

Good News

June 2022



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

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

June is the month of celebration for young people. It is the time of graduations. It is the time of commencements. It is the time of confirmations. So on and so forth. June is the time of year when we recognize all that our young people have accomplished. June is the time of year when we rejoice with our young people as they start new chapters in their lives. June is the time of month when we hold rites of passage, when young people are coming of age. It is a great month because in our young people we see so much potential, and we are so proud and excited for them.

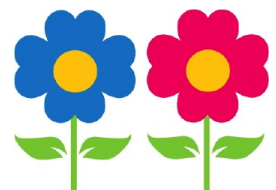
This year Hannah Zimmerman graduates from Susquehanna Township High School. She will be attending Harrisburg Area Community College in the fall, with plans to transfer later to Messiah University. She will be majoring in Health and Physical Education. Megan Cara, Nancy Pinko's granddaughter, is receiving her Master's degree in Hearing and Speech Pathology from East Stroudsburg University, and upon graduation, will work at St. Luke's Hospital, in Allentown, PA. My own son Jonah Petruschke is graduating from Cedar Cliff High School and will be attending Indiana University of Pennsylvania in the fall. He will be studying biochemistry with the hope of becoming of hematologist (that is someone who studies blood). Congratulations to our graduates, and God bless you in your future endeavors.

Within our church membership, we also want to acknowledge Hannah Zimmerman's two-year participation in the Scholarship Program. She has fulfilled the requirements of worship attendance and service hours and has been approved by the Scholarship Board of Trustees to receive her award. Hannah will receive her award on June 12th during the 9:30am worship service. Well done, Hannah, and congratulations.

We also want to acknowledge our confirmands. Evan Collins and Tyler Cristaldi have completed two years of confirmation class. They have studied the New and Old Testaments, *Luther's Small Catechism*, and have completed sermon summaries. They have been approved by congregational council. Their confirmation is scheduled for June 5th during the 9:30am service. I also want to acknowledge Tommy Hinson and Braden Wagner, who are two members of Epiphany Lutheran Church. Because Epiphany had been without a pastor at the start of the school year, these young persons joined us for confirmation class. They have completed their requirements, and Epiphany's council approved them for confirmation. And since I had worked with Tommy and Braden in confirmation class, I will confirm them on June 12th at Epiphany. Just so our congregation is aware then, we will be doing a pulpit exchange that day. Pastor Frank Terhune, the interim pastor at Epiphany, will lead worship at Our Saviour and I will be at Epiphany on June 12th, again, so that I can confirm Tommy and Braden in their own church. Congratulations to all our confirmands.

I hope we will all take a moment to congratulate our young people when we see them. Please tell them you are proud of them. For in a sense, we can all claim these young people as our own. They are part of our larger church family. And it was the apostle Paul who compared the church family to a body. Speaking about that analogy, he wrote, "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ....(therefore) if one member is honored, all rejoice together with him or her." In effect, our young people's accomplishments are all our accomplishments, because we are one in the body of Christ.

So, yes, June is a great month. It is a month of celebration. It is a great month to recognize the one body of believers and as such the body rejoices with the individual members of that body when they have accomplished great things.



In Christ, *Pastor Joel Petruschke*

The Lessons for June 2022

June 5 — Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Romans 8:14-17

John 14:8-17, 25-27

June 12 — Holy Trinity

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

Psalm 8

Romans 5:1-5

John 16:12-15

June 19 — Pentecost 2

Isaiah 65:1-9

Psalm 22:19-28

Galatians 3:23-29

Luke 8:26-39

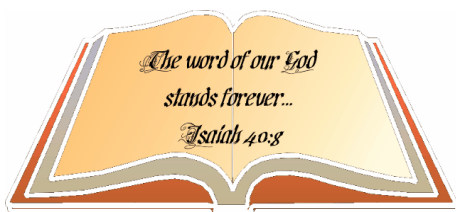
June 26 — Pentecost 3

1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21

Psalm 16

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Luke 9:51-62



Just a Reminder

Our next edition of the newsletter will be our summer **combined issue for July & August!** The deadline for submission of items to be included in that edition will be Sunday, June 19th.



