

Good News

October 2024



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



OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH

420 N. Progress Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17109-1099
Ph: 717.545.9992

September 10, 2024

Dear Sisters and Brothers of Our Saviour Lutheran Church,

Greetings in the name of the Lord. I am writing to inform you that I am resigning my position as pastor of The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Saviour. My last Sunday will be October 6th. My last day in the office will be October 12th. I will be taking a week and a half of vacation after October 12th, and so I will technically be an employee of Our Saviour through October 22nd. I will begin my new call on October 23rd.

It is difficult to convey this news as we have served the Lord alongside one another for the better part of sixteen years, but I am most thankful to have had the blessing and privilege to journey this far along with you. I understand that some may question "why?" It is God's time. As God had called us together, so now God is calling us to something new. With that said, I believe that Our Saviour is well-positioned to embrace the new chapter this transition will bring.

As we conclude our time together, Kathy and I, and our family thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Thank you inviting us into your lives. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share the Word of God with you in worship, in Bible Study, and in conversation. Thank you for allowing me to enter into life's most precious moments with you: at the birth of your children, at the departing of your loved ones, when you have been ill, and in your moments of celebration. There is no other profession in life that even comes close to the privilege entrusted to a pastor so as to be with others in such profound ways. So, again, thank you.

During this transition, if you should have questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me. In the weeks, months, and years to come I will continue to hold Our Saviour and its many members in my prayers, as you continue to do God's work.

In Christ,

Joel D. Petruschke, pastor

Lessons for October 2024

October 6 - Pentecost 20

Genesis 2:18-24
 Psalm 8
 Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12
 Mark 10:2-16

October 13 - Pentecost 21

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15
 Psalm 90:12-17
 Hebrews 4:12-16
 Mark 10:17-31

October 20 - Pentecost 22

Isaiah 53:4-12
 Psalm 91:9-16
 Hebrews 5:1-10
 Mark 10:35-45

27 - Reformation Sunday

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



Our 2024-2025 Church Council

Brad Neil
 Jim Lubrecht
 Jeanette Logan
 Penny Zimmerman
 Steve Barron
 Joel Hains
 Deb Flage
 Sandy Moritz
 Carol Ranck



Officers will be elected at the next council meeting in October.

Upcoming Discussion on Pastoral Resources

We again invite you to a 2nd informal discussion about how churches may work together & share pastoral resources. As we end our time with Pastor Joel as our pastor, this discussion may be useful as we move ahead and we encourage members from the congregation to attend. It will be held on Saturday, October 12th, from 9-11:30am here at OSL. Additional information may be found in the letter that was sent out via email. For those of you who do not have e-mail, a copy has been placed in your church mailbox. Please RSVP to the church office (ossec@comcast.net or 717-545-9992) if you plan to attend & we hope to see you there.



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.

Important Message from Council**OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH (OSL) TRANSITION**

By Brad Neil, 2023 – 2024 Vice President

Hello from your newly elected Council. We **thank you** all for participating in the September 22 congregational meeting – either in person, via Zoom, or at home praying for our congregation.

We have several important pieces of information for you:

1. “Interim and Transition Activities” resulting from Pastor Joel’s resignation and his call to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Lancaster. We thank Pastor Joel for his tenure with us. In Pastor’s words, “the season is changing and it’s time.” Indeed, the season is changing and with God’s grace, our congregation will move from autumn to spring.
2. 2024-2025 Council Members
3. Communications (aka “RUMOR CONTROL”)

“Interim/Transition Activities”

SUNDAY SERVICES will continue. We will have “supply” pastors until Synod assists us with obtaining an “interim” pastor. The weekly bulletin will contain information about the “pastor on call” and how to contact the “pastor on call” for your pastoral needs. You can also call the church office at 717-545-9992 for assistance.

We ask that all OSL COMMITTEES and activities’ groups **continue** their wonderful work on behalf of the congregation. We thank you for your time and talents and commitment.

