

Good News

January 2022



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

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

First and foremost, I want to thank you, my sisters and brothers in Christ, for your cards, gifts, and Christmas blessings toward me and my family. Your kindness and generosity is overwhelming. Again, I am so grateful for all of you and the work we do together in serving the Lord.

Now during this recent holiday season, the high school choral group at Cedar Cliff High School (CCHS), of which my son is a member, performed a beautiful song as part of their winter concert. The song is called "Underneath the Stars" by Kate Rusby, an English folk singer-songwriter from Penistone, West Riding of Yorkshire, England. Apparently, Rusby is one of the best known contemporary English folk singers. Who knew? I have never heard of her until the choral group from CCHS performed "Underneath the Stars" a cappella. It was absolutely lovely. Rusby's original version is also amazing. In that original version, she performs the song with acoustic guitar. I encouraged you to google it so as to listen to it.

As I interpret the lyrics, Rusby is speaking about the expression "it's in the stars." That expression of course means that it was fated to happen. For example, people might say, "It was in the stars that they would meet and fall in love." In the song, however, Rusby questions whether the stars have "regretted her," that is, whether the stars have abandoned her, because she laments the loss of a relationship. Even so, she is hopeful. She is sitting underneath the stars hoping to "befriend" the stars again, that they might look favorably upon her once more.

This month, on January 6th, we observe the festival of Epiphany. Epiphany marks the arrival of the wise men at Bethlehem. The wise men, we remember, had observed a star in the sky and had followed it to the place of Jesus' birth. The wise men travelled underneath the stars. The wise men, we could say, understood Jesus' birth as fated to happen. The birth of Jesus was "in the stars." In other words, there is something tremendously hopeful about the Epiphany. The Epiphany reminds us of hope.

Now, as people of faith, we obviously don't put our hope "in the stars." We don't put our trust in things like astrology. Not that God can't use signs in the stars above, as God does at the time of Epiphany. But our trust is firmly set in the Savior Jesus Christ. Our hope is in the person Jesus Christ. This is what Epiphany teaches us. The wise men, although directed by a star, come to pay homage to Jesus. In fact, they are the first non-Jewish people to give worship to Jesus. They put their trust in Jesus, even though Jesus' birth is announced in the stars.

I have been thinking about this distinction a lot—the difference between things like astrology and the Christian faith. People put their faith in all sorts of things: the stars, money, power, you name it. But we Christians ground our faith and trust in a relationship with God through Jesus Christ, not in some abstract thing like the stars. And so, how we find hope in this world is through the relationships we foster and nurture in this world. God has come to be among us because God wants to be in faithful relationship with us. God doesn't want to remain aloof. God doesn't want to remain distant as some deity far away in the sky. God wants to be engaged intimately with God's creation and with God's people. Hope is in relationships, most especially in our relationship with God.

This is my hope for us then as a people of God as we enter 2022. My hope is that our relationships with God and with one another are all the more strengthened. Whether we are talking about relationships in our family, in our neighborhoods, in our schools and workplaces, in our churches and other places of worship, and in our society as a whole, it is my hope that any and all relationships will be strengthened. For ultimately, this is the hope of the world. That hope was written in the stars, when the wise men followed the star to Bethlehem and strengthened their relationship with the Christ Child.

In Christ, *Pastor Joel Petruschke*

The Lessons for January 2022

January 2 — Christmas 2

Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:1-18

January 9 — Baptism of Our Lord

Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 16 — Epiphany 2

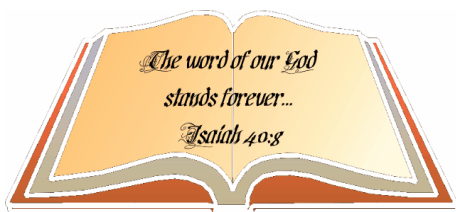
Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

January 23 — Epiphany 3

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-21

January 20 — Epiphany 4

Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Luke 4:21-30



Annual Congregational Meeting

Per our By-Laws and Constitution a Congregational Meeting is scheduled for January. This meeting will be held after our worship service on January 23rd, with a snow date of January 30th. A quorum of 30 voting members is needed to conduct this meeting, so please make every effort to attend. Thank you.



