

Good News

November 2021



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

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

November may just be my favorite month of the year. "Why?" you ask. Well, we do get an extra hour of sleep on the first Saturday in the month. That is always nice. Furthermore, the weather has shifted, such that it is much cooler, but not bitterly cold. The days are much shorter, which I actually like. I like hunkering down inside my house. Maybe it is some primordial hibernation instinct going on inside me. I also like the bare trees and the browning landscape outside. I like the gray days. And, I like the smell of decaying leaves, wood burning, and the wonderful aromas emanating from the kitchen. Yes, there is something wonderful about November.

November also reminds me of the gift of community. Perhaps, my most favorite holiday of the year is Thanksgiving. You would think that Christmas or Easter would be my favorite, but not so. The reason I so much enjoy Thanksgiving is that, with respect to community, this holiday does not discriminate. In other words, everyone in our society can get behind the idea of Thanksgiving. It is not a religious holiday set apart for only some people, like Christmas, or Hanukkah, or Ramadan. Thus, Thanksgiving is all about community. It is all about everyone giving thanks together, which seems to be a very good vision of God's kingdom.

Another powerful holiday in November which also embodies the idea of community, at least for us Christians, is All Saints' Day (November 1st). Each year on All Saints' Sunday (November 7th this year) we remember those beloved sisters and brothers who have entered the Church Triumphant. This year we remember specifically Diane Lehrman, Arno Miller, Christine Velter, Donna Zimmerman, Connie Johnson, and Julie Drake. On the one hand, the festival of All Saints is difficult, because we grieve the passing of loved ones. However, the power of All Saints is that it reminds us of hope, because there is a much grander vision of community than simply that with which we experience on earth. The communion of saints comprises the saints in heaven and on earth.

Community is something we also acknowledge on the Sunday of our Veteran's Day Recognition. On that day (November 14th) we recognize those persons who have served or are serving in the military. We recognize their contribution to maintaining the peace and security of our country, so that as a nation we can live in community. And on that Sunday (November 14th) we have also celebrated Share the Word, Share the Harvest, such that we have traditionally come together to share a fellowship meal. It is a time for our church specifically to enjoy the blessing of community.

And then there is the festival of Christ the King (November 21st) on which day we celebrate the vision of God's reign at the time of Christ's return. Christ the King is a declaration about what God's community in the new creation will be when come the end time. And then there is the season of Advent, which begins this year on November 28th. Advent marks the beginning of the new church year. Advent marks then the beginning of God's work to bring about that new creation and the new community, because at the time of Advent we prepare for the coming of Jesus through whom God is ushering in the kingdom.

So, November in the church year is all about community. And November in our society is profoundly about community if we consider the importance of Thanksgiving. And this is why November speaks to me more so than other months in the year. I just really love this month, and I hope you do, too.

In Christ, *Pastor Joel Petruschke*



The Lessons for November 2021

November 7 — All Saints

Isaiah 25:6-9

Psalm 24

Revelations 21:1-6a

John 11:32-44

November 14 — Pentecost 25

Daniel 12:1-3

Psalm 16

Hebrews 10:11-25

Mark 13:1-8

November 21 — Christ the King

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

Psalm 93

Revelations 1:4b-8

John 18:33-37

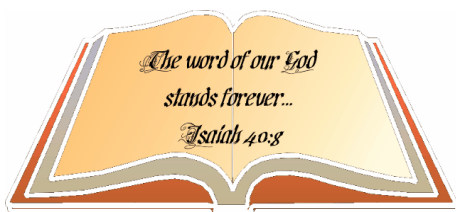
November 28 — Advent 1

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalm 25:1-10

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Luke 21:25-36



Baptism

Our congratulations to Richard & Heide (Grace) Euliss and to their family & friends. Their daughter, Isabelle Grace will be baptized into Christ at Our Saviour during worship on October 31st.

Also our congratulations to Jason & Hilary (Grace) Ahrens and to their family & friends. Their children, Everly Grace & Ashton Michael will also be baptized into Christ at Our Saviour during worship on October 31st.