REFORMATION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, matters. In 1517, Martin Luther posted a list of 95 Theses that went “viral”. We continue to celebrate Reformation Sunday in 2024 as a time to “tell our story” of faith and have a “chance to remember” that “God loved us first” and “continues to shower us with grace and mercy”, and prods us to “do better.” These words are very helpful as we “transition.”

SYNOD’s representative, Rev. Beth Martini, Assistant to the Bishop, will be meeting with Council on October 10 to discuss OSL’s options and Synod requirements for next steps. We will keep you informed of our discussions and share information through temple talks, the weekly bulletins, monthly newsletter, and other forms of communication.

Concurrent with our discussions with Synod, there is an additional effort among some of the churches within the Synod’s Cumberland Conference to have conversations about “SHARING PASTORAL RESOURCES”. The first meeting took place on June 8 – some of you may have attended.

A new invitation from Pastor Trout, Secretary of the Synod’s Cumberland Conference, was sent from our church office via email on September 18, 2024 regarding the second conversation to be held on **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at OUR SAVIOUR**. The meeting is hosted by Gwenn Trout, Pastor Zion & St. Paul’s Enola, who conducted the June 8 meeting. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to pastorgwenn@verizon.net by Wednesday, Oct. 9. The purpose is to have conversations about “how congregations large and small (and everyone in between) can work together in having pastoral care coverage.”

2024-2025 Council Members

As a result of the election on September 22, 2024, Council members are:

Brad Neil	Jim Lubrecht
Jeanette Logan	Steve Barron
Joel Hains	Penny Zimmerman
Deb Flage	Sandy Moritz
Carol Ranck	

The Executive Committee, President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer will be elected at the October 10, 2024 Council meeting starting at 5:45 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE: Council's meetings are usually held on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted in "GOOD NEWS", the monthly newsletter. Should you have any questions, concerns or suggestions for Council please submit them to a Council member.

COMMUNICATIONS (AKA "RUMOR CONTROL")

Council is committed to "transparency" as we journey through OSL's "TRANSITION". As mentioned above we will communicate with the congregation as often as possible with updates on our "transition" discussions with Synod. We will bring information on OSL's "OPTIONS" to you so that you will be informed. Of course, the congregation is the ultimate decision maker for any action that will need to be taken.

Communications **FROM YOU** is very welcome. HOW? Talk with any Council member, send an email or phone call, or leave a message for us via the church office phone. You can also put a note in a Council member's mail box in the Narthex.

We want "open", "transparent" conversations. IF "Rumors" or "I heard xyz" are on your mind or raise concerns, please let a Council member know so that we can minimize confusion, conflict, & concerns. PLEASE give us your input, questions, concerns, suggestions. AND if the Spirit moves you, volunteer your time (a lot or a little) to one of our Committees.

THANK YOU for your time, understanding, and your commitment to OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH.

Covenant of Closure

Policy for a Covenant of Closure for Former Ministers and their Calling Communities

We believe that the Holy Spirit is acting when a minister of Word and Sacrament or minister of Word and Service is called to serve God's people and also that the Holy Spirit is acting when it is time for that minister to accept another call, including the call into retirement.

A healthy relationship between a minister and God's people is often mutually enriching and joyous. While serving a congregation, a minister is deeply involved in the lives of God's people, and it is appropriate that strong bonds of trust, friendship, commitment, and interdependence develop.

However, when the Holy Spirit leads the minister to a new call or into retirement, those relationships, however strong, must change for the future health of both the congregation and the minister. For the congregation to move forward, its members need to accept fully the authority and guidance of succeeding ministers, both interim and called, even as they cherish the memory and leadership of the former minister. For former ministers to live into their new lives of service or retirement, they need to surrender pastoral and ministerial authority and sever pastoral and ministerial ties with their former congregations and their people.

