



Our Saviour's Good News

Volume XIX, Issue IV

April 2024

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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On the Image of God

by Dr. Alexander H. Pierce,
Assoc. Professor Historic Theology, NALS

This devastating state of affairs described in the *Formula of Concord* can be illumined by a brief look at the earlier work of Philip Melanchthon in the *Apology*. In the second article of the *Augsburg Confession*, the Wittenbergers had specified their understanding of the doctrine of original sin often associated with Augustine of Hippo. Upon receiving the accusatory Augsburg Confutation written by Catholics present at the 1530 Diet of Augsburg, Melanchthon pioneered the Evangelicals' defense of the *Augsburg Confession* in the *Apology of the Augsburg Confession*. In further clarifying what the Wittenberg Reformers believed concerning original sin, the *Apology* explained that in addition to affirming concupiscence (i.e., disordered desire) as a consequence of original sin so also, on account of the biblical witness and the testimony of the tradition, they "denied to the natural powers of the human creature fear of and trust in God," for they "wanted to show that original sin also included these maladies: ignorance of God, contempt for God, the absence of fear of and trust in God, and the inability to love God. These are the chief defects of human nature—in conflict especially with the first table of the Decalogue."³

This twofold definition of original sin was summed up as follows in the *Solid Declaration*: "original sin deprives the unrenewed human nature of the gifts, powers, and all capacity to initiate and effect anything in spiritual matters" to such an extent that we not only have "a complete lack of all good in spiritual, divine matters," but original sin also "replaces the lost image of God in the human being with a deep-seated, evil, horrible, bottomless, unfathomable, and indescribable corruption of the entire human nature and all of its powers, particularly of the highest, most important powers of the soul, in mind, heart, and will."⁴ Our Lutheran Confessions, then, speak of concupiscence as replacing our image-bearing with a self-distorting form of existence.

The consequence of the fall of humanity, as Martin Chemnitz specifies it, is that, as Gen. 5 suggests, "Adam was created 'in the image of God,' but after the Fall, 'he begot children in his own image.'"⁵ The image of God, or humankind's original righteousness, was substituted for the image of sinful man, a subversion of our rightful subjection to God to an aberrant form of human life. The leaders and early heirs of the Wittenberg reform movement appreciated the unabated consequences and universal transmission of Adam's sin to all humanity which Augustine had fought so hard to define centuries earlier. It shaped their theology of the image and of the state of sinful human persons. According to the hamartiology (i.e., the doctrine of sin) of the Book of Concord, "creatureliness and corruption mutually cover one another in the empirical observation of human reality... For every man is altogether both, creature and sinner, at the same time."⁶ Although the Lutheran Confessions never grant to sinful humanity the possession of even an emaciated image, they do assert a "terrible dualism" of the human situation during this time of salvation history, a complete creatureliness amidst total corruption, a *simul* of life and death.⁷ In short, we are at once creatures whom God has given being and life and yet we are spiritually bankrupt, dead in our self-selected separation from God. The question you might be asking yourself at this point is, does all this mean that being confessionally Lutheran requires us to see humanity in general and ourselves in particular as downright evil? Yes and no.

The Lutheran Confessions—concrete and situational as they are—reveal how deeply Luther, Melanchthon, and their fellow reformers were concerned to reckon with the depth and reality of sin so that they might make space for a robust theology of grace by which to confront what had become a largely meritocratic Christendom.

(Image cont'd on page 2)

(Image cont'd from page 1)

For sinful humans in such a devastatingly desperate place, to recover true knowledge of God our Creator and humankind as created with the original righteous Adam lost requires us to be regenerated by the Holy Spirit who renews us in our new self in Christ “which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its Creator” (Col. 3:10) as we “are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another, for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit” (2 Cor. 3:18). Like the doctrine of sin, the doctrine of creation is properly understood as a revealed doctrine, a teaching that can only be known by faith and from the promise-making Word of God.

In particular, we need what was lost, “a true knowledge, fear, [and] love of God, trust toward God, and the constant obedience of all his powers in keeping with the law of God.”⁸ The *Apology* itself defines the image as “a wisdom and righteousness that would grasp God and reflect God” which “was implanted in humankind, that is, humankind received gifts like the knowledge of God, fear of God, trust in God, and the like.”⁹ For those who have been regenerated through the waters of baptism, “they have been redeemed by the Son of God so that they may practice the law day and night (Ps. 119:1). For our first parents did not live without the law even before the fall. This law of God was written into the heart, for they were created in the image of God.”¹⁰ “All things came into being through him” (Jn. 1:3), “through him and for him” (Col. 1:16) who is “the image of the invisible God” (Col. 1:15), and “those whom [God] foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son” (Rom. 8:29). Christ is the image toward which we were created and in sin abandoned, but he is also the one who can renew us, and by His Spirit, make us to be bearers of God’s image and likeness. Creatures and the scoundrels all who must give thanks to God for the former and confess to God the latter, we can muse with Blaise Pascal, “What sort of freak then is man! How novel, how monstrous, how chaotic, how paradoxical, how prodigious! Judge of all things, feeble earthworm, repository of truth, sink of doubt and error, glory and refuse of the universe!”¹¹

1. SD I.10 (Robert Kolb and Timothy J. Wengert [eds.], *The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church* [Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2000], 533).
2. SD I.10 (K./W., 533).
3. Apol. II.14 (K./W., 114).
4. Solid Declaration I.10-11 (K./W., 533-534).
5. Martin Chemnitz, *Loci Theologici*, Part I, trans. Jacob O.C. Preus, Chemnitz’s Works 7, (St. Louis, MO: Concordia House Publishing, 2008), 510.
6. Edmund Schlink, *Theology of the Lutheran Confessions*, trans. Paul F. Koehnke and Herbert J. A. Bouman, Concordia Classics (St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House), 47-48.
7. Schlink, *Theology of the Lutheran Confessions*, 44.
8. Chemnitz, *Loci Theologici*, Part I, 510.
9. Apol. II.18 (K./W., 115).
10. Ep. 6, Affirmative Thesis I (K./W., 502.2).
11. Blaise Pascal, *Pensées* (London: Penguin Books, 1995), 34.

