



# Our Saviour's Good News

Volume XVI, Issue IV

April 2021

## MISSION STATEMENT

*Our Saviour Lutheran Church welcomes all people to a safe place to grow in faith and serve the Lord Jesus Christ*

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See Run for Money form enclosed

## The Easter Story - Important Facts All Christians Need to Know

Jason Soroski

The story of Easter is the story of an empty tomb. No one knows with complete certainty where the tomb of Jesus was located, but this shouldn't be surprising. After the resurrection, the location of the tomb didn't matter anymore since Jesus was no longer in it.

### What is the Easter Story?

On Easter, or Resurrection Sunday, we celebrate what is arguably the most important event in all of human history: Jesus rising from the dead. All of Christianity and all eternity hinges on the truth of the resurrection. If Jesus did not rise from the dead, then our faith is lacking in meaning and is just another interesting philosophy. But if the resurrection is true, then it is the clearest proof that Jesus is exactly who he claimed to be – the Son of God and the Savior of the world. All of the evidence points to the truth of the resurrection, and the result is changed lives. Let's dive into both the big and seemingly smaller events of the story of Easter, and understand how each is significant to the entire redemption story.

### Why is the timeline of Easter important?

*“Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?”* Matthew 26:53-54

Throughout Scripture, events happen in a certain order for a certain reason, and God often works not only through *what* happens, but through *how and when* things happen. The order of events, in this case of the Easter story, shows a fulfillment of prophecies and reveals why Jesus is called the ‘Lamb of God.’

Immediately before the crucifixion and resurrection, Jesus sat at the Passover meal with his disciples and explained how the meal represented not only the past, but also what was about to happen in the following days. Jesus had to make the ultimate sacrifice at the time of Passover. He also had to be taken down from the cross before sunset, because this was the beginning of the Sabbath. Each event fit inside a larger picture of what God had been doing through his people for centuries and set the stage for what he had planned for the next few thousand years.

### What did the Last Supper really mean and what does it have to do with Easter?

*“Do this in remembrance of me.”* Luke 22:19

Christians everywhere celebrate what we call ‘communion’ or the ‘Lord’s Supper’ because of what happened the night before the crucifixion. Jesus and his disciples were celebrating the Passover together, and a small part of this observance involves drinking a cup and the breaking and eating of unleavened bread. The entire observance of Passover is a remembrance of how God delivered the Jewish people out of slavery in Egypt, and each element is a symbol of that. As they celebrated this meal, Jesus reaffirmed the original meaning of deliverance from physical slavery while adding to it the meaning of freedom from spiritual slavery. His broken body is represented in the bread, and his blood in the cup. In him and through his sacrifice, the symbolism has now been fulfilled.

(Easter cont'd from page 1)

### What happened in the garden of Gethsemane?

*"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done."* Luke 22:42

The garden of Gethsemane is a grove of olive trees that is still there today. Some of the trees are over 2,000 years old and would have been young trees at the time Jesus was there on the night he was arrested. Located in Jerusalem, the Temple Mount is just a short walk away across the Kidron Valley. As Jesus prayed in the garden, he could see the temple, and could likely hear the hustle and bustle of people gathering for the Passover.

It is here that he prayed the most agonizing prayer ever to be lifted up. After the Last Supper with his disciples, he took them out to pray in the garden where he predicted Peter's denial and prayed for God's will to be done in him.

### Why was Jesus put on trial?

*"And they began to accuse him, saying, 'We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Messiah, a king.'"* Luke 23:2

Jesus went through several trials, and all of them were legally out-of-line, even by ancient standards. His first trial was before the Sanhedrin, the leading council of Israel, where he was charged with blasphemy for claiming to be God. The meeting of the council was called at night, and all the witnesses brought against Jesus were poor witnesses at best.

The council had no authority to sentence him to death, so they brought him to Pilate, the Roman governor who held that power. Pilate found no cause for getting involved in what he saw as a local religious dispute, so when he found out that Jesus was from Galilee, he sent him off to Herod, the leader of Galilee, who was also in Jerusalem for the Passover. Before Herod, Jesus was mocked and beaten and then sent back to Pilate. Pilate finally allowed his crucifixion in order to "satisfy the crowd" (Mark 15:15).

There was no legal reason for Jesus to be crucified. He had not blasphemed or opposed paying taxes. Yet, it was God's will that Jesus die on our behalf to take away our sin. There was no stopping the plan of God, no matter how painful. Out of this pain and even in this dark hour, a path was being laid for the resurrection and the glorious hope of eternal life and triumph over the grave.

### Why was Jesus crucified?

The crucifixion of Jesus is one of the most horrifying, yet most startlingly beautiful things that has ever happened. Crucifixion was not unique to Jesus but was a common Roman practice. Criminals, outlaws, and others were regularly crucified in the Roman world. Perhaps the most striking thing about the method of his death was that it was so strikingly common. Crucifixion was not an unusual sight for the people of Israel under Roman occupation. What was unusual is that this man

had committed no crime worthy of crucifixion.

In fact, he had committed no crime at all.

The Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, was a soldier and a politician known to be cruel in his methods and by no means a softhearted man. Yet even he expressed regret for allowing the crucifixion of Christ to proceed.

### Where was Jesus crucified?

*"They came to a place called Golgotha (which means 'the place of the skull')."* Matthew 27:33

Jesus was crucified on a hill known as 'The Skull' outside of Jerusalem. Some Bible versions translate this as *Calvary* (Latin) or *Golgotha* (Aramaic). It seems to have been a common place for these types of executions. It could have been so named because the hill looked like a large skull, or because of the many executions that regularly occurred there.

