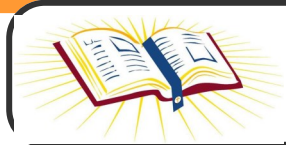


# Good News

## September 2023



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

### Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Well, it is that time of year again. Time for kids to be going back to school. My daughter Mary is starting her senior year at LVC; she will be commuting from home so we will be blessed to have her around, but her days and evenings will be busy. My son Jonah is heading back to IUP for his sophomore year. So, we won't see him as much. And I remember a TV commercial some years back, where parents are shopping for back-to-school supplies. In the foreground of the commercial the song "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year" is heard. No doubt the commercial was playing on the idea that by the end of the summer parents are at their wits' end and are ready for their kids to be back in school. But personally, I have to say that now, with my kids being in college, I miss having them around when the semester begins.

But there is something else I want to talk about for a moment, which is a simple saying from the apostle Paul. In I Corinthians 8:1, Paul writes, "Knowledge puffs up but love builds up." I think that is a very important saying to keep in mind. It means that with the accumulation of knowledge one can become self-important, one can become haughty, one can become boastful. On the other hand, love is that which truly edifies, truly enlightens, truly serves the world.

With this saying in mind, I remember hearing a lecture by Robert Franklin who was at the time the President of Morehouse College. In his lecture, he noted that many schools of higher learning were beginning to build into their degree programs required courses in ethics and/or religion. Why? Because the powers-that-be at colleges and universities were discovering that it is not enough to produce individuals who are well-trained in their specific disciplines. It is also extremely important to produce decent, morally grounded individuals.

I find that interesting. I find it interesting that colleges and universities have seen the need to teach people to be "good." I guess it is the result, at least in part, of the decline of religious institutions who once filled this niche. Again, it reminds us of Paul's saying: "Knowledge puffs up but love builds up." In short, love is what truly motivates people to be passionate about whatever they feel drawn to do in the world. But Paul, I believe, is not just talking about loving what one does in the world; it is not just about loving "the job." No, Paul is talking about loving the people that are served through the work we do in the world. And that is a tall task. It is difficult to teach people to be "good," so as to love other people in the work they do. As I said, this was once the task of religious institutions in the world. Now, it is falling apparently on the educational institutions.

At the beginning of the new school year, we pray that schools can be empowered to teach "love." We pray for the world to recognize the continued need for religious institutions to teach "love." In general, we pray for a loving world by which the world is built up.

In Christ, *Pastor Joel Petruschke*



## **The Lessons for September 2023**

### **September 3** - Pentecost 14

Jeremiah 15:15-21

Psalms 26:1-8

Romans 12:9-21

Matthew 16:21-28

### **September 10** - Pentecost 15

Ezekiel 33:7-11

Psalms 119:33-40

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 18:15-20

### **September 17** - Pentecost 16

Genesis 50:15-21

Psalms 103:1-13

Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-35

### **September 24** - Pentecost 17

Jonah 3:10 - 4:11

Psalms 145:1-8

Philippians 1:21-30

Matthew 20:1-16

## **Congregational Meeting**

Please plan to attend our annual congregational meeting scheduled for Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> immediately following our morning worship. Mark your calendars! At this meeting we will have our election of new council members, vote on changes to our constitution & handle other business.



### **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.

### ***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 donations, 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 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month during the service. At each session the children complete a craft and enjoy a snack. **The next class will be September 17<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!

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 Word on Stewardship***

For this stewardship article, I want to talk about what I deem to be perhaps the worst problem facing humanity. Perhaps even greater than the escalation of the war in Ukraine and the threat of nuclear annihilation. Perhaps even greater than the warming planet and ongoing natural disasters. There is in fact a greater problem. And that problem is cynicism.

To be “cynical” is to lose faith in the goodness of people. And I believe that is becoming more and more THE overarching problem in society. People having faith in other people is eroding. What does that mean? And why do I feel that is such a huge problem?

It is interesting to note that polls have shown that people have less confidence in their government leaders and in government institutions like the Supreme Court. People have less confidence in those who protect them like police officers. People have less confidence in their news outlets, or at least certain news outlets. People have less confidence in religious institutions. No surprise there as attendance in houses of worship has declined. All of this, as I see it, gives witness to the fact that people are becoming more cynical, that is, they are less hopeful in the goodness of people.

Why is this such a huge problem? Because I believe when hope in the goodness of people declines so does the human ability to be compassionate and merciful toward other people. Indeed, when people become more and more cynical, we begin to question why we should even bother to work toward a peaceful and just world.

Cynicism leads to indifference. Cynicism leads to the human species saying, “I don’t care. Let the world go to hell in a handbasket, as long as I get what I want out of the world.”

