Good News July & August 2024





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

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

I recently read this wonderful book called *Everything Happens for A Reason and Other Lies I've Loved*. The author, Kate Bowler, talks very candidly about her experience of being diagnosed with stage four colon cancer at the age of 35. Kate Bowler is a professor at Duke Divinity School. Her book is filled with humor as you can tell by the title. It is also filled with insight from one who is steeped in Christianity.

There is a particular scene in the book, which I have found to be most helpful. Kate talks about a colleague named Frank that comes to visit her in the hospital during her treatment. Frank says to her, "Don't jump to the end." Kate says that it is only later when she is talking with her mom about this conversation with Frank, that it dawns on her what Frank means by that statement, "Don't jump to the end." Kate says to her mom, "I think Frank means that I shouldn't jump to the worst possible conclusion. Don't jump to the possibility that I may die. Instead, live in the mystery."

What an incredible thought! Think about it. When we don't know the way the narrative ends, what happens is that our mind naturally seeks to fill in the rest of the story. But our mind often takes us to the darkest possible scenario. That is why people are afraid to fly. That is why we immediately see the end of our life when diagnosed with a terrible disease. That is why we think the worst when the principal or the boss calls us into his/her office.

Mystery is hard to live in. But all of life is filled with mystery. Every time we wake up in the morning we begin a new day filled with mystery. Yesterday is swallowed up in the mists of the past. And the future is unknown. And so the present is all ripe with mystery.

And consider the greatest mystery of all. Why is there something and not nothing? Why is there a universe? Why is there a planet on which we find ourselves soaring through the great expanse of space? What does it all mean? It is a mystery.

When we realize the great mystery in which we exist, the fears, the concerns, the worries almost melt away altogether. And all that is left is the need to trust in God. Don't jump to the end. It does us no good to fill in the narrative with the worst possible scenarios. Embrace the mystery, and trust in God.

So, let me recommend to you Kate Bowler's wonderful book. I think you will find it not only entertaining, but also a blessing, as we all navigate the great mystery of life & of God's creation.

In Christ, Pastor Joel Petruschke



Lessons for July 2024

July 7 - Pentecost 7

Ezekiel 2:1-5

Psalm 123

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Mark 6:1-13

July 14 - Pentecost 8

Amos 7:7-15

Psalm 85:8-13

Ephesians 1:3-14

Mark 6:14-29

July 21 - Pentecost 9

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalm 23

Ephesians 2:11-22

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 28 - Pentecost 10

2 Kings 4:42-44

Psalm 145:10-18

Ephesians 3:14-21

John 6:1-21

Lessons for August 2024

August 4 - Pentecost 11

Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

Psalm 78:23-29

Ephesians 4:1-16

John 6:24-35

August 11 - Pentecost 12

1 Kings 19:4-8

Psalm 34:1-8

Ephesians 4:25 - 5:2

John 6:35, 41-51

August 18 - Pentecost 13

Proverbs 9:1-6

Psalm 34:9-14

Ephesians 5:15-20

John 6:51-58

August 25 - Pentecost 14

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

Psalm 34:15-22

Ephesians 6:10-20

John 6:56-69





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 Sunday of each 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

During the month of July, we will be having a couple of substitute pastors leading worship. Pastor Anne-Rose Reeves will be leading worship on July 14th. Pastor Evan Houck will be leading worship on July 21st and 28th.

Attendance tends to decline on Sundays when we have substitute pastors. I don't know why that is the case. Is it because of that old saying, "When the cat's away, the mice will play"? In this case, is it a case of the parishioners playing "hooky"?

Recently, a member of our church was noting to me and some other members that when we have guest pastors, this member makes it a special point to be in worship. Because this member sees it as showing hospitality to the substitute pastor. For when the substitute pastor is leading worship, that substitute pastor probably knows that the attendance is not what it usually is. And so, this member doesn't what that substitute pastor to feel like they are "second class." I really appreciate the thoughtfulness of this sentiment.

When we have a substitute pastor, I think it is a great opportunity for the members of the church to hear another voice leading worship other than mine. I think it is a great opportunity for the members of the church to witness another person's preaching style. In short, I think it is good to have some variety some times.

So, I do hope you who are reading this article will make every effort to be in worship throughout the month of July. It is will be a great opportunity for the Spirit to show up & speak to you through different people. God is good...all the time, not just on those Sundays when Pastor Joel is leading worship and preaching the Word. God is good all the time, even when we have substitute pastors.

