

Good News

February 2022



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

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Lately, I have been hearing the word “trauma” quite a bit. I attended the Trauma Training 101 class sponsored by Family Promise not long ago. And then, Bishop Dunlop talked about trauma at the recent pastors’ Zoom meeting. In particular, the Bishop described the ongoing pandemic in terms of trauma. Trauma can be defined as “an emotional response to a terrible event.”

During that meeting with the Bishop, he asked us pastors three questions: 1) What have been your challenges during this pandemic? 2) What surprise blessings have emerged for you from the pandemic? and 3) How have you grown spiritually during the pandemic?

These questions are not just helpful for us as individuals, but I also think they are questions worth considering as a congregation. Here is how I would answer the questions with respect to our church.

What have been the challenges during this pandemic? We have not been able to celebrate communion as we had in the past. We have not seen all of our members in worship; several members are still apprehensive about in-person worship. We have had to cancel egg making last year and have had to scale back our GermanFest event last year, and so our outreach to the community has been affected.

What surprise blessings have emerged from the pandemic? We have added livestream and Zoom capabilities. We have begun a relationship with Epiphany Lutheran Church. We have had the opportunity to change the carpet in the sanctuary and to paint the sanctuary and fellowship hall.

How have we grown spiritually during this pandemic? This question is harder to answer because it is different for everyone. Nonetheless, our congregation has begun to conduct Bible Study with the folks at the Manor at Oakridge. We have reestablished Adult Sunday School on Sunday mornings. We have been holding Confirmation Class with students from both Our Saviour and Epiphany. We participated in the Live Nativity at the Linglestown Christkindl Markt, a new endeavor for several of our members. Many folks in our church have taken on new responsibilities in the life of the church because circumstances have made it necessary to do so. Our congregational council is working to be more engaged in the ministries of the church, particularly by serving as liaisons to the various committees. All of these things influence our spiritual well-being, whether through service or learning or worship.

Now, back to the word “trauma.” In talking about “trauma” with others, I am finding that there is a feeling that the pandemic is not so much a “traumatic” experience. For some, it surely is. But, for many people the pandemic has just been terribly exhausting. Regardless, the three questions posed by the Bishop are helpful. And these questions I would ask you to consider in your own life. In my opinion, the third question is most important: How have you grown spiritually during this pandemic? How would you answer that question.? Has your relationship with God grown in certain ways? Why or why not?

I guess, the point of this whole exercise (that is, examining these three questions) is self-reflection. It is one thing to go through life, and through a pandemic, without necessarily thinking about it. But, it is another thing altogether to consider who we are during the journey. Who have we become during this pandemic? How have we been changing? Are those changes good or bad? Only when we do the important work of self-reflection can we assess truly who we are and who we want to become.

Thank you for taking some time to read this article and entertaining these questions. I hope your self-reflection is a blessing to your life. God is good. All the time.

In Christ, *Pastor Joel Petruschke*

The Lessons for February 2022

February 6 — Epiphany 5

Isaiah 6:1-13

Psalm 138

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Luke 5:1-11

February 13 — Epiphany 6

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Psalm 1

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Luke 6:17-26

February 20 — Epiphany 7

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

Luke 6:27-38

February 27 — Transfiguration of Our Lord

Exodus 34:29-35

Psalm 99

2 Corinthians 3:12 - 4:2

Luke 9:28-43a



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

Opportunities for worship. This is something of which the church constantly needs to be mindful. Indeed, we need to find ways by which people are able to worship. For instance, one of things I hear often from folks about Sunday morning worship is that it is too early. Now granted, we did move our worship time back to 9:30am, but we once had a 10:45am worship time which was more agreeable for some of our members. Some of our members need more time in the morning to get themselves ready for worship. At least, that is what I hear from some folks.

And so, I do remind those folks that our worship is livestreamed. Thus, if such persons are unable to be present in person at the 9:30am service, there is still the option to view the service from their home without having to be “presentable.” And, if 9:30am is still too early to watch the worship at home, I also remind folks that the service is recorded, so it can be watched at one’s leisure at any time.

Now, many of the same folks who are unable to be present in person at worship at 9:30am are also unable to watch the service via computer. The reason being, they just don’t have access to a computer or are not techno-savvy. Or, they just don’t like to “watch” worship. Worship is not worship unless it is in person. So, I have another opportunity for those persons who are unable to be with us on Sunday morning at 9:30am, or who don’t have computer access, or who don’t want to simply watch worship.