### How did Jesus die?

*"Jesus called out with a loud voice, 'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.' When he had said this, he breathed his last."* Luke 23:46

To say the death of Christ was excruciating is no stretch, as the word *excruciating* itself is derived from the word *crucifixion*. It literally means 'the pain of a crucifixion.'

Suffering from blood loss, extreme pain, and muscle spasms from being nailed to a cross, the victim eventually lost the strength and ability to continue taking air and died from suffocation. The moment Jesus died, it would seem that all was lost and his vision of God's kingdom had died with him.

But the story was not yet over.

### What happened when he died?

When Jesus died, the hope of his followers was also on the verge of death. The one who they followed and believed in had died the death of a common thief. Yet there were many other things that occurred which the Bible tells us of:

*"At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people. When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, 'Surely he was the Son of God!'"* Matthew 27:51-54

(Easter cont'd on page 3)

(Easter cont'd from page 2)

### Where was Jesus buried?

*"At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid."* John 19:41

After the crucifixion, a man named Joseph of Arimathea asked for the body of Jesus to be placed in his tomb. Joseph was a wealthy man, a member of the council, and a follower of Jesus. After they had hastily prepared his body for burial, a large stone was rolled in front of the entrance, and Roman guards were placed in front of it.

Jesus had gained quite an energetic following, and there was concern that someone may attempt to steal the body, claiming that Jesus had returned from the dead. These guards would fulfill their duty to ensure that the stone stayed in place and that no one would move it.

They never anticipated it being moved from the inside.

### How did the resurrection happen?

*"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!"* [Luke 24:5-6](#)

The moment that death was defeated is the moment that Jesus arose from the dead and walked out of that borrowed grave! We don't understand *how* this happened; only that through the power of God, *it did happen!* The first people to see the empty tomb and to see him resurrected were women who had followed him: *"On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus"* ([Luke 24:1-3](#)).

### How can you be saved?

*"In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead"* [1 Peter 1:3](#)

The death and resurrection of Jesus means that there is hope in this hopeless world; that there truly is a God; and that not only does he understand us, but he became one of us. He took our sins upon himself and is alive today. [Romans 10:9](#) says that *"If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."*

It is that simple. If we truly believe he is who he says he is and that he rose from the dead as he said he would, it will forever change the way we think and live.

This is the time of year that life begins to bloom around us. Spring replaces winter, and as the air begins to warm there is a sense of rejuvenation and refreshing—a feeling that the old is being made new all over again. It is fitting that we celebrate the resurrection at this time of year, and also fitting that we embrace the new life offered to us through our living Savior.

**Jason Soroski** is a homeschool dad and author of *A Journey to Bethlehem: Inspiring Thoughts for Christmas and Hope for the New Year*. He serves as worship pastor at Calvary Longmont in Colorado and spends his weekends exploring the Rocky Mountains with his family. Connect on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), or at [JasonSoroski.net](#).



*"Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."* Hebrews 4:1-16

For many of us, this is indeed a time when we need to draw near to the throne of grace to receive mercy and find grace to help. We have now not only completed our Lenten journey, but we have walked with Jesus all the way to the cross, and witnessed Him buried in the tomb. And now, Holy Saturday leaves us feeling alone. Though we know what will come with the morning, still our hearts can be troubled.

But it is Jesus, the Son of God who has passed through the heavens, the once-for-all sacrifice who entered into the holy of holies, to pay the price, to make atonement for our sins, that we might approach the Father, not in fear but with confidence that the way to Him is open—not because of who we are, or what we have done or failed to do—but because Jesus Christ is our Great High Priest!

Now sin and death have been overcome by the one who has been tempted as we are, yet remained without sin. Now we can draw near to the throne of grace because our Great High Priest has made sacrifice for us. Now we need no longer fear God, or death, or hell, for Jesus Christ has opened the way to heaven for us.

While our joy may be restrained for one more day, we know what's coming. We know that resurrection and new life come with the new day!

*Lord God, on this day when our Lord's body lay in the tomb, give us time for rest and reflection, silence and prayer, that the full meaning of our redemption will settle upon our hearts and minds, as we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast; through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



## Things about Palm Sunday that Remind Us Christ is King

1. God's Word tells us the people cut palm branches and waved them in the air, laid them out on the ground before Jesus as He rode into the city. The palm branch represented goodness and victory and was symbolic of the final victory He would soon fulfill over death.

*"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" 1 Cor. 15:55*

2. Jesus chose to ride in on a donkey, which directly fulfilled Old Testament prophecy of [Zech. 9:9](#). In Biblical times, it was common for kings or important people to arrive by a procession riding on a donkey. The donkey symbolized peace, so those who chose to ride them showed that they came with peaceful intentions. Jesus even then reminded us that He is the Prince of Peace.

*"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey." Zech. 9:9*

3. When the people shouted "Hosanna!" they were hailing Christ as King. That word actually means "save now," and though in their own minds they waited for an earthly king, God had a different way in mind of bringing true salvation to all who would trust in Him.

*"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!" Ps. 118:26*

*"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Rom. 10:9*

4. The Bible says that Jesus wept for Jerusalem. In the midst of the praise of the moment, He knew in His heart that it wouldn't be long that these same people would turn their backs on Him, betray Him, and crucify Him. His heart broke with the reality of how much they needed a Savior.

*"As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it, and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace--but now it is hidden from your eyes." Luke 19:41-42*

5. Palm Sunday reminds us that the reign of Christ is far greater than any the mind of man could ever conceive or plan. Man looked for someone to fight their battles in the present day world. Yet God had the ultimate plan of sending His Son to fight the final battle over death. This is the greatness of why we celebrate this week. Because of Christ's ultimate sacrifice, we can be set free of death.