So, how do we undo cynicism? How do we roll back our cynical world to a place where we find hope in other people? I believe it starts with service. I believe it starts with us bucking the trend toward cynicism, so as to take up the mantle of caring and compassion. In seminary, a fellow student told me, “If you act enthusiastic, you’ll be enthusiastic.” We can extrapolate that phrase so as to say, “If you act compassionate and caring, you’ll be compassionate and caring.” We need to stress the importance of service, and we need for people do compassionate and caring deeds for others. And that needs to be emphasized in the media, because often the media is stressing the negative side of humanity, and that serves only to stir up more cynicism. And prayer... praying for other people, praying for our government, praying for our world, praying for our enemies...praying instills hope in us, so as to move beyond cynicism.

So the great stewardship issue in the world as I see it is cynicism, the lack of faith in the goodness of other people. But let us work to combat the cynicism we see around us. Take on a servant attitude and continue to pray always.

### ***An Invite to St. Stephen’s Picnic***

St. Stephen’s congregation is inviting our congregation to a picnic at their pavilion on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> starting at noon. They will be grilling hamburgers and hot dogs and providing beverages and plates, utensils, etc. They are asking their members to bring potluck side dishes and desserts. If our members would like to add to the potluck donations, that would be nice, but certainly not required - as you know we Lutherans always have plenty of food! There will also be lawn games and maybe a hymn sing. That Sunday they also plan to have outside worship & we are also invited to join them at 11 a.m. All are invited!!



*Dear Padre,*

In your opinion, what is the most important teaching to come from the apostle Paul?

Signed, A Pauline Enthusiast

Dear Pauline Enthusiast,



Aside from Jesus himself, no other person helped shape Christianity more than the apostle Paul. One might argue that Paul was even more instrumental than Jesus. Certainly, the central figure of Christianity is Jesus Christ. But the one who defined the Church and its theology was Paul.

And dare I say the most important teaching to come from the apostle Paul was the understanding that the Church and the individual Christian believers exist “in Christ.” That’s it. That’s the most important Pauline teaching—two simple words: that we exist “in Christ.” But what a profound revelation! We exist...we live, move, and have our being in Christ. Like a fetus in a womb, we live inside God. I don’t know of any other religion in history that speaks of the believer’s reality in the same way, as being inside God.

I don’t think it was a particularly huge leap for Paul to come to this conclusion. If we think about it, God seems to like working with “wombs.” Many living creatures begin their life in a womb. Mother Earth itself can be described as a sort of womb, in which the atmospheric dome protects all life from the inhospitable conditions of outer space. The living space we carve out in our homes is also a sort of womb. In the ancient world a village was a sort of womb as well protected by a wall from the frightening “wilderness” outside. Yes, God likes to work with protective “envelopes.” And what greater protection could one hope for than to be inside the womb of God.

Now this notion of being inside God in the person of Jesus Christ also then influenced Paul’s theology about Christian living and salvation itself. You see, we often talk about believing “in Christ,” as though we are saved by confessing a particular name, that is the name Jesus. And so salvation becomes almost something very passive. Just confess the name Jesus and be saved. But Christian living and salvation were much more active endeavors in Paul’s mind.

Because we are baptized “into Christ”, quite literally into the body of Christ Jesus, we quite literally then participate in the suffering, death, and resurrection of Christ. Paul believed we actively participate in Christ. As we proclaim the gospel, as we live a life of service in Christ’s name, that will inevitably bring suffering. For Paul suffering was a forgone conclusion (he even boasted in it, see II Corinthians 11:23-30), and through that suffering one was participating in Christ’s suffering, and one could be assured then of dying and rising with Christ. Faith in Christ then is something much more hands-on than what we usually think.

So being “in Christ” is both a great reassurance that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, as well as a calling to participate in the salvific life of Christ. Thanks for the 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, June 7, 2023

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

**Members Absent:** Dawne Veet

At 6:38 pm the meeting was called to order. Penny made a motion to accept the minutes from the May 10, 2023 Council meeting as corrected. Pastor Joel seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jim reviewed the Financial Report with Council. He noted that for 2023, the total egg making expenses were \$5,368.19. He informed Council that our internet expenses will be added to the Administration Expenses column on the Previous Year Comparison financial sheet. In addition, the invoice for poinsettias needs to be paid in the year that the flowers are ordered. This needs to be addressed so it doesn't appear as a payment that is made in the following year. Royer's will be contacted to make sure they send an invoice to the church and Jim will make sure that it is paid in the correct year.

The Treasurer's Report is filed for Audit.

