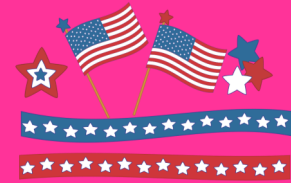


# Good News

July & August 2021



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

*Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,*

So this summer, my family and I will be going to the Chautauqua Institute as we do most every summer. The Institute is located on the banks of the westernmost Finger Lake (Lake Chautauqua) in New York State. Programming at the Institute includes daily worship, morning and afternoon lectures, and evening cultural events like the symphony or ballet. All this takes place within an idyllic community where motorized vehicles are forbidden. People bicycle and walk around the community, which consists of cottages where many-a-person sit on their porches relaxing the day away. It is difficult describe the Chautauqua Institute, except to say that there is a satellite version of the Institute in Mount Gretna.

The season at the Chautauqua Institute consists of nine weeks, in which there is a theme for each week. During each week, the Institute schedules world renowned speakers and experts pertaining to the particular theme for that week. These individuals provide the lectures for the week. We will be there during Week Four, the theme of which this year is "Many Americas: Navigating our Divides." And, we will be there for Week Five, the theme of which this year is "The Authentic Comedic Voice: A Week in Partnership with the National Comedy Center." It is this second week that piques my interest.

We may not have known that there is a National Comedy Center, which is relatively new. It was established on August 1, 2018. The Center is located in Jamestown, NY, not far from the Chautauqua Institute. I have actually had a chance to visit the center and found it to be quite interesting. But I am most interested to see what the lectures will be about during the week on Comedy. Perhaps, the speakers will address questions like: Why do we find certain things funny? and Why did we develop humor as a species, since no other species (as we know) engages in humor? and so on.

I find this topic of humor of particular interest since my thesis for my Master's Degree focused on humor in the Bible. In particular, I investigated what I came to call "The Wile E. Coyote Effect" in the Bible. We remember the Road Runner cartoons, in which the coyote always planned certain traps for the road runner, only to have himself fall victim to the those traps. In the Old Testament, there are several places where it states that those who plan evil will have that very evil come back upon them. See, for example, Psalms 7:16; Proverbs 26:27, 28:10; Ecclesiastes 10:8. It is what scholars describe as divine retribution.

Personally, I find humor to be one of the greatest gifts from God. Humor can help relieve incredible tension and stress. Humor can help us see things from a different and clearer perspective. Humor helps us to not take ourselves so seriously, especially when we can laugh at ourselves. Humor helps us connect with people, when we can make another laugh or they make us laugh. Humor, especially gallows humor, helps us navigate difficult and painful situations. The Jewish people are especially adept at gallows humor in light of trials the Jewish people have had to endure throughout history. Yes, humor is an incredible gift from God.

So, I am looking forward to my time at the Chautauqua Institute this summer. I hope to be able to share with you some enlightening information about humor and comedy, when I return. And I hope to have a new joke or two to share as well.

In Christ, *Pastor Joel Petruschke*



## The Lessons for July 2021

### July 4 — Pentecost 6

Ezekiel 2:1-5  
Psalm 123  
2 Corinthians 12:2-10  
Mark 6:1-13

### July 11 — Pentecost 7

Amos 7:7-15  
Psalm 85:8-13  
Ephesians 1:3-14  
Mark 6:14-29

### July 18 — Pentecost 8

Jeremiah 23:1-6  
Psalm 23  
Ephesians 2:11-22  
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

### July 25 — Pentecost 9

2 Kings 4:42-44  
Psalm 145:10-18  
Ephesians 3:14-21  
John 6:1-21

## The Lessons for August 2021

### August 1 — Pentecost 10

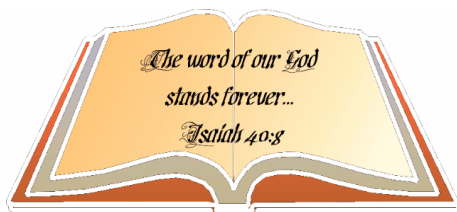
Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15  
Psalm 78:23-29  
Ephesians 4:1-16  
John 6:24-35

