

Good News

April 2021



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

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I am sure that you have problems with your computer every once in a while. Maybe we are working in a program and it suddenly freezes, and nothing we do works to get it unfrozen. Whenever our computer or other electronic device is not working properly, one way to remedy the problem is by rebooting or pressing the reset button. I kind of think of Easter as God's great "reboot" for creation. At Easter, God presses the reset button. The death and resurrection of Jesus is the means by which God restarts the "creation program," so that it might begin to work properly again. The death and resurrection of Jesus is the means by which God deals with the "computer virus" known as sin which has infected the "creation program."

I use this computer lingo because I think it is a good analogy for what Easter is about and what our society is going through at present. The vaccine is rolling out, maybe not as quickly as we might like, but it is rolling out. People are beginning to get immunized, which is great news. The world is slowly but surely going through a reboot. Our former way of life is slowly coming back online.

And with this in mind, I think it is helpful for us to think about our congregational life in terms of a reboot. Think of our congregational life like a computer that is starting up again, after a time of closing down the system. Now with the pandemic beginning to subside, we need to think about how the church will run through its startup process. The programs on the hard drive have to come back online. What I mean to say by all of this is that it is time to see our various committees and groups begin to reorganize, to meet at least by Zoom, and for us to reengage as a congregation with one another and the world around us. In short, we have God's work to do. Let's get cracking.

Easter is God's great "reboot." And we will begin to reboot by gathering for in-person worship on Easter Sunday, April 4th. We will begin meeting outside for service, 9:00am each Sunday morning, weather permitting. How long will we be outside? That will depend on the infection rate, and the recommendation from the Covid-19 Taskforce, along with council's final decision. Our county should technically be below the 5% infection rate before we restart indoor, in-person worship. The Covid-19 Taskforce is meeting on April 7th, so we will know more after that meeting about when we might reopen.

As to when committee and group meetings will resume is also dependent on the recommendation from the Covid-19 Taskforce and the decision from council. Nevertheless, I am encouraging the various chairs of our committees and church groups to meet via Zoom to start making plans for when we officially reopen. It behooves us to be proactive regarding getting up and moving again as a congregation. For I don't know about you, but when my computer is slow about starting up again, I get impatient and frustrated. We want to get on our computer as quickly as possible and not have to wait. I think the same is true of our congregation. We want to be able to hit the ground running once more with respect to our church activities.

If I may play with this computer analogy a little more, I would remind us that we, as God's people, are the programs in the congregational computer. If the computer is the body of Christ, we are the individual members of that body. Our collective effort, our effort to serve in the church, is the computer system. We are empowered by the Spirit, which in turn makes the computer system work. It takes us all to be online for the work of the church to be at its most effective. So, sisters and brothers in Christ, let us all work through this reboot faithfully, knowing that God has reset the whole world through the power of his Son's death and resurrection. Thanks be to God.

In Christ, *Pastor Joel Petruschke*

The Lessons for April 2021

April 4 — Easter Sunday

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

April 11 — Easter 2

Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 133
1 John 1:1 - 2:2
John 20:19-31

April 18 — Easter 3

Acts 3:12-19
Psalm 4
1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48

April 25 — Easter 4

Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18

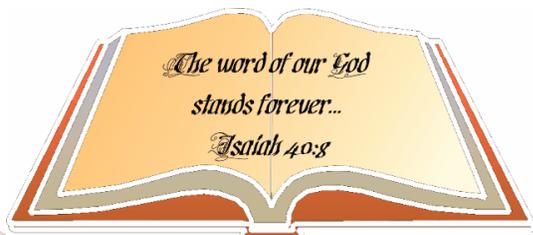
Join Us For Our Holy Week and Easter Sunday Worship!



