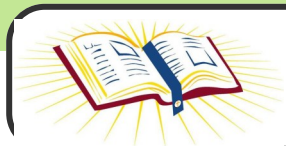


Good News

March 2025



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

As March arrives, we begin the season of Lent. The word Lent means springtime. Just as the buds open on trees and the days lengthen. One theologian described Lent as the season during which winter and spring struggle with each other for dominance. During this season of the Church Year, we are urged to take time to face the darkness that surrounds us and expose it to the light of Christ.

Lent is roughly a six week period of time. It begins on Ash Wednesday (this year March 5) and continues for forty days. Sundays are excluded from the forty day count, because Sundays are seen as days to celebrate the resurrection. Traditionally it is a time of personal reflection and repentance. Some traditions observe a practice of abstinence and fasting, giving up something meaningful as a Lenten sacrifice.

The traditional color for Lent is purple, suggesting the somberness and solemnity of the season. Veils are often draped over crosses throughout the season. During this season, the word “Alleluia” is not used. Some congregations literally bury the word in their garden and dig it up on Easter morning when joyous praise returns.

Ash Wednesday begins this somber season. The forty day period echoes the time Jesus spent in the wilderness fasting and fighting temptation. The early church used this time for candidates to prepare for Baptism by fasting, prayer, and study. Ashes are a rich symbol rooted in ancient customs. They suggest judgment and God’s condemnation of sin, human frailty, and our total dependence on God. Ashes also suggest cleansing and renewal. They were once used as a cleansing agent in the absence of soap. In many rural areas each Spring the fields were set on fire to destroy the old and make room for the new. In this way the fields are renewed and cleansed. On Ash Wednesday the ashes are imposed upon one’s forehead in the shape of a cross, reminding us of our Baptism and our renewal in Christ.

During this coming season of Lent, I invite you to set aside time for reflection and renewal. Make an intentional effort, even five or ten minutes, to ponder your life and the place God occupies in your life. The darkness of life threatens to consume us. Sin, death, and the power of evil are all around us. Use these Lenten days to grow in faith and action as we walk through the valley of the shadows toward the light of Christ that brings us hope.

Peace, *Pastor Terhune*

Ash Wednesday

We will be holding our Ash Wednesday worship service on March 5th beginning at 7pm.

Please join us as we begin our Lenten journey.



Lessons for March 2025

March 2 - Transfiguration of Our Lord
 Exodus 34:29-35
 Psalm 99
 2 Corinthians 3:12 - 4:2
 Luke 9:28-43a

March 5 - Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
 Psalm 51:1-17
 2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10
 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

March 9 - Lent 1

Deuteronomy 26:1-11
 Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
 Romans 10:8b-13
 Luke 4:1-13

March 16 - Lent 2

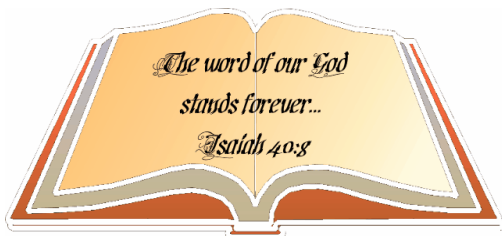
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
 Psalm 27
 Philippians 3:17 - 4:1
 Luke 13:31-35

March 23 - Lent 3

Isaiah 55:1-9
 Psalm 63:1-8
 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
 Luke 13:1-9

March 30 - Lent 4

Joshua 5:9-12
 Psalm 32
 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32



Upcoming Bible Study - Please Join Us!

10:30 – 11:30am

Witness at the Cross - A Beginner's Guide to Holy Friday.
 A walk to the Cross by examining people who experienced it.

- March 9 Bystanders and Scoffers
- March 16 The Other Victims
- March 23 The Soldiers
- March 30 The Beloved Disciple
- April 6 **No Class**
- April 13 The Women
- April 20 Easter
- April 27 Josphe of Arimathea and Nicodemus

Come Join Us for a Faith Lift!

Don't Forget to "Spring Forward" *

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 9th.
 Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead 1 hour
 before you go to sleep on March 8th!



Parish Staff

Rev. C. 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

Welcome Committee

The Welcome Committee usually meets on the 1st Monday of the month at 6 p.m.

Committee Members: Linda Schreier, Chairperson; Jeanette Logan; Nadine Martin; Donna Miller; Nedda Pollock; and Sara Smith.

Responsibilities:

- Updates the Welcome Brochure as needed
- Maintains the Welcome Bulletin Board
- Under the Pastor's direction, reaches out to fellow members, through phone calls/cards
- Provides refreshments for 1st Sunday Socials
- Provides cake & beverage in honor of Confirmands and those receiving First Communion
- Coordinates the New Member Sponsorship Program
- Through the Pastor, ensures all new members complete a Time & Talent Survey
- Assembles and distributes Welcome Baskets to visitors who may be seeking Church membership
- Provides the Lutheran Book of Prayer to all new members
- Honors Mother's Day (usually carnations) and Father's Day (usually chocolate treats)
- Coordinates and organizes the Annual Spring Banquet
- Welcomes Germanfest attendees
- Provides appropriate pet treats for the annual Pet Blessing
- Coordinates and organizes the "Share the Word, Share the Harvest" & Veterans Recognition Luncheon

We are a small Committee, but an active committee! Should you like to join or request additional information, please feel free to talk to any current member.