Reminder to all committee chairs: Please get your annual reports to the office no later than Wednesday, January 12th. Submission via email is preferred. 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

As we emerge from this Christmas season, we are about to celebrate another festival that has to do with lights, namely the Festival of Epiphany. Both Christmas and Epiphany are related to pagan solstice festivals. In Egypt in 1996 B.C., the winter solstice occurred on January 6th, and there was a night festival on January 5-6 celebrating the birth of the god Aenon (Osiris) from Kore the virgin. Kind of sounds familiar, doesn't it? Christian God born of a virgin, Egyptian God born of a virgin...hmmmm.

Furthermore, on that night of January 5-6, it was believed that the waters of the Nile acquired miraculous powers and turned to wine. In comparison, in the early Church, in the East at least, the baptism of Jesus was commemorated at this time. Again, kind of sounds familiar, doesn't it? Magical powers in the water of the Nile, magical powers in the water of baptism...hmmmm.

Epiphany came to be celebrated in the West in association with the wise men, probably because the relics of the wise men were transferred from Constantinople during the fifth century. The wise men thus gained greater prominence, as people paid homage to their relics.

Now, it is interesting to note that the oldest name for the festival of Epiphany seems to have been "Theophany." That name is defined as God making God's self known to God's people in Jesus Christ at Christmas. Thus, Epiphany would appear to be a commemoration of the Incarnation, and not a festival in relation to the wise men per se. That name "Theophany" probably also had associations with Greco-Roman world, such that a state visit of a king or emperor to a city in his realm, especially when he showed himself publicly to the people, was called an epiphany.

So, on January 6th, when the church observes the Festival of Epiphany (do note, we don't have worship that day, so you will have to commemorate Epiphany on your own), we might understand that day as acknowledging God's "stately" visit to God's people. God has indeed made himself publicly known to us in his Son Jesus. Who God is, what God is about, is embodied in Christ. That is the powerful message of Christmas/Epiphany. It is why the wise men came to visit Jesus in the first place, to know God born in a child.

Family Promise News

Our Saviour, along with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, is scheduled to host Family Promise guests the week of January 16 - 22 at Our Saviour. This is all contingent on what is happening with COVID. If it continues to spread, then we will be hosting by providing evening meals at the Day Center for the week. Looking ahead to 2022, Family Promise is looking to begin a hybrid host congregation schedule whereby the guests will be at a host site for 1 week, followed by a week staying overnight at the Day Center and then followed by a week at another host congregation. If we are unable to return to rotation during the first quarter of the year, then it is hoped that we may be able to begin during the second quarter. We have been working on stringent protocols for when rotation resumes. The goal is always to keep guests, staff, and volunteers safe. If rotation happens in January, I will be contacting volunteers for meals, overnights, and van driving. YOU are what makes this program work! Thanks for all YOU do!!! Nadine Martin



Our Saviour will be hosting Family Promise's "Trauma Training 101" class on Saturday, January 15th from 9am-12noon., in our fellowship hall. In this introductory class you will learn the basic elements of the effects of trauma on the brain. You will learn about adverse childhood experiences and how they affect behavior and thought processes of adults. This will allow you to connect with others in a deeper and more meaningful way through understanding and empathy. If you would like to attend this class, please register by calling the church office (717-545-9992) or emailing the church office (ossec@comcast.net). Deadline to register is Wednesday, January 12th. **Please note:** You **do not need** to be a Family Promise volunteer to participate in this session.

A Word on Stewardship

My favorite commercials on television are the Progressive commercials that talk about “saving us from becoming our parents.” I love Dr. Rick in those commercials. However, I do take exception to Dr. Rick’s comment where he says, “The waiter does not need to know our names.” I am one of those people that when the waiter or waitress tells me their name, I proceed to introduce myself and all the other members of my family. For me, it is matter of stewardship.

