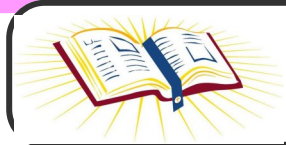


# Good News

May 2024



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

## Dear Brother & Sisters in Christ,

You may have heard me mention in the announcements at worship a program sponsored by Messiah University called “Thriving Together—Congregations for Racial Justice,” in which our congregation is participating. Nadine and Otis Martin and myself are participating in the program, representing Our Saviour Lutheran. And in this article, I want to give you some more information about the program.

Messiah University received an Eli, Lilly and Company grant in the sum of \$1,000,000 to conduct this program, which is focused on racial justice. In specific, the goals of the program are 1) to deepen and broaden our understandings of the relationship between race and Christian practice in our region, and 2) to cultivate a commitment to the practice of racial justice and reconciliation among congregations in Central Pennsylvania.

It is a two-year program, and our church is a part of the second cohort going through the program. The first cohort consisted of some twelve congregations, and our cohort also consists of twelve different congregations. Each congregation is expected to have the pastor and two laypeople from their individual church participate. So, there are 36 people or so participating, in addition to the facilitators from Messiah University.

We have been meeting about every other month since September. There were meetings in September 2023, November 2023, January 2024, March 2024, and April 2024. Upcoming meetings will be held in October 2024, January 2025, February 2025, and April 2025. We are also taking a “Returning to the Roots of the Civil Rights Movement” Bus Trip this summer, during the week of July 14-20. We will visit the University of Virginia; Atlanta and Albany, Georgia; Montgomery, Birmingham, and Selma, Alabama; and Nashville, Tennessee.

Our learning so far has been rich and deep. As part of our learning, we have been gifted with several good books to read including: *The Good Samaritan—Luke 10 for the Life of the Church* by Emerson Powery, *Been in the Struggle—Pursuing an Antiracist Spirituality* by Regina Stoltzfus and Tobin Shearer, *The Color of Law—A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America* by Richard Rothstein, *The Color of Compromise—The Truth about the American Church’s Complicity in Racism* by Jemar Tisby, and *The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy and the Path to a Shared American Future* by Robert Jones. Our meetings include discussion about our readings, lectures by the authors of the books we read, as well as lectures by professors from Messiah University, and field trips to points of interest in the area. We have also visited the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C.

The literature we had received describing the Thriving Together program promises that Congregations will:

- 1) Unearth the story of race and place in their neighborhood contexts, and discover and develop ecclesial opportunities for a faithful public witness;
- 2) Explore their traditions’ geographic, social and theological histories in order to understand how those histories influence their present identities and ministries;
- 3) Review and refresh their mission and values, and discern formational and public practices in light of reconciliation; and
- 4) Develop antiracism, intercultural, justice and reconciliation ministries appropriate to their particular situations.

So, you see, there are a number of expectations for the participating congregations. At present, each congregation has begun work on a congregational narrative/story, particularly as it relates to race and place.

It should be noted that the program is very much focused on addressing “systemic racism,” which is

## Lessons for May 2024

### May 5 - Easter 6

Acts 10:44-48

Psalm 98

1 John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17

### May 12 - Easter 7

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Psalm 1

1 John 5:9-13

John 17:6-19

### May 19 - Day of Pentecost

Acts 4:5-12

Psalm 23

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

### May 26 - Holy Trinity

Acts 8:26-40

Psalm 22:25-31

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8

racism ingrained in society, as opposed to individual racism from one person towards another. At the end of the program, mini-grants will be available for individual congregations as they take steps to continue the important work of racial justice in their particular context.

So that is a lot of information about the Thriving Together program. If you would like to learn more, please speak with Nadine or Otis or myself. We welcome the opportunity to talk with you.

In Christ, *Pastor Joel Petruschke*



### 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

The Sunday of Pentecost is this month on May 19. It is one of the red Sunday's in the church year, because red is supposed to remind us of fire. And, of course, we remember that on the very first Pentecost in the Christian Faith, tongues of fire alighted on the apostles. Fire is often associated with the presence of God. Think of the fiery bush from which God spoke to Moses. Think of the pillar of fire that went before the Israelites in the wilderness journey. So, yes, the paraments are red on the Sunday of Pentecost.

