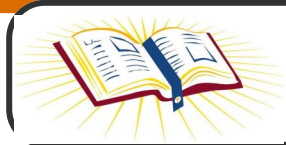


Good News

November 2023



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

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

November is my most favorite month of the year. I have shared that with you before. Kind of a strange month to have as a favorite, right? I mean it is not even my birth month, which is February. And November tends to be a bit dreary, as far as weather goes. The days are gray and short. The trees have all but dropped their leaves, and the landscape is brown and dull. But I love it.

And, I particularly love the church festivals in the month of November. It starts off with All Saints' Day on November 1st. It is the time when we remember the Communion of Saints, in which we recall that the saints of every time and place are one in Christ. That is so cool, as a theological concept goes. Of course, All Saints is bittersweet, because we also remember those who have gone on to the Church Triumphant. This year, on All Saints' Sunday (November 5th) we remember specifically Alta Shadel, Ed Digon, Eva Kunz, Lauralee Kunz, Bob Lisse, and Marcia Schreffler. But, even so, these saints and all saints who have gone before us are still with us as part of the community that gathers in heaven and earth every time we worship.

In November, we also celebrate the festival of Christ the King (this year it is November 26th). It is the day in the Church Year when we remember that Christ will be All in All at the end time. At the end time, Christ will be King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and all things will be reconciled in Christ. Again, that is so cool, as a theological concept goes. There is just something so wonderful about that vision of Christ the King out there on the time horizon, so as to give us hope in all things as we journey in life. Regardless of wars and other manmade and natural disasters, regardless of whatever may come, we know how the story ends, and the ending is this: God's love wins, and Christ will reconcile all things. That is our vision of hope.

In November, we also celebrate what I consider to be the greatest of all religious holidays in our society, even though it is not technically a church festival, and that is Thanksgiving. Think about it. The theme of Thanksgiving is giving thanks whether to God, or just giving thanks in general. Is that not what all of life ought to be about—giving thanks? What better religious theme is there? And I love the fact that for the most part families take a break from everything else in their lives to come together to share a meal. Again, what can be more religious than that? Not to mention, I love the Charlie Brown Thanksgiving Television Special. I love the fact that Snoopy serves up jellybeans, toast and popcorn for the Thanksgiving feast, and the kids sit around a Ping Pong table on lawn chairs. Too funny.

And then, of course, by the end of November we move into Advent, which is such a wonderful transition. Usually, the First Sunday in Advent is on the last Sunday in November, but this year it falls on December 3rd. So we go from waiting for the coming of the Lord as King at the end time, to waiting for the coming of the Lord as the child of Bethlehem. We move from one "advent" to another "advent," that word "advent" simply meaning "coming." So, again, how cool is that?

So, yes, November is my most favorite month. And I hope that even if November is not your favorite month, that all of us can appreciate November for all its wonder and glory.

In Christ, *Pastor Joel Petruschke*

All Saints Sunday 2023

This All Saints Sunday, November 5th, we remember all these saints who have died since last year and entered into glory :

Marcia Schreffler	1/14	Ed Digon	8/2
Eva Kunz	3/14	Bob Lisse	9/26
Lauralee Kunz	6/16	Alta Shadel	10/26



The Lessons for November 2023

November 5 - All Saints

Revelations 7:9-17
 Psalm 34:1-10, 22
 1 John 3:1-3
 Matthew 5:1-12

November 12 - Pentecost 24

Amos 5:18-24
 Psalm 70
 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
 Matthew 25:1-13

November 19 - Pentecost 25

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
 Psalm 90:1-12
 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
 Matthew 25:14-30

November 26 - Christ the King

Ezekial 34:11-16, 20-24
 Psalm 95:1-7a
 Ephesians 1:15-23
 Matthew 25:31-46



Daylight Savings Time Ends

Daylight Savings time ends Sunday, November 5th @2am. Don't forget to turn your clocks back before going to bed Saturday night!



Thank You!

Linda Schreier would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, & phone calls during her recent accident, surgery & recovery. Your thoughtfulness meant so much!



Savannah Bechtel would like to thank the congregation for the generous scholarship award that she received. Savannah will be attending HACC in the fall of 2024.

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

This is a reminder that our annual Share the Word, Share the Harvest Festival is coming up on November 12. During worship that day, we will have our usual Veteran's Day Recognition. Afterwards, we will be having a fellowship luncheon. Everyone is welcome to attend. There is no need to bring a side dish, and there is no cost for attending the luncheon. And please feel free to invite your friends and neighbors to join us.

On that Sunday, please note that we will be flip flopping our worship schedule with St. Stephens. St. Stephens will hold their worship service at 9:00am and we will hold our worship at 11:00am. This is to allow for us to have our luncheon immediately following our worship service. If we had had worship at 9:00am that day it would have meant that we would be having brunch as opposed to lunch. Not to mention, it would not have allowed me to participate in the luncheon, because I would have had to lead service at St. Stephens. So, we have flip flopped the service times.

