

# Good News

September 2021



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

*Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,*

As I write this newsletter article, Hurricane Ida has only recently slammed into the Gulf Coast. And as is the case with every natural disaster, the powers-that-be will spend the next day or so assessing the impact of the storm. Are communications functioning? Is there clean water? Is there electrical power? So on and so forth.

The world is doing the same when it comes to the pandemic. The world is assessing the situation. But the challenge is that the pandemic continues to be ongoing. It is not the same as a hurricane or an earthquake that happens in a short span of time, and then the powers-that-be can assess the aftermath. The challenge for the world is that we are still in the throes of the pandemic. It is difficult to assess the impact of the pandemic when the pandemic is not over and may not be over for a very long time. In this case, how does one make an assessment? Indeed, we may all have to realize that there is no “end” on the horizon when it comes to our present situation, so where does that leave us in trying to describe the exact state of things? Where does that leave us as we try to make an assessment?

When it comes to our church, my mindset has been that when things get back to some sense of normalcy, we can assess where we are and move forward from there. We can figure out where our individual committees are. We can evaluate our worship life. We decide if and how we are going to do our egg project. And the list goes on. I thought we would all take a deep breath having emerged from the pandemic and assess our church’s ministry as a whole. But that mindset was wrong. Normal is what we are experiencing now! Or to put it another way, John Lennon once said, “Life is what happens to you while you’re busy making other plans.” So, we need to assess now.

In the past year and a half, our church has experienced incredible change. The attendance at worship has changed. We don’t have as many people in worship. Our leadership has changed, because several members who served in various capacities have died. We are running behind when it comes to our church budget. Now, I recognize that I am bombarding you with what seems to be bad news. But I would not necessarily describe it as “bad news.” I would say that things are changing, and we need to adapt and change, too. Truth be told, change is always going on around us, it is just with the pandemic an abundance of change has come all at once.

As I was explaining to council at our last meeting, with the change we have been experiencing, we can do one of two things: 1) we can switch into to survival mode and seek to do whatever we need to do to stay afloat, which by the way is really an unhealthy way to run a church, or 2) we do what we have been called to do, which is to proclaim the Gospel. We need to remember that the Spirit of God is still alive and well. God is active within our church community. Even though we are constantly experiencing change, God’s faithfulness to God’s people has not change. God’s goodness and mercy is the one constant amidst a sea of change. And so, in this time of change, we need to be open to where God is leading us. We need to be faithful to God’s calling because God is faithful to us.

With that said, I want to share with you an exciting prospect. Some time back, Epiphany Lutheran reached out to our church. Their leadership was interested in seeking ways in which our two churches could share resources and do some cooperative ministry. So some of our members will be meeting with some of their members to begin a conversation around that very topic—what can we do together? I don’t know where the conversation may lead, but I do trust that God is doing the leading. Please keep this endeavor in your prayers. And please continue to pray that as our congregation experiences change, we may all be faithful to God’s guidance, to listen to His Spirit, and to proclaim his Gospel with our lives.



In Christ, *Pastor Joel Petruschke*



### **The Lessons for September 2021**

#### **September 5** — Pentecost 15

Isaiah 35:4-7a  
Psalm 146  
James 2:1-17  
Mark 7:24-37

#### **September 12** — Pentecost 16

Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 116:1-9  
James 3:1-12  
Mark 8:27-38

#### **September 19** — Pentecost 17

Jeremiah 11:18-20  
Psalm 54  
James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a  
Mark 9:30-37

#### **September 26** — Pentecost 18

Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29  
Psalm 19:7-14  
James 5:13-20  
Mark 9:38-50

### **Upcoming "Celebration of Life" services.**

A "Celebration of Life" service for Julie Drake will be held on September 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am. Visitation will be from 10:00 to 11:00 am and a luncheon will follow in the Social Hall after the service.



And a "Celebration of Life" service for Arno Miller will be held on September 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am. Visitation will be from 10:00 to 11:00 AM and a luncheon will follow in the Social Hall after the service.



