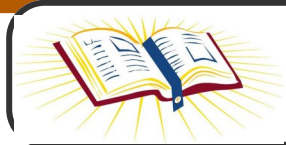


Good News

October 2023



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

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

At the recent congregational meeting on September 17, important business was conducted. First, the congregation elected Steve Barrons, Joel Hains, and Brad Neil to church council. We thank them and all our council members for serving. Their time is appreciated and valued. Second, the congregation approved changes to the Church Constitution and Bylaws. And third, the congregation voted in support of a second contract with St. Stephen's.

The contract with St. Stephen's is designated from September 22, 2023 to April 5, 2024. It is a little longer than six months, so as to extend the relationship through Easter. It would be problematic to have the relationship conclude right before Holy Week and Easter, and potentially leave St. Stephen's in a lurch without pastoral support in that most busy of times. Also, note the contract is for 20 hours/week, as opposed to 15 hours/week as in the previous contract. St. Stephen's agreed to compensate Our Saviour accordingly. Actually, I have been giving on average 20 hours/week at St. Stephen's over the past 6 months. We all weren't sure how many hours would be needed going into this arrangement, and St. Stephen's wanted to acknowledge those extra hours and, as I said, compensate Our Saviour fairly. But rest assured, the ministry at Our Saviour is not being shortchanged.

For the past 6 months St. Stephen's has been focused on healing and visitation, reaching out to regular members and estranged members. The hope was to ascertain whether they might be fiscally sound to be able to call a pastor. At this point, that possibility is unviable, and so these next six months will focus on how St. Stephen's might partner with a local congregation, whether that means merging with another congregation (leaving their church to join with another congregation), or yoking with another congregation (sharing a called pastor at two sites), or purchasing pastoral services like the current arrangement. At Our Saviour's congregational meeting a motion was made and passed to update the congregation at Our Saviour at our January 2024 congregational meeting with respect to where St. Stephen's is in their discernment process come January 2024.

Fourth, and this is quite significant, Our Saviour at the congregational meeting voted to assess whether Our Saviour needs a full-time pastor, or if the congregation can be served by a pastor on a part-time basis (half-time call or ¾-time call). The question arose because of the present arrangement. Maybe Our Saviour doesn't need a full-time pastor, which would also help the congregation's budget. So, church council will provide a report to the congregation at the January 2024 with regards to this assessment.

So, a lot happened at the congregational meeting. And, personally, I am excited to see where the Spirit will lead Our Saviour and St. Stephen's in the coming months. Who knows what lies in store? Yes, there is a bit of the unknown before all of us, and yes, that can create some anxiety. But then I remember, and I remind us, of that wonderful line from chapter 3 of J.R.R. Tolkien's book *The Fellowship of the Ring*:

Bilbo Baggins says to Frodo, and I am nuancing this some, "It's a (wonderful) business, Frodo, going out your door. You step onto the road, and if you don't keep your feet, there's no knowing where you'll be swept off to."

That is spot on. That is life, not just in the church, but in our personal lives. Everyday is an adventure, but if we keep our wits about us, and if we keep our feet on the road, and if we journey trusting in God, we will be just fine. For God is good all the time.

In Christ, *Pastor Joel Petruschke*



The Lessons for October 2023 Our 2023-2024 Church Council

October 1 - Pentecost 18

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
Psalm 25:1-9
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

October 8 - Pentecost 19

Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:7-15
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

October 15 - Pentecost 20

Isaiah 25:1-9
Psalm 23
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

October 22 - Pentecost 21

Isaiah 45:1-7
Psalm 96:1-13
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

October 29 - Reformation Sunday

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 46
Romans 3:19-28
John 8:31-36

Anneke Fleming
Brad Neil
Jim Lubrecht
Jeanette Logan
Penny Zimmerman
Steve Barron
Dawne Veet
Joel Hains
Pastor Joel



Officers will be elected at the next council meeting in October



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

There is a turn of phrase that haunts me. It is this: “The gods you make are the gods that will destroy you.” That phrase haunts me because first, I struggle to discern whether that statement is true or not. And second, if it is true, and it may be, how do we ever get around it? How do we ever come to an image of God that is not some projection of the human psyche? How do we ever come to THE pure, unadulterated image of God?

