

Good News

December 2024



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

Advent. The arrival of a notable person or thing. For Christians, Advent is a four week season of preparation for that special arrival of the Christ child. We celebrate this time with reflections on hope, peace, love, and joy envelops our world. Each week we light a new candle as we prepare for the light of the Christ child's arrival.

From the first story to the last, the Bible is full of narratives, poetry, prophecy, biographies, and personal letters that inform our understanding of Advent. When the Bible talks about humans waiting for the promised anointed King who would deliver them, it can help us connect with their anticipation (Amos 9:11-13). When we read about people choosing joy and hope in God's promises despite their circumstances, the meaning of Advent can take on a deeper meaning (Isa. 9:6-7, 11:1-5; Luke 1:26-2:20). And when the New Testament talks about a second advent, the return of Jesus, we can join in that time of waiting, shared by Christians throughout history (Rev. 21:1-5).

Advent symbolizes the church's present situation in these "last days" (Acts 2:17, Hebrews 1:2) as God's people wait for the return of Christ in glory to consummate his eternal kingdom. The church is in a similar situation to Israel at the end of the Old Testament: in exile, waiting and hoping in prayerful expectation for the coming of the Messiah. Israel looked back to God's past gracious actions on their behalf in leading them out of Egypt in the Exodus, and on this basis, they called for God once again to act for them. In the same way, the church, during Advent, looks back upon Christ's coming in celebration while at the same time looking forward in eager anticipation to the coming of Christ's kingdom when he returns for his people.

Culturally the four weeks before Christmas is consumed in preparation for the holiday. Shopping, cleaning, decorating, and other activities dominate our time. In the midst of all this busy-ness, we hear the voices of the prophets calling for us to pause and reflect on the reason for the season – preparing for the arrival of the promised Savior. So take some time to slow down and prepare for the holy-day that we all await – The Nativity of our Lord, Christmas. Reflect, Repent, and be Renewed. That will bring the light of a Merry Christmas.

Peace, Pastor Terhune

"The celebration of Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in soul, who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, and who look forward to something greater to come." - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36

Lessons for December 2024 **December 8 - Advent 2**
1 - Advent 1
Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:1-10

December 8 - Advent 2
Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11

Luke 3:1-6

December 15 - Advent 3

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Isaiah 12:2-6

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:7-18



December 22 - Advent 4

Micah 5:2-5a

Luke 1:46b-55

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-55

December 24 - Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm 96

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-20

Thank You

"THANK YOU to all who sent cards, flowers or wished me well on my birthday! It made my



Mid-Week Advent Services

You are invited to attend Midweek Advent



services at Good Shepherd. The series of Midweek services will be held on Wednesdays, December 4th, 11th, and 18th. Good Shepherd will begin with a soup supper at 5:30pm

day extra special. Someone asked me what I thought was the most amazing thing I've experienced in my life. My answer was "living to 103." I am grateful for your support.

followed by worship at 7:00pm, using the Holden Evening Prayer.

Christmas Eve Worship

Please join us for worship on Christmas Eve:

7:00pm - Family Service with Holy Communion



Peace be with you.
Ada Heberle”

Parish Staff

Rev. Frank Terhune , interim 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.

Council News

We want to welcome Pastor Frank Terhune into our family at Our Saviour as our Interim Pastor. We look forward to getting to know him. He prefers that we call him Pastor Frank. His email is oslpastor420@gmail.com and his phone number is 610-751-5472. His office hours are currently Wednesdays and Fridays 9am-noon. He will be visiting and available at tother time during the week. If you need to speak to him outside of office hours please contact him on his cell phone.

We would like to thank the Welcome Committee for our Veteran's Recognition event on Sunday, November 10th as well as thank all those who helped make our Election Day sale a success.

Our annual January congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 19th with a snow date of Sunday, January 26th. Please add this to your calendars.

On Saturday, October 12th there was a Sharing Pastoral Resources Gathering which was held here at Our Saviour and attended by nine congregations from both the east and west shores. At this gathering Zion Lutheran Church in Dauphin asked to have a meeting with us to begin a conversation about sharing pastoral resources. Our council members met with their council members at Our Saviour on Wednesday, November 6th to discuss the possibility of working together to share a pastor.

Zion has a weekly attendance of about 50-60 members and owns their church building like we do. They are in the process of calling a part-time pastor. Unfortunately, they have been in this process for almost two years without any success. They cannot support a full-time pastor. They presently have a part time interim pastor like we do.

At our September 2023 congregational meeting, Council was asked to look into the possibility of Our Saviour having a part time pastor instead of a full-time one when looking at our church finances.

Both church councils feel that working together we could possibly find a full-time pastor that would work with both churches.

Our next step is to speak with Synod about our next steps. We will keep you updated on this. Please reach out to any council member with any questions or comments you have.

