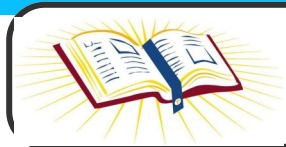


# Good News

## June 2024



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

*Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,*

Council recently developed a taskforce to clean up our membership rolls. It is part of the responsibility of Church Council to “provide an annual review of the membership roster” (see Church Constitution C12.07). Unfortunately, like most churches, a review of the membership roster doesn’t happen every year at Our Saviour. As a result, the membership roster can become very unwieldy. Because we have not cleaned up our membership roster for quite some time, we still carry on our rolls some 500 members.

Now, not all those members on the membership roster are “active.” By definition voting members “are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation” (see Church Constitution C8.02c). In short, to be an active member one needs to have communed at least once AND contributed an offering at least once within a two-year span.

The taskforce reviewing the membership roster will make a recommendation to council consisting of a list of names to be removed from the membership roster. Council then will make the final decision to remove those inactive members. Please understand that this is not done without some thought. Many names on the membership roster go back many years, and those on the taskforce in many cases have no idea who they are. Other names on the membership roster we recognize, and so we plan to reach out to them in order to understand what is the interest of those members, whether they wish to remain members of the congregation or not. And we will inform them of the requirements for active membership.

In truth, the council is not removing members from the membership roster. This is not like ex-communication where Martin Luther was punitively removed from the church. That is not what is going on here. Instead, we should understand the present reality such that many persons on our membership roster have already removed themselves by not being present and active at Our Saviour. And it should also be noted that anyone at any time can be reinstated on the membership roster. They just need to commune and contribute, as proscribed in the Church Constitution. Indeed, the Constitution states, “Such persons who have been removed from the roll of members shall remain persons for whom the Church has a continuing concern” (see Church Constitution C8.05e).

So, I just wanted to inform all of you of this ongoing process. Having our membership roster cleaned up will give us a better sense in the long run of those who make up our congregation, and will help us better minister to our church members. If you should have any questions feel free to contact those on the taskforce including Jim Lubrecht, Anneke Fleming, Penny Zimmerman, Barb Johnson, and me.

In Christ, *Pastor Joel Petruschke*

## Lessons for June 2024

**June 2** - Pentecost 2  
Deuteronomy 5:12-15  
Psalm 81:1-10  
2 Corinthians 4:5-12  
Mark 2:23 - 3:6

**June 9** - Pentecost 3  
Genesis 3:8-15  
Psalm 130  
2 Corinthians 4:13 - 5:1  
Mark 3:20-35

**June 16** - Pentecost 4  
Ezekiel 17:22-24  
Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15  
2 Corinthians 5:6-17  
Mark 4:26-34

**June 23** - Pentecost 5  
Job 38:1-11  
Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32  
2 Corinthians 6:1-13  
Mark 4:35-41

**June 30** - Pentecost 6  
Lamentations 3:22-33  
Psalm 30  
2 Corinthians 8:7-15  
Mark 5:21-43



## 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 16<sup>th</sup>.



We would like to **“spotlight”** our recent graduates. If you have a recent **“graduate”** please submit his/hers information to the church office before the deadline of June 16th. Thank you.



## Parish Staff

Rev. Dr. Joel D. Petruschke, pastor  
Barbara Johnson, administrative assistant  
Mitchell Sensenig, organist

**Good News** is a monthly publication of **The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Saviour**, 420 North Progress Avenue, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17109, 717-545-9992, ossec@comcast.net. **Deadline** for submission is the third 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

We are now in the long green season of the Church Year. It is called “the time after Pentecost.” There is NOT a season called Pentecost. It is the time *after* Pentecost. It is also called “ordinary time,” which I assume highlights the fact that there are not any major festivals in this part of the Church Year. We have come through Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. We have come through Lent and Easter. We have celebrated the major events of the Church Year, namely the birth of Jesus; the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus; and the coming of the Holy Spirit. What else is there to do now in the Church Year?

But time is never ordinary. There was even a book by that title *No Ordinary Time* about Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt. Time is what we make of it. Right now, the larger Church is going through a transformational time, although we may not realize it. Just like the people living through the Reformation probably didn't realize the great transformation of the Church as they were going through it. Only after the fact do we realize the profound changes of earlier times. Hindsight, as they say, is 20/20. There is no ordinary time.