Special Recognitions

We would like to recognize our confirmands: Evan Collins & Tyler Cristaldi. They have faithfully completed the two-year confirmation program and will now have the opportunity for greater service in the life of the church. They will be confirmed during our worship on Sunday, June 5th.

We would also like to recognize Hannah Zimmerman as she receives our congregational scholarship on Sunday, June 12th. Hannah has faithfully attended worship and participated in GermanFest and the egg making project and other church activities.

Congratulations to all these young persons.

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

At the time of Pentecost each year, the Church celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit. Christmas is about the gift of baby Jesus. Pentecost is about the gift of the Holy Spirit. But Pentecost doesn't get the same attention as Christmas, at least not in everyday society. It is not like people are putting up Pentecost trees in their homes. It is not like people are hanging Pentecost stockings by their fireplace. We don't go around buying toys, electronics, and the like to give as Pentecost presents. No, Pentecost doesn't get the same attention as Christmas, and yet it is similar in that God's give the world a wondrous gift. God gives God's self at Christmas. Jesus is God incarnate. He is born into our world at Christmas. Pentecost does not celebrate God incarnate, but nonetheless God gives the world God's self in the person of the Holy Spirit.

Maybe we don't celebrate Pentecost like we do Christmas, because we don't get the cute image of a baby in a manger. Maybe we don't celebrate Pentecost like we do Christmas, because we don't have a Pentecost story of wise men and shepherds coming to see the Holy Spirit. No, instead we have the story of the disciples in Jerusalem gathered together in a home. And the sound of a violent wind overtakes them, and tongues of fire appear and rested on the disciples. It is a rather peculiar scene that accompanies the gift of the Holy Spirit. But make no mistake about it, Pentecost should really be seen as on par with Christmas, because it is God giving God's self to the world.

The festival of Pentecost is most especially powerful because it is the gift of the Holy Spirit that forms the institution known as the church. Why the Church exists at all is because of the Holy Spirit. Because, what does the Spirit do? Well, Luther said the Spirit calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies. That is the four-fold work of the Holy Spirit. And we see the Spirit working to do that very thing at the dawn of the early Church. The Spirit calls the disciples and gathered them. The Spirit enlightened them in the truth of God. And the Spirit sanctified the disciples, such that they were set apart to be the people of God who share the good news of Jesus Christ.

It is this four-fold work of the Holy Spirit that is still evident today. We see it happen every Sunday. How is it that we get up and go to church on Sunday, except that the Spirit calls to our spirits and moves us to gather for worship at Our Saviour. And what does the Spirit do once we have been called and gathered, but enlighten us with the Word of God in Scripture, in song, in prayer, and in preaching. And then, because God's Word has been spoken over us, we are changed. We are now the holy people of God, sanctified to embody the good news of Jesus Christ out in the world. That is what happens on Sunday morning, EVERY Sunday morning. We are called, gathered, enlightened, and sanctified. And that only happens because the power of the Spirit is alive and well. That only happens because God has given us God's self in the person of the Spirit.

So, again, Pentecost should be celebrated as much as we celebrate Christmas, because the same thing is happening on Pentecost as on Christmas. God gives God's self to us. The Spirit has come to be among us, and the Spirit forms us into the church, such that we are the very body of Christ in the world. 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.



A Word on Stewardship

I recently read a particular poem by Billy Collins, one of my favorite poets. The poem is entitled *Solvitur Ambulando*. That is Latin for "It is solved by walking." In this poem, Collins waxes on about the idea that any problem can be solved by walking. Collins writes, "The maxim makes it sound so simple: go for a walk until you find a solution then walk back home with a clear head." Apparently, some ancient Roman came up with this idea, so says Collins.

I believe there is a lot of truth in this idea of walking to solve problems. There is something powerful about our body moving forward to make our mind move forward to solve whatever it is that is troubling us. It is as though the physical and the mental are yoked together in some way.