Daylight Savings Time Ends

Daylight Savings time ends Sunday, November 7th @2am. Don't forget to turn your clocks back before going to bed Saturday night!



Share the Word, Share the Harvest will be held on Sunday, November 14th

As we have done in years past in honor of Veterans Day we will once again recognize those who have served or are serving in our military.

A spaghetti dinner luncheon will follow our worship service that day. If you are attending please sign-up on the sheet in the narthex or you may call the church office (717-545-992) We have invited our friends from Epiphany to join us that day and we hope you will join us!



Thank You, LORD!

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 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

Way back in college (this would have been shortly after the invention of fire), I was first introduced to the philosophy known as existentialism. Maybe you heard of this philosophy. The beginning point for the existentialist is "the existential angst." The philosopher faces the apparent meaninglessness and absurdity of life and tries to grapple with that. The philosopher seeks then to give meaning and value to human existence. Existentialism is associated with names like Friedrich Nietzsche and Fyodor Dostoevsky and Jean-Paul Sartre.

This month on November 11 the Lutheran Church commemorates Søren Kierkegaard. Kierkegaard was a Lutheran and a theology student, although he never sought ordination. He is also the father of existentialism. He is generally considered to have been the first existential philosopher. So, I guess for all the existentialists out there, this is a pretty significant month when it comes to the origins of this philosophy.

During my class on existentialism, I remember my professor telling us students one method to finding meaning and value to human existence. I can't remember if it was his own personal method or that of some renowned existentialist. But he said, "Think of your life as like a patchwork quilt consisting of all your varied experiences. And consider which experience, which patch, in that patchwork quilt was the most meaningful and joyful for you. And seek then to embrace that experience, such that it becomes a sort of compass for navigating the rest of your life."

For many people, worship is that patch. For many people, they say, "If I miss worship, it is like the rest of my week just isn't right." Worship indeed gives meaning and purpose to our lives. Worship instills joy into our lives. It may not be the sheer ecstatic joy of jumping uncontrollable up and down. But there is something profoundly moving and stirring about worship that is deeply satisfying, that is deeply joyful.

The truth is we are all existentialists. Existentialism really can't be avoided if we are born into this world, because we all stare down our own mortality. We all stare down the question, "What is life all about?" We all wonder, "What is the meaning of it all?" And then there is our Lord Jesus, who is said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." And so, Jesus tells us that meaning and purpose is not contained in some philosophical teaching. No, meaning and purpose is embodied in a person, the Son of God. Ultimately, to stare down meaning and purpose is to look in the face of God in Jesus Christ. And that may be the best definition of what exactly worship is.

Family Promise News

Presently, the guests still 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 November 14. **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, any food allergies, etc. Also, if you prefer, I would be happy to deliver the meal you provide to the Day Center. Thank you for considering volunteering in this way to support those less fortunate than ourselves!

Nadine Martin



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.



A Word on Stewardship

So, I want to share with you a Greek word from the Bible. It is the word *koinonia*, pronounced (koy-nohn-ee'-ah). The accent is over the long "e" sound. The word might best be translated as "share in common" or "mutually sharing," or "partnership." It appears frequently in the apostle Paul's writings. In Philippians 4:15, the word is translated as "giving and receiving." In Galatians 2:9, it is translated as "fellowship/agreement," established with a handshake.

Another word that captures the essence of *koinonia* is reciprocity. This word reciprocity means "the practice of exchanging things with others for mutual benefit." Think of the word "reciprocal," the idea of something done in return for a blessing received.

Paul seems to make this idea of *koinonia* the cornerstone of his ministry. Indeed, he sees the various churches of the ancient world as existing in *koinonia*, in partnership with one another. A good example of this is found in 2 Corinthians 8:13-15. In that text, Paul is encouraging the church in Corinth to contribute generously to the collection for the poor in Jerusalem. Paul is saying to the Christians in Corinth that there should be a mutual sharing between them and the poor in Jerusalem. How so? Paul says that it is because of the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem that the Corinthians are now "rich" in the Gospel of Jesus. The Jews in Jerusalem were the first to hear the gospel and then to spread the gospel to the wider world, including the church in Corinth. And so now, the Christians in Corinth should respond out of their abundance in financial resources to the needs of the poor in Jerusalem. There should be a fair balance. The abundance "of poverty" among the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem serves as a means for the Gentile Christians in Corinth to express their "need" to show God's love by sharing their wealth. In short, there is a partnership among the Christian communities which is to uplift all Christians whatever their need.

