

Good News

July & August 2022



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

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Every summer my family and I go to the Chautauqua Institute in the state of New York. This is where Kathy and I go for continuing education, but really it is our little heaven. No doubt you have heard me talk about Chautauqua before. Even so, I thought I would remind you of why we like going there. The Chautauqua Institute is located on the western most Finger Lake in New York. And the institute is a sort of intellectual, cultural, and spiritual playground. The grounds of Chautauqua consist of many cottages, almost all of which have a front porch where people enjoy sitting during the day. Also on campus is an outdoor amphitheater where most of the events take place including morning worship, morning lectures, evening concerts and ballet, so on and so forth. There is also a Hall of Philosophy on campus that is basically a very large pavilion. This is where the afternoon lectures take place. Cars are allowed on campus, but only to drop off and pick up at the beginning and end of each week. Otherwise, everyone walks or rides bicycles.

The summer season at the Chautauqua Institute consists of nine weeks, in which there is a theme for each week. And the lectures for each week revolve around that particular theme. So, for instance, we will be at Chautauqua for weeks four and five this year. And the themes for those weeks are “The Future of History” and “The Vote and Democracy.” So the speakers in the morning and afternoon will lecture about those respective topics.

I find Chautauqua to be quite interesting in this respect, every year I go it is different. It is not different in the sense that it looks different. Most everything stays the same appearance wise. The lake is the same. The buildings are the same. The cottages are the same. But, the weekly themes do change each year. And of course the speakers on those themes change. The preachers for worship change each year as well. The orchestra performs different music too. So, Chautauqua stays the same, but it also changes. It is almost like going to a museum where the exhibits rotate, and so you don’t experience the exact same thing every time you go. Chautauqua is like that.

Being at the Chautauqua Institute is not like other vacations. People don’t usually go on vacation to listen to lectures. People don’t usually go on vacation with the idea of expanding their minds, to be more enlightened and informed. People don’t usually do go on vacation to be challenged intellectually. But the people who go to the Chautauqua Institute are there to do just that. It is weird but when we think of “vacation” we usually think of relaxing and recharging our physical selves. But there is something to be said for relaxing and recharging our mental and spiritual selves. The Chautauqua Institute is the place for that. Hopefully, each of us finds Sunday morning worship to be an experience like that as well. We hear God’s Word, and we are challenged, we are refreshed, we are recharged. Being at the Chautauqua Institute is like that Sunday morning worship experience but on a protracted scale.

When people ask me what heaven is like, they are usually surprised to hear that the description of heaven according to the Bible is like that of one long, never ending worship service. To the contrary, the Bible describes hell as a place where there is weeping and the gnashing of teeth. I think for some an eternal worship service is probably the equivalent as weeping and the gnashing of teeth, especially for those who have not grown to enjoy worship. For others, worship is heaven. The point being is that we should live now such that heaven is not a surprise. We should embrace the opportunities in life where we are challenged, refreshed, and recharged mentally and spiritually like coming to church, or like going to places like the Chautauqua Institute. I tend to believe that heaven is probably less like vacation and probably more like Chautauqua. Anyway, the Chautauqua Institute is a little heaven for me. It is like a protracted worship experience. And, I guess I would beg to ask each of us, “What is heaven like for you?”

In Christ, *Pastor Joel Petruschke*

The Lessons for July & August 2022

July 3 — Pentecost 4

Isaiah 66:10-14
Psalm 66:1-9
Galatians 6:1-16
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 10 — Pentecost 5

Deuteronomy 30:9-14
Psalm 25:1-10
Colossians 1:1-14
Luke 10:25-37

July 17 — Pentecost 6

Genesis 18:1-10a
Psalm 15
Colossians 1:15-28
Luke 10:38-42

July 24 — Pentecost 7

Genesis 18:20-32
Psalm 138
Colossians 2:6-19
Luke 11:1-13

July 31 — Pentecost 8

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23
Psalm 49:1-12
Colossians 3:1-11
Luke 12:13-21

August 7 — Pentecost 9

Genesis 15:1-6
Psalm 33:12-22
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Luke 12:32



August 14 — Pentecost 10

Jeremiah 23:23-29
Psalm 82
Hebrews 11:29 - 12:2
Luke 12:49-56

August 21 — Pentecost 11

Isaiah 58:9b-14
Psalm 103:1-8
Hebrews 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17

August 28 — Pentecost 12

Proverbs 25:6-7
Psalm 112
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
Luke 14:1, 7-14

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

Some people say that they find God in nature. For some people a walk in the woods is worship. I was thinking about that notion of worship as I was reading a particular book recently. The book is entitled *The Overstory* by Richard Powers. Powers won the Pulitzer Prize for this book. The book is unique in that it is described as “environmental fiction”. So, in essence, it is a book that tells a fictitious story but intertwined within the story is a whole host of facts and information about the environment, particularly about trees. And in truth it is what I learned about trees that interested me more than the story itself.

