

Good News

December 2022



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

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Recently, my family and I attended Chanticleer's Christmas concert. Chanticleer is an *a cappella* singing group consisting of twelve male voices. Their concert was absolutely beautiful. The concert included a wide variety of music from the standards like "Merry Christmas, Darling" and "Ding Dong, Merrily on High" to songs less familiar like "Riu Riu Chiu." But no doubt my favorite song from the concert was "Walking in the Air," which is about a midnight journey, in which a boy and a snowman fly over the ocean and over villages far below, as they travel to the North Pole. It is such a mysterious and wonderful song.

At various places in the concert, one of singers would speak about different themes of which they were singing. They noted that one of the selections in the concert was about the apocalypse. And the speaker noted that the word "apocalypse" is probably not a word that comes to mind when we think of Christmas. But he said, how true it is that opposites are often juxtaposed in life—death and life, joy and sadness, and so on. And it is true that even the end of time is juxtaposed with the beginning of the Jesus story. Think about how the festival of Christ the King abuts up with the beginning of Advent on the church calendar.

Yes, we often associate the word "apocalypse" with the end time. But, the word apocalypse actually means "revelation." In Greek, the word translates as "disclose." Thus, an apocalypse is when something is uncovered or brought out into the open. The book of Revelation, for instance, is a book, for instance, which seeks to bring out into the open the end time scenario, that is, how the end time will unfold.

But truth be told, the end time scenario is brought out into the open when we celebrate Christmas. At Christmas God reveals to us, discloses to us, how the end time will unfold. Jesus is born into the world. God's Son comes into the world. God showers the world with his love. And the end time scenario unfolds such that there are angels who sing around shepherds, singing words of peace for all. There are wise men who visit the nativity to pay homage, offering gifts fit for a king. And there is in the midst of it all, a baby in a manger among the creatures of God's making, farm animals in a stable.

This is the scene of the end time. This is the apocalypse, we could say. Indeed, I cling to this scene in the midst of our world more than the scene of death and destruction, the doom and gloom, which is what the book of Revelation presents to us with respect to the end time.

Enjoying that Chanticleer Christmas concert with my family and with several hundred new friends who made up the audience, I could easily have welcomed the end time and the return of Christ then and there. It really was that magical of an experience. But we also all experience a similar magical experience. For when we gather at church to pay homage to the child King Jesus, when we lend our voices to the "great choir" which sings God's praise, when we come to see the babe of Bethlehem in our midst in worship, we truly are glimpsing the end time.

Who knows when the end time will be? Maybe today, maybe a thousand years from now. Who knows? Probably we are not so anxious for it to come any time soon. However, we can and should live in to that end time. We should be attuned to how the end time is being disclosed around us, and we should partake of the singing, we should offer the gifts of ourselves which are fit for a king, we should come and see the babe of Bethlehem which is to see the "Christ" in our neighbor in need. Yes, in these ways we glimpse the end time, and in these ways we participate in helping usher in the end time. Thanks be to God, and Merry Christmas to you all!

In Christ, *Pastor Joel Petruschke*

The Lessons for December 2022 Advent Gathering for Soup & Worship

December 4 — Advent 2

Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19

Romans 15:4-13

Matthew 3:1-12

December 11 — Advent 3

Isaiah 35:1-10

Psalms 146:5-10

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

December 18 — Advent 4

Isaiah 7:10-16

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-25

December 24 — Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalms 96

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-20

December 25 — Christmas Day

Lessons and Carols with Christmas Homily
and the Celebration of Holy Communion



This year we will be having our Advent mid-week soup suppers followed by worship at Good Shepherd on Wednesdays, December 7th, 14th & 21st. Our soup meal will start at 6pm followed by worship at 7pm. Please join us!

Christmas Eve Worship

Please join us for worship on
Christmas Eve:

7:00pm - Family Service with Holy
Communion

Christmas Day:

9:30am - Service of Lesson & Carols with Holy Communion



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

During my doctoral studies, I learned that the apostle Paul included in his letters an opening greeting and a closing greeting. Both greetings offered a word of “grace” to his congregations. The typical opening greeting reads, “GRACE to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” The typical closing greeting reads, “The GRACE of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.” In effect, Paul creates an *inclusio* around his letters with the word grace. Paul bracketed or framed his letters with grace.

