say, sign up and let your voice proclaim *joy to the world*. See what I did there? We will be getting the dates of those Sundays for recording out to you soon, so get your vocal chords ready.

Flue Shots!

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



A Word on Stewardship

The message for this article is simple: VOTE. It is our civic duty. It is the way we express our opinion in the workings of our nation. It is the way we make our voice heard in government. Vote.

Yes, I understand that many of us get frustrated with government and its leaders. Many people think that their vote doesn't matter, that nothing ever changes. I get all that. But I would remind us that in Romans 13, the apostle Paul tells us that government has been instituted by God. Indeed, government is meant to be a gift to our well-being, such that government is meant to provide order and stability to society. Government is meant to protect us and to assist us when we are challenged as a nation by problems too big to be dealt with on an individual basis. God gives us government and God raises up leaders for government. But we have a part to play in the stewardship of our government.

In effect, we are to understand that the Spirit moves and stirs the people of our country to vote leaders into power. The Spirit works within the body of our citizenry. Indeed, it would probably do us all a great amount of good to pray on Election Day that God would raise up faithful leaders. We should pray that God would empower the persons we need so then to lead our country, our states, and our communities. It is interesting to me that the leaders of our nation—the President, the governors, etc.—don't ask our nation to pause on Election Day before voting opens, for a time of silence that people might either pray or reflect or do what they need to prepare themselves before casting their vote. I don't know why we don't do that as a nation. And yes, I understand that many people have already cast their ballots before election day. But still...maybe we should have been taking moments of silence throughout the entire election cycle. Maybe the candidates should have been taking a moment of silence before each debate or before each speech or rally. I would probably argue that our nation has not taken nearly enough time to listen to the Spirit (that still small voice inside of them). Instead, we have had to listen and listen some more to the candidates ramble on and on. We forget that God's presence is in the midst of government, that government comes from God, and so we should start our election process always with God.

Indeed, wouldn't it have been great if just one candidate, any candidate, had produced a television ad that was just silence, with maybe some words on the screen that read—"No more need to talk about the issues. Just some silence to allow you to hear what your spirit is speaking to you. This silence is brought to you by such-and such a candidate. I approve this message." That would be powerful. That would be a commercial that we'd talked about. That would be a candidate of whom people would take notice.

So again, a gentle reminder to get out and vote. But before you do so, take some time for silence and prayer. And if you have already cast your ballot, pray and pray some more on Election Day for God's will to be done and for whomever is elected to hear God's voice speaking to them.



Thank You, LORD!

Thank You Notes We Received

Thank you to everyone for phone calls, cards, and most of all, prayers. I am so much better. I'm able to resume chemo therapy. Last time I had no problems and I'm anticipating the same since the drugs are the same. Of course, I'll lose my hair again. I love my wigs!

Connie



I would like to thank all my church family for all the prayers they sent up for me to get well. Also for all the get well cards. I am doing good and hope I can join you all soon. Last but not least, many thanks to Pastor Joel. What an amazing pastor. He sent me all the sermons & more, and I really did read those. Blessings to all. Stay well, Ada Heberle.

Dear Padre,

How do you “study the bible” besides just reading it? How do I hear God’s Word speaking to me when I read the Bible? I mean I can read the Bible, and I can even understand what I am reading, but how do I learn how I am supposed to live by reading the Bible?

Signed, www. (i.e. Wanting to Walk in the Word),



Dear www.,

You are right that engaging God’s Word is more than just reading the Bible. Some people pride themselves on having read the whole Bible. That’s great, but the question I would ask, “What does that mean for your life?” So what, if one has read the whole Bible. So what, if one knows the Bible stories. The question is, “What impact does God’s Word have on your life?”

So instead of being consumed by reading the whole Bible, what if you take a single verse from the Bible and mull that verse over for an entire week? Philippians 4:13 or Micah 6:8 or Matthew 22:37 or Romans 8:38-39, are all good verses to consider for a good long while. Say the verse to yourself several times during the day, and do that for several days in a row. And then see what God might be saying to you. And then take another verse and do the same thing for another week.

Another option to learning to hear God’s Word in the Bible is to engage in the practice of *Lectio Divina*. This is the practice of taking a longer passage from Scripture, and reading it extremely slowly. Read one word or one phrase, and pause for a good minute or more. Write down what that word or phrase conjures in your mind. And then go on to the next word or phrase and do the same thing. Go through an entire passage in this way. And at the end of the exercise look at all the things you have written and consider what God is telling you with respect to living your life that day.

