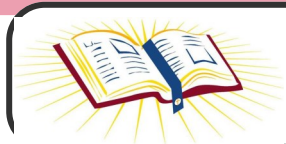


# Good News

April 2024



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

## Dear Brother & Sisters in Christ,

It is Eastertime! Jesus Christ is risen from the dead! Amen! Alleluia! Yes, it is Easter time. And so, for the next seven weeks we will be rejoicing in the good news that the powers of sin and death have been defeated by the resurrection of Christ our Lord.

Now, it is during Eastertime that I always like to remind us of the images of “death and resurrection” that are all around us. I always like to remind us of these images because doubt always creeps into our human minds. We have moments when we question the validity of the good news of Christ’s resurrection. And so, I like to look at “death and resurrection” from another angle, that is, that “death and resurrection” is so prevalent in the universe around us that we can’t help but believe that Jesus has been raised. It just makes sense.

Indeed, “death and resurrection” happens in spades in this universe. This just seems to be the way God likes to work. Consider for instance the life cycle of stars. Stars are formed of gases that condense and then begin to shine. At the end of their lives, stars implode and expel material out into the universe. This material becomes the building blocks for the formation of new stars. Death and resurrection.

Or consider the seasons on our planet Earth. During the winter season, many animals hibernate, and many plants go dormant. But then comes the spring season, and the animals and plants take on new life. Animals emerge from their long sleep, and plants burst forth with leaves and flowers. Death and resurrection.

Or consider the daily cycle of night and day. At night, many creatures, including human beings, sleep. But when the sun comes up in the morning, creatures awake from their rest and embrace the new day. Death and resurrection.

There are also some creatures that go through a metamorphosis, like caterpillars. They create a chrysalis, in which they are transformed. In only a short period of time, they come out of their chrysalis having become a beautiful butterfly. Death and resurrection.

And then there are the seeds planted in the earth. The seeds, too, go through a transformation, such that the plants that surface are quite different in appearance than the seeds from which they originated. Death and resurrection.

I could go on, but we get the picture. “Death and resurrection” is all around us. And we might wonder, as I do, how these things know how to do this? How do the stars existing in the universe, and the plants and animals existing in the cycles of seasons and days...how do they know how to do what they do? Answer: it is the handiwork of God who, like I said, likes to work with the theological concept of “death and resurrection.”

And so, it really shouldn’t come as any surprise to us that human beings speak of Eastertime as the result of “death and resurrection.” This is how God likes to work, and we see it all around us. And so, no, it is not a great leap for us human beings to have understood our Faith in this way, as “death and resurrection.” It just makes sense.

So, Happy Eastertime to all of you! Let us bask in the glory of the risen Lord. And let us rejoice in the images of “death and resurrection” all around us.

In Christ, *Pastor Joel Petruschke*

## Lessons for April 2024

### April 7 - Easter 2

Acts 4:32-35

Psalm 133

1 John 1:1 - 2:2

John 20:19-31

### April 14 - Easter 3

Acts 3:12-19

Psalm 4

1 John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36b-48

### April 21 - Easter 4

Acts 4:5-12

Psalm 23

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

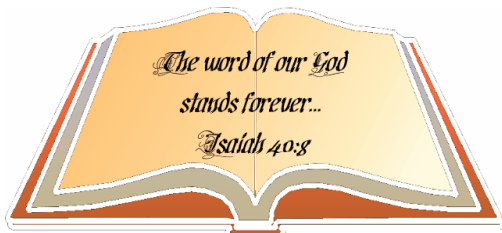
### April 28 - Easter 5

Acts 8:26-40

Psalm 22:25-31

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8



## Thank-You

Dear friends and OSLC family,

I wanted to take a moment to say thank you to all who reached out to support me after Jim's passing. Your thoughts, prayers, words of encouragement, cards and gifts helped to sustain me through the initial shock. I am immeasurably thankful for the love and support I continue to feel. Although this transition has been difficult, I feel stronger knowing that I have this wonderful community as a safety net.