*"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,'" John 11:25*

We have so much to be grateful for this week. The enemy knows that, and you can bet, he's going to do everything he can to try and distract us away from the true meaning of what this Holy Week means. Don't let him win.

In this Holy Week, may God direct our thoughts and attention towards what matters most, Jesus Christ our King...

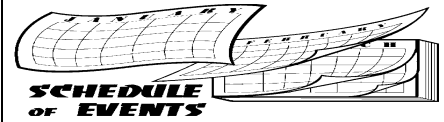
Let's choose to focus on worshipping our Lord, thanking Him for the gift of His sacrifice, celebrating the power of the Resurrection, and the new life found in Him alone. Grace. *"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" 2 Cor. 9:15*



# April 2021



Sunday School: 9:45 pm  
Church Service: 11:00 pm



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1  Maundy Thursday	2  GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE	3
4  CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY!	5	6	7	8	9	10 <i>Run for Money</i>
11 2nd Sun. of Easter	12 Team Meetings	13	14	15	16	17
18 3rd Sun. of Easter	19 Board Meeting	20  Prayer Group	21	22	23	24
25 4th Sun. of Easter	26 Rachel Group	27	28	29	30	Food Collection

- **Apr. 1—April Fool's Day**  
Maundy Thursday at 6:30 pm
- **Apr. 2—Good Friday Service** 6:30 pm
- **Apr. 4—EASTER SERVICE** 11:00 am  
Bring flowers for Easter Cross
- **Apr. 11—13th Run for the Money** (see p 12)
- **Apr. 11—2nd Sunday of Easter**
- **Apr. 12—Team Meetings:** 7:00 pm
- **Apr. 18—3rd Sunday of Easter**
- **Apr. 19—Council Meeting** 7:00 pm
- **Apr. 20—Prayer Group** will meet at the home of Shirlee Marazza at 1
- **Apr. 25—3rd Sunday of Easter**
- **Apr. 26—Rachel Group** (see p 9)

FOOD FOR THE MONTH: Crackers, Peanut Butter, Lima Beans



Choir practice each Wednesday at 5:00 pm unless otherwise announced in the bulletin



- Birthdays This Month**
- 1 Melinda White
  - 5 Will Trudnak
  - 8 Nancy Friday
  - 12 Jill Petzold
  - 22 Dan Clemmer, Jr.
  - 23 Nancy Presley
  - Nick Vlaservich



- BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARY**
- Julie Digh
  - Tiffany Cobb
  - Dan Clemmer, Sr.
  - Donna Clemmer
  - Teri Trudnak
  - Jill Petzold
  - Melinda White
  - Jared Dease

**Holy Communion Schedule:**

Apr. 9: Maundy Thursday  
And all Sundays

**Worship Service Assistance:**

**Acolyte:** OSLC Member

**Communion**

**Asst:** OSLC Member

**Lay Reader:**

**Worship Asst:**

**Greeters:** OSLC Members

**Ushers:** OSLC Members

Board Devotion: Anna Lowery

Collection: Teri Trudnak

## FLOWERS

**Flower Schedule:**

Apr. 4 Easter Lilies (W.A. Penley)

Apr. 11 Open

Apr. 18 **Becky Messick**

Apr. 25 Alice Vlaservich

Please sign up to place flowers on the altar in the glory of God and in honor or memory of your love ones.

Plenty of openings  
Decorate the altar of our Lord  
And then take home to decorate your home of give to a love one of shut-in



**ANNIVERSARIES**

24<sup>th</sup>.....Chris & Becky Messick

**Our Saviour Lutheran Church**  
**Anna Lowery, President**  
**February 15, 2021 Board Minutes**



**Devotions:** Becky Messick

Meeting called to order by President, Anna Lowery

**Members present:** Alice Vlaservich, Melinda White, Anna Lowery, Becky Messick, Robbie Wooten Denise Traveria

**Members Absent:** Joe Finger, Jeff White, and Teri Trudnak

**Minutes:** January 18, 2021 minutes were reviewed.; Alice Vlaservich made the motion to approve the minutes and Anna Lowery seconded the motion.

**Reception of Petitions and Communications:**

- a. NALC Disaster Relief letter requesting churches to participate. We will get more details and possibly be able to donate needed supplies.

**Report of the Pastor:** None presented.

**Report of the Treasurer:** Report was reviewed, and a motion was made by Melinda White to accept the Treasurer Report and seconded by Robbie Wooten

**Report of the Ministries:**

- a. Property: Gutters need cleaning at the parsonage. Also, the Activity Building needs repairs and gutters cleaned. This request will be postponed until better weather;
- b. Stewardship and Finance: No report
- c. Worship & Music: No report
- d. Youth Team: No report this month
- e. Witness: Cards and prayers continue to be sent to shut ins. Alice is also sending bulletins to those unable to come to worship service.
- f. Christian Education Team: No report.

**Report of Auxiliaries:** No meeting scheduled at this time

**Old and/or Unfinished Business:** None.

**New Business:**

- a. Discussion continues about roof replacement vs roof repair. Becky Messick will provide an estimate from another company, Top Dog

**General Information:**

- a. Attendance: BRING A FRIEND!!

- b. Laszlo Mission (Kids International) Report
- c. Lenten Services will be through Zoom each Wednesday through Lent at 6:30 pm starting on 2/24/2021
- d. Sanctuary doors hopefully to be installed by the end of the month
- e. \$225 was sent to DHSCM for Souper Bowl along with can goods and crackers

The Council meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

**HOLY HUMOR !**

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!"