But ordinary time in the church year is not truly ordinary either if we think about it. Ordinary time is meant to be a time in the Church Year for spiritual growth. That is why the color of the season is green—to remind us of growth like the green grass, the leaves on trees, and the plants in nature. Perhaps we should then think of the congregation of people in the church service as a sort of garden, watered by God's Word and growing by God's grace, like the vegetable plants and flowering plants in our house garden. And so yes, too there is a transformation then taking place in us during this ordinary time, a transformation we don't see while in the midst of it, but taking place nonetheless. So then, there is no ordinary time. Time is what we make of it, or should we say, time is what God makes of it in us, forming us to be his fully matured, faithful people.

## Manna Food Pantry

Our “2nd Sunday” food collection is still ongoing. During this time of continuous rising food & 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***

Why is it we do what we do? Does what we do still have meaning? Do we need to rethink what we do? These are the questions we should regularly be asking ourselves. Indeed, I think these are the unspoken questions many people do ask themselves with respect to church.

Why are there fewer people in our church pews? Because worship does not hold meaning for those who have ceased coming to church. They have asked themselves if church still has meaning for them, and they have found the answer to be wanting. And so they have stopped coming to church.

And so what do we do about it? Well, we should probably be asking ourselves “why we ourselves come to church?” We should ask ourselves “what meaning does church have for us?” How would you answer those questions? What is “church” for you? And the answers we generate should be used to promote the church in a positive way for others.

There is a powerful quote that speaks to this issue. It is a quote from Jaroslav Pelikan. He said, “Tradition is the living faith of the dead. Traditionalism is the dead faith of the living.” In short, he is saying if we just go about doing things but cease to know why we do them, that is traditionalism. It is the dead faith of the living. But if understand our traditions, why is it we do what we do, then that has meaning for us. It is the living faith of the dead. It is the living faith we have received from our ancestors.

These words from Pelikan are not just relevant for the church but they are relevant for all of life. This is about pruning our lives. This is about cutting away that which is dead and not life-giving, and it is about embracing those things that still give meaning and importance to our lives.

Why is it we do what we do? Simple things like brushing our teeth, paying our taxes, etc.—we know why we do those things. But other things may not be so clear as to why we do them. We need to revisit all aspects of our lives. It is good stewardship. And we need to understand the meaning of those aspects of our lives. Just like we might ask “what is ‘church’ for you?” we should also ask “what is everyday living mean for you?”



### ***Election Day Bake Sale Thank-You!***

Thank you to those of you who made dessert items and those who sold the items at Our Saviour on Election Day. We raised \$317.01! We appreciate your generosity and hope that the November Bake sale will be even better!

Peace, Jeanette Logan



### ***Spotlighting Our Graduate***

Hannah Logan graduated with highest honors on May 11, 2024 from Messiah University with a degree in Applied Health Science and a minor in Psychology. She will begin graduate school at Messiah University in June to obtain her Masters in Occupational Therapy. Thank you to Our Saviour for all of your love and support throughout the years!

The Logan Family



**Dear Padre,**

I have been interested in the ancient Roman Empire lately, especially as it relates to early Christianity. I came across a certain name, and was wondering if you could shed some light on who Pliny the Younger was, and how he related to Christianity?

Signed, Novice Historian



Dear “Novice Historian,”

The Younger Pliny was born around A.D. 61 and died in A.D. 113. So he lived during Christianity’s infancy. He was a prominent lawyer, landowner, and administrator of Rome. Later in life, he was appointed to a special commission as the Emperor’s representative in the province of Bithynia and Pontus. The province had brought charges against two successive governors, indicating something was very wrong with its affairs, both political and financial. Pliny was to tour the towns, write reports on his findings, and settle lesser problems on the spot.

The province of Bithynia and Pontus was located on the southern edge of the Black Sea. This area is now the northern part of modern day Turkey. While touring the area, Pliny learned of rumors circulating about a strange group of people called Christians. He began to investigate. And in a letter to the Emperor, this is what Pliny says about the Christians: “...they (the Christians) had met regularly before dawn on a fixed day to chant verses alternately amongst themselves in honor of Christ as if to a god, and also to bind themselves by oath, not for any criminal purpose, but to abstain from theft, robbery, and adultery, to commit no breach of trust and not to deny a deposit when called upon to restore it. After this ceremony it had been their custom to disperse and reassemble later to take food of an ordinary, harmless kind; but they had in fact given up this practice since my edict, issued on your instructions, which banned all political societies” (*The Letters of the Younger Pliny*, Penguin Books, 1969, p. 294).

