

Good News

November 2022



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

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

November is not the last month of the calendar year. That honor, of course, falls to the month of December. But in the Church Year, November is the month in which we do speak of “last things.” As we know, the season of Advent marks the beginning of the Church Year. And Advent begins either on the last Sunday of November or the first Sunday of December, depending on the given year. It always has struck me as kind of odd how the Church Year seems to be off a month. It would make more sense for the Church to speak of “last things” in December, and for Advent to start around January 1st. But that just isn’t the case.

Regardless, during the month of November the Church focuses on “last things.” For instance, on November 1st the Church observes All Saints’ Day, with the first Sunday in November being All Saints’ Sunday. On that day we remember the members of the Church who have died and have entered the Church Triumphant. All Saints’ is about those who have lived out the LAST of their days on earth and now shine in glory.

And then there is Christ the King Sunday which marks the end of the Church Year. On this day, we remember the LAST day of the Church Year. It is also a day in which we imagine the time when Christ will come in the LAST days to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Christ the King imagines the vision of God’s eternal reign.

Aside from these festivals that occur in November, November is also filled with last things in other ways. The month of November marks when the LAST of the harvest is gathered in before the onset of winter, and indeed many congregations will celebrate the ingathering of God’s gifts around the time of Thanksgiving.

In November, there is also the LAST days of extended light. Daylight Saving Time ends on November 6th, at which time we will turn our clock’s back an hour. We get an extra hour of sleep that night, but sunset will be even earlier, making the night time seem even darker and longer.

For me, I have grown to love the month of November. I like this month when it seems we have the LAST bit of color on the trees, and the LAST bit of green in the landscape before it becomes brown and then white with snow. I love the “feel” of November with all its LAST things.

But please don’t take what I say as though I see everything as bleak. Quite the opposite, with all these “LASTS” comes also a strong sense of hope. It is like the image of that LAST acorn the squirrel gathers before winter so that the squirrel has hope enough now to sustain its life through until Spring. That is the same type of hope that accompanies all the LASTS in November, so that we know that God is sustaining us spiritually, physically, etc. to bring us to that Spring, to that New Life. Thanks be to God.

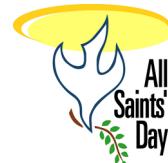
So, I hope this November is a blessing to all of us. Enjoy the month and may the power of its message of LASTS give you hope.

In Christ, *Pastor Joel Petruschke*

All Saints Sunday 2022

This All Saints Sunday, November 6th, we remember all these saints who have died since last year and entered into glory :

George Sheleman	11/13/21	Daniel Kreischer	8/9/22
Fay Nelms	2/15/22	Phoebe Drake	9/9/22
Ellavene Rutter	4/1/22	Wendy Snyder	9/10/22
Irene Nanov	6/5/22		
Millie Horvath	6/18/22		



The Lessons for November 2022

November 6 — All Saints

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18

Psalm 149

Ephesians 1:11-23

Luke 6:20-31

November 13 — Pentecost 23

Malachi 4:1-2a

Psalm 98

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Luke 21:5-19

November 20 — Christ the King

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalm 46

Colossians 1:11-20

Luke 23:33-43

November — Advent 1

Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalm 122

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 24:36-44

Advent Gathering for Soup & Worship



This year we will be having our Advent mid-week soup suppers followed by worship at Good Shepherd on Wednesdays, November 30th, December 7th, 14th & 21st. Our soup meal will start at 6pm followed by worship at 7pm. All are invited to attend.

Change in Barb's Office Hours

The new office hours for Barb are now in effect. Her new schedule will be:

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays: in the office 9am-12noon
Tuesdays & Thursdays: working from home 8-11am.

During her work from home hours Barb can be reached via e-mail or her cell phone. That number is in the pictorial directory.

Pastor Joel's hours remain as is.



Daylight Savings Time Ends

Daylight Savings time ends Sunday, November 6th @2am. Don't forget to turn your clocks back before going to bed Saturday night!



