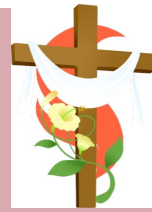


Good News

April 2022



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

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This Lenten season has continued to be particularly difficult as we continue to hear the news and observe the terrible scenes coming out of Ukraine. We have watched relentless shelling of cities. We have seen millions of people displaced from their homes. We have heard of mass graves, the bombing of schools, hospitals, and of other places where civilians have been hiding. And we can't help but be disgusted by it all. So many lives lost. So much devastation and destruction. And for what? For what?

It is hard to get excited about the celebration of Easter this month. It is hard to think about singing "Alleluia," when so many are suffering. It is hard to imagine that God is victorious over sin and death, when sin and death continue to stare us in the face.

So what is the Easter message for this year? Well, it is the same as it is every year. Love wins. The Easter message is just two simple words. Love wins. God's love in his Son Jesus Christ wins in the face of brutality, cruelty, falsehood, suffering, and death. Love wins.

Really, the Easter message is that simple. Either we are on the side of God which is the side of love, or we are on whatever the other side might be. And even though there are incomprehensible horrors emerging from this war, there is also the reminder that love is standing strong. And, I am not just speaking about the Ukrainian people who love freedom and love their country. Granted that powerful love has been making quite an impression. But I also talking about the love people have shown to the Ukrainian people, namely refugees leaving their country. I am talking about the love of family, such that Ukrainian men are making sure their wives and children are safe before returning to fight. I am talking about the love for those who are oppressed, such that people, non-Ukrainians, are compelled to come to Ukraine to stand and fight beside them. I am talking about the love of Russians who stand up against their totalitarian government and protest against the war. I am talking about countries providing aid to the Ukrainians in the form of food, medical supplies, and other needs. This is the kind of love I am talking about.

Now some people say that Russia has already lost this war. Because of the resilience of the Ukrainian people, because of the impact the sanctions will have on the Russian nation, many are saying that Russia has already lost this war. I would agree that Russia has already lost this war, but I would say so on other grounds. For wherever there are people who love their neighbor whether near or far, then the evils of war and hate have already been defeated. Someone told me how interesting it is that on one side of a border we see the very worst in humanity, we see cruelty and evil playing out in its worst form. And then on the other side of a border we see the very best in humanity, we see love and compassion expressed in its fullness.

And so this is like Holy Week. On Good Friday, the very worst of humanity is evident, such that the Son of God is crucified. But then just beyond that border, on Easter Sunday, we see the very best of God, such that his Son is raised to promise us all eternal life. And that which makes Easter happen is the fact that Love wins. God's love in Jesus Christ wins out over sin and death.

And so, I think it is our job as Christian people, it is our job as people to not allow for the love in us to die out. If love fizzles out within the human race, well then we are most to be pitied. But as long as love still shines, and shines in but one human being, then there is hope. Where there is the power of love in just one human being, then Love wins. That is our Easter message this year and every year. Thanks be to God.

In Christ, *Pastor Joel Petruschke*

The Lessons for April 2022

April 3 — Lent 5

Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalms 126

Philippians 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8

April 10 — Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Luke 22:14 - 23:56

April 14 — Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-14

Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 15 — Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12

Psalms 2

Hebrews 10:16-25

John 18:1 - 19:42

April 17 — Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Corinthians 15:19-26

Luke 24:1-12



Join Us For Our Holy Week and Easter Sunday Worship!



Palm Sunday Worship 9:30 am



Maundy Thursday Worship 7:00 pm

Good Friday Mid-day Service,

@Epiphany 12 noon

Good Friday Tenebrae Service 7:00 pm

Easter Vigil @Good Shepherd, Saturday,
7:30 pm



Easter Sunday Worship 9:30 am

Synod Assembly Voting Members Needed



The Synod Assembly this year will be held June 3rd and 4th **via Zoom**. We are looking for 2 volunteers to represent us at the Assembly, 1 lay female and 1 lay male, both voting member. If you are interested or have any questions, please call the church office or Pastor Joel. Thank you.

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

Holy Week is the most important week in the church year. It is the week when we celebrate the great mystery of our faith—the suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The week is called “holy” because it is set apart from all other weeks in the church year. That is after all what the word “holy” means, to be set apart for a special purpose. The week is set apart for the purpose of contemplating God’s redemption of the world.

The week is so holy that in fact the early church understood the week as transforming all the other weeks. In the early church then, every Friday was seen as sacred because it was on that day when the Lord died on the cross. And every Sunday was seen as sacred because it was on that day when the Lord rose from the dead. Every Friday is as a Good Friday. Every Sunday is a little Easter.

I find this rhythm for life powerful. What if we were conscious of living in that sacred rhythm each and every week. What if, on every Friday, we kept in mind that the Lord died on this day? What if, on every Sunday, we kept in mind that the Lord rose on this day?

