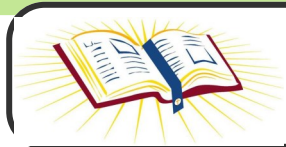
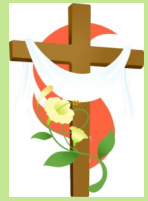


Good News

March 2024



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

Dear Brother & Sisters in Christ,

As we continue our journey in Lent, focusing on the cross, I want us to consider the shape of the cross for a moment. The shape of the cross is simple. The cross is just two lines that intersect. And if we look around, we see “crosses” all over the place, wherever there is the intersection of two lines. And so, I want to share with you some ways in which the very shape of the cross can speak to our Christians lives.

- 1) The artist Piet Mondrian described vertical lines as representing the divine, the heavenly, and the eternal. Vertical lines after all soar off into the sky above. And on the flip side, Mondrian said horizontal lines represent the human, the mundane, and the temporal. Horizontal lines after all remind us of the earthly plane. But in the middle, where the vertical line and the horizontal line of the cross meet, there we find Jesus, who is both divine and human, and all the characteristics thereof. So, the shape of the cross reminds us of the dual nature of Christ.
- 2) Imagine there are arrows facing inward (not outward) on the ends of the four points of the cross. The arrows are pointing to the intersection of the cross, where Jesus is crucified. It is as if to convey that all things of the world are drawn to Christ, who will reconcile all things to himself. As it says in II Corinthians 5:19, “In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself.” The cross then is the ultimate symbol of healing in the world, for the word “reconciliation” is just a big, fancy word meaning “healing.”
- 3) Now imagine there are arrows facing outward (not inward) on the ends of the four points of the cross. The cross with these arrows is a reminder that we are to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ out into all corners of the world. The four points are like the directions on a compass—North, South, East, and West. Matthew 28:19 says, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them everything that I have commanded you.”
- 4) Finally, the cross is like an X, as in “X marks the spot.” On a treasure map, the X marks the location of the hidden treasure. In the world around us, the most priceless treasure of all is found on the cross. X marks the spot. It is where Christ died for our sins. It is where Jesus gave his life that we might have life. It is the hidden treasure, because the power of Almighty God, Creator of the Cosmos, is ironically revealed at the place of execution. God’s power is hidden in a cross. And so, unfortunately, not everyone is aware of it. Not everyone does recognize it. Regardless, this is God’s astonishing paradox—power is hidden in suffering.

So there you have some things to think about when you look at the shape of the cross. The cross speaks to the dual nature of Christ. The cross reminds us that in Christ God is reconciling all things. The cross calls us to go into the world—North, South, East, and West—to share the Good News. And finally, the cross is the spot of God’s ultimate yet hidden power.

In Christ, *Pastor Joel Petruschke*

Lessons for March 2024

March 3 - Lent 3

Exodus 20:1-17
 Psalm 19
 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
 John 2:13-22

March 10 - Lent 4

Numbers 21:4-9
 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
 Ephesians 2:1-10
 John 3:14-21

March 17 - Lent 5

Jeremiah 31:31-34
 Psalm 51:1-12
 Hebrews 5:5-10
 John 12:20-33

March 24 - Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a
 Psalm 31:9-16
 Phillippians 2:5-11
 Mark 14:1 - 15:47

March 28 - Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-14
 Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
 John 13:1-17, 31b-35

March 29 - Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12
 Psalm 22
 Hebrews 10:16-25
 John 18:1 - 19:42

March 31 - Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43
 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
 Mark 16:1-8



Invitation To Join With Good Shepherd For Lenten Vespers

The members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church have extended an invitation to their brothers and sisters from Our Saviour to join them on Wednesday evenings during Lent (3/6, 3/13, & 3/20) for Soup Suppers and Lenten Vespers. The Soup Suppers, which include a simple meal of soups and bread, will begin at 5:30 PM in All Saints Hall in the basement followed by Lenten Vespers at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary. Please consider making this a part of your Lenten journey.



Join Us For Our Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter Sunday Worshhips!



Palm Sunday Worship 9:00 am



Agape Meal (Maundy Thursday)
 @St. Stephen's 6:30 pm
 Good Friday Tenebrae Service 7:00 pm
 Easter Vigil @Good Shepherd, Saturday,
 7:00 pm



Easter Sunday Worship 9:00 am

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

Worship is the “work of the people.” That is what the word “liturgy” means after all--the work of the people. I find that to be such a powerful idea. So, worship is not just one person, or even a couple of people, doing the liturgy. The focus is not just on this person or that person. Worship is not just the pastor leading the service. Worship is not just the organist playing hymns. Worship is not the ushers, the lector, nor the communion assistants. Worship is the work of all the people gathered. What does that mean? It means that together in community, as community, the praise of God happens.