From “Word & Sacrament” *magazine*

Word and Sacrament

By Rev. Dr. James A. Banek

“This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God”

(1 Cor. 4:1 ESV).

It seems wherever you go, you run into the phrase *live, laugh, love*. Sometimes the words are in a different order, but these three words seem popular.

In trying to determine the origin of this phrase, I found it goes anywhere from a Megan Lee YouTube video to a Clay Walker country song to a poem by Thoreau or Whittaker.

Some say Lutheranism is boring, stuffy, old-fashioned, staunch, formal, depressing, out of date, out of sync, out of style and out of touch. Is that true, do you think? Is Lutheranism something of the past? Did it have its glory days, and now were on to something bigger and better?

I beg to differ. I think Lutheranism is up with the times, current, in touch and connects with people in our day and time. Even as we may use words like Word and Sacrament, I think the phrase *live, laugh, love* is right where Lutheranism is!

One old Lutheran wrote this: *It is a great thing to have the Word and a piece of bread.*

(Word cont'd on page 3)

(Word cont'd from page 2)

That old Lutheran was sitting around a table with his friends, laughing, when he said this. And, yet, isn't this what Lutheranism is all about? Talk about *live!* We live because of God's Word in us, taking away our sins and promising to remove all the crud in our lives. Not only that, God gives us life in our daily bread as He gives us food to eat to keep our bodies moving and breathing every day. But bread reminds us of even more. It reminds us of the Bread of Life in Holy Communion, the very Body of Christ as He lives in and through us, taking away our sins and filling us with eternal life!

One old Lutheran wrote this: *For only the Word keeps a joyful conscience, a gracious God, and all of religion, since out of the Word, as from a spring flows our entire religion.*

We live with real problems and struggles: floods that wash away our homes, fear of failing in front of our friends, bitterness with our spouse, wrestling with sexual identity, problems in our congregations—the list continues with everything that makes us sad and cry. Where, then, is the laughing?

Laughter comes from joy, and joy comes from the Word of God that declares us forgiven through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Joy comes from the Word of God, where God looks at our broken and beat-up lives and says, You are My own. This makes us laugh with overwhelming joy. How contemporary is that?

One old Lutheran wrote this: *There is nothing more beautiful in the eyes of God than a soul that loves to hear His Word.*

There are truly many things to love in this world. We love our families, we love our country, we love a beautiful October afternoon, we love pizza, we love our favorite football team and we love pumpkin pie.

Do any of these compare to our love for Jesus Christ, who rescues us from this loveless world of deception and desertion? Jesus never turns His back on us. He always loves us. No greater love is there than Christ who laid down His life for us so that we may rise to eternal life.

This same Jesus gives us His Word, the Bible. This same Jesus gives us His flesh and blood in the Lord's Supper. This same Jesus gives us the daily bath of the forgiveness of sins in Holy Baptism. We may love pizza or a good cup of coffee, but you and I know nothing in this world compares to Jesus Christ and our love for our precious Savior. Now we're talking love!

This is the end of October and, to Lutherans, Oct. 31, 1517, is not out of date! This is the date in history when Martin Luther nailed the 95 Theses to the Wittenberg Castle Church door in Germany. This was not an old-fashioned, wimpy move on Luther's part; this was contemporary and gutsy and cutting edge! This was the beginning of the Reformation when, in essence, Luther said, Grace alone, faith alone, Scripture alone—yes, Christ alone!

This man, Martin Luther, is the one old Lutheran mentioned above with still-relevant quotes that speak to the modern ear. Sin is still sin. People still are in the need of God's full, free forgiveness. People still are looking for hope and meaning in this life. People still are looking to *live, laugh and love*.

Lutherans know where to find all three—in Jesus Christ, who is the same yesterday, today and forever.

My fellow contemporary Lutherans: Happy Reformation! Our faith is not out of style. It's real, it's active and it has no end. So, go ahead, live, laugh and love!


About the Author: *The Rev. Dr. James A. Baneck is president of the LCMS North Dakota District.*

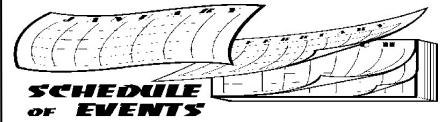


April 2024



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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 2nd Sun. of Easter	8	9	10	11	12	13 Run for the Money
14 3rd Sun. of Easter	15	16	17	18	19 	20
21 4th Sun. of Easter	22	23 	24	25	26	27
28 5th Sun. of Easter	29	30 CLW Group				



- **Apr. 1—April Fool's Day**
- **Apr. 7—2nd Sunday of Easter**
- **Apr. 13—Run for the Money** (see p 10)
- **Apr. 14—3rd Sunday of Easter**
- **Apr. 19—Relay for Life** (see p 5)
- **Apr. 21—4th Sunday of Easter**
- **Apr. 23—Prayer Group** will meet at the home of Shirlee Marazza at 2:00 pm
- **Apr. 30—CLW Group** (see p 9)
- **Apr. 28—5th Sunday after Easter**

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



Choir practice each Wednesday at 4:00 pm unless otherwise announced in the bulletin



5 Will Trudnak
22 Dan Clemmer, Jr.
23 Nick Vlaservich



Julie Digh
Tiffany Cobb
Dan Clemmer, Sr.
Donna Clemmer
Teri Trudnak
Jared Dease



Holy Communion Schedule:
And all Sundays

Worship Service Assistance:

Acolyte: OSLC Member
Communion
Asst: OSLC Member
Lay Reader: Yvonne Finger
Worship Asst: Yvonne Finger
Greeters: OSLC Members
Ushers: OSLC Members

Collection: Teri Trudnak

FLOWERS

Flower Schedule:

Apr. 7 Jeff White
Apr. 14 Nick Vlaservich
Apr. 21 Alice Vlaservich
Apr. 28 **Open**

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

Cost \$35



ANNIVERSARIES

24th.....Chris & Becky Messick

Our Saviour Lutheran Church Anna Lowery, President March 18, 2024 Board Minutes



Meeting called to order by President, Anna Lowery

Devotions: Anna Lowery

Members present: Anna Lowery, Bill Trudnak, Teri Trudnak, Alice Vlaservich, and Robbie Wooten

Members Absent: Steve Digh and Becky Messick

Minutes: January 15, 2024. Robbie Wooten made the motion to approve the minutes and seconded by Bill Trudnak.