Paul obviously borrows this idea of *koinonia* from the Greco-Roman world in which he lived and served as a missionary. In the Greco-Roman world, the primary relationship that infused all of society was that of the client and patron. The patron provided daily for their clients in the form of money or food. In return, the clients honored their patron by following their patron around and speaking well of him or her. The clients were like the groupies of the ancient world. But, the point is that the client-patron relationship was built on reciprocity. It was built on a partnership. But where the reciprocity in the church differs from the reciprocity in society is with respect to hierarchy. Paul seeks to bring a sense of equality of all persons within the community of the larger church. This notion of equality smacked in the face of Roman society where it was all about power differentials.

Why I bring all this up is because in our world today *koinonia* is just as important for the well-being of the church as it was in Paul's day. We need to seek out partnerships. We need to find ways to work together with other Christian communities for the mutual building up of the body of Christ. No church is as strong alone as it is when living in *koinonia* with other Christians, especially in the present times when so many churches are struggling in light of the pandemic and other cultural forces. So, if there is one word I would have us be thinking about... If there is one word I would keep on the front burner in all our various ministries and committee work... If there is one word we can't lose sight of, it is the word *koinonia*. Indeed, in everything we are doing, we should be asking ourselves, "How can we partner with others to do this work of the gospel? Who can we link arms with so as to make this happen?"

Wedding News

Congratulations to Jenna Neil & Billy Youngblood on their wedding Saturday, October 30th.
Our best wishes as you begin your new life together!



New Address

We have a new address for Daniel & Maelyn Logan. It is:
601 Springhouse Rd.
Apt. #L
Allentown, PA 18104



Dear Padre,

During your sermon on October 10th, you preached on Mark 10:17-31, in which Jesus says it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. During the sermon you used an object lesson, demonstrating how to cut an 8 ½" x 11" piece of paper in such a way as to reveal a large circumference so as to be able to walk through the piece of paper. Would you please tell me how you cut the paper to make that large circumference?