We do keep the rhythm of death and resurrection somewhat in mind with respect to the seasons. We know that there is a sort of death over nature during the winter months. And there is a rising to new life that happens in nature during spring. And it is no accident that Easter falls in the springtime. As all of Creation is experiencing a rebirth, so do we celebrate the new life promised through Christ’s resurrection.

We also experience a rhythm of death and resurrection each and every day. When we go to sleep we sort of experience a “death.” When we awake, we experience a “rising” to new life. Yes, death and resurrection are all around us. And it is a powerful rhythm to keep in mind. The early church did so by honoring the days of Friday and Sunday each week. So, let us honor again the great mystery of our faith during Holy Week, and let us embrace the rhythm that speaks to our redemption.

Manna Food Pantry

Our “2nd Sunday” food collection is still ongoing. During this time of rising food prices and combined with 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.



Family Promise News

Family Promise currently has **2 families** in the program (2 mothers, a 10 year old, and a 1 year old). Both families are doing really well. The one family will move into their own apartment this week, and the other family has been accepted into a transitional housing program for early in April.

Family Promise is beginning to disseminate information about our local **Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN)**. Volunteers, over the next several weeks, I will be emailing you some new information and some new programs that Family Promise is providing for our guests and for our volunteers.



We have not yet confirmed the dates that Our Saviour, along with Good Shepherd, will be hosting Family Promise families for the remainder of 2022. Please stay tuned to future information in that regard.

Thank you.

Nadine Martin (717)497-1200 NadineLMartin@verizon.net

A Word on Stewardship

TOHU VA BOHU. What is that phrase? Well it is an ancient Hebrew phrase from Genesis 1:2. It is often translated as “without form and void.” It is a phrase used to describe what was there at the dawn of Creation. “In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was *tohu va bohu*. The earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep...” (NSRV).

We often think that God created the heavens and the earth out of nothing (*ex nihilo*). But, in truth, there was something already there when God began to create. What was already there was *tohu va bohu*. Theologians describe this “something” there at the dawn of Creation as chaos. *Tohu va bohu* is a phrase meaning chaos. At the dawn of Creation there was a formless void, there was darkness, and there were primordial waters. There was chaos.

And so what God is doing in the Creation story is putting things in order. Everything has a place and a place for everything. Light is separated from darkness. Waters are separated from land. The sun and the moon and the stars are created for the regulation of time. So on and so forth. Thus, what is important to God, what is essential to God’s sense of stewardship, is order.

And so when we witness the horrific events of the war in Ukraine, we can’t help but think of the undoing of order. What we see in Ukraine is utter chaos. Cities are being leveled. Millions of lives are being uprooted. There is fear and panic. There is chaos in the the extreme. What had once been a free nation with an organized society, not perfect but still it embodied order...what had once been a structured society has now been destroyed. It is chaos.

But God’s sense of stewardship in human society, in Creation as a whole, embodies order. And the Russian war machine has completely upended that order in Ukraine. And it is therefore easy to see that this war is sinful, that this war is deeply immoral, and that this war smacks in the very face of God’s stewardship.

Tohu va bohu or chaos goes against what God desires. But the good news is that as we see in the Creation story, God works to undo chaos. And so, I believe that God will empower the world’s people to help the people of Ukraine rebuild an ordered society in their country. Already God is providing order to the Ukrainian people who have fled their country, by having other nations welcome them and help them live in the interim. But I have every hope that the Ukrainian people will return to their land and they, with the help of many, will rebuild their lives, their buildings, and their nation. And order will stamp out the chaos we see now. Again, I believe this because our God is a God who puts chaos in its place, as we see in the Creation story. Thanks be to God.

Easter Egg Making For 2022

With all the support and hard work of all of our volunteers, we strive to make this year’s project successful. Needless to say, it is a big undertaking to fill the shoes of Connie Johnson and Julie Drake. Just a reminder: **ALL EGG ORDERS MUST BE IN BY APRIL 3, 2022.** Payment by check, if possible, is preferred.



On Sunday, March 20th, we will be making butter cream eggs dipped in dark chocolate. These eggs are for a limited sale.

Any questions, please call, email or talk with Nadine Martin or Donna Miller.

Nadine - 717 - 497-1200 or nadinelmartin@verizon.net

Donna - 717 - 558-0660 or donloulmil@msn.com

Nadine Martin and Donna Miller

Co-chairs

Dear Padre,

What does God look like?

Signed, "Longing to Know"

Dear "Longing to Know,"



Some people envision God as an old man with a white beard. Some envision God as Light. But in truth, for us mortals, God looks like Jesus, since Jesus was God incarnate. Jesus was God in the flesh.

