

# Good News

## June 2023



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

**Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,**

I would like to use this newsletter article to update the members of Our Saviour with respect to the work of the Visioning Team. Since convening of the Visioning Team, we have had two meetings, one on May 13 and the second on May 24. Those who sit on the committee include Doris and Mike Balas, Anneke Fleming, Joel Hains, Otis and Nadine Martin, Nedda Pollock, Dawne Veet, Penny and John Zimmerman, and me. Anneke Fleming is the chair of the committee.

So, what have we talked about so far? Well, we have discussed an insightful little book entitled *I Am a Church Member* by Thom S. Rainer. I had shared this book with the Visioning Team, because my father-in-law had recommended the book to me, after his church in western PA had used it. My father-in-law said it was a great resource for their church. So, our Visioning Team agreed to read through the book as well to see how it might be helpful. Church members, not on the Visioning Team, may also want to read the book. It is quite short, and the Visioning Team would welcome your thoughts on the book.

The Visioning Team has also spent some time talking about the responses to the Town Meetings we had held several months back. Dawne Veet generated a document by graciously collating the responses from the four town meetings, highlighting in the document specific responses that emerged over and over again. From our discussion about that document, the Visioning Team noted that that which showed high priority among church members is “community building.”

Some time back Our Saviour moved to one worship service, literally combining two different worshipping communities into one. Furthermore, the pandemic hit in March 2020, which greatly influenced how we worshipped as people of God. In light of those two events, our sense of church community has suffered. And so, it is evident that we need to focus on building up our community from within. We need to strengthen the bonds we share with one another.

Now, something that also has come out of the discussion within the Visioning Team meetings is the recognition that in order to do well the work of the Gospel, we need first to foster a strong community from within. We have recognized that our committee structure at Our Saviour has suffered from the pandemic. And the Visioning Team is thinking that building up the community as a whole may very well bring new life to Our Saviour’s committee structure, which then will serve to help us do the work of the Gospel more effectively. But it starts with caring for the people who make up the body of Christ. So, as of now, this is the vision: Community building—>reinvigorate committees—>Gospel work in the world.

So, with “community building” being foremost, the Visioning Team has scheduled a breakfast for Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, from 9:30am-11:00am at Our Saviour, around the theme of “Sharing and Growing in Faith.” The morning will include not just breakfast, but also a time for us to begin to get to know one another better. We plan to have a panel consisting of five or six church members, who will be chosen in advance, so you need not worry about being selected that morning to be on the panel. And those on the panel will be asked some faith-based questions during the gathering that morning. Again, the questions will be shared with the members of the panel in advance, so that they can have prepared their responses. This will allow us all an opportunity to get to know some fellow members better. More details about the breakfast will be forthcoming. Nonetheless, the Visioning Team is asking you to please put the breakfast on your calendar, so that you will make the breakfast a priority.

Finally, we welcome anyone and everyone who would like to be a part of the Visioning Team. As we see it, the more, the merrier. So, if you are interested please let Anneke Fleming or me know. Thank you.

In Christ, *Pastor Joel Petruschke*

## The Lessons for June 2023

**June 4** — Holy Trinity

Genesis 1:1 - 2:4



Psalm 8

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Matthew 28:16-20

**June 11** — Pentecost 2

Hosea 5:15 - 6:6

Psalm 50:7-15

Romans 4:13-25

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

**June 18** — Pentecost 3

Exodus 19:2-8a

Psalm 100

Romans 5:1-8

Matthew 9:35 - 10:8-23

**May 25** — Pentecost 4

Jeremiah 20:7-13

Psalm 69:7-18

Romans 6:1b-11

Matthew 10:24-39

## 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 18<sup>th</sup>.



We would like to “**spotlight**” our recent graduates. If you have a recent “**graduate**” please submit his/hers information to the church office before the deadline of June 18<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.



## 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 Sunday of each 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

Homebound—that is where we Christians are headed. We are homebound. There is a reason we speak of the church building as the House of God. The church is our home away from home. It is our spiritual home. We worship in our secondary, or should I say, our primary home.