We are also inviting our sisters and brothers from St. Stephens to join us that day for the luncheon. We also hope that some may come to worship and simply stay afterwards for lunch. So please welcome our guests that day.

I want to thank our Welcome Committee for organizing all the details for November 12. They do a great job of planning the details each year for our Share the Word, Share the Harvest event. Thank you, Committee Members.

I look forward to seeing you all on November 12, as we give thanks for our military men and women. And we look forward to sharing a fellowship meal where we thank God for the blessings we receive from His gracious abundance.

Manna Food Pantry

Our "2nd Sunday" food collection is still ongoing. During this time of continuous rising food prices 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 donation, please mark your envelopes "Manna Food Pantry" and place it with your regular giving envelope.



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

We have Children's Sunday School on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month during the service. At each session the children complete a craft and enjoy a snack. **The next class will be Sunday, November 5th!!** 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!



A Word on Stewardship

Do you think about your legacy, that is, what people will remember about you? In my vocation as a pastor, this question comes up quite a bit, because of the many funerals I perform, and because of the eulogy I typically include in each funeral sermon. And so, in preparation for the funeral service, I tend to sit down with the family of the deceased and ask about their loved one. Where did he/she grow up? From where did he/she graduate high school? Did he/she go to college? Did he/she serve in the military? What employment did he/she do? Did he/she get married? Did he/she like to travel? What were his/her hobbies? So on and so forth.

What will people say about you after you are gone? Sorry for being so macabre. Sometimes I think it would be easier if individuals would write their own eulogy while still living. That way the person writing the eulogy would know exactly what would be said about them. Yes, it would be very helpful to write one's own legacy. In other words, "what will people say about you" is what you write about yourself, because the eulogist can just read your words.

And I thought how interesting it would be for organizations, like the Church, to do a similar thing. So, here is the question I pose to you: "If Our Saviour were to close (and I am not saying it is going to, but I am simply trying to get us to think about who we are and what we are about), what would you want people to say about the Church?" Here is maybe some of the comments we would hear at Our Saviour's funeral: "They made really good candy eggs"; "They had a wonderful GermanFest event"; "They had that cool touchdown Jesus statue on the side of their building." Some former members who knew our congregation from the inside would no doubt have other things to say about Our Saviour.

You see my point, though, don't you? There is a "narrative" that is attached to every church. The narrative can be, often is, what others say about the church. What I am just saying is that it would be much more helpful for the church to control its own narrative, much like an individual writing their own eulogy, as opposed to having someone else write it.

So how do we write our own narrative and get that narrative out there for others? It starts with the question of what do we want our legacy to be? And how does that legacy inform and impact everything else we do? This then is the work of our Visioning Team here at Our Saviour, as I see it. The Visioning Team is working toward capturing the identity of our congregation into words, such that that "vision statement" is the driving force for all we do. So please keep the Visioning Team in prayer, because the best stewardship work of our church is understanding who we are and who we want to be.



Dear Padre,

What are your thoughts about the recent events in the Middle East, between Hamas and Israel?

Signed, Concerned

Dear "Concerned,"



I am also concerned, and I am saddened. Somewhere I heard it said that the recent events of October 7th and the days that followed have completely undone any progress that has been made in the last 80 years with respect to relations between Israel and its Palestinian neighbors. And that is terribly unfortunate, to think that we are back to ground zero.

But it is true of every conflict, whether in the Ukraine, or the Middle East, or elsewhere...it is true that every conflict sets us back as a human species. Because what happens when conflicts emerge, but that people take sides. And it is in the process of taking sides that sets us back. We go into our human species' default mode, and it becomes "us vs. them." And it is this "us vs. them" scenario that takes us back to our most basic instincts.

When human beings were still in their hunter-gatherer stage, social scientists say human beings were divided into various individual social groups. You had one social group over here doing their thing and another social group over there doing their thing, so on and so forth. And it was the case that when one social group came into contact with another social group, the immediate response was to see the other social group as a threat to one's own social group. And the protocol was to destroy the "other" first and ask questions later. And this protocol became hardwired into the human psyche for generations upon generations. It is why the history of humans has been so plagued by war and conflict, because it always comes down to "us vs. them."

And so, when a new conflict emerges, it takes us back to our basic instincts. And, personally, I struggle when I hear various countries putting their weight behind this side or that, because it shows how little progress we have made in all our human existence.