Sandy Moritz

Thank You,  
Thank You,



### 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

Some time back, my family and I visited the town of Seneca Falls in New York State. It is located at the northern end of Cayuga Lake, one of the New York Finger Lakes. Seneca Falls is the home of the Women's Rights National Historical Park. The town was the center of the Women's Suffrage Movement, that movement which fought for the right of women to vote. Seneca Falls is well worth seeing for the history and beauty of the area.

I bring this up because the word "suffrage" is rather strange to our ears. But the word comes from the Latin word *suffragium*, which means "a prayer of intercession." I don't know how that word came to be used for the movement that sought the enfranchisement (the right to vote) of women. But I imagine that word "suffrage" came to be associated with the movement because those in the movement were interceding on behalf of women. Intercession is the process of reconciling differences between two parties, in this case, women and the government, so as to allow women the right to vote.

Where am I going with all of this in this article that is supposed to be focused on worship? Well, there is an order of service in our ELW hymnal that is called "Responsive Prayer" or "Suffrages." It is located on page 328. It is the order of service we had been using during Lent at St. Stephen. And I wanted to bring to our attention that there is then another way in which this word "suffrage" is used.

The order of service known as Suffrages is meant to serve as a devotion, in which we are asking God to intercede on our behalf, so that we might be reconciled to God. Suffrages may be used in the beginning of the day, so as to ask God to intercede and to protect us as we go about our work. Suffrages may be used at the end of the day, so as to ask God to intercede and to forgive us for the wrongs we have done during the day, and to protect us through the hours of the night. But, again, the overarching theme of the order of service is reconciliation with God.

The service of Suffrages in the ELW hymnal is quite short. It consists of reciting The Lord's Prayer and The Apostles' Creed. It also contains a brief litany, some prayers, and a benediction. That's it. So again, it is short. And I recommend that if you have an ELW hymnal at home, you may want to consider incorporating this order of service into your devotion life.

## April 12, 2024 In-Betweeners Event



In-Betweeners will attend the Hershey Bears vs. the Lehigh Valley Phantoms hockey game on **Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>**. Face-off is at 7 p.m. so we will meet at Our Saviour's Parking Lot **at 4:30 p.m.**

We can carpool from the church as two of our members have free parking. Can't make it that early, meet us at the Giant Center for the game (Parking is \$15).

Group tickets range from \$15 to \$26 per person but we NEED 15 people to get the group rate. If we don't qualify for the group tickets, tickets will run at least \$30 a piece. The Bears are playing well so tickets are limited!

**Reservations for the Bears Game must be made with the Logans by April 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

## Save the Date – Our Spring Banquet

The welcome committee is sponsoring a spring banquet on Wednesday, May 8, 2024 beginning at 6pm, here at Our Saviour. Tickets are now on sale through April 28, 2024. Tickets are \$18 for adults and children under 10 are \$5. We will have a catered dinner, entertainment and door prizes. Mark your calendars & please join us!

Menu:

Baked stuffed chicken breast w/gravy

Tossed salad w/dressing

Roll & butter

Scalloped potatoes

Roll & butter

Green beans almondine

Dessert & beverages



Entertainment: Dancers from the Harrisburg Scottish Country Dance Society

## ***A Word on Stewardship***

“Stewards of the mysteries of God”—that is who we are. Quite a grand title, isn’t it? We are “Stewards of the mysteries of God.” What does that mean? Well, it is probably best explained using a text from the Bible. In 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, the apostle Paul talks about passing along what he had received. He writes, “For I handed on to you (the believers in Corinth) as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas (Peter) and to the twelve.”

Paul goes to say that he (Paul) is the least of the apostles. He says he is unfit to be called an apostle, because he had persecuted the church of God. But then he says that by the grace of God he is what he is, and God’s grace toward him has not been in vain.