The following expectations will help clarify the new relationship between former ministers, congregations, and the people they formerly served:

Congregations and Members:

-Will not reach out to former ministers for professional care in times of emotional, spiritual, or physical need, but rather will seek such care exclusively from their current minister.

-Will not invite or approach former ministers to perform or participate in pastoral and ministerial acts, such as weddings, funerals, baptisms, home communions, etc., but rather will approach exclusively the current minister.

-Will not seek the counsel of former ministers (or their family members) on matters relating to the congregation, including its worship life, finance, administration, leadership, or other issues. Members will avoid talking with former ministers (and family members) about congregation matters.

-Will not expect former ministers (or their family members) to retain membership in the congregation, to attend worship, or to participate in activities or events in the life of the congregation.

-Will speak positively of former ministers (and their family members). As Martin Luther explains in the *Small Catechism*, the Eighth Commandment compels us to do so: "We are to fear and love God, so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors, betray, or slander them, or destroy their reputations. Instead, we are to come to their defense, speak well of them and interpret everything they do in the best possible light."

-Will, in continuing personal relationships, regard former ministers as friends only. Although it is proper to address any ordained minister with an appropriate title (such as Pastor, Deacon, or Sister), in light of the new relationship, members are wise to remember that the former minister no longer serves them or their community.

Covenant continues

Former Ministers:

-Will politely but firmly refuse requests to provide ministerial care to former congregation members, instead referring them to the current minister. For the health of the congregation and the integrity of the ministry of the current minister, this rule will be without exception.

-Will politely but firmly refuse all requests to perform or participate in pastoral and ministerial acts, such as weddings, funerals, baptisms, home communions, etc., instead referring them to the current minister. (Former ministers will respond to all such requests with an unequivocal “no” and not suggest that members ask the current minister if it is okay. Such a request puts the current minister in a very difficult position, creates an unhealthy triangle, and can set a dangerous precedent.)

-Will decline to comment on matters relating to the former congregation, including worship life, finance, administration, interpersonal relationships, conflicts, or politics. Former ministers will counsel their family members similarly to decline. It is wise for former ministers to discourage members even from talking with them about congregation affairs.

-Will move the official membership for themselves and all family members to another congregation. Former ministers and family members will refrain from attending worship or participating in regular events and activities in the life of the congregation.

-Will speak well of the former congregation, its leaders, and its members. As Martin Luther explains in the *Small Catechism*, the Eighth Commandment instructs us to do so: “We are to fear and love God, so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors, betray, or slander them, or destroy their reputations. Instead, we are to come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light.”

-Will, in continuing personal relationships, regard members of the former congregation as friends only. In light of this new relationship, former ministers will encourage former congregation members to address them by their given name. When they are addressed with the honorific title of “Pastor, Deacon, or Sister,” ministers will remind, as appropriate, former members that they no longer serve as *their* minister.

Covenant of Closure

In order to promote a healthy closure to the ministry tenure of our departing minister of Word and Sacrament or minister of Word and Service and a healthy beginning to the tenure of successor ministers, we the undersigned agree to do our best to abide by the conditions of this covenant. We will encourage others in our congregation and our families to do the same by making this covenant a public and living document.

Signature *Antonetta M. Hemming* _____
Congregation Council President Vice President

Signature *Jul D. Gilman* _____ Date *September 19, 2024*
Pastor/Deacon/Deaconess

**Adopted by the Lower Susquehanna Synod Council
SC15.11.38.
November 14, 2015
York, PA**

**Amended by the Lower Susquehanna Synod Council
SC23.09.52.
September 23, 2023**

Civil Rights Tour Presentation

Please join us for the last session of our three-part presentation on Saturday October 5th from 10:00am to 11:30am at the church in the Fellowship Hall. Nadine, Otis, and Pastor Joel will share their experiences of this whirlwind trip to Virginia, Georgia, Alabama, and Tennessee, which was sponsored by Messiah University's Thriving Together program. Light refreshments will be served. Please mark your calendars; we hope you will be able to attend.