Furthermore, the description of heaven is that of a home. John 14:2-3 says, “In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.” And Psalm 23:6 says, “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”

The ideal image of a home is a place where we feel safe and secure. The ideal image of a home is a place where we can be ourselves, a place where we can feel at rest and at peace after a busy day in the world. The ideal image of a home is a place where we are surrounded by our loved ones. It is the place that we return to again and again. Now granted, not everyone’s home feels like that, but that is the hope. And as Dorothy from *The Wizard of Oz* says, “There’s no place like home.”

So, it seems appropriate, doesn’t it, that our place of worship should be described as a home? It seems appropriate, doesn’t it, that our final destination is described as a home? And so, maybe the goal of life really is to see our church home, and our heavenly home, as our primary home. And the home we live in day-in and day-out is really our secondary home. I wonder what it would take for us to come to that same feeling as the psalmist where we can say of church/heaven, “I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”

I pray that each of our homes is indeed a refuge of peace and comfort. But, even more so, I pray that we find peace and comfort in the House of God/Mansion of Heaven that far exceeds that temporal peace and comfort of our earthly home, so that we may come to long for God’s house with all our being. Thanks be to God.

## Let’s think about camp!

We have received the new camping corp. brochures for the upcoming 2023 summer programs. They are on the table in the Narthex. Camping is not just for children. They offer family camp & elders camp. Pick one up & check out all that is being offered this year!



## Jobs are available

In addition to offering summer camping for campers the Lutheran Camping Corp. also offers summer employment for high school & college students such as: counselors, lifeguards, kitchen staff, craft staff and maintenance. More information about these opportunities is available at [LutheranCamping.org/employment](http://LutheranCamping.org/employment).

## 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***

Have you ever heard the word “demagogue”? The word means “one who tries to stir up people’s emotions, in order to accomplish selfish ends.” Another way to define the word is “one who caters to the will of the people, so as to win popular support.” You get the idea, though. A demagogue is more concerned about following the people’s wishes and garnering support, as opposed to leading the people. Interestingly, isn’t it? A demagogue is someone who follows as opposed to leads.

The ancient writer Plutarch makes this point very well. Plutarch tells us that the demagogue and the people who support him/her have to be very careful. They have to be careful because in supporting the will of the people, the demagogue might bring about disastrous consequences for him/herself and for the people by blindly submitting to the will of the people. The will of the people, in other words, may not be what is best for the people. But the demagogue doesn’t care, as long as the demagogue is elected and can enjoy his/her power. In psychological terms, the demagogue’s relationship to the people is one of unhealthy co-dependency.

I bring all this to our attention because we are entering into the Presidential Election Cycle. More and more people are beginning to enter the Presidential Race. And as we think about those persons whom we want in elected office, we do need to think about what it means to lead. True leadership often means being unpopular, and even putting one’s self at risk. Consider Jesus who was crucified. Consider Martin Luther King, Jr., who was assassinated.

Our God is a God who leads God’s people by truth and grace. God does not always cater to the will of the people. In fact, when God did cater to the will of the people, it didn’t turn out well. I am thinking of that situation in the Old Testament, when the people wanted a king, and God granted the people their wish. And King Saul became the first King of the Jews, which resulted in disastrous consequences.

We know the saying, “God answers prayer, but God doesn’t always give us what we want. But God does give us what we need.” This is the sign of a true leader, such that we are given what we need, not what we want. So as we think about the type of person we want as President, consider what leadership means. Consider how the person we want in office might and should steward their position as President for the good of the people, not necessarily always according to the will of the people, as undemocratic as that may sound. Again, I say this, because the will of the people may not always be what is best for the people.

### ***Jesus Said, “Let the Little Children Come to Me.”***

We have Children’s Sunday School on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month during the service. At each session the children complete a craft and enjoy a snack. **The next class will be Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>!!**

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!



*Dear Padre,*

Why are the cloths on the altar, lectern, and pulpit green in this long season of Pentecost?

Signed, "Just Wondering,"

Dear "Just Wondering,"



The season after Pentecost is called "ordinary time." There is not actually a season called "Pentecost," just "The Festival/Day of Pentecost." The Sundays after Pentecost are noted as just that, the "Second," "Third," "Fourth" ...Sunday after Pentecost. And indeed, as you noted, it is a long season extending all the way to Advent with intermittent festivals strewn therein, like Reformation Sunday, All Saints' Sunday, and Christ the King Sunday.