Reception of Petitions and Communication

Motion by Alice Vlaservich to approve Pastor Feige request to attend 2024 Carolinas Mission Regional Convocation on May 3rd & 4th and pay for registration, hotel and meals. Seconded by Anna Lowery

Report of Pastor: None

Report of the Treasurer: January and February: Motion by Anna Lowery to accept the reports and seconded by Alice Vlaservich

Report of the Ministries

Property Team: New hot water heat install at Activity Bldg. New entrance light fixture install at one of entrances and light bulbs replace at the other. Light bulb replaced at the back door of the church.

Stewardship Team: None

Worship & Music Team: Placed the purple cloth on the outdoor cross. Joint Lenten Service with Holy Communion on Ash Wednesday and Wednesday Lenten Bible Study.

Finance Committee: None

Youth Team: None

Witness Team: Cards and bulletins continue to be sent to shut ins.

Christian Education Team: VBS will be at Philadelphia Lutheran Church June 16-20.

Auxiliaries:

Prayer Group met at the home of Shirlee Marazza at 2:00 pm in January and February

The Women's Group will meet at the home of Shirlee Marazza at 2:00 pm on April 30

Old and/or Unfinished Business

None

New Business:

Anna Lowery will talk to Julie Digh to be the Church's contact for VBS

Scott Heafner, Insurance adjuster, received the report from his engineer concerning the Sanctuary's roof and would like go over it with the Board. The Board will meet with him on March 20 at 7:00 pm

General Information:

Attendance

Laszlo Mission Report

Dallas Christian Ministry Report

Carolinas Mission Regional Report

International Fellowship of Christian and Jews

Engineer has looked at the Sanctuary roof and had a pull test on it.

Called Meeting March 20, 2024, 7:00 pm

The Board meet with Scott Heafner, Insurance Adjust, to receive the report (Drew Wilkie, Structural Engineer) on the Sanctuary roof. Mr. Heafner reviewed the report and advised the Board they needed to hire an architecture. Board authorized to contact Darren Lathan. Nverse Architecture/Engineer to prepare a plan for roof.



Relay For Life is a volunteer-led event that celebrates cancer survivors, remembers loved ones, and raises funds to fight cancer. It's more than just a walk; it's a powerful experience that brings together passionate supporters who share the vision of **ending cancer** for everyone. Here are some key points about Relay For Life:

Purpose: Relay For Life unites communities to:

Celebrate Cancer Survivors: Honoring those who have triumphed over cancer.

Remember Loved Ones: Paying tribute to those lost to cancer.

Raise Funds: Supporting advocacy, research, and patient services to improve the lives of people with cancer and their families.

WHEN: April 19, 2024 at 5:00 pm—9:30 pm

WHERE: Gaston Cillege

MORE INFORMATION:

Go on line for Relay for Life Lincoln and Gaston

Some of these are quite interesting

If you are right handed, you will tend to chew your food on the right side of your mouth.

If you are left handed, you will tend to chew your food on the left side of your mouth.

To make half a kilo of honey, bees must collect nectar from over 2 million individual flowers

Heroin is the brand name of morphine once marketed by 'Bayer'.

Tourists visiting Iceland should know that tipping at a restaurant is considered an insult!

Albert Einstein was offered the presidency of Israel in 1952, but he declined.

Astronauts can't belch - there is no gravity to separate liquid from gas in their stomachs.

The Mona Lisa has no eyebrows. In the Renaissance era, it was fashion to shave them off!

Because of the speed at which Earth moves around the Sun, it is impossible for a solar eclipse to last more than 7 minutes and 58 seconds.

The night of January 20 is "Saint Agnes's Eve", which is regarded as a time when a young woman dreams of her future husband.

Google is actually the common name for a number with a million zeros

It takes glass one million years to decompose, which means it never wears out and can be recycled an infinite amount of times!

Gold is the only metal that doesn't rust, even if it's buried in the ground for thousands of years

Your tongue is the only muscle in your body that is attached at only one end

If you stop getting thirsty, you need to drink more water.. When a human body is dehydrated, its thirst mechanism shuts off.

Zero is the only number that cannot be represented by Roman numerals

Kites were used in the American Civil War to deliver letters and newspapers..

The song, Auld Lang Syne, is sung at the stroke of midnight in almost every English-speaking country in the world to bring in the new year.

Drinking water after eating reduces the acid in your mouth by 61 percent

Peanut oil is used for cooking in submarines because it doesn't smoke unless it's heated above 450°F

The roar that we hear when we place a seashell next to our ear is not the ocean, but rather the sound of blood surging through the veins in the ear.

Nine out of every 10 living things live in the ocean

The banana cannot reproduce itself. It can be propagated only by the hand of man

Airports at higher altitudes require a longer airstrip due to lower air density

The University of Alaska spans four time zones

The tooth is the only part of the human body that cannot heal itself.

We Believe in the Resurrection of the Body: Why This is Important

The bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ is the most important event in history, providing irrefutable evidence that Jesus is who He claimed to be – the Son of God. The resurrection was not only the supreme validation of His deity; it also validated the Scriptures which foretold His coming and resurrection. Moreover, it authenticated Christ's claims that He would be raised on the third day (John 2:19-21; Mark 8:31, 9:31, 10:34). If Christ's body was not resurrected, we have no hope that ours will be (1 Corinthians 15:13, 16). In fact, apart from Christ's bodily resurrection, we have no Savior, no salvation, and no hope of eternal life. As the apostle Paul lamented, our faith would be "useless" and the life-giving power of the gospel would be altogether eliminated.

Because our eternal destinies ride on the truth of this historical event, the resurrection has been the target of Satan's greatest attacks against the church. Accordingly, the historicity of Christ's bodily resurrection has been examined and investigated from every angle and studied endlessly by countless scholars, theologians, professors, and others over the centuries. And even though a number of theories have been postulated which attempt to disprove this momentous event, no credible historical evidence exists which would validate anything other than His literal bodily resurrection. On the other hand, the clear and convincing evidence of the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ is overwhelming.

