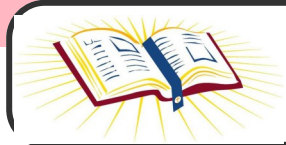


Good News

February 2025



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

February finds us in the season of Epiphany. This year the Epiphany season is extended because Lent doesn't begin until March 5 and Easter doesn't occur until April 20.

The Epiphany season began on January 6 with the arrival of the Magi to bring their gifts to the newborn king. As you remember, they saw a special star in the eastern sky. There were astrologers who interpreted the star's appearance as an extraordinary manifestation and were driven to discover its meaning. That is exactly what an epiphany is. What they discovered was the star was a sign of God-with-us, Emmanuel.

In today's world, we as a church are called to be such an epiphany. Our primary task as God's people in Christ is to shine into the darkness of this world with the light of Christ. One of the consistent markers of a vital congregation, and a variable that correlates directly with congregational growth, is a purposefulness of the congregation's ministry and the clarity of its identity.

During this time of pastoral transition, it is important to focus on ways in which we can be an epiphany for those who are swallowed in the darkness of life. Last year you adopted a Vision Statement: *Through the power of the cross, we, as disciples of Jesus Christ, are called to nourish those who hunger in mind, body, and spirit.* In adopting those words, you have shared that we will focus our mission outward, to be epiphanies.

That outward vision requires us to see the world in new ways. The world that most of us grew up in was less complicated. The church was often seen as a center of family life. The congregation was seen as a family. The basic model was membership. We were together, surrounded by people mostly just like us.

Today the world seems to have abandoned the we for the me. We are a gathering of individuals who are concerned with what is in it for me. Our world demands instant gratification and spirituality is an individual journey. If I don't get what I want, I move on. We are keenly aware of the differences that define us and avoid those who don't look like us, believe like us, live like us.

So we have some challenges ahead of us as the Body of Christ in this place.

- +How can we be an epiphany and manifest the presence of God together?
- +How do we communicate our vision into the darkness of this world?
- +How do we tell others how our faith in Christ makes us different?
- +What is God calling us to do at this time and in this place?
- +How will our engagement with Christ and the church change lives with hope?

Peace, *Pastor Terhune*

May We Grow Back
Not to What Was
But Instead
Towards What We Can Become



Lessons for February 2025

February 2 - Presentation of Our Lord

Malachi 3:1-4
 Psalm 84
 Hebrews 2:14-18
 Luke 2:22-40

February 9 - Epiphany 5

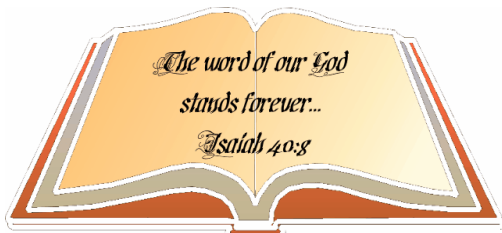
Isaiah 6:1-13
 Psalm 138
 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
 Luke 5:1-11

February 16 - Epiphany 6

Jeremiah 17:5-10
 Psalm 1
 1 Corinthians 15:12-20
 Luke 6:17-26

February 23 - Epiphany 7

Genesis 45:3-11, 15
 Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50
 Luke 6:27-38



Upcoming Bible Study - Please Join Us!

10:30 – 11:30am
 In the Beginning

| | | |
|------|---------------------|---------------|
| 2/2 | Creation | Genesis 1-2 |
| 2/9 | The Human Condition | Genesis 3-5 |
| 2/16 | The Cleansing Flood | Genesis 6-9 |
| 2/23 | God's New Plan | Genesis 10-12 |

Come Join Us for a Faith Lift!

A Very Big Thank You!

A heartfelt thank you for the cards and words of condolence when my dad passed away. I learned so much about music and life from him. God blessed him, he knew it, and he firmly believed he would be with God when he left this life.

With sincere gratitude,
 Hope Bowling



Parish Staff

Rev. Frank Terhune , interim pastor
 Barbara Johnson, administrative assistant
 Mitchell Sensenig, organist

Good News is a monthly publication of **The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Saviour**, 420 North Progress Avenue, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17109, 717-545-9992, ossec@comcast.net. **Deadline** for submission is the third Sunday of each month.

If you do not have email or internet access, your addressed copy of *Good News* will be available in your church mailbox the first weekend of each month.

