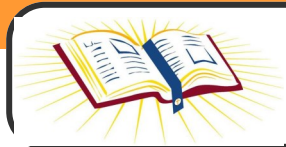


Good News

September 2024



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

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Allow me to update you on where we are with the process of “sharing pastoral resources.” As you know, the covenantal arrangement with St. Stephen Lutheran Church concluded on July 7th. Because they have had difficulty securing a pastor who can serve consistently on Sunday mornings, I have been continuing to serve as a supply pastor for St. Stephen, but there is no contract with them with respect to my services as an interim pastor. They have contracted with a local pastor to serve as their interim pastor.

Now it is the case that Our Saviour will need to enter into an arrangement with another, more local congregation to share pastoral resources. This is necessary to sustain our budget, but it is also a great opportunity to work with another congregation, so as to pull our resources and do greater ministry together. With respect to other congregations, there are a couple of prospects that the synod has shared with us. The next step is to speak more intentionally with synod about those prospects.

Additionally, several members of Our Saviour and myself participated in a Saturday morning conversation with pastors on the West Shore about this topic “sharing pastoral resources.” It was a productive discussion in which we learned specifically about the various options out there for congregations to work together. There is the contract option, the merger option, the parish option, so on and so forth. Honestly, I am not sure I fully understand all the options.

There was a follow-up lunch to this West Shore meeting in which we had further informal conversation. The next step is to have another meeting on October 12, which will be held at Our Saviour. I have also spoken to the Dean of the Harrisburg Conference about hosting a similar “sharing of pastoral resources” meeting. In other words, the East Shore pastors would begin to talk intentionally around this topic. Although, maybe we don’t need an East Shore meeting if we are going to host the West Shore meeting at Our Saviour. And we could simply invite East Shore congregations who are interested.

What is the endgame for Our Saviour? The plan is that we find a local congregation with whom we can be in partnership. It is important that we not only find a congregation to work with that is local, but also a congregation with whom we share a similar vision. This is why, in part, we have been working on a Vision Statement. (Please see the Stewardship article in this newsletter which speaks about our Vision Statement.) We need to understand who we are and what we are about, in order to identify a partner to work with. It is kind of like “dating” in this regard. As a person, we need to have a good and healthy sense of self before entering into a relationship with someone else. The same holds true for a congregation.

So, that is where we are as a congregation in this process of partnership. If you should have any questions about what I have shared in this article please contact me. You are also welcome to ask questions about the details in this article at the Congregational Meeting on September 22.

In Christ, *Pastor Joel Petruschke*



Lessons for September 2024

September 1 - Pentecost 15

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9
Psalm 15
James 1:17-27
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

September 8 - Pentecost 16

Isaiah 35:4-7a
Psalm 146
James 2:1-17
Mark 7:24-37

September 15- Pentecost 17

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 116:1-9
James 3:1-12
Mark 8:27-38

September 22 - Pentecost 18

Jeremiah 11:18-20
Psalm 54
James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a
Mark 9:30-37

September 29 - Michael & All Angels

Daniel 10:10-14; 12:1-3
Psalm 103:1-5, 20-22
Revelation 12:7-12
Luke 10:17-20



Congregational Meeting



Please plan to attend our congregational meeting scheduled for Sunday, September 22nd immediately following our morning worship. Please mark your calendars & plan to attend! This meeting will include the election of council members, the adoption of the vision statement, pastoral resources, and other business. **In order to do so we need a quorum of 30 members in attendance.**

Civil Rights Tour Presentation

Please join us for a three-part presentation (Saturday, September 21st; Saturday, September 28th; and Saturday October 5th) from 10:00am to 11:30am at the church in the Fellowship Hall. Nadine, Otis, and Pastor Joel will share their experiences of this whirlwind trip to Virginia, Georgia, Alabama, and Tennessee, which was sponsored by Messiah University's Thriving Together program. Light refreshments will be served. Please mark your calendars; we hope you will be able to attend.



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

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS AGAIN

I don't know if this article is so much "About Worship" as it is information about our Sunday School program that takes place during worship. Sunday School will begin on September 15, and will be held on the 3rd Sunday of each month (September 15, October 20, November 17, and December 15). At the end of the 2024, we will review our Sunday School program and consider plans for 2025.

As has been our practice, children will be dismissed after the Children's Message in church on those Sundays when we have Sunday School. After their Sunday School lesson, the children will return to the worship service in time for Holy Communion.

