



# Our Saviour's Good News

Volume XII, Issue V

May 2017

## 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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Enclosed: VBS FORMS

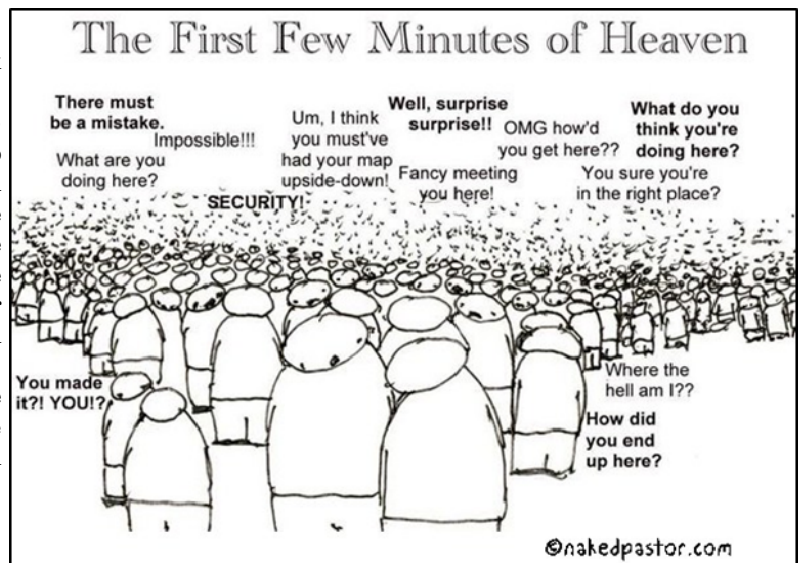


Easter is a time to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and it is also a time to refocus or revisit our faith in one of the promises Jesus gave us as recorded in John 14: 1-4:

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.”

At first glance, it would seem Jesus is talking to just His disciples, but I would argue that if that were the case, the Father's House would only need 12 rooms! We know this is not the case and we all have some preconceived notions about heaven. Some of them are true and others are not.

Some of us think it might be crowded. Perhaps overwhelming or even too big to comprehend. And what about all the people we knew here in this life that we would have never expected to see in heaven? You know, the people who we don't like or those who really wronged us.



Then there is the misconception that there is a rigid selection process to get in and has certain requirements to gain entrance. Some religions even claim that if you are not with their church, you will not get into heaven. And then there is the old standby - we all have had the old Sunday school vision of heaven looking like clouds where angels can rest upon after they finally get their wings and play their lyres and sing for eternity.

(Heaven cont'd on page 2)



(Heaven cont'd from page 1)

The idea of heaven invokes all sorts of ideas and visions. Some are even scared of heaven – will it be boring? What will I do for eternity? What if I don't like it? What if what Billy Joel sang in his song "Only the Good Die Young" is true?

They say there's a heaven  
for those who will wait  
Some say it's better but I  
say it ain't  
I'd rather laugh with the  
sinners than cry with the  
saints  
The sinners are much more  
fun...  
You know that only the  
good die young

We all have some sort of concept of heaven and some of those are biblical and others are based on individual thoughts, opinions and traditions. And while I think there is room for those thoughts and opinions, they should never run against Scripture.

In the weeks after Pentecost, I would like to explore heaven. What is it? What isn't it? What does the Bible say about heaven? What did Jesus tell us about heaven? I look forward to this series and if you want something to read in preparation for this, I suggest two books. The first is Randy Alcorn's book "Heaven" and the other is C.S. Lewis "The Great Divorce".

*Pete*  
Pastor Pete



is celebrated to honor all mothers and express gratitude for the hardships they bear in bringing up a child. Mother's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday of May. Mothers Day came into being due to the efforts made by Ms Julia Ward Howe and Ms Anna Jarvis. The Resolution for having a dedicated Mother's Day was signed by US President Woodrow Wilson on May 8, 1914. Since then people across the world have been celebrating Mothers Day with joy and devotion.

The country's greatest proponent of motherhood, Anna Jarvis ironically never had children of her own. Yet that didn't stop her from making the celebration of Mother's Day her lifelong mission. In fact, as the holiday took on a life of its own, Jarvis expressed frequent dismay over its growing commercialization. "I wanted it to be a day of sentiment, not profit," she is quoted as saying.