Now, in the Bible, especially in the Old Testament the people of God developed an image of God, (man made) such that God was seen as wrathful, jealous, and downright frightening at times. God was seen as one who destroyed his people when they were sinful. And the destruction of God’s people happens over and over again in the Old Testament. So it seems that the statement is true—the God that the Israelites “make” and come to worship is a God who will destroy them.

Certainly, there is some truth as well to the notion that the false gods we worship have the power to destroy us. Think of the various addictions people have, the things people make into gods, whether those gods are work, or sex, or money, or power. When we have an unhealthy drive for these things, these so-called “gods” become unhealthy for us and they take their toll, such that they can destroy us.

In our society, I worry about the gods we have established/made, namely the freedom of speech and the freedom of the press. These are our “societal” gods. To be sure, many persons are deeply passionate about their media outlets. We greatly value the news and information we hear on television, on the radio, or online. But the gods associated with the media can be detrimental as well; they too can destroy us.

My fear has always been that the media plays on the passions of people. The media knows how to keep us tuned in, knows how to keep us listening. And it is not always healthy. Too much of it is toxic. And I am not denigrating one political ideology or another here; I am only just highlighting the means by which we get our news and information. And so, what we value most—the freedom of speech, the freedom of the press (these gods)—could also be our undoing as our society becomes more and more polarized through the power of the media, because we believe so passionately in the freedom of speech and the freedom of the press. The gods we make are the gods that will destroy us.

So, the question then begs to be asked in all of this, how do we counteract these gods that want to destroy us? My opinion is that we need to be critical thinkers. With respect to the media, for instance, we need to ask ourselves certain questions. Why do I listen to that particular news outlet? How do I feel when I hear their reporting? Why do I feel that way? What is the other perspective?

With respect to addictions, it is also helpful to ask ourselves questions, so as to think critically. Why do I give in to this addiction? What prompts me or triggers my behavior such that I seek out a certain unhealthy habit? Why do I give up control to this addiction?

Yes, critical thinking is paramount for coping with the gods that want to destroy us. And, our ancestors of the faith did the same thing. They thought critically, and they asked questions about their God. Can God change God’s mind and decide NOT to bring about the destruction of a people when they have sinned? To which, the answer is “yes.” See the Old Testament book of Jonah, for instance. The book of Jonah is an example of our ancestors of the faith thinking critically.

So, critical thinking is so important. It makes us slow down and makes us more self-aware. It makes us question why it is we do what we do. It makes us take inventory of our behaviors and it seeks to understand them. In essence, critical thinking makes us ponder the gods we make and makes us consider how those gods could be destroying us. Hopefully then, we jettison those unhealthy gods, peeling them away, as we draw closer and closer to the one true God.

A Word on Stewardship

Recently, I have been thinking a lot about the stewardship of our “free time.” Specifically I have been wondering why is it that people like to travel. That seems to be what so many of us like to do with our free time. It is the “thing to do,” if we have the time AND the resources. We want to go to new places and see new things. It is almost an obsession in our culture, wouldn’t you agree? Why? Why is that the case? I understand that traveling is not for everyone, but our culture does indeed seem to put a premium on travel. I guess I find that interesting about human beings. And as I said, I have been wondering why that is the case.

And then, I was listening to an interview on the radio not long ago, and the interviewee talked about this very thing—why it is our culture, indeed why it is people in general, seem to love to travel. And the interviewee said something very interesting. He said that travel provides a “contrast” to our ordinary, everyday life. And he said that the experience of travel is as much about the “contrast” as it is about the specific places to which we travel. It is the “contrast” that really is what makes us “happy” in our travels. For he noted that without contrast in life there no differentiation between the same-old, same-old, and that which is new and different. In other words, how can we know what it is to be “happy” or “sad” or any other emotion, unless we have something to contrast with our regular humdrum emotions of the day. How can we know what it is to be “happy” if we constantly, always feel a base-line emotion of “blah.” It is an interesting thought.

That makes me wonder then. Will there be travel in eternity? And if so, where do we travel or take vacations to? Will there be “contrast” in eternity? What does happiness and joy truly look like in heaven if there is no more sadness, no more tears, such that there is no more “contrast”? These are things that make me go “huh?”

My vision of heaven, or at least part of my hope for life in eternity, that is besides getting to worship God with all the saints in the presence of God...my hope is that we somehow get to explore the vast universe, that we get to “vacation” around the cosmos, that we get to marvel at the handiwork of God throughout the heavens. I don’t know what that would look like, or how that would happen, but I trust God could make it possible for us.