Worship is not a passive thing. It is not entertainment, like watching a performance on stage, or watching a movie in a theater. Worship involves us as participants. We sing. We pray. We greet one another with the Peace. We partake of Holy Communion. We are active. We are engaged in the liturgy, because again, it is the work of the people, not just some people, not certain individuals, but all of us.

Why is this important—this whole-community-involved-worship? Because the whole communal experience carries us along in the grace of God. I remember several years ago, Bishop Hendrix shared with us pastors an experience she had had in worship. This worship experience had happened shortly after she had lost both her parents. And she stated that in the worship service that day she just didn’t have it in her to speak the Apostles’ Creed so overcome was she by the loss of her parents. Now, she wasn’t leading the service. She was in the congregation. So, it didn’t matter that she couldn’t speak the Apostles’ Creed. And so, she just stood there among the other church members and she listened to the Apostles’ Creed professed by everyone around her. And she noted how powerful it was to be carried along by the words of the Creed, spoken by the “church,” when she herself just couldn’t. In short, that is the work of the people. That is the liturgy. That is worship, or at least what worship should be. It carries us along in the grace of God through the community of believers.

Sometimes, I wonder, if we are very quiet in worship, or if we are much attuned to all that is going on in worship, that we might actually experience the heavenly worship going on around us, while we worship here on earth. And, if we can glimpse that heavenly worship, we would see that we are being carried along in this life by the worshipping community up above, such that one day we will take our place in the liturgy that has no end in the presence of God. That is my hope for us as we worship, that we see the greater community in which we worship the Lord.

Save the Date – Our Spring Banquet

We will be having a spring banquet on Wednesday, May 8, 2024 beginning at 6pm, here at Our Saviour. Tickets will go on sale beginning March 17 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!

Thank You

“Thank you for all the get-well & birthday cards, gifts & words of encouragement & blessings I received. Your thoughtfulness means so much to me.”

Pastor Joel



A Word on Stewardship

As I continue to work on improving my mental health, or to put it another way to be a better steward of my mental health, I got thinking about the “mind of God.” And I was thinking that God’s mind must be so very active. After all, God oversees the entire cosmos. God has a million little details to attend to every single moment. For instance, God must have to remind God’s self to keep the stars twinkling, to keep spinning those planets, to keep providing rain and sunshine to the earth, to keep gravity working, so on and so forth.

With all that going on in God’s mind all the time, how does God ever find time to relax? How does God ever shut his brain down so that he can sleep? Even so, Psalm 121 says, “He (God) who keeps you will not slumber. He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.” I get what the Psalmist is saying, that God watches over us always, but to think that God never slumbers nor sleeps is to our minds regrettable. Now, of course, it is probably not accurate to think of God in anthropomorphic terms. God probably doesn’t need to sleep. However, there is the account of Creation in Genesis where it says that God rested on the Seventh Day.

I wonder if God’s mind, even with all the busy-ness going on inside it, is not in fact completely at peace. That God is at peace in God’s self. No worries. No stress. Nothing to disrupt the calm that is in God’s mind. Why? Because God is God. God knows God’s self perfectly and that is enough to be at peace.

There is a quote that says, “God is God and we are not.” I don’t know who said that. But it is profound, isn’t it? For most of the stress and worry in our lives are the result of us living inside our minds, where we are constantly trying to be God. We are constantly trying to be in control of our lives, and of everything going on around us. We are constantly trying to organize our lives just so. We are trying to manage life just so. And ultimately we are trying to be God, with everything sorted out, everything making sense. But the truth is God is God, and we are not.

And so, perhaps knowing that we are God’s good creation is enough. Just like, for God, to know that God is God is enough. Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote a poem called “Who Am I?” It is a powerful poem in which Bonhoeffer questions his sense of self. Ultimately, he writes, “Whoever I am, thou knowest me. O God, I am thine!” And this thought is enough to occupy one’s mind and be at peace. That God always has you and me on his mind.

Upcoming In-Between Events

Saturday, March 9, 2024
Bowling - 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
followed by Dinner.