Why does Paul do this? Because the apostle understood the Christian person’s life to be one “in Christ.” As Christian people we live and move and have our being inside Christ, as part of the body of Christ. We are baptized into Christ Jesus. Jesus Christ is God’s grace to us. Jesus Christ is God’s gift to us. And to be in Christ is to have the promise of new life in Christ, because as Christ is raised by God the Father, so too shall we be raised. So when Paul writes to his congregation, the *inclusio* formed by the word “grace” reminds us that our existence is inside God’s grace, which is Jesus Christ. Using words in a certain way to convey a certain message to the reader about their own state of being is called “locative syntax.” The content of Paul’s letters is inside “grace,” like we are inside the grace of God, which is Christ Jesus.

This is all by way of saying that we do a similar thing in our worship service. After the Order of Confession and Forgiveness, and after the first hymn, we hear the words, “The GRACE of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” And right before the last hymn, we hear the words, “The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine on you and be GRACIOUS to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.” Again, we hear “grace” in the opening and closing words of worship. We are bracketed, we are framed, we are wrapped in God’s grace in worship, to remind us of our state of being as Christian people every day of our lives.

As Christian believers we exist in a state of grace all the time. And to be in such a state of grace, is to remind us that God’s promises of forgiveness, of new life, of salvation and resurrection in Christ are unfailing promises. Individuals are either in grace or outside grace. But once brought into that state of grace, it doesn’t change. That is the good news.

Now, on the other hand, our faith fluctuates. Faith can grow or it can wane. Faith is the glue for the relationship between God and us. God is faithful from God’s end, such that God gives us Jesus Christ. We are then to respond in faith by being obedient towards God. An active faith helps us grow in our relationship with God, but our faith is not that which saves us. Again, that which saves us is God’s grace. So worship helps us express our faith towards God, and helps us grow in our relationship with God, but ultimately it is God’s grace that assures us everlasting life.

I hope this explanation helps us understand better the dynamics at work in worship and in the living out of our Christian lives.

Manna Food Pantry

Our “2nd Sunday” food collection is still ongoing. During this time of continuous rising food prices & heating costs, food pantries are seeing a greater demand of their services. If you would like to make a donation you may bring your items into the church & place them on the table in the Narthex at any time. There is a list of suggested items now on the table. If you would like to make a monetary donations, please mark your envelopes “Manna Food Pantry” and place it with your regular giving envelope.



A Word on Stewardship

What kind of gifts are you giving this Christmas to your friends and loved ones? What kind of gifts do you hope to receive? Kahlil Gibran once said, "You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give." Gibran could have been mistaken for a Christian with those words, because of course, what does God give at the time of Christmas, but his Son, his very self-incarnate. So here are some Christmas gifts of a different variety, which are not to be shared only at Christmas, but the whole year around, whenever such a gift is needed.

- 1) The gift of wisdom, to share with another how you have come to understand life and the world around you.
- 2) The gift of vision, to share with another the talents you see that that individual possesses and to encourage him/her to utilize those talents.
- 3) The gift of guidance, to share with another the pitfalls of life so as to help another navigate around those obstacles.
- 4) The gift of love, to share with another the truth that he/she is lovable, precious, and of infinite worth.
- 5) The gift of honesty, to share with another the difficult word that individual needs to hear.
- 6) The gift of hope, to share with another the possibility, the opportunity, the blessing of seeing the world and his/her place in it differently than the present.
- 7) The gift of time, to be with another, or to make it possible for another to have free time to do things they normally don't get to do.

There are probably other "self-giving" gifts you would add to this list, but I think we get the picture. When it comes to the stewardship of gift-giving, the giving of one's self is a powerful concept. We learn it from the best—from God, who gives life, gives salvation, gives hope, gives love, gives peace and joy. The most precious of God's gifts are those things we can't put a price tag on, and which can't be found in any store. God gives so abundantly, so graciously. Let us do likewise.