Pentecost is such an interesting festival. But, unfortunately, it doesn't get nearly the hype it should. In fact, I would dare say that Pentecost should be on par with Christmas. Why? Because just like at Christmas, we receive a person of the Trinity at the time of Pentecost. God comes to us in the second person of the Trinity at Christmas. God comes to us as baby Jesus on December 25. And God comes to us in the third person of the Trinity at Pentecost. God comes to us as the Holy Spirit on May 19. So Pentecost should garner as much celebration as Christmas really. But no, there are no Pentecost carolers going door-to-door. There are no Pentecost lawn decorations, nor festive strands of lights on people's homes. There are no Pentecost greeting cards.

For me, at the time of Pentecost, I am always reminded of what Martin Luther said about the Holy Spirit. Luther said that the Holy Spirit does four things specifically. The Holy Spirit calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies. Think about what happens with worship on a Sunday morning. God's Spirit calls to our spirits, and we gather then for worship. And during worship we are enlightened by God's word, and we are made "holy," that is, we are set apart to be God's people in the world. But the Spirit also is at work in other ways in the world. People are called, gathered, enlightened, and sanctified, in their various employments. Young people are called, gathered, enlightened, and sanctified, in their schooling and education. So, yes, the Spirit is all around us working its power.

Finally, I want to share one of my favorite quotes, which I relate to the Holy Spirit. The quote is from Wendell Berry and his poem *Elegy*: "The shape of the wind is a tree bending spilling its birds." What Berry is saying is that we can't see the wind, only its effects. In like manner, we can't see the Holy Spirit, only its effects. And so, I like to say the shape of the Holy Spirit is the church, spilling its people into the world. The Holy Spirit forms the church; that is its primary effect.

So, this month we rejoice in the gift of the Holy Spirit. And we praise God, for by the gift of the Spirit, the Church has come to be. Thanks be to 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 May will be held on May 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>!!** Children will be excused for their lesson after the children's message.

Please share our news with anyone you know who may be interested. We welcome every child to join us and learn!



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

Symbiosis—have we heard that word before? Symbiosis is the living together in close association of two dissimilar organisms, whereby the arrangement is mutually beneficial for each organism. Some years ago, I learned of a symbiotic relationship that exists between hermit crabs and sea anemones. If we didn't know anemones attach themselves to the shells of hermit crabs and travel around with the hermit crabs. And the arrangement is mutually beneficial. The hermit crab receives the protection of the anemone's stinging tentacles to ward off predators. And the anemone benefits by being transported to various locations so as to receive fresh nutrient-rich water. Interestingly enough, when a hermit crab leaves one shell and enters another, it will actually peel off the anemone from the former shell and reattach it to the new shell. You can find videos of this online. It is quite amazing.

I bring this concept (symbiosis) up because it also relates to the Christian Faith, more so now than ever. We talk about churches working together as "partnerships," but in truth churches working together is an example of symbiosis. Two or more churches working together should exist such that the arrangement is mutually beneficial to all parties. And so the questions should always be, "How can we be of benefit to our partner? And of what benefit are we receiving in return?"

Paul spoke of symbiosis in 2 Corinthians 8:8-14. There in that passage Paul is encouraging the Corinthian to contribute to the offering he is taking on behalf of the poor in Jerusalem. And Paul says that out of the abundance of those in Jerusalem, the Corinthians have become "rich." What Paul is referring to is the Gospel that originated from the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem and was shared with the Gentiles, including the Corinthians. And so, now, the Corinthians out of their abundance (financial resources), they should provide for the poor in Jerusalem, so that they can become "rich." It is a fair balance, Paul says. It is symbiosis.

Partnerships and symbiosis are becoming more and more the norm in our synod. There are some 100 congregations in our synod that are without a called pastor. Some churches simply can't afford a called pastor. Some churches are in transition between calls and are discerning their next steps. Some churches are being served by interim pastors. Some are being served by supply pastors for Sunday worship. And so, there are a lot of congregations in the process of talking with neighboring congregations about how they can work together. That is very much our reality as well as a congregation.