This past month I began conducting a monthly worship at the Manor at Oakridge off Linglestown Road. The residents had asked for a service whereby they could receive Holy Communion. Unfortunately, there had not been a service at the Manor in which the sacrament was offered. So, I agreed. Now, the plan is to hold a communion service once a month on the fourth Sunday of the month. The service will be at 3:45pm and will be in the chapel at the Manor at Oakridge. I shared all this with you so as to offer another opportunity for worship. Here is then a service later in the day. Here is a service in person. Here is a service whereby there is the preaching of God’s Word and the administering of Holy Communion. Now, some might say, “But I like to worship at my own church at Our Saviour.” To which, I have to throw up my hands and say, “I am trying to do my best here to provide every opportunity for worship to meet your needs. Please work with me.”

The relationship we are developing with the Manor at Oakridge is actually quite interesting. We have already been conducting bimonthly Bible Study at the Manor. The plan was to incorporate more folks into our regular Bible Study. Since we were only getting a few out for Bible Study at Our Saviour, it was decided to take Bible Study on-the-road. This way we could get more people involved and have a more lively Bible Study. And that vision has seemed to work. It has been a win-win for the residents at the Manor and the members of Our Saviour who participate in Bible Study. In the same way, by conducting worship at the Manor, it can also be a win-win for both parties. The residents at the Manor can receive Communion and members from Our Saviour have another option for worship. So, I put this other worship time out there for you to consider, particularly if you have been unable to worship in person or virtually. Again, opportunities for worship are what we need to keep in mind. I pray that everyone who wants to worship then, will indeed find a means to do so.



A Word on Stewardship

This month the church remembers Martin Luther who died on February 18th. Luther is important for he taught us what it means to be righteous before God. Luther said, "The righteousness of God is that by which the righteous live by a gift of God, namely, by faith."

This month is also Black History Month. So, this month is also a most appropriate time to talk about what justice means. My dictionary defines justices as "fairness," "reward or penalty as deserved," and "the administration of law."

In the New Testament the Greek word δικαιοσύνη stands for both justice and righteousness. So, according to the Bible, to be just is to be righteous. To be a righteous person is to be one who stands for justice. Now, righteousness and justice are very "heady" terms. There is a lot contained in those words. So, I have always found it helpful to define "righteousness" as simply "doing what is right." And justice means the same thing, "doing what is right."

As people, not just as Christian people, but as people in general, we are supposed to do what is right by our neighbor. We should not lie, or cheat, or defraud our neighbor. We should not speak ill, or defame, or slander our neighbor. We should not harm, or insult, or abuse our neighbor in any way. We should advocate for our neighbor. We should seek our neighbor's well-being. So, if we want to be seen as righteous before God, then we need to do what is right by our neighbor. Pure and simple.

When we think about being a good steward of God's grace, we must think about what it means to embody the righteousness of God. We must therefore think about what it means to do right by our neighbor. The people who have made a mark in history, people like Martin Luther, people like Martin Luther King, Jr., people like Malala Yousafzai, people like Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and others...these people have left a mark on history because they have done what is right by their neighbor. That is all God asks of us. Micah 6:8 states, "What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

Easter Egg Making For 2022

Easter egg making will start on February 5, 2022. Teams have been organized, but we are still looking for volunteers.

We can start taking orders on February 7, 2022, but ONLY for peanut butter eggs at this time. The committee met on January 25, 2022 and decided to keep the eggs the same size, but to increase the price to \$1.25 due to increased costs of ingredients. Please check on places where you previously sold eggs and let them know about the price increase. We are always looking for new places to sell our eggs.

We are looking forward to resuming the egg making project this year. And, 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.

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

Nadine Martin and Donna Miller
Co-chairs



Dear Padre,

During one of our Adult Sunday School lessons the question was asked, "Who was the first woman ordained as a rabbi, and who was the first woman ordained as a pastor?"

Signed, Member of Adult Sunday School

Dear Sunday School Member,

Regina Jonas was the world's first ordained female rabbi. She was ordained in 1935 in Germany. However, before her there was Asenath Barzani, who some scholars consider to be the first female rabbi in Jewish history. Barzani was born in 1560 and died in 1670. She was a rabbinical scholar and poet. She lived in Kurdistan.

Antoinette Brown Blackwell was the first woman to be ordained a minister of a recognized denomination in the United States. She was ordained in 1853 within the Congregational Church. The first ordained female pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was Elizabeth Alvina Platz. She was actually ordained within the Lutheran Church in America, the predecessor body of the ELCA. She was ordained in November 1970.

Thanks for your question.