Mothers are the most precious gifts from God to us. They help us solve our problems and courageously face our tough life. Mother's Day is our opportunity to honor our mothers for their love, affection, care, hard-work and sacrifice.

- **Kaveri Manoharan**

Mothers are angels just like those above. We should thank them for the patience, protection and love. No other person could be so caring and warm. Truly mothers are angels in human form. Love you mom.

- **Damary Rodriguez**

If there was a day for everything you have given to me as a mother, it would be Mother's Day, every day. Thanks for always helping me to remember what is important in life and today it is you! You're the best! Thanks for all you do.

- **Iyanna Lonon**

There is no velvet so soft as a mother's lap, no rose as lovely as her smile, no path so flowery as that imprinted with her footsteps.

- **Archibald Thompson**

A mother is a person who seeing there are only four pieces of pie for five people, promptly announces she never did care for pie.

- **Teneva Jordan**

## Mother's Day Poems

### A Mother's Love

There are times when only  
a mother's love  
Can understand our tears,  
Can soothe our disappoints  
And calm all of our fears.

There are times when only  
a mother's love  
Can share the joy we feel  
When something we've dreamed  
about  
Quite suddenly is real.

There are times when only  
a mother's faith  
Can help us on life's way  
And inspire in us the confidence  
We need from day to day.

For a mother's heart and  
a mother's faith  
And a mother's steadfast love  
Were fashioned by the angels  
And sent from God above.

--Author Unknown



### God's Helpers

God could not be in every place  
With loving hands to help erase  
The teardrops from each baby's face,  
And so He thought of mother.

He could not send us here alone  
And leave us to a fate unknown;  
Without providing for His own,  
The outstretched arms of mother.

God could not watch us night and day  
And kneel beside our crib to pray,  
Or kiss our little aches away;  
And so He sent us mother.

And when our childhood days began,  
He simply could not take command.  
That's why He placed our tiny hand  
Securely into mother's.

The days of youth slipped quickly by,  
Life's sun rose higher in the sky.  
Full grown were we, yet ever nigh  
To love us still, was mother.

And when life's span of years shall  
end,  
I know that God will gladly send,  
To welcome home her child again,

## Our Saviour Lutheran Church William Trudnak, President March 20, 2017 Council Minutes

Adjourned with Lord's Prayer  
Next Meeting: April 17, 2017  
Devotions: Steve Digh

### Devotions: Bill Trudnak

Meeting called to order by President Bill Trudnak.

**Members present:** Bill Trudnak, Melinda White, Bud Penley, Alice Vlaservich, Shirlee Marazza, Steve Digh and Teri Trudnak. **Absent:** Becky Messick, Robbie Wooten and Jon Clemmer.

**Minutes** for February 20, 2017 were reviewed. Motion made by Alice Vlaservich to approve the minutes and a second was given by Teri Trudnak.

### Reception of Petitions and Communications:

Reviewed; no action taken.

**Report of the Pastor:** N/A;

**Report of the Treasurer:** Motion by Steve Digh to accept the Treasurer Report and seconded by Teri Trudnak.

### Report of the Ministries:

- a. **Property:** Lights to be replaced in Activity Building; loose gutter was repaired; curtains to be replaced/ updated in Activity Building. To check loose shingle on sanctuary roof.
- b. **Stewardship and Finance:** No report.
- c. **Worship & Music:** Easter Sunrise Service and breakfast being planned.
- d. **Youth Team:** No report.
- e. **Witness:** Cards and prayers continue to be delivered.
- f. **Christian Education Team:** VBS is scheduled for 6/18-6/22/17 at Philadelphia Lutheran beginning at 5:30pm with light supper and class will run from 6:15-8:15 pm. OSLC will be serving the meal that week on Tuesday 6/20/17.

### Report of Auxiliaries:

Rachel Circle: Met at the home of Alice Vlaservich. Marie Robinson led the bible study.

### Old and/or Unfinished Business:

None

### New Business:

- a. Joint service with Holy Communion will be held at HCLC for Maundy Thursday service. Time to be announced. A motion was made by Bud Penley to accept this motion and Teri Trudnak seconded.
- b. Looking for new cleaning person for Activity Building. Will ask Perry or Leon Rollinson if they are interested in cleaning the building once a month.
- c. Suggestion was made to change the daily devotional book to the "Upper Room". Alice Vlaservich made a motion to accept and Shirlee Marazza seconded that motion.
- d. Pastor's job description to be revisited and developed.