Now, it is interesting, we often envision Jesus as our own projection of what we want Jesus to look like. Albert Schweitzer wrote a very important book about this very phenomenon called *The Quest for the Historical Jesus*. Schweitzer wanted to get to the heart of who Jesus was and what he was about. He wanted to get to the "real" Jesus in history. But, what Schweitzer said is that often what we find with theologians is that they paint a picture of Jesus based on who they want Jesus to be, a sort of self-fulfilled prophecy.

Now Schweitzer is talking here more about the political/theological Jesus than an actual depiction of the physical Jesus. But we do a similar thing with regards to what Jesus looked like. Anglo-Saxons, for instance, tend to see Jesus as Caucasian with light brown hair and blue eyes. We know the picture of Jesus I am referring to. We can all see it in our minds. But this is likely not what Jesus looked like. Remember that Jesus was from the Middle East. He probably had dark eyes and dark hair, and maybe more of an olive to dark brown skin tone.

Our projections onto God work in the same. If we see God as a judge then God is probably dressed in a black robe. If we see God as a shepherd, then God is probably holding a lamb and shepherd crook. If we see God as a king, then God is probably sitting on a throne and wearing a crown. If we see God as a...you get the picture.

Personally, I go back to the image of God as light. Indeed, when the Bible speaks of God's glory it is referring to a brilliant light, even more brilliant than the sun. God is wrapped in glory and just as we can't look at the sun, we can't look directly at God and live, so says the Bible. But come that day when we enter into heaven, we will see God face to face, and we will know then what God looks like.

I hope this helps answer your question.

Signed, *Padre*

Let's think about camp!

We have received the new camping corp. brochures for the upcoming 2022 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.

**Community
Lenten Worship
Forgiveness**

Date	Place	Theme
4/6	Our Saviour Lutheran 12:00 420 N. Progress Ave., Harrisburg (717) 545-9992	Beginning Again Reconciliation and Restoration The Rev. C. Frank Terhune Luke 7:36-47
4/15 Good Friday	Epiphany Lutheran 12:00 1100 Colonial RD, Harrisburg (717) 657-8959	The Rev. Joel Petruschke John 18:28 -19:22



Come join us on the Lenten journey.

Restore

Renew

Rejoice

**LENT 2022
7pm
Good Shepherd & Our Saviour Churches**

Hosted by Good Shepherd & held in the nave
3700 Rutherford St.

Holden Evening Prayer

Nicholas Werner, pianist

Also available livestreamed on YouTube at Good Shepherd, Paxtang

Topic: Forgiveness

DATE	THEME	LITURGIST and PREACHER	LESSON	Psalm 51:1-12 Version	Hymn
April 6	Beginning Again (Reconciliation and Restoration)	PB	Luke 7:36-47	Contemporary English Version	ELW 588

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 9, 2022

Members Present: Pastor Joel Petruschke, President Anneke Fleming, Vice President, Brad Neil, Treasurer, Jim Lubrecht, Secretary, Jeanette Logan, Penny Zimmerman and Jared Copeland was in attendance via ZOOM.

At 6:38 pm the meeting was called to order by Anneke Fleming.

The minutes from the Council Meeting on January 12, 2022 were reviewed and corrected. A motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made by Penny and seconded by Jeanette. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Jim reviewed the Financial Statements with Council.

Anneke asked Jim if "Special Purchase Request" can be added under the Memorial Fund. The request will remain there until the amount has been reached.

Jim will research the charge for the Substitute Organist payment of \$339.68 and determine where it should be placed.

Beginning with December 2022, Pastor Joel will ask Royer's Flowers for the amount due for the poinsettias in December. This way the bill can be paid in the current year and not in January of the following year. Money for the poinsettias is collected ahead of time so the money will be available to pay the invoice before the end of the year.

Jim will hold a Financial Committee Meeting soon. He will continue to make monthly comparisons to the previous year's month. For example, January 2021 comparison to January 2022.

The Treasurer's Report is filed for audit which includes Jim's correction.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from the January 12, 2022 Council Meeting were sent to Council on January 18, 2022 for review and editing. Edits were made to the minutes and then sent to Barb on February 2, 2022. The Congregational Meeting Minutes from January 23, 2022 will be sent out to Council later this week for them to be review and edit.

Committee Reports:

Christian Ed - No report

Child Protection Policy - No Report

Fund Raising - Egg Committee Report was received and has been filed.

Mutual Ministry - No Report

Property - No Report

Scholarship BOT - No Report

Social Ministry - No Report

Stewardship - No Report

Welcome - Report was received and reviewed and has been filed.

Worship and Music - No Report

Finance - No Report. Jim informed Council that a meeting will take place in February.

We need to find out from John Zimmerman what he needs for the audit.