Paul is a steward of the mysteries of God. In fact, he may have been the single greatest steward of the mysteries of God. Certainly, the church today has much for which to thank Paul. Paul spread the gospel far and wide in the Roman Empire. He brought the Gospel to the Gentiles. And we cringe to think what the church would be today without Paul, because most Christians are Gentiles. And no doubt what helped seal the deal for many when it came to believing the Gospel, is the fact that Paul was an amazing example of what God can do to transform the life of an individual. For Paul went from probably being the greatest persecutor of the church to its greatest champion.

So, we, who are the stewards of the mysteries of God...we, like Paul, are to hand on to others the Gospel of Jesus Christ. That is how we fulfill our calling as stewards of the mysteries of God. But, I get it. This is not easy, certainly in our day and age. People don’t want to hear us talking about “being saved” and the like. That turns people off. I get it.

So, another option is to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ. St. Francis of Assisi once said, “Preach the Gospel at all times, when necessary use words.” Again, I imagine the reason Paul was so effective as a steward of the mysteries of God is because of the example of his life. He not only went from persecutor to champion of the Gospel, he also was deeply committed to the cause of the Gospel and suffered greatly at times for it. He even was martyred for the Faith. No doubt people looked at Paul’s life and said to themselves, “What is it about this Gospel, such that Paul lived the way he did for it and even died for it? What is it about this Gospel?” Still another way to say this is like this: We should live such that people see the HOPE that is in us. And in seeing this hope, others may be moved to ask us about our faith. And then we can share in words the mysteries of God.

## ***Manna Food Pantry***

Our “2nd Sunday” food collection is still ongoing. During this time of continuous rising food & energy 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. **Classes for April will be held on April 7th & 21st!!** 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!



**Dear Padre,**

What is your favorite Bible verse? And why?

Signed, A “Bible-ophile”

Dear Bible-ophile,

There are a lot of wonderful Bible verses that speak to me:

Micah 6:8, which says, “What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.”

Philippians 4:13, which says, “I can do all things through him (Christ) who strengthens me.”

John 3:16, which says, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” Luther said this is the “gospel-in-miniature.”

But maybe the most important verse in all the Bible is Luke 6:35, which tells us to “Love your enemies.” Why is this verse so important? Because, in my opinion, the greatest problem we face as a human society is our uncanny ability as human beings to see most everything as an “Us vs. Them” scenario. It is so hardwired into our psyche. Sports are built upon the idea of “our team” versus the “opposing team.” Our political culture consists of “our party/candidate” versus the “opposing party/candidate.” We as human beings like to take sides in most everything. And this “side-taking” often devolves into seeing the other as the enemy.

Jesus’ ministry was bent on undoing this kind of thinking. Indeed, Jesus ministered to and spent time with those who were social pariahs (i.e., the enemy) for one reason or the other. Jesus strove to bring unity to human society. In particular, Jesus taught parables that were meant to help people reimagine those who were called the enemy. Think about the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) and the story about the Healing of the Ten Lepers (Luke 17:11-19). Both of these stories lift up Samaritans as examples. Samaritans, however, were despised by Jews. Samaritans were the enemy. Yet, in these stories Jesus is saying, “You can and should love your enemies, even Samaritans.”

So again, there are a lot of wonderful Bible verses that can speak to all of us. There are a lot of Bible verses that we should commit to memory, so as to draw upon their powerful words at anytime. But, if there is one verse that really tops them all, it is Luke 6:35, at least that is my opinion. Thanks for your question.

Signed, *Padre*



**Council Minutes**

**Please Note:** *Council Minutes cannot be included in the newsletter until after Council has approved them.*

**Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Saviour  
Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting  
Thursday, February 15, 2024**

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

**Members Absent:** Antonetta Fleming, President

At 6:35 pm Pastor Joel opened the meeting with a word of prayer.

Brad, Vice-President, led the meeting.