Nonetheless, from the Christians in ancient Corinth to many today, misunderstandings persist relative to certain aspects of our Savior's resurrection. Why, some ask, is it important that Christ's body was resurrected? Couldn't His resurrection have just been spiritual? Why and how does the resurrection of Jesus Christ guarantee the bodily resurrection of believers? Will our resurrected bodies be the same as our earthly bodies? If not, what will they be like? The answers to these questions are found in the fifteenth chapter of Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth, a church that he established several years earlier during his second missionary journey.

In addition to growing factions in the young Corinthian church, there was rampant misunderstanding of some key Christian doctrines, including the resurrection. Although many of the Corinthians accepted that Christ has been resurrected (1 Corinthians 15:1, 11), they had difficulty believing others could or would be resurrected. The continuing influence of Gnostic philosophy, which held that everything spiritual was good, whereas everything physical, such as our bodies, was intrinsically evil, was essentially responsible for their confusion regarding their own resurrection. The idea of a detestable corpse being eternally resurrected was, therefore, strongly opposed by some and certainly by the Greek philosophers of the day (Acts 17:32).

Yet, most of them understood that Christ's resurrection was bodily and not spiritual. After all, "resurrection"

literally means being raised from the dead; something that comes back to life. They understood that all souls were immortal and at death immediately went to be with the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:8). Thus, a "spiritual" resurrection would make no sense as the spirit doesn't die and therefore cannot be resurrected. Additionally, they were aware that the Scriptures, as well as Christ Himself, stated that His body would rise again on the third day. Scripture also made it clear that Christ's body would see no decay (Psalm 16:10; Acts 2:27), a charge that would make no sense if His body was not resurrected. Lastly, Christ emphatically told His disciples it was His body that was resurrected, "...a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have" (Luke 24:39).

Again, however, the Corinthians' concern was regarding their personal resurrection. Accordingly, Paul was trying to convince the Corinthians that because Christ rose from the dead, they also would rise from the dead someday, and that the two resurrections – Christ's and ours – must stand or fall together, for "if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised" (v.13). "But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive" (vv. 20-22).

When Jesus Christ was resurrected He became the "first fruits" of all who would be raised (see also Colossians 1:18). The Israelites could not fully harvest their crops until they brought a representative sampling (first fruits) to the priests as an offering to the Lord (Leviticus 23:10). This is what Paul is saying in verses 20-22; Christ's own resurrection was the "first fruits" of the resurrection "harvest" of the believing dead. The "first fruits" language Paul uses indicates something to follow, and that something would be His followers – the rest of the "crop." This is how Christ's resurrection guarantees ours. Indeed, His resurrection requires our resurrection.

And to put to rest their concerns regarding connecting the spirit to what was deemed an undesirable body, Paul explained to them the nature of our resurrected bodies and how they would differ from our earthly bodies. Paul likened our deceased earthly bodies to a "seed," for which God would ultimately provide a body (vv. 37-38) and a body that would someday be like Christ's glorious resurrected body (1 Corinthians 15:49; Philippians 4:21). Indeed, just as with our Lord, our bodies which are now perishable, dishonored, weak, and natural will one day be raised into bodies that are imperishable, glorious, powerful, and spiritual (1 Corinthians 15:42-44). Our spiritual bodies will be perfectly equipped for heavenly, supernatural living. So let us join together during this Easter season, with shouts of joy and demonstrations of love as we proclaim, "He is Risen! He is Risen, indeed!" And let us be reminded that every Sunday is, in fact, an Easter Sunday!

everlasting
Life!

The LORD'S Prayer

By a 15-year-old school kid who got an A+ for this entry

The Lord's Prayer is not allowed in most U.S. Public schools any more.

A kid in Minnesota, wrote the following

.....

Now I sit me down in school
Where praying is against the rule
For this great nation under God
Finds mention of Him very odd.

If scripture now the class recites,
It violates the Bill of Rights.
And anytime my head I bow
Becomes a Federal matter now.

Our hair can be purple, orange or green,
That's no offense; it's a freedom scene..
The law is specific, the law is precise.
Prayers spoken aloud are a serious vice.

For praying in a public hall
Might offend someone with no faith at all..
In silence alone we must meditate,
God's name is prohibited by the State..

We're allowed to cuss and dress like freaks,
And pierce our noses, tongues and cheeks...
They've not outlawed guns, but FIRST the Bible.
To quote the Good Book makes me liable.

We can elect a pregnant Senior Queen,
And the 'unwed daddy,' our Senior King.
It's 'inappropriate' to teach right from wrong,
We're taught that such 'judgments' do not belong..

We can get our condoms and birth controls,
Study witchcraft, vampires and totem poles...
But the Ten Commandments are not allowed,
No word of God must reach this crowd.

It's scary here I must confess,
When chaos reigns the school's a mess.
So, Lord, this silent plea I make:
Should I be shot; My soul please take!
Amen

THIS IS A REPEAT, BUT WORTH IT



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OUTREACH MISSION

SHUT-INS

NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

Please remember our church members who are shut-ins or reside in a nursing home or senior living and visit them or send a card to them

Wayne Ann Penley
109 Polie Ln, Dallas, NC 28034

Jean Huffstetler new address coming

Church News



Prayer Group

will meet at the home of Shirlee Marazza on April 16th
at 2:00 pm.