### August 8 — Pentecost 11

1 Kings 19:4-8  
Psalm 34:1-8  
Ephesians 4:25 - 5:2  
John 6:35, 41-51

### August 15 —

Pentecost 12  
Isaiah 61:7-14  
Psalm 34:1-9  
Galatians 4:4-7  
Luke 1:46-55



## Wedding News

Congratulations to:

Michael Cara Junior (grandson of Nancy Pinko) & Danielle Kaiser who were married on June 5<sup>th</sup>

Samantha Kreischer & Nathaniel Hartfield who were married on June 13<sup>th</sup>

Evan DeArmitt & Traci Tempore who celebrated their marriage on June 18<sup>th</sup>

Daniel Logan & Maelyn Elder who were also married on June 18<sup>th</sup>

Alex Parson & Megan Snyder who will be married on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Our best wishes to you all as you begin your new lives together!



### August 22 — Pentecost 13

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18  
Psalm 34:15-22  
Ephesians 6:10-20  
John 6:56-69

### August 29 — Pentecost 14

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

## Parish Staff

Rev. Dr. 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

Lately, I have been thinking a lot about a line from a movie called *Welcome Home Roxy Carmichael*. This 1990 movie starred Winona Ryder and Jeff Daniels. It wasn't a particular good movie, in that it made very little money in the box office. The plot of the movie revolves a small town which is preparing for the arrival of a former resident who has become famous, Roxy Carmichael. However, Roxy never shows up. The line that emerges over and over again, and which would appear to be the theme of the movie is this: "It is good to want things."

The movie makes me think of a play called *Waiting for Godot*, which is about two guys who wait and wait some more for a man named Godot, who never shows up. That is the whole play, which is meant to be a critique on religion, such that religious persons (Jews, Muslims, Christians) wait and wait for God, who never shows up.

Now, in my estimation, God does show up. God shows up every time we come to worship. The fact that we gather together, and offer prayer, and read scripture, and sing hymns, and praise God...all this is evidence that God shows up, for the Spirit of God is that which has called us together to worship.

But back to that movie line, "It is good to want things." In the Bible, especially in the Psalms, there is a recurring theme, which is not so different from the movie line. The theme is "Wait for the Lord." It is good to want things. It is good to wait for the Lord. Why? Because to wait for the Lord, to want things, means to have hope. And, it means to put faith into action such that we trust that God will deliver that for which we want and wait. Wanting and waiting also expresses love such that that which we want and wait is that which is of vital importance to us. That which we want and wait is so loved by us, otherwise we wouldn't want it and wouldn't wait for it. To want and wait is to express hope, and it is to express faith, and it is to love. Waiting for the Lord captures the essence of the religious life.

Worship then is putting into practice our waiting for the Lord. We come to worship and even though God is present in worship, we also are waiting in worship for God to bring about the culmination of his kingdom here on earth. We come to worship and we wait for God, we hope, we believe, and we love. We come to worship and we are expressing the essence of the religious life. I like to say it this way: when I am in worship, there is no other place where I should be in that moment, than in God's presence waiting for God to fulfill all grace. Wait for the Lord, sisters and brothers in Christ. Wait for the Lord.

## Modified GermanFest for 2021

After careful consideration and discussion, the GermanFest Committee recommended having a modified GermanFest this year. The Covid-19 Task Force and Congregational Council have reviewed and approved what is being proposed. GermanFest will be held on Saturday, September 11, 2021 beginning at 11:00 am. It will be a drive-through food only event with a limited menu. At this time, we are planning to offer Sauerbraten dinners and Chicken Schnitzel dinners that include the German potato salad and red cabbage side dishes. We also plan to have brats on the grill with peppers and onions available. Cheese strudel and apple strudel will be available as well. All of these food items will be sold until we run out.

A drive-through event is the safest and least contact way of still offering something for GermanFest. Although the event is pared down for this year, we will still need help preparing and serving the food. The committee will be meeting to plan the details and will keep the congregation updated on them. We hope that you understand the need for a smaller event this year and will still come out to help make it a success!

GermanFest Committee



### **A Word on Stewardship**

Recently, a member of our congregation asked me, "How are you doing?" This member asked me this question, given the number of deaths our congregation has experienced lately. The member noted that as a pastor I am responsible for asking how everyone else is doing, but very rarely does anyone stop to consider that the pastor also is human and that I am also affected by the death of members. I was really touched by the fact that this member was concerned about my well-being.