From this sketch, we understand that these Christians were meeting on a certain day of the week (Saturday?, the Sabbath Day, or Sunday?, the day of resurrection). They chanted verses, maybe like we do with the Psalms in worship. They seemed to recite the Ten Commandments, committing themselves to those commandments, so as not to steal or commit adultery, etc. And they partook of Holy Communion, which was seemingly rumored among the locals to be some sort of act of cannibalism (the body and blood of Christ) but was really just ordinary food. The Christians were also seen to be a political society, a group that undermined the authority of Rome. Certainly Christians were speaking of God as their “Father” and Jesus as their “Lord,” which were designations of the Emperor.

At first, Pliny responded to the situation by asking those accused if they were Christians. If they admitted it, he says he asked them a second and third time, with a warning of the punishment awaiting them. If they persisted, Pliny says, he ordered them to be led away for execution.

But it seems the situation began to get out of hand, as more and more people were being accused of being Christian. In fact, a pamphlet was circulating among the locals containing a list of names of “Christians.” What did Pliny do? He says, “I considered I should dismiss any who denied that they were or ever had been Christians when they had repeated after me a formula of invocation to the gods and had made offerings of wine and incense to your (the Emperor’s) statue...and furthermore had reviled the name of Christ: none of which things, I understand, any genuine Christian can be induced to do” (p. 294).

In response to Pliny’s letter, the Emperor wrote back saying that Pliny had followed the appropriate course of action. The Emperor said it was difficult to lay down a fixed formula, and so an examination of each case was justified. But the Emperor goes on to say, “These people (Christians) must be hunted out; if they are

brought before you and the charge against them is proved, they must be punished...They (the Christians) create the worst sort of precedent and are quite out of keeping with the spirit of our age” (p. 295).

So there you have some information about Pliny the Younger and his relationship to the early Christians. I hope this provides the information you wanted. Thanks for your question.

Signed, *Padre*

HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY

Tessa Minnich	6/1
Jenna Youngblood	6/3
Danyelle Crosby	6/14
Kelly Schreffler	6/14
Maggie Sheleman	6/14
Peter Ingavo	6/20
Margaret Ingavo	6/21
Ashton Ahrens	6/25



**Council Minutes**

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

**Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Saviour**  
**CORRECTED Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting**  
**Thursday, March 14, 2024**

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

Members Absent: Steve Barron and Joel Hains.

At 6:15 pm Pastor Joel opened the meeting with a word of prayer.

**February 15, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes**

Brad mentioned that the minutes in the newsletter are not always the corrected minutes. Jeanette will correct this. Penny mentioned a grammatical correction. Anneke mentioned that the 2024 Annual Congregation report was a report that needed to be shared with Council because the number of members on the roster (481) does not truly represent the member roster as of January 2024. Anneke asked Pastor Joel if our church reaches out to members that do not come to church. Pastor Joel said that when a person is baptized, they are on the member roster. Anneke shared that Jeanette and Anneke had called members that are on Barb's list to send notifications to by mail. Anneke mentioned that out of about 16 members that were called about Pastor's situation, only a couple answered the phone. Most of them are in nursing homes and do not come to church any more. Jeanette asked for clarification on who gets the report, Synod or ELCA? Pastor explained that churches are sending this report to the Susquehanna Synod who in turn shares it with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). A discussion ensued on cleaning up the membership roster to reflect the actual number of members. Jeanette verified that the Council meeting time is 6:00 PM, and all agreed. Pastor Joel made a motion to accept the February 15, 2024 minutes as edited. Penny seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Meeting minutes with St. Stephens on March 7, 2024**

There were no questions or remarks to the minutes. Jeanette asked Pastor Joel for the full names of Vice President Carol and Secretary Maxine. They are Carol Clellan and Maxine Montgomery. Pastor Joel made a motion to accept the March 7, 2024 minutes as edited. Anneke seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Financial Committee meeting report**

Jim mentioned that after the audit review with John Zimmerman, there were 3 (three) recommendations that needed to be established:

Issue #3: Keep a running total of monetary gifts that were reported in the Building and Memorial funds. In other words, when something is bought with a monetary gift, record this and record what is left over from the gift until all the money of that gift has been spent. Remove the item from the running total to reflect the actual total amount in the Building and Memorial funds.