### **Parish Staff**

Rev. Dr. 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

During a recent sermon (Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup>), I discussed the difference between tradition and traditionalism. I noted that tradition is the living faith of the dead, and traditionalism is the dead faith of the living. Tradition is that which has been passed down from past generations. Tradition, though, only has relevance for us in the present if we understand the meaning behind what is passed down. If we have lost the meaning of what we do, if we have lost the purpose of a tradition, then tradition has become traditionalism. Traditionalism is just going through the motions such that that which we do has no impact on our lives. So again, tradition is the living faith of the dead, and traditionalism is the dead faith of the living.

So here is what I want to know. What aspects of worship have an impact on your life? What aspects of worship would you describe as “tradition”? What aspects of worship consist of “the living faith of the dead”? On the other hand, what aspects of worship have no impact on your life? What aspects of worship would you describe as “traditionalism”? What aspects of worship do you not understand or which have no meaning? What aspects of worship consist of “the dead faith of the living”?

These questions not only apply to our worship life, but they also apply to our everyday lives? Do you do things in your life, which if you sat down to think about, really have no meaning for your life? What are they? And, what should we do with those things that fall under the category of “traditionalism”? What should we do when we are just going through the motions? There are I think three answers to that question: 1) we should excise those meaningless things from our lives, 2) we should infuse meaning back into those things, or 3) just continue doing them.

Now, truth be told, there are times when we need to cut things out of our lives, especially if those things are not meaningful or life-giving. And then there are other times when we need to learn again the meaning behind what it is we do. But, as to the third course of action, I would argue that it is probably not helpful for anyone to just continue doing things when we don't know why we do them.

So back to my inquiry. How would you describe the impact worship at Our Saviour has on your life? Why do you participate in the congregational life at Our Savior? What meaning, what purpose, what impact does it have on you? The reason I ask these questions is 1) to see if there is work I need to do to help inform our congregation better about why it is we do what we do, and 2) to help each of us formulate a witness for others about Our Saviour. If we understand why we do what we do, if we can learn to articulate the impact life at Our Saviour has on us, then that can serve as a witness to others so that we can enthusiastically tell others about what worship means for us and what congregational life means for us. Just going through the motions isn't good enough for a Christian. We need to understand how God is impacting our life, and we need to share that impact with others.

## Modified “Drive-Thru” GermanFest 2021!

GermanFest will be held on Saturday, September 11, 2021 beginning at 11:00 am (until sold out!). It will be a drive-through food only event with a limited menu. The menu will be:

Sauerbraten dinners and Chicken Schnitzel dinners that include the German potato salad and red cabbage side dishes.

Brats on the grill (with peppers and onions) and a side dish of potato salad

Cheese strudel and apple strudel

NO! advance orders will be taken!

Although the event is pared down for this year, we will still need help preparing (our usual prep days) and serving the food (day of the event). Mark your calendars & come out to help make this a success!!



### **A Word on Stewardship**

Mary Oliver is such a wonderful poet. And there is a particular quote by her that I have recently begun carrying around with me. The quote is "It's morning, and again I am that lucky person who is in it." It is one of those "the glass is half full" kind of sentiments. It is one of those optimistic expressions. In short, the quote is meant to elevate our spirits. It is meant to remind us that whatever the world may be, life is still a blessing, a gift.

I mentioned in the front page article of this newsletter that we may still have a very long way to go with regards to this pandemic. Right now, we are dealing with the Delta variant. And the numbers are not where they need to be. The rate of new infections is too high. Of course, the concern is what might come next. Could a variant emerge that is even more contagious and more deadly? Could a variant emerge against which the vaccine proves ineffective? We may have a long way to go.

Even so, God has given us this day to live and move and have our being. And that is a wondrous miracle in and of itself. Life around us does not stop because of a virus. Or, I should say, life *should* not stop because of a virus. That would be a pretty lame excuse for existence to think that something as tiny as a virus has that much power so as to stop the world as we know it.