For did we know that trees communicate? Experimentation has shown that some trees will produce a defense response to certain pests that attack those trees. But what is interesting is that neighboring trees that are not attacked by those pests will also produce a defense response, in order to stave off an attack. How do those trees know how to do that? Well, it has been discovered that trees communicate to their neighbors, by emitting a warning through the air. Trees communicate.

And did you also know that trees connect to one another underground? The roots of one tree will actually fuse with the roots of another tree. Indeed, the trees comprising a whole forest might be more interconnected than first realized.

We look at trees and think they are all individuals. We look at trees and think they are unaware. We look at trees and think “how much lumber can I get from tree”, or “what products can I get from this tree”. We look at trees and think they are there for the taking. But there might be a lot more to a tree and to a forest of trees than we think.

So when we hear people say that they find God in nature, and a walk in the woods is their worship, there may be a lot of truth in that. We commune with other people when we gather for worship in a church. When we gather with trees in a forest there is also communion. Certainly trees commune with other trees. They stand like so many lines of people in pews and they give praise to God by doing what trees do as their part in creation, providing for the gas cycle (making oxygen from carbon dioxide), cooling the planet by collecting carbon in their bodies, giving shade to creatures of the earth, so on and so forth. This is a type of worship, that is, to do what you have been made by God to do.

We can learn a lot from trees. We can learn to be more interconnected with one another. We can learn to communicate with each other. We can learn that we too need to do what God has made us to do as people, to care for our environment and for each other. Thanks be to God.

Manna Food Pantry

Our “2nd Sunday” food collection is still ongoing. During this time of continuous rising food prices 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. Thank you.



Upcoming InBetweeners Event

A Sight and Sound Theater Evening

December 10, 2022, the In-Betweeners will be going to the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster County, Pa. “*The Biblical Story of David*” will be featured as a stage play. There is a sign-up sheet on one of the tables in the Narthex with detailed information if you would like to go with us.

Dan & Anneke Fleming are sponsors for this event. Please contact Anneke or Dan for questions or comments in person. You may call them at 717-652-8367 also. Deadline to sign-up is August 7th.

A Word on Stewardship

For this article on stewardship, I want to talk about how having knowledge is good stewardship. I want us to understand that being informed is being a good steward. And in particular, I want to share with you some information of which you may or may not be aware. That information is about our ELCA's (the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) social statements. I shared this information in a sermon on July 3rd, but I thought I would also include this information in the newsletter.

The ELCA has developed a number of social statements over the years regarding a number of societal issues including abortion, the death penalty, human sexuality, the criminal justice system, peace, race, genetics, and others. The ELCA describes a "social statement" in this way: "This church shall develop social statements... that will guide the life of this church as an institution and inform the conscience of its members in the spirit of Christian liberty." In short, a social statement is meant to serve as a "guide" and is meant to "inform."

The way a social statement comes to be is through the work of a taskforce initiated within the ELCA. The voting members at the churchwide assembly will on occasion, as need arises, make a motion that the church develop a social statement regarding a particular issue. A taskforce is then formed consisting of church leaders. These church leaders solicit input from members and churches of the whole ELCA. So the process of developing a social statement is meant to include the whole Church. Once a draft document is developed it goes before the churchwide assembly for vote. Once it is approved it becomes the official stance of the ELCA. But again, a social statement is meant to be used simply as a guide and for information. Individual members of the church don't have to adopt the stance of the social statements as their particular view.

With all this said, it might be very helpful for you to look at the social statement on abortion, given the recent decision by the Supreme Court. It might serve as a guide and provide additional information for you to make sense of the issue, at least from the Lutheran perspective. Again, having good information about an issue is good stewardship. To find the ELCA's social statements go to elca.org, and type in the search engine the topic you want to learn about, such as "abortion." You will then find a link to that particular social statement.

GermanFest 2022 Is Happening!

Our Saviour's annual GermanFest event will be held on Saturday, September 10, 2022. It will be a modified event this year from 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM. A limited menu will be available of sauerbraten meals, chicken schnitzel meals and bratwurst on the grill. The meals will include sides of German potato salad and red cabbage and apples. A side of German potato salad will be served with the bratwurst.