I recognize that we have decided to dissolve our relationship with St. Stephen effective July 7<sup>th</sup>. But the truth is that we will need to find another partner church, which is more local to ourselves. In other words, we will need to find a hermit crab to our sea anemone, or a sea anemone to our hermit crab, however, you want to spin it. The reason being is that our budget is just not sustainable without a partnership.

So, again, I lift up that word symbiosis for us to think about. It is a most helpful concept, for it seems to be part of the psyche of God. God apparently likes symbiotic relationships, since they are quite evident in Creation, and so why should they not also be something we pursue in the church.



**Dear Padre,**

I read an interesting book recently called the *Immortality Key* by Brian Muraresku. Muraresku suggests that the Communion Meal of early Christianity was actually laced with hallucinogenic drugs. What do you think of that?

Signed, Very Interested in Your Response

Dear “Very Interested in Your Response,”

I did actually read this book as well. But for those reading this “Dear Padre” article who may not be familiar, allow me to give you some background.

Yes, the premise of the book noted above is that the Communion Meal of early Christianity was not a meal containing innocuous bread and wine. But it was a meal in which the wine was “crafted” so as to contain hallucinogenic drugs, which created beatific visions of heaven for those first Christians.

Muraresku argues that the early Christian religion was on par with what were the pagan mystery religions of the ancient world. In fact, he makes the case that the pagan religions morphed into the Christian religion. Now, it is difficult to say for sure what transpired during the rituals of those mystery religions, since the initiates were sworn to secrecy about their practices. But it does seem possible that the initiates were given a special “brew” to drink during the initiation into the mystery religions. And that that brew did indeed contain “ingredients” like mushrooms, etc., that would have evoked hallucinogenic visions, on par with what persons who take LSD and other drugs experience.

Why would pagans and early Christians want to ingest such food and drink? Why would they want to participate in such a practice? In response to such questions, Muraresku notes that some universities today are doing experiments with hallucinogenic drugs and discovering that they provide relief for such conditions as alcohol and nicotine addiction, PTSD, autism, anxiety, depression, and end-of-life distress. Persons who ingest hallucinogenic drugs have had a variety of experiences including: 1) a feeling as though every moment is an eternity of its own—a “timeless dimension”, 2) a feeling as though one has a rendezvous with “God’s love,” and 3) a feeling of dying to the ego—“non-attachment.” In essence, there is a beatific vision that many people experience which many classify as the most positive experience they have ever had. In many ways, people who have ingested hallucinogenic drugs speak of their experience as if bordering on the divine. With these kinds of experiences, we can see why persons would seek out those meals associated with the mystery religions and early Christianity. But we don’t know for sure if in fact hallucinogenic drugs were involved.

In his book, Muraresku even goes so far as to say that if it can be proven without a doubt that indeed early Christians were imbibing more than just “wine,” than perhaps Christianity should seriously consider what it would mean to return to such practices. He suggests that ingesting hallucinogenic drugs as part of our Christian rituals may just be the modern day “reformation” the Church is needing. That the innocuous bread and wine of communion is not cutting it when it comes to experiencing the divine.

Now, I have my reservations about all of this. I have my reservations about whether there is any truth to the idea that early Christians were imbibing hallucinogenic drugs. And, I certainly have reservations about the idea that modern Christians should ingest hallucinogenic drugs so as to have a beatific vision of God. For me, it just sounds like Muraresku is too preoccupied with the mind, and particularly an altered state of the mind, and not focused enough on the heart. I would be more curious to know if and how hallucinogenic drugs make persons more compassionate and loving, because I believe we see the divine in the face of neighbor in need, and not in one’s altered mind. When we respond to the needs of others, truly then are we experiencing a beatific vision.

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, March 14, 2024**

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

Members Absent: Steve Barron and Joel Hains.

At 6:15 pm Pastor Joel opened the meeting with a word of prayer.