In response to this member's concern, I shared with them this point. As a pastor, I am in the unique position of processing my grief through meeting with the family of the deceased, and talking with the family about the funeral which includes gleanings of information about the deceased's life. And then, I continue to process my grief as I compose a sermon/eulogy for the service, as well as then preach the sermon in worship. Don't get me wrong, I still have my moments of sheer sadness and still feel the harsh pangs of loss, but the process of preparing for and then conducting the funeral, most especially the preaching of the sermon, really helps my healing process.

And, I shared with this member what it is that is of particular help in this process, and this is what I want to highlight to you as well. During my meeting with the family of the deceased, and during my sermon writing, and during my preaching, I have come to understand two important aspects of the grieving process. The first is that the life of each and every person is a gift, a gift to their family, to their friends, to the church, and to the larger human family. God gifts us with incredible people in our lives, and it is specifically at the time of a funeral that that truth is brought to the fore. And so, I try to listen for the ways the family speaks about their loved one, in terms of how their loved one was a gift for them. And then I try to write about how the deceased was a blessing to those around them. And this is so very helpful for me in my grieving, because it reminds me of the goodness of God, who gives to us such incredible people, and it reminds me as well to value all those who continue to be part of our life's journey.

The second aspect of the grieving process that is helpful is to remember that God also gives to us the promise of new life. And so, even though we are saddened by the death of our loved ones, this is not the final word. God gets the final word, and the final word is eternal life. My vision of death is this. When we die we are instantaneously raised to new life with all other people at what is called the general resurrection. We who continue to exist in time, we grieve in this life. But when a person dies, they are catapulted in time to the general resurrection, when we are all raised together in the very presence of God.

These are the thoughts that help me in my grieving process, and I pray that they may be of help to you in your grieving process. God is good. God gives us the gift of each other. And God gives us the gift of his Son, so that by his death and resurrection, we will be gathered together again with all people on God's great and glorious day.

### **Let's Sing**

"If you like to sing, we want you! We're starting to put together the music program for the fall. If you would like to sing a solo, duet, trio, or any other combo, please let Dawne Veet ([gidgetsings@yahoo.com](mailto:gidgetsings@yahoo.com)) know. Mitchell & Dawne are working together to form the schedule for the fall. We will work with you, or sing with you, to make music for God!"



*Dear Padre,*

Do you have any good book suggestions for summer reading?

Signed, A Bibliophile

Dear Bibliophile,



Here are some of the books I just finished reading, as well as some other books I plan to read, that may or may not be of interest to you:

- 1) *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson, which is a humorous account of the author's trek on the Appalachian Trail. The copyright of the book is 1998, but the little bit of dated material in the book didn't detract from its presentation. I also recently read Bill Bryson's book *The Body: A Guide for Occupants*, which is a more recent publication (2019). It was very enjoyable and informative.
- 2) *Indianapolis* by Lynn Vincent and Sara Vladic is about the U.S. Cruiser that delivered components to the nuclear bomb, which was subsequently dropped on Hiroshima. Afterwards the *U.S.S. Indianapolis* was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine, resulting in the worst Navy disaster ever. Three hundred men went down with the ship, nine hundred men went into the water alive, and only three hundred sixteen men were eventually rescued.
- 3) *Trouble I've Seen* by Drew G. I. Hart is a book about race and the Christian faith. I must warn you that it is an extremely challenging book in terms of confronting our racialized society. Although it is not a terribly long book, there is a lot to digest and to mull over.
- 4) Presently, I am reading *The Elegant Universe* by Brian Greene. This book is about string theory, which states that all matter in the universe is made up of subatomic particles which are nothing more than vibrating strings. I find the science in this book truly fascinating, even if much of the physics is beyond my comprehension.
- 5) Finally, I am looking forward to reading some fictitious authors this summer like Agatha Christie, Isaac Asimov, and James Michener.

So, I hope this might be of help to you as you pick out your summer reading. If any of our members also have some suggestions for books to read, please share them with me. I would love to know what you're reading.