This recommendation has been implemented.

Issue #4: Determine what amount of money should be kept in the PNC Current Fund Checking account and the Thrivent Current Fund Money Market account.

Jim stated that that is a judgement call, and that we should not establish an exact amount. Jim keeps money in the PNC checking account based on anticipated expenses. If there is not enough money in the PNC checking account then Jim transfers money from Thrivent Current Fund Money Market account to the PNC Current Fund Checking account to make sure there is enough money



in that account to pay the expenses. Jim also transfers money to the Thrivent Current Fund Money Market account if there is too much money sitting in the PNC checking account. Therefore, it is difficult to establish an exact amount that is kept in the PNC Current Fund Checking account. This recommendation was not accepted.

Issue #5: John recommended that we need to update the Church Bylaws to allow the Church Treasurer to transfer monies between the PNC Current Fund checking account and the Thrivent Current Fund Money Market account.

Pastor recommended that it should be in the Church Treasurer's manual or in a newly created Financial Committee Policy instead of the Church Bylaws. After a long discussion it was decided that Jim will look at the Treasurer manual if this recommendation is already in the manual. Jim provided a blurb for the change in the Church Bylaws: "A fund may be contained in any number of bank accounts, mutuals, etc. established by the Treasurer, provided the Treasurer documents to the Congregation in which accounts the fund is contained." Pastor Joel and Anneke will look at the Church Bylaws to see if Jim's blurb should be added to the Church Bylaws. Both parties will report back to the Finance Committee. Jim was asked to put a financial write up in the April 2024 newsletter about the 2 accounts (PNC Current Fund checking account and the Thrivent Current Fund Money Market accounts) that are being used to pay the church's expenses.

Jim also will highlight this process at the next Special congregation meeting in September 2024. Anneke asked Jim to email her the updated Finance manual. Jim will provide a copy of the Treasurer's manual to Barb to file in the office.

This recommendation is tabled.

Anneke asked Jim if he had created a reimbursement voucher as was recommended by John. Jim said he had and showed her the new Church reimbursement voucher. Jim thanked Anneke for getting the Finance Committee active again. He expressed his appreciation about the guidance that she had provided him with. Jim was very pleased with all the things the committee members had recommended to make it easier on him, such as establishing a Treasurer manual, closing various accounts that were redundant, and opening Thrivent savings accounts that provide us better returns. Jim said that there was lots of budget preparation, and we got an audit done despite the pandemic! Jim also mentioned that the egg monies process had changed, the money received is now being counted at the church by Penny Zimmerman and family and Jim, which provides better accountability practices.

The question was asked if John would do another audit after graciously auditing the year 2019. Jim mentioned that John probably will not continue auditing the church records because of time constraints, however, he said that we should consider doing audits for future years. Jim appreciated and was thankful for everybody providing him with guidance, recommendations, and John for doing the audit. In turn, the council members thanked Jim for all the work he has done in the past 30+ years.

### **Treasurer report**

Jim reported that there was a surplus of **\$6,284.00** in February 2024 which included 3 weeks of gross sales from the Egg fundraiser. A \$500.00 check was sent to support the Lower Susquehanna Synod, snow removal was a low amount and Brad mentioned he was very happy with the new company. Jim mentioned that the Previous Year Comparison report shows a deficit for Jan-Feb 2024 of **\$2,264.61** which is lower than the Jan-Feb 2023 deficit of **\$6,987.86**. The reason for a high Jan-Feb 2023 deficit was due to our contract with St. Stephens starting in March 2023. Overall, we are doing better than last year, Jim reported that as of March 13, 2024, we have a surplus of about **\$4,000.99** because of the egg sales. Jim dispersed detailed expense reports of the administrative supplies, expenses, salaries, and egg expenses incurred during the month of



Feb. 2024. Anneke requested from Jim that he separate any fundraising monies from the income because they are an in and out monetary process. When the fundraiser has ended and the monies have been totaled, a report should be given about the expenses and income so the auditor has an overview of the fundraiser. Anneke offered her time to help Jim with setting up this process. A motion was made to approve the expenses report by Pastor and Penny seconded. The motion carried. The Treasurer report was filed for audit.

Jim mentioned that Barb is sending out Thank You letters to people who donated money to the Church.