Certainly walking tends to calm us down and relax us. Walking tends to take us away from everything else that is going on in our lives, such that we are just by ourselves so that we can ponder things. Walking, like problem solving, is a process whereby we leave our place of origin, venture out into the world, and return some time later having experienced some small sense of transformation.

And depending on the problem we are solving, our walk may necessitate longer or shorter distances, and greater or lesser time. Solving a simple problem may require a walk around the block. Solving a more complicated problem may require a good many loops around the local park.

I think about the great problem that occupied God in Jesus Christ, that being the problem of the redemption of the world. It wasn't one of your minor problems like how to solve this or that issue at work or at home. It wasn't a minor problem that God in Jesus Christ was trying to solve. No, we are talking about how to save the world. And so, what does God in Jesus Christ do, but go for a walk. Indeed, God in Jesus Christ went for a very long walk. God in Jesus Christ walked with his disciples for three years. Jesus toured the holy land for three years performing miracles, teaching the masses, and healing the infirmed. Jesus walked and walked and walked some more. And after three years of walking, God in Jesus Christ solved the problem of redemption. Jesus would have to go to the cross and die for the sins of the world. And so, Jesus walked the *Via Dolorosa*, the way of the cross.

So, I offer this suggestion for stewarding your life and solving the problems you face: go for a walk. And during that walk, quiet your mind. And during your walk, ask for the Spirit of God to enter in and give you guidance to solve that which is troubling you. And during your walk, give thanks to God.

Graduates News

Hannah Zimmerman will be graduating from Susquehanna Township High School on Friday, June 10, 2022. She will be attending HACC in the fall with plans to then transfer to Messiah University. She will major in Health and Physical Education at Messiah.

Nancy Pinko's granddaughter, Megan Cara, will receive her Master's degree in Hearing and Speech Pathology from East Stroudsburg University in August. She will begin working at St. Luke's Hospital, Allentown PA, immediately thereafter.



Dear Padre,

Around the time of high school or even college graduations, sometimes one will hear of a Baccalaureate Service. What exactly is a Baccalaureate Service?

Signed, Inquiring Mind

Dear Inquiring Mind,

A Baccalaureate Service is typically a religious service in honor of a graduating class. But it is not a given that a high school or college will have a Baccalaureate Service. None the less, this year a small group of seniors from my son's graduating class approached my wife about the possibility of holding a Baccalaureate Service at Good Shepherd in Paxtang on May 31st. Such a Baccalaureate Service would not have happened if these students didn't want one. In other words, because of the religious overtone associated with the Baccalaureate Service, it was not a school-sponsored event.

So what happens at a Baccalaureate Service? Well, there are prayers. There is singing. There is a sermon. There are congratulations and well-wishes for the graduating class. In many respects, it is quite similar to what we see happen in a Sunday service. But usually, a Baccalaureate Service is inclusive in the sense that it doesn't cater to any one particular faith.

At the Baccalaureate Service for my son's graduating class, I was asked to preach the sermon. And so, my address to the assembly noted that this is a pivotal time in these young persons' lives. And in any pivotal moment in any person's life, two things should be foremost. One, we should give thanks to God for how we have come to be where we are at present, and two, we should look forward with hope in God to where we are being led. We look back in gratitude, and we look forward in hope. And that is the simple message I will share with the graduates, and would share with all of us whatever the pivotal moment we may be experiencing. God goes with us in life, God empowers us in life, and all we can often do is give thanks and cling to hope.

Thanks for your question.

Signed, *Padre*



Let's think about camp!

We have received the new camping corp. brochures for the upcoming 2022 summer programs. They are on the table in the Narthex. Camping is not just for children. They offer family camp & elders camp. Pick one up & check out all that is being offered this year!



Jobs are available

In addition to offering summer camping for campers the Lutheran Camping Corp. also offers summer employment for high school & college students such as: counselors, lifeguards, kitchen staff, craft staff and maintenance. More information about these opportunities is available at LutheranCamping.org/employment.