The color of the season is green, because it is meant to remind us of growth. Just like green in nature reminds us of the grass that grows, the trees that grow, and so on. And so, as Christians the season of ordinary time is meant to be a time in which we grow spiritually as Christians. That is why the cloths (paraments) are green during this time.

Now, a professor at seminary of mine likened ordinary time to marriage. After all the excitement of their courtship, their wedding, and their honeymoon, a couple finds themselves sitting in their home wondering what to do now. And so what do they do? They get up and go for a walk. Similarly, after all the excitement of Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost has passed, what does the church do? It goes for a walk. The season of ordinary time is the time when the church goes for a walk with Jesus to continue to grow spiritually in our relationship with God.

I hope this answers your question. Thanks.

Signed, *Padre*



## 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, April 12, 2023

**Members Present:** Pastor Joel Petruschke, Brad Neil, Vice-President, Jim Lubrecht, Treasurer, Jeanette Logan, Secretary, Penny Zimmerman and Dawne Veet (via ZOOM).

**Members Absent:** Antonetta Fleming and Steve Barron

At 6:32 pm the meeting was called to order and Pastor Joel offered a word of prayer.

Pastor Joel made a motion to accept the edited minutes from the March 8, 2023 Council Meeting. Brad seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Pastor Joel made a motion to accept the edited minutes from the March 29, 2023 Finance Committee Meeting. Brad seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jim reviewed the Treasurer's report with Council. He informed Council that the deficit for January 2022 through March 2022 was \$9,305.92 and in comparison, as of March 31, 2023, the deficit is \$5,779.33. As of March 31, 2023 the egg gross sales were \$17,042.85, and the egg expenses were \$4,659.04 with a net profit of \$12,383.81.

The Treasurer's Report is filed for Audit.

#### Committee Reports:

**Christian Education:** No Report

**Child Protection Policy:** No Report

**Fund Raising - Candy Egg Making Project:** Report Submitted

**Mutual Ministry:** No Report

**Property:** No Report

**Scholarship BOT:** No Report

**Social Ministry:** No Report

**Stewardship:** Not an active committee

**Welcome:** No Report

**Worship and Music:** No Report

**Finance:** Finance Committee Minutes were reviewed

**Pastor's Report:** Report reviewed. Pastor added the following comments to his report:

Pastor Joel informed Council that members of the staff at **Family Promise** will give a presentation at the beginning of this Sunday's Worship Service. **Marilyn Chubb** will be officially received as a member of Our Saviour at the worship service this Sunday. **The Worship Liturgy Setting change** will take place in June.

**The Ad Hoc Committee for Visioning** will be headed by Anneke. The goal is to meet more frequently.

Additional committee members are needed. Perhaps we should think of including committee members who represent different demographics of the congregation to ensure all opinions are heard. **The Ad Hoc**

**Committee for the St. Stephen's Interim Position** will be headed by Anneke. The committee will evaluate

how Pastor Joel is performing in his dual ministry.

#### **Old Business:**

**Update research on cost effective ways to help lower our costs:** Dawne gave Council an update on her research. Jim told Dawne he will pull all of the invoices for her to make it easier to see exactly what has been spent in each category. Dawne asked if there were ways we could save money on the bulletin each week i.e. covers, bulletin inserts, etc. Is there a way we can print these things ourselves to cut costs? She will speak with Barb to discuss money saving possibilities.

**Church Attendance Statistics:** Barb supplied Council with an Attendance Summary for the years 2019 to March of 2023. The summary also included the number of deaths and baptisms.

**Hall Rental Availability Sign:** Brad will work on posting the new vinyl sign.

**Outdoor tan sign update and Marquee sign repair:** Anneke reported that David will begin the repair process the first week in May. What colors are we thinking to use? Dawne mentioned using colors that are eye catching and visible, perhaps blue and white.