In this life, in this world, individuals are fortunate if they get use their free time to travel around the world and see various destinations. My hope is that, for those who desire, in the life to come with all that “free time,” we can travel everywhere and anywhere by the grace of God. That is at least part of my vision of life in eternity.

Pet Blessing on October 8th.

It is time again to have your pets blessed. We will meet on Sunday, October 8th, at 3:00 pm in the church pavilion. There will be doggie and kitty treats for our four-legged friends. Invite your neighbors and their pets.



Dear Padre,

I am doing something a little different for our “Dear Padre” article. I want to talk about a question that was posed to the pastors at a gathering of the rostered leaders of the Harrisburg Conference.

A pastor in our Harrisburg Conference asked the other pastors in our conference this question: What do we do when there is no one left to listen to what we have to say? He asked this question in light of the reality whereby our society is becoming increasingly indifferent to worship and to hearing the Word of God.

There are several ways we might answer that pessimistic outlook. We might respond saying, “Well, we have to consider if what we (the pastors) are saying has any relevance anymore.” We might respond saying, “Well, we (the pastors) must not be saying it in the right way, otherwise people would hear us.” We might respond saying, “Well, there is always someone to hear the Word of God, even it is only the one who is doing the preaching.” Or we might respond saying, “Well, God promises in scripture that His word will not return empty (Isaiah 55:11), so just preach it and let God do what God will do.”

What happens when people won’t listen? In relationships we know what happens when one person ceases to talk to another. The relationship dies. But that doesn’t mean that the relationship can’t be resurrected. So, even though persons may stop talking to God, or listening to God, that doesn’t mean that the relationship can’t be renewed. That is always the Good News.

Furthermore, we know that God is still talking, that God hasn’t stopped speaking God’s Word to us and for us. Why? Why do we know this? Because the cosmos continues to exist all around us. If God’s Word were to stop, then everything around us would cease to be. So, we know that God is alive and well, and God continues to speak his grace out into the universe.

So, what do we do when there is no one left to listen to what we have to say? Well, at least, for God, God will continue to keep on talking, and offering hope to God’s people. And, I think that is what preachers and all of us need to keep in mind. The Word is life. Keep on keeping on. Keep speaking the Good News, and it will do what God purposes for it.

Signed, *Padre*

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, October 1st!!!** 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 have received enough donations of scissors, crayons, colored pencils, and markers. Thank you to all of those that have donated, we greatly appreciate it. **We are still in need of snacks and drinks for the kids to enjoy during the lesson.**



A Successful GermanFest 2023

GermanFest 2023 was held on Saturday, September 9, 2023, a sunny, warm day. This year we extended the time by 1 hour, making it 11 AM to 3 PM. There was good attendance throughout the day, with the most people coming during 11 AM – 1 PM. Although there was a line to buy food tickets, it moved along pretty well and the kitchen was well prepared to serve meals quickly.



We served 111 sauerbraten meals (and ran out), 178 chicken schnitzel meals (with a little chicken left), 151 bratwurst (ran out and had to go buy more), 47 hot dogs, 36 bowls of soup (ran out), 34 side dishes of German potato salad and 13 side dishes of red cabbage & apples. Our 1/3 keg of birch beer ran out by 1:30 pm; we also ran out of soda and water and had to buy more.

The bake table was totally sold out by 2 PM, not even a crumb left! We did not have as many donations for the bake table this year and could use more in the future.

Silent Auction was a success – 100 items were sold for a total of \$1,023.

We had live music this year which we think contributed to more people staying to eat their meals and listen to the music. Mick Cochran did a great job of playing and singing, while also involving the audience with questions and trivia. Hobby Chor had 20 members come to sing for us and said they would like to come back again next year.

There were a number of people who said this was their first time coming to GermanFest, as well as repeat guests. We certainly hope the ones who came for the first time will return in the future.

Many thanks to the GermanFest committee, our secretary Barb, church members and their family/friends who helped with GermanFest this year. Even though our event was successful, there is always a need for more people to help, especially the day of GermanFest. We ask you to prayerfully consider helping in the future for whatever time you can give.

On behalf of the GermanFest committee,

Deb Flage



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, July 12, 2023**

Members Present: Pastor Joel Petruschke, Anneke Fleming, President, Brad Neil, Vice-President, Jim Lubrecht, Treasurer, Steve Barron and Penny Zimmerman (via ZOOM).