Jesus Said, "Let the Little Children Come to Me."

We have successfully revived Sunday School for the children of Our Saviour. The children have a lesson, complete a craft and enjoyed a snack. As a reminder, children's Sunday School class will be held on the first Sunday of the month during the service. **The next class will be December 4th.** Children will be excused for their lesson after the children's message. Please share our news with anyone you know who may be interested. We welcome every child to join us and learn!

WE ARE SO EXCITED TO HAVE GOTTEN STARTED! OUR CHILDREN ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR CONGREGATION.

Christkindlmarkt in Linglestown

This year's **live nativity** event will be held on **Saturday, December 10th.** Epiphany & Our Saviour will once again be providing participants in the morning during the time slot of 10-10:30am.

Please stop by and see us!



Dear Padre,

Why do people kiss under mistletoe? From where does the tradition come? Does it in any way relate to the Christian faith, such that it became connected with the holidays?

Signed, "What's Up With That?"

Dear "What's Up With That?"



Mistletoe has been a symbol of fertility for centuries, going as far back as the Celtic Druids in the 1st century A.D. The plant's association with fertility no doubt has led to the tradition of kissing, such that it has come to be used to spark a little romance. Now, unfortunately the name "mistletoe" derives from the Anglo-Saxon words mistel meaning "dung" and tan, meaning "twig." So the name literally means "poo on a stick." How romantic, right?

Mistletoe is actually a parasite that lives on trees, and it draws water and nutrients from its host, such that it can be quite detrimental to the tree on which it lives. But, because mistletoe stays green throughout the winter, while the tree it lives on goes dormant, the plant has inspired the imagination of people, so as to see the unique powers of this plant. In this way, it is not unlike the pine trees we adore during Christmas time which stay green. Pine trees remind us that even in the midst of death (winter), there is life, which of course is what Jesus Christ is all about with respect to his death and resurrection. And so, the mistletoe plant could also speak to our Christian faith in this way, for it too stays green in winter.

So these are just a few little things to think about should you find yourself standing under some mistletoe this season. Thanks for your question.

Signed, *Padre*

FAMILY PROMISE NEWS

Our Saviour, along with Good Shepherd, will be hosting Family Promise Sunday, January 8, 2023 through Sunday morning, January 15, 2023.

We need volunteers to make meals, drive the van, and do overnights. PLEASE, PLEASE consider volunteering in any way that you are able - I assure you that your assistance will be greatly appreciated!

Sign-up sheets have been posted in the Narthex.

Perhaps you are not able to offer assistance this week, but would be available in the future. Please note that we will also be hosting Family Promise the weeks of April 30, June 25, and October 15 in 2023.

This program can only exist with the help of our volunteers. Your volunteering does make a positive impact for these families!

If you have any questions about the mission of Family Promise or would like more information on volunteering opportunities through Family Promise, please feel free to talk to me.

Thank you.

Nadine Martin
(717) 497-1200

NadineLMartin@verizon.net



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, October 13, 2022**

Members Present: Pastor Joel Petruschke, Brad Neil, Vice-President, Jim Lubrecht, Treasurer, Jeanette Logan, Secretary, Penny Zimmerman and Steve Barrons. Dawne Veet was present via phone.

Members Absent: Antonetta Fleming, President

At 6:05pm the meeting was called to order and Pastor Joel offered a word of prayer.

The minutes from the Council Meeting on Wednesday, September 14, 2022 were edited and approved. Pastor Joel made a motion to accept the minutes as edited. Brad seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The minutes from the Congregational Meeting held on September 25, 2022 were edited and approved. Pastor Joel made a motion to accept the minutes as edited. Penny seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Election of Officers: A Council vote was taken to re-elect Antonetta Fleming, President, Brad Neil, Vice President, Jim Lubrecht, Treasurer and Jeanette Logan, Secretary. The vote was unanimous.