Committee Spotlight

The **Worship and Music Committee** coordinates the many facets of worship at Our Saviour, including worship service schedules, music, choir, bulletins, hymnals, acolytes, and altar guild. Our big picture task is to work out a schedule of services during the year, including weekly Sunday mornings, Lent/Holy Week, Advent/Christmas Eve, and special events (Healing Service, Pet Blessing). Our small picture task is to facilitate smoothly running services. Mitchell Sensenig (organist) handles the music, Barb Johnson (secretary) makes up the bulletins/inserts, and Jim Lubrecht trains the acolytes. Altar Guild tends to many tasks, including preparing for Communion and changing the paraments (please see their Annual Report). Members of the Worship and Music Committee include: Pastor Frank, Jim Lubrecht, Mitchell Sensenig, Dawne Veet, and Hope Bowling, chair. We usually meet via Zoom 3-4 times a year. If you are interested in joining the committee or have suggestions for the committee, please see any member.

Manna Food Pantry

Our “2nd Sunday” food collection is still ongoing. During this time of continuous rising food, energy & gas prices food pantries are seeing a greater demand of their services. If you would like to make a donation you may bring your items into the church & place them on the table in the Narthex at any time. There is a list of suggested items now on the table. If you would like to make a monetary donations, please mark your envelopes “Manna Food Pantry” and place it with your regular giving envelope.



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

We have Children’s Sunday School on the 3rd Sunday of each month during the service. At each session the children complete a craft and enjoy a snack. **The next class will be February 16th!!** Children will be excused for their lesson after the children’s message. Please share our news with anyone you know who may be interested. We welcome every child to join us and learn!



Help Is Needed

The flower beds around the church need regular upkeep. Additional help will be needed to keep these looking nicely kept **this coming spring**. If you can help please call or text Andrea Faber at 717-576-3329. Any & all help is greatly appreciated.



The Shalom Summit

Our congregation is invited to the **Shalom Summit: Disciples Pursuing Racially Just Neighborhoods, a one-day conference on Saturday, February 22, 2025, at First Church of the Brethren, 219 Hummel Street, Harrisburg, PA 17104**. This summit will equip and inspire Christians across the region to deepen their discipleship and actively pursue racial justice.

With **Lisa Sharon Harper** delivering the keynote plenary and regional leaders facilitating workshops on biblical justice and actionable skills for social change, this is an event congregations won’t want to miss. Registration is just **\$10 (including meals!)**, but space is limited to **200 participants**, so if you would like to attend, register as soon as possible.

This summit is a great opportunity for those who have not been directly involved in the Thriving Together program through Messiah University to gain training and resources to grow as a community of faith committed to shalom.

Please visit <https://thejourneyharrisburg.org/shalom-summit/> to learn more and to register.

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, December 11, 2024**

Members Present: Interim Pastor Frank Terhune, Brad Neil, President, Carol Ranck, Vice-President, Jim Lubrecht, Treasurer, Jeanette Logan and Penny Zimmerman.

Members Absent: Steve Barron, Joel Hains, Sandy Moritz and Deb Flage, Secretary

Meeting was called to order at 6:08 pm. Pastor Terhune offered a prayer.

Approval of Council Meeting Minutes from November 14, 2024: Carol made a motion to approve the minutes with the following amendment. Jim reported the church credit card has an expiration date of 2027; and the Microsoft service has been renewed. Brad seconded the motion. The motion carried and the minutes were approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report: Jim reported that there is currently a deficit of \$15,202.72. The deficit is less than in October due to a reduction in salary and benefits. The pension and disability costs no longer exist as well as the higher salary for Pastor Joel. He believes we will end up in better shape this year in comparison to last year. Jim provided Council members with copies of the invoices that were paid. The Scholarship Mutuals continue to increase each month. Penny Zimmerman noted a clerical error under gift contributions for the heater in 2024. The date should be corrected to read 7-28-2024. Jim will make the correction.

Committee Reports:

Christian Ed: No report

Child Protection Policy: No report

Fund Raising: No report

Mutual Ministry: No report

Property: Brad noted that the two new parking lot lights will be installed on 12-18-24. The cost will be \$1,100.00 and the invoice will be paid using money from the Building Repair Fund in the budget. Thank you to Sandy Moritz for finding a company to do the repairs at a reasonable price.

Scholarship BOT: No report

Social Ministry: No report

Stewardship: Not an active committee

Welcome Committee: No report

Worship and Music: Discussion ensued about the need to find more volunteers for this committee. Penny stated she and John could help prepare the Communion Elements since they live close to the church. Jeanette mentioned Donna Miller had questions about where to purchase supplies for the candles. Carol will reach out to Donna to let her know where to find the supplies and directions for installation.

Finance: See Jim's report.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Terhune provided a very complete and detailed report for the month of November. He mentioned there are still no volunteers to be delegates for the Synod Assembly taking place on June 5 -7, 2025. Carol suggested that we bring this request to the congregation at the annual congregational meeting on January 19, 2025. Dan and Anneke Fleming have agreed to be the delegates in the event there are no other members who offer to volunteer. Pastor Terhune addressed the prospect of having a Bible Study. There was discussion that at the congregational meeting we take a survey to inquire about interest. It was suggested that Worship and Music should produce some suggestions for Council pertaining to the entire year's planning for worship. Council supports the idea of having a special service for Easter including bringing in more music and Lenten service planning. The topics of availability and visibility were addressed. In the newsletter Pastor Terhune will include in the ministry activities that Worship, Learning, Witness and Support are important and priority. Pastor Terhune plans to include in the newsletter his job description as well as his office time and service time.