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, April 13, 2022

Members Present: President, Anneke Fleming (via Zoom), Vice-President, Brad Neil, Treasurer, Jim Lubrecht, Secretary, Jeanette Logan, Penny Zimmerman and Jared Copeland.

Members Absent: Pastor Joel Petruschke

At 6:15 pm, the meeting was called to order by Vice-President, Brad Neil.

The minutes from the Council Meeting on March 9, 2022 were reviewed and corrected. A motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made by Penny and seconded by Jared. Motion carried. Corrected minutes will be filed.

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

Jim noted that there is a net income of \$7,900 for Easter Eggs and there will be additional money coming in since all of the egg money hasn't been received at this time.

Jim informed Council that for the time period of January 2022 to March 2022 the Current Fund is at \$33,221.50. In comparison to the same period last year January 2021 to March 2021, the Current Fund was \$24,866.16. This is a difference of \$8,365.34.

Jim complimented Nadine Martin who is one of the co-chairs for the Egg Making Committee. She supplied a very detailed spreadsheet of the income and expenses for the church's egg project this year.

Jim informed Council that the Finance Committee Meeting which was scheduled for April 19th is cancelled and he will reschedule the meeting for a time in May 2022.

Brad made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and Jeanette seconded the motion. Motion carried. The Treasurer's Report will be filed.

Secretary's Report: Jeanette reported that thank you notes were sent to the three members who graciously donated the supplies for communion.

At this time Hope Bowling, the chair of the Worship and Music Committee joined the Council meeting. She presented the results of the survey that took place a few weeks ago. She informed Council that there were 49 total responses to the survey. There were 34 survey responses in favor of having 1 service each Sunday and 15 survey responses in favor of having 2 services each Sunday.

Hope explained that Worship and Music would like to try having two services for a brief period of 5 weeks. They would like to do a financial comparison between having one service and two services. After a comparison has been completed, she would like to take a vote of the membership. At the current time, she feels that the committee doesn't have the entire amount of data necessary.

Discussion continued about the concern that Council has about having two services. Does it make good financial sense to have two services when attendance is down and we are still in a financial deficit? Summer will soon be here and historically attendance drops during the summer months.

It was suggested that perhaps we wait until September to have a trial period of two services. Vacations and traveling will be over, school will resume and hopefully attendance will increase again.

After more discussion, a suggestion was made that perhaps we should take a congregational vote. If the Worship and Music Committee is hoping to have more exact data on how the membership feels about having one or two services then this congregational vote would provide the data that they are looking for.

At this point in time Hope left the Council meeting.

Jim made a motion 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 request for this special congregational meeting will be dictated by protocol in our church's By-Laws. You must be present to vote. Voting will be anonymous via paper ballot. There will be an option to attend this special meeting via Zoom. Zoom will be monitored by one person and those Zoom votes will be recorded. The majority vote rules. This motion was seconded by Brad. Motion carried. Vote shows a unanimous vote by Council members.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education: No Report

Child Protection Policy: No Report

Fund Raising: An Egg Financial report supplied by Nadine Martin was reviewed.

Mutual Ministry: No Report

Property: No Report

Scholarship BOT: There will be a meeting held at church in the Fellowship Hall on 4-18-2022 at 6:30 pm.

Social Ministry: No Report

Stewardship: No Report

Welcome Committee: No Report

Worship and Music: Hope attended tonight's meeting and gave Council an update on the congregational survey that was done a few weeks ago.

Finance: Jim advised Council of the April 19th meeting cancellation and he will reschedule the meeting for a time in May.

Pastor's Report: Report reviewed by Council

Old Business:

Bench Project: Brad informed Council that the bench remains on back order.

COVID - 19: Report was reviewed by Council.

Stained Glass Window Repairs: Brad informed Council that we are still waiting on warmer weather to proceed with this.

Hall Available Rental Sign: Brad will check with Herb to see whether or not the sign that Herb got the quote for has two sides. Brad thinks having two printed sides would be helpful so people driving by could see it from either direction on Progress Avenue.