Members Absent: Dawne Veet and Jeanette Logan and guest Mrs. Carol Clelland, St. Stevens Council member

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm. Pastor opened the meeting with a prayer

Minutes from June 14, 2023 were presented. Corrections to the minutes:

Brad noted that Fellowship Hall Rental rate will increase to \$200.00 per hour in 2024 instead of \$100.00 per hour. He also noted that Jim Simmons and Brad himself will take care of the Waxing and buffing of the Fellowship Hall floors before GermanFest. Pastor made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Jim seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Correspondence

Pastor mentioned that the group that wanted to rent our church for their Sunday services had contacted him on a status of availability and Pastor informed them that the church would not be available until 1 pm on Sunday afternoon. They also were told that we do not have a stage available for them as they had requested. The group decided to look elsewhere and thanked Pastor for his clarification for their Sunday service rental request.

Treasurer report

A question was raised by Pastor and Anneke about the increase of the deficit for the giving envelopes. It was decided that Jim will take a closer look at what the issue could be why the giving has declined. Anneke also suggested that the office could help Jim with the data available to them. Anneke asked if there were any other questions about the financial reports, there were none. The financial reports were filed for audit.

Committee reports

Child Protection Policy – Pastor noted that Jessica Copeland and pastor had gone over the Child Protection policy and the policy looked good! Background checks need to be done for the Sunday school teachers. Pastor mentioned Tiffany but was not sure. Jenna and Jessica are teachers so they should be fine! Pastor mentioned that he needs to have his background done. Pastor asked that the church pays for his background check.

Mutual Ministry – no report. Pastor noted that they will meet on June 2nd @ 6:30 pm

Property report

Herb Logan reported by email to Council members that about Katherine's mower has been sold, and Katherine stated to Herb that she intends to donate the money (\$800) from the sale to the church to go toward the shed project. Anneke asked Jim to provide a list of all the Shed monies that were given for the shed. Pastor will work with Jim on this.

Brad mentioned that he had received 5 rental requests during the month of July, mostly graduations, which would be approximately \$3,000 for rental income. A discussion ensued about the Hall Rental with banquet



sign in the yard. Anneke mentioned that the sign was not readable from one side of the street when traffic passes by, she suggested to buy a second sign and put it on the other side of the yard. Pastor made a motion to buy a duplicate sign for Hall Rental with banquet. Jim seconded. Motion carried!

Brad reported that he had a request from the Praise Him Singers group that rents our church for rehearsals and a concert performance in our Sanctuary. He explained that they use 27 hours per event and pay \$100.00, which is really an expense for the church because they are using all our facilities, including the Sanctuary. Brad suggests to ask for \$250 per 6 months because they do rehearsals twice a year and give a concert in the Sanctuary at our church. Pastor made a motion to increase the \$100 to \$250 for rehearsals and performance event. Brad seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Brad mentioned problem with the sensors in the building. The sensors were provided at no cost through our Property Insurance Company, Church Mutual. The sensors located in the utility room next to the water header, one is in the Narthex on the wall near the Fellowship Hall. The sensors monitor, located in the Church office on the table next to the printer, monitors the conditions in the church building such as the water heater and when the temperature in the building drops.

Finance Committee

Jim reported that the PNC Bank on Linglestown Road will not close its doors. Jim will notify the church counters. Anneke suggested to put a note in the newsletter also.

Church audit update: Jim noted that John Zimmerman has all the documents, no report yet. Penny mentioned that the audit will probably be done after they have settled into their home again.

Pastor report – Pastor noted that the report was self-explanatory.

In addition, Pastor shared that Saint Stephen's Church is generally doing well and they would feel comfortable to continue with another Interim contract. Current 6-month contract ends September 21, 2023. Pastor also noted that the healing process is going well, some members who had resigned their membership were welcomed back as new members. Overall, the healing service and council that Pastor provided has been a blessing to St. Stephens as per Council president Tom Burson. Pastor explained that the Synod contact, Beth Martini, meets with both parties and will write up a new 6-month contract. One of Our Saviour's concerns was as to when Saint Stephens starts their call process for a pastor? Tom Burson explained that they are financially not capable of hiring a pastor full time but will consult with Beth Martini what some of the possibilities are moving forward, such as merging with another congregation or having a call pastor serve 2 churches or an Interim contract with a pastor of another congregation as is the case now. The membership at Saint Stephens is approximately between 20-30 members.