Parish Staff

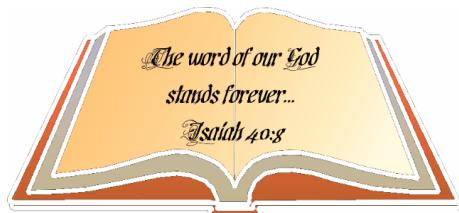
Rev. Dr. Joel D. Petruschke, pastor

Barbara Johnson, administrative assistant

Mitchell Sensenig, organist

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



About Worship

It is good to remind ourselves that worship does not happen in a vacuum. That is to say, worship is only possible because of other people. And this is certainly true when it comes to the preparation of the chancel area for Sunday worship. Indeed, our church is blessed with faithful members who are part of our Altar Guild Committee, who make sure the worship space up front is ready for service.

The Altar Guild Committee prepares the altar for worship, setting out the bread and wine and communion vessels for the sacrament. And after worship, the Altar Guild Committee takes care of cleaning up the altar. The Altar Guild Committee changes the paraments on the altar, the pulpit, and the lectern to align with the color of the day. The Altar Guild Committee arranges the flowers in the altar vases. The Altar Guild Committee makes sure the altar candles and the candelabra up front have enough oil. The Altar Guild Committee helps with other decorations in the sanctuary during the year, such as the arrangement of the Christmas poinsettias and the Easter flowers. The Altar Guild Committee makes sure there is water in the baptismal font when a baptism is scheduled. The Altar Guild Committee does a lot of behind-the-scenes work. And we are very grateful for all they do.

With all this said, I remind us of the phrase “Many hands make light work.” I remind us of this phrase because the number of members on the Altar Guild Committee is dwindling, and we need more hands. Currently, we have three teams on Altar Guild who rotate throughout the year to oversee the Altar Guild responsibilities for four months. We are need of additional Altar Guild members with the hope of bolstering the existing teams, as well as forming an additional team. Again, the hope is to share the responsibilities of Altar Guild, and to lighten the work of all who are on the Altar Guild Committee.

We all are blessed by the work of Altar Guild. We like having the candles lit during worship, which would not happen except for Altar Guild. We all like having communion, which again would not happen except for Altar Guild. I could go on and on. But we need to help support the work of Altar Guild. Please consider serving on the Altar Guild Committee. See the announcement below for additional information. Thank you.

Attention All Church Members

The Altar Guild Committee is in great need of additional members. Unfortunately, we have lost several long-time members in the last two years. It is not a difficult task but we need reliable members since we have weekly communion set up. Training will be provided. The more members we have means less work and time are required. Please call Barb if you are interested. Any questions, please talk to Donna Miller or Linda Schreier. Thank you from the committee for your consideration to join.

Manna Food Pantry

Our “2nd Sunday” food collection is still ongoing. During this time of continuous rising food prices & heating costs, 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. There is a list of suggested items now on the table. If you would like to make a monetary donations, please mark your envelopes “Manna Food Pantry” and place it with your regular giving envelope.



A Word on Stewardship

Recently in Adult Sunday School we got into a great discussion about whether or not it is okay to question God, whether it is okay to question what we have been taught about our faith. The question came up when we were talking about the book of Job. In that book of the Bible, the character Job puts God on trial, and Job questions why God allows him to suffer at the hands of Satan. And so, we talked about how Christians are often taught as young children to simply believe and accept what they taught about the Faith. We are taught that a solid faith is one that doesn't question what it has come to know.

And I then shared with the Sunday School class how my seminary training was like theological boot camp, where as students we were broken down. All that we were taught about the Faith was challenged and stripped away so that our faith could be built up again. In part, what seminary wanted to teach us was to claim the Faith for ourselves. The faith with which we came out of seminary was a tested faith, a refined faith, a matured faith. It was a faith that we seminarians could call our own.

I learned today that according to PEW Research 45% of mainline Christians, of which we Lutherans are a part, fall away from the Faith that we were brought up to know. Some of those Christians become "evangelical Christians," while others become "nones," in which they don't associate with any Christian denomination at all. Why does this happen? Why do so many fall away from their childhood Faith? It may very well be that we don't teach our young people, and not so young alike, how to claim the Faith for themselves. We don't teach people how to make the Faith their own.

Young people are often exposed to various philosophies and ideologies in college. Young people often have their eyes opened in college such that they see the inconsistencies, the holes, and otherwise flaws in the Bible. And it can certainly rattle a person's faith, and can make an individual question the validity of God's Word. Life, too, can throw hardships and difficulties at a person, such that one is uncertain about God's power at work in the world. And so, it is understandable how people can be swayed to give up the Faith of their childhood. The Church needs to respond to such crises of faith. The Church needs to help individuals, to assure people that it is okay to have questions, and that through those questions and the answers one finds, one's Faith may become all the stronger because it has become one's own.