The first thing we do, or should do, when we meet someone for the first time is introduce ourselves. “Hi, my name is so and so.” Indeed, there is probably no more important piece of information about another person than that of knowing that other person’s name. Knowing each other’s name establishes a relationship with the other person. It creates a sense of trust and reliance with one another. When a service person comes to our house to do maintenance on our home, I introduce myself as well make sure I know that service person’s name. When someone comes to the church for the first time, I try to make sure I learn their name and share mine with him or her. Knowing a person’s name allows us to address a person more warmly than just saying “hey, you,” and that reaps benefits in the long run.

In the life of the church, the Epiphany season is a season whereby we learn about who Jesus is. At the time of Epiphany, Jesus is introduced to us. Jesus has been born at Christmas, but the Epiphany season is about discovering who this child is that has been given to us. And so, our gospels readings each Sunday tell us something about the identity of Jesus. It is like learning our server’s name at a restaurant, only Jesus is the one who serves us by dying on the cross. And like the restaurant scenario, wouldn’t we want Jesus, who is the preeminent servant, to know our name?

There is, of course, power in knowing a person’s name. We are able to get that person’s attention when we know that person’s name. In the same way, God has given us his name so that we can call upon God in prayer. We are also able to identify a person by knowing their name. We can pick them out of a crowd. And, we can then honor that person by calling them by name. It is the same way with God. God wants us to know God’s name, so we know exactly who God is, and so we can honor God by name.

So, the message I want us to take from this article is the importance of learning another person’s name, even the person who is our waiter or waitress. And, one other point about learning another’s name, use a mnemonic device so as to be able to retrieve that person’s name when you need to. Try to relate their name to some identifying marker. For instance, perhaps the person’s name is “Gary,” but that name doesn’t stick with us. But Gary wears glasses, and so we can make a mental note that Gary wears glasses. And when Gary’s name doesn’t come to us right away, the image of him wearing glasses will trigger our memory so that we remember that his name begins with a “g” like glasses, and that may help you remember the name “Gary.”

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.



Dear Padre,

What was the first song related to God? (This was a question from a confirmation student in our class. He was responding to a sermon which had heard regarding the songs of God.)

Signed, Music to My Ears

Dear "Music to My Ears,"

We don't know what was the first song ever composed which spoke of God. However, biblical scholars believe that certain songs in the Bible represent some of the very earliest passages in the Bible. The way Bible scholars deduce this is by the archaic nature of the Hebrew as well as the more polytheistic theology. Some of those very ancient songs include Moses' song in Exodus 15, Deborah's song in Judges 5, and Psalm 29.

Another reason why some of the earliest passages in the Bible appear as songs is because this is how the stories of the Bible were first recorded and shared from generation to generation, that is, in the form of songs. Songs are easier to remember and pass along than say a narrative. Songs capture words in a poetic form that help us remember them. Songs also put words to tunes which further help us remember. For instance, we remember the words of the *Star Spangled Banner* why? In part, because we remember the tune of that song.

So although we don't know the very earliest song related to God, we do know that our ancient ancestors of the faith used songs to remember the stories of faith that were important to them. I hope this information provides some light to your question. Thanks.

Signed, *Padre*



Thank You

Pastor Joel, Mitchell, and Barb would like to thank you all for the generous staff gift, personal gifts & holiday greeting cards. Your thoughtfulness is so greatly appreciated.



The Social Ministry Committee would like to thank our members for their generous support of gifts to The Salvation Army collection. We are very grateful that our members always respond to help others in need. Nadine Martin and I delivered them to the Salvation Army and they were very appreciative for our support.

Thank you,
Social Ministry Committee
Donna Miller, Chairperson

Thank you to all who signed the card that was sent to me from the church. It really boosted my spirits when I needed it. Blessings to all. Mary Louise Shuler

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, November 10, 2021

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

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm and a prayer was offered by Pastor Joel.