CLW Group

Will meet at the home of Shirlee Marazza on April 30
At 2:00 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)



PRAYER LIST: MARGARET Addington, SETH Alexander, AMANDA (friend of the Penley's), MARVIS Anderson, WHITNEY Auten (breast cancer), KELLY Ballard (friend of Shana Dease), NORMAN Bever (Brother-in-law of Brady Ratchford-stroke), ADDISON Blanton (friend of Dease's), KATHY Bohanan (cancer), KAREN Brady, MIKE Coffey (Robbie Wooten's uncle), BARRY Clemmer (Alice Vlaservich's brother), STEVE Cloninger (friend of Brady Ratchford-cancer), ROB Curley (cancer), STEVE Digh (cancer), JULIE Digh (Thyroid), DUANE Digh (Steve Digh's brother-Heart), BAILEY Drummond (Becky and Chris Messick's daughter), JOHN Finger (friend of Brady Ratchford), GLEEN Fraizer (friend of Steve & Julie Digh -cancer), BECKY Goodwin (friend of Brady's -cancer), JASON Hames (friend of the White's), GRACE Harbin (friend of Robbie Wooten-cancer), LESA Huges (friend of Robbie Wooten-throat cancer), JEFF Lineberger (stroke), DANA Kirshman (friend of Robbie Wooten-cancer), JACK Lonon (Kasey Digh's step-father-cancer), MARINA Marazza (Shirlee Marazza's granddaughter-Long Haul Covid19), CARL Martin (friend of Pattons-multiple myeloma plus chemo) BO Messick (foot), FRANCIS McAllister (broken hip), CHRIS Messick (recovering back surgery), JASON, ALLISON & LEX Murray, ELIZABETH Mustin (rare breast cancer), GARY Neal, (friend of Caleb Dease), JOHN & MARSHA Patton - 2 embryos successfully transferred- pray for full term, ANDY Peeden (cancer), SONDRRA Phillips (friend of Melinda White), BRADY Ratchford, LEON Rawlinson (growth in brain), JAN Splawn (friend of Robbie Wooten- cancer), TERI Trudnak, TONY Trudnak (cancer reoccurring), GARY Turner (father of Jason Murray), JEFF White, KENT Wilborn (friend of Robbie Wooten-heart surgery) NANCY Wilson.

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

and go to links

and click on their name.

GOD WANTS YOU!

- (1) God wants you to participate in His worship service for **2023** 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 \$35.00**
- (3) **There are many openings**

A Stewardship Minute

In the opening article in the April issue of *Stewardship* there is a Scripture verse that woke me up. The verse is from the Old Testament and written by the prophet Haggai. Speaking on behalf of God, here is what God said to the Jews who were about to build a temple in which to worship: "The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the Lord." The writer of the 24th psalm made the same point when he wrote: "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it." So that compels us to ask, if ultimately God's owns everything, where does that leave us?

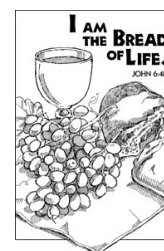
The answer Scripture gives us is very clear. We are care takers

of God's earth and all that is in it. We are stewards, or managers, who have the responsibility of caring for the earth and for whatever God blesses us with. Not only responsible for this earth, but our bodies, minds, and the resources that come our way. Because ultimately what we say is ours is not ours at all.

There is an old joke about two men standing on a street corner when a funeral procession came into view. They were respectfully silent until they noticed that somehow a Brinks truck had gotten right behind the hearse. That was when one fellow said to the other, "Who says you can't take it with you?" Well, the sober truth is we really can't take it with

us. Yet there is a lot we can do with what God allows us to manage right now. We are the servants of the Lord. So let's be the best caretakers of whatever the Lord has placed before us.

Prayer: Dear Lord, you have given us such great responsibilities. Please give us the guidance and strength to do what we can do for your Kingdom! **Amen**



The Community Foundation of Gaston County, Inc.

invites you to

2024 Community Foundation Race!

The Community Foundation Run is an annual fundraising event for local nonprofits facilitated by the Foundation. On the day of the Run, thousands of people come together for one of the biggest celebrations of community spirit and support in Gaston County.

When:

The 2024 Run will be held IN PERSON on Saturday, April 13, 2024 at 9am.

Who:

Walkers and runners of all ages, participating nonprofits, community members

What:

5K Run, 2K Fun Walk

Where:

Downtown Gastonia, CaroMont Health Park, 800 W Franklin Blvd, Gastonia, NC 28052

Deadline:

The deadline to contribute to nonprofits is Monday, April 10.

Registration: Go on line at Gaston Foundation and pages 12, 13 and 14 of this newsletter

<https://cfgaston.org/learn/community-foundation-run>

DONATIONS: SEE FORM ON PAGE 15

2024 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/Kure Beach 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

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 Phone: 919-552-9421

2022 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)

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 14)

(Mission cont'd from page 13)

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 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 having 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 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.



Whether you walk, run, or stroll,
you always win with the



If you wish to donate to the 2024 Run,
please complete the donor form.

Register online by scanning the QR
code or visit:

[cf Gaston.org/learn/
community-foundation-run](https://cf Gaston.org/learn/community-foundation-run)



Registration & Packet Pickup

- Packet pickup for preregistered runners and walkers will be available Tuesday, April 9 – Friday, April 12 from 9:30am–4:00pm at the Foundation.
- Race day registration and packet pickup will be available on April 13th from 6:30am – 8am at the Picnic Pavilion at CaroMont Health Park.

Award Categories

5K participants have a chance to win prize money for a participating nonprofit of their choice in the following categories:

- Overall Male/Female Winner (not eligible for age group awards)
- 1st and 2nd place Male/Female Runners in the following age categories:

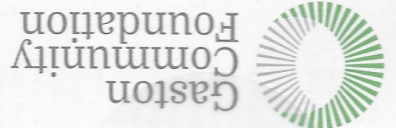
categories:			
9 & under	30 – 34	55 – 59	
10 – 14	35 – 39	60 – 64	
15 – 19	40 – 44	65 – 69	
20 – 24	45 – 49	70 & up	
25 – 29	50 – 54		

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Gastonia, NC 28054
PO Box 123,
Gastonia, NC 28058
P: 704-864-0927
cf Gaston.org



2024 COMMUNITY FOUNDATION RUN

WHEN: Saturday, April 13th 2024, Race begins at 9AM

WHERE: Caromont Health Park, FUSE District, Downtown Gastonia

WHAT: 5K Run, 2K Walk, nonprofit booth exhibits, live music, and more!

The Run is an opportunity to unite donors, community volunteers, and businesses in fun camaraderie to support the good works of nonprofits in Gaston County.

Since inception, the Community Foundation Run has raised \$22,082.71 for local nonprofits. There are 146 nonprofits participating in the 2024 Run.

ABOUT THE GASTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
Founded in 1978, the Foundation currently manages more than \$124 million in assets and more than 400 charitable funds. As a leader of philanthropic giving in Gaston County, the Foundation focuses on connecting donors and the needs of our community.