Join in for bowling fun at ABC East Lanes followed by dinner at the Capitol Dinner!

Cost per bowler will depend upon the number of bowlers - most likely, between \$12.00 and \$15.00 per bowler. Cost does include shoe rental.

Sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. **Deadline for sign-up is Sunday, March 3rd.**

This event is coordinated by Otis & Nadine Martin.

Saturday, September 21, 2024
Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre
“Jersey Boys”

Anneke & Dan Fleming will sponsor a dinner show at the Dutch Apple Theatre in Lancaster, PA. The show features »*The Jersey Boys*«. Important details are listed on the “sign-up sheet” in the Narthex. Questions/ comments, see Anneke or Dan. You can contact them by phone at (717) 652-9367 or (717) 608-4623. **Our sign-up deadline for this event is March 24, 2024.**

Dear Padre,

What do these words—Septuagesima, Sexagesima, and Quinquagesima—have to do with our Church Calendar?

Signed, Befuddled

Dear Befuddled,



Interestingly enough, there was a time in the history of the Lutheran Church when a Pre-Lenten Season existed. There was a time when Lutherans, Roman Catholics, and Episcopalians ironically prepared for the season of preparation known as Lent. These words Septuagesima, Sexagesima, and Quinquagesima mean respectively “seventieth,” “sixtieth,” and “fiftieth.” The words refer to the Sundays prior to Easter.

Septuagesima Sunday falls within 70 days of Easter, Sexagesima Sunday falls within 60 days of Easter, and Quinquagesima Sunday falls within 50 days of Easter. And the 17-day period beginning on Septuagesima Sunday and ending on Ash Wednesday was the preparation period for Lent.

This season for the preparation for Lent eventually disappeared and instead the season of Epiphany was extended, which is how our Church Calendar exists today. However, some Churches still include a Pre-Lenten Season on their Church Calendar including the Eastern Orthodox and the Byzantine Catholic.

How folks prepared for the Lenten season I have no idea? However for some the Pre-Lenten Season has become a way to extend the festivities of Shrove Tuesday. Thanks for your question.

Signed, **Padre**

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 donation, please mark your envelopes “Manna Food Pantry” and place it with your regular giving envelope.

**Jesus Said, “Let the Little Children Come to Me.”**

We have Children’s Sunday School on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month during the service. At each session the children complete a craft and enjoy a snack. **Classes for March will be held on March 3rd & 17th!!** 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!

**Synod Assembly Voting Members Needed**

The Synod Assembly this year will be held May 31st(online) and June 1st (in person). **We are looking for 2 volunteers** to represent us at the Assembly, 1 lay female and 1 lay male, both voting members. If you are interested or have any questions, please call the church office or Pastor Joel. Thank you.



Council Minutes

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

**Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Saviour
Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting
Wednesday, January 10, 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: Anneke Fleming

At 6:10 pm the meeting was called to order by Brad Neil. Pastor Joel opened the meeting with a word of prayer.

Penny made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected from the November 8, 2023 Council Meeting. Pastor Joel seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Jim reviewed the Financial Report with Council. He informed Council that Our Saviour has a surplus of \$9,653.87 for the year of 2023. We ended 2022 with a deficit of \$32,408.53. The surplus is due to the Pastoral Agreement with St. Stephen's as well as generous contributions to the church that were made in December 2023. Jim mentioned that we have not gotten any donations for the Lutheran Camping Corporation. Jim presented a list of all of the expenses for December 2023 to Council. After each member reviewed this list Pastor Joel made a motion to approve the expenses for the month. Jeanette seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Jim will meet with John Zimmerman on January 11, 2024 at 6:30 pm to discuss John's audit recommendations. Jim will bring back John's findings and discuss the findings with Council at the February 15, 2024 meeting.

Budget 2024 Discussion:

Jim informed Council that he has added a new line to the Budget 2024 for Election Food Sales, \$1,000.

Jim mentioned that we have not received any donations from the congregation for the Lutheran Camping Corporation. Since we have not received any monetary donations for Lutheran Camping Corporation, Brad asked if we could add something to the budget as a one-time gift from Council to the Lutheran Camping Corporation. Pastor Joel made a motion that we give the Lutheran Camping Corporation a one-time gift of \$500.00 out of the checking account. Brad seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Pastor Joel made a motion to give increases of 2% to Barb and to Mitchell for 2024. Steve seconded the motion. A vote was taken. The vote was 6 to 1 in favor of the raises. The motion passed.