Maundy Thursday Worship 7:00 pm
(live-streamed)
Good Friday Tenebrae Service 7:00 pm
(live-streamed)
Easter Vigil @Good Shepherd, Saturday,
7:00 pm (in-person & live-streamed
on their Facebook page)



Easter Sunday Worship 9:00 am and
(in-person, outdoor worship,
weather permitting)



Parish Staff

Joel D. Petruschke, pastor
Barbara Johnson, administrative assistant

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 Monday prior to publication 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

Holy Week is upon us. There no other time in the Church year as sacred at this week. And so I want to make sure we are aware of the worship offerings during this most holy of weeks.

Maundy Thursday, April 1st, 7:00pm. Livestreamed service at 7:00pm.

Good Friday, April 2nd, 7:00pm. Livestreamed service at 7:00pm.

Easter Vigil, April 3rd, 7:00pm. This service is in-person at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Paxtang. It will also be livestreamed.

Easter Sunday, April 4th, 9:00am. This service will be in-person at Our Saviour Lutheran Church, unless the weather is not conducive to gathering outside. The service would then be livestreamed, and not in-person.

Subsequent Sundays in April will be in-person and outside, weather permitting. The hope is that we will begin to have in-person, indoor worship soon, so stay tuned.

What do you need for worship when we are outside?

- 1) Please bring a piece of bread for communion. If you should forget to bring bread, there will be some available when you arrive.
- 2) Please bring a face mask. You will not need to wear your mask during worship. But if you are mingling with people before and after worship, please don your face mask. We will have extra masks at church, if you should forget to bring one.
- 3) Please bring a lawn chair to sit on.
- 4) Please dress warm, especially as it may be a little chilly during the early morning. You may want to bring hand warmers, a blanket, etc.
- 5) Please note that you may stay in your vehicle, if you so choose.
- 6) If we are worshipping outside for a series of Sundays, we will have a reusable liturgy bulletin, which we ask that you keep in your vehicles for each Sunday.

If you have any questions about worship, please contact Pastor Joel at the church office, 717-545-9992. Thank you for your understanding as we continue to navigate this pandemic.

Thank You Note We Received

Dear Friends in Christ,

On behalf of the Manna Food Pantry Board, we want to take the opportunity to thank you for the gifts of \$100 and \$50, as we continue to serve people in need in our area.

We are continuing to provide food to all who are in need during this difficult period due to the pandemic. We are still providing food to children every week and have opened our pantry to serve people as needed.

More than ever, the need is great. Manna would not be able to help the number of folds we help each month if it were not for kindhearted friends like you. Again, we thank you.

Sarah Kempf

Manna Food Pantry



A Word on Stewardship

So yesterday (March 24) our synodical bishop, Bishop Dunlop, sent a communication to the pastors of our synod updating us about the status in Pennsylvania with respect to the pandemic. He has done this on several occasions throughout the pandemic to help congregations in their discernment process regarding when and how to reopen. Our Covid-19 Taskforce takes the words of the bishop into consideration when making recommendations to council about how to proceed with in-person worship at Our Saviour.

I share this with you because there were some words in his message that caught my attention and which I think are of particular significance. He emphasized that even though we are all very tired, the pandemic is not over yet. It was his words about the pandemic not being “over” that gave me pause, because some are acting as if the pandemic is over (i.e., the vacationers in Florida).

We all want this pandemic to be over, done, finito, in the past. It is the same with any trial and challenge we face in life. And, I think it is when we can't see the end to our burdens that we become completely overwhelmed and lose the ability to cope. When there is no end in sight to our problems, when we are so emotionally drained, we lose hope. Again, I am just not talking about the pandemic, but any burden we face.

The trick then is to give ourselves a “break.” The trick is to give ourselves a respite. The trick then is to experience our burdens as “over,” at least for a little while. Now I am not saying that we go out into society without our masks and do away with social distancing. I am not saying that we throw caution to the wind. I am talking about finding a way to “escape” in a healthy way from our burdens, such that we can rejuvenate.