Signed, *Padre*



Family Promise News

Due to COVID, it has been quite some time since we hosted a family at Our Saviour. I am so excited to report that on January 16 through January 22, Our Saviour, along with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, was finally able to host a family again. It was a tremendous success and a great delight. The family we hosted was a small family consisting of a mother and her son. The success of this host week and our desire to host again in the spring would not be possible without the volunteers who take the time to prepare meals, provide van transportation, and provide overnight coverage. Thank you to all who volunteered!



Matt Wagner, Family Promise Network Director, will be speaking at Good Shepherd's Women's Gathering on Monday, February 14, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. Matt will discuss recent changes in the Family Promise Program. This presentation is open to anyone (not just women) who is interesting in learning more about Family Promise. If you would like to attend, please contact me at (717)497-1200. Thank you.
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.



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 Tuesday, December 14, 2021

Members Present: Pastor Joel Petruschke, President Anneke Fleming, Vice President Brad Neil, Treasurer Jim Lubrecht, Secretary via Zoom, Jeanette Logan and Jared Copeland.

Members Absent: Penny Zimmerman

The meeting opened with Prayer at 6:32 pm.

A motion to approve and accept the minutes as edited from the council meeting on November 10, 2021 was made by Pastor Joel and seconded by Brad Neil. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Jim reported that the expenses have been updated to the end of December 2021. There was conversation regarding the bill for livestreaming our church services. Jim paid the bill of \$1,188.00 for 2022 which is a year's subscription for the service. The question was asked if there is a possibility of paying monthly for the service? Jeanette was asked to ask Herb if there is an option for a monthly payment. In addition, does Herb have a copy of the invoice?

Jim made a motion to add a line item to the Budget for 2022 under Worship and Music to reflect the streaming service cost. The line item will be listed as, "Live Stream Services." The motion was seconded by Jared. Motion carried.

Anneke asked Jim to supply a notation of the mutual funds and all other monies in the monthly Treasurer's Report.

Pastor Joel mentioned that he and Jim composed a letter for the congregation and included it in the newsletter. This letter gives the congregation a status of our financial situation.

The Treasurer's report is filed for audit.

Secretary's Report: Jeanette advised the council that the minutes from the January 2021 Congregational Meeting as well as the minutes from the Congregational Meeting in September 2021 were provided to Barb, our church Secretary, as well as Anneke and Pastor Joel. These minutes will be made available to members of the congregation at our upcoming Congregational Meeting in January 2022.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education:

- Pastor Joel mentioned he is holding an adult Sunday School class that meets after the church service and is held twice a month. There have been 6 members who have been in attendance.
- Confirmation class is still meeting every Thursday. Our Saviour's two students are scheduled to be confirmed on Pentecost Sunday 2022. The two students from Epiphany are Braden and Tommy and they still have another year of confirmation instruction. Pastor Joel is not sure he will continue their instruction or if their Interim Pastor (or called Pastor if Epiphany has one by then) will complete their instruction. The students have

been very faithful about attendance to the Zoom meetings and Pastor Joel continues to encourage the students to complete their sermon summaries. Overall, he is pleased with the students' progress and he has enjoyed working with them.

Child Protection Policy

- Pastor Joel will be working with Chairperson Jessica Copeland. The committee will need to have 3 people. There is a need to finalize the new revisions to the policy and it will need to be brought to Council. Jared Copeland offered to also be on that committee.

Fund Raising: No report.

Mutual Ministry: No report.

Property: See Old Business

Scholarship BOT: No report.

Social Ministry:

- Jeanette reported that the Salvation Army project was very successful and thanked the congregation for their generosity. She will ask Barb to include a note in Sunday's bulletin thanking the congregation for their gift donations.

Stewardship: No report.

Welcome Committee: No report.

Music and Worship: No report.

Finance: No report.

Pastor's Report: A report from Pastor Joel was submitted to Council and included in the records.

Old Business:

Bench Project: Pastor Joel spoke with Donna Miller and she informed him that the bench is on back order.

Lending Library: Pastor Joel will contact Phoebe, the Property Chair, about potential signage. The church has Home Depot gift cards available which could potentially be used to purchase signs for the lending library.