Peace, *Padre*

## **Manna Food Pantry**

Our "2nd Sunday" food collection is still ongoing. 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, May 12, 2021

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

**Members Absent:** None

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM after a prayer offered by Pastor Joel. Since the President position is vacant, Pastor Joel led the meeting. Herb Logan joined the meeting at the request of Council to answer questions concerning the B&B sound system upgrade quote. Herb indicated the separate quote provided for assistive technology could be taken up after a decision was made concerning the main 12.8K quote. John Zimmerman joined briefly when Council asked about the procedure for allocating Memorial funds for such a large project. John indicated the procedures were detailed and approved during his tenure as President. Jim recalled that 2K funds from the Capital Improvement fund were already allocated to sound system upgrades. Action on the quote was tabled until Council reviews the procedure for funding large projects from the Memorial fund.

**Council Executive Positions:** No Update

**Minutes:** Minutes from the April Council meeting were reviewed. The following amendment was requested: Under Property report, indicate John Zimmerman removed a 2X4 instead of saying he replaced it. Upon motion by Anneke, and seconded by Jessica, the minutes were approved with the requested amendment.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jim presented Council with budget performance data. What appears to be an increasing deficit so far this year may be explained by a lack of fundraising revenue, such as egg sales, along with a downturn in offerings. Pastor Joel suggested drafting a letter to the congregation to provide friendly encouragement to support the Church. Jim and Anneke will assist. Anneke moved that Council accept the budget report as filed for audit and Jeanette seconded the motion, which was carried.

#### Committee Reports:

**Christian Education** - This committee has not met. Confirmation classes continue for Evan and Tyler, who have been faithfully attending.

**Fundraising** - This committee has not meet but they expressed an interest in doing a scaled down GermanFest and they would like the COVID-19 taskforce to discuss possible GermanFest activities this year.

**Mutual Ministry** – This committee has not met.

**Property** – Pastor Joel provided an update on the water damage in the back wall of the church. Council had previously approved, via e-mail survey, a repair quote from Matt Hoffman in the amount of \$740.00. It appears, the day before he was scheduled to begin work, a rain storm caused a significant amount of water to enter the



sanctuary, which caused more damage. Pastor said Matt proceeded to do the work and he also repaired some gaps in the siding and fixed the downspout in order to prevent future water issues, all for the originally quoted amount. Further, the carpet company (Gipe) agreed to replace the flooded carpet at no charge, and Phoebe has offered to paint the new dry wall. Updates for other agenda items related to Property are listed below:

- Fellowship Hall Waxing and Cleanup – Phoebe has contacted “Lou” in order to get the waxing of floor completed and final cleanup will be completed afterward.
- Flood Lights at Front of Church – According to Phoebe, a lift will be needed for both the light replacement and church audio projects, so it is recommended both be done at the same time.
- Purchase of Shed – Brad and Phoebe will move forward with this project.

**Welcome** - This committee has not met.

**Worship and Music** – This committee will meet later this month, but meanwhile, they are no longer interested in changing the worship time.

**Child Protection Policy** - This committee has not met.

**Scholarship BOT** – This committee met via Zoom on April 19<sup>th</sup> and, having verified that Max Reilly has met the Program requirements, they proposed a motion to Council to award Max Reilly \$800.00 from the Scholarship Fund. This was moved by Jared, was seconded by Jessica, and the motion carried. Regarding the proposal to move money out of the Scholarship account for investment, it appears this action needs to be discussed by a Finance Committee which does not currently exist, but which probably should be convened based on the Church by-laws. Pastor will contact Carol Ranck concerning the by-laws.

**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 updates on our COVID-19 response. He also provided updates on business items (these are captured under Property report or referenced in business items):

- Pastor Joel will receive his Decorate degree on May 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM.
- A meeting is being planned for May 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, or 19<sup>th</sup> to discuss options for a limited GermanFest this year
- Synod Assembly Edification Day is planned for May 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Pentecost is May 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- The Little Lending Library will be installed on May 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM.
- Racial Justice Forum - May 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM
- Worship and Music Committee meeting - May 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.
- Wedding – May 29<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM
- Trinity Sunday is May 30<sup>th</sup>.
- COVID-19 Taskforce will meet on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 PM.
- Synod Assembly is June 5-6.
- Pastor proposed returning to indoor worship on June 6<sup>th</sup> pending approval of the COVID-19 Taskforce recommendation to move into Phase 2 status.

