

# Good News

October 2021



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

## *Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,*

October is the month in which we commemorate the Reformation, which began on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 1517. The Reformation is the time when we remember that the Church experienced great upheaval. The Church went through considerable tribulation. Eventually, all of Europe experienced the throes of the Reformation in the cataclysmic event known as the Thirty Years' War. As the result of the Thirty Years' War the religious and geopolitical landscape of Europe was utterly transformed. Religious life changed. But, suffice it to say, during this upheaval, during the Reformation, the people themselves may not have recognized to what extent their world was changing. The people may not have realized that the Church was changing. Only after did the import of the Reformation really come to light. As they say, hindsight is 20/20.

In the same way, what we are experiencing right now, with the pandemic, with the evolving Church, may not be recognized as a great transformation of the Church. When we are the middle of upheaval it is hard to see much beyond the present moment. But, just like with respect to the Reformation in Europe, the Church of today is changing. In truth, the Church is always in the process of changing. The Latin *ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda* translates as "the church reformed, always reforming."

When I think about the ever-changing church I am reminded of that wonderful hymn "Built on a Rock" (ELW #652). The words of the first stanza are as follows: Built on a rock the church shall stand,/even when steeples are falling;/crumble have spires in ev'ry land,/bells still are chiming and calling—/calling the young and old to rest,/calling the souls of those distressed,/longing for life everlasting. There is something powerful about the words of this hymn which remind us that the Church is stalwart, firm, and sturdy. Even though buildings may crumble and fall, the Church will stand because it is made of people and its foundation is Christ.

I would encourage us to remember that message. I would encourage us to remember that we are the living stones of the church, and we are Christ's own habitation. Christ lives in the community of believers, not in a building. And the vision of Christ is ever more apparent when that community of believers consists of not of just a few but of many faithful people. Surely, Christ is present wherever two or three are gathered in his Name, but the vision of God's everlasting kingdom is a vision of all people giving praise to God. And so, with greater numbers of people rejoicing in Christ the Lord, comes a fuller picture of God's reign. That is why I tell our folks that when we don't see them in worship, yes, the Church is still the Church, but the vision is less glorious than it could be. It is God's desire that the many members of the Church would gather.

In our recent congregational meeting, we discussed what our Sunday morning worship schedule might be with Epiphany Lutheran Church in the mix. And I must reiterate that with the opportunity to engage with Epiphany in our worship life, the Spirit is calling us to that greater vision of God's reign. The church is changing. It is always changing. And the Spirit of God would seem to be calling us to change whereby a vision of gathering with the good folks at Epiphany is evident.

We may not fully grasp what the Church will look like on the other side of the changes going on around us, just like the Christians during the Reformation of the 16<sup>th</sup> century could not see what would become of the Church. Even so, the Church is built on a rock. And even so, the bells are still calling. God is still calling the young and old, those distressed, and all those who long for the message of salvation. God is calling you and me.

In Christ, *Pastor Joel Petruschke*



## **The Lessons for October 2021**

### **October 3 — Pentecost 19**

Genesis 2:18-24  
Psalm 8  
Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12  
Mark 10:2-16

### **October 10 — Pentecost 20**

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15  
Psalm 90:12-17  
Hebrews 4:12-16  
Mark 10:17-31

### **October 17 — Pentecost 21**

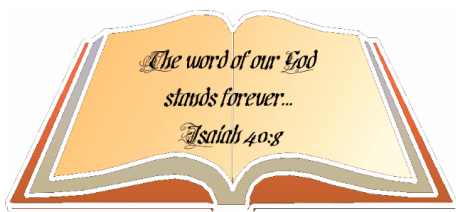
Isaiah 53:4-12  
Psalm 91:9-16  
Hebrews 5:1-10  
Mark 10:35-45

### **October 24 — Pentecost 22**

Jeremiah 31:7-9  
Psalm 126  
Hebrews 7:23-28  
Mark 10:46-52

### **October 31 — Reformation**

Jeremiah 31:31-34  
Psalm 46  
Romans 3:19-28  
John 8:31-36



## **Baptism**

Our congratulations to Kristie & Nicholas Sheleman and to their family & friends. Kristie & Nicholas' daughter, Maggie Louise will be baptized into Christ at Our Saviour during worship on October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## **Thank you**

Thank you all for the cards & prayer I received upon the sudden passing of Julie.