Maybe we give up listening to the news for a day or two. Maybe we delve into activities that completely take our mind off other things like gardening, building a puzzle, walking, cooking, reading, making repairs to our home, praying, etc. Maybe we talk to our friends with the caveat that no mention is to be made about the pandemic or other problems going on in our lives. Maybe we tell ourselves, “Today my problems are over. Today I am on vacation from my problems.”

Of course, the challenge is that eventually we get back to life and our problems may come crashing in on us again. But the hope is that by taking breaks, by taking respites we will regain our strength and renew our perspective when we have to get back to life. The hope is that seeing our problems as “over” at least for a little while, will help us recognize that our problems are not the whole of our lives. There are other aspects of our life that we can nurture, other aspects that can enliven us. The problems of our lives are not ultimately in control. We can take control back and put our problems aside, saying to them, “You stay there for a while.” We can take back control and we can put our problems in “time out,” and we can embrace life anew.

Let's think about camp!

We have received the new camping corp. brochures for the upcoming 2021 summer programs. They are on the table in the Narthex. Camping is not just for children. They offer family camp & elders camp. Pick one up & check out all that is being offered this year!



Jobs are available

In addition to offering summer camping for campers the Lutheran Camping Corp. also offers summer employment for high school & college students such as: counselors, lifeguards, kitchen staff, craft staff and maintenance. More information about these opportunities is available at LutheranCamping.org/employment.

Dear Padre,

Can you explain to me why we called the Sunday when Jesus was raised "Easter"? And why do we dye eggs? And what is up with the Easter Bunny? And why does Easter Sunday move around on the calendar, such that it is sometimes in March and sometimes in April?

Signed, Easter Inquirer



Dear Easter Inquirer,

Like Christmas, where we bring a tree inside our house and hang socks on our fireplace, we do some strange things during Easter, too. We dye eggs and we celebrate the Easter Bunny. "Easter" is a word that derives from the name of an Anglo-Saxon goddess name *Eostre*, who was celebrated at the beginning of spring. Spring of course is about new life, like the resurrection of our Lord. Eggs were an ancient symbol of fertility and new life that came to be adopted by Christians. Different cultures have their own ways of decorating eggs. But eggs were often dyed red to represent the blood of Christ. The hard shell symbolizes the sealed tomb of Christ. The bunny became associated with the festival of Easter because bunnies have a high reproduction rate, and is thus another symbol of new life.

Easter is a holiday that moves around because it is based on the lunar schedule. Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox. This year the vernal equinox fell on March 20th. The first full moon after March 20th was on March 28th. The first Sunday then after March 28th is April 4th. And so that is how we arrived at the date of Easter in 2021.

There is another tradition associated with Easter. Many people buy new clothes for the holiday. I remember growing up in the seventies, and my brothers and I each got a new plaid suit for Easter one year. My parents took pictures of us in our suits. It wasn't pretty. New clothes, though, represent the new life of Jesus Christ that we put on because of Christ's resurrection.

I hope this answers your questions. Thanks again.

Peace, *Padre*

Manna Food Pantry

Our "2nd Sunday" food collection is still ongoing. During the winter, and during this time of the pandemic 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. If you are not comfortable with coming into the church building we would be happy to offer "curbside drop-off" during regular office hours. Just let us know & Pastor or Barb will be happy to come out & get your donation from you. Thank you.



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, February 10, 2021

Members Present (Via ZOOM meeting): Pastor Joel Petruschke, Vice President Brad Neil, Treasurer Jim Lubrecht, Secretary Michael Metzger, Penny Zimmerman, Marlee Zimmerman, Jared Copeland, Jeanette Logan, and Jessica Burigana.

Members Absent: Anneke Fleming

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:36 PM. Since the President position is vacant, Pastor Joel led the meeting. Pastor Joel shared Epiphany devotional material, describing it as a season which sheds light on “who Jesus is.” Lent begins on 2/17, Ash Wednesday, and the scripture readings after Epiphany, leading up to Lent, focus on His baptism, His calling of Nathaniel and other disciples, His encounters with various demons (who know who He is) and they conclude with His Transfiguration. All of these reading topics relate to Christ’s identity, setting the stage for what Christ *will do* in Holy week.