**Old Business:**

**Wall Repair**– See above under Property regarding this work.

**Little Lending Library** – Pastor Joel requested help digging a hole and pouring in Quikrete for the Little Lending Library installation on May 24<sup>th</sup>. He also said he will use a gift card to cover costs to avoid taking money from the

General fund. At last Council meeting, we discussed installing a small sign facing Progress Ave to announce the new Little Lending Library. Anneke will call the township to see if there is any issue with the sign size or placement.

**Technology for Worship** – Approval of an estimate from B&B Integrations to upgrade the church sound system for \$12,850.00 has been tabled. See above under the meeting with Herb and John which took place immediately after the call to order.

**COVID 19 Taskforce** – Jared moved to accept the recommendation of the Taskforce to reopen the church for indoor worship in June and Brad seconded. This motion carried. The Taskforce is drafting a letter to inform the congregation of the new COVID-19 response status and Council approved sending the letter without their review.

**Organist Position** – Mitchell Sensenig continues to work without a formal agreement on employment.

**Fellowship Hall Clean up and Floor Waxing** – See above under Property report.

**Flood Lights at Front of Church** – See above under Property report.

**Purchase of a Shed** – See above under Property report.

**Constitutional By-laws** – Need to be reviewed.

**New Business:**

**Council Appointment** – Council will wait until September to nominate a new council member.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was ended by reciting the Lord's Prayer and was adjourned at 8:05 PM after approval of a motion from Anneke, which was seconded by Jeanette. The next regular Council meeting will be held via ZOOM on Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael Metzger (Secretary)


### ***Spotlighting Another Our Graduate***

Madeline Brittelli, granddaughter of Linda Schreier, graduated Middletown High School on June 1<sup>st</sup>. She will be attending Millersville University in the fall to major in Elementary Ed. with the hope of teaching 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. We would like to congratulate her and wish her the best on her future endeavors! CONGRATS!!







Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
<b>4 - Pentecost 6</b> 9 am - Worship  Andrea Faber	<b>5</b>  <b>office closed for July 4<sup>th</sup></b> Bill Sheetz	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>  6:30 pm - Covid Task Force  Evan Collins	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>  Penny Zimmerman	<b>10</b>
<b>11 - Pentecost 7</b>  9 am - Worship	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  Jessica Burigana	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>Pastor Joel begins vacation</b> Marianne McCann Marlana Zimmerman
<b>18 - Pentecost 8</b>  9 am - Worship	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  Kathy Dare	<b>21</b>  Joan Bateman	<b>22</b>  Maria Parson	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  Candy Evans
<b>Pastor Joel on vacation-----&gt;</b>						
<b>25 - Pentecost 9</b>  9 am - Worship  <b>Pastor Joel on vacation-----&gt;</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  Rita Capp	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  Karen Hoch	<b>31</b>





Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b>  Alice Lubrecht Pastor Joel on vacation	<b>2</b>  Clare Gibson	<b>3</b>  Collin Hinkle	<b>4</b>  6:30 pm - Covid Task Force	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>  Justin Pitassi Pastor Joel on vacation	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  Evan De Armitt	<b>12</b>  Leo Pitassi	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  Hayden Miller
<b>15</b>  Newsletter Deadline Jana Bernardi	<b>16</b>  Pastor Joel back in the office	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>  6:30 pm - Worship & Music Barb out of the office	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  Memorial Service for Christine Velter
<b>22</b>  Brooke Schreffler Melanie Trea	<b>23</b>  Steffany Provencher Barb out of the office	<b>24</b>  Braden Halfond	<b>25</b>  Memorial Service for Connie Johnson 6:30 pm - Council	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  Connor Hinkle Donna Miller	<b>28</b>  Pastor John Schaertel
<b>29</b>  Phoebe Drake	<b>30</b>  Nancy Pinko Barb out of the office	<b>31</b>  Sue DeArmitt Thomas Pitassi Tom Snyder Barb back in the office				

The Evangelical Lutheran  
**CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR**  
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### *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*

**We have resumed our in-person, indoor worships! Our service starts @9am.**  
**Please join us! You will still have the option of viewing our worship via live-stream. The viewing link is available on our website (address below).**  
**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.