Joyous News to Share

Mindy Grace welcomed her 7th grandchild, a girl, on August 28th. Celeste Mindell Grace weighed 6lbs. 13oz. and was 19.75" long. Both Momma & Celeste are doing well.



Also, Linda Schreier welcomed another grandchild, a girl, on September 4th. Alina Rose Vega, daughter of Danyelle Crosby & Ricky Vega, weighed 8lbs. 10oz. and was 21" long. Both Momma & Alina are also doing well.

We congratulate these families on their newest additions.

Manna Food Pantry

Our "2nd Sunday" food collection is still ongoing. During this time of continuous rising food, energy & gas 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.



Pet Blessing on October 6th,.....

It is time again to have your pets blessed. We will meet on Sunday, October 6th, 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.



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

We have Children's Sunday School on the 3rd Sunday of each month during the service. At each session the children complete a craft and enjoy a snack. **The next class will be October 20th!!** 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!



Help Is Needed

The flower beds around the church need regular upkeep. Additional help is needed to keep these looking nicely kept. If you can help please call or text Andrea Faber at 717-576-3329. Any & all help is greatly appreciated.



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, July 10, 2024**

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

Member Absent: Joel Hains

At 6:10 pm Pastor Joel opened the meeting with a word of prayer.

Pastor Joel made a motion to accept the Council Meeting Minutes from June 12, 2024. The motion was seconded by Brad Neil. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Jim reviewed the Budget Performance noting the Pastoral Mission brought in \$19,283.38. He reviewed the Previous Year Comparison January 2024 through June 2024 as well as Our Saviour's Financial Report noting the Memorial Fund Money Market saw an increase of \$229.60 from May 30, 2024, of \$84,591.86 to \$84,821.45 as of June 30, 2024. As of June 30, 2024, we have a deficit of \$2,565.03.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education - no report

Child Protection Policy - no report

Fund Raising - no report

Mutual Ministry - no report. It was discussed that Brad and Deb's terms are up which leaves only Nedda remaining. Three additional members are needed for the committee. Pastor Joel will put this need in the bulletin to try to get additional members.

Scholarship BOT - no report. A meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2024.

Social Ministry - Report submitted and reviewed by Council.

Stewardship - not an active committee

Welcome - no report

Worship and Music - no report

Finance - Jim reported that the next Finance Meeting will be held on August 26, 2024, at 6: 30 pm.

Pastor's Report - Pastor Joel reviewed his report with Council.

Building/Property - Brad informed Council that he cannot find a company to repair the light in the parking lot. A lift is needed to make the repairs. The estimates that he has received have been very expensive. He will continue to work on this.

Old Business:

IT Committee: This is currently on hold.

Building/Property evaluation committee: This is currently on hold.

Update on Membership Role ad-hoc committee: Jim reported that the membership role update has been completed. Copies of this role were given to Council members and they were asked for any corrections. It was noted that a few membership dates were incorrect and will need to be updated.

Germanfest fundraiser: The need for additional volunteers is still a concern. Detailed job descriptions and specific time slots have been included on sign up sheets available in the Narthex. Pastor Joel will continue to make a plea for volunteers during weekly service announcements.

St. Stephen's update: Pastor Joel informed Council that they are still in need of an Interim Pastor.

Pastor's vacation: Pastor Joel reminded Council that he will be on vacation July 27th to August 3rd and August 5th to August 10th. He has arranged for supply pastors and Pastor Richard Eckert will provide coverage for pastoral emergencies.

New Business:

Announcements of new positions open in church Council and Committees: Discussion ensued pertaining to the need for these volunteers. Steve, Penny and Jeanette will need to be re-elected to council at the September Congregational Meeting. September 22, 2024 is the date for the Congregational Meeting with September 29th being the back-up date.

Members having issues hearing readers and Pastor: Jeanette spoke with Herb. This is not an issue with microphones or the sound system. If the person reading does not have the microphone pointed close to their mouth, there will be an issue for those in the back of the Sanctuary to hear them.