A special thank you to all who helped with the memorial service & luncheon that followed. Your kindness is so very much appreciated.

Toby Drake



On behalf of the Manna Food Pantry Broad, we want to take the opportunity to thank you for the gifts of \$100 and \$50 as we continue to serve people in need in our area. We are continuing to provide food to all who are in need during this difficult period due to the pandemic. We are still providing food to children every week and have opened our pantry to serve people as needed.

More than ever, the need is great. Manna would not be able to help the number of folks we help each month if it were not for kindhearted friends like you. Again we thank you.

Manna Food Pantry Board

## **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

As I write this article, it is raining quite heavily outside. And as I am prone to say on rainy days, "It is a good day to remember our baptism." With all the water falling outside, it is good day to remember that water was once poured over our heads from the baptismal font, and we became children of God.

In the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal, the rite of baptism begins with these words:

In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

I understand those words as saying, what God has done once for all people through his Son's death and resurrection, is made personal for us in baptism. God gives the promise of salvation to everyone, but when we are baptized we know that God has specifically saved us. It is kind of like communion. Typically, that is before COVID-19, each person received the words of communion, "The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you." Why we take the time to tell each person these words is because each of us needs to hear that God's suffering and death on the cross is for us. Yes, God has suffered and died for all of us, and we can say those words over all the congregation, like we do now, but to hear those same words spoken to each of us specifically affirms that God's grace is for each one of us.

So there is great comfort in knowing that we are baptized, because the message of Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection can sound like a general statement. Yes, Jesus died on the cross and rose again at Easter. But, the point is that Jesus died on the cross and rose again on Easter for you and for me, and for each person. It is a great comfort to know God's grace has been bestowed personally on us. We can point to our individual baptism and can affirm that God's love for us is certain and unwavering. God's grace is like the rain, is like the ocean. God's grace is as abundant and is as sure as the showers with which God waters the earth. And so yes, it is a great day to remember our baptism. Thanks be to God.

### Member News

One of our members will be 100 on Halloween, October 31 -- Ada Heberle!  
Please wish her a happy birthday. Her address is:  
Ada Heberle  
Kindred Place, #206  
4700 Oakhurst Blvd.  
Harrisburg, PA 17110

In advance of their upcoming wedding Jenna Neil & Billy Youngblood bought their first home together. Jenna's new address is:  
3720 Montour Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17111

### **A Word on Stewardship**

Lately, I have been thinking a lot about what we are all doing as a human race. I mean, what progress have we made as a species? What do we have to show for our time here on earth? I know that is a rather deep question. I tend to wax more philosophic during the autumn months for whatever reason.

Now, we might answer that question by saying that our human species has learn to make fire, has created the wheel, and has built a great civilization consisting of cities and skyscrapers. We have extended the quality and length of life. We have developed means of travel across the globe and even into space. We have accomplished much as a species, no doubt.

But here is the cynic in me. Much of what we have accomplished has been for the comfort of humanity. We have developed indoor plumbing, air conditioning, and the like. We have made it easy for us to travel from one location to another in a shorter span of time. We have developed pain relievers, anesthetics, and other medicine. And, this is not to say that these are not good things. But, is there not more to the human species?

To some extent, I guess what I am asking is this: as a species have we evolved, not so much biologically, but morally and spiritually? Of course, the term for this is Social Darwinism. Social Darwinism is the idea that the human beings can evolve, do evolve into "better people" over the generations. Now, one of my seminary professors argued adamantly that there is no such thing as Social Darwinism. And, many, many people would agree.

As people, we always will sin. We will also steal, lie, and cheat. In this regard, nothing much has changed from the time of Adam and Eve to the present day. We will always declare war, enact genocide in one form or another, and abuse the planet. It is almost as if those things are in our DNA. But whereas, evolution selects for those traits that help a species survive, it is not so much the case when it comes to sin.

Where am I going with all this? There is song I have been listening to a lot lately. It is song by Enya. Her music is described as New Age. And she performed this one song called "Exile," which is on her 1988 album entitled *Watermark*. It is a hauntingly beautiful song. In this song, she sings about being on a distant shore far from home. She questions, "Who can chase all these fears away deep inside?" She longs to sail home to "you." For me, it is a perfect analogy of life. We long to sail home to "you." We long to sail home to a place of comfort and peace. And for the believer, the "you" is God, who is there on that far distant shore.

