

# Good News

May 2022



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

*Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,*

In school I remember an English teacher once saying that it is not grammatically correct to say, “*Can* I go to the bathroom?” Of course, the point was I *could* go to the bathroom. Of course, I was physically *able* to go to the bathroom. But what I was really asking for was for permission to go to the bathroom. And in that case, what I really wanted to say was “*May* I go to the bathroom?” And I would have us think about that grammatical term “*may*” as it relates to the month of May.

Now, the name for the month of May originally comes from the Greek goddess Maia. Maia was the goddess of fertility, which makes sense since May falls in the season of spring and is a time of fertility and new life. So, that is where the name of the month comes from.

But, I would suggest that we think of the month of May from the perspective of the word “*may*.” And the word “*may*” is often associated with service, such that we say things like the following: “How *may* I help you?” “*May* I get you something to eat or drink?” “*May* I hold the door for you?”

“*May*” is a powerful concept then when it comes to service. In the season of May, God serves us. For instance, in the season of May, we continue to celebrate the season of Easter. And Easter is the time of the year when we remember that God in Jesus Christ came not to be served but to serve. God in Jesus Christ served us by dying on the cross and rising from the dead that we may be forgiven our sins and have the promise of new life. Thus, in May, we remember that God has served us.

During the season of May, we also might think about how God serves God’s whole creation by providing for all creatures and living things. God awakens creatures from their hibernation. God awakens the plants such that they spring forth in new life. God brings about longer and warmer days for the well-being of flora. And God brings forth food from the bounty of the earth for the fauna. God serves God’s creation by providing what each and every living thing needs.

So, when I think about the goodness of God, I envision God as speaking to God’s creation and saying, “How *may* I serve you?” That blows my mind that God humbles God’s self so as to deign to serve us. God deigns to open a door for us through his Son Jesus Christ such that we may have hope. God deigns to don a waiter’s attire to bring us food and drink through the bounty of creation. God deigns to become our servant, so as to say, “How *may* I help you?”

And because God shows us the example of servanthood, we are called to be servants to one another. And the month of May may just be the best month to remind us of this calling. The month of May calls to us so that we embody the “*may*” of servanthood. And true servanthood says, “Permit me to be of assistance to you.” In short, “How *may* I serve you, my neighbor?”

In Christ, *Pastor Joel Petruschke*



## ***The Lessons for May 2022***

### **May 1 — Easter 3**

Acts 9:1-20

Psalm 30

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-19

### **May 8 — Easter 4**

Acts 9:36-43

Psalm 23

Revelation 7:9-17

John 10:22-30

### **May 15 — Easter 5**

Acts 11:1-18

Psalm 148

Revelation 21:1-6

John 13:31-35

### **May 22 — Easter 6**

Acts 16:9-15

Psalm 67

Revelation 21:10, 22 - 22:5

John 14:23-29

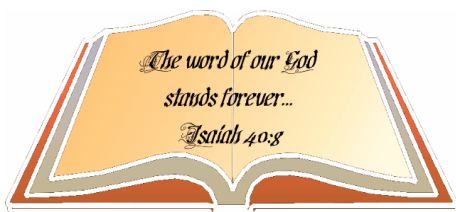
### **May 29 — Easter 7**

Acts 16:16-34

Psalm 97

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

John 17:20-26



## ***Synod Assembly Voting Members Still Needed***

The Synod Assembly this year will be held June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> **via Zoom**. We are looking for 2 volunteers to represent us at the Assembly, 1 lay female and 1 lay male, both voting member. If you are interested or have any questions, please call the church office or Pastor Joel. Thank you.



## ***Eagle Scout Court of Honor***

All are cordially invited to attend Jonah Petruschke's Eagle Scout Court of Honor on Saturday, May 28 at 1 p.m. at Good Shepherd. A reception will follow the ceremony. Please kindly R.S.V.P. to [jp2022eagle@gmail.com](mailto:jp2022eagle@gmail.com) or 717-213-9443 by May 21<sup>st</sup>.