Now, sure, we have had to adjust our lives. Sure, we have had to wear masks and the like. But life does not stop. Children are still learning and growing. People are still falling in love. People are still becoming parents. Flowers are still blooming. The sun is still shining. The clouds are still watering the earth. Life goes on. And so we rejoice that "It's morning, and I am that lucky person who is in it." Maybe we should say, "It's morning, and we are the lucky people who are in it." I like that better, because it reminds us that the day is not ours alone but that we share it with others. I like that better, because it reminds us that we have a responsibility to the other people with whom we share the day. That is why we wear masks and follow other COVID-19 protocols.

But I would interpret Mary Oliver's quote in still another way. I think of the morning of God's new day, when God's kingdom will reign on earth. In this case, we will be among the most fortunate to experience that morning. Only it won't be luck or fortune that will have landed us in that new day. It will be the grace of God in his Son Jesus Christ. So again, I would edit Mary Oliver's quote so as to read, "It's morning, and again we are graced persons who are in it."

As baptized people, we are blessed, we are graced. With baptism, every new day is a new morning of the promised kingdom of God. We already live in the new kingdom. So, come hell or high water, come trial or tribulation, come pandemic or hurricane or earthquake...it is morning, and we are living in the new day. In short, good stewardship is having the right outlook on life. That outlook is one of God's grace.

### **Congregational Meeting**

Please plan to attend the congregational meeting scheduled for Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup> immediately following our morning worship. Mark your calendars! At this meeting we will have our election of new council members & handle other business.



*Dear Padre,*

I understand the Biblical story of Genesis that says sin entered the world because human beings disobeyed God and ate from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. But that story aside, what is the root of sin in everyday life? What causes people to sin?



Signed, Looking at Myself

Dear "Looking at Myself,"

Scriptures describes sin as originating with the eyes. We see something we want or desire and sin takes over. Genesis 3:6 states, "When the woman SAW that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the EYES, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate." But emotionally what is going on inside the person who sins?

Recently, I heard a sermon by our synodical bishop. In that sermon, he made the bold statement that it was his belief that all sin stems from anger. And I have been thinking about that more and more. I think Bishop Dunlop may be on to something. For it is not just that we see something and desire it, but is it not also true, that we get angry that we do not possess what we see, and so we sin in order to achieve our ends? We lust for wealth because we are angry that others have more than us. We crave power because we are angry that we ourselves are weak mortals. We desire fame and notoriety because we are angry that we are loss in a sea of people. So to stave off the tide of sin, we would do well to understand our own anger and to strive to keep our anger at bay.

Here are some thoughts on anger:

- 1) Anger doesn't solve anything. It builds nothing, but it can destroy everything.—Thomas Monson
- 2) Anybody can become angry—that is easy, but to be angry with the right person and to the right degree and at the right time and for the right purpose, and in the right way—that is not within everybody's power and is not easy.—Aristotle
- 3) The greatest remedy for anger is delay.—Seneca
- 4) Anger is an acid that can do more harm to the vessel in which it is stored than to anything on which it is poured.—Mark Twain
- 5) How much more harmful are the consequences of anger...than the circumstances that aroused them in us. —Marcus Aurelius

I hope this helps. Thanks for your question.

Signed, *Padre*



### **Manna Food Pantry**

Our "2nd Sunday" food collection is still ongoing. During this time of the pandemic food pantries are seeing a greater demand of their services. If you would like to make a donation you may bring your items into the church & place them on the table in the Narthex at any time.

If you are not comfortable with coming into the church building we would be happy to offer "curbside drop-off" during regular office hours. Just let us know & Pastor or Barb will be happy to come out & get your donation from you. Thank you.



## 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 Wednesday, June 9, 2021

**Members Present (Via ZOOM meeting):** Pastor Joel Petruschke, Treasurer Jim Lubrecht, Secretary Michael Metzger, Penny Zimmerman and Jared Copeland,

**Members Absent:** Vice President Brad Neil, Marlee Zimmerman, Anneke Fleming, Jeanette Logan, and Jessica Burigana.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:37 PM after a prayer offered by Pastor Joel. Since the President position is vacant, Pastor Joel led the meeting.

