



Our Saviour Lutheran Church

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Our Saviour's Good News

Volume XIX, Issue II

February 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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The Long History Behind Ash Wednesday Traditions

by
ASHLEY ROSS

is inextricably linked to Easter. After all, it marks the beginning of the Lent penance period that ends on that important Christian holiday. But, even though the Easter story takes place in biblical times, the traditions of Ash Wednesday aren't quite that old. (Ash Wednesday is on February 14, 2024)

"The practice of Ash Wednesday dates back to the 11th Century," says Lauren F. Winner, a priest and assistant professor at Duke Divinity School. "You see that in the book Daniel in the nine chapter there's a line about associating fasting with ashes, so ashes are associated with penance, which is the dominant theme of Lent."

And the most familiar Ash Wednesday observance—the ash crosses worn on the foreheads of many churchgoers—hasn't always been acknowledged by all branches of Christianity, Winner says. It wasn't until a few decades ago that the tradition became widespread in the United States.

In the 1970s, the practice matched up with a few wider trends in American religion, including the embrace of once-discarded traditions and the search for ways to connect the physical body to spiritual life. Ash Wednesday was an opportunity for a multi-sensory way of connecting faith to the body, so many American Christians at the time decided to begin wearing that outward physical mark of their spiritual lives. Winner says she thinks its popularity has endured as it offers those celebrating an easy way to prompt conversations about faith.

"We've seen the rise of a whole array of bodily practices and this is a very striking one for those who are not necessarily comfortable talking about faith," she says. "The practice of this once a year is an organic way of drawing their faith into their lives."

But what is it exactly that's on the foreheads of those observing the holiday? The ash used for Ash Wednesday is made of palm branches used on the previous Palm Sunday, when Christians carry palms in a nod to the Gospels' reference to Jesus' path being covered in palm fronds on the day he entered Jerusalem. Occasionally the ashes are mixed with oil so they stay on congregants' foreheads for longer.

In modern times, especially as cremation has become more popular in the U.S., many people imbue the ashes with a new level of meaning, Winner says. "[They represent] penance and mortality," she says, "but there's also a much stronger and more palpable association if people were just last year scattering ashes of a family member."

With many religious traditions, the meaning can often be lost over time. But Winner says Ash Wednesday, even as observances evolve, is one exception to that rule.

"It's very powerful to say those words about 'you are dust and to dust you shall return,'" she says. "I keep waiting for it to get overly familiar and lose its power but it doesn't."

Jesus' Transfiguration

What happened at the mysterious event known as the Transfiguration? What did it mean?



And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white.

Matthew 17:2, NRSV

This biblical event appears in each of the Gospel books as an important moment in the life of Jesus and evidence of his divinity. After Jesus performs a series of miracles and foretells His own death, Jesus leads just three of his disciples, Peter, James and John, to a "high mountain." This is where the Transfiguration takes place in which his appearance was radiantly transformed.

The transfiguration of Jesus Christ was a powerful demonstration of His divine nature and manifestation of His glory, which Jesus possessed prior to coming to earth in the human body. This revelation is referenced in a passage in the Apostle Paul's message to Phillippi. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that

Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:5-11 KJV).

It's impossible to appreciate what's going on with the Transfiguration unless you consciously factor in the reality that that remarkable scene takes place just a few days after Jesus had, for the very first time, told his disciples He was going to die. And when he told his disciples, in Matthew 16:21, He was going to die, they were offended and scandalized. Peter, speaking for the group, grabbed Jesus and said, "far be it from you [to die], it can't happen." Jesus was, of course, upset with Peter and told him, "you savor the things of man and not of God."

This (Transfiguration) is about three years into a three and a half year ministry. This is after for months and years those disciples had followed Jesus, they had seen his miracles, they had done miracles in His name. They knew something palpably and objectively about the power and the reality of who Jesus was, and yet, when He began to talk about dying it was staggering to the disciples and they began to wonder if He was really the Messiah. Therefore, for that reason, Jesus took three, Peter, James and John, into a high mountain apart, away from the other apostles.

Jesus takes Peter, James, and John into a very secluded place and He begins to pray. He asked the disciples to pray and they fall asleep. Then, as they wake up, they see Jesus standing before them with an ineffable (indescribable) manifestation of light and glory which will be His when he reigns as King in days to come. He had laid aside that external glory and for just a few minutes as they watched they see him transfigured (metamorphized is the Greek word). The point is that the caterpillar had become a butterfly, the one who had so carefully veiled his physical glory took it to himself for a brief moment. The whole purpose of that experience was to reinforce the staggering faith of those apostles. That's exactly what Peter gets out of it when he remembers it and says we did not bring you cunningly devised fables, we made known to you the power of Jesus because we were with Him in the holy mountain. We know He is Messiah and will reign as Messiah because we saw His physical glory.