His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?"

The son replied, "I do know!"

"Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?"

"That's easy, Daddy..." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.' (This one is my favorite)



There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country.

"Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk.

"Only the Ten Commandments." answered the lady.



A minister waited in line to have his car filled with gas just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump.

"Reverend," said the young man, "I'm so sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip."

The minister chuckled, "I know what you mean. It's the same in my business."



## **Cancel Culture Will Find You**

### **John Stonestreet: Eventually, we will be forced to choose – God's Word or the spirit of the age.**

By Jerry Pierce

Christina Crenshaw, an English lecturer at Baylor University in Waco, Texas—a college with long-held ties to Baptists in the state—was blindsided.

It was the third week in January, and President Joe Biden had just signed a broad executive order on gender identity and sexual orientation discrimination. Both conservatives and some feminists had labeled the order, among other things, an imminent threat to fairness in female athletic competition and to safety and privacy in sex-segregated changing rooms in public schools and government buildings.

Crenshaw, a wife, mother and anti-human trafficking activist with a Ph.D., showed her maternal instincts in a tweet about the order.<sup>12</sup>

“What if I don’t want biological boys in the bathroom with my biological daughter?” Crenshaw tweeted. “Do the 99% of us who do not struggle with gender dysphoria have a voice? No? Cool.”

Her tweet got a few dozen “likes” and a handful of retweets. But when a small but vocal group of Baylor students noticed it, they quickly began calling for Crenshaw’s dismissal from any future teaching at the school, which decades ago was a destination for many young preachers seeking an educational foundation for their ministry. One Baylor senior said, “We don’t want to be known as a transphobic university.”

***“Even the nicest and most circumspect of believers will be forced to either stand with Christ or shrink back in unfaithfulness and fear.”***

The student paper initially characterized Crenshaw’s tweet as “transphobic” in a news story (To its credit, the paper later apologized for its editorializing). An online petition to fire her garnered several hundred signatures; and students, according to the paper, reported her to Title IX enforcement; the campus NAACP; BU Equity; and a group called It’s On Us BU.

The same week, Colorado-based Focus on the Family’s news arm, *The Daily Citizen*, was suspended from Twitter for what the social media giant deemed “hateful” content.

*The Daily Citizen* had tweeted that Dr. Rachel Levine, a pediatrician chosen by President Biden to be the assistant secretary of Health and Human Services, is a “transgender woman, that is, a man who believes he is a woman.” Twitter’s message to Focus on the Family was that the tweet was considered hateful content, apparently for “misgendering” Levine as a man, along with the pronoun “he.”

Crenshaw’s experience and that of Focus on the Family has become an almost daily occurrence on college campuses, on social media platforms, and in the corporate and professional world, where adherence to liberal social ideas and norms is often the cost of climbing the ladder and sometimes the price of keeping one’s job.

“Cancel culture can happen on a political level with government forces restricting free speech,” says John Stonestreet, president of the Colson Center for Christian Worldview, “but in our culture it’s increasingly happening through nongovernmental cultural forces.”

Complicating the debate over such censorship, Stonestreet says, is that even though social media giants like Facebook, Twitter and YouTube are private companies that are free to make their own rules, the digital space is the new virtual public square, where information is dispensed and opinions are formed.

Moreover, very few businesses or organizations can thrive without utilizing these platforms in the digital age. “Everyone is there,” Stonestreet says. “Social media may hold more power in some parts of our lives than even the government does.”

Stonestreet says he regularly hears from college students who were graded down for running afoul of a professor; medical professionals under pressure to toe a morally fraught line; and corporate executives being pressured to communicate a message contrary to their Christian beliefs.

***“You know what we need? We need a thickening of Christian community. We need the Body of Christ breaking bread, drinking the cup together, being empowered by the Holy Spirit and living out our calling in the world. That’s always been the model for the church.”***

—John Stonestreet of the Colson Center

*(Canceled cont’d on page 8)*



*(Canceled cont'd from page 7)*

Even liberals such as bestselling author J.K. Rowling and tennis great Martina Navratilova, an open lesbian, have been “canceled” for speaking up for women and girls in the debate over transgender rights versus women’s rights.

Christians interacting in the public space are to “always speak with grace, seasoned with salt” (see Colossians 4:6). The temptation for believers, Stonestreet says, is to punch back, using the world’s methods. That would be an unbiblical mistake, he contends, “because we are called to play by different rules.”

Eventually, though, Stonestreet believes even the nicest and most circumspect of believers will be forced to either stand with Christ or shrink back in unfaithfulness and fear.

“There are some organizations that are going to be tempted to think that they can get around this by being nice,” Stonestreet warns. “With the consolidation of power of Big Tech and corporations, you can’t be nice enough.”

“If you want to avoid being canceled, you’re going to have to compromise your views,” he adds. “Every organization, every Christian leader, has to just basically sit down and say, ‘Look, I don’t want to invite trouble. I don’t want to be a jerk just to be a jerk, but I can’t say what’s not true,’ and that’s the real issue.”

The answer, Stonestreet says, is not some version of “Christian” Twitter or Facebook, where an even bigger echo chamber is formed. We are to be salt and light in the culture.

“You know what we need? We need a thickening of Christian community. We need the Body of Christ breaking bread, drinking the cup together, being empowered by the Holy Spirit and living out our calling in the world. That’s always been the model for the church.”

Christianity that transforms people isn’t lived out in the digital space, but face to face and in Christian community, Stonestreet argues.

A silver lining is that if Biblical truth continues to be marginalized, “our children are going to probably get a better view of what it means to be committed to the faith,” he adds.