This is the great stewardship question of our time perhaps. How do we help people claim the Faith for themselves? I believe it starts by being like Job. It starts when we can assure people that it is okay to challenge God, that it is okay even to question God. Even our Lord and Savior challenged and questioned God. Jesus from the cross uttered that question that has become immortalized: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken?" And it is not that Jesus was shaken in his faith when he said that, but that Jesus' faith was all the stronger because he could so boldly and faithfully direct his anguished question to God. Jesus' faith was elevated in his heartfelt question, and our faith is elevated too when we can express what is deeply in our hearts.

Jesus Said, "Let the Little Children Come to Me."

On October 2nd we successfully revived Sunday School for the children of Our Saviour. The first lesson was on Creation and the children completed a craft and enjoyed a snack. As a reminder, children's Sunday School class will be held on the first Sunday of the month during the service. **The next class will be November 6th.** Children will be excused for their lesson after the children's message. Please share our news with anyone you know who may be interested. We welcome every child to join us and learn!

WE ARE EXCITED TO HAVE GOTTN STARTED. OUR CHILDREN ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR CONGREGATION.



Dear Padre,

Given that this month we celebrate Thanksgiving, I would like to know why we should give thanks to God? What purpose does it serve? After all, God is still God, whether we thank God or not. Perhaps we are just serving to inflate God's ego by giving thanks to God. It just seems strange that God would desire or even demand our thanks. Psalm 50:23 says, "Those who bring thanksgiving as their sacrifice honor me (God)."



Signed, An Inquirer

Dear "Inquirer,"

You have a good point about why God desires or needs our thanks. My own personal opinion is that our action of giving thanks to God says more about who we are than it does about who God is. For those who give thanks are persons who acknowledge that they themselves need grace. We can't do it alone. We don't do it alone. And by "it" I mean carry on in life. There is something larger than ourselves, whether we speak of that something as the community of human beings, or the bountiful earth that gives of its resources, or the God who creates all things good and for our benefit. We can't do it alone, and so we learn to give thanks for whatever help and blessings we receive in life. We need and survive by grace.

The Thanksgiving holiday, therefore, has always seemed to me to be one of the most religious of all days on the calendar. Because here we have a day in which everyone is expected to stop and pause and give thanks. Here we have a holiday in which everyone, regardless of one's religious preferences, acknowledges their need for grace. The Thanksgiving holiday is what religion should be about—people coming together to share a meal and to give thanks.

As to why God is depicted as needing and as pleased with our offerings of thanks, I would suggest that our forebears of the faith projected our human aspects onto God. For who among us doesn't want to be thanked? Who among us doesn't expect to be thanked when we have helped others? So, one would assume that God would too.

Thank you for your question. I hope this answer helps. And Happy Thanksgiving.



Signed, **Padre**

Christkindlmarkt in Linglestown

This year's **live nativity** event will be held on Saturday, December 10th. Epiphany & Our Saviour will once again be providing participants in the morning during the time slot of 10-10:30am. If you would like more information or to join us in participating please contact Pastor Joel or Nadine Martin (717) 497-1200.



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, September 14, 2022**

Members Present: Pastor Joel Petruschke, Brad Neil, Vice President, Jim Lubrecht, Treasurer, Jeanette Logan, Secretary, Jared Copeland, Penny Zimmerman and Steve Barrons.

Members Absent: Antonetta Fleming, President

At 6:10pm the meeting was called to order and Pastor Joel offered a word of prayer.

The minutes from the Council Meeting on Wednesday, August 10, 2022 were edited and approved. Pastor Joel made a motion to accept the minutes as edited. The motion was seconded by Brad. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Jim reviewed the financial reports with Council members. Jim mentioned that our deficit for this year is \$24,793.07. Last year at this time our deficit was roughly \$34,000.00. This is an improvement compared to last year. We do need to take into consideration that we were able to make and sell Easter eggs this year as well as host a smaller scale GermanFest. Our profit for GermanFest was \$3,672.00.