I hope these couple of exercises can help you hear God’s voice speaking to you through his Holy Scriptures. Whatever you do, be gentle with yourself. In other words, it takes time to cultivate a sense of hearing the voice of God. Sometimes, it is very difficult to hear God’s voice at all, for whatever the reason. But be patient with yourself, as God is patient with you. And pray about it. When you approach the Scriptures at any time, always begin by asking God to open up your heart that you may receive the Word you are supposed to hear.

Thanks again for your question.

Signed, *Padre*

Poinsettias

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



Remember: Deadline is November 8th. It is earlier this year than past years due to the florist requiring an earlier count due to the pandemic.

Daylight Savings Time Ending

Daylight Saving Time ends November 1st.
Don’t forget to set your clocks back 1 hour before going to bed!



Council Minutes

Please Note: Council Minutes cannot be included in the newsletter until after Council has approved them.

**Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Saviour
Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting
(Video Conference via Zoom)
Wednesday, September 9, 2020**

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

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

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:33pm. Pastor lead the group in prayer.

Minutes: Minutes from the August meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved as distributed.

Treasurer's Report: Jim reviewed the treasurer's report with the council. We are in the black all the way through August. Things are going well. Arno made a motion to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Brad. Without objection, the motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education - No report. A Sunday School meeting is being held on Sept. 15th.

Fundraising - No report.

Property - No report. However, Phase B of the light replacements has been completed. Herb submitted a proposal for the equipment needed for a wireless video set up for the fellowship hall. Pastor made a motion to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded by Jim. Without objection, the motion carried. A big thank you to Russ and Andrea Faber for fixing the marquee sign and removing the broken flower box!

Welcome - No report.

Worship and Music - No report. The committee hopes to hold a meeting soon.

Child Protection Policy - No report.

Social Ministry - No report. The racial justice forum has been meeting weekly and plans to meet with Rev. Brown, from the Tabernacle Baptist Church, to talk about how congregations can come together during current times.

Stewardship - No report.

Pastor's Report - Pastor reviewed his report with the council. Pastor highlighted a few points from his report. He noted that we have accomplished a lot around the church and should be sure to share these things with the congregation.

A motion to approve Pastor's, and all committee reports, was made by Jessica. The motion was seconded by John. Without objection, the motion carried.

Old Business:

Sanctuary Carpeting Quote - Phoebe did reach out and get a quote for replacing the carpet in the sanctuary. After discussion, the council decided that it may be a good idea to paint before replacing the carpet. The council will share this discussion with the congregation at the congregational meeting on 9/20/20. John will reach out to Phoebe, asking her to get a second quote for the carpet and possibly look into quotes for painting.

Facility Lighting Schedule - Phase C of the lighting replacement plan has been tabled. We would like to accomplish some other things around the church before taking on this task.

Painting - see above.

COVID-19 Task Force Update - The Task Force submitted a new proposal for the next phase of reopening the church. This proposal is related to committees meeting in the church for their regular meetings. John made a motion to approve the COVID- 19 Task Force Report #3 and its action items. The motion was seconded by Arno. Without objection, the motion carried.

Worship and Music - Organist Update - Is Mitchell still interested in the organist position? - Worship and Music will discuss this at their next meeting.

New Business:

Congregational Meeting (topics/overview) - John plans to email an agenda to the congregation before the meeting.

New Council Slate - John, Herb, Andrea, and Kathy will be finishing their terms on council. Jeanette Logan, Penny Zimmerman, and Mike Metzger will be voted on to council at the congregational meeting. The positions of president, vice president, and secretary are all open.

Facility Update - The church does not currently pay for recycling. Brad made a motion to add recycling to our Penn Waste contract. The motion was seconded by John. Without objection, the motion carried.

At 7:40pm the meeting was adjourned. A motion was made by Jessica and seconded by John. Without objection, the motion carried.

The next regular council meeting will be held on October 14th at 6:30pm. The meeting will be held via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Burigana (Secretary)

**Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Saviour
Minutes of the Congregational Meeting
Sunday, September 20, 2020**

Call to Order: At 9:57am (after a quorum of 30 was reached) Pastor began the meeting with an opening prayer.