Pastor informed council that the Racial Justice Forum was started again. In addition, the Forum had applied 2 years ago to a program that Messiah University is sponsoring, called Thriving Together. Both churches were not accepted at that time but applied again this year and were preliminarily accepted. This program entails talking with other churches about racial issues, and healing issues with regards to diversity. Meetings will be held at Messiah. In 2024, Messiah will arrange a 6-day bus tour that can be attended by 3 members of each church (Pastor, Otis and Nadine Martin). There is no financial cost involved. Pastor will keep us and the congregation updated on this endeavor.

OLD BUSINESS

Mitchell Sesenig, Organist Contract

Pastor conducted a performance evaluation meeting with Mitchell. He reported that the issues that Mitchell had were corrected accordingly. Pastor was overall very happy with Mitchell's performance. Pastor, Anneke, and Jim met with Mitchell to discuss the financial site of the new starting date of Feb 1,



2024 contract, and what he would be paid from Sept 2023 until Feb 1, 2024. Jim made the calculations for each paycheck based on the yearly \$10,000 that Mitchell was paid during his 2023 contract. We also apologized to Mitchell for our oversight of not renewing the 2023 contract in time. Mitchell graciously was ok with all of it!

Marquee Box and Church address sign

Brad checked out the Marquee Box and the newly painted address sign on the front lawn. He was very pleased with the work of Dave Scicchitano. It was also mentioned that Dawne Veet needs to withdraw her motion that the address sign should have been painted in blue.

Visioning committee report

Anneke informed Council that the committee had a very productive meeting and they are looking forward to the Visioning breakfast on August 19. Dan Fleming volunteered to be a member on the Visioning committee and will attend the next meeting.

Internal Technical (IT) Committee

Anneke is working on recruiting members for this committee!

Church member survey on Interim Contract with Saint Stephens

We received 24 replies, 15 continue with new contract, 6 maybes', and 5 do not continue. Anneke spoke with the Saint Stephen's Council about our congregation feeling rushed. Pastor and Anneke thought it a good idea for the pastor to spend 15 minutes after the service at Our Saviour so he is available should a church member wanted to talk to him. Saint Stephens did not have a problem with that. After much discussion, it was decided to have a meeting with Tom Burson, Council president of Saint Stephens, on August 15 at 6:30 pm and discuss the arrangement and that would be the only item on the agenda. Council agreed.

Constitution updates from Synod

We received a letter from The ELCA Churchwide Assembly Legislative Updates committee with updates and recommendations to our current constitution. The recommendations that are given by ELCA are optional to change in the Church Constitution. Pastor and Anneke went through our church's current Constitution and made the mandatory updates and optional recommendations. Only 16 pages needed to be updated/changed. This document was emailed on August 9, 2023 or put in the mailslot at church for members who did not have an email address on file. This action was taken because the membership must be notified 30 days prior to the Special Congregational meeting on September 17, 2023.

Clarification what type of updates were made:

* an asterisk (*) in front of the paragraph number, *C.403 is a mandatory update from ELCA.

* Paragraph numbers without an asterisk (*) are recommendations to the current Constitution.

The recommendation changes to the constitution at this meeting must be voted on and ratified at our 2024 January Congregational meeting.

Anneke will send an email on July 24 to all Council members to ask for a motion, and a second so the Council can vote on the Constitutional changes/recommendations. Pastor and Anneke already cast their vote with a yes.

NEW BUSINESS

Recruiting New Council members

Anneke mentioned that she had asked Joel Hains and he accepted. Anneke also asked all Council members to go out and ask members if they would be willing to serve as Council member. Names that were

mentioned are Marilyn Chubb, Marilyn Hocker, Herb Logan, Nedda Pollock, and Nancy Pinko.

Pastor will asked Barb for a term council member listing.

Meeting ajourned at 9:10 pm with the Lord's prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Antonetta (Anneke) Fleming
Council President

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Saviour
Special Council Meeting
Tuesday, August 15, 2023

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

Members Absent: Jim Lubrecht, Dawne Veet and Penny Zimmerman

Guest: Tom Burson, Council President for St. Stephen's Lutheran Church.

At 6:39 pm, the meeting was called to order and Pastor Joel offered a word of prayer.