At this time we are not in need of school supplies or snacks. However, we are always looking for additional Sunday School teachers. At present we have two Sunday School teachers who are covering the lessons. It is possible that we could offer Sunday School more frequently with additional teachers. So please consider helping teach Sunday School. You would need to have your background checks up-to-date.

Finally, we are also looking to improve the class size of Sunday School. We have five children who plan to participate in Sunday School, but we would welcome additional children. Please invite others to join us for Sunday School. If you have any questions please contact Jenna Youngblood or Jessica Burigana. Thank you and see you at Sunday School.

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.



A Word on Stewardship

The Vision Team has developed a Vision Statement for Our Saviour. The Vision Statement is as follows: *Through the power of the cross, we, as disciples of Jesus Christ, are called to nourish those who hunger in mind, body, and spirit.* The reason for the development of a Vision Statement to replace our Mission Statement is because our Mission Statement was no longer useful in identifying who we are and what we are about. Stewardship of self requires we define our sense of self.

The Vision Team was formed after the Townhall Meetings we conducted back in 2022. The Vision Team initially sought to implement the findings from those Townhall Meetings, but soon realized that that was not its job. That is the job of the various committees and ministries of Our Saviour. The Vision Team recognized that what was more pressing was the need for a Vision Statement.

In the process, the Vision Team consulted other Vision Statements, and finally settled on wording for our Vision Statement. The Vision Team shared the Vision Statement with the Chairs of the church committees. With the input of the Chairs, the Vision Statement was slightly altered, and approved by the Chairs. The Committee Chairs understand that their individual work in committee flows out of the Vision Statement. Indeed, everything we do as a church originates from the Vision Statement. If we cannot explain why we do some aspect of church life with respect to the Vision Statement, we must ask ourselves why we are doing that thing.

The next step is for the Vision Statement to be presented before the Congregation at the Congregational Meeting on September 22. The approval of the Vision Statement does not technically require a vote from the Congregation, although Council feels it is important to present the Vision Statement “officially” before the congregation for the purpose of discussion and approval, as it is important to have the congregation’s buy-in with respect to this guiding directive for our congregational life.

Please review the Vision Statement at the beginning of this article. Pray over it, digest it, and consider it as our congregation’s identifying statement. Once adopted, we plan to promote the Vision Statement in our bulletin and newsletter, on our website, and on the bulkhead in the narthex. Each week, we will recite it at the end of the announcements before the service begins. We want this statement to breathe and have life among us, so that we are stirred to do God’s will. Thanks.



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 1st class will be September 15th!!** Children will be excused for their lesson after the children’s message. **More information is in Pastor’s »About.Worship» article on page 3.** Please share our news with anyone you know who may be interested. We welcome every child to join us and learn!



PRESENTATION OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS TOUR**Dear Padre,**

So when are we going to hear about the tour you took of the Civil Rights sites in the South?

Signed, Socially Conscious



Dear “Socially Conscious,”

Thank you for asking about this important tour that was part of Messiah University’s Thriving Together program. Nadine, Otis and I participated in this bus trip which departed on July 14th and returned on July 20th. It was an amazing journey that took us to the University of Virginia; Atlanta and Albany, Georgia; Montgomery, Selma, and Birmingham, Alabama; and Nashville and Clinton, Tennessee.

We will share our experiences of the trip on September 21, September 28, and October 5. Because we visited so many sites, we decided to present our trip as a three-part series. However, we understand that not everyone may be able to attend all three days. So, if you can only attend one or two dates, that is okay. But if you attend all three, you will get the full picture of our travels.

We will meet each of those Saturdays from 10:00am until 11:30am. We will share pictures and stories, and many, many resources. Light refreshments will be served. You are encouraged to ask questions during the presentation and even share your own experiences of the places we visited or other places you have visited that relate to the topic of Civil Rights.

We hope to see you at the presentation. It certainly promises to be a learning experience for all of us.