Constitution and Bylaws Committee (CBC) meeting via Zoom: The following members of the CBC were in attendance via Zoom: Carol Ranck, Donna Miller and Mike Balas.

Carol Ranck started the meeting by thanking council for meeting with the committee this evening. She informed council that the CBC had a few questions to address during the meeting. She stressed that December 10, 2021 would be the deadline for council to get back to the CBC with their decision. A strict deadline is necessary since the final approval date for these documents is December 17, 2021.

Two weeks ago council was given a report by the CBC which outlined the proposed Constitution Change at C12.01 as well as the proposed Bylaws changes to update the current 2008 Bylaws. Carol led the discussion and reviewed each change explaining them in detail.

Carol also led a discussion of a summary of issues that were brought to the CBC that are Council related business questions. The questions were addressed and responses to each question were given by the CBC.

The Zoom portion of the meeting with the CBC concluded and council thanked the committee for all of their hard work throughout this extensive and lengthy process. Council agreed to get their decision to the CBC by the requested deadline of 12-10-21.

Regular Council Meeting:

Anneke reviewed a few clerical edits from the minutes from the September 26, 2021 Congregational Meeting as well as the minutes from the regular council meeting on October 13, 2021. A motion was made by Jeanette to approve the minutes as edited and Penny seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Executive Council Meeting Minutes: The minutes from the Executive Meeting on Monday, November 8, 2021 were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Penny and seconded by Jared. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Music and Worship: Discussion on whether or not it is a preferred option to go to one service on Christmas Eve beginning at 7 pm. Pastor Joel will reach out to Hope to perhaps have a Zoom meeting with council and Worship and Music to discuss the Christmas Eve service times.

Altar flower sponsors: Due to difficulties in flower shipments, Royers Flowers has had to raise prices for our weekly flowers to adorn the Altar. As of January 2022, silk flowers will replace real flowers at the Altar. Penny suggested that members have an opportunity to purchase their own flowers to be presented at the Altar for a special occasion should they desire to do so.

Christian Education: No report.

Fund Raising: No report

Mutual Ministry: Details are in Pastor Joel's report.

Property: No report.

Scholarship BOT: No report.

Social Ministry: No report.

Stewardship: No report.

Welcome: Report attached and made part of record.

Worship and Music: Have report and made part of record.

Pastor's Report: Report submitted and made part of record.

The following additions were discussed and made a part of the record.

We have the following chairs for these Committees:

Mutual Ministry- Deb Flage, Altar Guild- Joan Batemen and Child Protection Policy- Jessica Copeland.

Anneke asked Council Members to join a committee that currently doesn't have a Council member present on the committee. Each committee needs to consist of at least three people including the chair. Pastor Joel and Anneke don't count as a part of those three members.

Updates on the stained glass window repair. On 10-21-21, Brad Neil sent out an email to Council making a motion to hire the company that he has interviewed to fix the windows in the Sanctuary. He was concerned that it was important to get on the company's schedule so the work can be taken care of before the window situation worsens. Council voted via email and the motion carried. Brad has been in contact with Phoebe Drake about this.

Lending Library: Discussion took place as to the possibility of finding signage for the library. Pastor Joel will check on this.

Lights in the Sanctuary and outdoors: The lights in the Sanctuary are now working. The parking lot light cap has been repaired. Brad mentioned that he walked around the building and it does seem to be dark outside. The only outside light that is working is the one by the kitchen. In addition, two of the roof shingles have been repaired but it seems that another shingle is now down.

Outdoor Signage: There was discussion of revisiting the idea of replacing our Fellowship Hall Rental sign. Penny suggested that there is a business on Derry Street called, "Get it Now Print." She will check into this. Herb Logan had done research on replacing the sign with a vinyl sign and remembered the price to be around \$300 at the time of his research. He will check with Phoebe on this again.