“It doesn’t mean we are to be quiet. But we should rejoice in being able to participate in the sufferings of Christ. We’ll know a little bit more about what our brothers and sisters face elsewhere. In the long run, it’ll clarify our message.”

*Above: Baylor University lecturer Christina Crenshaw is facing calls for her dismissal because she questioned the wisdom of biological males using female changing rooms. [Article from March Decision Magazine](#)*

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## **The Voice of God Can Never Be Canceled.**

Franklin Graham  
March Decision Magazine

I am referring to the ever-widening spread of what has been dubbed cancel culture, the suppression and intolerance of people whose viewpoints differ from what our godless society has deemed fitting and appropriate.

Not surprisingly, the overwhelmingly left-wing cancel culture has aimed its most vicious verbal darts squarely at Christians who hold a Biblical worldview founded on the authority of God’s uncompromising Word.

Let me give you just a few examples, though there are many.

In the city of Boston, a Chick-fil-A food truck serving the campus of Boston University has been targeted by editors of the student newspaper who are offended by what they say is the company’s “deep-seated homophobia.” What that means is that the company, founded on Christian principles by Truett Cathy and now run by my friend Dan Cathy, has been attacked simply because Cathy has affirmed the sanctity of marriage between a man and a woman. Chick-fil-A’s charitable giving program, which in the past has donated to Christian organizations such as the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the Salvation Army, also came under fire for their “discriminatory and homophobic practices.”

It’s no coincidence that a number of college campuses have banned Chick-fil-A because school leaders disagree with the corporation’s deeply held Biblical values. At Rider University, a private school in New Jersey, school administrators excluded the restaurant from campus, and a Christian who served as a dean at Rider and voiced support for Biblical values resigned because she said the school was not tolerant of her beliefs. This is the cancel culture at work.

In the U.K., a doctor who had served three decades as a medical assessor recently lost his government job because he believes that gender is determined before birth. Dr. David Mackereth was fired by the Department for Works and Pensions because he refused to use a transgender pronoun to describe a bearded man. “The Bible teaches us that God made humans male or female,” the doctor said. But a judge at an employment tribunal in England ruled that the doctor’s religious beliefs were “incompatible with human dignity.”



(Voice cont'd on page 8)

The threat of the cancel culture has gotten worse as social media giants like Twitter and Facebook have started censoring free speech and banning some users from their platforms. Recently, they shut down former President Donald Trump, and they have also targeted numerous private and public individuals, many of whom simply espouse traditional moral values. Just a few weeks ago, Lifetime TV canceled "Truths That Transform," the program of D. James Kennedy Ministries. Lifetime TV had demanded that the ministry eliminate "controversial" topics from the program, which would have meant eliminating programs that addressed issues like abortion. The ministry refused to do that, so the program was canceled.

Even our country's treasured and storied history is not safe. The San Francisco Board of Education in January issued an edict asking that the names of some of our nation's greatest presidents—Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln—be removed from all of their schools. Can you imagine!

Last year, the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association scheduled an evangelistic tour across Great Britain, only to be literally canceled as a result of pressure on the venues by groups with a bias against Christians who hold traditional, historical Biblical views and believe in the exclusivity of Jesus Christ as Savior.

Here we were, seeking to tell people how they can have peace with God through repentance and faith, yet these groups sought to shut down our events because they disagree with what the Bible teaches.

Try as they might, however, we know that the Gospel of the Lord Jesus can't be stopped. Jesus said that He would build His church and that the "gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18). As Paul spent his final days in a Roman prison, he wrote his final letter to his young disciple, Timothy. Despite being incarcerated by the Romans, Paul called himself the *Lord's* prisoner (see 2 Timothy 1:8) and assured him that "the Word of God is not bound!" (2 Timothy 2:9).

Jesus said after His resurrection that "all authority in heaven and on earth" had been given to Him (Matthew 28:18), and Paul wrote that the Gospel is "the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes" (Romans 1:16). It's power that is irresistible, unstoppable and undeniable—despite what our culture thinks. This power will culminate one day soon when Christ returns at His Second Coming to establish a New Heaven and a New Earth.

In fact, the greater the hostility toward and opposition to the Gospel, the greater the growth of the church and the sanctification of God's people. It's always been that way, and always will be.

For the first 300 years after Christ's earthly ministry, Christianity grew in soil that was wet with the blood of martyrs. Throughout the Roman Empire, Christians were treated with disdain, and in many cases they were persecuted unto death. But no amount of hostility, threats or torture could stop the Gospel of the Risen Savior.

Brutal atheistic, communist regimes in Eastern Europe and China that oppressed and sought to ban the influence of the church not only did not succeed, but witnessed unparalleled growth of the Body of Christ.

I have no doubt that cancel culture, which is empowered and animated by a worldview that is antithetical to the Christian faith, will only intensify as godless ideologies such as that of the progressive, radical left gain sway in seats of power and influence. The media, especially social media, will be further emboldened to suppress the voices of Biblical morality that threaten the immoral cultural narrative.

Believers should never be caught off guard by the culture around us—the culture of a world system behind which lies the evil one. "Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you ... If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you" (1 Peter 4:12, 14, NKJV).

The omnipotent, eternal, majestic voice of Almighty God can never be canceled. The voice of the church, the blood-bought bride of the Lamb of God who sits on Heaven's throne, can never be silenced. Our message as His followers should always be to be ready to speak the truth of God's Word, but to do so in love and with respect, "always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3:15).

And remember, for those who repent and trust Christ for the forgiveness of sin, all your sins—past, present and future—were canceled at the cross (see Colossians 2:14).