May God grant you peace and serenity this holiday season. Goodwill, good health and good tidings for the new year to come. Merry Christmas!

Brad Neil
OSL 2024-2025 Council President

Committee Spotlight

The Social Ministry Committee is serving our members / neighbors in need. The committee does various projects. Birthday cards are sent to members age seventy-five or older. If you did not receive a card, please contact a committee member. We have been doing the Salvation Army collection of gifts for Christmas for children for several years. We have also sponsored Christmas caroling at local nursing homes. In the past we have organized "Lunch Bunch" events. The Mana Food Pantry Collection is part of our committee to help serve our neighbors in need. This past summer, member Otis Martin checked with a local nursing home to see what we could do for their residents. The suggestion was for large print Bibles. Donna Miller obtained a \$250.00 Thrivent grant. With the grant forty-eight Bibles were purchased. The Bibles were distributed to three nursing homes. Jigsaw puzzles were also given to the nursing homes. Members of the committee are: Nadine Martin, Otis Martin, Penny Zimmerman and Donna Miller, Chairperson. If anyone is interested in joining the committee or has any suggestions for the committee, please see any member.

Social Ministry's Christmas Project

Our Social Ministry Committee is sponsoring a Christmas Project for the Salvation Army in Harrisburg. Children are ages 0 to 18, so many gift options are needed. You can buy items from the list and simply

return them unwrapped to the church by December 2nd at 5:00 PM.

The following is a list of some items that are needed.

- Books for ages 1 to 18.
- Fleece sweatpants and sweatshirts.
- Board games and card games.
- Colorful socks and slippers.
- Fleece throw blankets and throw pillows.
- Age-appropriate toys, please include batteries if needed.
- Hats, gloves and scarves.
- New clothes any size.



Any questions, please call Donna Miller, Chairperson at 717-558-066.



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.

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 December 15th!!** 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 will be needed to keep these looking nicely kept **this coming spring**. If you can help please call or text Andrea Faber at 717-576-3329. Any & all help is greatly appreciated.



Susquehanna Chorale to Perform Traditional Candlelight Christmas Concerts

The Susquehanna Chorale, a nationally acclaimed adult chamber ensemble of 41 auditioned singers, will present its *Candlelight Christmas* concert series on Dec. 13-15th, under the direction of Linda L. Tedford.

The series begins on Friday, December 13th at The Church of the Brethren, Elizabethtown, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, December 14th at The Calvin and Janet High Center for Worship and Performing Arts, Messiah University, 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, December 15th, at Market Square Presbyterian Church in Harrisburg, 4 p.m.



This year's *Candlelight Christmas* concerts celebrate the season with holiday music, including settings of traditional carols. To honor the late choral legend, Alice Parker, the Chorale will feature her arrangements of *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*, *Bringa Torch*, *Jeannette Isabella*, *The Friendly Beasts*, and *Angels We*

Have Heard on High. The program also includes stunning brass accompaniment to Jeffery Ames', *Gloria Fanfare*, Glenn Rudolph's *The Dream Isaiah Saw*, Richard Dirksen's *Welcome All Wonders* and Dan Forrest's sing-along favorite, *Festival First Noel*.

A pre-concert recital by Susquehanna Chorale accompanist, Daniel L. Dorty and guest artists, The Messiah University Brass, will be presented 15 minutes prior to each performance.

For tickets, information about group discounts, and our livestream option, visit www.susquehannachorale.org/performances or call the Messiah University Box Office at 717.691.6036 and choose option 1.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A
FOOD BANK.

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans

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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
Thursday, October 10, 2024**

Members Present: Pastor Joel Petruschke, Brad Neil, Jim Lubrecht, Jeanette Logan, Penny Zimmerman, Carol Ranck, Deb Flage and Sandy Moritz.

Members Absent: Steve Barron and Joel Hains

Guest: Pastor Beth Martini from Synod

Meeting was called to order at 5:50 pm. Brad offered a prayer.

Election of Executive Committee: Carol nominated Brad for President. Deb seconded the nomination. Everyone voted in favor of the motion.

Deb nominated Carol for Vice-President. Sandy seconded the nomination. Everyone voted in favor of the motion.

Carol nominated Jim for Treasurer. Jeanette seconded the nomination. Everyone voted in favor of the motion.

Jeanette nominated Penny for Secretary. Penny declined the nomination. Sandy nominated Deb for Secretary. Brad seconded the nomination. Everyone voted in favor of the motion.

Executive Committee for 2024-2025:

President – Brad Neil; Vice-President – Carol Ranck; Treasurer – Jim Lubrecht; Secretary – Deb Flage

Discussion with Pastor Beth: Pastor Joel stepped out of the meeting while Council talked with Pastor Beth Martini. Council members introduced themselves to Pastor Beth. She explained that an interim pastor serves when a vacancy arises. Council can sign a contract for an interim pastor; it does not need to go to the congregation for a vote. The contract has a 30-day clause for either party to end it. Supply pastors can be used to 'fill in' until an interim is selected. For a called pastor, a Call Committee is formed to review candidates and when narrowed to one candidate, the congregation votes on the call.