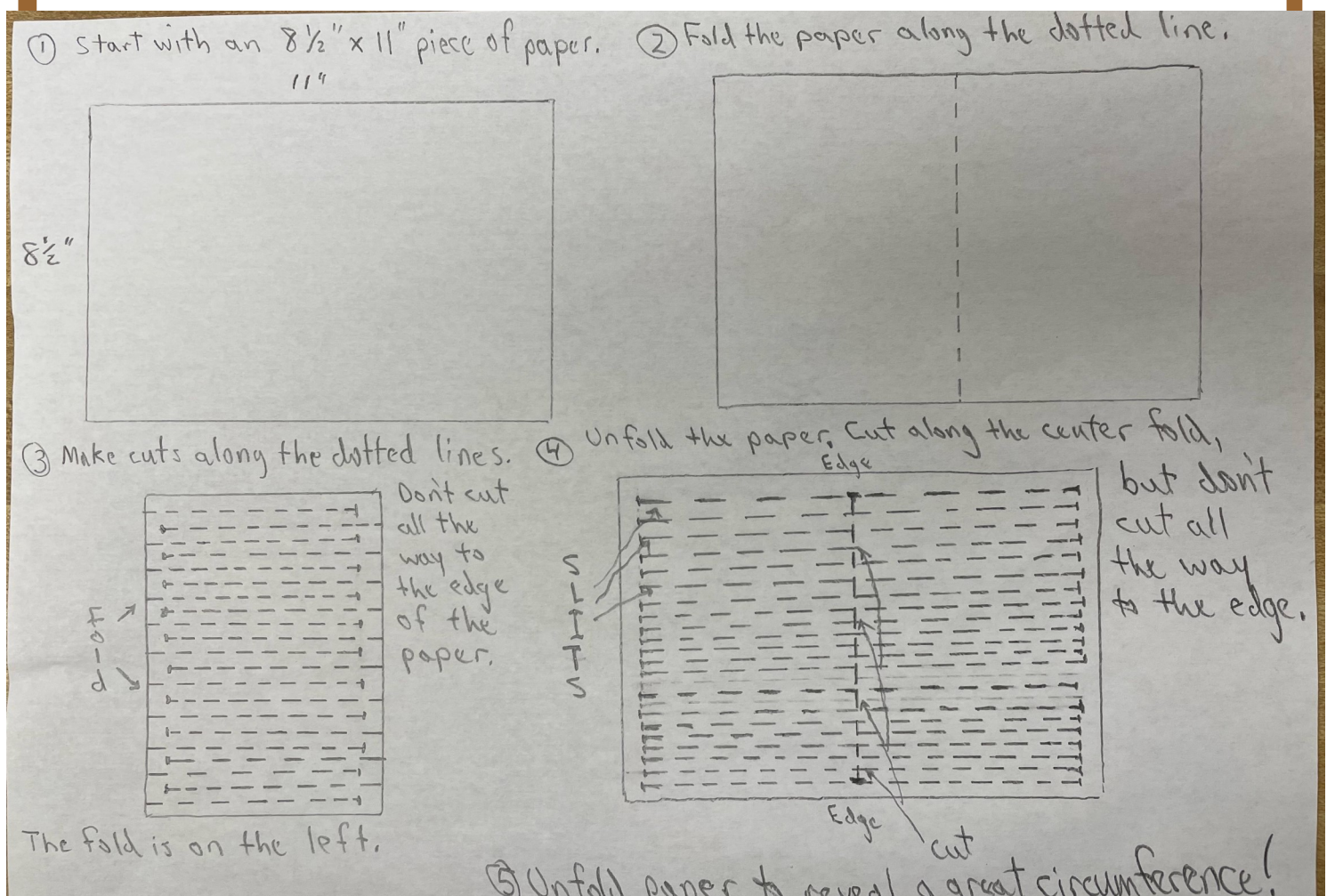


Signed, Origami Oriented

Dear Origami Oriented,

Thank you for your question. I learned that little paper trick somewhere along my ministry. It has proven to be a great help in explaining how God's grace helps us gain new perspective so as to see possibilities. For example, eternal life is impossible without the grace of God. But with God's grace, we see things differently. In baptism, we already have the promise of salvation. So the man's question (What must I do to inherit eternal life?) in Mark 10:17-31 is moot. The question really is, "How will we live life differently now that we have the promise of eternal life?" I am attaching a schematic explaining how to create the "large circumference" from a simple 8 ½" x 11" piece of paper. Enjoy.

Signed, *Padre*



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, September 15, 2021

Members Present: Pastor Joel Petruschke, Treasurer Jim Lubrecht, Penny Zimmerman, Anneke Fleming, Vice President Brad Neil and Jeanette Logan.

Members Absent: Jared Copeland

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order shortly after 6:30 pm and a prayer was offered by Pastor Joel. Since the President position is vacant, Pastor Joel led the meeting.

Council Executive Positions: Pastor Joel read a letter written by Mike Metzger informing Council that he will be stepping down from Council due to leaving Our Saviour Lutheran Church. We are grateful for Mike's service on Council and we will miss him as a congregational member.

Minutes: Minutes from August Council meeting were reviewed. Anneke made a motion to amend the minutes under Old Business and the Sound System Upgrade Proposal, suggesting we table the Sound System at this point in time. A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Anneke and seconded by Brad. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Jim reported to Council that the investments are doing well and he believes things are picking up in September. He highlighted expenses from last month noting that we don't have all of the information back from the GermanFest expenses and we will need to wait to hear from Deb Flage later on in the week as to the outcome of how things turned out financially with GermanFest. Brad made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and Anneke seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education - Pastor informed Council that Marcia and he want to wait to hold Sunday School classes until the COVID numbers decrease. Confirmation classes will be on Zoom beginning this Sunday, 9/19/21 and the option of holding classes outside under the pavilion was brought up as a possibility. Pastor mentioned the possibility of including a confirmation student from Epiphany Lutheran Church with our Confirmation Class. On Wednesday, September 22, 2021 there will be Bible Study group held at the Manor at Oakhurst. The residents there will be offered the opportunity to attend the Bible Study.