### **Pastors report**

Pastor highlighted some things he wanted to mention, such as the church still needs 2 voting members to attend the 2024 Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly. Pastor asked Anneke if she and Dan would volunteer and Anneke told him they would if nobody else volunteered. Pastor mentioned that we should resume vision team meetings; Anneke will soon set up a meeting. Pastor discussed the meeting at St. Stephens and the changes to the 3-month contract, such as a 14 days opt-out time and the 15 hours he would work at St. Stephens. A question was raised that 30 days opt-out might be too much! Penny mentioned that the business practice is a 14-day opt-out. Including Pastor Joel, all agreed that 14 days was acceptable for the 3-month contract. Pastor also recommended that a copy of the 3-month contract is distributed at the Special Congregation meeting on Sunday, March 24, 2024. Anneke will call Pastor Beth to see if Barb can update the previous contract, and if we can, then Barb and Anneke will make the necessary changes accordingly and email it to the congregation. Further discussion about extending the new contract was unfavorable.

Brad had mentioned his concerns that we are delaying the inevitable of us working on a partnership with another local congregation. Pastor recommended to engage Pastor Beth in helping Our Saviour find a local partnership or speaking to the congregation about the process of partnering with local churches. Anneke will call Pastor Beth to find out and report back to council at the April 10 meeting.

Penny asked if we are perusing the part-time pastor or is that not going to happen! Pastor mentioned that to move to a half-time call involves a lot of logistics to be worked out because a pastor cannot be called to 2 individual churches! Our Saviour has a full-time called pastor. Brad mentioned that we got to do something, and Anneke mentioned that 45 members cannot sustain this church to continue its ministry. Further conversation ensued about what is best for Our Saviour.

### **Property Report**

Brad mentioned that the roof was leaking in the Fellowship Hall near the heating element up front and that it was fixed, however it was still leaking so Brad called the company and they will come out again. The faucet in the kitchen sink was also replaced by Dave Scicchitano and all were very happy with the result. Dave only charged \$125, very reasonable.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

No update on creating an Internal Technical (IT) Committee – on hold

Update on St. Stephen was discussed in pastors report, see above

No update on Part-Time Ministry Question. Brad informed the council that nobody asked questions about this at the Congregational meeting in January 2024.

Vision Team developed a Vision statement. Anneke asked pastor where to go with this team since we now are considering looking at finding a local partnership. We also need to ask the congregation whether they like the Vision statement. Although the town meetings clarified a lot of what our congregation wants to do, however, we must understand what our vision is and what our assets are, and what do we bring to the table in a conversation with another church. We need to do a building/property

evaluation, Anneke asked Brad to head a committee that will do the evaluation. Brad agreed to be the chair. Lot of great ideas were brought to the table, and the discussion about the great possibilities our church has to offer.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Church email issue:

Penny mentioned that she is not getting all the blast emails and that there are more members not getting emails from the church secretary. Pastor called Barb to resend it asap. Barb will look into this issue.

### April 23 Election Day polling station for primary voting at church:

Jeanette mentioned that there will be more traffic. She also will put a list on the table in the Narthex for members to help and donate baked goodies etc. Jeanette will have a list of times and volunteer names at the next council meeting.

### Synod 2024 Annual Congregation report:

Create Taskforce that can work together on cleaning this up. Ask Barb to generate a full list of all members on the roll. Task force members are Jim, Anneke, Penny and Barb, they will work together to clean up the membership roll. Send out letters to the members who have not been in church for years asking them if they want to be removed. Report to council who needs to be removed from the membership roll.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm Next meeting is April 10 @ 6:00 pm  
Respectfully submitted, Antonetta Fleming/Council President

## **Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Saviour Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting Wednesday, April 10, 2024**

Members Present: Antonetta Fleming, President, Pastor Joel Petruschke, Jim Lubrecht, Treasurer, Jeanette Logan, Secretary, Joel Hains, Steve Barron, and Penny Zimmerman

Members Absent: Brad Neil, Vice-President

Meeting started at 6:01 PM, Pastor Joel opened with a devotion and a word of prayer.

### **Minutes March 15, 2024**

Minutes were reviewed. A few grammatical errors were reported. Pastor Joel made a motion to accept the March 15, 2024 minutes as edited. Anneke seconded and the motion carried.