### General Information:

- a. Attendance
- b. Kids Alive Report.



**Armed Forces Day**  
"United in Strength"  
Saturday, May 20, 2017

On August 31, 1949, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy and Air Force Days. The single-day celebration stemmed from the unification of the Armed Forces under one department -- the Department of Defense. On May 20, 2017, we honor all our men and women who are servicing in the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Navy and Marines. Below are some quotes from some of our notable leaders:

"It is fitting and proper that we devote one day each year to paying special tribute to those whose constancy and courage constitute one of the bulwarks guarding the freedom of this nation and the peace of the free world."

President Dwight D. Eisenhower

"Our Armed Forces and our national defense system represent a judicious investment of the nation's resources in the cause of peace. The return on this investment, in terms of national strength, shows the determination of the American people to preserve our way of life and to give hope to all who seek peace with freedom and justice. "

The Honorable Neil McElroy  
Former Secretary of Defense

"...Word to the Nation: Guard zealously your right to serve in the Armed Forces, for without them, there will be no other rights to guard."

President John F. Kennedy



MARK YOU CALENDAR

Vacation Bible School (V.B.S.) 2017  
 Antioch Lutheran Church  
 VBS will run from June 18, 2017 to June 22, 2017

Get ready for a HeroCentral! Our theme for this summer is "Discover Your Strength In God!"

Help will be needed With: Arts & Crafts; VBS group (Bible Stories, Games) Leader; Song Leader; Decoration Coordinator & Designer; Snacks.

OUR SAVIOUR WILL BE RESPONSIBLE OF SERVING THE EVENING LIGHT MEAL ON TUESDAY, JUNE 29

(SEE FORMS INSIDE)



Take a look at the calendar on your wall. You may find something on Thursday, May 25, 2017, that says "Ascension Day." And just maybe you're wondering, "What on earth is that?"

Ascension Day marks the day when Jesus Christ ascended up into Heaven. It was 40 days after his resurrection from the dead, which was on Easter Sunday (in A.D. 30). If you begin with Easter Sunday (April 16, 2017) and count 40 days, you end up on Thursday, May 25.

The Biblical account of the Ascension appears in the book of Acts, chapter one: After his suffering, he (Jesus) showed himself to these men (the apostles) and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command:

"Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." *Acts 1:3-11, NIV*

The most *awesome* thing about this account is not that he ascended up into heaven (which was certainly amazing), but that he *will come back* in the same way! We who know Jesus as our Lord and Savior will meet him in the clouds (1 Thessalonians 4:17). And that day is coming soon... possibly much sooner than we think, considering that 1,979 years have already passed since His Ascension!

so

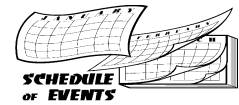
Ascension Day is one of the earliest Christian festivals dating back to the year 68. According to the New Testament in the Bible, Jesus Christ met several times with his disciples during the 40 days after his resurrection to instruct them on how to carry out his teachings. It is believed that on the 40th day he took them to the Mount of Olives, where they watched as he ascended to heaven.

Ascension Day marks the end of the Easter season and occurs ten days before **Pentecost**. Depending upon the phases of the moon in a particular year, Ascension Day is celebrated on a Thursday. However, some churches, particularly in the United States, celebrate it on the following Sunday.

# May 2017



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



- **May 1**—Youth Team Meeting 6:30 pm.  
Other Team Meetings 7:00 PM
- **May 4**— National Day of Prayer
- **May 5**— Friendship Day
- **May 6**—94th Annual Lutheran Men in Mission—Grace Lutheran, Hendersonville
- **May 7**—4th Sunday of Easter
- **May 7-13**— National Family Week
- **May 9**— Wake Up Gaston (see p 8)  
Gaston Together (see p 8)
- **May 14**—Mother's Day  
5th Sunday of Easter
- **May 15**— "Prayer Group" will meet at the home of Shirlee Marazza at 1:30 p  
Council Meeting 7:00 pm
- **May 20**— **Armed Forces Day**
- **May 21**— 6th Sunday of Easter
- **May ??**— CLW/Rachel Group will meet at the home of TBA at 1:30 pm (see p 8)
- **May 25**—Ascension of our Lord
- **May 28**— 7th Sunday after Pentecost
- **May 29**— Memorial Day (see p 7)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Team Meeting	2	3	4 National Day of Prayer	5 Friendship Day	6 94th Ann. LCMC Meeting
7 4th Sunday of Easter 	8	9 Walk-Up Church	10	11	12	13
Mother's Day	15 Council Meeting	16	17	18	19	20 Armed Forces Day
21 6th Sun, of Easter	22 "CLW/ Rachel Group"	23	24	25 HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN	26	27
28 7th Sun. Of Easter	29 MEMORIAL DAY	30				