Treasurer's Report: Jim reviewed the financial reports with Council. Our current deficit is \$25,484.93. The Thrivent accounts have gone down due to the state of the market.

- Budget Performance - Jim has been reviewing the budget performance in preparation for the annual budget. A list of detailed expenses were reviewed by Council.

The Treasurer's Report is filed for Audit.

Secretary's Report: Jeanette asked Barb, our church secretary to remove Jared Copeland's name from the Council member list and add Dawne Veet's name to the list. She supplied Barb with Dawne's current email address.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education: No Report. Pastor Joel informed Council that the first Sunday School for the youth age children of our church was successful.

Child Protection Policy: No Report.

Fund Raising:

GermanFest - Report was submitted and reviewed by Council.

Mutual Ministry: No report. There is a meeting scheduled for November 16, 2022.

Property: No report.

Scholarship BOT: Jim informed Council that Savannah is a senior this year and Tyler will be a sophomore in the fall of 2023.

Social Ministry: No Report.

Stewardship: There is no formal committee at this time.

Welcome Committee: Report was submitted and reviewed by Council.

Worship and Music: No report. The next meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2022.

Finance Committee: There is a meeting scheduled to discuss the budget on November 14, 2022 at 6:00 pm in the conference room.

Pastor's Report: Report was reviewed by Council. Pastor Joel mentioned there will be a date scheduled for an evening visioning meeting. In addition, Penny offered to contact the Hanna Food Pantry to ask a representative to attend a church service at Our Saviour to speak to the congregation about the pantry and raise awareness of their endeavors.

Old Business:

- **Covid-19:** Brad mentioned that their meeting was cancelled.
- **Hall Available Sign for in front of the church:** Brad has ordered a 2 foot by 6 foot, one-sided mesh sign with stakes from Get It Now Print.
- **Polling Station for Primary Election on November 8, 2022, Bake Sale Table:** Jeanette will put a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for members to volunteer to help sell baked goods. Jeanette and a few volunteers will set up the bake sale table on the evening of Monday, November 7, 2022 at 7:30pm. Brad will supply a cooler with ice for the cans of soda and Jim will make sure there will be a cash box with change for customers.
- **Visioning for Church/Town Meeting:** The meeting for Saturday, October 15, 2022 will be held.

New Business:

- **Budget for 2023:** Jim mentioned the Finance Committee will meet to discuss the budget.
- **Purchase of new Christmas tree for the Sanctuary:** The total donations raised for the purchase of a new Christmas tree were \$730.00. Discussion took place about who should shop for and purchase the tree. It was decided that it would be appropriate for the Music and Worship Committee to take care of this.
- **Box Cast Presentation Via Zoom:** Herb Logan arranged for a Zoom meeting to take place at 7:30pm. The meeting was led by Tom, a representative from the Box Cast Company. Tom had contacted Herb to let him know that there were additional features and benefits of Box Cast that we probably weren't aware of but in his opinion could prove to be beneficial to our church. He reviewed some of these benefits with Council. Dawne Veet mentioned the Praise Hymn Singers group might be interested in using livestreaming. There was discussion about the possibility of offering livestreaming services to other outside groups who are interested in using the church's facilities.

He also reminded us that we can utilize him to provide training and assistance on ways to get more use from the livestreaming capabilities.

Tom offered a discount to the church to keep our business. If we pre-pay for the entire year, our subscription will be \$891.00. This year's subscription price was \$1,188.00.

The Lord's Prayer was said and a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jeanette at 8:35 pm and seconded by Pastor Joel.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 9, 2022 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Jeanette Logan, Council Secretary



Manor at Oakridge
Senior Living Community
Is Hiring
Part-time Waitstaff

You must be at least 15 years old and
able to work evenings and weekends
No experience necessary

To apply go to: atriacareers.com
Location tab: type in Harrisburg, PA

If you have any questions, please contact
Craig Brocato at 717-540-1895

Manor at Oakridge
Senior Living Community
Is Hiring
Part-time Prep Cook and
Kitchen Utility Worker

You must be at least 18 years old and able
to work evenings and weekends
No experience necessary