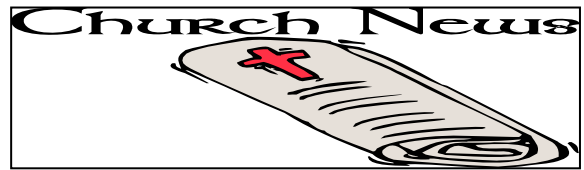
And one day soon—very soon, I believe—Jesus will return in glory and splendor and cancel all opposition to His rule and authority.

May He come quickly.

*Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are taken from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. The Scripture Quotation marked NKJV is taken from the Holy Bible, New King James Version.*



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**OUTREACH MISSION**

**SHUT-INS**  
**NURSING HOME RESIDENTS**

Please remember our church members who are shut-ins and visit them.

**Jerri Presley**  
Alexander Place, Gastonia, NC

(If others, please let the church office know)



**Prayer Group**

will meet at the home of Shirlee Marazza on April 20th  
at 1:00 pm.



**LET US PRAY...** "Are any among you suffering? They should pray...The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up." (James 5:13-15)



SUSAN Aderholt, SETH Alexander, AMANDA (friend of the Penley's), MARVIS Anderson, WHITNEY Auten (breast cancer), KELLY Ballard (friend of Shana Dease), BRAXTON Bearden (friend of the Locketts), ADDISON Blanton (friend of Dease's), KATHY Bohanan (cancer), KAREN Brady, BETTY Clemmer (dislocated shoulder), SYLVIA Cloninger (friend of Nick Vlaservich), MIKE Coffey (Robbie Wooten's uncle), STEVE Cloninger (friend of Brady Ratchford-cancer) BEVERLY Copeland (friend of Robbie's-cancer), STEVE Digh (cancer), HARDY Feige (Pete's dad - chronic back pain), NANCY Friday, JAMES Goudelock (cancer), JASON Hames (friend of the White's), DANA Kirshman (friend of Robbie Wooten-cancer), MARINA Marazza (Shirlee Marazza's granddaughter-Covid19), SAM Marr (Heart), BO Messick (foot), FRANCIS McAllister (broken hip), CHRIS Messick (recovering back surgery), JASON, ALLISON & LEX Murray, ELLEN & ED Pfeiffer (Keenan Gordy's Parents - Heart issues), GARY Neal, (friend of Caleb Dease), SONDRRA Phillips (friend of Melinda White), JERRIE Presley, TERI Trudnak, TONY Trudnak (cancer reoc-

**EVENTS**  
**for**  
**Lutheridge -Lutherock,**  
**and**  
**Kure/Agape Beach**

Please see calendars  
and  
other  
information on the  
bulletin board or go on-line

You can visit their website  
by

visiting OSLC website  
[oslc-nc.org](http://oslc-nc.org)

and go to links

and click on their name.

**GOD WANTS YOU!**

- (1) God wants you to participate in His worship service for **2021** by servicing as a worship assistant, reader, communion assistant, Greeter or Usher

See the sign up sheet on the bulletin board and please help.

- (2) New Flower Calendar is up. Please remember your love ones and also help decorate our Lord's altar. **Cost of Flowers has increased to \$35.10 There are 7 openings**

## A Stewardship Minute

The common ant is one of God's most amazing creatures. An ant is able to carry 50-60 times its own weight. An ant uses this ability in order to bring food back to the entire colony.

People have amazing abilities too, as well as an imagination that allows us to put these abilities to a multitude of uses! You have no idea how much you can do to use your abilities to help mankind until you try. In our complex society, everyone's abilities and skills can be put to use to improve all of our lives.

Christian stewards recognize that these abilities were all given to us by God and that the ultimate reward

comes in putting them to use in God's service. In Galatians 5:13, Paul writes:

*"You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love."*

Using our abilities in service to one another ultimately transforms our lives. The current issue of **Stewardship** makes this point clearly in a story about a young artist named Joseph Peterson who used his abilities and imagination to spread God's Word and built a very successful Gospel card business, while fulfilling the lives of many others.

**Prayer:** Gracious and loving God, help us to glorify you in all that we do and serve you with diligence and dedication. Through Christ our Lord, we pray. **Amen**



Palm Sunday is a Christian moveable feast that falls on the Sunday before Easter. The feast commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, an event mentioned in each of the four canonical Gospels. Palm Sunday marks the first day of Holy Week, the last week of the Christian solemn season of Lent that precedes the arrival of Eastertide.

In most liturgical churches, Palm Sunday is celebrated by the blessing and distribution of palm branches (or the branches of other native trees), representing the palm branches which the crowd scattered in front of Christ as he rode into Jerusalem. The difficulty of procuring palms in unfavorable climates led to their substitution with branches of native trees, including box, olive, willow, and yew. The Sunday was often named after these substitute trees, as in Yew Sunday, or by the general term Branch Sunday. Many churches of mainstream Christian denominations, including the Orthodox, Catholic, Lutheran, Methodist, Anglican, Moravian and Reformed traditions, distribute palm branches to their congregations during their Palm Sunday liturgies. Christians take these palms, which are often blessed by clergy, to their homes where they hang them alongside Christian art (especially crosses and crucifixes) or keep them in their Bibles or devotionals. In the period preceding the next year's Lent, known as Shrovetide, churches often place a basket in their narthex to collect these palms, which are then ritually burned on Shrove Tuesday to make the ashes to be used on the following day, Ash Wednesday, which is the first day of Lent.

+++++

~DEATH~

### WHAT A WONDERFUL WAY TO EXPLAIN IT..

A sick man turned to his doctor as he was preparing to Leave the examination room and said, "Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side."

Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don't know."