**Holy Communion Schedule:**

May 7: 3rd Sunday of Easter



FOOD FOR THE MONTH: Corn,

Canned Meat, Mac & Cheese



Birth-



- 12 Garrett Lowery
- 15 Marie Robinson
- 18 Bo Messick
- Nancy Wilson
- 20 Marilyn Finger
- 24 Jack Lowery
- 28 Caleb Dease

- Emma Dease
- Jean Huffstetler
- Jeff White
- Allison Wooten
- Carson Dease
- Bailey Messick

**Worship Service Assistance:**

Altar Guild: Teri Trudnak  
Melinda White  
Acolyte: Nick Vlaservich  
Crucifer: Will Trudnak

Communion  
Asst: Denise Traveria  
Lay Reader: Alice Vlaservich/  
Betty Clemmer

Worship Asst: Nick Vlaservich  
Greeters: Members of OSLC  
Ushers: Members of OSLC

Devotions: Teri Trudnak  
Collections: Steve Digh



Choir practice each  
Wednesday at 7:00 pm  
unless otherwise announced  
the bulletin

## FLOWERS

**Flower Schedule:**

- May 7 Melinda White
- May 14 Becky Messick
- May 21 Wayne Ann Penley
- May 28 Brady & Betty Ratchford



**ANNIVERSARIES**

- 2nd .....Joe & Yvonne Finger
- 5th .....Scott & Ashley Finger
- 9th ....Christian & Kara Clemmer

**Nursery Guardians Schedule**

- May 7 Becky Messick
- May 14 Teri Trudnak
- May 21 Emma Dease



Thank you for signing up to place flowers on the altar to the glory of God and in honor or memory of your love ones.

**A SIXTEEN (1) OPEN DATES REMAIN**



725 Gastonia Technology Parkway  
 Post Office Box 475  
 Dallas, North Carolina 28034  
 Phone: 705-922-4648  
 Email: oslcdallas@aol.com  
 Website: oslc-nc.org



Help fill the pantry  
 at the  
 Dallas-High Shoals Christian Ministry.

Check and see what food item they need for the month (on page 5—our calendar) and let us over fill that basket in the hallway. This is a great outreach program.

God will bless you in your generosity.

I asked the Lord to bless you. As I prayed for you today. To guide you and protect you. As you go along your way....His love is always with you, His promises are true, And when we give Him all our cares, You know He will see us through.



Author unknown



**OUTREACH MISSION**

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

Please remember our church members who are shut-ins or reside in a nursing home\* and visit them.

**Marilyn Finger** (at home)  
 1150 Meadow Way Dr.  
 Dallas, NC

(If others, please let the church office know)



**GO OUT ON A LIMB**  
**GET INVOLVED**  
**BE A WORSHIP ASSISTANT**

A positions are still open. Participate in the service of the Lord and sign up.

Sign up sheets for the 2016 calendar year are on the wall in the Education wing.

THANK YOU!



**Bring a Friend**

**EVENTS for AgraPe/Kure Beach**

Contact Camp Agapé:  
 Telephone: 919-552-9421  
 e-mail: [agape@agapekurebeach.org](mailto:agape@agapekurebeach.org)

Contact Kure Beach Lutheran:  
 Telephone 910-458-0783  
 e-mail: [kurebreach@agapekurebeach.org](mailto:kurebreach@agapekurebeach.org)

Web site: [www.agapekurebeach.org](http://www.agapekurebeach.org)

Directions to Camp Agapé are on the web site.