**Council Executive Positions:** No Update

**Minutes:** Minutes from the May Council meeting were reviewed. The following amendment was requested: Under Call to Order, indicate Jim Lubrecht recalled the 2K already earmarked for sound system upgrades, instead of John Zimmerman. Upon motion by Penny and seconded by Mike, the minutes were approved with the requested amendment.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jim presented Council with budget performance data. What appears to be an increasing deficit so far this year (18K) may be explained by a lack of fundraising revenue along with a downturn in offerings. Pastor Joel presented a draft letter from Council to the congregation for Council approval. The letter provided comfort concerning the reopening of church and encouragement to return to regular worship, a reminder to catch up on contributions to the church, and a request for the congregation pray for our mission to continue proclaiming the Gospel. Council approved the draft letter. Mike moved that Council accept the budget report as filed for audit and Jared seconded the motion, which was carried.

#### Committee Reports:

**Christian Education** - This committee has not met. Confirmation classes for Evan and Tyler are closed until August.

**Fundraising** – We will be doing a scaled down GermanFest on September 11<sup>th</sup> this year.

**Mutual Ministry** – This committee has not met.

**Property** – This committee has not met. Pastor Joel provided these updates related to Property:

The painting, carpeting and wall repair work are completed and Jim reported all the bills are paid.

Fellowship Hall Waxing and Cleanup – Floor waxing is completed and the room is being rearranged for overflow worship. Final cleanup is still to be completed.

Two of the four donated Smartboards are ready to be installed. One of them is large and heavy. Pastor Joel moved that the smaller board be installed in the library on the wall to the immediate right of the door and the larger one be installed in the Fellowship Hall either on the far wall or on a cart. Jim seconded this motion, which carried.

Penny reminded Council that the missing roof shingles need to be replaced. Pastor will contact Phoebe. Council reviewed the Memorial Fund Policy to see what steps need to be taken to fund the sound system upgrade from Memorials. It appears the initial step would be to add this project to the Property Committee "wish list." Pastor will talk to Phoebe and John to clarify and initiate the process of creating a wish list and publishing it.

The Little Lending Library is installed. Pastor thanked Daniel Logan for his assistance. The Township said they don't want a sign facing Progress Ave, therefore Pastor Joel proposed to have a small sign made which will be installed near the library on Trinity. This could be funded using a gift card. Jim said he will add the gift card to the budget as income. Also, we should ask Altrusa for advice about who can/should contribute books.

**Welcome** - This committee has not met.

**Worship and Music** – No Report. Hope has contacted Mitchell concerning employment as organist.

**Child Protection Policy** - This committee has not met.

**Scholarship BOT** – Council approved awarding Max Reilly \$800.00 from the Scholarship during the May meeting, but a decision concerning when to award the money has not been made. Max is joining the Navy.

**Social Ministry** - This committee has not met.

**Stewardship** - This committee has not met.

**Pastor's Report** - Pastor reviewed his report with Council, focusing on near term scheduled events as well as updates on our COVID-19 response.

COVID-19 Taskforce will meet on June 16<sup>th</sup> and July 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.

Wedding rehearsal June 17<sup>th</sup> and wedding June 18<sup>th</sup>.

Racial Justice Forum-June 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 PM

Indoor worship started on June 6<sup>th</sup> and the COVID-19 Taskforce will meet again in June to discuss re-entry status and recommend adjustments as needed.

Pastor also provided updates on Old and New Business agenda items in his report, which are captured below. Penny moved that Council accept the Committee reports and Jared seconded. The motion carried.