**Secretary correspondence:** none

### **Treasurer report**

Jim reported that there was a surplus of **\$5,300.00** as of March 31, 2024 which included gross sales from the Egg fundraiser and the St Stephen's Interim service payment. Jim dispersed detailed expense reports of the administrative supplies, expenses, and salaries incurred during the month of March 2024. In addition, he handed out a March 24 detailed Easter Egg expense report that had been prepared by chair, Nadine Martin. He also mentioned that the Scholarship Mutuals account is growing very nicely, it increased by \$8,544.42 for the month of March 2024.

by chair, Nadine Martin. He also mentioned that the Scholarship Mutuals account is growing very nicely, it increased by \$8,544.42 for the month of March 2024.

Jim reported that there was no mention in the Church Bylaws regarding transferring monies from one account to another. After discussion Council recommended that Jim's blurb should be added to the Church Treasurer Manual (*A fund may be contained in any number of bank accounts, mutuals, etc. established by the Treasurer, provided the Treasurer documents to the Congregation in which accounts the fund is contained.*)

Jim was asked to make a notation on the financial report when he moves funds for general church expenses from one account to another, and provide dates and accounts names to avoid confusion. He will also set up a financial committee meeting in the next 2 months.

Jim provided a list of Church Memorial Fund monies that showed who made the donation and the designations the monies must be used for.

Jim mentioned that Barb is sending out Thank You letters to people who donated money to the Church.

Jeanette made a motion to approve the church expense report, seconded by Pastor Joel. The motion carried. The Treasurer report was filed for audit.

#### **Church Committee Reports:**

- Building/property evaluation – no report
- Christian Education – no report
- Child Protection Policy – no report
- Fund Raising – no report
- Mutual Ministry – no report
- Property – Riding mower was serviced, cost \$343.51
- Scholarship BOT – no report
- Social Ministry – no report
- Stewardship – not an active committee
- Welcome – no report
- Worship and Music - no report
- Finance – no report

#### **Pastors report**

Pastor Joel discussed his summer vacation schedule and reported that he had scheduled supply pastors for his absences. Dan and Anneke Fleming agreed to be the church voting members at the Synod Assembly.

The Day of Edification will be held on Saturday, May 18, 2024, by Zoom. The business sessions will be held the evening of Friday, May 31, 2024, by Zoom and Saturday, June 1, 2024, in person at St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church, 839 W Market St, York, PA 17401

Update St. Stephen: St. Stephen's congregation met with Mount Zion church congregation on Sunday, April 7, 2024 to discuss their arrangement. Both churches are very favorable on moving forward. Both church councils will get together to make sure they are on the same page. Pastor contacted Pastor Beth Martini from ELCA to set up a date to discuss a joint interim ministry where one pastor will serve both congregations, and hopefully this will all be in place before Pastor Joel's contract expires on July 7, 2024.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

IT committee: Anneke put this on hold due to more church pressing issues

Vision Team meeting: Anneke sent out an email to all committee chairs asking them to join the Vision

Team meeting on April 16, 2024, at 6:00 PM to discuss the progress the committee has made; however, she did not get many responses. Anneke will set up another meeting date and time to meet with the committee chairs. Anneke plans on talking soon to the congregation. Pastor had some concerns whether the congregation and Council recognizes where we are in terms of our finances, and the possibility of looking for partnering with another congregation since we are dissolving the interim contract with St. Stephens on July 7, 2024. Anneke indicated that she is looking at having meetings after church about the status of our church because it is important in keeping our congregation up to date. Pastor also mentioned his concerns about what the status is on ½ time pastor. Pastor recommended that a letter with bullet points should be given to the congregation at the next informative meeting. Anneke and Pastor agreed to work on the temple talks and meetings after church with the congregation.

Update on April 23 Election Day polling station for primary voting at church: All volunteer slots have been filled. Jeanette reported that she will make pleas for donations on baked goods. All items to be sold will be \$1.00.

Update from Membership Role ad-hoc committee: Chair Jim Lubrecht reported that Anneke, Penny, church secretary, Barb Johnson, and Pastor Joel will meet on May 1, 2024 at 10:00 AM at church to start cleaning up membership records.

Update on Council minutes in Newsletter: To make sure that Barb publishes error-free minutes, council decided that the Council secretary will send the minutes to all council members for them to verify the information in the minutes is correct. If any errors or corrections are found then those will be emailed to the secretary before the meeting so she has enough time to correct them. This way all council members have read the minutes before the meeting which saves time, and the approved minutes will then be emailed to Barb for publication in the church's newsletter.