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

**Events For Lutheridge - Lutherock- Lutherspring- Lutheranch**

Web site: [www.NovusWay.com](http://www.NovusWay.com)



**MEN-IN-MISSION AT WORK**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR  
 LUTHERIDGE

Area Church's Men-in-Mission will join together Friday and Saturday on May 13 ; to do work at LUTHERIDGE. You can either spend the night Friday or drive up early Saturday morning. If you are interested please contact Jim Scarborough or Nick Vlaservich. \*\*Stay over for Sunday service.

## A Stewardship Minute

The May issue of *Stewardship* has a few words that are quite compelling. Listen to them and think about them for a minute." Stewardship is a way of life for a life time. A good steward will give thanks to God by offering a worthy portion of his or her time, talent, and resources right now. Whatever power, health, abilities, opportunities and other gifts God has allowed us to have, we should be using for God's sake today." God has given us life. Therefore shouldn't we show our gratitude by loving and serving God? There are some instructive and helpful words in the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter

of St. Paul's letter to the church members in Rome. St. Paul wrote: "We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's." (Romans 14:7).

There is a story of a young man who was in a quandary about what the Lord wanted him to do with his life. He read books describing various occupations, but he did not feel comfortable with any field described. He felt the Lord tugging at his heart. So he enrolled in a seminary and found his soul at rest. Joy and peace replaced his inner agony. His stewardship convinced him that he was doing

what the Lord desired for him. God doesn't need every person to become a pastor. But, God does want each of us to be a faithful steward. God desires us to seek to use our talent and time to work for the advancement of the Kingdom of God.

Let us go to the Lord in prayer.

**Prayer:** Our Father, we thank you for giving us guidance as live out our days and years. Help us understand precisely where and when we might be of service on behalf of your Kingdom. Prevent us from going astray from your guidance and help us always to be steadfast servants of Christ our Lord. **Amen**



## 2017 Court Square Summer Concert and Cruise-In Series

(presented by the Town of Dallas and the Gaston County Museum of Art & History)

Held on the Dllas Historic Court Square, from 6:00—8:30 pm, each FREE concert will feature amazing talent (rain or shine). Enjoy the car show alon Main Street and local craft beverage from Ole Dallas Breeery. For more information conact Jason Luker, Assistant Director of the Gaston Museum, at 704-922-7681 ext. 105 or Jason.luker@gaston.gov.com.

◆ **Saturday, June 10 — Midnight Allie**

Out of North Myrtle Beach and lead by Allie Privette, **Midnight Allie** kicks off the service with some swinging beach music and a mix of rhythm and blues.

◆ **Saturday, July 8— The Whiskey Gentry**

**The Wiskey Gentry**, out of Atlanta, is set to release its third full-length studio album entitled *Dead Ringer* this spring. The husband and wife duo of Lauren Staloy and Jason Morrow and bandmates incorporate deep country, Americana, honky-tonk, bluegrass and stiff shot of gritty rock' n' roll in their music.

◆ **Saturday,, August 12—Almost Vintage**

Morganton based, classic-rock groove-maters **Almost Vintage** begins the feeling of a carefree Woodstock afternoon to any venue they play! Steeped in the sound of the 60s, 70s and 80s, they transport listeners to a simpler time when music spoke for a generation.

◆ **Saturday, September 9—The Catalinas**

Since its creation in 1957, over 60 accomplished guitarists, keyboardists, trumpet players, drummers, bass players and singers have been part of **The Catalinas**. The bad owner, Gary Barker of Statesville, has performed with the bank since 1965 and attributes its long success to the ongoing popularity of beach music and the tunes the band has composed, parivularly "*Summertime's Calling Me*" in the 70s.



### DALLAS MAYFAIR ON THE SQUARE

SATURDAY, May 13, 10 a.m.—4 p.m.

The Town of Dallas, in partnership with the Dallas Ambassadors (formerly known as the Optimist' Club) presents Mayfair on the Square festival . This is fun for the whole family. Car show, live music, artisans, games, storytelling, food trucks and more to bring the historic court square alive!

Don't miss Carolina Pro Musica's presentation of *Gaston Early Music Series: Musical GEMS of the*

# Church News



## Altar Flowers

**FLOWERS CALENDER FOR THE CHURCH** is posted on the first door in the hallway of the Education wing. Please sign up to place flowers on the altar in the glory of God and in honor or memory of your loved ones. You can then take them home with you or give them to one of our shut ins. Sixteen (11) Openings

GASTON TOGETHER'S CLERGY & CITIZENS COALITION  
 May 9, 2017  
 8:30 to Noon  
 Clinton Room, Gaston Memorial Hospital  
 Breakfast before meeting , if you wish.