GermanFest 2024 Is Happening!

Mark your calendars! This year's GermanFest will be held on Saturday, September 7, 2024! We will need the help and support of the whole congregation again this year to offer GermanFest to our members and the community.



Silent Auction information can be found in this newsletter on page 6.

Volunteers are needed to help – set up (after service Sunday, September 1st), prep food (September 4th, 5th, & 6th), bake sale set-up (September 6th in the evening), work the festival September 7th, and help to clean up after 3 pm. Sign-up sheets are now in the Narthex.

We are also asking for donations for the Bake Sale table – cookies, brownies, cakes... There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you would like to contribute. Any questions should be directed to Sandy Moritz, Bake Sale Table Coordinator. Thank you!

We look forward to another successful GermanFest at Our Saviour!

Manna Food Pantry

Our "2nd Sunday" food collection is still ongoing. During this time of continuous rising food, energy & gas 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.



A Word on Stewardship

GermanFest is fast upon us. This year it falls on September 7th. As always, GermanFest will be the first Saturday after Labor Day, and it will run from 11:00am to 3:00pm. Now, with GermanFest in mind, I want to share with you a couple of stewardship items.

First, we were brainstorming in a recent planning about what we as the GermanFest planning committee could do to get more people to help with the event. And we got talking about how helping with GermanFest should be seen as another way that we steward our resources. Sure, when we talk about "stewardship" we often think about the money we give to the church as offering. But consider the other resources we possess as church members. We can also give of our time and our abilities. And, in particular, we can give of our time and abilities to help with GermanFest. The service we offer at GermanFest is part of our stewardship.

And it might be that we have a conflict on the actual day of GermanFest and so we can't help. But, there are "prep days" in which you might be able to help. There are other tasks and details that need to be done leading up to GermanFest, of which you might be able to help.

GermanFest is getting harder and harder to pull off each year, because the usual people doing the work are getting older, and others are not with us anymore. And so, we all need to consider as well the stewardship of the people around us. If we all chip in, then we are less likely to burn out the usual GermanFest workers. Many hands make light work, as they say.

Second, I want to inform you that the GermanFest committee decided to use a portion of the proceeds from GermanFest to support Hanna Food Pantry. Every year since I have been here at Our Saviour, the money we raise from GermanFest has gone to support the budget. However, the original intention of GermanFest was to do something for the community, to share our German roots with our neighbors.

So, in getting back to that original vision, we thought that we should give back to the community, at least a portion of what we make. So, ten percent of our net profit will be donated. It will go to Hanna Food Pantry, which is a food pantry that provides groceries at no cost to Susquehanna Township students, their families, and neighbors in the area.

Last year our GermanFest event raised almost \$5,000. This year we hope to meet that same number or more, which would translate in some \$500 being donated. That would help several people, and it would be very good stewardship.

So, we hope to see you at GermanFest. We hope you can help with the event on the day of, or in preparation for September 7th. And we hope we can all be proud of our stewardship toward others.



Dear Padre,

How would you help people see the presence of God in their lives? How would you help Christians talk about their faith with non-believers?

Signed, Evangelism Minded

Dear Evangelism Minded,



I think the answer is one and the same to these two questions. I believe that one powerful way to help people see the presence of God in their lives is to have people think about those individuals who have played a significant role in their lives. And in the same way, when Christians are talking about their faith with non-believers, I believe a helpful tool is to talk about those individuals who have been instrumental in guiding our lives.

God works through people. Family, friends, teachers, mentors, counselors and so on are all individuals through whom God works to guide our lives. For example, the pastor of my home church is the one who set me on the course to become a pastor. She is the one who said to me, "I see gifts in you that would serve well in the ministry. Have you ever considering becoming a pastor?" There may be no greater gift to give a young person than to steer them in the direction they should go with respect to their calling in life. This is what my pastor did for me. But it doesn't have to be a pastor. A high school or college guidance counselor can do a similar thing. Or, a friend, or teacher...any one can be that guide, but it is God's voice speaking through that person.

There may be other persons in our lives who have welcomed us to this or that group, persons who have shown us hospitality. That is another great gift to give to someone, that is, to make them feel welcome. And again, it is the voice of God that speaks the gracious words of welcome through our hosts.