Dawne made a motion to use Royal blue paint on the sign with white lettering. Pastor Joel seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Election Day Baked Goods and other items to sell:** Jeanette will put a signup sheet in the Narthex on May 7<sup>th</sup> and May 14<sup>th</sup> for members to donate baked goods as well as signup sheets asking for volunteers to sell the baked goods, etc. on the day of the election. Brad found the hot dog machine and will make sure it is in good working condition. Jim will supply a cashbox with seed money. We will sell hot dogs, water, soda, chips. Penny suggested that we ask members for other donations such as soda, water and hotdog rolls since some people may not be able to donate baked goods but would be happy to donate these items. Pastor Joel and Jeanette will set up the tables, baked goods and other food and drink items on the Monday evening prior to the election. Pastor Joel will reach out to the election contact person to inquire about possible numbers of voters that we can expect to help avoid leftover baked goods and other food items.

**Visioning Update:** See Pastor's Report above.

**Special Offering Envelopes:** Envelopes to be used by members for special donations such as, Christian Education, Building Repairs, etc. are in the pews for use.

**Bylaws to Synod:** Barb will be sending them out.

**Attendance Summary:** See Pastor's Report above.

**Hymn Numbers to Barb:** Anneke spoke with Mitchell to let him know that Barb needs to have the hymn numbers by Tuesday.

**Ad Hoc Support Committee for Interim position at St. Stephen's:** See Pastor's Report above.

#### **New Business:**

**Mitchell's Contract:** Pastor Joel reminded Council that we need to renew Mitchell's contract. He asked Jim to find the old contract to use as a starting point to renew the contract.

#### **Property:**

**Donation of mower:** Jeanette informed Council that Katherine Kreisler told Anneke that she has a riding lawn mower that she would like to give to the church. Herb will contact Katherine to set up a time to go see the mower. If we are able to use Katherine's generous donation of her mower then we can consider selling the

current mower.

**Monetary Donations:** Pastor Joel mentioned that Katherine Kreischer, Fay Mauer and Philip Rauh have mentioned that they would like to give monetary donations to the church. Pastor Joel made a motion to inform Katherine, Fay and Philip that as a Council, we would like to purchase a shed plus a base and construction of a cement path for ease of moving equipment to the shed. We would like to use the monies donated for this purchase. We are looking at a ballpark figure of \$10,000 to \$15,000. This would be contingent upon congregational approval. Jim seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Finance Committee:** A recommendation was made to inform Church Council of the Memorial Fund and Current Fund Mutual Thrivent Account changes. Please refer to the Minutes from the Finance Committee meeting held on March 29, 2023.

**Memorial Fund and Current Fund Mutuals:** Church Council accepted the recommendations of the Finance Committee. The votes were unanimous.

**Scholarship Mutuals:** Per the Finance Committee Meeting on March 29, 2023, a recommendation was made by this committee to send an email to the Scholarship BOT informing them of the Finance Committee’s suggestion for the money in this fund. An email was sent to the chair of the Scholarship BOT, Lisa Neil. We are currently waiting to hear back from Lisa Neil.

At 8:30 pm Pastor Joel made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brad seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting concluded with The Lord’s Prayer.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jeanette Logan, Council Secretary



Tessa Minnich	6/1
Jenna Youngblood	6/3
Danyelle Crosby	6/14
Kelly Schreffler	6/14
Maggie Sheleman	6/14
Peter Ingavo	6/20
Margaret Ingavo	6/21
Ashton Ahrens	6/25
Robert Trea	6/28



**OUR SAVIOUR  
FINANCIAL REPORT  
Through April 30, 2023**

ENVELOPES AND PLATE	\$ 44,377.85
FUND RAISING	\$ 21,152.37
FELLOWSHIP HALL RENTAL	\$ 800.00
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$ 66,330.22</u>
EXPENSES	<u>\$ 68,895.52</u>
DEFICIT	<u>\$ (2,565.30)</u>

PNC BANK STATEMENT BALANCES  
as of April 30, 2023

CURRENT FUND CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$ 10,575.82
MEMORIAL FUND MONEY MARKET	\$ 13,238.74 #

THRIVENT ACCOUNTS

	4/30/2023	3/31/2023
CURRENT FUND MONEY MARKET	\$52,235.45	\$51,990.85
SCHOLARSHIP MUTUALS	\$157,831.10	\$158,306.00
MEMORIAL FUND MONEY MARKET	\$80,109.63 *	

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

# \$1,310.57 of Memorial Fund is from the Ruth Knerr estate to be used for Christian Ed expenses



## ***Mutual Ministry Committee***

For congregation members who may not know the intention of the Mutual Ministry Committee, we wanted to provide the following information from the bylaws of Our Saviour.