Jim clarified the difference of \$942.13 between Worship and Music supplies purchased for 2022 and supplies purchased for 2021. The difference being there was \$300.00 for Christmas Eve Singers in 2022 and an increase in cost for Sundays and Seasons and One License from 2021 to 2022. In addition, there was a Paschal candle purchase of \$77.94 in 2022. In 2022 the total for Worship and Music supplies was \$2,862.62 and in 2021 the amount was \$1,920.71.

The Treasurer's Report is filed for Audit.

Secretary's Report: Nothing to report.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education: Pastor Joel informed Council that on the 1st Sunday of each month after the children's sermon has been given there will be a time for the Sunday School age children to meet for about ½ hour to gather together for a Sunday School class. The children will be back in church in time for communion. Tyler and Savannah will help out with the younger children during this time.

Child Protection Policy: Did not meet. No report.

Fund Raising:

GermanFest - report was reviewed

Mutual Ministry: report was reviewed

Property: Brad has scheduled another electrician to take a look at the lights.

Scholarship BOT: No report

Social Ministry: No report

Stewardship:

Welcome Committee: Did not meet. No report

Worship and Music: Pastor Joel mentioned that Committee Chairs and Epiphany Lutheran Church will be meeting on September 21st.

Finance: No report.

Pastor's Report: Report was reviewed.

Safety Initiative Meeting was held in August and Pastor Joel and Anneke attended the meeting. There was discussion of church safety and the importance of being mindful of your surroundings and knowing where the exits are in a public building in the event there is an emergency that arises and you need to exit the building.

At the Congregational Meeting at the end of September there will be discussion about the exit locations in our church as well as the need for the ushers to lock the front doors of the church once service has started.

Old Business:

COVID-19: Brad mentioned a meeting is scheduled for October 5th.

Hall Available Sign for Out Front: Brad will be checking into this.

Polling Station for Primary Election:

There should be 2 people volunteering at a time. One Council Member and One church member for each time slot.

6am to 12 Noon - Pastor Joel has volunteered to be there. We will need volunteers for two hour shifts beginning at 6 am and ending at 9 pm.

We will sell the leftover baked good items from GermanFest. These items are in the freezer in the kitchen. Jeanette, Pastor Joel and Penny will come to the church the night before to set up the bake sale table. We will sell the leftover soda for \$1.00. Ice will need to be purchased for the coolers.

Visioning Meetings to begin in October: Council Members signed up for dates.

Congregational Meeting Items:

Re-election of Penny, Jeanette, Anneke and Steve.

Jim - Budget Review

Pastor Joel - Safety in the church discussion

Election Day volunteers sign up.

Visioning Meetings sign up.

Memorial Fund Policy - need for updated policy.

An email with the Zoom link will need to be sent to the congregation to see whether or not anyone will need to participate in the meeting via ZOOM.

New Business:

Memorial Fund Policy - Conversation took place recognizing that we are not in compliance with the current Memorial Fund Policy. Most recently this occurred when the two laptop computers were purchased using money from the Memorial Fund. It was decided that we will discuss the policy at the Congregational

Meeting and inform the congregation that the two laptops were purchased using money from the Memorial Fund. We will let the congregation know of the need to revise this policy but in the mean time we will ask for their leniency until the policy has been re-visited.

New Council Member: Brad will reach out to Dawne Veet about participating in Council.

Policy Binders for Council Members: Penny mentioned that she thought it would be helpful for each Council member to have a binder which contained all of our church's policies.

The Lord's Prayer was said and a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jeanette at 7:40 pm and seconded by Penny. The motion carried.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 12th at 6pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeanette Logan, Council Secretary

Mutual Ministry Committee

Our Saviour's Mutual Ministry committee has some changes we would like the congregation to know about. Hope Bowling and Otis Martin are transitioning off the committee. We thank them for their faithful service and input the past several years. Nedda Pollock and Jim Simmons are joining the committee and we look forward to their thoughts and ideas to help strengthen the church.

The committee will meet on Wednesday, November 16 at 6:30 pm in the church library. If any church member has issues or concerns they would like to bring forward, please see a committee member. Besides Nedda and Jim, the other committee members are Brad Neil, Deb Flage and Pastor Joel.

Share the Word, Share the Harvest 2022!