Visioning Meeting: The next meeting has been scheduled for August 20th.

St. Stephen's is having difficulty getting a consistent Pastor for Sundays: Pastor Joel proposed that he could do Sunday Services for them until the end of the year. This would not be on a contract basis and he would be doing this on his own free time. He would not be going to St. Stephen's during the week.

August Council Meeting: There will not be a meeting in August.

At 8: 15 pm Pastor Joel made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Penny seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The next Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 11th at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeanette Logan, Council Secretary

**OUR SAVIOUR
FINANCIAL REPORT**

	AS OF <u>8/31/2024</u>	AS OF <u>7/31/2024</u>	<u>difference</u>
ENVELOPES AND PLATE	\$75,812.50	\$68,373.90	\$7,438.60
FUND RAISING - EGGS	\$18,581.31	\$18,581.31	\$0.00
FUND RAISING - ELECTION	\$324.01	\$309.01	\$15.00
FELLOWSHIP HALL RENTAL	\$1,175.00	\$1,725.00	\$0.00
ST STEPHENS MISSION	<u>\$19,933.38</u>	<u>\$19,933.38</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$116,376.20	\$108,937.60	\$7,438.60
EXPENSE	<u>\$135,558.84</u>	<u>\$119,388.29</u>	<u>\$16,170.55</u>
NET SURPLUS/DEFICIT	<u>-\$19,182.64</u>	<u>-\$10,450.69</u>	<u>-\$8,731.95</u>

PNC BANK STATEMENT BALANCES

	<u>8/31/2024</u>	<u>1/1/2024</u>	<u>difference</u>
CURRENT FUND CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$10,580.70	\$20,985.41	-\$10,404.71
MEMORIAL FUND MONEY MARKET #	\$15,461.03	\$14,854.87	\$606.16

THRIVENT ACCOUNTS

	<u>8/31/2024</u>	<u>1/1/2024</u>	<u>difference</u>
CURRENT FUND MONEY MARKET	\$50,564.68	\$48,874.97	\$1,689.71
SCHOLARSHIP MUTUALS	\$193,608.42	\$173,976.74	\$19,631.68
MEMORIAL FUND MONEY MARKET *	\$88,666.92	\$82,804.13	\$2,862.79

\$61,000 of Thrivent Memorial Fund Money Market is from the

\$1,310.57 of PNC Memorial Fund Money is from the Ruth Knerr



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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





Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thur

Fri

Sat

		1	2 6pm - Altar Guild	3	4	5 10am - Civil Rights Tour Presentation
<p>6 - Pentecost 20 9am - Worship Pastor Joel's last Sunday @OSL 3pm - Pet Blessing 1st Sunday Social Family Promise Host Week begins</p>	<p>7 6pm - Welcome Committee committee reports due in office</p> 	8	9	<p>10 6pm - Council Pastor Joel's last day in the office</p>	11	12 9am - Sharing of Pastoral Services discussion
<p>Family Promise Host Week</p>						
<p>13 - Pentecost 21 9am - Worship</p>	<p>14  office closed</p>	15	16	17	18	19 9am - Altrussa Workshop 12:30pm - Pastor's Farewell luncheon - RSVP to church office
<p>20 - Pentecost 22 9am - Worship Children's Sunday School November newsletter deadline</p>	21	22	23	24	25 office closed - vacation day for Barb	26
<p>27 - Reformation Sunday 9am - Worship private event</p> 	28	29	30	<p>31 - Halloween </p>		

The Evangelical Lutheran
CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR
420 North Progress Avenue
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Phone: 717-545-9992
Email: ossec@comcast.net
Web Site: www.oslutheranharrisburg.org



VISION STATEMENT

*Through the power of the cross, we,
as disciples of Jesus Christ,
are called to nourish those who
hunger in mind, body, and spirit.*

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.