Approval of January Minutes: The minutes from the January 2020 Congregational Meeting were not distributed in time, so the approval of those minutes has been postponed until our next Congregational meeting in January of 2021.

Update: Council President John Zimmerman updated the congregation on some of the accomplishments and improvements we have made around the church over the last few months. We have replaced many of the ceiling lights throughout the church. The church has been cleaned regularly and the floors in the Fellowship Hall have been waxed. He also thanked a few of the people involved. See below:

Pastor Joel - Thank you for the Daily Messages

Alice - Thank you for publishing the links

Barb - Thank you for all of the emails

Herb - Thank you for recording and editing the services

Phoebe - Thank you for your assistance with cleaning the church

Dawne - Thank you for the donations from the TMI Training Facility

Russ and Andrea - Thank you for fixing the planter around our sign along Progress Ave.

Scholarship Board of Trustees - Thank you for all your hard work revising the Scholarship Program. Hannah Logan and Marlee Zimmerman graduated in June and, after successfully completing the program, were awarded scholarships. Hannah Zimmerman also successfully completed a year in the program.

Racial Justice Forum: The Racial Justice Forum continues to meet regularly. Their discussions are successful and enlightening.

The congregation was informed that council is in the process of obtaining quotes for carpet replacement in the sanctuary. When ready, the council will bring a motion to the congregation.

Financials: Treasurer Jim Lubrecht provided a brief financial update. As of 9/19/20 we had a surplus of \$12,497. Jim was able to get us a small business loan which he is in the process of converting to a loan.

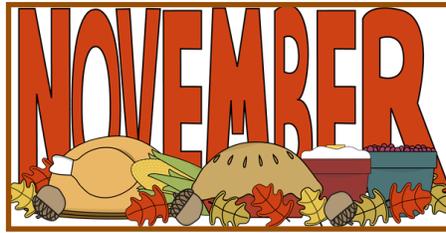
COVID-19 Task Force Presentation: Council President John Zimmerman walked the congregation through a presentation provided to the congregation by the Task Force. Please see the presentation for more details. It was noted that we began phase 3 of the reopening process for the church. We have begun holding indoor services again and our committees now have the ability (following all guidelines) to meet in the church to conduct business.

2020-2022 Council Members: Jeanette Logan, Mike Metzger, Jared Copeland, and Penny Zimmerman have volunteered to join council for the 2020-2022 term. A motion to approve the new council members was made by Joan Bateman. The motion was seconded by Arno Miller. Without objection, the motion carried.

Next Meeting: The next congregational meeting will be held in January.
The meeting adjourned at 10:19am without a motion.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Burigana (secretary)





| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|--|--|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 - All Saints Daylight Savings Time ends 9 am - Worship 10:15 am - Confirmation Jansen Copeland | 2 1 pm - Bible Study | 3 - Election Day  Mike Metzger | 4 6 pm - Covid-19 Task Force via Zoom Terry Johnson | 5 Troy Schreffler | 6 | 7 Joe Parson |
| 8- Pentecost 23 9 am - Worship 10:15 am - Confirmation Poinsettia orders due today Michael Pitassi | 9 6:30 pm - Worship & Music Committee Reports to Council | 10 | 11 Veterans Day  6:30 pm - Council Max Reilly | 12 Megan Neil | 13 Steve Barron | 14 |
| 15 - Pentecost 24 Pulpit Exchange Sunday 9 am - Worship 10:15 am - Confirmation Newsletter deadline | 16 1 pm - Bible Study 6 pm - Racial Justice Forum @Tabernacle Baptist Church | 17 Patsy Bauman Otis Martin | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 - Christ the King 9 am - Worship 10:15 am - Confirmation Bernhard Kunz | 23 | 24 | 25 7 pm - Thanksgiving Eve Worship Paige Fowler | 26  office closed Bruce Cochick Caleb Halfond | 27 office closed | 28 Linda Freed Robert Trea |
| 29 - Advent 1 9 am - Worship 10:15 am - Confirmation Tiffany Crosby Anthem Hanton | 30 Barb out of the office | | | | | |



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



Happy Thanksgiving

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

**Indoor worship has resumed.
Worship is 9:00am and the
Holy Eucharist is celebrated
every Sunday.**

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.