## ***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](mailto: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

So do we know what important event happens on May 26<sup>th</sup> this year? I will give you a hint. May 26<sup>th</sup> is the 40<sup>th</sup> day after Easter. I will give you another hint. It is not Pentecost. Pentecost is on June 5<sup>th</sup>. On Pentecost, the Church celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit. So, what happens on May 26<sup>th</sup>, which is 10 days before Pentecost? The answer is May 26<sup>th</sup> is Ascension Day.

Ascension Day marks the day in which the resurrected Jesus returns to heaven to be seated at the right hand of the Father. Theologically, we need Ascension Day. Why? Because after Jesus is resurrected from the dead, there are three options that can happen. First, Jesus could live with us here forever, since he can't die again. But, we don't see Jesus in the flesh today, right? Second, Jesus could die again, but that would defeat the whole purpose of Jesus being raised from the dead in the first place. Or, third, Jesus could ascend to God the Father. And this third option then explains why the living Jesus isn't still here with us today, while also explaining that Jesus didn't die again. So, theologically, we need Ascension Day.

In the Bible it says the resurrected Jesus appeared to the apostles for 40 days (Acts 1:3). And so it is apparent that Jesus then ascended after those 40 days. And this is a significant event in the Christian faith. This is a significant event on the Church Calendar. We can think of other significant events. There is Christmas. There is Easter. There is Pentecost. And, there is the Ascension.

But, we don't usually give a lot of attention to Ascension Day. Why? Because the 40<sup>th</sup> day after Easter always falls on a Thursday. Ascension Day doesn't always fall on May 26<sup>th</sup>. The date of Easter moves around, and so then does the day when Jesus ascended. But Easter always falls on a Sunday, and so Ascension Day always falls on a Thursday. And it is because Ascension Day falls on a Thursday, that we usually don't pay a lot of attention to it. Ascension Day comes in the middle part of the week; it is not on a Sunday when we would be gathering for worship.

It has not been our tradition here at Our Saviour to hold an Ascension Day service. This year some churches will worship on May 26<sup>th</sup>, in order to mark the ascension of Jesus. But, short of having a worship service at Our Saviour, at the very least I wanted to make us aware of this important day in the life of the church. Hopefully, we will take a brief moment on May 26<sup>th</sup> to remember that Jesus has returned to God the Father, and is now seated at the right hand of power. Hopefully, we will remember that Jesus has accomplished his earthly ministry among us, until he comes again to reign on earth for all eternity. Happy Ascension Day then to all of you!

## Manna Food Pantry

Our "2nd Sunday" food collection is still ongoing. During this time of rising food prices and combined with 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.



### **A Word on Stewardship**

You may or may not know, but Our Saviour Lutheran Church has become a polling station for the 6<sup>th</sup> Ward of Harrisburg. So, on May 17<sup>th</sup>, we will be opening our doors to the community as folks come to fill out their ballots for the midterm elections. And, then again on November 8<sup>th</sup>, we will do the same for the elections on that date. With that said, we hope to show warm hospitality to our neighbors.

And so in this article I want to talk about stewardship in relation to this new endeavor for Our Saviour Lutheran Church. First, we are being good stewards of our building space, such that we will welcome many into our building. And who knows, by the grace of God, maybe some individuals will be impressed by our facilities. Maybe they will take some information about our church community with them. And maybe they will come to worship with us on some Sunday.

Second, we will be good stewards in that we plan to have bake items available for sale on May 17<sup>th</sup>. And who knows, maybe we will raise a couple bucks from our effort. And maybe we will provide some well-needed calories for people to be able to go about their tasks for the day.

Third, we will be providing the opportunity for people to make their voice known with respect to the election of government officials. Indeed, we must remember that God has given us government for the sake of good order and for the well-being of society. So, we need to have places where people can come to be able to vote. So, our church will be providing an important service in God's plan of caring for society.

So, please keep May 17<sup>th</sup> in your prayers that all would go well at Our Saviour during election day. And, please keep our society in your prayers as well, that persons would be elected who will serve faithfully.