Please join us for the Share the Word, Share the Harvest and Veteran Recognition lunch on Sunday November 13, 2022 following worship service. In honor of Veterans Day, we will recognize those who have served or are serving in the military. Please complete the form in today's bulletin with military service information to be included in the bulletin. For the luncheon the Welcome Committee will be providing meatball subs. We are asking for donations of side dishes. There are sign-up sheets in the narthex for attendance and food/beverage donations. The deadline to sign-up is Sunday November 6, 2022. Please see any member of the Welcome Committee if you have any questions. Hope to see you there!!



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 \$9.00 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 the church office.

Remember: Deadline is November 20th. This is the request of our florist.



OUR SAVIOUR
FINANCIAL REPORT
through September 30, 2022

ENVELOPES AND PLATE	\$ 101,158.79
FUND RAISING	\$ 20,924.90
FELLOWSHIP HALL RENTAL	\$ 230.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 122,313.69
EXPENSE	<u>\$ 147,798.62</u>
DEFICIT	<u>\$ (25,484.93)</u>

PNC BANK STATEMENT BALANCES
AS OF September 30, 2022

CURRENT FUND	\$ 6,755.04
MEMORIAL FUND	\$ 90,287.65*

THRIVENT ACCOUNTS

	<u>9/30/2022</u>	<u>9/4/2022</u>
CURRENT FUND MUTUALS	\$ 55,551.43	\$ 60,774.84
SCHOLARSHIP MUTUALS	\$ 140,225.98	\$ 153,793.84

* \$61,000 of Memorial Fund is from the Neidich estate

\$1,519.39 of Memorial Fund is from the Ruth Knerr estate
to be used for Christian Ed expenses

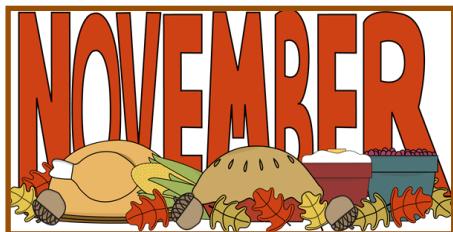


HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jansen Copeland	11/1
Kathy Sheetz	11/2
Terry Johnson	11/4
Troy Schreffler	11/5
Joe Parsons	11/7
Michael Pitassi	11/8
Max Reilly	11/11
Megan Neil	11/12
Steve Barron	11/13
Otis Martin	11/17
Bernie Kunz	11/22
Bruce Cohick	11/26
Caleb Halfond	11/26
Linda Freed	11/28
Robert Trea	11/28
Tiffany Crosby	11/29
Anthem Hanton	11/29

*Pastor Joel, Barb & Mitchell would like to
wish you and your family a safe & happy
Thanksgiving!*





Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1	2 6:30 pm - COVID Task Force	3	4	5 In-Betweeners Dutch Apple Theatre event 2-10 pm - private event
6 - All Saints 9:30 am - Worship With Childr Sunday School 10:45 am - Adult Sunday School 2 pm - Private Baptism Daylight Savings Time ends	7 6 pm - Welcome Committee deadline for committee council reports	8 Polling Place with Bake Sale	9 2 pm - Bible Study @Manor @Oakridge 6:30 pm - Council	10	11	12
13 - Share the Word, Share the Harvest 9:30 am - Worship Luncheon following worship	14 6 pm - Finance Committee 6 pm - Praise Him Singers Rehearsal	15	16 2 pm - Bible Study @Manor @Oakridge 6:30 pm - Mutual Ministry 7:30 pm - joint Worship & Music via Zoom	17 7 pm - Praise Him Singers Concert	18	19 Pastor Joel on vacation
20 - Christ the King 9:30 am - Worship newsletter deadline	21	22 7 pm - Epiphany's Thanksgiving Eve Service	23	24 office closed	25	26 Pastor Joel on vacation
27 - Advent 1 9:30 am - Worship 10:45 am - Adult Sunday School	28 7 pm - Christian Ed.	29	30 2 pm - Bible Study @Manor @Oakridge 6 pm - Advent Soup & Worship (7 pm) @Good Shepherd			

The Evangelical Lutheran
CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR
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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.

Worship
9:30 am.

Please join us! We also offer 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
Phone: 717-545-9992
Email: ossec@comcast.net
Web Site: www.oslutheranharrisburg.org



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.