Pastor's Report- Report was received and has been filed.

Election Polling Station: On May 17, 2022, Our Saviour will be used as a polling station. Pastor discussed the opportunity for the church to sell our candy Easter Eggs, baked goods and coffee to voters. A sign-up sheet will be put in the Narthex asking members to donate baked goods to be sold. These items would be dropped off at the church on May 16, 2022.

Volunteers needed for Synod Assembly on June 3rd and 4th, 2022. At this time, no one has volunteered. A reminder will be included in the newsletter and weekly bulletins.

Special Lenten Services - There will be services held during the week as well as Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

Town Meetings - Pastor expressed his idea of having "Town Meetings" where there would be an opportunity for members to brainstorm ideas as to how we can bring members back to Our Saviour. Where is our church now and how do we move forward can be part of the town meeting agenda.

Member Visitation - Home visits can be made to those members who we haven't seen in church. Hopefully we can determine what their reason was for not attending church and what we can do to get them to come back.

Old Business:

COVID-19 – Brad explained that no real changes have been made. Things are going as expected.

Church Letterhead - Anneke ordered 500 each of letterhead and envelopes from Get it Now Print.

ZOOM - We have a donor that has agreed to pay for our membership.

Stained Glass Window repair - Brad explained that we will revisit this in the spring when better weather is here.

"Hall Available" sign - Brad will check with Get it Now Print for pricing information.

Our Saviour Brown Sign - Jeanette will check with Herb to see if he is aware of a way that the letters can be changed to provide our church's address. Maybe the letters can be removed and we can include our address?

Checkbook for Christian Ed - Jim told Jeanette that she can turn over the checkbook and all of the receipts to him whenever she would like to.

New Business:

Egg Making - Discussion of the possibility of checking into purchasing new electric skillet.

Children's Sermons - We currently have more children attending church and there was a discussion to bring back the weekly sermons for children. Pastor Joel said he would be happy to do this.

Acolytes - A suggestion was made to bring on new acolytes to assist during services. The Eustis girls could be an option.

Christian Ed - A meeting with Marcia Schreffler is in the process of being scheduled.

Election Polling on May 17, 2022 - Penny, Jeanette and Jim offered to bake cookies to be sold in the Narthex. Pastor Joel will take care of getting coffee and donuts and Jared offered to provide bags of chips. Anneke offered to supply breakfast bars to be sold. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for members to volunteer to provide baked good items.

Committee Budgets - Anneke mentioned to Jim that each committee should know how much money is available in their budget on a yearly basis.

A motion was made by Pastor Joel at 9:13 pm to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Jim. Motion carried.

The next Council meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 9, 2022 at 6:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeanette Logan (Council Secretary)





Madalynn Brittelli	4/5
Eva Kunz	4/5
Lori Provencher	4/5
Ashley Brittelli	4/6
Isabella Kessler	4/7
Hope Bowling	4/9
Barbara Ecklund	4/13
Kevin Ecklund	4/14
Toby Drake	4/15
Lauren Trea	4/15
Robert McIntyre	4/19
Dan Fleming	4/21
Herb Logan	4/25
Mary Petruschke	4/26



Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1	2
						Egg Making
3 - Lent 5 9:30 am - Worship 10:45 am - Adult Sunday School <i>Egg Making</i> deadline for egg orders	4 6 pm - Welcome Committee	5	6 12 noon - Mid-week Lenten service @OSL 7 pm - Mid-week Lenten service @Good Shepherd <i>Egg Making</i>	7 6:30 pm - Covid Task Force meets via Zoom 8 pm Confirmation <i>Egg Making</i>	8	9 <i>Egg Making</i>
10 - Palm Sunday 9:30 am - Worship 	11 - Holy Week Begins 6 pm - Praise Him Singers Rehearsal Deadline for committee reports for Council	12	13 2 pm - Bible Study @Manor @Oakhurst 6 pm - Council	14 - Maundy Thursday 7 pm - Worship 	15 - Good Friday 12 noon - joint worship @Epiphany 7 pm - Worship 	16 7:30 pm - Easter Vigil @Good Shepherd
17 - Easter Sunday 9:30 am - Worship  newsletter deadline	18 6:30 pm - Friends-In-Christ @Our Saviour	19	20 6:30 pm - Worship & Music	21 8 pm - Confirmation	22	23
24 - Easter 2 9:30 am - Worship 3:45 pm - Worship @Manor @Oakridge	25 6 pm - Praise Him Singers Rehearsal 6:30 pm - Mutual Ministry	26 7 pm - Meeting of Epiphany & Our Saviour via Zoom	27 2 pm - Bible Study @Manor @Oakhurst 6:30 pm - Worship & Music Chairs of Epiphany & OSL meet	28 8 pm - Confirmation	29	30

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

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.