Inside and Outside Lights and Other Property Items:

- Pastor Joel mentioned that Nedda Pollock donated a decorative lamp which is outside at the front entrance of our church. She mentioned that we could use it as a donation for the Silent Auction at Germanfest or we could keep it for the church's use.
- Pastor Joel said it might be a helpful light source for the Christmas Eve service. It would illuminate the area where the curb can be tricky to see during evening hours.
- Jeanette will ask Barb to put a thank you note to Nedda in this week's bulletin and she will also send Nedda a personal thank you note from Council.
- Brad gave an update on a total of 5 outside lights that were having issues. Two of the outside lights are now working and all of the indoor lights have been taken care of.
- The outdoor Signage for Banquet Hall and Kitchen Rental availability was discussed. Initially, before COVID, Herb looked into the possibility of getting a vinyl sign to replace the heavy wooden sign that would fall over

during large gusts of wind. It was mentioned that Toby might be someone who could build another sign. Anneke will talk with Toby. She asked that Herb contact Toby after the holidays to continue plans for the sign. We will need to get the dimensions needed for the sign and it should read, "Banquet Hall w/ Kitchen Available (717)545-9992." Jeanette will let Penny know that she doesn't need to pursue another vinyl sign quote.

Council Members to join church committees:

The following committees will include these Council Members:

Scholarship BOT: Jim Lubrecht

Anneke Fleming

Music and Worship: Jim Lubrecht

Finance: Jim Lubrecht (Chair)

Jared Copeland

Property: Brad Neil

Mutual Ministries: Brad Neil

Fund Raising: Jeanette Logan

Welcome: Jeanette Logan

Penny Zimmerman

Social Ministry: Penny Zimmerman

Christian Education: Penny Zimmerman (Anneke will ask Penny)

Pastor Joel and Anneke will float between all committees.

Jeanette will send this list to all Council Members

New Business:**Tentative Meal with Tabernacle Baptist Church:**

- Pastor Joel has been in contact with Two Gals Catering regarding menu options.
- Council discussed having an Epiphany Meal in January since it is too late to organize a Christmas meal. Due to Tabernacle's church services, a dinner on a Sunday afternoon around 1:30 or 2:00 pm would work best. Pastor Joel will look into possible dates for the meal.

Agenda for Congregational Meeting in January 2022:

- Anneke addressed the fact that we need to put together an agenda for the meeting. We can refer to the agenda which was used last year. There should be a state of the union address and all committees will have an opportunity to give their reports. Jim will provide a Treasurer's Report.
- The minutes from the January 2021 Congregational Meeting as well as the minutes from the September 2021 congregational meeting will need to be approved at this meeting.

Leadership Vision:

- Pastor Joel and Anneke have had a conversation on the church's vision for 2022. There was also discussion on the need to collect information from our congregation as to where we want to go as a church, council will conduct more discussions on this in the following meetings.

Freeconferencecall.com option/possibility:

- Pastor Joel, Anneke and Barb have been testing this service for meetings to replace Zoom. Anneke has used this service and has been happy with it. This service would be free. We currently pay to use Zoom.
- Anneke will set up a Freeconferencecall meeting to test it out with Council members and the discussion will be made at the next Council meeting to go with this free service.

Financial Audits: John Zimmerman has agreed to do the church's financial audits for 2019, 2020 and 2021.

A motion to adjourn at 8:40 pm was made by Pastor Joel and seconded by Brad Neil. Motion carried.

Lord's Prayer was said.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanette Logan
Council Secretary





Aaliyah Armstrong	2/8
Merlin Beachell	2/8
Jonah Petruschke	2/10
Renee Gibson	2/11
Michael Balas	2/13
Arryus Hanton	2/18
Don Hoepfer	2/27
Dottie Koppenhaver	2/27

FEBRUARY



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 6:30 pm - COVID-19 Task Force via Zoom	3 7 pm - Confirmation	4	5 10 am - Memorial Service for George Sheleman Egg Making begins
6 - Epiphany 5 9:30 am - Worship 10:45 am - Adult Sunday School Egg Making	7 6 pm - Welcome Committee Deadline for committee reports for Council	8	9 2 pm - Bible Study @Manor @Oakridge 6:30 pm - Council Egg Making	10 Egg Making	11	12 Egg Making
13 - Epiphany 6 9:30 am - Worship Egg Making	14 	15 Barb out of the office	16 6:30 pm - Worship & Music Egg Making	17 7 pm - Confirmation Egg Making	18	19 Egg Making
20 - Epiphany 7 9:30 am - Worship 10:45 am - Adult Sunday School Egg Making newsletter deadline	21 6:30 pm - Racial Justice Forum @Our Saviour 	22	23 2 pm - Bible Study @Manor @Oakridge Egg Making	24 7 pm - Confirmation Egg Making	25	26 Egg Making
27 - Transfiguration 9:30 am - Worship 3:45 pm - Worship @Manor @Oakridge Egg Making	28					

The Evangelical Lutheran
CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR
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Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17109

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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.