Pastor Joel made a motion to approve the January 10, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes as edited. Brad seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jim reviewed the Financial Report with Council. He informed Council that there is a deficit of \$8,548.61 for January. In comparison to January 2023, the envelopes and plate money were down from \$10,503.50 in 1/31/2023 to \$7,584.00 in 1/31/2024. Jim noted that we had a snow day in January 2024 which could also account for the larger deficit in envelopes and plate money. The Fund Raising money was not counted in January but has been counted in February so Jim expects that the deficit for February will be smaller once the fund raising money has been added to the total income for the month of February.

**Committee Reports:**

**Christian Education:** No Report

**Child Protection Policy:** No Report

**Fund Raising:** No Report

**Mutual Ministry:** No Report

**Property:** Brad informed Council that he is pleased with the new snow removal service. The roof leak has been repaired and he and Billy Youngblood replaced the damaged ceiling tiles in the Fellowship Hall. Since he hasn't heard back from the company that he has been leaving messages about the parking lot light, he will need to find another company to take a look at the light. He plans to continue research on the purchase of a shed in the spring.

**Scholarship BOT:** No Report

**Social Ministry:** No Report

**Stewardship:** Not an active committee

**Welcome:** No Report

**Worship and Music:** No Report

**Finance:** Jim is very happy with the amount of things that have been accomplished this year and thanks Anneke for her encouragement and guidance. The Treasurer's Manual has been completed, the Audit

for 2019 has been done and some bank accounts have been closed. There are some other items that he would like to discuss but he will wait to discuss these items when Anneke returns for our next Council Meeting in March.

Jeanette mentioned to Jim that John Zimmerman reminded the members present at the Finance Meeting on February 8, 2024 that all Council Members need to review and approve Jim's monthly report for expenses. In addition, a motion needs to be made to accept the report.

Council Members reviewed and approved Jim's expense report. Brad made a motion to accept the expenses. Pastor Joel seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor's Report was reviewed by Council. Pastor Joel reminded members of some upcoming dates for services being held at St. Stephen's and Good Shepherd. On 3-28-2024 there will be an Agape Meal held at St. Stephen's and members of Our Saviour are invited to attend. The Primary Election will be held on April 23, 2024 and the Presidential Election will take place on 11-5-2024. The church will be used as a polling place for these elections.

#### **Old Business:**

**Update on St. Stephen's:** Pastor Joel explained that there is one church that they have been in discussion with and it seems to be the best fit. The Pastoral Agreement expires on April 5, 2024. Discussion ensued about the need to meet with St. Stephen's to discuss where things are going from here. Brad will speak with Anneke to discuss setting up a meeting with St. Stephen's Council. March 5, 2024 at 6:30 pm was a possible date and we will offer to drive to St. Stephen's for the meeting since they traveled to Our Saviour for the last meeting. Brad will be in touch when the meeting has been scheduled.

**IT Committee:** No update is available. Anneke was handling this.

**Visioning Team:** No new updates. At this time there has not been another meeting scheduled.

**Part-Time Ministry Question:** No update. Brad mentioned that there wasn't really any discussion at the congregational meeting in January. No one asked any questions that day pertaining to this.

#### **New Business:**

**Organist Contract:** Jim will ask Mitchell to sign the new contract on Sunday. Jim would like the contract to begin on January 1<sup>st</sup> and end on December 31<sup>st</sup>. This way it will be more in line with the budget.

**Congregational Report for Synod:** The report was reviewed by Council Members. The report asks questions such as the size and demographics of a congregation as well as financial information. Jim and Pastor Joel explained that the report was completed and sent to Synod. Discussion ensued about the report. It states that we currently have 481 members on our rolls. This number does not give the ELCA an accurate number for our congregation as we have an average of 45 people currently attending church services. Every few years we should look at purging members who aren't active to keep this number more accurate. It would be Council's decision to vote on removing members. A letter would be sent to an individual as a courtesy to let them know that we are updating our membership role and since we hadn't seen them in a while, would they still be interested in being a member and consider coming back to church?