What's the answer? We need to break the cycle, and we need to start hardwiring an alternative into the human psyche. I don't know exactly how we do that, but I do believe that our ancestors of the faith were trying to do just that with the stories they told to themselves. Think about the story of Joseph and the Coat of Many Colors. This is a story about brothers at odds among themselves. And it is a story that eventually has resolution such that the family is reunited. It is a story then about reconciliation, and it is story about undoing the "us vs. them" (brother against brother) scenario. Perhaps, we need faith, and the Bible, and religion, if for no other reason than to begin to help us live with one another better. And so maybe the power brokers in Israel and Gaza, and in other conflicts, would do well to read stories like Joseph and his brothers.

Thanks for your question.

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, September 13, 2023

Members Present: Pastor Joel Petruschke, Anneke Fleming, President, Brad Neil, Vice-President, Jim Lubrecht, Treasurer, Jeanette Logan, Secretary, Penny Zimmerman and Steve Barron.

Members Absent: Dawne Veet

At 6:37 pm the meeting was called to order and Pastor Joel opened the meeting with a devotion.

Pastor Joel made a motion to accept the minutes from the July 12, 2023 Council Meeting with the edits noted. Penny seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Pastor Joel made a motion to accept the minutes from the Special Council Meeting on August 15, 2023. Steve seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Jim reviewed the Financial Report with Council. He referred to the Previous Year Comparison sheet and informed Council that the Net Income for January 2023 to August 2023 is a negative \$13,691.15 in comparison to January 2022 to August 2022 when the Net Income was a negative \$24,793.07. Jim gave two reasons for this change. The first being the income received for the Pastoral Contract with St. Stephen's and the second was an increase in the Gross Sales for Easter eggs. He informed Council that there has been an increase in our property insurance of \$700.00. Church Mutual Insurance informed Jim that the value of our property is over 2 million dollars. It was discussed and agreed upon that Jim break down the property insurance and Workman's Compensation and list them separately. They are currently included together in the budget.

Current Fund Money Market: Jim reported that there is an increase of \$203.65.

Scholarship Mutuals: Jim reported a decrease of \$4,198.79 and explained that this is due to the market. The Treasurer's Report is filed for Audit.

Other Correspondence: Pastor Joel sent an email to Anneke that included a video presentation from a digital sign company representative. Pastor will forward the email including the video presentation to all Council members for their viewing. This sign would replace our current marquee which is very old and falling apart.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education: Pastor Joel informed Council that Sunday School will resume in October and will be held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. Tiffany, Jessica and Jenna will be the teachers and Marilyn Chubb and Tara Bechtel have agreed to be substitutes. They anticipate to have approximately 7 children participate. Thank you notes will be sent out to church members who have generously donated school supplies. They have discussed the possibility of having a simple Christmas Pageant/Sing a long this year. Their next meeting has been scheduled for November 15th at 6 pm. Since Marcia's passing, Pastor Joel has been taking minutes and leading the meetings.



Child Protection Policy: No Report. Pastor Joel mentioned that our CPP Policy is in good shape.

Fund Raising: Discussion ensued among Council members. Those Council members who volunteered at Germanfest commented that the event went extremely well. We had a very good turnout and people stayed and enjoyed listening to the music. All baked good items were sold, all beverages were sold, more sausages had to be purchased and all beef meals were sold. Only a few pieces of chicken were left. Concerns were expressed that once again we had a low number of church members volunteer to participate in working at the event as well as preparing the food for the event during the week leading up to Germanfest. It is getting harder and harder each year to make Germanfest happen with a handful of volunteers. We need to think about how we can obtain more volunteers.

Mutual Ministry: No Report.

Property: Brad reported that he will reach out to the shed company to get an estimate on our potential shed purchase. He also told Council that he will contact Susquehanna Township to inquire about the occupancy capacity for the fellowship hall. We have several members who have donated money to be used to purchase a new shed and other members who have expressed their offer to donate money for this purchase. Pastor Joel will schedule Orkin to treat the shed for mice. The middle faucet in the kitchen sink appears to be leaking.

Scholarship BOT: No Report.

Social Ministry: No Report.

Stewardship: Not an active committee

Welcome: No Report. Pastor Joel mentioned that there are plans to hold a Mother's Day Banquet on May 5th, 7th, 8th or 9th. Welcome baskets will be distributed and the sponsorship program is being re-worked. First Sunday Socials are taking place each month.

Worship and Music: Report reviewed.

Finance: Jim will hold a Finance Committee Meeting at 6:30 pm on October 19th and November 16th to discuss the budget. He will invite John Zimmerman to give an update on the status of the Audit.

Pastor's Report: Report was reviewed by Council. Pastor Joel mentioned that Mitchell will be away this Sunday, September 17th and we will not have a replacement.

Old Business: Update on cost effective ways to help lower our costs. Dawne absent at tonight's meeting.

Visioning: Anneke will set up the next meeting date. Discussion ensued about the results of the visioning breakfast. Committee will continue to work together and brainstorm for new ideas for the church's vision.

IT Committee: Anneke is currently working on this.