### **Mutual Ministry Committee**

The purpose of the Mutual Ministry Committee is to nurture the ministries of the Church, the Congregation, Pastor, and Church leadership through mutual concern, understanding, and appropriate intervention(s).

The Mutual Ministry Committee shall:

- i. Maintain open communication concerning the attitudes and conditions within the Church.
- ii. Dialogue with appropriate organizational units of the Church about perceptions and concerns within the congregation.
- iii. Be alert to early warnings of misunderstandings within the Congregation; provide opportunities for dialogue to prevent unhealthy conflict.
- iv. Review and resolve specific complaints from Church members.
- v. Provide an opportunity for Church members to air suggestions and/or constructive feedback for improvement in spiritual growth.
- vi. Address conflicts among members that may affect the congregation's ministries, as well as between Church members and the pastor, or other lay leaders.
- vii. Provide conflict resolution or seek the assistance of Synod/others to provide conflict resolution.
- viii. Gauge how effectively the ministries of the Congregation are being met.
- ix. Make recommendations to the Council, other committees, and/or the Congregation regarding how congregational ministries may be more effective.
- x. Collaborate with all organizational units of this church.

In Our Saviour's Constitution, it states that the Mutual Ministry Committee shall be appointed jointly by the President (of Church Council) and the rostered Minister. Term of office shall be two years.

The current members of the Mutual Ministry Committee are Deb Flage, Brad Neil, Nedda Pollock and Jim Simmons. Pastor Joel is an ex-officio member of the committee. He and Anneke Fleming, Church Council President, also attend Mutual Ministry meetings.

The Committee encourages anyone with a concern about the congregation life at Our Saviour to first speak to Pastor Joel or the Council President, Anneke Fleming. If you are not comfortable doing that, feel free to speak to one of the committee members and we will discuss it at a meeting.

The Committee also encourages anyone with a personal matter regarding someone in the church to follow the steps outlined by our Synod. This information was taken from the Synod's handbook for Mutual Ministry Committees:

Following our Lord's counsel, persons with disagreements first take them directly to the person with whom they are having a difficulty. They complain not to others but rather go directly to the other congregation member, the pastor, or the member of the congregation's staff with whom they are having a difficulty. Their goal is reconciliation, the restoration of the relationship between two or more parties. If reconciliation cannot be achieved, the person takes one or two other persons with them – e.g., a wise, dispassionate, unbiased person - again for the sake of reconciliation. If this, too, fails, then the aggrieved person follows the procedures established by the congregation to resolve conflicts.

Please remember that items discussed at Mutual Ministry meetings are confidential and kept within the meeting attendees and whomever has the concern.

***Our Saviour Mutual Ministry Committee***



Sun

Mon





Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1	2	3
					Synod Assembly	Synod Assembly
<b>4 - Holy Trinity</b>  9 am - Worship with Children's Sunday School	<b>5</b> Pastor Joel @St. Stephen's 6 pm - Welcome Committee	6	7	8	<b>9</b> 6:30 pm - Pastors' Recognition Dinner	<b>10</b> 3-9 pm - private event
<b>11 - Pentecost 2</b> 9 am - Worship	<b>12</b> Pastor Joel @St. Stephen's deadline for committee council reports	13	<b>14</b> 6:30 pm - Council	15	16	<b>17</b> 10 am-10 pm - private event
<b>18 - Pentecost 3 Father's Day</b> 9 am - Worship  newsletter deadline	<b>19</b> Pastor Joel @St. Stephen's	20	21	22	23	<b>24</b> 3-9 pm - Private Event
<b>25 - Pentecost 4</b> 9 am - Worship 3:45 pm - Worship @Manor @Oakridge 	<b>26</b> Pastor Joel @St. Stephen's	27	<b>28</b> 6:30 pm - GermanFest Meeting	29	30	
		<b>Family Promise Host Week</b>				

The Evangelical Lutheran  
**CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR**  
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Web Site: [www.oslutheranharrisburg.org](http://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**

**9:00 am.**

Please join us!  
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](mailto:ossec@comcast.net)

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



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.