Jim will make the necessary changes to the 2024 Budget. He will send the final 2024 Budget to Council members and we will vote on the 2024 Budget via email responses.

Voucher Sheets: Jim informed Council that he will begin using a voucher sheet beginning in 2024. This voucher sheet will be completed and given to Jim when a member requests reimbursement for a purchase they have made for the church.

Jim presented the Council members with a list of the expenses for December 2023 and each member reviewed the list. A list of expenses for each month will be presented to Council at each Council meeting. Pastor Joel made a motion to approve the expenses and indicate that all members have approved these expenses. Jeanette seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The Treasurer's Report is filed for Audit.

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 has a signed contract with a new company, Four Seasons. It is written in the contract that they will come to the church when there is over 3 inches of snow. It was discussed that the sidewalk along the driveway doesn't need to be taken care of since it is really not used. The sidewalk at the entrance of the church should be cleared. The mouse problem has been addressed. Larger boxes have been placed outside the door to hopefully catch and prevent the mice from entering the fellowship hall.

Scholarship BOT: They will have a meeting soon.

Social Ministry: Pastor Joel informed Council that there was a group of individuals from the church who caroled at local nursing homes in December.

Stewardship: Not an active committee.

Welcome: No Report. Penny and Jeanette informed Council that the committee will hold a Spring Event on May 8, 2024.

Worship and Music: No Report

Finance: Report was reviewed by Council. Jim will meet with John on January 11, 2024.

Pastor's Report: Pastor noted that there is a time change for January 21st. We will meet at 11 am and St. Stephen's will meet at 9 am. This is due to the fact that our congregational meeting will take place after our 11 am service.

Ash Wednesday services. Pastor's plan will be to hold services at 5 pm at St. Stephen's and 7 pm at Our Saviour.

Pastor Joel updated Council on how St. Stephen's was doing with finding a church to partner with. They are having a follow-up meeting on January 17th with the church that is 10 minutes away from them. This congregation is having a more urgent need as is St. Stephen's. He reminded Council that the Spirit has blessed both Our Saviour and St. Stephen's. St. Stephen's also ended up their year in the black.

Draft for the report for the Congregational Meeting. John asked at the last congregational meeting in September that Council take a look at whether or not we could move to a part time position. The Finance Committee, the Bishop's Assistant as well as Anneke, Brad and Pastor Joel have been working on this. It seems that we are currently doing a part time ministry right now so maybe we need to formalize this more. There are a number of ways to enter into partnerships. The easiest way might be to do the same thing we are currently doing with St. Stephen's which is a pastoral agreement where the church purchases pastoral hours from us. It doesn't require a formal call to do this. If we decide to dissolve the agreement with St. Stephen's and enter into an agreement with another church we might want to look at doing a call process, but the call process takes time. Does it make more sense to find another church who would purchase pastoral hours from us? We need to clarify things with the congregation and present the options to them. Exploring a partnership with options needs to be addressed and discussed. It's a lot to think about but we need to find out what the congregation is looking for. Pastor Joel will send the draft report to Council.

Per Dawne Veet's understanding of her membership on Council, Council acknowledges her understanding that she is not on Council.

At 7:45 pm the meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting will be held on February 15th at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeanette Logan, Council Secretary

Easter Egg Making Has Begun

It is that time of the year, egg making has started. Easter is on March 31, 2024. Due to the increase in the cost of ingredients the price of an egg was increased to \$1.50.



This was determined by the church members attending the egg making meeting in November 2023.

Egg making sessions will be on Sunday after our church service. On Thursday and Saturday mornings starting at 8:00 AM.

We are still looking for volunteers to help with mixing and making eggs. Training will be provided to new volunteers. If you have any concerns about standing too long, we have many egg making tasks that can be done while sitting. You do not need to stay for the entire session if your time is limited.

A table is in the Narthex with egg forms for ordering. Also, there are eggs on the same table that can be purchased for cash and carry.

We cannot do this project without the help of ALL church members. Please remember to SELL eggs. If you know of any business that would like to sell our eggs, please let us know. **Last day to place orders is March 17, 2024.** Any questions or concerns, please contact one of the egg chairs.

Egg Committee Chairs are Nadine Martin, Alice Lubrecht and Donna Miller

Family Promise

Our Saviour, along with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, will be hosting Family Promise Sunday evening, April 7 through Sunday morning, April 14, 2024.