#### Committee Reports:

**Christian Education:** Report submitted and reviewed by Council

**Child Protection Policy:** No Report.

**Fund Raising:** Report submitted and reviewed by Council.

**Mutual Ministry:** Report submitted and reviewed by Council.

**Property:** Brad informed Council that the Fellowship Hall Rental rate will increase by \$100.00 in 2024. So far this year the Fellowship Hall Rentals have brought in \$950.00. Waxing and buffing of the Fellowship Hall floors will be done after Germanfest has concluded. Brad will review the shed information that Jeanette provided. Anneke reported that the address sign has been painted and the spot lights are working. The marquis door has been fixed to prevent it from opening in the wind.

**Scholarship BOT:** Report submitted and reviewed by Council.

**Social Ministry:** No report.

**Stewardship:** Not an active committee at this time.

**Welcome:** No report submitted.

**Worship and Music:** No report submitted

**Pastor's Report:** Report submitted and reviewed by Council. Pastor Joel made a motion to accept Ricardo Vega, Jr. as a member of Our Saviour Lutheran Church. Anneke seconded the motion and the motion carried.

#### Old Business:

**Update on cost effective ways to help lower our expenses:** Dawne was absent. No update given.

**Update Scholarship BOT:** Lisa Neil sent an email to Council informing Council that Savannah Bechtel has met all of the requirements for her two years of participation in the Scholarship program. She asked for Council's approval of the school year 2022-2023. In 2022, Council approved Savannah for the previous school year of 2021-2022. The Scholarship BOT made a motion that Savannah has fulfilled all of the

requirements for 2 years of participation in the Scholarship Program for a total of \$1,600.00. Pastor Joel seconded the motion. The motion carried. The Scholarship BOT added that the BOT is planning to present Savannah with her award at an upcoming Sunday church service. They are currently working out which Sunday will work for Savannah and her family as well as the Scholarship BOT. The Scholarship BOT included another motion in their email to Council. The motion is as follows. "Thank you to the Finance Committee for their Scholarship Mutual acct. recommendation and the related information received via email on April 7, 2023 from council president, Anneke Fleming. At this time, the BOT believes that the "Scholarship Mutuals" aka "Scholarship Fund" stay in its current mutual account as stated in the 5/21/23 Financial Report. We, the BOT, will continue to collaborate with the Finance Committee and Council to ensure vigilance of the SP Fund.

**Update on Mitchell's Contract:** The new contract was reviewed and revised by Council.

**Update on Ad hoc Support Committee during arrangement with St. Stephen's:** Anneke reported that Pastor is doing well getting back and forth to both churches. St. Stephen's is doing well financially as members are coming back to church and giving has been good.

**Update on Visioning for Our Saviour:** Anneke and Pastor Joel reported that members are invited to attend an event on Saturday, August 19, 2023. A breakfast and panel discussion will be held. The panel has come up with questions about re-connecting with members.

**Update presentations of outside non-profit organizations at Sunday worship services:** There will be a limit of 10 minutes given for outside organizations wanting to speak with our church members during Sunday service.

**Update on creating an Internal Technical (IT) Committee:** Anneke is working on this and is gathering volunteers to be a part of this committee.

**Church member survey for Pastor's Interim Ministry at St. Stephen's:** Anneke discussed the desire to have a survey available to members to complete asking them if they have any concerns, how they feel things are going with the arrangement, and whether or not they are ok with the arrangement. June 21, 2023 will be the mid-point for this arrangement. Penny and Pastor Joel will work on coming up with the survey.

#### **New Business:**

**The Constitution was updated for Synod.** In September a vote will be taken on the updated Constitution. A 30 day notice will be given to congregation members informing them that a vote will be taken at the congregational meeting in September.

**Property Update:** Brad reported that Herb has fixed the broken shed door. Pastor Joel made a motion per Herb's newer information, (refer to Herb's email). Pastor Joel rescinds his motion made on May 10, 2023 Council Meeting. We will table this issue until further notice. Brad seconded the motion. The motion carried.