### **Egg Project - 2022**

There will be a 2022 Egg Project wrap up meeting on Wednesday, May 18, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. at the Church. Everyone is invited - whether you made eggs, sold eggs, bought eggs. The purpose of this meeting is to gather your feedback on how the project went this year and to share your thoughts and ideas for future Egg Projects. Light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP by calling Barb Johnson at the Church office at (717) 545-9992 no later than Sunday, May 15. If you are unable to attend the meeting, but would like to provide your input, please contact Donna Miller or Nadine Martin.

Donna: Cell phone - (717) 514-4692. Email - [donloulmil@msn.com](mailto:donloulmil@msn.com)

Nadine: Cell phone - (717) 497-1200. Email - [NadineLMartin@verizon.net](mailto:NadineLMartin@verizon.net)



*Dear Padre,*



What is the distinction between the titles in the Catholic Church, namely "Reverend," "Very Reverend," and "Right Reverend"?

Signed, "What's In a Name"

Dear "What's In a Name,"

From my research on this question, it appears that "Reverend" and "Very Reverend" are both titles that can be used to refer to Catholic priests. Bishops in the Catholic Church are addressed as "Right Reverend" and archbishops are addressed as "Most Reverend." And whereas priests are responsible for a particular parish or congregation, a bishop is responsible for an area consisting of several churches and parishes. For a much more detailed explanation of the various titles, see the website <https://popularask.net/whats-the-difference-between-reverend-and-right-reverend/>

In the Lutheran Church, the titles most familiar to us are "Pastor," "Synodical Bishop," and "Presiding Bishop." The pastor, of course, is the spiritual leader of a church or parish. The Synodical Bishop is the spiritual leader of an area consisting of several churches, like the Synodical Bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod. The Synodical Bishop is the "pastor to the pastors" in his or her area of responsibility. And the Presiding Bishop is the spiritual leader of the entire Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The Presiding Bishop is the "pastor to the bishops." But all the spiritual leaders in these posts are ordained pastors.

What I think is most important for us to realize is that, at least within the Lutheran Church, we do not speak of a hierarchy. Specific Lutherans (ordained clergy) do not rank higher or lower in comparison to other Lutherans (non-ordained persons). A bishop is not higher, or of greater significance, than a pastor. Indeed, an ordained minister is not higher, or of greater significance, than a lay minister (that is, any church member). Martin Luther spoke of this as the "priesthood of all believers," which he based on his reading of 1 Peter 2:9. In other words, all Christians are ministers of equal status before God. We are all called to proclaim the gospel.

I do know if this idea of the "priesthood of all believers" is the same in other denominations, but I think it is one of the wonderful teachings of Martin Luther that is special to the Lutheran Church. 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](https://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, March 9, 2022

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

At 6:40 pm the meeting was called to order and Pastor Joel opened with a prayer.

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

Anneke brought an email to Council for discussion. The Fundraising Committee consists of Egg Making and GermanFest. Council discussed an email from March 9, 2022 pertaining to the decision that was reported pertaining to the Egg Fund Raising Co-chairs.

Anneke mentioned that from now on, Anneke Fleming will be known as Antonetta M. Fleming when forms or papers need to be signed.

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

Jim noted a correction in the report from January. Jim had listed a \$339.68 entry for a substitute Organist which was incorrect. Jim stated he had made a coding error.

Jim mentioned that no deposits for Egg Making were made in February but \$1,400.00 in deposits were made in March.

Jim went to PNC Bank to inquire about getting signatures added/changed for accounts. The bank informed him that a Resolution must be signed. Jim and Anneke will write up a Resolution to fulfill this requirement.

Jim made a motion to have John Zimmerman removed as signatory and add Jared and Antonetta as signatories on both the PNC Current Account and the Memorial Account. Penny seconded this motion and the motion carried.

Jim mentioned the Egg Making Committee and the fact that co-chairs, Donna Miller and Nadine Martin have been keeping track of the expenses and income for the Egg Making Project. This information will be supplied to Council.

The Treasurer's Report was filed as reported.