Wake-Up Church will meet in the Activity Building  
 on  
 May 9, 2017  
 at  
 6:30 pm



PASTOR PETE'S TELEPHONE:

Cell Phone: 704-516-2805

### CLW/RACHEL GROUP

At the home of TBA

May ?? at 1:30 pm

Alice Vlaservich will be program leader.

**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)



MARGARET Addington (friends of the community), SUSAN Aderholt, SETH Alexander, AMANDA (friend of the Penley's), MARVIS Anderson, KELLY Ballard (friend of Shana Dease), ADDISON Blanton (friend of Dease's), KATHY Bohanan (cancer), KAREN Braddy, ANN Digh (Steve Digh's mother-colon cancer HUNTER Digh (Steve and Julie Digh's nephew -cancer), MARILYN Finger, LEVI Friday (Joan Scarborough's nephew) CHARLIE Fox (friend of the Ratchford's), ROBERT Gentile (friend of Shirlee Marazza-heart attack), ANNA Harbour (CDIFF-Shirlee Marazza's granddaughter), JEAN Huffstetler, LESLIE Hunsucker, JOHNNY Lineberger (friend of the community), MARY Johnson (Pastor Feige's mother-in-law), ELAINE Kanupp (friend of the Digh's—colon cancer), ROBERT L. McCanless, Jr. (Charles McCanless' father), GARY Neal, (friend of Caleb Dease), NANCY Parker (friend of Marie Lingle-ALS), EDITH Paysour, LAWRENCE Paysour (friend of Ratchford's), RIVER Peedin (Ursula Peedin's great-grandson- leukemia), SONDRRA Phillips (friend of Melinda White) JERRIE Presley, BERNICE—Leon Rawlinson's mother, MARY Brown Robinson (aunt of Brady Ratchford), LEIGH Sellers (college friend's daughter of Libby Bickley), RALPH Summey, KIM Tucker (friend of Joann Scarborough -heart surgery) GARY Turner (father of Jason Murray), SHERREE B Turner (mother of Jason Turner), KELLY Walters (mother of Brie Murray) ANNE White (niece of Betty Ratchford-breast cancer), LORI Wood (Steve Digh's cousin -colon cancer).







## CAROLINAS MISSION DISTRICT

### 2017 Convocation

The seventh annual convocation of the Carolinas Mission District of the North American Lutheran Church will be held on **Friday and Saturday, May 19 and 20, 2017**, at St. James Lutheran Church, 1942 St. James Church Road, Newton, NC. There are several business items to be addressed: the election of mission district dean, a budget for 2017-2018, the election of three members to the Executive Council (two clergy members and one lay member, and the ongoing partnership on theological education between the Carolinas Mission District and the Department of Lutheran Studies. [Registration form below..... Cut out.](#)



was originally known as Decoration Day because it was a time set aside to honor the nation's dead by decorating their graves. It was first widely observed on May 30, 1868, to commemorate the sacrifices of Civil War soldiers, by proclamation of General John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of former sailors and soldiers. On May 5, 1868, Logan declared in General Order No. 11 that:

*The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land. In this observance no form of ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit.*

During the first celebration of Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, after which 5,000 participants helped to decorate the graves of the more than 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried in the cemetery.

This 1868 celebration was inspired by local observances of the day in several towns throughout America that had taken place in the three years since the Civil War. In fact, several Northern and Southern cities claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day, including Columbus, Miss.; Macon, Ga.; Richmond, Va.; Boalsburg, Pa.; and Carbondale, Ill.

In 1966, the federal government, under the direction of President Lyndon Johnson, declared Waterloo, N.Y., the official birthplace of Memorial Day. They chose Waterloo—which had first celebrated the day on May 5, 1866—because the town had made Memorial Day an annual, community-wide event during which businesses closed and residents decorated the graves of soldiers with flowers and flags.