Dining will be either eat-in or take out. A bake table will have various home-baked goods for sale (no strudel this year). Beverages (water and soda) will be available also. Recorded German music will play in the Fellowship Hall.

Tables will be set up in the Narthex for a tag sale where used items in good condition will be sold. A 9/11 Remembrance Service will be held at 10:30 AM before GermanFest starts.

We appreciate everyone who has already signed up to help with the event. We can still use a few more people to help with food prep days on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, September 7, 8 and 9. More information on the times and activity for the prep days will be provided as we get closer to September.

If you have any questions, please feel free to see/contact Pastor Joel, Deb Flage or the Church Office.

Dear Padre,

Is there somewhere special you and your family are travelling to this summer?

Signed, Interested Church Member

Dear "Interested Church Member,"

Actually my family and I just returned from our vacation to the Outer Banks of North Carolina, where we vacation each summer. However, I will share that during that vacation, my father-in-law Frank and I took a day trip to visit Edenton, NC. And I have to say that if you have never been to Edenton it is well worth visiting. My interest in seeing Edenton was due to the Roanoke River Lighthouse found there. But, when Frank and I got there we discovered there is so much more to see.

Edenton is a picturesque town located on the Albemarle Sound, and was the first permanent settlement in what is now the state of North Carolina. It had in fact once been the capitol of North Carolina. Edenton boasts of former residents who had been signers of *The Declaration of the Independence* and *The U.S. Constitution*. Edenton was home to one of the first Supreme Court justices, James Iredell. The first Secretary of the Navy, Joseph Hewes, had also lived in Edenton. Harriet Jacobs, author, abolitionist, and fugitive slave, was born in Edenton, and her story *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* centers around her life in Edenton. In 1774, fifty-one women in Edenton led by Penelope Barker protested the British's taxation and staged their own "Edenton tea party" of sorts; this was the first organized political action taken by women in the American colonies. The oldest home in North Carolina is also located in Edenton. Edenton is also home to Jacobean, Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival, and Victorian architecture spanning the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries. The town also contains what was once a Cotton Mill Village, including the mill houses used by workers, the houses for families of managers, and the industrial mill building itself. Indeed, large parts of Edenton were declared a National Historic District in 1973. The homes and buildings are simply beautiful. In sum, Edenton is a unique and wonderful town.

So Edenton is somewhere special where I travelled this summer. Like I said, I hadn't expected to be so amazed by the town. I was just going to see a lighthouse. But, if you have the chance, I would strongly encourage you to visit Edenton, to see this little corner of God's creation. Thanks for the question.

Signed, *Padre*



Spotlighting Another One Of Our Graduates - Myles Reilly

Myles Reilly graduated from Central Dauphin East high on June 10th. During his four years at East, he maintained honors/distinguished honors in all of his classes all while working part time and participating in sports. He ran cross country, indoor track and outdoor track and set several PR's in the process. His plan for now is to join one of the branches of our country's military sometime next spring/summer. His family is so proud of him!!



Council Minutes

Please Note: Council Minutes cannot be included in the newsletter until after Council has approved them.

Council did not meet in June so the May minutes have not yet been approved for publication in this edition of the newsletter.

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Saviour Minutes of the Special Congregational meeting Sunday, May 15, 2022

A Quorum for this meeting was met with 47 voting members present.

At 10:54 am Pastor Joel opened the meeting with prayer.

Council President Anneke Fleming started the meeting by reminding the congregation the reason for this Special Congregational meeting stating that Council received a verbal proposal from the Worship and Music Committee to try to return to two services, 8:30 and 10:45 am on an 8-week trial basis.

The Worship and Music Committee sent out a survey to the congregation and Hope Bowling, Committee Chair, shared the survey results with Council at their meeting on April 13, 2022. The result of the survey was that about 70 % of the congregation were in favor of staying with the 9:30 am service, and about 30 % were in favor of having two services, 8:30 and 10:45 am, on an 8-week trial basis.

Anneke explained to the congregation that after a lengthy discussion and much contemplation, Church Council decided that it was in the best interest of the church to have the congregation vote on whether or not we return to two services at 8:30 am and 10:45 am, or continue with one service at 9:30 am. She explained that the biggest influence of Council's decision was that Council is trying to be good stewards with the church's resources. She further explained that our church ended 2021 with a deficit, and has continued with a deficit in 2022. Having two services each week increases our church expenses. In addition, our church membership has decreased and doesn't support two services. Having one service not only helps to build our financial situation, it also provides the opportunity for our congregation to worship together and to get to know each other.