And so, as Enya comes to the conclusion of the song, she says, "Out of these dreams, comes a boat. And I will sail home to you." In life, the boat is God's grace to all of us. The boat is our means of coming home. And the boat is the Church. As a human species, we may not be progressing morally or spiritually. There indeed may be not such thing as Social Darwinism. Nonetheless, God gives us grace in the form of the Church by which we may journey together in life. And through things like confession and forgiveness, prayer and praise, mercy and compassion, hope and faith - through all those things we experience in Church - there is the means by which the human species can learn and grow into God's holy people. And so, it is in the Church in which we find the promise of becoming a better human species.

### **Pet Blessing on October 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

It is time again to have your pets blessed. We will meet on Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 3:00 pm in the church pavilion. There will be doggie and kitty treats for our four-legged friends. Invite your neighbors and their pets.



*Dear Padre,*

So, have you read any good books lately?

Signed, Your Fellow Bibliophile

Dear Fellow Bibliophile,



Actually, I recently finished reading *The Histories* by Herodotus. Herodotus lived from c. 484 to 414 B.C. He is credited with having written the world's first great narrative history. Here is one summation of his book: "Herodotus's *Histories* describes how the Greeks - few in number, poor, disunited - managed to repulse a massive invasion of the powerful Persian army in the fifth century B.C. This amazing upset victory changed the course of Western civilization, as the cities that led the resistance - Athens and Sparta - became the two major powers on the Greek mainland. The remarkable period that followed introduced revolutionary ideas about democracy, education, philosophy, drama, and - thanks to Herodotus - the writing of history." In short, Herodotus created a new genre of literature.

Besides being a book about history, it also speaks about the cultures of many different peoples, including their dress, religious practices, and diets. The book also is something of a travelogue, explaining the routes traveled and the sites to be observed in the ancient world. But, most interesting to me, is the descriptions of the reigns of particular kings. The book speaks about the Persian kings known as Cyrus, Xerxes, and Darius. It is fascinating because these kings are mentioned in the Bible in relation to God's people. And so, to read about the rule of these kings outside of the Bible gives a wonderful different perspective.

Now, I do have to say that the book was challenging at times, in terms of all the Greek tribes and peoples. There were so many Greek tribes that I found it hard to keep them all in order. It was especially difficult understanding where the various tribes were located and how they related to one another.

So, that is one book that I have recently read. I am not sure it is something I would recommend for casual reading. But for someone who really likes history and for someone who really wants to expand their knowledge about the Persian kings mentioned in the Bible, it is well worth the time.

Thanks for your question.

Signed, *Padre*

### **Manna Food Pantry**

Our "2nd Sunday" food collection is still ongoing. During this time of 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.



## **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, August 25, 2021**

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

**Members Absent:** Marlee Zimmerman

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:34 PM after a prayer offered by Pastor Joel. Since the President position is vacant, Pastor Joel led the meeting.

**Council Executive Positions:** No update

**Minutes:** Minutes from the June Council meeting were reviewed. The following amendment was requested: Under Scholarship BOT, indicate there was a decision to put the money awarded to Max Reilly in escrow for future payment. Upon motion by Mike and seconded by Brad, the minutes were approved with the requested amendment.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jim presented Council with budget performance data. Jim highlighted last month's \$3,379.00 insurance expenditure, the lower-than-normal offering collections, and missed income from having no egg sales or hall rentals this year; all are contributing factors to a 29.5K deficit on the bottom line. He ended by saying he has pulled around 20K so far this year from Thrivent Mutuals to cover expenses. After some discussion about these problems, Jessica moved that Council accept the budget report as filed for audit and Brad seconded the motion, which was carried.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Christian Education** - This committee met concerning Sunday school and no classes have been scheduled. Confirmation classes for Evan and Tyler will resume.

**Fundraising** – The GermanFest committee met on August 22<sup>nd</sup> and completed a report with detailed plans for Council to review. There is a need for volunteers and Pastor asked Council to do what they can to promote the event.

**Mutual Ministry** – This committee has not met.

**Property** – This committee has not met. Pastor Joel reported there are lights both inside and outside the building which need to be replaced as well as a broken hood for one of the parking lot lights. Phoebe will contact an electrical contractor, as a lift is needed for these repairs. Pastor Joel also reported that a groundhog has borrowed near the area of the foundation where water was leaking into the Church. Jim has filled the hole with "used" cat litter in order to keep the groundhog away. If this fails, Pastor will continue to look for a live trap.