To apply go to: atriacareers.com
Location tab: type in Harrisburg, PA

If you have any questions, please contact
Craig Brocato at 717-540-1895

**OUR SAVIOUR
FINANCIAL REPORT
through October 31, 2022**

ENVELOPES AND PLATE	\$ 111,127.29
FUND RAISING	\$ 20,924.90
FELLOWSHIP HALL RENTAL	\$ 280.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 132,332.19

EXPENSE	<u>\$ 158,939.66</u>
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DEFICIT	<u>\$ (26,607.47)</u>
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**PNC BANK STATEMENT BALANCES
AS OF September 30, 2022**

CURRENT FUND	\$ 6,857.12
MEMORIAL FUND	\$ 90,221.42 *

THRIVENT ACCOUNTS

	<u>10/31/2022</u>	<u>9/30/2022</u>
CURRENT FUND MUTUALS	\$ 59,850.86	\$ 55,551.43
SCHOLARSHIP MUTUALS	\$ 151,273.54	\$ 140,225.98

* \$61,000 of Memorial Fund is from the Neidich estate.

\$1,519.39 of Memorial Fund is from the Ruth Knerr estate to be used for Christian Ed expenses.



Yolanda Barron	12/6
Savannah Beachtel	12/11
Caleb Guldner	12/22
Kathy Kreischer	12/23
Alex Parson	12/23
Alexandra Kessler	12/26
Margaret Minnich	12/26

Susquehanna Chorale to Perform Traditional Candlelight Christmas Concerts

The Susquehanna Chorale, a nationally acclaimed adult chamber ensemble of 40 auditioned singers, including our organist, Mitchell, will present its traditional *Candlelight Christmas* concert series with evening programs in the Harrisburg area on Friday and Saturday, December 16th and 17th and a matinee on Sunday, December 18th. The programs will be conducted by Founder, Artistic Director, and Conductor Linda L. Tedford.

The three performances are at three different locations. The Chorale will perform December 16th at 7:30 p.m. at the Calvin and Janet High Center for Worship and Performing Arts, Messiah University in Mechanicsburg; December 17th, at 7:30 p.m. at Leffler Chapel and Performance Center, Elizabethtown College in Elizabethtown; and December 18th, at 4:00 p.m. at Market Square Presbyterian Church in Harrisburg. A pre-concert instrumental recital will be presented by the Messiah University Brass 15 minutes prior to each performance. A reception for the audience and singers is planned following each program.

Tickets may be purchased through the Susquehanna Chorale website at <https://susquehannachorale.org/performances> or by calling the Messiah University Box Office at (717) 691-6036, Option #1. Discounts are available for groups of 10 or more.



Pastor Joel, Mitchell, and Barb would like to wish everyone a very Blessed, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!





Sun

Mon




Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1	2	3
4 - Advent 2 9:30 am - Worship With Children's Sunday School 10:45 am - Adult Sunday School	5 7 pm - Christian Ed. Pastor out of the office	6	7 6 pm - Advent Soup & Worship (7 pm) @Good Shepherd	8	9 Pastor in the office	10 10-10:30 am - Live Nativity @Christkindlmarkt
11 - Advent 3 9:30 am - Worship	12 deadline for committee council reports	13	14 2 pm - Bible Study @Manor @Oakridge 6 pm - Advent Soup & Worship (7 pm) @Good Shepherd 6:30 pm - Council	15	16	17 Christmas Caroling - meet at church by 1:45pm
18 - Advent 4 9:30 am - Worship 10:45 am - Adult Sunday School newsletter deadline	19	20	21 6 pm - Advent Soup & Worship (7 pm) @Good Shepherd	22 vacation day for Barb	23 office closed	24 - Christmas Eve 7 pm - Worship 
25 - Christmas Day 9:30 am - Worship of Lessons & Carols	26 office closed	27	28 2 pm - Bible Study @Manor @Oakridge	29	30 office closed - vacation day for Barb	31 - New Year's Eve 

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

9:30 am.

Please join us! We also offer 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.