Submitted by:
Nadine Martin, Committee Member



EASTER EGG UPDATE

Easter eggs are being made. Peanut butter with milk chocolate coating, butter cream with dark chocolate coating and coconut cream with dark chocolate coating. The cost remains the same, \$1.50 per egg. We are still looking for help to make eggs on Thursday or Sunday. We will be happy to train people to assist. Tasks can be done sitting if you have difficulty standing and you do not need to stay the entire shift. We also are looking for people to help sell eggs. We are also looking for businesses who are willing to sell our eggs. Please help us to support our church with this project. Our **LAST DATE FOR ORDERS WILL BE APRIL 6, 2025**. Any questions, please talk with one of the chairpersons.

Thank you.

Alice Lubrecht, Nadine Martin and Donna Miller, Committee Chairs



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 March 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.



Social Ministry Lenten Project

The Social Ministry Committee is partnering with Soroptimist International of Harrisburg to gather diapers for Healthy Steps Diaper Bank during the month of March. A bin will be in the Narthex if you would like to help with this effort. Deadline to donate is March 23.



Did You Know?

- 1 out of 2 families struggle to afford diapers
- Neither WIC nor SNAP (food stamps) may be used to purchase diapers
- Diapers cost up to \$100 a month per child
- Babies born into poor or low-income families could spend a day or longer in the same diaper. Some parents are forced to reuse diapers.
- A child uses between 8-12 diapers per day depending on their age
- 1 in 4 parents experiencing diaper need have missed work
- Cloth diapers are not a viable option for many low-income families because they are not accepted at most daycares and cannot be cleaned at public laundromats

While any package of diapers is appreciated, at the current time, the most needed sizes at the diaper bank are Size 3, Size 4, Size 6 and Pull ups

Thank you for helping us with this effort.

Alice Lubrecht

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
Tuesday, January 14, 2025**

Attendees: President Brad Neil, Vice-President Carol Ranck, Secretary Deb Flage, Treasurer Jim Lubrecht, Sandy Moritz, Jeanette Logan, Penny Zimmerman and Pastor Frank Terhune.

Absent: Steve Barron, Joel Hains

Call to Order at 6:15 p.m. by President Brad Neil. Opening prayer offered by Pastor Frank.

Carol made a motion to approve the Council meeting minutes of December 11, 2024 as amended. Sandy seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Jim noted that the church incurred a loss of \$15,000 in 2024. A surplus is expected in 2025 due to not having to pay pension, disability for the pastor as well as less salary for the pastor. Carol made a motion to remove the December 2024 column of the OSL Budget 2025 document for clarity in presentation to the congregation at the January 19, 2025 Congregational Meeting. Sandy seconded the motion. The motion carried. Carol made a motion for the OSL Financial Report to be a comparison between 12/31/ 2023 and 12/31/2024 for presentation to the congregation on January 19th. Brad seconded the motion. The motion carried. Jim shared the December invoices that were paid for Council's review. The Treasurer's Report is filed for audit. Carol made a motion that when the December books are closed, 2024 income and expenses will be audited by the Audit Committee. Deb seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Secretary Report/Correspondence – None to report.

Church Committee Reports:

Christian Education – no report

Child Protection Policy – no report

Fund Raising – egg making starts this month.

Mutual Ministry – no report

Property – Brad reported that 2 new lights were installed in the parking lot. In the sanctuary, a heater vent is open outside and needs to be fixed. However, we need to wait until warmer weather when we can go outside between the sacristy hallway and the sanctuary to lay on the ground under the heater to investigate the problem. Also, a light in the sanctuary has been having issues (flickering) and will be addressed. Herb Logan got a new microphone for the sanctuary.

Scholarship BOT – no report

Social Ministry – no report

Stewardship – not an active committee

Welcome – no report

Worship and Music – no report

Finance – no report

Pastor's Report – Pastor Frank shared that Bible Study will begin in February and be held after Sunday service from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Sandy made a motion to approve vacation requested by Pastor Frank for April 6-12, 2025. Jeanette seconded the motion. The motion carried. Pastor Frank will be away that week working in North Carolina helping to rebuild bridges damaged by flooding. A supply pastor will be needed on April 6, 2025. Pastor Frank indicated he would obtain a supply pastor for that day. Pastor Frank shared 2 documents with Council – a Truncated Ministry Site Profile and a generic Flowchart of Time for hiring a New Minister. Pastor will create a checklist for the congregational meeting to help with completing the Ministry Profile. He also shared an average worship attendance chart for OSL from 2008 through 2023.