Minutes: Minutes from the January Council meeting were reviewed. Upon motion by Brad and seconded by Jeanette, the minutes were approved as distributed.

Council Executive Positions: Pastor checked with Council members to see if any were interested in the Council President position. No one volunteered.

Treasurer’s Report: Jim presented Council with budget performance data comparing January 2021 expenditures to January last year and tracking budget targets. An advance payment for the new rug for the sanctuary was highlighted, as well possible expenditures in future for snow removal. None-the-less, the budget is on track compared to previous years, and this should be evident after recent deposits are accounted. Mike moved that Council approve the budget report and Brad seconded the motion, which was carried.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education - This committee has not met. Confirmation classes continue for Evan and Tyler.

Fundraising - No report.

Mutual Ministry – This committee has not met.

Property - No report. A proposal from Capital Painting, Inc. for painting the Fellowship Hall (\$2870) was presented at the congregational meeting in January and the attendees expressed approval. Jeannette moved that Council accept the proposal and Jessica seconded. The motion carried. The color will be a cream tint called China Doll. Also, a question was raised by the committee concerning the need to continue paying for weekly cleaning services because we are not gathering in the building. After some discussion, the question was tabled until the end of the meeting.

Welcome - This committee has not met.

Worship and Music – This committee has not met.

Child Protection Policy - This committee has not met.

Scholarship BOT – This committee has not met. Pastor Joel requested a meeting with the Scholarship Board concerning moving money out of the account for investment.

Social Ministry - This committee has not met.

Stewardship - This committee has not met.

Pastor's Report - Pastor reviewed his report with Council, focusing on near term scheduled events as well as our COVID 19 response:

- Ash Wednesday—February 17th
- Mid-week Lenten Prayer Services at Good Shepherd—February 24th, March 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th
Spring Assembly—March 18th. This meeting will prepare voting members for the upcoming 2021 Synod meeting. Dan and Anneke Fleming will be our voting members this year.
- The COVID-19 Taskforce met on 2/3/21 and, based on the rate of infection continuing to exceed 5%, they recommended continuing the suspension of all in-person services and meetings indefinitely. Brad moved that Council accept the recommendation of the Taskforce and Jared seconded the motion, which was carried.
- Pastor Joel said the painting of the sanctuary will start 2/15, and when he asked for help moving items out of the sanctuary, Herb Logan joined the meeting to volunteer and also to provide updates on some old and new business items. His remarks are reported below as appropriate.
- Pastor gave thanks for everyone's prayers during his family's illness and quarantine.

Old Business:

Sanctuary Painting and Carpeting – Herb and John Zimmerman will be able to help move items out of the sanctuary after Sunday service on 2/14 in order to accommodate the painting crew. Carpeting has been purchased and the work is scheduled to begin in March after painting is completed.

Little Lending Library – We are waiting for an update from Ann Tyndale, co-president of Altrusa.

COVID 19 Taskforce – See above

Technology for Worship – Herb indicated the church sound system is in need of an upgrade, and reported he has contacted a Lancaster firm called B&B Integrations, who specialize in church audio and video systems, for a proposal. He said it might cost around 10K for an appropriate upgrade which will serve the church for years to come.

Organist Position – Worship and Music continue to work on finalizing arrangements with Mitchell Sensenig. Mitchell is not able to play on Ash Wednesday, so Caleb Flick has agreed to play for \$175.00

Congregational Renewal – This is a Synod project which will gear up in the future.

New Business:

Tree Removal Project – The tree service is scheduled to begin work on March 11th. Council gave Herb permission to expand the scope of work with the contractor to include trimming a maple tree and grinding an additional stump, so that all of the outstanding tree issues on Our Saviour property will be addressed at once.