So again, let us consider the persons who have been "gifts" in our lives. And let us see not just the persons themselves, but recognize the grace of God to give to us such "gifts." This is the presence of God in our lives. This is perhaps the best way to speak about the Faith with non-believers, in a way that doesn't get too theological or too obtuse. To speak of the important people who have been in our lives is a language we all can understand.

Updates From Our Property Committee

A Request

The church parking lot light needs to be fixed. We are wondering if anyone at the church has access to a bucket truck/lift that can be used for this repair? If this is something that you can help us with please let Brad Neil know ASAP. He can be reached at libreil83@gmail.com or 717-558-0006. Thank you.

Building Update

The heating unit in the music room/old social hall (back room) no longer works and had to be replaced. The new heater cost was \$2,057. If you would like to donate towards this church expense to help us cover this cost please use the green and white envelopes located in the pews or out on the table in the narthex and mark it "Heater". All donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you!!



GermanFest Silent Auction

It's time to begin preparation for this year's GermanFest event which will be held on:
Saturday, September 7th, 2024. With that in mind we are in need of donations for the Silent Auction. If you can't help with this event physically on the day of, this is your opportunity to still help! Please see down below for frequently asked questions and their answers regarding donations. If you would like a letter for tax purposes, please let me know.

What can I donate?

Any item that is either <u>new</u> or <u>in like new condition</u> will be accepted. Gift cards will also be accepted, and they have been proven to be a popular item in the past. Gift baskets can also be a good idea but if donating these they need to be already packaged for display. On a side note, items do not need to be German oriented. Also, children/teenage items would be great so that all ages can participate. Please avoid a lot of small items, as they are difficult to display. If you are uncertain of an item you want to donate, just call me and we can discuss. Overall, your item(s) needs to be new or in like new condition and in its original packaging if applicable.

Can I ask a business for a donation(s)?

Yes! There will be business solicitation letters available for members to take. They will be located on the table in the narthex. Take as many as you need to solicit donations from business owners you may know or frequent regularly.

What information should be attached to my donation(s) when I drop it off?

Your name

Name of item/description of item

Suggested value- if you don't know the exact value, please give an estimated value- do not leave this blank. This is very important when it comes to determining the starting bid price and is important for our 'buy now' feature. The more accurate this price is the more proceeds we make.

When should I drop off my donation(s)?

Donations will start being accepted on <u>July 7th</u> and go until <u>September 1st.</u> On September 1st the donations need to be in <u>before 2:00pm</u> that way there is enough time to get everything organized. No new donations will be accepted after 2:00pm.

Where do I put my donation(s)?

You can put all donations on, or under, the tables in the Youth Room. Please make sure you have the above information attached to your donation(s) by using the provided form in the Youth Room.

How to contact me?

Neiljr693@gmail.com or (717) 623-5697 (text or call is fine -- if no answer, please leave a message)

Thank you in advance for your help and generous donation(s)!

Jenna Youngblood, Silent Auction Coordinator



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, May 6, 2024

Members Present: Antonetta Fleming, Council President, Brad Neil, Vice-President, Jim Lubrecht, Treasurer, Jeanette Logan, Secretary, Pastor Joel Petruschke, Joel Hains, Penny Zimmerman and Steve Barron.

At 6:04 pm the meeting was called to order. Pastor Joel opened with a word of prayer.

Minutes April 10, 2024: The minutes were reviewed and edited. Pastor Joel made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Brad seconded the motion. The corrected minutes will be sent to Barb to be published in the next newsletter.

Secretary's correspondence: none

Pastor Joel Correspondence: Pastor Joel informed Council that he received a letter from Pastor Gwenn Trout from St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Enola. On Saturday, June 8th there will be a meeting held from 9:00 am to 11:30 am, place TBD. This meeting is an informative meeting with churches in the area to discuss cooperative ministry and partnerships. It will be a time for brainstorming ideas and a time for conversation about sharing pastoral ministries either now or in the future. Pastor Joel and Anneke will attend the meeting. Other Council members were encouraged to attend if they are available. Pastor Joel will ask Barb to put a note in the bulletin inviting church members to attend.

Treasurer's Report: Jim reviewed the Budget Performance report with Council. He reminded Council that the Pastoral Mission will bring in \$650.00 per week until July 7, 2024. In addition, Jim noted that we budgeted \$6,000.00 for egg making expenses but only spent \$4,153.25.