Outdoor Bench Project: Pastor Joel hasn't heard anything from Donna Miller but he will check in with her.

Tabernacle Baptist Church Dinner: There is a possibility of having a dinner with them on a Saturday. This is still currently in the works.

Vera Mink as a member: Vera has decided to go to church with her daughter at Good Shepherd Lutheran so she will be taken off our church roles.

Christmas gifts for church staff: Penny Zimmerman has agreed to take care of this.

Spaghetti Dinner November 14: Presently we have 47 people signed up to attend the dinner. There will be 13 attending from Epiphany Lutheran.

Our Saviour Christmas Dinner: Pastor Joel is working with Lisa Neil on this.

Outdoor Garden: It seems that it has been weeded and winterized.

Special Council Meeting for discussion of Bylaws updates: Meeting was scheduled for Sunday, November 14th immediately following church spaghetti dinner.

New Business:

Thanksgiving Service: Pastor Joel has spoken with Herb Logan and the service will be held on Sunday, November 21 at 7:30pm. Service will be livestreamed.

Confirmands Expectations: Pastor Joel is working with the confirmands. They will be required to submit sermon summaries. They should submit them 2 times per month.

Budget 2022: The Executive Committee reviewed the 2022 budget with Jim and will present it to Council at their meeting on 12-14-2021.

A motion to approve the budget for 2022 was made by Jeanette Logan and seconded by Penny Zimmerman. Motion carried.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jared Copeland and seconded by Jim Lubrecht. Motion carried. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 14th at 6:30pm

Respectfully submitted
Jeanette Logan, Council Secretary

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Kathy Baker	1/4
Deb Flage	1/4
Ann Wolf	1/4
Jeanette Logan	1/7
Marian Tosheff	1/9
Tiffany Landis	1/14
Steve Provencher	1/14
Ruth Ondeck	1/15
Doris Balas	1/18
Jacob Gibson	1/22
Lisa Kessler	1/27
Nicholas Sheleman	1/27
Peter Ingavo	1/28
Anniya Armstrong	1/31



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Please note: Our worship time is now 9:30am.</p>						<p>1</p> <p>Happy New Year!</p> <p>New Year's Day</p>
<p>2 - Christmas 2</p> <p>9:30 am - Worship</p> <p>10:45 am - Adult Sunday School</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6:30 pm - COVID-19 Task Force via Zoom</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7 pm - Confirmation</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9 - Baptism of Our Lord</p> <p>9:30 am - Worship</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:00 pm - Altar Guild</p> <p>Deadline for committee reports for Council</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:00 pm - meeting with Epiphany @Our Saviour</p>	<p>12</p> <p>2 pm - Bible Study @Manor @Oakridge</p> <p>6:30 pm - Council</p> <p>Deadline for all committee reports for congregational</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7 pm - Confirmation</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9am - 12 noon - Trauma 101 training class</p>
<p>16 - Epiphany 2</p> <p>9:30 am - Worship</p> <p>10:45 am - Adult Sunday School</p> <p>Family Promise Host Week newsletter deadline</p>	<p>17</p> <p>MLK, Jr's birthday</p> <p>6:30 pm - Mutual Ministry office closed</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7 pm - Confirmation</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 - Epiphany 3</p> <p>9:30 am - Worship</p> <p>Annual Congregational Meeting after worship</p> <p>3:45 pm - worship @Manor @Oakridge</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:30 pm-Racial Justice Forum @TBC</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>2 pm - Bible Study @Manor @Oakridge</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7 pm - Confirmation</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30 - Epiphany 4</p> <p>9:30 am - Worship</p>	<p>31</p>					



The Evangelical Lutheran
CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR
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Phone: 717-545-9992
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Mission Statement

Our Saviour Lutheran Church, a caring congregation dedicated to the word of Christ, welcomes all people to worship and to grow with us as we share His love and salvation with our neighbors, our children and ourselves.

Worship

We have resumed our in-person, indoor worships! Our service starts @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.