THE MATCH FUND

What is the Match Fund?
A collective fund of money shared by all participating nonprofits.

Where do match funds come from?
The Community Foundation, sponsorships, and individuals like you!

How is the match percentage calculated?
Matching funds available divided by nonprofit dollars eligible for match (\$10,000 cap per organization).

How can I contribute?
Simply notate your contribution on the donor form and include in your total contribution.

CONTRIBUTION GUIDELINES

- Cash is NOT accepted.
- All checks payable to the Community Foundation.
- For stock transfers, please contact the Foundation.
- All gifts must be made before 5:00 pm, Monday, April 22nd, 2024.
- Gifts CANNOT include membership dues, pledge payments, fees or event entries.
- To receive gifts, organizations must be a registered participant in the 2024 Run. Refer to the list below, our website (cfaston.org), or call the charity of your choice to determine qualification.

WANT TO LEARN MORE OR GET INVOLVED?

Please contact the Foundation because it's not just about the money, it's about bringing our community together!

GASTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 123 (28053)
250 S. New Hope Road,
Ste A (28054) Gastonia, NC
ph: 704-864-0927
cfaston.org

**FOR MORE INFO
ABOUT SPONSORSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES
SCAN THE QR**

Entry Fees

Pre-registration is encouraged to participate in the 5K Run and 2K Walk.
CASH NOT ACCEPTED.

5K Run

\$30 online (Through March 31st)
\$35 online (April 1st - April 12th)
\$40 (on Run Day)

2K Walk

\$20 online (Through March 31st)
\$25 (April 1st - April 12th)
\$30 (on Walk Day)

Participating Nonprofits

- African American Museum of History & Culture
- AIDS Council
- Alliance for Children & Youth
- American Legion Post 23
- Arc of Gaston County
- Art's Good Girl Dog Treats
- Arts on the Greenway
- Ashbrook Foundation
- BackTrack Weekend Food Program, Inc.
- Baltimore Village School
- Belmont Abbey Performing Arts Department
- Belmont Community Organization (BCO)
- Belmont Historical Society
- Belmont Bowling Center
- Bit of Hope Ranch
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Gaston
- Bunny Blessings NC
- Camp Centurion, Inc.
- Camp Sunshine
- Cancer Kids First NC
- Cancer Services of Gaston County
- Carlee Cause Foundation
- Carolina Pro Musica
- Carolina Thread Trail
- Carolina Street Art Collaborative
- Catawba Lands Conservancy
- Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation
- Catherine's House
- Cathy Heby Dinninger Center: A Domestic Violence Shelter
- Cherryville Area Ministries
- Christ Community Outreach Food Ministry
- Christian Prayer and Healing Center
- Classroom Central, Inc.
- Community Relief Organization of Mount Holly
- Cornerstone Christian Center/CCP, Inc.
- Covenant Community Preschool
- Crisis Assistance Ministry (CAM)
- Crisis Pregnancy Center of Gaston County, Inc.
- Crowders Camps
- Palaces-High Shoals Christian Social Ministry
- Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden
- Dream Center Academy
- Eta Nu Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
- FamilyLife Ministry (CRL)
- Fellowship of Christian Athletes
- First Presbyterian Weekday School-Belmont
- Lynn Fellowship Home
- Forestview High School PTO
- Friends of the Gaston County Public Library
- FUMC Community Health Ministry
- Gaston Aquatics
- Gaston Arts Council
- Gaston Choral Society
- Gaston Christian School
- Gaston College Foundation
- Gaston Community Action, Inc.
- Gaston County Art Build
- Gaston County DHHS
- Gaston County ECA
- Gaston County Education Foundation
- Gaston County Family YMCA
- Gaston County Young Life
- Gaston Dance Theatre
- Gaston Day School
- Gaston Bators
- Gaston Hope in Christ Ministries
- Gaston Hospice
- Gaston Literary Council, Inc.
- Gaston Low-Cost Spray/Neuter Clinic
- Gaston Music Education Foundation
- Gaston Residential Services, Inc.
- Gaston School of the Arts
- Gaston Skills, Inc.
- Gaston String Orchestra
- Gaston Symphonic Band
- Gaston Together
- Gastonia Composite Squadron Civil Air Patrol
- Gastonia East Bakery
- Gastonia Pottery House
- Gastonia Sister Cities
- Girls on the Run Greater Charlotte
- Habitat for Humanity of Gaston County
- Heartbeats Gaston
- Heart Society of Gaston County, Inc.
- High Caliber Athletic, Inc.
- Highland School of Technology PISO
- Holy Angels
- Honorable Ralph C. Gingles Scholarship Fund
- Hope United Survivor Network
- House of Mercy
- Hoyle Historic Homestead
- Jack & Jill of America, Inc. Gastonia-Piedmont Chapter
- Junior League of Gaston County
- Keep Belmont Beautiful
- Keep Gastonia Beautiful
- King's Daughters Ministry
- Kinney Health
- Kinney Health
- Least of These Carolinas
- Legacy Builders Intl, Inc.
- Let Me Run Gaston County
- Lifetime Children's Services, Inc.
- Little Theater of Gastonia
- Lucy Girl's Home, Inc.
- Lowell Women's Club
- McDermott Women's Club
- Mended Hearts
- MH Community Development Foundation
- Mount Holy Community Garden
- Mount Holy Farmers Market
- Mount Holy Historical Society
- Mount Holy Police Foundation
- NC Faith and Freedom Coalition
- Next Generation Living Circle (Next Gen)
- No Brainer Foundation
- Off the Streets Program, Inc.
- Parkinson Association of the Carolinas
- Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties
- Paul Fuller Scholarship for Mentored Students
- Piedmont NC Links
- Place of Refuge of Gaston County, Inc.
- Presbyterian Weekday School (Gastonia)
- Promise for Haiti
- Remembering Austin
- Rotary Community Garden
- S.O.C.K.S.
- Safe Kids Gaston County
- Salvation Army of Gaston County
- Schiele Museum
- Second Harvest Food Bank
- Shining Hope Farms
- Smith Cemetery Historical Preservation Association
- South Point High School Band Boosters
- Southminster Presbyterian Church (Night to Shine)
- Special Olympics Gaston County
- St. Mark's Episcopal Church
- St. Stephens AME Zion Church
- Team Kate's Artistic Roller Skating Club
- Teens Changing Gaston County (TCBC)
- The Center: Day Care Services for Adults
- The Lighthouse-Children's Advocacy Center
- Tri-County Animal Rescue
- United Way of Gaston County
- Victory Farm, Inc.
- Webb Street School
- With Friends, Inc.