**Secretary's Report:** No new information to report per Jeanette.

#### **Committee Reports:**

Christian Ed - No Report

Child Protection Policy - Report Reviewed

Mutual Ministry - No Report

Property - No Report

Scholarship BOT - No Report

Social Ministry - No Report

Stewardship - No Report

Welcome - No Report

Worship and Music - Report Reviewed. Pastor Joel mentioned that there were donors who purchased communion cups/wafers for communion. A thank you note will be sent to the members by Council Secretary, Jeanette. Pastor Joel will get the names of the donors to Jeanette so she can write a note to the donors. Hope Bowling attended tonight's Council meeting to go over 2 services trials.

**Finance Committee:** Report reviewed

**Pastor's Report:** Report reviewed

At 8:15 pm Jeanette had to leave the meeting and Penny Zimmerman continued taking the minutes for the remainder of the meeting.

**Old Business:**

Bench Project - Brad informed Council that it is on backorder.

COVID-19 - Report reviewed

Zoom meetings via Freeconferencecall.com - A church member has graciously agreed to pay for our Zoom membership so we will continue to use Zoom for our meetings. There is no need to use Freeconferencecall.com at this point in time.

Stained Glass Window Repairs - Brad reported that we are still waiting for better weather to begin the repair process.

Hall Available Outside Sign - Report given by Brad. G and W Signs can provide a 4 X 6 sign for \$170.00. Brad will check with Get it Now Print for a quote on a sign.

Heating Units for Youth Room - Brad will call Acir to get a quote on two heating units for the youth room.

Pastoral visits to church members -/Visioning for Church/Town Meeting - Pastor Joel reported that he will be sending a Vision Plan email to Council later this evening.

Fundraising Checkbooks - Jim asked Penny and Jeanette to keep the checkbooks that they are responsible for until future notification.

Royer's Flowers payment issue for the poinsettias in December - Clarification will need to be made on this at our meeting on April 13, 2022.

Polling Station for Primary Election - Pastor reported that the church is going to be a polling location for the May 17, 2022 election. The church will need to be opened at 6 am that day and will need to be used until 9 pm that evening. We will have baked goods and other snack items for sale in the Narthex. Council members agreed to donate items for this sale. It was discussed to have a sign-up sheet in the Narthex to ask other church members to donate to this sale.

**New Business:**

Hope Bowling was present at tonight's Council meeting to explain why the Worship and Music Committee would like to return to the 8:30 am 10:45 am worship times. The committee would like to begin this on Easter Sunday for an eight week trial period. After discussion, it was decided that Hope would create a survey to gauge the



congregation's interest in returning to two worship times and what worship times they prefer. The survey will be sent to all members via e-mail, regular mail, and also placed in the Sunday bulletin. Hope will inform Council on the outcome of the survey before next council meeting.

**Egg Sale Taxation question** - A question was posed to Jim regarding the church being taxed on egg sales. Jim did some research and per IRS Publication 1828, churches are generally exempt from income tax. He said we are in compliance. Egg sales are a tax exempt purpose. Jim provided an attachment to Council which explained the tax treatment of churches.

**Finance Committee- By Laws** - Antonetta brought up that we are in violation of our By- Laws for the Finance Committee, because there are currently not three council members on the committee. So, as of March 9, 2022, the Finance Committee will be comprised of Antonetta M. Fleming, Jim Lubrecht, Jared Copeland, Brad Neil and Penny Zimmerman. Antonetta will confer with Carol to verify that we are now in compliance with the By-Laws. Anneke will also ask Carol if non-council members are able to be on the Finance Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm with The Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting will be held on April 13, 2022 at 6:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jeanette Logan, (Council Secretary)



### **Family Promise News**

In the April newsletter, I indicated that Our Saviour, along with Good Shepherd, would be hosting Family Promise the week of April 24. However, soon after the newsletter was printed, I learned that we would not be hosting the week of April 24. As you will recall, the intention was that Family Promise would continue to use the hybrid model where families would stay at the Day Center during the weeks when there were no church host sites scheduled. Unfortunately, because the Day Center building is not coded for families spending the night, the hybrid model could no longer continue and the sheltering of families had to be temporarily suspended until there was a church host site for every week for the remainder of 2022. Needless to say, the staff at Family Promise worked very hard (and continues to do so) to recruit additional church host sites. And, the plan now is to start full church rotation this month (May).