**Old Business:**

**Finance Committee** – Pastor Joel contacted Carole and she will convene the By-law committee.

**Little Lending Library** – See above under Property regarding this work.

**Livestream/Video in Fellowship Hall** - The live streaming camera has been permanently installed in the sanctuary. Penny provided feedback on the worship experience in the Fellowship Hall saying it was hard to see what was going on and it appears there is a delay.

**Organist Position** – See above under Worship and Music

**Fellowship Hall Clean up and Floor Waxing** – See above under Property report

**Flood Lights at Front of Church** – Pastor Joel will contact the Synod see if a lift can be borrowed from some other church.

**Purchase of a Shed – No Update**

**Constitutional By-laws – See above under Finance Committee**

**New Business:**

**Smartboards' Location – See above under Property**

**Request from Epiphany Lutheran –** We have received a request from Epiphany Lutheran church to pool resources and they propose to discuss this in a small group meeting. Jim volunteered to serve on the group and Jeannette and John were recommended to be part of the group.

**Next Council Meeting –** Pastor Joel proposed to skip the July Council meeting, as is customary. After some discussion of Council availability, Mike moved the next Council meeting be held on August 25<sup>th</sup> and Penny seconded. The motion carried.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was ended by reciting the Lord's Prayer and was adjourned at 7:47 PM after approval of a motion from Penny, which was seconded by Jared. The next regular Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael Metzger (Secretary)





**Willkommen zum Deutschen Fest**  
**Drive-through**  
**GermanFest 2021**

**Saturday, September 11, 2021**  
**11:00 am until SOLD OUT**

**Our Saviour Lutheran Church**  
**420 N. Progress Ave.**  
**Harrisburg, PA 17109**  
**717-545-9992**



**Limited Menu:**

<b>Sauerbraten Meal*</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>
<b>Chicken Schnitzel Meal*</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>
<b>Bratwurst &amp; Potato Salad</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>
<b>Cheese Strudel (by the slice)</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>
<b>Apple Strudel (by the slice)</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>
<b>Water/Soda</b>	<b>\$1.00</b>

**NO advance orders/cash or check only.**

**\*Meals include sides of red cabbage & apples  
and German potato salad.**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1  Wendy Snyder	2  Linda Kunz	3	4  Bradley Neil
<b>5 - Pentecost 15</b>  9 am - Worship  Nicole Condran Trinity Mummert	6  <b>HAPPY LABOR DAY</b>  office closed	7  Cameron Capp Connor Ecklund	8  9 am - GermanFest prep day	9  9 am - GermanFest prep day	10  9 am - GermanFest prep day  Maria Kunz	11 <b>"Drive-Thru"</b> <b>GermanFest 11am</b>  
<b>12 - Pentecost 16</b>  9 am - Worship	13	14  7 pm - meeting with Epiphany  Tara Beachtel	15  6:30 pm - Council	16  Irene Nanov	17	18  11 am - Memorial Service for Julie Drake
<b>19 - Pentecost 17</b>  9 am - Worship  <b>newsletter deadline</b>	20  6 pm - Praise Him Singers rehearsal	21	22  1:30-2:30 pm - Bible study at the Manor @Oakridge	23  Betty Hammell	24	25  11 am - Memorial Service for Arno Miller  Betty Nickle Mary Louise Shuler Hannah Zimmerman
<b>26 - Pentecost 18</b>  9 am - Worship 10 am - Ann'l Congregational Meeting  Alta Shadel	27  Kameron Rohacek	28  Kris Danner	29  Kevin Gibson Mindy Grace	30  Matthew DeArmitt		



The Evangelical Lutheran  
**CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR**  
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Happy Fall!



*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*

**We have resumed our in-person, indoor worships! Our service starts @9am.**  
**Please join us! You will still have the option of viewing our worship via live-stream. The viewing link is available on our website (address below). Holy Eucharist is celebrated every Sunday.**

*Church Office*

9:00 am -12:00 pm Monday through Friday

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Email: [ossec@comcast.net](mailto:ossec@comcast.net)

Web Site: [www.oslutheranharrisburg.org](http://www.oslutheranharrisburg.org)



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.