Fund Raising - The final wrap up meeting for GermanFest will be held by Deb Flage on 9/21/2021 or 9/22/2021. The date is currently being decided on. Donna Miller and Nadine Martin have volunteered to co-chair our Easter Egg Committee with the thought of making only peanut butter eggs this season.

Mutual Ministry - No update

Property - Pastor Joel will meet with Phoebe to discuss the repairs needed for the outdoor parking lot lights. The kitty litter that Jim placed in the groundhog hole has seemed to do the trick to deter the groundhog from

burrowing near the foundation wall of the church.

Welcome - It was discussed that it would be a good idea for phone calls to be made to reach out to members who we haven't seen in church to see how they are doing and their plans to return to church.

Worship and Music - Mitchell Sensenig has been offered and has accepted the position as our church organist. His salary is \$10,000 with 2 Sundays per year off for vacation days. He will play the organ for one service each Sunday, Christmas, Easter, and other church holidays. He will be in charge of picking the hymns for each Sunday's service.

Child Protection Policy - This committee has not met.

Scholarship BOT - This committee has not met.

Stewardship - This committee has not met.

Pastor's Report - Pastor Joel reviewed his report with Council.

Celebration of Life Services for Julie Drake will be held on September 18th and Arno Miller on September 25th.

Racial Justice meeting is scheduled for September 27th at 6:30 pm.

Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, September 26th at 10:00 am.

October 3rd will be a Baptism for Maggie Sheleman

October 3rd will be a Pet Blessing.

Old Business:

Updates on possible members for Vacant Council positions - Pastor Joel has spoken with several people about the possibility of them serving on Council. He hasn't had anyone agree to volunteer on Council at this time. He will continue to reach out to members for their assistance. For the 2021-2022 Council we have Jim Lubrecht, Anneke Fleming, Brad Neil, Penny Zimmerman, Pastor Joel, Jared Copeland and Jeanette Logan. We currently have 4 positions that are vacant. Jessica Burigana (term expired), Mike Metzger, Marlee Zimmerman (term expired), and Arno Miller's spots are available. Pastor Joel informed the council that he had reached out to synod to ask about how to proceed without a full complement of council, as well as how to proceed regarding the quorum needed for congregational meetings. Synod informed Pastor Joel that our church's constitution may need to be amended given our present circumstances.

Outdoor Bench by front door update: Pastor has spoken with Donna Miller regarding her desire to replace the existing outdoor bench using money from Arno's memorial fund donations. He spoke with the person who donated the bench that is currently there and the donor happily said we should proceed with Donna's request.

Little Lending Library - Pastor is working on the sign to be installed.

Purchase of a Shed - No update.

Outside Lights - See under Property

Bylaws Committee - Nothing to report

Finance Committee - Pastor Joel stated the need to establish a Finance Committee.



New Business:**Potential Church Rental Prospects -**

Altrusa Egg Making Group - Anneke commented that Altrusa is looking for a place to hold their egg making for this season. They would begin in January and most likely finish up in March. They would utilize the church facilities on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. We would have the opportunity to make between \$800 and \$1,000 for their use of our facilities. They would pay us \$200 for each session that they were at the church. More details to follow with specific dates, times, etc.

Potential Person who is a caterer by profession - A proposal will be submitted by this individual. More information will follow.

Dauphin County Election Bureau seeking use of the church as a polling location - Pastor Joel was contacted by an official pertaining to the possibility of using our church as a polling location. Discussion of pros and cons for this opportunity were presented. Pastor Joel believes it would give us good visibility, perhaps new members as a result once people saw our church and the facility that we have. Council discussed the benefit of holding bake sales during the elections which would bring in potential profit. Council discussed the need to inquire about potential insurance liabilities.