Scholarship Mutuals: We currently have two members who have their scholarship award in escrow. Savannah Beachtel has \$1,600 in escrow. Scholarship award money can be held for 2 years for a student and must be used for higher education within those 2 years. Max Reilly has \$800 in escrow. Scholarship award money can be held for 4 years for a student who joins any military services after high school and must be used for higher education within those 4 years. The Thrivent Mutual Fund is where the Scholarship Awards are taken out of. It was noted that a letter needs to be sent to the Scholarship Board of Trustees when money is being transferred for a scholarship payment from the Thrivent account to the Current Fund Account.

Financial Report: Our Net Income for January-April 2024 is ahead by \$1,638.85. For the month of April we have a deficit of \$3,670.69. Our giving for the months of January 2024 - April 2024 is down by \$6,000,00 in comparison to January 2023 - April 2023. Our Egg Fund raiser gross sales for 2024 are also down by \$2,571.07 in comparison to Egg Fund raiser gross sales for 2023.

The Scholarship Mutuals are down \$12,628.41, which is due to the Stock Market.

Anneke asked Jim to make a note on the financial reports for each Church fundraiser with the month and the amount of money that each fund raiser earned on the Financial Report. This categorization will help clarify things if there were more than one fundraiser earning money in a particular month.

When memorial money is counted by the counters and deposited, Jim then transfers the money into the PNC Memorial Fund Money Market Account. He will add transfers from account to account for Memorials and Scholarships as an update to the Financial Manual.

The Treasurer's Report was filed for audit.

Committee Reports:

Building/property evaluation - no report

Christian Education - Pastor Joel informed members that May will be the end for Sunday School for the summer. Tiffany, Jenna and Jessica have taught throughout the year and Sunday School will resume in the fall. There have been 4 students participating.

Child Protection Policy - no report

Fund Raising - no report

Mutual Ministry – no report

Property – Brad explained that the heater/air conditioner unit in the Trinity Room will be replaced on Wednesday. Herb will meet the company at the church for the replacement to be installed. Barb will put a note in the bulletin asking members to make a donation for the new unit. Initially, the money to pay for this unit will be taken out of the Memorial Fund. He believes he found someone who has a lift and would be able to look at the parking lot light.

Scholarship BOT – no report

Social Ministry – no report

Stewardship - not an active committee

Welcome - no report

Worship and Music - no report

Finance – Jim will schedule a meeting in July to discuss the Treasurer's Manual updates and changes.

Pastor's Report – Council reviewed the report. Pastor Joel gave an update on St. Stephen's. Mt. Zion and St. Stephen's are having a meeting with Pastor Beth Martini and Pastor Joel on May 7th to discuss a full-time Interim Pastor position. It would make more sense for each church to draw their funds together to hire a full-time Interim Pastor rather than a part-time Interim Pastor as it would be easier to find a Pastor on a full-time basis rather than a part-time basis. Each church expressed a desire to remain at their own church.

Old Business:

IT Committee - This is currently on hold

Vision Team Update - There will be a meeting held on June 6th at 6:30 P.M. with all Church Committee Chairs.

Membership Role ad-hoc committee - A meeting is scheduled for May 8th at 10:00 A.M. to finish going through all the names on our roles.

Minutes in the newsletter update - The minutes are kept by the Council Secretary until they have been corrected by Council at their meeting. Once the corrections have been made, the minutes will be emailed to all Council members and to the Church Admin, Barbara Johnson, so she can publish them in the church's monthly newsletter.

Church email issue - Pastor Joel spoke with Barb who said there were a couple of data bases that she uses for mass emails. She suggested that we monitor the situation to see if a person was misses and we need to advise her. Discussion ensued and it was decided that if there is an email that is sent out during the week, Pastor Joel will make an announcement in church on Sunday informing members of such email and he will ask members who did not receive the email to contact Barb to let her know.

Update on Election Day Bake Sale - Jeanette thanked everyone who helped by baking and assisting in the sale of the baked items. The profit of the sale was \$316.04. Jeanette will write a thank you note to the congregation and ask Barb to put the note in the newsletter.

Lilly Cross - Penny mentioned that John is fine with hanging the cross. He will make sure that 2 people are there for safety concerns.

Partner with another church - Council will conduct a fact-finding regarding trying to partner with another church. Once the fact-finding has been completed, the information gathered will be shared with all church members at a special congregational meeting where discussion can take place and questions can be answered.

New Business:

GermanFest fundraiser - Discussion ensued about whether we can hold our GermanFest fundraiser this year. Will we have enough volunteers and who would be able to chair the GermanFest committee? It was decided that we will hold a meeting on Wednesday, May 29th at 6:30 P.M. Pastor Joel will make an announcement in church inviting members to attend the meeting.