Anneke mentioned that a mini recorder will be used to capture the content of our meetings.

Anneke introduced Tom Burson to everyone and stated that we will be discussing the results of the survey that was taken of our congregation members regarding their thoughts on how the arrangement with Pastor Joel and St. Stephen's has been going. Tom noted that a survey of the congregation at St. Stephen's had also been conducted. They had 26 members respond to the survey. Everyone was happy to continue the pastoral services with Pastor Joel. They had no negative responses. He noted that 2 members who had left the church have come back to St. Stephen's.

Anneke mentioned that overall, the results of the survey of our congregation members were positive. There were a couple of members who mentioned they were concerned about the extra amount of time Pastor was spending and how this might be affecting him. Anneke noted that at last month's Council Meeting there was discussion that perhaps Pastor Joel should spend an extra 15 minutes after the conclusion of our church service to talk with anyone who might need to talk with him. Pastor Joel mentioned that he has started this routine after service. Tom mentioned that their congregation is very understanding and is fine if he arrives a few minutes late. Pastor Joel mentioned that this has been helpful to him as well. He feels more relaxed and not as rushed. He will continue this routine.

At this point in time, Anneke distributed the surveys from our members. There were 24 responses from Our Saviour members. She informed Tom and Council that we need to present our findings at the Congregational Meeting which will be held on Sunday, September 17, 2023. She asked Tom what their church's intent was. He informed Council that St. Stephen's would like to renew the contract with Pastor Joel for another 6 months. He said he needed to talk with Pastor Beth Martini of the Synod to get her blessing on this. He also mentioned that they need to examine what the future of their church looks like, and what will their church need for the long term.

He feels these 6 months healing process has been good for their church. It has helped to settle things down and ground them once again, and has helped them get back to feeling normal again. However, they need a vision for their church for the long term. He believes there needs to be some arrangement of a shared ministry for their

church because he doesn't believe they can afford to support a full-time pastor. The only negative that he sees with the current relationship with Pastor Joel is the distance that our church is from St. Stephen's.

Anneke asked Pastor Joel how he felt about continuing this contract. Pastor said he is willing to stay on but he feels that it is best to bring on Pastor Martini for her guidance. There are a couple of options that could take place. First, a merging of two churches like Zion in Penbrook did with Good Shepherd. He mentioned a second option might be yoking with another church. This option would mean that a pastor would be called by both churches in a more formal agreement. The third option would be for the church to continue to purchase pastoral services like what is currently happening. He feels that Pastor Martini needs to be brought into this conversation because she may know of churches that are in transition in the area and might be suitable for one of these options to help St. Stephen's. He feels that St. Stephen's needs to begin talking about this with Pastor Martini. The current contract between St. Stephen's and Pastor Joel is concluded as of September 21, 2023.

Tom agreed that they need to talk with Pastor Martini. He said it is their proposal to Pastor Martini to continue the contract for another 6 months but to try to think long term about what is the best thing to do for both churches. Tom has left messages for Pastor Martini. She has been on vacation.

Anneke said that we would like to have something in stone by the time of the congregational meeting on 9/17/2023.

Tom asked the question do we want to change the current contract in any way or do we just change it by extending it for another 6 months? Anneke polled the Council members present and asked if they would like to continue the contract. There were 3 in favor and 1 not in favor of continuing another contract. She reminded the members present at tonight's meeting that there were 3 members absent. She noted that this is a congregational decision. The information from tonight's meeting will be presented to the congregation at the meeting on September 17, 2023.

A discussion ensued about the results of the survey of Our Saviour's members and what the general feel for proceeding with another 6 months of the contract might look like. A suggestion was made to wait to see what feedback was given at the congregational meeting and perhaps make changes to the contract if needed and if agreed on. A concern was addressed that the lengthening of the contract might keep continuing this process without an end in sight.

It was noted that there were some responses that mentioned not continuing the contract. A suggestion was made that perhaps we need to wait and see what the members say at the congregational meeting on September 17, 2023. It was noted that the extra income coming from the pastoral services has helped our financial situation. We are still operating in a deficit but the amount that we are in the red has decreased. We will need to see where we are at the end of the year.

Anneke said that when she returns from being out of town, we will meet again to discuss this matter. Hopefully by that time Tom will have been able to speak with Pastor Martini and he will have more information available and suggestions made by her. Anneke reminded those present that we are missing 3 members at tonight's meeting and we need to hear their opinions as well.