By the late 1800s, many communities across the country had begun to celebrate Memorial Day and, after World War I, observances also began to honor those who had died in all of American's wars. In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be celebrated the last Monday in May. (Veterans Day, a day set aside to honor all veterans, living and dead, is celebrated each year on November 11.) Today, Memorial Day is celebrated at Arlington National Cemetery with a ceremony in which a small American flag is placed on each grave. Also, it is customary for the president or vice-president to give a speech honoring the contributions of the dead and lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. About 5,000 people attend the ceremony annually.



General John A. Logan

## Tribute To Armed Forces Day

Here's to the men of the red, white and blue;  
Whose patriot's hearts burned high ...  
To the women who served us on land and on sea,  
Some even in the sky.

I'd like to say, "Thank you, that we'll never know  
The outcome if you had not gone,"  
And to tell you, "I'll never forget your deed,  
As long as my life lingers on."

For, I was a child, when the great war came,  
And you just a dozen years more.  
Some of you fought on a distant beach.  
Some died on a foreign shore.

I'd hate to forget those heroes of old,  
From the 'War to end all wars'.  
Korea, Vietnam, and Desert Storm  
Proved that men fight evermore.

God, help us all when brave men say,  
"Not today. Let's just wait and see."  
For, tyrants come in so many ways  
And I've heard of complacency.

When integrity falls in the dust by the way,  
When conviction fails to command,  
When there's no one to bugle or carry the flag,  
What will become of our land?

So, here's to the heroes and heroines true!  
Here's to the brave and the free!  
With my hand on my chest as the flag passes by,  
I remember what you did for me!!!

Armed Forces Day Poem by © 2002 by Joan Clifton Costner

## MEMORIAL DAY



A Day for  
Remembering

## NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

### May 4, 2017

The 66th Annual National Day of Prayer will take place Thursday, May 4, 2017. Millions will unite in prayer as thousands of events will take place from coast to coast. Observance of National Day of Prayer will take place in front of the Gaston County Courthouse on May 4th at 12:00 noon.

#### Why We Pray

As American troops stormed the beaches of Normandy, President Franklin Roosevelt called for our nation to unite in prayer. He also offered a prayer to prepare each citizen for the road ahead. "Let our hearts be stout, to wait out the long travail, to bear sorrows that may come, to impart our courage unto our sons where so ever they may be. And, O Lord, give us faith. Give us faith in Thee." The victory that followed on June 6, 1944-also known as D-Day-began the march to Berlin. Eighteen months later, WWII was over and one of the world's greatest evils had been defeated. The prayers of a nation had been a powerful force

Prayer has always been used in this country for guidance, protection and strength-even before we were a nation or a handful of colonies. The Pilgrims at Plymouth relied on prayer during their first and darkest winter. Our founding fathers also called for prayer during the Constitutional Congress. In their eyes, our recently created nation and freedoms were a direct gift from God. And being a gift from God, there was only one way to insure protection-through prayer.

President Abraham Lincoln knew this well. It was his belief that, "it is the duty of nations as well as men, to owe their dependence upon the overruling power of God." When it came to the fate of the nation, he practiced what he preached. Before the battle of Gettysburg, he turned to God in prayer. "I went to my room one day and I locked the door and got down on my knees before Almighty God and prayed to him mightily for victory at Gettysburg." Won by the Union, Gettysburg was one of the turning points in the war that ended slavery and kept the states united. Today the need for prayer is as great as ever. Our nation again faces battlefields, along with an epidemic of broken homes, violence, sexual immorality and social strife. As the heroes of our nation did in the past, we must again bow our heads in prayer. We must ask the Lord to bless our leaders with wisdom and protection, and that we will have the fortitude to overcome the challenges at hand. If Roosevelt, the Pilgrims and Lincoln never underestimated the power of prayer, neither should we.

Our theme this year is **For Your Great Name's Sake! Hear Us... Forgive Us...Heal Us!** Taken from Daniel 9:19, which says, "*O Lord, Listen! O Lord, Forgive! O Lord, Hear and Act! For Your Sake, O My God...*". As the 2017 **National Day of Prayer on May 4th** approaches, thousands of individuals, churches, and communities will be working to rally millions of Christian's to once again heed this call!

Scripture tells us again and again that our fervent prayer is effective. That our loving God responds to His children's earnest pleas in mighty ways that avail much, and ultimately determine the course of history.