At 8:57 pm Pastor Joel made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Jeanette. The meeting concluded with The Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanette Logan, Council Secretary



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Linda Kunz	9/2	Betty Hammell	9/23
Mick Smith	9/3	Betty Nickle	9/25
Brad Neil	9/4	Mary Louise Shuler	9/25
Trinity Mummert	9/5	Hannah Zimmerman	9/25
Cameron Capp	9/7	Alta Shadel	9/26
Connor Ecklund	9/7	Kameron Rohacek	9/27
Maria Kunz	9/10	Kris Danner	9/28
Everly Ahrens	9/12	Kevin Gibson	9/29
Tara Bechtel	9/14	Mindy Grace	9/29
Mia Burigana	9/17	Matthew DeArmitt	9/30





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

ENVELOPES AND PLATE	\$ 66,455.35
FUND RAISING	\$ 21,252.12
FELLOWSHIP HALL RENTAL	\$ 2,890.00
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$ 90,597.47</u>
EXPENSES	<u>\$ 97,203.44</u>
DEFICIT	<u>\$ (6,605.97)</u>

PNC BANK STATEMENT BALANCES  
as of June 30, 2023

CURRENT FUND CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$ 3,612.71
MEMORIAL FUND MONEY MARKET	\$ 12,885.96 #

THRIVENT ACCOUNTS

	7/7/2023	5/31/2023	difference
CURRENT FUND MONEY MARKET	\$52,663.73	\$52,457.14	\$206.59
SCHOLARSHIP MUTUALS	\$164,141.55	\$151,542.59	\$12,598.96
MEMORIAL FUND MONEY MARKET	\$80,766.44 *	\$80,449.62	\$316.82

\*\$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



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

ENVELOPES AND PLATE	\$ 81,745.25
FUND RAISING	\$ 21,252.12
FELLOWSHIP HALL RENTAL	<u>\$ 3,440.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 106,437.27
EXPENSES	<u>\$ 116,081.47</u>
DEFICIT	<u>\$ (9644.20)</u>

PNC BANK STATEMENT BALANCES  
as of July 31, 2023

CURRENT FUND CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$9,124.33
MEMORIAL FUND MONEY MARKET	\$13,686.07 #

THRIVENT ACCOUNTS

	7/31/23	7/7/23	difference
CURRENT FUND MONEY MARKET	\$47,868.31	\$52,663.73	-\$4,795.42
SCHOLARSHIP MUTUALS	\$172,980.75	\$164,141.55	\$8,839.20
MEMORIAL FUND MONEY MARKET	\$81,098.62	\$80,766.44 *	\$332.18

\*\$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





**Willkommen zum Deutschen Fest  
Eat In or Take Out  
GermanFest 2023**



**Saturday, September 9, 2023  
11:00 am until 3:00 pm**

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

**Menu:**

<b>Sauerbraten Meal*</b>	<b>\$12.00</b>
<b>Chicken Schnitzel Meal*</b>	<b>\$12.00</b>
<b>Bratwurst</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>
<b>Hot Dog with Chips</b>	<b>\$4.00</b>
<b>Chicken Noodle Soup</b>	<b>\$4.00</b>
<b>Side of German Potato Salad or Red Cabbage with Apples</b>	<b>\$3.00</b>
<b>Water/Soda</b>	<b>\$1.00</b>
<b>Baked goods also available to purchase</b>	

**Cash or check only.**

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

**Silent Auction of new or gently used items.**





Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1	2 10 am - Bible Study 12 noon - Private Event
<p><b>3 - Pentecost 14</b></p> <p>9 am - Worship</p> <p>set up for GermanFest</p>	<p>4</p> <p>office closed</p>	5	<p>6</p> <p>8am-12noon GermanFest prep day</p> <p>6pm - GermanFest prep</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8am-12noon GermanFest prep day</p>	<p>8</p> <p>8am-12noon GermanFest prep day</p>	<p>9</p> <p>11am-3pm GermanFest</p>
<p><b>10 - Pentecost 15</b></p> <p>9 am - Worship</p> <p>picnic @St. Stephen's</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Pastor Joel @St. Stephen's</p> <p>6pm - Welcome committee</p> <p>deadline for committee council reports</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6pm - Racial Justice Forum @Our Saviour</p>	<p>13</p> <p>2pm - Bible Study @Manor @Oakridge</p> <p>6:30 pm - Council</p>	14	15	16
<p><b>17 - Pentecost 16</b></p> <p>9 am - Worship w/Children's Sunday School</p> <p>Annual Congregational Meeting</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Pastor Joel @St. Stephen's</p> <p>6:30 pm - Praise Him Singers Rehearsal</p>	19	20	21	22	23
<p><b>24 - Pentecost 17</b></p> <p>9 am - Worship</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Pastor Joel @St. Stephen's</p>	26	<p>27</p> <p>2pm - Bible Study @Oakridge</p>	28	29	30

The Evangelical Lutheran  
**CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR**  
420 North Progress Avenue  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17109

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



*Happy  
Fall!*



**Mission Statement**

Our Saviour Lutheran Church, a caring congregation dedicated to the word of Christ, welcomes all people to worship and to grow with us as we share His love and salvation with our neighbors, our children and ourselves.

**Worship**

**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.