**February 14, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes**

Brad mentioned that the minutes in the newsletter are not always the corrected minutes. Jeanette will correct this. Penny mentioned a grammatical correction. Anneke mentioned that the 2024 Annual Congregation report was a report that needed to be shared with Council because the number of members on the roster (481) does not truly represent the member roster as of January 2024. Anneke asked Pastor Joel if our church reaches out to members that do not come to church. Pastor Joel said that when a person is baptized, they are on the member roster. Anneke shared that Jeanette and Anneke had called members that are on Barb's list to send notifications to by mail. Anneke mentioned that out of about 16 members that were called about Pastor's situation, only a couple answered the phone. Most of them are in nursing homes and do not come to church any more. Jeanette asked for clarification on who gets the report, Synod or ELCA? Pastor explained that churches are sending this report to the Susquehanna Synod who in turn shares it with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). A discussion ensued on cleaning up the membership roster to reflect the actual number of members. Jeanette verified that the Council meeting time is 6:00 PM, and all agreed. Pastor Joel made a motion to accept the February 14, 2024 minutes as edited. Penny seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Meeting minutes with St. Stephens on March 7, 2024**

There were no questions or remarks to the minutes. Jeanette asked Pastor Joel for the full names of Vice President Carol and Secretary Maxine. They are Carol Clellan and Maxine Montgomery. Pastor Joel made a motion to accept the March 7, 2024 minutes as edited. Anneke seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Financial Committee meeting report**

Jim mentioned that after the audit review with John Zimmerman, there were 3 (three) recommendations that needed to be established:

Issue #3: Keep a running total of monetary gifts that were reported in the Building and Memorial funds.

In other words, when something is bought with a monetary gift, record this and record what is left over from the gift until all the money of that gift has been spent. Remove the item from the running total to reflect the actual total amount in the Building and Memorial funds.

This recommendation has been implemented.

Issue #4: Determine what amount of money should be kept in the PNC Current Fund Checking account and the Thrivent Current Fund Money Market account.

Jim stated that that is a judgement call because we should not establish an exact amount. Jim keeps money in the PNC checking account based on anticipated expenses. If there is

not enough money in the PNC checking account then Jim transfers money from Thrivent Current Fund Money Market account to the PNC Current Fund Checking account to make sure there is enough money in that account to pay the expenses. Jim also transfers money to the Thrivent Current Fund Money Market account if there is too much money sitting in the PNC checking account. Therefore, it is difficult to establish an exact amount that is kept in the PNC Current Fund Checking account.

This recommendation was not accepted.

Issue #5: John recommended that we need to update the Church Bylaws to allow the Church Treasurer to transfer monies between the PNC Current Fund checking account and the Thrivent Current Fund Money Market account.

Pastor recommended that it should be in the Church Treasurer's manual or in a newly created Financial Committee Policy instead of the Church Bylaws. After a long discussion it was decided that Jim will look at the Treasurer manual if this recommendation is already in the manual. Jim provided a blurb for the change in the Church Bylaws: "A fund may be contained in any number of bank accounts, mutuals, etc. established by the Treasurer, provided the Treasurer documents to the Congregation which accounts the fund is contained." Pastor Joel and Anneke will look at the Church Bylaws if Jim's blurb should be added to the Church Bylaws. Both parties will report back to the Finance Committee. Jim was asked to put a financial write up in the April 2024 newsletter about the 2 accounts (PNC Current Fund checking account and the Thrivent Current Fund Money Market accounts) that are being used to pay the church's expenses.

Jim also will highlight this process at the next Special congregation meeting in September 2024. Anneke asked Jim to email her the updated Finance manual. Jim will provide a copy of the Treasurer's manual to Barb to file in the office.

This recommendation is tabled.

Anneke asked Jim if he had created a reimbursement voucher as was recommended by John. Jim said he had and showed her the new Church reimbursement voucher. Jim thanked Anneke for getting the Finance Committee active again. He expressed his appreciation about the guidance that she had provided him with. Jim was very pleased with all the things the committee members had recommended to make it easier on him, such as establishing a Treasurer manual, closing various accounts that were redundant, and opening Thrivent savings accounts that provide us better returns. Jim said that there was lots of budget preparation, and we got an audit done despite the pandemic! Jim also mentioned that the egg monies process had changed, the money received is now being counted at the church by Penny Zimmerman and family and Jim, which provides better accountability practices.