Signed, *Padre*





Willkommen zum Deutschen Fest

**Eat In or Take Out
GermanFest 2024**



**Saturday, September 7, 2024
11:00 am until 3:00 pm**

**Our Saviour Lutheran Church
420 N. Progress Ave.
Harrisburg, PA 17109
717-545-9992**

Menu:

Sauerbraten Meal*	\$13.00
Chicken Schnitzel Meal*	\$13.00
Bratwurst	\$5.00
Bratwurst with chips	\$6.00
Hot Dog	\$3.00
Hot Dog with chips	\$4.00
Chicken Noodle Soup	\$4.00
Side of German Potato Salad	\$3.00
Water/Soda	\$2.00

Baked goods also available to purchase

Cash or check only.

***Meals include sides of red cabbage & apples and
German potato salad.**



**Silent Auction of new or gently used items.
LIVE MUSIC!**

Council Minutes

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

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Saviour Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting Wednesday, June 12, 2024

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

Members Absent: Jeanette Logan, Secretary and Joel Hains

At 6:07 PM, the meeting was called to order. Pastor Joel opened with a devotion.

Minutes May 6, 2024: The minutes were reviewed and edited. Pastor Joel made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Steve seconded the motion.

Secretary's Correspondence: Jeanette wrote a Thank You note for the bake sale donations for the election. She asked Barb to include the note in the July/August newsletter.

Pastor Joel Correspondence: None

Treasurer's Report: Jim reviewed the Budget Performance, Previous Year Comparison, and Financial reports with council. Of note are that envelope contributions are down this year as compared to last year at this time. Of note, in 2023 envelope contributions were \$47,132.90 in comparison to the same timeframe in 2024 when the envelope contributions were \$41,891.60. Anneke asked Jim if he could break down the fundraising into different categories for future financial reports. She also asked him to add "net" to Surplus/Deficit on the financial report. Jim will make corrections as noted on the Treasurer's report and provide council members with an updated copy. The Treasurer's report is filed for audit with the noted corrections.

Committee Reports:

~~Building-property.evaluation~~; Brad stated that this is on hold due to more pressing issues. He asked to remove this from the committee reports. Anneke advised that it should not be removed from the agenda but moved to Old Business as 'On Hold'.

Christian.Education; On hiatus until Fall 2024. Bible study is scheduled for June 22,2024 at 10:00AM.

Child.Protection.Policy?Fundraising?Mutual.Ministry; No reports

Property; Still trying to find a company with a lift to fix parking lot light. The flat roof leak was fixed. \$570.00 was received in donations for the new heater. Hanna Hope Garden will hopefully be up and running. Pastor Joel received a phone from the head of the rotary club. They are planning to work with the Lions club, Kiwanis club and Key club from the school. Pastor Joel made a request for the ASPIRE group (Allies for Suicide Prevention) to use our fellowship hall on August 19, 2024 from 8am to 5pm. Pastor Kathy is on the board of this group and they train counselors to work with people contemplating suicide. He asked that the group be able to use the church at no cost and council agreed.

Scholarship.BOT; A meeting was held on June 5, 2024 and they will be having another meeting on June 24, 2024.

Social.Ministry; Penny mentioned that Donna told her they are planning to buy large print Bibles for the residents at The Gardens on Progress Ave. Otis asked what needs their residents had and they stated that this was a need. Donna is planning to get a Thrivent grant to pay for the Bibles, which Otis found for \$5.00 per Bible.

Stewardship; not an active committee

Worship.and.Music no report

Finance Jim wants to have a meeting to discuss the wording in the Treasurer's Manual so that he can transfer money easily and without approval. He would also like to have a general review of the manual. Jim will e-mail a copy of the manual to the Finance Committee members prior to the meeting on Monday, August, 26, 2024 at 6:30 PM.

Pastor's.Report Pastor Joel will be on vacation beginning July 14th until August 10th 2024. He has supply pastors set up for July 14th, 21st, and 28th 2024.

Old Business:

IT.committee on hold

Vision.Team.Meeting Held June 6th, 2024. Majority of the committee leaders were present.

Membership.Role.ad-hoc.committee Had two meetings to review the membership list. To be considered an ACTIVE member, one must CONTRIBUTE and COMMUNE ONCE every TWO years. A list of 363 members were presented to council that didn't meet these criterias, either due to death, worshipping elsewhere, transfer, or inactivity. Penny made a motion to remove the 363 members from the official church registry roles. Pastor Joel seconded and the motion was carried.

Germanfest.fundraiser At the meeting held in May, everyone in attendance wanted to have Germanfest in 2024. The members present were willing and inspired to have Germanfest without a chair. Members have their "assigned" areas for Germanfest and will be looking for volunteers. Sign-up sheets will be utilized for volunteers to sign-up. The next meeting is scheduled for June 26, 2024 at 6:30pm.