Register online by scanning the QR code or visit:
cfaston.org/learn/
community-foundation-run



*If you wish to give to Crisis Pregnancy Center through
Gaston Community Foundation, please cut out the below and
mail it in. The Foundation will match.*

Thank You!

Donor Form

Fill out completely. Write legibly.
Online donations at www.cfgaston.org/donate.
Cash **NOT** accepted.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

2024 Run Contributions

_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____

TOTAL GIFTS FOR 2024 RUN
(Match Fund and Nonprofits) \$ _____

Donations less than \$250 will be acknowledged only upon request.

☐ I wish this gift to remain anonymous.
☐ I would like to learn more about the Gaston
Community Foundation and ways they can assist
me with charitable giving.

COMPLETED DONOR FORM:

Please mail (PO Box 123, Gastonia, NC 28053) or deliver to the
Community Foundation (250 S. New Hope Road, Ste A, Gastonia, NC
28054).

All checks must be made payable to the Gaston Community
Foundation and received on or before 5:00 pm, Monday, April
22, 2024.

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FIFTEEN THINGS THAT GOD WON'T ASK:

1. God won't ask what kind of car you drive, but will ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.
 2. God won't ask the square footage of your house, but will ask how many people you welcomed into your house.
 3. God won't ask about the fancy clothes you had in your closet, but will ask how many of those clothes helped the needy.
 4. God won't ask about your social status, but will ask what kind of class you displayed.
 5. God won't ask how many material possessions you had, but will ask if they dictated your life.
 6. God won't ask you what your highest salary was, but will ask if you compromised your character to obtain that salary.
 7. God won't ask how much overtime you worked, but will ask if you worked overtime for your family and loved ones.
 8. God won't ask how many promotions you received, but will ask how many you promoted others.
 9. God won't ask what your job title was, but will ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.
 10. God won't ask what you did to help yourself, but will ask what you did to help others.
 11. God won't ask how many friends you had, but will ask how many people to whom you were a true friend.
 12. God won't ask what you did to protect your rights, but will ask what you did to protect the rights of others,
 13. God won't ask in what neighborhood you lived, but will ask how you treated your neighbors.
 14. God won't ask about the color of your skin, but will ask about the content of your character.
 15. God won't ask how many times your deeds matched your words, but will ask how many times they didn't
-

Stewardship

Inspiring a deeper understanding of true giving

April 2024

May I speak of my money? I own no money, nor do you, simply because God insists that all things ... even money ... belong to him. In God's Word we read, "The silver is mine and the gold is mine," declares the Lord Almighty (Haggai 2: 8)."

This claim of God presents a confusing situation at first glance. After all, I do have money in my possession. I speak of it as mine. The very practical question arises, "Is the money I have God's or mine?"

Actually, there is no confusion. Scripture tells me God owns all things. God places material things in my possession. These are not gifts. Rather God entrusts what is his to my care to use in his service. It follows then that I am not the owner but a manager or steward of God's property.

God entrusts his property

Yet, I am not dismayed that I am deprived of ownership. Can I be deprived of something I never owned? Instead, I am honored that God entrusts his property to my keeping, that God deigns to make me a steward of what is his; that he depends on me to administer it honestly.

Honest administration immediately obligates me to place all that God has entrusted to me to his service. But this doesn't mean I must give every cent to the church. God has entrusted to me a body, soul and mind ... a wife and children, similarly endowed. God has given me the responsibility of caring for them. Therefore, when I take a portion

of the money God has entrusted to me to provide food, clothing, shelter, education, recreation and other necessities of life and health for these, then I am a steward who is fulfilling his trust.

Of course, I provide for these things in proper portion. I would hardly be a good steward if I spent a large sum on



some luxury while a basic need was left un-met. "In proper proportion" is a primary rule in my administration.

In proper proportion

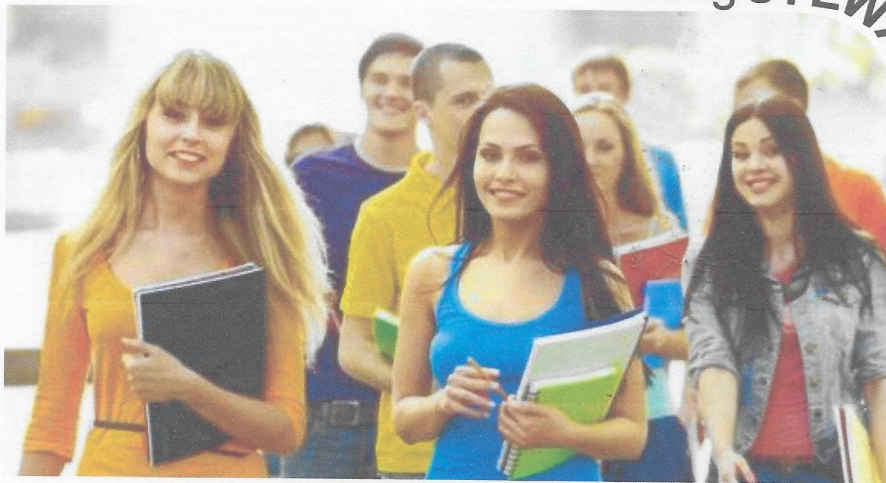
"In proper proportion" is the rule that also applies when I prepare to make my offering to God and through the church. As the owner of all things, God

The joy of sacrificial giving is love. In spite of trials, love emerges as the factor in an individual's happiness.



All churches fall short of what they could be and do because some of their members don't seem to feel the reality of the claim of God on their time through his church. So if you've got an hour to kill some day soon, either do nothing in the presence and consciousness of God, or do something for his sake, and the sake of another.

Young STEWARDS' Corner




A Highway Mishap!