Anneke read the motion as follows: Church Council moves that we take a Congregational vote for one service at 9:30 am or two services at 8:30 am and 10:45 am. The vote will be taken by ballot. Members who are not able to attend the meeting in person have the opportunity to vote via Zoom. Zoom is monitored by one person and those Zoom votes will be recorded by that person. The motion was seconded by Mike Balas.

Anneke asked if there was any discussion.

Hope Bowling started a discussion. She informed the congregation that it was the intent of Worship and Music to go back to two services on an 8-week trial period basis. Their goal was to gather financial data, expenses such as electricity used and other variables. Anneke responded that we have to be good stewards of the church and that Council acknowledged what Worship and Music's desire was. She suggested that perhaps in September we can do a trial period of both an 8:30 am and 10:45 am service. Hope agreed that she understood what Council offered but repeated that the committee would like to look at everything including how much more electricity is used going to two services.



Point of order by Pastor Joel: Pastor informed Hope that she had the opportunity to make an amendment to the motion.

Anneke asked Hope if she wanted to make an amendment to the original motion on the floor. Hope replied by moving to motion: Conducting two services, 8:30 am and 10:45 am on a trial basis. The motion was seconded by Dawne Veet.

Discussion of the amended motion:

Lisa Neil thanked the Council for bringing it to the congregation to decide as she said the congregation has the final say over all church committees and even Council. She was confused as to why we were having this meeting when the survey showed the results of how the congregation felt however we have more than enough members for a quorum and that we have talked about this enough, have data, completed a survey and talked about this enough. We should just vote now.

Penny Zimmerman mentioned she looked at the weekly member attendance book from 2001 and gave an example of when we had 41 members at the first service and 72 members at the second service. The data currently shows in 2022 that we have approximately 45 members at one service. Obviously, attendance is down. She also mentioned that she believes we won't get true data at two services due to schedule conflicts of members. She believes if we have a trial period we would need three services and that a congregational vote would be best.

Dawne Veet mentioned that she works with data, her job is data and that there are too many holes in the data. She also said that we should trust Council to make the best decision.

Alice Lubrecht expressed that she wanted to speak against the amendment. She brought up the point that if we go to two services, we will have problems finding lay assistants. We are currently struggling to find assistants to volunteer to help with one service. How will we cover two services?

Several members mentioned that they liked hearing everyone singing at one service and that the Sanctuary was filled with more people.

Pastor Joel mentioned that Council's motion of having one service isn't permanent. One service is a temporary thing, perhaps in the future our congregation may grow in attendance again and we can resume having two services.

A member asked Hope if the 10:45 am members were asked by Council or by the Worship and Music committee for their desire to stay at 10:45 am. Hope mentioned that the committee did not ask people directly, however she was made aware of some people who said they are unable to get to church until 10:45 am and some people have told her that they lived too far away to get to church earlier.

A member asked why we are still speaking about this issue when the congregation has clearly stated through the survey what they prefer!

Anneke asked if there was any further discussion to the amended motion on the floor. After hearing none, Anneke informed the members that they would be given a ballot to vote for the amended motion. The ballots were collected by the tellers, Otis Martin, Brad Neil and Penny Zimmerman and they counted the ballots.

The votes of the Amended motion to Conducting two services, 8:30 and 10:45 am on a trial basis was as follows:

Yea 8 votes

Nay 38 votes

Abstained 1 vote

The Nays have it. The Amended motion of Conducting two services, 8:30 am and 10:45 am on a trial basis failed.

Anneke asked the Congregation if there was any discussion on the Church Council original motion.

Dawne Veet asked for a point of order: Clarification on the summer service, will we have one service?

Anneke mentioned that this question was out of order but answered the question with a 'yes'.

Jared Copeland mentioned that this is a vote we are taking today. This vote is simply taken until further notice and the results of this vote is not set in stone forever.

Hearing no further discussion, Anneke repeated the motion for the congregational members and gave the instructions for the ballot. The ballots were collected by the tellers Otis Martin, Brad Neil and Penny Zimmerman.

The ballots were counted and the results were as follows:

One service at 9:30 am – 41 votes

Two services at 8:30 am and 10:45 am –5 votes

Abstained - 1 vote

The 41 votes for One service at 9:30 am have it. The motion carried.

Pastor Joel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:46 am and it was seconded by Kathy Sheetz. The motioned carried.

Respectfully Submitted by
Jeanette Logan, Council Secretary

Thank You Notes We Received

I would like to thank the congregation for the generous scholarship award that I received on June 12th. The scholarship will be used towards my tuition at HACC this fall. The support and love you have shown me over the years has meant a lot to me. Thank you again for your generosity.
Love, Hannah



Pastor Joel,

On behalf of *The Praise Him Singers*, I want to thank you and your congregation for your generous support in allowing us to use the facilities at Our Saviour for our rehearsals and concert. It was a very successful season for us, and we are greatly indebted to your people for their blessing to us.