Assuming everything goes as planned, Our Saviour, along with Good Shepherd, will be hosting the following weeks:

Sunday, June 26 through Sunday morning, July 3

Sunday, August 7 through Sunday morning, August 14

Sunday, October 16 through Sunday morning, October 23

Please mark your calendars now and let me know if you are willing to help with preparing a meal, driving the van, or staying overnight.

When recruiting additional host sites, the one concern many churches express when considering being a host site is that they may not have enough volunteers from their particular church. Family Promise is putting together a list of volunteers who, when available, would be interested in filling in at other sites when volunteers are needed. If you would like to be added to that list, please be sure to let me know.

Thank you.

Nadine Martin (717) 497-1200 [NadineLMartin@verizon.net](mailto:NadineLMartin@verizon.net)





OUR SAVIOUR  
FINANCIAL REPORT  
March 31, 2022

ENVELOPES AND PLATE	\$	34,783.55
FUND RAISING	\$	7,195.50
FELLOWSHIP HALL RENTAL	\$	50.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$	42,029.05

EXPENSE	\$	<u>51,334.97</u>
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DEFICIT	\$	<u>(9,305.92)</u>
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PNC BANK STATEMENT BALANCES

CURRENT FUND	\$	23,777.22
MEMORIAL FUND	\$	79,354.11 *
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	\$	2,524.70
FUND RAISING	\$	812.69

THRIVENT ACCOUNTS

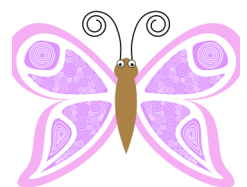
	<u>3/31/2022</u>	<u>3/2/2022</u>
REGULAR MUTUALS	\$ 67,130.69	\$ 66,973.34
SCHOLARSHIP MUTUALS	\$ 171,988.48	\$ 171,431.12

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



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Carol Ranck	5/1
Jared Copeland	5/6
Myles Reilly	5/7
Lisa Neil	5/8
Don DeArmitt	5/10
Margie Munz	5/13
George Schreffler	5/17
Jaylen Copeland	5/18
Christine Schreffler	5/18
Steffany Provencher	5/23
Sara Smith	5/23
Millie Horvath	5/30
Katelyn Miller	5/30
Jean Lisse	5/31





Mon




Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<b>1 - Easter 3</b>  9:30 am - Worship 11 am - Family Fun Day w/lunch	<b>2</b>  6 pm - Welcome Committee	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  6:30 pm - Mutual Ministry	<b>5</b>  8 pm - Confirmation	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8 - Easter 4</b> <b>Mother's Day</b>  9:30 am - Worship 	<b>9</b>  6 pm - Praise Him Singers Rehearsal  <b>Deadline for committee reports for Council</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  6 pm - Council	<b>12</b>  8 pm Confirmation  <b>Vacation day for Barb</b>	<b>13</b>  <b>Vacation day for Barb</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15 - Easter 5</b>  9:30 am - Worship 10:45 am - Adult Sunday School <b>newsletter deadline</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  <b>Election Day Polling Place</b>  	<b>18</b>  6 pm - Egg Project Wrap-Up Meeting	<b>19</b>  7 pm - Praise Him Singer's Concert 8 pm - Confirmation	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22 - Easter 6</b>  9:30 am - Worship 3 pm - Memorial Service for Diane Lehrman	<b>23</b>  6 pm - Altar Guild 7 pm Friends-In-Christ @OSL	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  2 pm - Bible Study @Manor @Oakhurst	<b>26</b>  8 pm - Confirmation	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  1 pm - Jonah's Court of Honor Ceremony @Good Shepherd
<b>29 - Easter 7</b>  9:30 am - Worship 3:45 pm - Worship @Manor @Oakridge	<b>30 - Memorial Day</b>   <b>office closed</b>	<b>31</b>				

The Evangelical Lutheran  
**CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR**  
420 North Progress Avenue  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17109

Phone: 717-545-9992  
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Web Site: [www.oslutheranharrisburg.org](http://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](mailto:ossec@comcast.net)

**Web Site: [www.oslutheranharrisburg.org](http://www.oslutheranharrisburg.org)**



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.