Sharing arrangements between congregations can be just pastoral ministry or sharing of other activities within the churches. This can be done with a contract arrangement or the congregations working together. Pastor Richard Jorgensen from Synod is the person who is more versed in the various arrangements that churches can use with each other. We had been informed that Zion Lutheran in Dauphin and St. Michaels in Harrisburg are looking for future arrangements. Looking at partners is often financially driven.

Pastor Frank Terhune has been offered by Synod as an interim pastor for OSL. We will ask him to preach on Reformation Sunday as a supply pastor so the congregation can either meet him or be reintroduced to him. Council discussed considering Pastor Terhune as an interim for consistency for our congregation. Carol made a motion that we ask Pastor Terhune to preach on Reformation Sunday and Council have a conversation with him about being our interim pastor. Jeanette seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion passed. Brad will contact Pastor Terhune.

Approval of Council Minutes from September 11, 2024: Carol made a motion to accept the minutes with one correction. Sandy's last name under Guests should be changed from Haney to

Moritz. Brad seconded the motion. All were in favor; the minutes were approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report: Jim reported that there is currently a deficit of \$14, 819.55. He passed around invoices paid since the last meeting for everyone to review. Prorated Pension/Disability won't be paid which is about \$8,000. Brad noted that donations exceed the cost of the new heater.

Jim noted that the scholarship mutuals have increased \$22,000 since January 2024. He handed out a summary of GermanFest income and expenses. There is a Finance Committee meeting on November 7 to discuss next year's budget. All council members are welcome to attend.

Secretary Report/Correspondence: None

Church Committee Reports:

- Christian Education – none
- Child Protection Policy – none
- Fund Raising – none
- Mutual Ministry – still need additional members
- Property – none
- Scholarship BOT – none
- Social Ministry – none
- Stewardship – not an active committee
- Welcome – none
- Worship and Music – none
- Finance – meeting scheduled as noted above

Pastor's Report: Reminder about October 12 meeting on Sharing Pastoral Resources. About 20 people from 7 churches responded they are coming. November 2 is a Thriving Together meeting which focuses on removing systemic racism. Nadine and Otis have participated in this along with Pastor Joel. November 10 will be the recognition of Veterans Day; the 1st Sunday Social will be held that day.

Updating the Membership Roll – Brad made a motion to remove Gretchen Blacksmith from our membership per her request. Carol seconded the motion. The motion carried. Council agreed to give another month for responses to the letters Barb has sent. The last page of the handout is members we do not have current addresses for. It was suggested to ask other family members if they know what these people would like to do regarding their membership with OSL.

Visioning Team – creating the new logo is on the to-do list.

Attestation of Record and Financial Requirements – this is a requirement for Pastor Joel to complete before he leaves. The form was signed by Deb as Secretary, Jim as Treasurer and Brad as President. Pastor will make a copy for church records.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Membership Roll – discussed during Pastor's report above

GermanFest – There seemed to be fewer attendees than last year but all agreed it was a successful event. A one-time expense was incurred for the new T-shirts that were ordered. A wrap-up meeting is scheduled for October 23.

Update of new positions open on Mutual Ministry committee – Carol had previously volunteered to be on this committee. Carol suggested that Council review and update the committee list of

members and chairpersons. Jeanette noted that Council needs to know/follow up if someone responds to a request in the bulletin.

IT Committee – on hold

Building/property evaluation committee – on hold. Council discussed the shed that will be purchased for our property. The money is coming out of the Memorial Fund and is earmarked for the shed.

Carol will check the Constitution and Bylaws to see if the Congregation needs to vote on the purchase (approx. \$5,000). Brad will order the shed after talking to Susquehanna Township about the schematic, shed placement and walkway.

NEW BUSINESS

Pastor Joel – synod evaluation form – Brad, Carol and Jim held an exit interview with Pastor Joel on Tuesday, October 8. Pastor sent an email including the Covenant of Closure and exit evaluation form. Carol is compiling a ‘to-do’ list based on the exit interview.

Update to congregation from this Council meeting – Inform them of who is on the Executive Committee, our conversation with Pastor Beth and the proposed part-time interim pastor, Pastor Frank Terhune. Election Day – Sue DeArmitt and Alice will come in early to open up on Election Day. Jeanette will put out sign-up sheets this Sunday for covering the various 2-hour shifts during the day. Jim will get money for them to start with and give it to Alice.