Weekly Cleaning Services – The question tabled earlier concerning whether we should ask the church's cleaning service to reduce the frequency of cleaning from weekly to monthly was discussed. Council agreed to continue weekly cleaning services.

Acknowledgements and Adjournment:

Pastor Joel remembered the passing of the following brothers and sisters and asked for prayer for their families: Arno Miller, Diane Lehrman, Carol Ranck's cousin Andrew and Dottie Koppenhaver's son Daniel. No immediate plans for services were announced.

The meeting was ended by reciting the Lord's Prayer and was adjourned at 7:34 PM after approval of a motion from Jeanette, which was seconded by Brad. The next regular Council meeting will be held via ZOOM on Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 6:30 PM in order to avoid conflict with the 3/10 Lenten Prayer service at Good Shepherd.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Metzger (Secretary)

FAMILY PROMISE NEWS AND UPDATES

Family Promise has learned to pivot, make changes, but has continued to help homeless children and their families throughout the pandemic. They have been able to acquire several programs which will be very beneficial for the guests. Presently, the guests remain at the Day Center 24 hours a day unless they are working, going to interviews, etc. Host congregations are still being scheduled on a weekly basis, but our only responsibility, along with volunteers from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, will be to provide an evening meal for the guests. Our next week to host is the week of April 25. **Please contact me if you are able/willing to prepare a meal during that week - (717)497-1200.** I will find out the previous week the number of guests involved. Currently we have 2 guests with an additional family of 2 expected to enter the program soon.

Current Volunteer Opportunities:

Teaching Classes to Adult Guests: Training and materials are provided to anyone interested in volunteering to do this. You can volunteer as it fits into your schedule, not just during our host week. A list of Day Center rules will be provided to all volunteers so that everyone knows what is expected and rules remain consistent. You are never responsible for the children. Parents will be present whenever you are there.

Day Center Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to be a presence at the Day Center. You may assist guests, interact with children, teach classes (after being trained), and stay overnight. Everyone at the Day Center wears masks, practices social distancing, and follows Covid precautions. Anyone interested in staying overnight will be issued their own new inflatable bed that you will bring and take home with you.

You may volunteer as it fits into your schedule, 4 hrs., 6 to 8 hours, morning, noon, and night. Overnight shift would be 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.

This is **not** something that needs to be initiated immediately. You can volunteer at any time whenever you feel comfortable doing so. For additional information contact Nadine Martin (717) 497-1200. Thank you.



Please Note: We have resumed our outdoor worships. Each Sunday worship will begin at 9am weather permitting. In case of inclement weather our service will be live-streamed as before.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		 <p>Holy Week continues</p>		<p>1</p>  <p>MAUNDY THURSDAY</p> <p>7 pm - Worship via Live Stream</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>7 pm - Worship via Live Steam</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7 pm - Easter Vigil @Good Shepherd, Saturday, in-person & live-streamed on their Facebook page</p>
<p>4- Easter Sunday</p> <p>9 am - Outdoor Worship</p> 	<p>5</p> <p>Pastor Joel out of the office on vacation Barb is out of the office on vacation</p> <p>Madeline Brittelli Eva Kunz Lori Provencher</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Ashley Brittelli</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Isabella Kessler</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Hope Bowling</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11- Easter 2</p> <p>9 am - Outdoor Worship</p> <p>Pastor on vacation</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Pastor Joel & Barb are back in the office</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Barbara Ecklund</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:30 pm - Council</p> <p>Kevin Ecklund George Sheleman</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Toby Drake Lauren Trea</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18- Easter 3</p> <p>9 am - Outdoor Worship</p> <p>Newsletter deadline</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Robert McIntyre</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Dan Fleming</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25- Easter 4</p> <p>9 am - Outdoor Worship</p> <p>Herb Logan</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Mary Petruschke</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</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



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

Beginning Easter Sunday, April 4th, we will resume our outdoor worships.

Please join us! You will still have the option of viewing our worship services either live-streamed or later that day. The viewing link is always posted on our website (address below).

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.