Council Members to be added: Joel Haines agreed to be on Council. Brad and Steve will be re-elected.

Terms of Council Members: Terms were reviewed of current Council members.

New Business:

Congregational Meeting on September 17th:

Constitutional updates/recommendations need to be voted on.

Letter of Agreement for Interim Ministry - St. Stephen's approved this on September 11, 2023. They would like to change the hours of the contract from 15 hours per week to 20 hours per week. They feel badly because Pastor Joel has been putting more time in and they would like him to be



compensated for the additional hours. The current weekly compensation is \$625.00 per week and the new compensation per week would be \$866.67. A paper ballot will be given to congregation members and the majority vote will determine whether or not another 6 month contract will ensue.

Update to Bylaws: The current quorum for congregational meetings is thirty. Do we need to change the 30 to a percentage? Anneke mentioned that some churches use a percentage. We will need congregational approval if we decided to change the quorum number.

Update on Anneke's vacation schedule for the next few months: Anneke informed Council members that she will be taking some time to be with family throughout the next few months and might miss a few Council meetings. Brad will step up and lead the Council meetings when Anneke is absent.

At 9:45 pm the meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeanette Logan/Council Secretary

Share the Word, Share the Harvest 2023!

Please join us for the Share the Word, Share the Harvest and Veteran Recognition lunch on Sunday November 12, 2023 **following our 11am worship service**. In honor of Veterans Day, we will recognize those who have served or are serving in the military. There are sign-up sheets in the narthex if you are planning to attend or you may call the church office. The deadline to sign-up is Sunday November 6, 2022. Please see any member of the Welcome Committee if you have any questions. We hope to see you there!!



Thank You, LORD!

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 Sunday, November 19th. This is the request of our florist.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

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



**OUR SAVIOUR
FINANCIAL REPORT
through September 30, 2023**

ENVELOPES AND PLATE	\$ 87,803.45
FUND RAISING	\$ 28,412.37
FELLOWSHIP HALL RENTAL	\$ 3,515.00
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$ 135,980.82</u>
EXPENSES	<u>\$ 147,774.70</u>
DEFICIT	<u>\$ -11,793.88</u>

PNC BANK STATEMENT BALANCES
as of September 30, 2023

CURRENT FUND CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$ 6,933.05
MEMORIAL FUND MONEY MARKET#	\$ 13,909.30

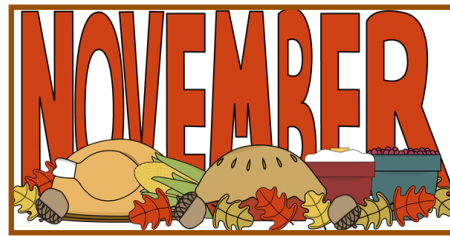
THRIVENT ACCOUNTS

	9/30/2023	8/31/2023	difference
CURRENT FUND MONEY MARKET	\$48,263.39	\$48,071.96	\$191.43
SCHOLARSHIP MUTUALS	\$158,991.07	\$168,781.96	-\$9,790.89
MEMORIAL FUND MONEY MARKET*	\$81,768.01	\$81,443.67	\$345.05

*\$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.





Sun

Mon




Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1	2	3	4
<p>5 - All Saints Day</p> <p>9 am - Worship w/Children's Sunday School</p> <p>1st Sunday Social</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Pastor Joel @St. Stephen's</p> <p>6 pm - Welcome Committee deadline for committee council reports</p>	<p>7</p>  <p>Election Day Soup & Bake Sale</p>	<p>8</p> <p>2:00 - Bible Study @Manor @Oakridge</p> <p>6:00 pm - Council</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:30 - Worship & Music meets via Zoom</p>	<p>10</p> <p>office closed - vacation day for Barb</p>	<p>11</p>  <p>10 am - Audit Committee Meeting</p>
<p>12 - Pentecost 24</p> <p>11 am - Worship w/Share the Word, Share the Harvest luncheon</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Pastor Joel @St. Stephen's</p> <p>office closed - vacation day for Barb</p> <p>6:30 pm - Praise Him Singers Rehearsal</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:30 pm - Visioning Team meets</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:00 pm - Christian Ed. meeting</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6:30 pm - Finance Committee</p> <p>7 pm - Praise Him Singer's Concert</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>1-9 pm - private event</p>
<p>19 - Thanksgiving Service</p> <p>9 am - newsletter deadline</p> <p>Worship w/Children's Sunday School & baptism of Walker Parson</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>  <p>office closed</p>	<p>24</p> <p>office closed</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>Pastor Joel on vacation</p>						
<p>26- Christ the King</p> <p>9 am - Worship</p> <p>hanging of the greens</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Pastor Joel @St. Stephen's</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>2:00 - Bible Study @Manor @Oakridge</p>	<p>30</p>		

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

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

Web Site: www.oslutheranharrisburg.org



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.