OLD BUSINESS

Committee highlight in the newsletter for January didn't happen. There will be an article in February highlighting the Worship & Music Committee.

2025 Budget – will be presented for approval at Sunday's congregational meeting.

Visioning Team - Pastor Frank will draw attention to the vision statement during Sunday announcements.

It was suggested that the Worship & Music Committee and Pastor Frank should consult on where in the service the vision statement would be read.

Constitution and Bylaws – The Constitution was approved by Synod. Carol noted the Synod was requested to review our Bylaws and provide feedback. We are waiting on a response from Synod.

IT committee – on hold

Building/property evaluation committee – on hold

NEW BUSINESS

Upcoming meeting with Zion – Task Force Discussion January 15, 2025 – 6:30pm @ Zion – OSL will be represented at this meeting by Council members – Brad Neil, Carol Ranck, Jeanette Logan and Pastor Frank. Carol and Jeanette will transition off the Task Force. For future Task Force meetings, we will recruit 3 members from the congregation to be part of the ongoing Task Force with Zion. Brad will be one of the ongoing 4 OSL representatives. Potential congregation members were suggested and would be outreached to by specific Council members.

Complete Synod Ministry Profile – Council will work on this at our February meeting.

Agenda for January 19, 2025 Congregational meeting was discussed and agreed upon by the council members.

Mitchell 2025 Contract – After the budget is approved (which includes a salary increase for Mitchell), the Executive Committee will meet with Mitchell to discuss a new contract, expectations from Mitchell and Council and a yearly performance review.

Penny asked whether her daughter Hannah could borrow the Lollipop Cross for a dance show.

Consensus was that Hannah may use the Cross and paint/modify it as needed.

Carol made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Penny seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Next Meeting: February 12, 2025 @ 6 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Flage, Council Secretary



OUR SAVIOUR FINANCIAL REPORT

	AS OF <u>1/31/2025</u>	AS OF <u>12/31/2024</u>	<u>difference</u>
ENVELOPES AND PLATE	\$5,417.65	\$116,396.54	-\$110,978.89
FUND RAISING - EGGS		\$18,581.31	-\$18,581.31
FUND RAISING - GERMANFEST		\$7,181.00	-\$7,181.00
FUND RAISING ELECTION		\$934.57	-\$937.57
FELLOWSHIP HALL RENTAL	\$150.00	\$2,200.00	-\$2,050.00
ST STEPHENS MISSION		\$19,933.38	-\$19,933.38
TOTAL INCOME	\$5,567.65	\$165,226.80	-\$159,659.15
 EXPENSE	 \$11,848.99	 \$180,718.24	 -\$168,869.25
 NET SURPLUS/DEFICIT	 -\$6,281.34	 -\$15,491.44	 \$9,210.10
 PNC BANK STATEMENT BALANCES	 <u>1/31/2025</u>	 <u>12/31/2024</u>	 <u>difference</u>
CURRENT FUND CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$7,770.62	\$13,361.58	-\$5,590.96
MEMORIAL FUND MONEY MARKET #	\$21,391.77	\$21,121.59	\$270.18
 THRIVENT ACCOUNTS	 <u>1/31/2025</u>	 <u>12/31/2024</u>	 <u>difference</u>
CURRENT FUND MONEY MARKET	\$51,520.79	\$51,343.51	\$177.28
SCHOLARSHIP MUTUALS	\$200,562.49	\$193,551.55	\$7,010.94
MEMORIAL FUND MONEY MARKET *	\$87,286.75	\$86,986.43	\$300.32

\$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

Aaron Mahone	3/3
Isabelle Euliss	3/4
Connor Landis	3/4
Hannah Logan	3/7
Joel Hains	3/11
John Zimmerman	3/12
Samantha Ingavo	3/17
Kenzie Koppenhaver	3/20
Linda Schreier	3/22
Ed Seneca	3/23
Sandy Moritz	3/24
Marilyn Hocker	3/25
Nedda Pollock	3/27
Ella Guldner	3/28



MARCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
						1 9am - Sharing Pastoral Resources @OSL
2 - Transfiguration of Our Lord 9am - Worship egg making after worship 1st Sunday Social	3 6pm - Welcome Committee	4	5 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 7pm - Worship	6 2pm - egg making	7	8
9 - Lent 1 9am - Worship 10:30am - Bible Study egg making after worship Daylight Savings time begins	10 committee reports due in office	11	12 6pm - Council	13 2pm - egg making	14	15
16 - Lent 2 9am - Worship w/ Children's Sunday School 10:30am - Bible Study egg making after worship April newsletter deadline	17	18	19 6:30pm - Task Force @Zion	20 2pm - egg making	21	22
23 - Lent 3 9am - Worship 10:30am - Bible Study egg making after Worship	24	25	26	27 2pm - egg making	28	29
30 - Lent 4 9am - Worship 10:30am - Bible Study egg making after Worship	31					

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

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Email: ossec@comcast.net

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.