Penny provided these updates related to Property:

It appears the outside lights are continuing to burn during daylight hours. Pastor Joel said he will check the timing on the lights.

The Hanna Hope Garden appears to be untended. A contractor has been observed working in the garden recently.

It appears people have been congregating at the pavilion and leaving trash behind. Penny recommended that we place a trash can out there.

**Welcome** - This committee has not met.

**Worship and Music** – This committee met August 17<sup>th</sup>. Council reviewed their report and the following actions were taken:

Anneke will send an email to Hope to share some concerns that the current worship time is too early and that 9:30 or 10:00 would be preferred. Also, Council agreed with one worship time for now.

Pastor will get back to performing baptisms and will proceed with scheduling the two that have been requested since the pandemic started.

Jim reported that we have paid Mitchell Sensenig \$4700.00 so far this year to play organ for us without a contract. Jessica moved and Penny seconded that we offer Mitchell a contract as organist for 10K per year with two paid vacation days. Hope will prepare the contract and Pastor and Jim will present it to Mitchell.

**Child Protection Policy** - This committee has not met.

**Scholarship BOT** – This committee has not met.

**Social Ministry** - This committee has not met.

**Stewardship** - This committee has not met.

**Pastor's Report** - Pastor reviewed his report with Council, focusing on near term scheduled events as well as updates on our COVID-19 response.

Confirmation Class resumes September 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM

The Church office will be closed on Labor Day, September 6<sup>th</sup>.

GermanFest preparation days are September 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, starting at 9 AM.

GermanFest is September 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM until food is sold out.

Diane Lehrman's Celebration of Life Service is postponed from September 18<sup>th</sup>.

Arno Miller's Celebration of Life Service is September 25<sup>th</sup> with 10:00 AM visitation and 11:00 AM service.

Congregational Meeting is September 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM.

**Note:** The following COVID-19 Taskforce updates and Council actions occurred in-between the regular Council meetings held June 9<sup>th</sup> and August 25<sup>th</sup> and are incorporated here for the record. The COVID-19 Taskforce met on June 16<sup>th</sup> and requested consideration by Council (by email vote) of several of their recommendations which they hoped to implement by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Implementation of Phase 3 protocols

Approval of Draft Meeting Protocols and Processes as well as a proposed Wiping/Sanitizing sheet.

Allow Choir and special musical offerings to begin without masks but with proper social distancing.

Council approved these recommendations via email vote.

The Taskforce met again on July 7<sup>th</sup> and requested via e-mail, on July 8<sup>th</sup>, approval of the following recommendations:

Masks are no longer required in the building, and individuals may choose to wear a mask based on their own preferences and/or health status.

There is no longer a need for social distancing; however, being respectful of persons who prefer to distance themselves, if the sanctuary is too crowded, the Fellowship Hall is available.

Hymnals and bibles will be returned to the pew racks and hymnals will be used during Sunday worship services. If there is a service (e.g., memorial) 24 hours prior to or after a Sunday worship service, a complete service bulletin will be provided.

Ushers no longer need to "seat" folks upon entering the sanctuary. Pastor no longer needs to dismiss each pew and will resume dismissal from the back of the sanctuary. Pastor will determine whether he and the respective person's comfort level enable "hand shaking" or some other form of acknowledgement.

The offering boxes (2) will remain in place for persons to drop their envelopes, etc. The large offering plate will be placed at the back of the Sanctuary prior to the start of the worship service. Pastor will direct the ushers to collect the contents of the 2 boxes and place the contents on the offering plate and bring the plate up to him during the offertory.

Folks may once again gather in the Narthex.

Recommend that Phase 4 be implemented effective Sunday, August 15, 2021.

Council approved these recommendations via email vote.

During the Council meeting tonight, Brad said the main update from the August 4<sup>th</sup> Taskforce meeting was to encourage mask wearing.

Pastor also provided updates on Old and New Business agenda items in his report, which are captured below.

#### **Old Business:**

**Sound System Upgrade Proposal** – Council recognized the hard work that Herb put into getting this proposal before them and they are thankful for the time he took explaining all aspects of the project, however, Council is declining to pursue this project at this time because of concerns over the budget. Anneke moved that we indefinitely suspend the project for this budget year. Jared seconded and this motion was carried.