Update on Church email issue: Several members had reported that they do not receive the Church's email blast always, Pastor would talk to Barb about this issue and report back to Council.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Linda Schreier reported to Anneke that she was concerned about someone getting hurt when the Lilly Cross is hung up or anything else. Anneke will refer this to Property committee chair Brad Neil at the May meeting.

Vision Team requested that Council decide on having a Mission & Vision statement OR just a Vision statement.

Pastor Joel made a motion to remove the Mission statement from the church's publications with the intent to replace it with our newly created Vision statement. Seconded by Jeanette Logan. Discussion – Pastor suggested that we need to inform the congregation about this change and how the Vision Team is going about implementing this change. Council suggested that the Vision Team needs to look at the protocol of doing away with the mission statement.

Anneke amended the motion with the following: The current Mission statement of the church reads as: "Our Saviour Lutheran Church, a caring congregation dedicated to the word of Christ welcomes all people to worship and grow with us as we share God's love and salvation with our neighbors, our children and ourselves" should be replaced with the new Vision statement. Pastor Joel seconded. Discussion – None. All were in favor of the amendment. Pastor made a motion to vote on the entire motion, seconded by Jim Lubrecht. Discussion – None. All were in favor, motion carried.

Pastor Joel moved to adjourn; Anneke seconded Meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm Next meeting is May 6, 2024 @ 6:00 pm Respectfully submitted, Antonetta Fleming/Council President

**OUR SAVIOUR  
FINANCIAL REPORT**

	<u>AS OF 4/30/2024</u>	<u>AS OF 3/31/2024</u>	<u>difference</u>
ENVELOPES AND PLATE	\$37,362.90	\$29,103.90	\$8,259.00
FUND RAISING	\$18,930.06	\$17,736.00	\$1,194.06
FELLOWSHIP HALL RENTAL	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
ST STEPHENS MISSION	\$12,783.38	\$10,400.04	\$2,383.34
TOTAL INCOME	\$69,276.34	\$57,239.97	\$12,036.40
 EXPENSE	 \$67,637.49	 \$51,930.90	 \$15,706.59
 SURPLUS/DEFICIT	 \$1,638.85	 \$5,309.04	 -\$3,670.19
 PNC BANK STATEMENT BALANCES			
	<u>4/30/2024</u>	<u>3/31/2024</u>	<u>difference</u>
CURRENT FUND CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$31,145.73	\$30,012.74	\$1,132.99
MEMORIAL FUND MONEY MARKET #	\$15,345.17	\$15,105.04	\$240.13
 THRIVENT ACCOUNTS			
	<u>4/30/2024</u>	<u>3/31/2024</u>	<u>difference</u>
CURRENT FUND MONEY MARKET	\$49,715.91	\$49,488.15	\$227.76
SCHOLARSHIP MUTUALS	\$180,675.03	\$193,303.44	-\$12,628.41
MEMORIAL FUND MONEY MARKET *	\$84,228.88	\$83,842.99	\$385.89

\* \$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





2Sun

Mon



Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1 8:15 am - Synod Assembly - in person
2 - Pentecost 2 9 am - Worship 1st Sunday Social	3 Pastor Joel @St. Stephen 6 pm - Welcome Committee	4	5 6 pm - Scholarship BOT meeting	6 Pastor Joel @St. Stephen 6:30 pm - Vision Team	7	8 9 am - Sharing Pastoral Resources Discussion @Kentland
9 - Pentecost 3 9 am - Worship	10 Pastor Joel @St. Stephen's committee reports due in office	11	12 6 pm - Council	13 Pastor Joel @St. Stephen	14	15
	Family Promise Host Week					
16 - Pentecost 4 Father's Day 9 am - Worship newsletter deadline 	17 Pastor Joel @St. Stephen	18 6 pm - Vision Team	19	20 Pastor Joel @St. Stephen	21 office closed - Barb out of the office	22 10 am - Bible Study
23 - Pentecost 5 9 am - Worship	24 Pastor Joel @St. Stephen	25	26	27 Pastor Joel @St. Stephen	28	29
30 - Pentecost 6 9 am - Worship						



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

---

Phone: 717-545-9992  
Email: [ossec@comcast.net](mailto:ossec@comcast.net)  
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**

**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](mailto:ossec@comcast.net)

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



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.