The point of the Transfiguration was to reinforce the staggering faith of the apostles. As Jesus, Peter, James, and John return from the mountain, they find the other apostles trying to drive a demon out of a man and unable to do so. When they ask why the exorcism won't work, Jesus says it is because of their staggering faith. In the context, what is it that has staggered their faith? It was Jesus' message that He is going to die and that is exactly what the Transfiguration is all about. In such an interesting and compelling way, the Transfiguration illustrates what a careful, sensitive, creative and resourceful teacher Jesus was. He had been trying to get His impending death across to the disciples and sees how desperately crippled they are by the announcement. So He is sensitive enough, some days later, to provide that sort of a condescending object lesson, where God condescends to give him that physical glory just to reinforce their faith.



Lent: How to Slow Down and Make More Room for Jesus in Your Life

The death and resurrection of Jesus is the big storyline of the Bible. It's no surprise, then, that a majority of Christians celebrate it every year on Easter Sunday. But did you know some people start getting ready for Easter 40 days before it happens?

The six weeks leading up to Easter are known as Lent. Lent is believed to have started in the fourth century AD, when people who wanted to be baptized on Easter spent 40 days fasting and praying to prepare for their commitment.

Today, people who choose to practice Lent do so by giving up a kind of food, an activity or a bad habit. Other ways to observe Lent are attending special church services, committing to pray more or giving to others.

Why 40 Days?

In the Bible, Moses (Exodus 34:28), Elijah (1 Kings 19:8-9) and Jesus (Matthew 4:1-2) all went through intense fasting experiences for 40 days and 40 nights. By the time those experiences ended, they were ready for the next challenge they had to face. Adopting that pattern made sense to early Christians.

Is Lent Required to Be a Good Christian?

The short answer is no. Serving God isn't about keeping religious customs, it's about having a personal relationship with Him. If you've received Christ as your Savior you can't get "more saved" by practicing church traditions. But will your relationship with God deepen if you set aside time to reflect and focus on Him? Can a season of fasting help you prepare for the next step on your journey with God? The short answer is yes!

Making More Room for God in Your Life

One of God's greatest promises explains what happens when you spend time with Him: "Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you" (James 4:8, English Standard Version).

Nearness means you'll get to know God better and learn to recognize His voice. Jesus said He leads His sheep with His voice. "The sheep hear His voice, and He calls His own sheep by name and leads them out" (John 10:3, ESV).

With Christ in the lead, you'll go the right direction and will make it to your destination. You won't stumble around in a fog of confusion or wander aimlessly, not knowing where to go.

Staying close to Jesus also ensures you'll have life "abundantly" (John 10:10). This doesn't mean you won't have challenges or hardships. But it does mean you'll have peace, power and joy that can help you deal with any situation (Philippians 4:11-13).



HEAT YOUR HOME SAFELY

Home fires occur more in the winter than any other time of the year.

- Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from all heat sources, including fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators, space heaters, or candles.
- Never use an oven to heat your home.
- Turn space heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected each year by a professional.

**LEADERSHIP BOARD MINUTES
OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH
JANUARY 15, 2024
ANNA TRUDNAK, PRESIDENT**

Meeting called to order by President, Anna Lowery

Devotions: Teri Trudnak

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

Members Absent: Becky Messick

Minutes: November 20, 2023 and Congregational Meetings, December 17, 2023 minutes were reviewed; Billy Trudnak made the motion to approve the minutes and seconded by Alice Vlaservich.

Reception of Petitions and Communication

- a. Motion by Steve Digh to donate \$100 to Celebration of Life (Crisis Pregnancy Center Fundraiser) and seconded by Billy Trudnak.
- b. NALC Disaster Response. Anna Lowery will talk to Tony Trudnak (member of Bethel Lutheran) about OSLC participation in the NALC Disaster Response Drive.

Report of Pastor: None

Report of the Treasurer: November and December:

Anna Lowery had a question about two negative accounts (\$75 and \$5) in the Memorial Fund. Motion by Alice Vlaservich to accept the reports and seconded by Robbie Wooten/

Report of the Ministries

- a. Property Team: Steve and Nick picked up limbs out of parsonage yard due to wind. Steve Digh will check and see why the side door in the Narthex blows open sometimes.
- b. Stewardship Team: None
- c. Worship & Music Team: Took down the Christmas decorations
- d. Finance Committee: None
- e. Youth Team: None
- f. Witness Team: Cards and bulletins continue to be sent to shut ins. Will start making some visits in 2024
- g. Christian Education Team: VBS will be held at Philadelphia Lutheran June 16-20

Auxiliaries:

- a. Prayer Group met at the home of Shirlee Marazza at 2:00 pm in January and February
- b. The Women's Group will meet at the home of Alice Vlaservich at 2:00 pm on January 30

Old and/or Unfinished Business

- a. Council discussed "Comfort Sunday Luncheon" after service on January 28. Council will setup for the luncheon.

New Business:

- a. Council approved a \$200 donation to LCMC.
- b. There was a one month open (June) for the Schedule for Stewardship Collectors. Steve Digh will fill that opening.