It was discussed that the arrangement for Mitchell would also need to be updated if this arrangement continues for a longer period.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm with The Lord's Prayer. Our next Regular Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 13, 2023 at 6:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanette Logan, Council Secretary

Our Next Family Promise Host Week



Our next host week for Family Promise will be here before you know it! Our Saviour, along with Good Shepherd, will be hosting Family Promise Sunday, October 15 through Sunday morning, October 22, 2023.

Won't you **please** consider providing a meal, driving the van, or sleeping overnight at the Church? Sign-up sheets are posted in the Narthex.

This program can only exist with the help of our volunteers. Your volunteering does make a positive impact for these families!

If you have any questions about the mission of Family Promise or would like more information on volunteering opportunities through Family Promise, please feel free to talk to me.

Thank you.

Nadine Martin
(717) 497-1200

NadineLMartin@verizon.net

Thank You

Thank you to those of you that donated items to our GermanFest Silent Auction this year. We had a great event and the proceeds from Silent Auction were \$1,023! We sold a total of 100 items. It would not have been as successful without your donations and help! Thank you again!

Jenna Youngblood, Silent Auction Coordinator



Eva Farling	10/6	Rick Ecklund	10/22
Marilyn Chubb	10/7	George Schreffler, III	10/24
Russ Faber	10/7	Larry Wilt	10/24
Richard Flage	10/12	Madeline Schreffler	10/27
Tyler Cristaldi	10/13	Troy Schreffler, Jr.	10/27
Nadine Martin	10/14	Jim Lubrecht	10/28
Anneke Fleming	10/16	Robert McCann	10/28
Stephen Flournoy	10/17	Ada Heberle	10/31
Hayden Brittelli	10/20	Mark Zimmerman	10/31
Malane Digon	10/22		



**OUR SAVIOUR
FINANCIAL REPORT
through August 31, 2023**

ENVELOPES AND PLATE	\$ 92,318.45
FUND RAISING	\$ 21,252.12
FELLOWSHIP HALL RENTAL	\$ 3,465.00
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$ 117,035.57</u>
EXPENSES	<u>\$ 130,726.72</u>
DEFICIT	<u>\$ -13,691.15</u>

PNC BANK STATEMENT BALANCES
as of August 31, 2023

CURRENT FUND CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$ 4,190.24
MEMORIAL FUND MONEY MARKET	\$ 13,909.19 * #

THRIVENT ACCOUNTS

	8/31/2023	7/31/2023	difference
CURRENT FUND MONEY MARKET	\$48,071.96	\$47,868.31	\$203.65
SCHOLARSHIP MUTUALS	\$168,781.96	\$172,980.75	-\$4,198.79
MEMORIAL FUND MONEY MARKET	\$81,443.67	\$81,098.62	\$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

<p>1 - Pentecost 18</p> <p>9 am - Worship w/Children's Sunday School</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Pastor Joel @St. Stephen's</p> <p>6 pm - Welcome Committee 6:30 pm - Praise Him Singers Rehearsal</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>2 pm - Bible Study @Manor @Oakridge</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6:30 pm - Praise Him Singers Rehearsal</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7 am - private event 10 am - Bible Study, here</p>	
<p>8 - Pentecost 19</p> <p>9 am - Worship 3 pm - Pet Blessing</p>	<p>9</p>  <p>office closed</p>	<p>10</p> <p>deadline for committee</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:30 pm - Council</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>1 pm - private event</p>	
<p>15 - Pentecost 20</p> <p>9 am - Worship w/Children's Sunday School</p>  <p>newsletter deadline</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Pastor Joel @St. Stephen's</p> <p>6:30 pm - Praise Him Singers Rehearsal</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>2 pm - Bible Study @Manor @Oakridge</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:30 pm - Finance Committee</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Memorial Service for Ed Digon</p>	
			<p>Family Promise Host Week</p>				
<p>22 - Pentecost 21</p> <p>9 am - Worship 3:45 pm - Worship @Manor @Oakridge</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Pastor Joel @St. Stephen's</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>4 pm - In-Betweeners Game Night</p>	
<p>29 - Reformation</p> <p>9 am - Worship</p> 	<p>30</p> <p>Pastor Joel @St. Stephen's</p> <p>6:30 pm - Praise Him Singers Rehearsal</p>	<p>31</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



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.