At this crucial time for our nation, we can do nothing more important than pray. Thank you in advance for making this spiritual discipline a personal priority and for standing with us as we encourage others to incorporate prayer in their lives. The Lord has graciously anointed our efforts, empowering them to touch and change many hearts and lives. We look forward to seeing His hand move across our land in exciting ways each May in response to our petitions!

It is our goal that you, your family and friends would participate in the National Day of Prayer. We pray that the event impacts your life, and that praying for our nation moves from a one-day event to a lifetime endeavor. So join us on the first Thursday in May and pray with conviction that God would continue to shed His grace on thee.

Again, observance of National Day of Prayer will take place in front of the Gaston County Courthouse on May 4th at 12:00 noon.



**National Day of Prayer**

## 2017 Mission Emphasis for May

### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY - GASTON

Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat For Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope

#### HABITAT GASTON VISION

A world where everyone has a decent place to live

#### HABITAT GASTON GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ

Focus on shelter

Advocate for affordable housing

Promote dignity and hope

Support sustainable and transformational development

#### HABITAT INTERNATIONAL VISION

A world where everyone has a decent place to live

#### HABITAT INTERNATIONAL MISSION

Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope

#### ALL ARE WELCOME

Habitat for Humanity Gaston County has an open-door policy: All who believe that everyone needs a decent, affordable place to live are welcome to help with the work, regardless of race, religion, age, gender, political views or any of the other distinctions that too often divide people. In short, Habitat welcomes volunteers and supporters from all backgrounds and also serves people in need of decent housing regardless of race or religion. As a matter of policy, Habitat for Humanity International and its affiliated organizations do not proselytize. This means that Habitat will not offer assistance on the expressed or implied condition that people must either adhere to or convert to a particular faith, or listen and respond to messaging designed to induce conversion to a particular faith.

Habitat of Humanity of Gaston County was affiliated in 1988 and built its first home in 1989. Since its founding, Habitat-Gaston has steadily increased its building capacity. The organization has moved from building individual homes to building blocks and has developed plans for an entire Habitat neighborhood. Habitat's work on McArver Street and in the Parkdale Community exemplifies the impact that the organization wants to make all over the county. Working with faith, corporate and community partners.

For twenty-seven years, we have been working with the faith community, and with corporate and community partners to complete 110 homes in Gaston County: 70 in Gastonia, 19 in Belmont, 8 in Mt. Holly, 3 in Cherryville, 2 in Bessemer City, 6 in Dallas, and 2 in Lowell. Through the Habitat of Humanity International tithing program, Habitat Gaston has built over 400 houses in Honduras. We encourage you to become involved in our mission to provide decent, affordable housing. Getting involved can happen in many ways. Which way is right for you? Here are a few examples:

- Donate property.
- Donate a home for renovation.
- Shop and donate at our ReStore on Franklin Boulevard

As **Mission Emphasis for May** at Our Saviour, you are encouraged to pray for Habitat organization, its staff, volunteers, and those who receive a home. There are some of our members who have volunteered with Habitat to help in the construction of homes. We encourage you to consider volunteering. Also donations will be received in our offerings during the month of May. Give cash in an envelope marked Habitat, or by check to Our Saviour Lutheran Church with Habitat written on the memo line. Thanks to all who give generously to the ongoing work of the Lord in our community and around the world in addition to your weekly tithe. God loves a cheerful giver.

#### **Habitat for Humanity – Gaston County, 28th Anniversary**

Phone: 704-864-6536 FAX: 704-864-3139

Physical Address: 1840 E. Franklin Blvd. Gastonia, NC 28034 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1584, Gastonia, NC 28053

# Dallas Ambassadors

(formally Dallas Optimist Club)

## 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Car Show

### Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017

### 10:00am – 2:00pm

Main St. beside the Old Dallas Courthouse  
In Dallas, NC



~ ~ ~ Top 20 & Mayors Pick ~ ~ ~

### Registration \$20.00

*\* Judging begins at 12 noon \**



*Any Model Car, Truck, or Motorcycle*



*"Proceeds Benefit Dallas Area Youth"*



Live Music ~ 50/50 Drawing

CASH Door Prizes

Air Bounces for Kids ~ Vendors are Welcome



Music Provided By:



Event is in Conjunction with "Dallas Mayfair on the Square"

For Car Show Info Contact: Rick Coleman 704-913-5695



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



May 2017