Update on June 8, 2024 discussion on churches working together: Pastor Joel shared that the presenter was Pastor Richard Jorgenson. He discussed the different partnership options, which include consolidation, contracting, and parish entities. Pastor Joel is going to stay in contact with the Dean of Conferences about having another discussion of this type, possibly at Our Saviour, for the East Shore churches. He will keep council informed of the progress/outcome.

New.Business Anneke mentioned that she might not be able to conduct the meeting on July 10, 2024 due to being out of town. She asked Brad, Vice President, to conduct the meeting, if needed.

Pastor Joel made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Steve seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35PM with The Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting is July 10, 2024 – 6:00PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Penny Zimmerman



OUR SAVIOUR FINANCIAL REPORT

	AS OF <u>6/30/2024</u>	AS OF <u>5/31/2024</u>	<u>difference</u>
ENVELOPES AND PLATE	\$56,574.90	\$46,175.90	\$10,399.00
FUND RAISING - EGGS	\$18,581.31	\$18,581.31	\$0.00
FUND RAISING - ELECTION	\$324.01	\$309.01	\$15.00
FELLOWSHIP HALL RENTAL	\$1,175.00	\$1,225.00	-\$50.00
ST STEPHENS MISSION	<u>\$19,283.38</u>	<u>\$15,383.38</u>	<u>\$3,900.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$95,938.60	\$81,674.60	\$14,264.00
EXPENSE	<u>\$98,503.63</u>	<u>\$82,878.79</u>	<u>\$15,624.84</u>
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	<u>-\$2,565.03</u>	<u>\$1,204.19</u>	<u>-\$1,360.84</u>

PNC BANK STATEMENT BALANCES

	<u>6/30/2024</u>	<u>5/31/2024</u>	<u>difference</u>
CURRENT FUND CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$23,645.99	\$23,969.18	-\$323.19
MEMORIAL FUND MONEY MARKET #	\$13,870.77	\$15,395.30	-\$1,524.53

THRIVENT ACCOUNTS

	<u>6/30/2024</u>	<u>5/31/2024</u>	<u>difference</u>
CURRENT FUND MONEY MARKET	\$50,124.71	\$49,930.16	\$194.55
SCHOLARSHIP MUTUALS	\$182,767.29	\$185,296.09	-\$2,528.80
MEMORIAL FUND MONEY MARKET *	\$84,821.46	\$84,591.86	\$229.60

* \$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

Linda Kunz	9/2	Betty Hammell	9/23
Mick Smith	9/3	Betty Nickle	9/25
Brad Neil	9/4	Mary Louise Shuler	9/25
Trinity Mummert	9/5	Hannah Zimmerman	9/25
Cameron Capp	9/7	Kameron Rohacek	9/27
Connor Ecklund	9/7	Kris Danner	9/28
Maria Kunz	9/10	Kevin Gibson	9/29
Everly Ahrens	9/12	Mindy Grace	9/29
Tara Beachtel	9/14	Matthew DeArmitt	9/30
Mia Burigana	9/17		





Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thur

Fri

Sat

<p>1 - Pentecost 15</p> <p>9am - Worship</p> <p>1st Sunday Social</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>office closed</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8am - GermanFest prep day</p> <p>6pm - GermanFest prep</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8am - GermanFest prep day</p>	<p>6</p> <p>8am - GermanFest prep day</p> <p>Bake Sale table set-up in evening</p>	<p>7</p> <p>11am-3pm GermanFest</p> 
<p>8 - Pentecost 16</p> <p>9am - Worship</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6pm - Welcome Committee</p> <p>6:15pm - Scholarship BOT</p> <p>committee reports due in office</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6pm - Council</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>office closed - vacation day for Barb</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 - Pentecost 17</p> <p>9am - Worship</p> <p>Children's Sunday School begins</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10am - Civil Rights Presentation</p> <p>In-Betweeners Dutch Apple event</p>
<p>22 - Pentecost 18</p> <p>9am - Worship</p> <p>Annual Congregational Meeting following worship</p> 	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10am - Civil Rights Presentation</p>
<p>29 - Michael & All Angels</p> <p>9am - Worship</p>	<p>30</p> 					

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



*Happy
Fall!*



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.