Farewell luncheon – The cost to the church will be \$12 per person for a spaghetti dinner. There is \$200 in the Welcome Committee budget. We will need to determine where the remainder of the money is coming from. Jim noted we could use the pension money that will not be spent to cover the difference. Council will authorize the expense when we receive the bill.

Deb made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sandy seconded the motion and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 13 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Flage
Council Secretary



OUR SAVIOUR FINANCIAL REPORT

AS OF AS OF
10/31/2024 9/30/2024 difference

ENVELOPES AND PLATE \$96,238.04 \$88,842.89 \$7,395.15 FUND RAISING - EGGS
\$18,581.31 \$18,581.31 \$0.00 FUND RAISING - GERMANFEST \$7,181.00 \$7,181.00 \$0.00
FUND RAISING ELECTION \$324.01 \$324.01 \$0.00 FELLOWSHIP HALL RENTAL \$1,725.00
\$1,725.00 \$0.00 ST STEPHENS MISSION \$19,933.38 \$19,933.38 \$0.00 TOTAL INCOME
\$143,982.74 \$136,587.59 \$7,395.15

EXPENSE \$164,984.20 \$151,407.14 \$13,577.06 NET SURPLUS/DEFICIT -\$21,001.46

-\$14,819.55 -\$6,181.91

PNC BANK STATEMENT BALANCES

10/31/2024 1/1/2024 difference

CURRENT FUND CHECKING ACCOUNT \$3,687.13 \$20,985.41 -\$17,298.28 MEMORIAL
FUND MONEY MARKET # \$15,461.29 \$14,854.87 \$606.42

THRIVENT ACCOUNTS

10/31/2024 1/1/2024 difference

CURRENT FUND MONEY MARKET \$50,972.89 \$48,874.97 \$2,097.92 SCHOLARSHIP
MUTUALS \$192,294.84 \$173,976.74 \$18,318.10 MEMORIAL FUND MONEY MARKET *
\$86,358.53 \$82,804.13 \$3,554.40



\$61,000 of Thrivent Memorial Fund Money Market is from the
\$1,310.57 of PNC Memorial Fund Money is from the Ruth Knerr
estate to be used for Christian Ed expenses



Yolanda Barron 12/6

Savannah Bechtel 12/11

Caleb Guldner 12/22

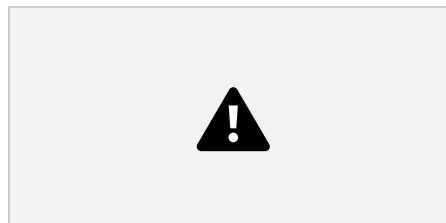
Kathy Kreischer 12/23

Alex Parson 12/23

Margaret Minnich 12/26



Pastor Terhune, Mitchell, and Barb would like to wish everyone a very Blessed, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thur Fri Sat

1 - Advent 1

9am -
Worship



1st Sunday Social

2

6pm - Welcome Committee

last day to drop off gifts

for


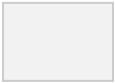
Social

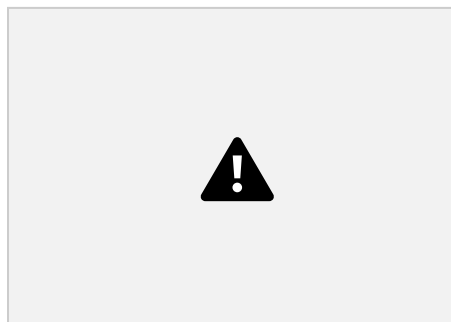
**Ministry's
project**

3 4

5:30pm - Advent

Soup & Worship
(7 pm) @Good
Shepherd
5 6 7

<p>8 - Advent 2</p> <p>9am - Worship</p>	<p>9</p> <p>office closed - vacation day for Barb</p>	<p>10</p> <p>committee reports due in office</p>	<p>11</p> <p>5:30pm - Advent Soup & Worship (7 pm) @Good Shepherd</p> <p>6pm - Council</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 - Advent 3</p> <p>9am - Worship</p> <p>Children's Sunday School</p> <p>January newsletter deadline</p>	<p>16</p> <p>office closed - vacation day for Barb</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>5:30pm - Advent Soup & Worship (7 pm) @Good Shepherd</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 - Advent 4</p> <p>9am - Worship</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 - Christmas Eve</p> <p>7pm - Worship</p> <p>office closed</p>	<p>25 - Christmas Day</p>  <p>office closed</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 - Christmas 1</p> <p>9am - Worship of Lessons & Carols</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 - New Year's Eve</p> 			<p>Pastor Frank's office hours are Wednesday & Fridays, 9am to 12 noon.</p>	





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.
every Sunday.*

Church Office

Worship

9:00 am

Please join us!

Holy Eucharist is celebrated
9:00 am -12:00 pm Monday
through Friday

Phone: 717-545-9992

Email:

ossec@comcast.net **Web**

Site:

www.oslutheranharrisburg.org