Heating Unit for Youth Room: Brad has a meeting with Acri for the last Monday of the month to get quotes for the Youth Room.

Parking Lot Lights and light above Youth Room door: Brad called Kolva, the company who did work on the church's lights. He left a message for them to contact him. For some reason the light at the Youth Room door was removed. There are also a few lights outside that aren't functioning. Brad will reach out to them again.

Royer's Flowers payment issue for poinsettias in December: The payment for the December invoice for the poinsettias purchased by the congregation was paid by Jim in the month of January 2022. Clarification was made that we are not currently using Royer's Flowers on a consistent weekly basis.

Polling station for the Primary Election: We received a letter in the mail from Dauphin County Bureau of Registration and Elections officially stating that Our Saviour will be the official polling place for Susquehanna Township's Ward 6. The General Primary will take place on May 17, 2022. The church will be made available for use from 6:00 am to 9:00 pm on that day. It is necessary for a representative of the church to be present on site at all times throughout the day. Pastor Joel will take the 6:00 am to 12 Noon shift. Jared can cover 12 Noon to 6:00 pm. Brad offered to split the 12 Noon shift with Jared. Jared and Brad will work out those details. Anneke offered to do the 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm shift. Penny will be Anneke's back-up if needed. Jeanette will post a signup sheet in the Narthex starting at the beginning of May asking members to donate baked good items. A bake sale table will be set up in the Narthex. The public may use the women's room in the Fellowship Hall and the Family Restroom if needed.

Pastoral visits to church members - Visioning for Church/Town Meeting - Pastor Joel sent a Vision Plan email to Council on February 19, 2022. Pastor was unable to attend tonight's Council Meeting so a discussion about the plan will be conducted at the May Council Meeting.

New Business:

Monetary Donation Made to the Church: Anneke mentioned that Dawn Veet's family will be donating an amount of money to be put into the Memorial Fund.

New Council Member: Brad made a motion to accept Steve Barron as a Council Member. The motion was seconded by Jared. Motion Carried.

Anneke informed Council that she will be traveling to Europe from May 29, 2022 until June 18, 2022. Brad will take over for Anneke while she is away.

Brad made a motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Jeanette. Motion carried. Next meeting will be held on May 11, 2022 at 6:30 pm.

At 9 pm the meeting ended by saying The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeanette Logan (council Secretary)



An Update on the Hanna Hope Garden

Phase I tilling & edging completed on 5/22/22. Phase II measuring paths, path stomp, wetting cardboard, placing cardboard on designated paths & edging area, and then placing mulch on top of cardboards and more stomping completed on 5/23/22.

Phase III will be the raking/weeding of the plots and placing of compost on the plots planned for 5/26/22.

Phase IV will be the planting of vegetables by the STHS Interact students – date/time to be determined by Interact.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Tessa Minnich	6/1
Jenna Youngblood	6/3
Lauren Redman	6/12
Kelly Schreffler	6/14
Danyelle Crosby	6/14
Maggie Sheleman	6/14
Peter Ingavo	6/20
Margaret Ingavo	6/21
Ashton Ahrens	6/25
Robert Trea	6/28

InBetweeners

After a two year pause, the InBetweeners would like to begin gathering for dinners, concerts, sporting events, etc. again.

Who: a group of Our Saviour members and their friends. The only real requirement is that you are over 21.

What: times for fellowship while enjoying an afternoon/evening out at a concert, movie, dinner or sporting event.

When: the group usually meets near the beginning of the year so this year we are a little late in starting (blame COVID) to plan a monthly event for the year. One member agrees to take charge of that month and makes whatever reservations or ticket purchases are needed and then is reimbursed by attendees.

Alice Lubrecht (alicelubrecht@gmail.com) convenes the 1st meeting each year. She is proposing a picnic at the church on Sunday, June 12th beginning at 5 p.m. A sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex beginning on May 29th. If you are interested please let Alice know your email address so she can add it to the group's contact list.

Thanks, Ali





Wed

Fri

Sat

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.