**Names for Vacant Council positions** – Council reviewed the slate of Council members who are up for re-election this September as well as vacant positions. The position of Council President is vacant, as is Arno's seat. Jessica and Marlee will not seek re-election in 2021, so that a total of four vacancies will exist. The following names were provided as possible new council members: Deborah Flage, Marilyn Hocker, Nadine Martin and either Victor or Tiffany Landis. Pastor Joel will reach out.

**Little Lending Library** – Pastor Joel will continue to pursue making a small sign to be installed near the library on Trinity.

**Organist Position** – See above under Worship and Music Report.

**Purchase of a Shed** – No Update

**Sanctuary and Outside Lights** – See above under Property Report.

**By-laws and Finance Committee** – Carole Ranck will convene the By-law committee.



**Meeting with Epiphany Lutheran** – We have received a request from Epiphany Lutheran church to pool resources and they propose to discuss this in a small group meeting. Their Pastor has resigned since this meeting was first proposed by Epiphany. Jim, Jeannette and John Zimmerman have volunteered to join Pastor Joel in meeting with their representatives in mid-September.

**New Business:**

**Memorial Request** – Donna has asked Council to use a Memorial fund established for Arno Miller (\$965.00) to replace the bench just outside the church doors with a new bench commemorating Arno's Life. Council reviewed three estimates: 1) a wooden bench costing about \$250.00, 2) a wooden and metal bench costing about the same, and 3) a composite bench costing about \$600.00. A small plate with Arno's name and dates of birth and death along with an appropriate memorial message will cost around \$20.00. Council agreed with Donna's preference toward the Composite bench. Brad moved and Penny seconded that we purchase the composite bench with the plaque using the Arno Miller Memorial fund. We will need to find out if the bench which is to be replaced is a gift or memorial before we remove it. Council does not know the history of the bench, so Pastor is going to place a query in the church bulletin to make sure the bench can be replaced without ruining anyone's legacy.

**Groundhog Problem** – see above under Property Report

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was ended by reciting the Lord's Prayer and was adjourned at 8:20 PM after approval of a motion from Anneke, which was seconded by Jared. The next Council meeting be held on September 15, 2021 at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael Metzger (Secretary)

### ***Our Free Little Library***

There is a new "Little Free Library" located at the entrance of the church's driveway. The library was placed there, with permission from the church council, by Altrusa International of South Central Pennsylvania. The library has been registered by Altrusa through the international list of libraries. It was built by Dave Hinrich of York County and he helped Pastor Joel and Daniel Logan with placement of the library.

**WHAT IS A LITTLE FREE LIBRARY -**

A Little Free Library is a "take a book, return a book" free book exchange. Anyone may contribute or take books. The more the merrier! If you take a book (or two) from the library, you do not need to return that exact book. However, in order to keep the little library full of good choices for the whole neighborhood and our congregation, the next time you swing by the library bring a few books to share. Little Free Library book exchanges function on the honor system; everyone contributes to ensure there are always quality books inside. This way, we all win! We can help everyone to enjoy reading and can use children and adult books. Please do not place any inappropriate books there. Any questions or concerns please ask Donna Miller.





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
<b>3 - Pentecost 19</b> 9 am - Worship 3 pm - Pet Blessing	<b>4</b> 6 pm - Praise Him Singers rehearsal 7 pm - Mutual Ministry - @church in- person	5	<b>6</b> 6:30 pm - COVID-19 Task Force via Zoom	<b>7</b> Russ Faber	8	9
<b>10 - Pentecost 20</b> 9 am - Worship	<b>11</b>  <b>office closed</b>	<b>12</b> Richard Flage	<b>13</b> 1:30 pm - Bible Study @Manor @Oakridge 6:30 pm - Council Tyler Cristaldi	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17 - Pentecost 21</b> 9 am - Worship	<b>18</b> 6 pm - Praise Him Singers rehearsal 6 pm - Welcome Comm. - @church in-person	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 7 pm - Worship & Music Hayden Brittelli	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24 - Pentecost 22</b> 9 am - Worship George Schreffler, III	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 1:30 pm - Bible Study @Manor @Oakridge Madeline Schreffler Troy Schreffler, Jr.	<b>28</b> Robert McCann	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31 - Reformation            Sunday</b> 9 am - Worship Ada Heberle	 					

The Evangelical Lutheran  
**CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR**  
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Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17109

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### *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 @9am.  
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.