I have contacted Dawne as we would like to return to Our Saviour for our fall 2022 season.

In Christ, Jim Hess, president

Christian Ed. Survey

Hello,

The Christian Ed. Committee is looking to gather information on the interest in restarting OSL's Sunday School Program. Please take a moment to complete the form listed below. This survey is to gather initial information on interest before making final decisions on what the program would look like. Please feel free to pass this along to friends or neighbors whom you know may be interested in a Sunday School program. Survey responses should be completed by July 20th. We appreciate your participation as we work to support our youth in their faith journey.

Thank you for your time.

Kind regards,

The Christian Ed. Committee

Name of Survey Participant (your name): _____

1). I would be interested in my child/grandchild participating in Sunday School.

-Yes

-No

2). The best time that works for our family is...

-Two Sundays a month from 8:45am-9:15am

-Two Sundays a month from 11am-11:30am

-Neither option works, but we still have an interest

3). I have a child/grandchild above the age of 12 who would be comfortable helping with the Sunday School lessons.

-Yes

-No

4). Please provide the names and ages of your children/grandchildren whom you wish to participate in Sunday School.

5). I would be willing to assist with the program in some capacity.

-Yes

-No

6). Any additional comments or questions...

OUR SAVIOUR
FINANCIAL REPORT
through May 31, 2022

ENVELOPES AND PLATE	\$	57,157.55
FUND RAISING	\$	15,379.10
FELLOWSHIP HALL RENTAL	\$	50.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$	72,586.65

EXPENSE	\$	<u>82,924.66</u>
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DEFICIT	\$	<u>(10,338.01)</u>
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PNC BANK STATEMENT BALANCES
AS OF MAY 31, 2022

CURRENT FUND	\$	24,955.04
MEMORIAL FUND	\$	79,305.45 *
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	\$	2,524.70
FUND RAISING	\$	422.95

THRIVENT ACCOUNTS

	<u>5/31/2022</u>	<u>4/30/2022</u>
REGULAR MUTUALS	\$ 62,432.21	\$ 62,602.09
SCHOLARSHIP MUTUALS	\$ 159,626.76	\$ 160,041.26

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

July

Andrea Faber	7/4
Bill Sheetz	7/5
Evan Collins	7/7
Penny Zimmerman	7/9
Jessica Burigana	7/13
Marianne McCann	7/17
Marlana Zimmerman	7/17
Kathy Dare	7/20
Joan Bateman	7/21
Maria Parson	7/22
Candy Evans	7/24
Rita Capp	7/28
Karen Hoch	7/30

August

Alice Lubrecht	8/1	Donna Miller	8/27
Clare Gibson	8/2	Pastor John Schaertel	8/28
Collin Hinkle	8/3	Phoebe Drake	8/29
Justin Pitassi	8/8	Nancy Pinko	8/30
Evan Pitassi	8/11	Sue DeArmitt	8/31
Leo Pitassi	8/12	Thomas Pitassi	8/31
Jana Bernardi	8/15	Tom Snyder	8/31
Brooke Schreffler	8/22		
Melanie Trea	8/22		
Braden Halfond	8/24		
Connor Hinkle	8/27		



Sun

Mon


Tue

Wed



Thu

Fri

Sat

					1 office closed <div>Family Promise Host Week</div>	2
3 - Pentecost 4 9:30 am - Worship	4 <div>Happy July 4th</div> office closed	5	6 6:00 pm - GermanFest meeting	7	8	9
10 - Pentecost 5 9:30 am - Worship	11	12	13	14 6:00 pm - Council <div>Pastor Joel on cont. ed.</div>	15	16
17 - Pentecost 6 9:30 am - Worship	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Pastor Joel on continuing education					
24 - Pentecost 7 9:30 am - Worship	25	26	27	28	29	30
	Pastor Joel on continuing education					
31 - Pentecost 8 9:30 am - Worship						



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 - Pentecost 9 9:30 am - Worship 	8	9	10 6:00 pm - Council	11 7:00 pm - Christian Ed via Zoom	12	13
			Family Promise	Host Week		
14 - Pentecost 10 9:30 am - Worship newsletter dead- line	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 - Pentecost 11 9:30 am - Worship	22	23	24 6:30 pm - Mutual Ministry	25	26	27
28 - Pentecost 12 9:30 am - Worship	29	30	31			

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.