Penny made a motion that we would be open to having Our Saviour be a possible polling location contingent on Insurance Liability. Pastor Joel will do some fact finding on this and report back to Council.

Brad seconded the motion.

Meeting with Epiphany Lutheran Church - Pastor Joel, John Zimmerman, Jim Lubrecht and Jeanette Logan met with 3 members of Epiphany Lutheran Church on September 14th. Our Saviour had received a request from Epiphany to discuss the possibility of pooling resources with our church. Since this request was made and the meeting date was scheduled, Epiphany's pastor has resigned.

At this meeting we talked about our 2 church's identities and what our churches focus on. Their church is very distressed due to the loss of their pastor. They are seeking healing and manpower of volunteers. Pastor asked how can we help our sister church? Pastor Beth Martini from the Synod is currently helping them. They have a confirmand that is in need of Confirmation classes and Pastor Joel told them that their confirmand is welcome to join our Confirmation class. Additionally, the possibility of Pastor Joel helping with other ministerial needs was discussed, including Bible Study, visitation, and worship leadership.

Adjournment:

The meeting ended by reciting the Lord's Prayer and was adjourned at 8:45 pm after an approval of a motion from Anneke and seconded by Brad. No next Council meeting date and time was mentioned. Time and date to be determined.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeanette Logan

2021-2022 Church Council

Anneke Flemming – President

Brad Neil – Vice President

Jeanette Logan – Secretary

Jim Lubrecht – Treasurer

Jared Copeland

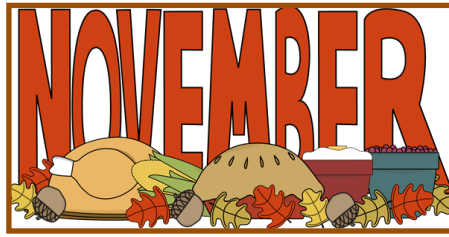
Penny Zimmerman





Pastor Joel





Jansen Copeland	11/1
Kathy Sheetz	11/2
Terry Johnson	11/4
Troy Schreffler	11/5
Joe Parsons	11/7
Michael Pitassi	11/8
Max Reilly	11/11
Megan Neil	11/12
Steve Barron	11/13
Otis Martin	11/17
Bernie Kunz	11/22
Bruce Cohick	11/26
Caleb Halfond	11/26
Linda Freed	11/28
Robert Trea	11/28
Tiffany Crosby	11/29
Anthem Hanton	11/29



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Please note: our worship time is now 9:30am.</p>	<p>1 5:30 pm - Welcome Comm. 6 pm - Praise Him Singers Rehearsal 7 pm - Altar Guild</p>	<p>2 Election Day </p>	<p>3 6:30 pm - COVID-19 Task Force via Zoom</p>	<p>4 7 pm - Confirmation</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7 - All Saints 9:30 am - Worship 10:45 am - Sunday School </p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 7 pm - Meeting with Epiphany @Epiphany</p>	<p>10 6:30 pm - Council</p>	<p>11  7 pm - Confirmation</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 3-9 pm - Private Event</p>
<p>14 - Share the Word, Share the Harvest 9:30 am - Worship Spaghetti Dinner after worship</p>	<p>15 6 pm - Praise Him Singers Rehearsal 6:30 pm - Racial Justice Forum</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 1:30 pm - Bible Study @Manor @Oakridge</p>	<p>18 7 pm - Confirmation 7 pm - Praise Hymn Singers Concert</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 - Christ the King 9:30 am - Worship 7 pm - Thanksgiving Service</p>	<p>22 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Pastor is out of the office</div></p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25  office closed</p>	<p>26 office closed</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 - Advent 1 9:30 am - Worship</p>	<p>29 vacation day for Barb</p>	<p>30</p>				<p></p>



Pastor, Barb & Mitchell
would like to wish you and
your family a safe & happy
Thanksgiving!

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
Thanksgiving*

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 @9:30am.

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

Web Site: www.oslutheranharrisburg.org



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