The question was asked if John would do another audit after graciously auditing the year 2019. Jim mentioned that John probably will not continue auditing the church records because of time constraints, however, he said that we should consider doing audits for future years. Jim appreciated and was thankful for everybody providing him with guidance, recommendations, and John for doing the audit. In turn, the council members thanked Jim for all the work he has done in the past 30+ years.

### **Treasurer report**

Jim reported that there was a surplus of **\$6,284.00** in February 2024 which included 3 weeks of gross sales from the Egg fundraiser. A \$500.00 check was sent to support the Lower Susquehanna Synod, snow removal

was a low amount and Brad mentioned he was very happy with the new company. Jim mentioned that the Previous Year Comparison report shows a deficit for Jan-Feb 2024 of **\$2,264.61** which is lower than the Jan-Feb 2023 deficit of **\$6,987.86**. The reason for a high Jan-Feb 2023 deficit was due to our contract with St. Stephens starting in March 2023. Overall, we are doing better than last year, Jim reported that as of March 13, 2024, we have a surplus of about **\$4,000.99** because of the egg sales. Jim dispersed detailed expense reports of the administrative supplies, expenses, salaries, and egg expenses incurred during the month of Feb. 2024. Anneke requested from Jim that he separate any fundraising monies from the income because they are an in and out monetary process. When the fundraiser has ended and the monies have been totaled, a report should be given about the expenses and income so the auditor has an overview of the fundraiser. Anneke offered her time to help Jim with setting up this process. A motion was made to approve the expenses report by Pastor and Penny seconded. The motion carried. The Treasurer report was filed for audit.

Jim mentioned that Barb is sending out Thank You letters to people who donated money to the Church.

### **Pastors report**

Pastor highlighted some things he wanted to mention, such as the church still needs 2 voting members to attend the 2024 Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly. Pastor asked Anneke if she and Dan would volunteer and Anneke told him they would if nobody else volunteered. Pastor mentioned that we should resume vision team meetings; Anneke will soon set up a meeting. Pastor discussed the meeting at St. Stephens and the changes to the 3-month contract, such as a 14 days opt-out time and the 15 hours he would work at St. Stephens. A question was raised that 30 days opt-out might be too much! Penny mentioned that the business practice is a 14-day opt-out. Including Pastor Joel, all agreed that 14 days was acceptable for the 3-month contract. Pastor also recommended that a copy of the 3-month contract is distributed at the Special Congregation meeting on Sunday, May 24, 2024. Anneke will call Pastor Beth if Barb can update the previous contract, and if we can then Barb and Anneke will make the necessary changes accordingly and email it to the congregation. Further discussion about extending the new contract was unfavorable.

Brad had mentioned his concerns that we are delaying the inevitable of us working on a partnership with another local congregation. Pastor recommended to engage Pastor Beth in helping Our Saviour find a local partnership or speaking to the congregation about the process of partnering with local churches. Anneke will call Pastor Beth to find out and report back to council at the April 10 meeting.

Penny asked if we are perusing the part-time pastor or is that not going to happen! Pastor mentioned that to move to a half-time call involves a lot of logistics to be worked out because a pastor cannot be called to 2 individual churches! Our Saviour has a full-time called pastor. Brad mentioned that we got to do something, and Anneke mentioned that 45 members cannot sustain this church to continue its ministry.

Further conversation ensued about what is best for Our Saviour.

### **Property Report**

Brad mentioned that the roof was leaking in the Fellowship Hall near the heating element up front and that it was fixed, however it was still leaking so Brad called the company and they will come out again. The faucet in the kitchen sink was also replaced by Dave Scicchitano and all were very happy with the result. Dave only charged \$125, very reasonable.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

No update on creating an Internal Technical (IT) Committee – on hold



Update on St. Stephen was discussed in pastors report, see above

No update on Part-Time Ministry Question. Brad informed the council that nobody asked questions about this at the Congregational meeting in January 2024.