At 7:35 pm the meeting was adjourned with The Lord's Prayer

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jeanette Logan / Council Secretary



### OUR SAVIOUR FINANCIAL REPORT

	AS OF <u>2/29/2024</u>	AS OF <u>1/31/2024</u>	difference
ENVELOPES AND PLATE	\$17,246.30	\$7,584.00	\$9,662.30
FUND RAISING	\$6,964.00	\$0.00	\$6,964.00
FELLOWSHIP HALL RENTAL	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
ST STEPHENS MISSION	<u>\$6,933.36</u>	<u>\$1,733.34</u>	<u>\$5,200.02</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$31,143.66	\$9,317.34	\$21,826.32
 EXPENSE	 <u>\$33,408.27</u>	 <u>\$17,865.95</u>	 <u>\$15,542.32</u>
 SURPLUS/DEFICIT	 <u>-\$2,264.61</u>	 <u>-\$8,548.61</u>	 <u>\$6,284.00</u>

#### PNC BANK STATEMENT BALANCES

	<u>2/29/2024</u>	<u>1/31/2024</u>	difference
CURRENT FUND CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$26,084.50	\$22,067.71	\$4,016.79
MEMORIAL FUND MONEY MARKET #	\$15,054.91	\$14,854.80	\$200.11

#### THRIVENT ACCOUNTS

	<u>2/29/2024</u>	<u>2/8/2024</u>	difference
CURRENT FUND MONEY MARKET	\$49,296.99	\$49,099.40	\$197.59
SCHOLARSHIP MUTUALS	\$184,759.02	\$175,221.57	\$9,537.45
MEMORIAL FUND MONEY MARKET *	\$83,519.14	\$83,184.59	\$334.55

\* \$61,000 of Memorial Fund is from the Neidich estate  
 # \$1,310.57 of Memorial Fund is from the Ruth Knerr estate  
 to be used for Christian Ed expenses





# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Madalynn Brittelli	4/5	Toby Drake	4/15
Lori Provencher	4/5	Lauren Trea	4/15
Ashley Brittelli	4/6	Robert McIntyre	4/19
Isabella Kessler	4/7	Dan Fleming	4/21
Hope Bowling	4/9	Herb Logan	4/25
Barb Ecklund	4/13	Mary Petruschke	4/26
Kevin Ecklund	4/14		





Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	<p><b>1</b>  <b>Pastor Joel @St. Stephen</b>                  6 pm - Welcome Committee                  6 pm - Praise Him Singers Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b>  <b>Pastor Joel @St. Stephen</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>6</b>                  10:00 am - Bible Study</p>
<p><b>7 - Easter 2</b>                  9 am - Worship w/Children's Sunday School  <b>1st Sunday Social</b></p> 	<p><b>8</b>  <b>Pastor Joel @St. Stephen</b>  <b>council committee reports due in office</b></p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b>                  6:00 pm - Council</p>	<p><b>11</b>  <b>Pastor Joel @St. Stephen</b>                  6:00 pm - Christian Ed</p>	<p><b>12</b>                  7 pm - InBetweeners' Hershey Bears Hockey Game</p>	<p><b>13</b></p>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">                 Family Promise Host Week             </div>						
<p><b>14 - Easter 3</b>                  9 am - Worship</p>	<p><b>15</b>  <b>Pastor Joel @St. Stephen</b>                  6 pm - Praise Him Singers Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b>  <b>Pastor Joel @St. Stephen</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b>                  Thriving Together @Messiah University</p>
<p><b>21 - Easter 4</b>                  9 am - Worship w/Children's Sunday School  <b>newsletter deadline</b></p>	<p><b>22</b>  <b>Pastor Joel @St. Stephen</b></p>	<p><b>23</b>  <b>Primary Election Day w/Bake Sale</b></p> 	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b>  <b>Pastor Joel @St. Stephen</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b>                  10:00 am - Bible Study</p>
<p><b>28 - Easter 5</b>                  9 am - Worship</p>	<p><b>29</b>  <b>Pastor Joel @St. Stephen</b>                  6 pm - Praise Him Singers Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>				

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

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### **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.