Penny made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Pastor Joel seconded the motion.

The meeting concluded with The Lord's Prayer at 8:04 pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 12th at 6:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted, Jeanette Logan/Council Secretary



OUR SAVIOUR			
FINANCIAL REPORT			· ·
	AS OF	AS OF	
	5/31/2024	4/30/2024	<u>difference</u>
ENVELOPES AND PLATE	\$46,175.90	\$37,362.90	\$8,813.00
FUND RAISING	\$18,890.32	\$18,930.06	-\$39.74
FELLOWSHIP HALL RENTAL	\$1,225.00	\$200.00	\$1,025.00
ST STEPHENS MISSION	<u>\$15,383.38</u>	<u>\$12,783.38</u>	\$2,600.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$81,674.60	\$69,276.34	\$12,398.26
EXPENSE	<u>\$82,878.79</u>	<u>\$67,637.49</u>	<u>\$15,241.30</u>
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	<u>-\$1,204.19</u>	<u>\$1,638.85</u>	<u>-\$2,843.04</u>
PNC BANK STATEMENT BALANCES			
	5/31/2024	4/30/2024	difference
	<u> </u>	4/00/2024	<u>amerence</u>
CURRENT FUND CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$23,969.18	\$31,145.73	-\$7,176.55
MEMORIAL FUND MONEY MARKET #	\$15,395.30	\$15,345.17	\$50.13
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THRIVENT ACCOUNTS			
	5/31/2024	4/30/2024	<u>difference</u>
CURRENT FUND MONEY MARKET	\$49,930.16	\$49,715.91	\$214.25
SCHOLARSHIP MUTUALS	\$49,930.16 \$185,296.09	\$49,715.91 \$180,675.03	\$214.25 \$4,621.06
	\$49,930.16	\$49,715.91	\$214.25

 ^{* \$61,000} of Memorial Fund is from the Neidich estate
 \$1,310.57 of Memorial Fund is from the Ruth Knerr estate
 to be used for Christian Ed expenses





Andrea Faber	7/4	Alice Lubrecht	8/1
Bill Sheetz	7/5	Clare Gibson	8/2
Evan Collins	7/7	Justin Pitassi	8/8
Billy Youngblood	7/9	Evan DeArmitt	8/11
Penny Zimmerman	7/9	Leo Pitassi	8/12
Jessica Burigana	7/13	Jana Bernardi	8/15
Marianne McCann	7/17	Brooke Schreffler	8/22
Marlana Zimmerman	7/17	Melanie Trea	8/22
Joan Bateman	7/21	Donna Miller	8/27
Maria Parson	7/22	Pastor John Schaertel	8/28
Candy Evans	7/24	Nancy Pinko	8/30
Rita Capp	7/28	Sue DeArmitt	8/31
Karen Hoch	7/30	Thomas Pitassi	8/31
		Tom Snyder	8/31





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	Pastor Joel @St. Stephen 6:15pm - Scholarship BOT	2	3	Happy July 4th	office closed - vacation day for Barb	6
7 - Pentecost 7 9am - Worship w/baptism & reception of new members 1st Sunday Social	8 6:30pm - Mutual Ministry committee reports due in office	9	10 6pm - Council	11	12	13
14 - Pentecost 8 9am - Worship	15	16 6pm - Vision Team	17	18	8am - 1pm private event	20
		Pasto	r Joel on Continuin	g Ed.		
21 - Pentecost 9 9am - Worship	22	23	24	25	26	27
		Pasto	r Joel on Continuir	ıg Ed.		
28 - Pentecost 10 9am - Worship	Barb in the office 8-10:30am	30	31 6:30pm - GermanFest meeting			
	Pastor Joel on	vacation			Land Control of the C	Ahradu.



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	
			Pastor Joel on vacation			
4 - Pentecost 11 9am - Worship 1st Sunday Social	5	6	7	8	9	10
			Pastor Joel	on vacation		
11 - Pentecost 12 9am - Worship 18 - Pentecost 13	committee reports due in office	20	14 6pm - Council	15 6pm - Christian Ed.	23	24
9am - Worship Sept. newsletter deadline		6pm - Vision Team				
25 - Pentecost 14 9am - Worship	6:30pm - Finance Committee	27	28	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 9:00 am

Please join us! 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