Vision Team developed a Vision statement. Anneke asked pastor where to go with this team since we now are considering looking at finding a local partnership. We also need to ask the congregation whether they like the Vision statement. Although the town meetings clarified a lot of what our congregation wants to do, however, we must understand what our vision is and what our assets are, and what do we bring to the table in a conversation with another church. We need to do a building/property evaluation, Anneke asked Brad to head a committee that will do the evaluation. Brad agreed to be the chair. Lot of great ideas were brought to the table, and the discussion about the great possibilities our church has to offer.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Church email issue:

Penny mentioned that she is not getting all the blast emails and that there are more members not getting emails from the church secretary. Pastor called Barb to resend it asap. Barb will look into this issue.

April 23 Election Day polling station for primary voting at church;

Jeanette mentioned that there will be more traffic. She also will put a list on the table in the Narthex for members to help and donate baked goodies etc. Jeanette will have a list of times and volunteer names at the next council meeting.

Synod 2024 Annual Congregation report:

Create Taskforce that can work together on cleaning this up. Ask Barb to generate a full list of all members on the roll. Task force members are Jim, Anneke, Penny and Barb, they will work together to clean up the membership roll. Send out letters to the members who have not been in church for years asking them if they want to be removed. Report to council who needs to be removed from the membership roll.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

Next meeting is April 10 @ 6:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Antonetta Fleming/Council President

## **ST. Stephen's Contract effective April 7, 2024**

### **LETTER OF AGREEMENT FOR INTERIM MINISTRY**

In keeping with the policies and practices of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Lower Susquehanna Synod, and in order to set forth clearly the agreement for interim service between the congregation and pastor,

St. Stephen Lutheran Church, New Kingston, PA  
agree that

Pastor Joel Petruschke  
will serve as Interim Pastor

on a P/T basis, 15 hours/week from April 7, 2024 until July 7, 2024 in accord with the following mutual promises:

#### **The Interim Pastor will:**

Focus on 1) healing and 2) visioning with the congregation and attend to the following within the allotted weekly hours:

- A. Preach and teach the Word of God.
- B. Preside at worship and administer the sacraments according to the practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- C. Provide pastoral care to all members of the parish according to their needs, visit as necessary, officiate at weddings, baptisms, confirmation, funerals, and uphold the members in prayer.
- D. Give pastoral leadership for the meetings, activities, and organizations of the congregation.
- E. Encourage support of the total ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- F. Be responsible for the recording of baptisms, confirmations, marriages, funerals, attendance at Holy Communion, and the maintenance of the membership rosters; and report the statistics of the parish promptly and fully, as requested by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- G. Agree under no circumstances to be available for regular call to this congregation.
- H. Agree not to be involved in the congregation's call process except when the synod bishop requests such participation.
- I. Agree not to become a member of this congregation after this agreement terminates.
- J. Participate with key leadership of the congregation and the appointed synod staff person in evaluation of the interim ministry.

#### **The congregation will:**

- A. Commit to the Gospel by faithful participation in worship, learning, and fellowship activities.
- B. Support the ministry of the congregation through service and gifts.
- C. Accept the interim pastor, uphold him in prayer, and accord him love, respect, and good will.
- D. Expect the interim pastor to preside at baptisms, celebrations of Holy Communion, and other rites of the church.
- E. Agree that the interim pastor will not be considered for regular call to this congregation.
- F. Provide for a review and evaluation of the interim ministry by key leadership of the congregation with the interim pastor and the appointed synodical staff person.
- G. Compensate Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Harrisburg, PA \$650 weekly.
- H. Grant the pastor

- 1. Grant 1 week of vacation including a Sunday.
- 2. Grant 1 week continuing education including a Sundays.
- I. Reimburse expenses related to our common ministry as follows:
  - 1. Reimburse automobile travel at the IRS rate upon substantiation of business miles traveled.
  - 2. Pay expenses, not otherwise provided for, incurred in attending synod assemblies and other official meetings at which attendance is required.

**Additional Agreements:**

This agreement terminates on the date specified on page one of this agreement; or upon fourteen (14) days written notice from the congregation, the interim pastor, or the bishop of the synod. All financial obligations between the interim pastor and the congregation will be fulfilled by or on the date of termination.