"You don't know? You're, a Christian man, and don't know what's on the other side?"

The doctor was holding the handle of the door; On the other side came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness.

Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, And when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death,

But I do know one thing...

I know my Master is there and that is enough."

## 2021 MISSION EMPHASIS FOR APRIL

*Experience the Spirit  
Christ, Creation, Community*

*Providing year round, summer camping programs and high comfort retreat facilities*

### AGAPE/KURE BEACH MINISTRIES

***WELCOME! To a beautiful place apart; where you can explore what it means to be a unique and important part of Christ!***

With two sites, **Camp Agape**(near Raleigh) and **Kure Beach**(near Wilmington,) we offer beautiful escapes from the hustle of everyday life to focus on what is truly important in life. During a stay, our guests are encouraged to take the time to wander the woods or to play in the ocean's waves; to pause and life at a slower pace. Our goal at both of these natural retreats is for our guests' spiritual life to be refreshed and renewed.

***MISSION STATEMENT: Agape/KureBeach Ministries calls and gathers all people to experience the Spirit through unique small group encounters with Christ, in Creation and Community.***

#### ***AGAPE SUMMER CAMP is just around the corner!***

Camp is always fun and unique. Campers' days are packed with swimming, hiking, nature, songs, stories, skits, campfires, worship, discovery times, crafts, archery, canoeing, sleep-outs, mud-whompin', and the 600 foot long zip line. You don't want to miss out on any of this year's summer fun. Register now.

Check out the website: [www.agapekurebeach.org](http://www.agapekurebeach.org)

***Looking for a special vacation location for your family? Come spend a week at Camp Agape!***

Spend a week of your summer at Camp Agape! Plan your own retreat or bring grandma, grandpa, and a car load of cousins in for a special family camp vacation. You'll have the run of the Retreat House. Yes, there will be campers on site, but that won't keep you from the pool or the mud-pit or off the zip-line. Cook your own meals or eat in the dining hall. Canoe, fun-bug, hike, fish, and finish your day with a campfire.....it's guaranteed to be five days of fun to remember! Check out **July 20-25, 2014** and rent the Retreat House (maximum number of guests is 32.) Contact: **Lauren for rates at 919-552-9421.**

#### ***Join us at Kure Beach Retreat Center***

Kure Beach is a beautiful, coastal retreat community, long known as an ideal setting for renewal. Our Faith Center provides a spiritual haven open to all people: families, church groups, weddings, family reunions, business groups. The beachfront property includes two floors of bedrooms, meeting rooms, and dining areas overlooking the sea.

Both the Bird's Nest (upper level) and The Starfish (lower level) feature connecting outside decks. Each level features 4 bedrooms that sleep 6 guests each. The dining/meeting space provides kitchen space for do-it-yourself meals or you may request food service.

Same contact information for Kure Beach Retreat Center or for Camp Agape

Website: [www.agape/kurebeach.org](http://www.agape/kurebeach.org) Phone: 919-552-9421

#### **2014 MISSION EMPHASIS FOR APRIL – Lutheran Camps in and around NC**

NOVUSWAY includes Lutheridge, Lutherock, Luther Ranch, and Luther Springs. (You can go the link site on the church's website—[oslc-nc.org](http://oslc-nc.org))

Located across the southeastern United States, these retreat centers offer programmed retreats and camps for all ages, and also provide event and meeting spaces for you to plan your own retreat.

(Mission cont'd on page 13)

(Mission cont'd from page 12)

People of all ages need time away to build relationships, to connect with peers and co-workers, to rest and find refreshment for life, to re-connect with nature and God's creation, and to be equipped as a leader. Whether attending our programs or planning your own retreat, this is what you will find at NovusWay. Our staff are highly trained in team-building, group process, and faith formation. Our facilities encourage community building and provide the level of comfort and amenity you need to accomplish your goals in your time away.

The combination of our quality staff, the excellent facilities, the unique 1,900 acres of land, and your participation with NovusWay will lead you to get inspired.

**Summer camping begins in June. There are opportunities for camping for children, adults, families, youth groups, at Lutheridge and Lutherock, both in North Carolina.**

**Check out the website at [www.novusway.org](http://www.novusway.org) and find out the opportunities. Get in your early registration by May 15 and there is a discount.**

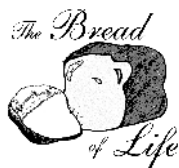
**Camping opportunities are year round. There are cottages to rent, with the program or as a place to stay while going into the mountains (on off season camping).**

Summer camping for children will include:

- Activities you cannot do during the school year:
- Playing outside from morning until night! Catching fireflies, roasting marshmallows,
- Making new friends and hating to say good-bye,
- Silly skits and songs, games galore! Who needs TV?
- Bible stories that come to life: lessons learned by living them,
- New skills and adventures: make a craft or climb a mountain!
- Counselors who model Jesus, always watching, teaching, and caring.
- Providing for faith formation of young people as well as leadership development for the Christian church

**Check out the website at [www.novusway.org](http://www.novusway.org) and find out the opportunities they offer.**

*Pray for our Lutheran Camping Programs that God may use this ministry to minister to those who plan the programs, staff the camps, and the campers of all ages who attend the camps. May it be a time of refreshing, strengthening, and worshipping our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. May there be good fellowship among all those involved.*



When we receive the bread offered during Holy Communion, it's the spiritual equivalent of receiving free bread. No matter how you slice it the terms of your own denominational tradition, the "real" bread and "real drink connect us deeply and spiritually with God through Christ. We are nourished by the grace we receive, encouraged by the diverse crowd around us and strengthened to the live life to the full. There's no substitute for the love and life we experience when we break the **Bread of Life**. Like Peter we cry out, "Lord, to who [else] shall we go? You have the words of eternal life"

(John 6:68, NIV) - Homiletics



**The Community Foundation of Gaston County, Inc.**  
invites you to  
**2021 Community Foundation Virtual Race!**

Join us for the Virtual Race on April 17, 2021! This is a fun-filled community event, supporting nonprofits in our area! Whether you are walking or running, there is an option for you!