Jason was riding alone in his car on a two-lane highway when all the lights on his dashboard went on and the car's engine failed. He was no longer able to steer the car, and the traffic around him was moving at least as fast as the speed limit. Jason knew that he had to get his car over to the side of the road to be out of harm's way.

Within twenty seconds of his car stalling, four football players dressed in uniforms and on their way to a football scrimmage stopped behind Jason and asked if they could help. They and their sturdy Ford pushed the disabled Toyota over to the side of the road. Like angels of mercy, they disappeared before Jason could even offer them something for their kindness: one of them simply said, "I hope your day gets better!"

Little did they know that they had made Jason's day better: by stopping to help him in his need, they helped Jason better understand the power of giving to others. Though this event happened five years ago, Jason loves telling the story even today, as an example of how God rescued him on the road.

Giving that does not expect or demand anything in return is an example of Jesus' loving spirit in action. Small sacrifices, such as being delayed or inconvenienced a few minutes in order to assist others, do reap harvests of a hundred, or sixty, or thirty-fold love. More than "random" acts of kindness, our Jesus-inspired tradition calls us to make our *stewardship of time* a regular component of each day and week. Let your response and attitude be gratitude. 



The Good Steward

Several years ago, Thomas Cannon, an african-american postal worker, and his wife lived in virtual poverty in a Richmond, VA. slum, not because they had to, but because they chose to. He was making \$15,000 a year.

But for the previous seven years he had given away some \$26,000, mostly in \$1,000 parcels. He endowed a \$1,000 annual scholarship at the Hampton Institute. And much more.

A Responsibility To Share

To many Americans, wealth is the house on the hill, overlooking the town. But to many wealthy Americans, wealth means a responsibility to share. Traces of this large-scale giving are all over America.




Dear Editor,

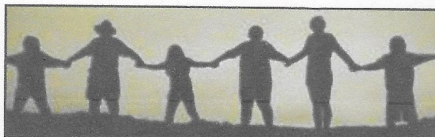
In my own life, it is easy to let my heart be troubled. When my heart is troubled, however, I know that I have to get back to God in extended prayer and meditation.

Managing God's time (not mine!) each day is difficult unless I spend my hour in prayer and meditation. Being the good stewards is so easy with the Lord. Without the Lord I botch everything up because when I do it, my self (ego, flesh) gets in the way.

For example, it is difficult to imagine what Emory University's medical center in Atlanta would be without the more than \$100 million contributed by Coca-Cola magnate, Robert W Woodruff.

Each One Wants To Give

The likes of the Mellons, the Carnegies, the Rockefellers are called philanthropists. Their bequests to society are numerous. But what of the postal worker who lived in the slums and endowed a \$1,000 scholarship? He is among a large group of ordinary Americans, many anonymous, simply known as givers. 

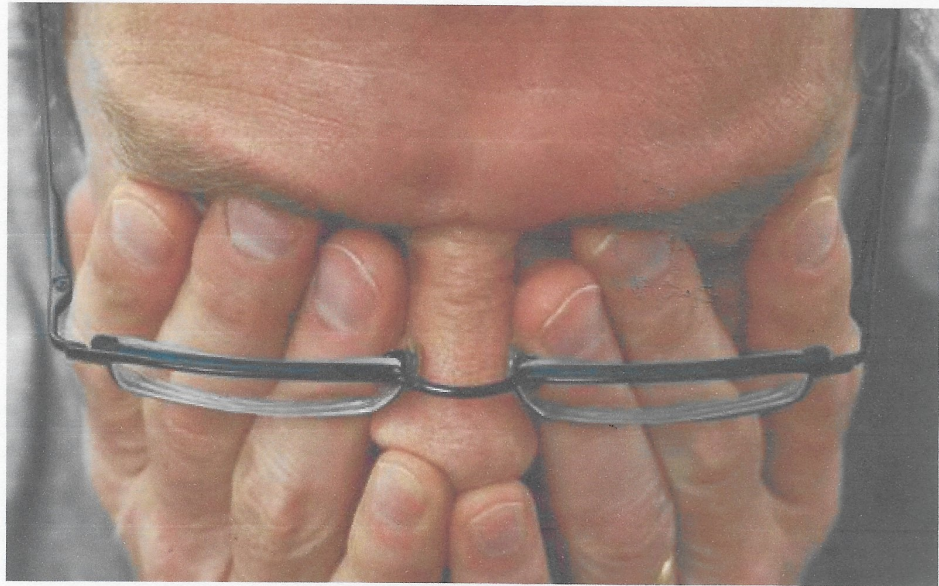


Stewarding God's time in my life involves these questions:

- Am I giving sacrificially of my time and talents to the church and to others?
- How many of my free hours are spent each week doing things which serve or entertain myself?
- Am I using all my talents in ways which are God-pleasing?
- Do I believe that God will bless me with adequate time to do everything expected if I give generously of my time and talents to others?

Trouble doesn't just happen. A troubled heart is often caused by a faithless spirit and selfish person. What then do I give to God? How many hours do I give to my church weekly? How many hours do I give to Christian service activities outside the church each week?

Don't shudder when someone says you have no talents, for everyone of us have been given talents by God, which are to be used partially in God's specific work. It does not take a great deal of talent to visit an elderly person, but only the will to do so. We must make the decision to invest our talents in the services of Christ.



***A troubled heart is often caused by
a faithless spirit and selfish person.***

Continued from page 1...

May I speak of...


requests offerings in many instances. As God's steward, can I disobey?

Yet, I do not bring my offering because of a command from God. Would a command be necessary? When I think of the tremendous blessings God has deluged upon me ... blessings that serve me now and that will endure forever ... could I possibly deny him an offering? Could my offering be only a pittance?

Motivated by love and gratitude, I first separate his portion whenever I receive income. I make that portion of a size that will give adequate evidence of my love and gratitude. This separated portion I then dedicate to God's specific service and administer it in a way that he would have me do.

With this done, the remainder, understand, is still devoted to his service. I use

that remainder, as God would wish, to provide for the needs of my life and for the needs of those he has committed to my care. In God's name and to his service is my guiding principle.

So, as a steward of money, I recognize that God owns all things. I recognize that I am his manager of what he places in my charge. To be a good and faithful steward, that is my aim. 





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



April 2024



April 19, 2024