We, the undersigned, accept the terms of this agreement:

Carol O. Clifton \_\_\_\_\_ 3/28/2024  
President/Vice President of St. Stephen Date

Antoinette M. Fleming \_\_\_\_\_ 3-28-2024  
President/Vice President of Our Saviour Date

Jim P. Kline \_\_\_\_\_ 3-28-24  
Interim Pastor Date

Reviewed by  
Olga Lutz \_\_\_\_\_ 4-3-24  
Dean or Assistant to Bishop, Lower Susquehanna Synod Date

### OUR SAVIOUR FINANCIAL REPORT

	AS OF <u>3/31/2024</u>	AS OF <u>2/29/2024</u>	difference
ENVELOPES AND PLATE	\$29,103.90	\$17,246.30	\$11,857.60
FUND RAISING	\$17,736.00	\$6,964.00	\$10,772.00
FELLOWSHIP HALL RENTAL	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
ST STEPHENS MISSION	<u>\$10,400.04</u>	<u>\$6,933.36</u>	<u>\$3,466.68</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$57,239.94	\$31,143.66	\$26,096.28
 EXPENSE	 <u>\$51,930.90</u>	 <u>\$33,408.27</u>	 <u>\$18,522.63</u>
 SURPLUS/DEFICIT	 <u>\$5,309.04</u>	 <u>-\$2,264.61</u>	 <u>\$7,573.65</u>

#### PNC BANK STATEMENT BALANCES

	<u>3/31/2024</u>	<u>2/29/2024</u>	difference
CURRENT FUND CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$30,012.74	\$26,084.50	\$3,928.24
MEMORIAL FUND MONEY MARKET #	\$15,0105.04	\$15,054.91	\$50.13

#### THRIVENT ACCOUNTS

	<u>3/28/2024</u>	<u>2/29/2024</u>	difference
CURRENT FUND MONEY MARKET	\$49,488.15	\$49,296.99	\$191.16
SCHOLARSHIP MUTUALS	\$193,303.44	\$184,759.02	\$8,544.42
MEMORIAL FUND MONEY MARKET *	\$83,842.99	\$83,519.14	\$323.85

\* \$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

Carol Rank	5/1
Jared Copeland	5/6
Myles Reilly	5/7
Lisa Neil	5/8
Don DeArmitt	5/10
Margie Munz	5/13
George Schreffler	5/17
Jaylen Copeland	5/18
Christine Schreffler	5/18
Steffany Provencher	5/23
Sara Smith	5/23
Katelyn Miller	5/30





2Sun

Mon






Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1	2 11 am - Jean Lisse's Memorial Service @Parthemore Funeral Home 10 am - visitation	3 <b>council committee reports due in office</b>	4 10 am - Bible Study InBetweener's Event - dinner, dessert & conversation
<b>5 - Easter 6</b> 9 am - Worship w/Children's Sunday School <b>1st Sunday Social</b>	<b>6</b> <b>Pastor Joel @St. Stephen</b> 6 pm - Council 6 pm - Welcome Committee	<b>7</b> 6 pm - Altar Guild	<b>8</b> 6 pm - Spring Banquet	<b>9</b> <b>Pastor Joel @St. Stephen</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12 - Easter 7</b> <b>Mother's Day</b> 9 am - Worship 	<b>13</b> <b>Pastor Joel @St. Stephen's</b> 6 pm - Praise Him Singers Rehearsal	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <b>Pastor Joel @St. Stephen</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 2 pm - Private Event
<b>19 - Day of Pentecost</b> 9 am - Worship w/Children's Sunday School <b>newsletter deadline</b> 	<b>20</b> <b>Pastor Joel @St. Stephen</b> 6 pm - Praise Him Singers concert set-up	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 6 pm - Egg Project Wrap-Up meeting	<b>23</b> <b>Pastor Joel @St. Stephen</b> 7 pm - Praise Him Singers Concert	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 10 am - Bible Study
<b>26 - Holy Trinity</b> 9 am - Worship 	<b>27</b>  <b>Memorial Day office closed</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Synod Assembly	

The Evangelical Lutheran  
**CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR**  
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Web Site: [www.oslutheranharrisburg.org](http://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](mailto:ossec@comcast.net)

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



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.