Old Business: Social Ministry was highlighted in the newsletter. Worship and Music will be included in next month's newsletter.

New Business: There will be an upcoming meeting with Zion Lutheran Church. It is scheduled for 12-17-24 at 6:30 pm and will be held at Our Saviour.

The Constitution and Bylaws were approved by Synod.

Pastor Terhune and Brad will explore the Synod Ministry Profile. This profile describes the congregation. At 8:17pm Jeanette made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Carol seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeanette Logan



OUR SAVIOUR FINANCIAL REPORT

| | AS OF <u>12/31/2024</u> | AS OF <u>11/30/2024</u> | <u>difference</u> |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| ENVELOPES AND PLATE | \$116,396.54 | \$107,353.04 | \$9,043.50 |
| FUND RAISING - EGGS | \$18,581.31 | \$18,581.31 | \$0.00 |
| FUND RAISING - GERMANFEST | \$7,181.00 | \$7,181.00 | \$0.00 |
| FUND RAISING ELECTION | \$934.57 | \$934.57 | \$0.00 |
| FELLOWSHIP HALL RENTAL | \$2,200.00 | \$2,200.00 | \$0.00 |
| ST STEPHENS MISSION | <u>\$19,933.38</u> | <u>\$19,933.38</u> | <u>\$0.00</u> |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$165,226.80 | \$156,183.30 | \$9,043.50 |
| | | | |
| EXPENSE | <u>\$180,718.24</u> | <u>\$171,386.02</u> | <u>\$9,332.22</u> |
| | | | |
| NET SURPLUS/DEFICIT | <u>-\$15,491.44</u> | <u>-\$15,202.72</u> | <u>-\$288.72</u> |
| | | | |
| PNC BANK STATEMENT BALANCES | | | |
| | <u>12/31/2024</u> | <u>1/1/2024</u> | <u>difference</u> |
| CURRENT FUND CHECKING ACCOUNT | \$13,361.58 | \$20,985.41 | -\$7,623.83 |
| MEMORIAL FUND MONEY MARKET # | \$21,121.59 | \$14,854.87 | \$6,266.72 |
| | | | |
| THRIVENT ACCOUNTS | | | |
| | <u>12/31/2024</u> | <u>1/1/2024</u> | <u>difference</u> |
| CURRENT FUND MONEY MARKET | \$51,343.51 | \$48,874.97 | \$2,468.54 |
| SCHOLARSHIP MUTUALS | \$193,551.55 | \$173,976.74 | \$19,574.81 |
| MEMORIAL FUND MONEY MARKET * | \$86,986.43 | \$82,804.13 | \$4,182.30 |

\$61,000 of Thrivent Memorial Fund Money Market is from the Neidich estate

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| Aaliyah Armstrong | 2/8 |
| Merlin Beachell | 2.8 |
| Mike Balas | 2/13 |
| Arryus Hanton | 2/18 |
| Walker Parson | 2/22 |
| Dottie Koppenhaver | 2/27 |





Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thur

Fri

Sat

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|------------------|--|--|------------------|--|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| <p>2 - Presentation of Our Lord 9am - Worship 10:30am - Bible Study egg making after worship 1st Sunday Social</p> | <p>3 6pm - Welcome Committee</p> | <p>4</p> | <p>5</p> | <p>6 2pm - egg making</p> | <p>7</p> | <p>8</p> |
| <p>9 - Epiphany 5 9am - Worship 10:30am - Bible Study egg making after worship</p> | <p>10 committee reports due in office</p> | <p>11</p> | <p>12 6pm - Council</p> | <p>13 2pm - egg making</p> | | <p>14</p> |
| <p>16 - Epiphany 6 9am - Worship 10:30am - Bible Study egg making after worship Children's Sunday School March newsletter deadline</p> | | <p>17</p> | <p>18 6:30am - Task Force @OSL</p> | <p>19 2pm - egg making</p> | <p>20</p> | <p>21 8:30am - Shalom Summit</p> |
| <p>23 - Epiphany 7 9am - Worship 10:30am - Bible Study egg making after worship</p> | <p>24</p> | <p>25</p> | <p>26</p> | <p>27 2pm - egg making</p> | <p>28</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



VISION STATEMENT

*Through the power of the cross, we,
as disciples of Jesus Christ,
are called to nourish those who
hunger in mind, body, and spirit.*

Worship

9:00 am

Please join us!

Holy Eucharist is celebrated
every Sunday.

Bible Study

10:30 am

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.