Won't you **please** consider providing a meal, driving the van, or sleeping overnight at the church?

Sign-up sheets are posted in the Narthex.
Thank you! Nadine Martin



**OUR SAVIOUR
FINANCIAL REPORT
through January 31,
2024**

	<u>1/31/2024</u>	<u>1/31/2023</u>	<u>difference</u>
ENVELOPES AND PLATE	\$7,584.00	\$10,503.50	\$2,919.50
FUND RAISING	\$0.00	\$715.50	\$715.50
FELLOWSHIP HALL RENTAL	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
ST STEPHENS MISSION	<u>\$1,733.34</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>-\$1,733.34</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$9,317.34	\$11,218.50	\$1,901.16
EXPENSE	<u>\$17,865.95</u>	<u>\$18,541.05</u>	<u>\$675.10</u>
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	<u><u>-\$8,548.61</u></u>	<u><u>-\$7,322.55</u></u>	<u><u>\$1,226.06</u></u>

PNC BANK STATEMENT BALANCES

	<u>1/31/2024</u>	<u>12/31/2023</u>
CURRENT FUND CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$22,067.71	\$20,985.41
MEMORIAL FUND MONEY MARKET #	\$14,854.50	\$14,854.67

THRIVENT ACCOUNTS

	<u>2/8/2024</u>	<u>12/31/2023</u>	<u>difference</u>
CURRENT FUND MONEY MARKET	\$49,099.40	\$48,874.97	\$224.43
SCHOLARSHIP MUTUALS	\$175,221.57	\$173,976.74	\$1,244.83
MEMORIAL FUND MONEY MARKET *	\$83,184.59	\$82,804.13	\$380.46

* \$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

Julie Pitassi	3/3	Samantha Ingavo	3/17
Sue Reilly	3/3	Jessica Copeland	3/19
Aaron Mahone	3/3	Kenzie Koppenhaver	3/20
Isabelle Euliss	3/4	Linda Schreier	3/22
Connor Landis	3/4	Ed Seneca	3/23
Hannah Logan	3/7	Sandy Moritz	3/24
Craig Miller	3/10	Marilyn Hocker	3/25
Joel Hains	3/11	Daniel Logan	3/26
Jessica Miller	3/11	Nedda Pollock	3/27
John Zimmerman	3/12	Ella Guldner	3/28
Shawn Reilly	3/13		



MARCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 8 am - egg making
3 - Lent 3 9 am - Worship w/Children's Sunday School 1st Sunday Social egg making	4 Pastor Joel @St. Stephen 6 pm - Welcome Committee 6 pm - Praise Him Singers Rehearsal	5	6 5:30 pm - Soup Supper & 7 pm - Lenten Vespers @Good Shepherd	7 8 am - egg making	8	9 8 am - egg making 4 pm - InBetweeners' Bowling & Dinner
10 - Lent 4 9 am - Worship egg making daylight savings time begins Easter flower orders deadline	11 Pastor Joel @St. Stephen council committee reports due in office	12	13 5:30 pm - Soup Supper & 7 pm - Lenten Vespers @Good Shepherd	14 8 am - egg making 6:30 pm - Council	15 office closed - vacation day for Barb	16 8 am - egg making
17 - Lent 5 9 am - Worship w/Children's Sunday School egg making last day for egg orders newsletter deadline	18 Pastor Joel @St. Stephen office closed - vacation day for Barb 6 pm - Praise Him Singers Rehearsal	19	20 5:30 pm - Soup Supper & 7 pm - Lenten Vespers @Good Shepherd	21 8 am - egg making	22	23 8 am - egg making
24 - Palm Sunday 9 am - Worship	25 Pastor Joel @St. Stephen  Holy Week	26	27	28 - Maundy Thursday 6:30 pm - Agape Meal @St. Stephen 	29 - Good Friday 7 pm - Worship here @OSL 	30 7pm - Easter Vigil @Good Shepherd
31 - Easter Sunday 9 am - Worship 						

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

Phone: 717-545-9992
Email: ossec@comcast.net
Web Site: www.oslutheranharrisburg.org



Mission Statement

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

Worship

9:00 am.

Please join us!
Holy Eucharist is celebrated
every Sunday.

Church Office

9:00 am -12:00 pm Monday through
Friday

Phone: 717-545-9992

Email: ossec@comcast.net

Web Site: www.oslutheranharrisburg.org



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.