**When: Saturday, April 17, 2021! See more information about the 2020 Run below!**

**Where: VIRTUAL for 2021! Run or walk any time on the day of the Run.**

**What:** 5K Run, 2K Fun Walk

**Who:** Walkers and runners of all ages, participating non-profits

**How:** You get out and run/hike/walk the distance that you registered for (anytime/any place) and bring along your favorite tracking device

On the day of the Run, over 5,000 people come together (virtually in 2021) for one of the biggest celebrations of community spirit and support in the county. The day is filled with a 5k Run and 2k Fun Walk. The magic of a community celebration, combined with ease of giving has increased awareness about the work of local organizations and has enabled them to raise over \$22 million in the last seventeen years.

Dollars given to the Match Fund will be applied to the matching grant, which benefits ALL participating nonprofits. Dollars earmarked for certain nonprofits will go to the specific organization(s) named.

More important than ever to donate to nonprofits that are at forefront of outbreak -There are several ways to give: You can donate online: [cfgaston.org/Run](http://cfgaston.org/Run). Donations can be mailed to their office: P.O. Box 123, Gastonia, NC 28053.

#### MORE HOLY HUMOR

A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter.

Then he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: "I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses."

When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note "I've circled this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation."

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While driving in Pennsylvania, a family caught up to an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humor, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign... "Energy efficient vehicle: Runs on oats and grass. Caution: Do not step in exhaust."

=====

A Sunday School teacher began her lesson with a question, "Boys and girls, what do we know about God?" A hand shot up in the air. "He is an artist!" said the kindergarten boy. "Really? How do you know?" the teacher asked. "You know - Our Father, who does art in Heaven..."

=====

People want the front of the bus, the back of the church, and the center of attention.

=====

Sunday after church, a Mom asked her very young daughter what the lesson was about. The daughter answered, "Don't be scared, you'll get your quilt." Needless to say, the Mom was perplexed. Later in the day, the pastor stopped by for tea and the Mom asked him what that morning's Sunday school lesson was about. He said "Be not afraid, thy comforter is coming."



## Maundy Thursday

*“And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed and broke it, and gave it to them and said, ‘Take, this is my Body.’ And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, and they all drank of it. And He said to them, ‘This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.’” Mark 14:12-25*

Finally, after many weeks of Lenten discipline and observance, we arrive at the Upper Room, where Jesus institutes the Last Supper. How wonderful that the meal Jesus shared with His disciples that night so long ago, we continue to share with Him today.

The meaning of the liturgy of the Lord’s Supper is not that we are whisked back in time, as with the old TV show, “You Are There.” Rather, in the doing of the liturgy, in the reading of the account of the Last Supper, we participate in the Eucharist in our own time. It’s not that we are there, but that Christ Jesus is here, as He incarnates Himself once again, saying in our midst, “This is my Body; This is my Blood of the New Covenant.”

The word that is used to describe and explain this reality is “anamnesis.” It is most often translated as “remembrance,” as in “Do this for the remembrance of me.” It might be better for us to leave the original word, “Do this for the anamnesis of me,” because no English word translates it accurately. It means, in “doing this,” Jesus is re-actualized among us, re-presented among us as the Risen Lord, offering Himself to us in the bread and wine which become His real, true, actual Body and Blood.

As we gather at table with Jesus tonight, we are the disciples—we are the twelve, with Jesus as our Presiding Minister the Great High Priest offering not an animal, but Himself for our forgiveness and salvation. And we receive Him, forgiven, redeemed, saying “Thanks be to God!”

*Almighty God, in the Lord’s Supper, grant that we may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent, that we may have eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*



## Good Friday



*“You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your fathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.” I Peter 1:10-20*

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world. Have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world. Have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world. Grant us peace. Amen.

With this hymn, the Agnus Dei, we honor the Lamb who was slain, sacrificed on the cross as one without blemish or spot. Our commemoration of Christ’s sacrifice is especially meaningful when we view it in light of the sacrificial system instituted by God for the Israelites in Leviticus. The Lord God provided the many sacrifices in the tabernacle and later the Temple in Jerusalem to provide atonement, forgiveness and restored holiness in order to be in God’s presence.

Now, the various animal and grain sacrifices and offerings are ended, replaced by the once-for-all sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, truly the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. And why? Why did Jesus become the sacrifice?

To bring us peace. Peace that is not just the end of strife, the end of war, the end of terrorism and bloodshed in our world. Rather, the peace that Jesus died to bring is peace between God and His children—the restoration of the relationship that was broken by human sin and disobedience. Now, in Him, that relationship is healed, so that in Christ Jesus we may approach the presence of God without fear. Now, in Jesus, we are at peace with God the Father!

*Lord Jesus Christ, Lamb of God, have mercy on us and grant us peace with God the Father, through your sacrifice on the cross. Amen.*







Our Saviour Lutheran Church  
 P.O. Box 457  
 725 Gastonia Technology Parkway  
 Dallas, NC 28034



**NALC**  
 North American Lutheran Church



**WORSHIP SERVICES**  
**2021**

April

**April 1, 6:30 pm**



**11:00 am**

**April 2, 6:30 pm**



**April 4  
 Worship,**

**EASTER**