General Information:

- a. Attendance
- b. Laszlo Mission Report
- c. Information from Billy Robinson, AmeriPro. Also information on engineer contacted by our insurance company.
- d. Thank you note from Gordon-Cornwell

The Council meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Adjournment until March 18, 2024 Meeting.

Devotion for March: Anna Lowery

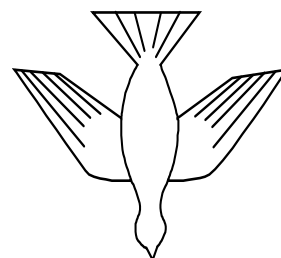
The Origin of St. Valentine

The origin of St. Valentine, and how many St. Valentines there were, remains a mystery. One opinion is that he was a Roman martyred for refusing to give up his Christian faith. Other historians hold that St. Valentine was a temple priest jailed for defiance during the reign of Claudius. Whoever he was, Valentine really existed because archaeologists have unearthed a Roman catacomb and an ancient church dedicated to Saint Valentine. In 496 AD Pope Gelasius marked February 14th as a celebration in honor of his martyrdom.

Saints are not supposed to rest in peace; they're expected to keep busy: to perform miracles, to intercede. Being in jail or dead is no excuse for non-performance of the supernatural. One legend says, while awaiting his execution, Valentinus restored the sight of his jailer's blind daughter. Another legend says, on the eve

of his death, he penned a farewell note to the jailer's daughter, signing it, "From your Valentine."

St. Valentine was a Priest, martyred in 269 at Rome and was buried on the Flaminian Way. He is the Patron Saint of affianced couples, bee keepers, engaged couples, epilepsy, fainting, greetings, happy marriages, love, lovers, plague, travelers, young people. He is represented in pictures with birds and roses.





When: Since 1968, it is celebrated on the third Monday in February (19)

President's Day is a day set aside to honor all of the U.S. presidents. We often think of two great presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln when we celebrate this holiday as it falls by design between their birthdays. But more and more of us, look at this day as a tribute to each and every person who has ever served in the office as President of the United States of America. It is a national holiday, although most businesses and industry do not recognize it as a paid holiday.

George Washington's Birthday

When: February 19th

The "Father of His Country", George Washington was born on February 22, 1732. He became commander in chief of the Continental Army in 1775 and fought a long and arduous war for freedom from British rule. The war was finally over in 1781 when the Continental Army with the help of the French, forced Cornwallis to surrender at Yorktown.

In 1787, Washington was unanimously elected president by the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia and took the oath of office in 1789. He served two terms of office from 1789 until 1797. After the presidency, Washington retired to his home in Mount Vernon, Virginia where he died on December 14, 1799 of a throat infection.

Quiz: What is George Washington's most famous quote?

Answer... "I Can not tell a lie... .. I chopped down the Cherry Tree!"

Abraham Lincoln's Birthday

When: February 12th.

Every American knows President Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United States. "Honest Abe", as he was commonly known as, was born in the wilderness country of Hardin County, Kentucky on February 12, 1809.

Abraham Lincoln became president in 1861. Although he hated war, he was drawn into it as he believed it was the only way to save the nation after the southern states declared their secession to the Union.

In addition to serving as president during the civil war and saving the Union, Lincoln wrote the Emancipation Proclamation that ended slavery in the U.S. forever. He also wrote and gave The Gettysburg Address, memorializing the bloodiest and most important battle of the Civil War. Gettysburg proved to be the turning point of the war.

Shortly after the war ended, Abraham Lincoln became the first U.S. President to be assassinated. He was shot and mortally wounded on Good Friday, April 14, 1865 by John Wilkes Booth in Ford's Theatre.



February 11

The **Boy Scouts of America (BSA)** is one of the largest youth organizations in the United States, with over four million youth members in its age-related divisions. In 1909, Chicago publisher W. D. Boyce was visiting London, where he encountered the Unknown Scout and learned of the Scouting movement. Soon after his return to the U.S., Boyce incorporated the Boy Scouts of America on February 8, 1910. Since its founding in 1910 as part of the international Scout Movement, more than 110 million Americans have been members of the BSA.

The BSA goal is to train youth in responsible citizenship, character development, and self-reliance through participation in a wide range of outdoor activities, educational programs, and, at older age levels, career-oriented programs in partnership with community organizations. For younger members, the Scout method is part of the program to inculcate typical Scouting values such as trustworthiness, good citizenship, and outdoors skills, through a variety of activities such as camping, aquatics, and hiking.

The BSA is a constituent member of the World Organization of the Scout Movement. The traditional Scouting divisions are *Cub Scouting* for boys ages 7–10, *Boy Scouting* for boys ages 11–18 and *Venturing* for young men and women ages 14–21. Learning for Life is a non-traditional subsidiary that provides in-school and career education. The BSA operates traditional Scouting locally through units sponsored and operated by churches, clubs, civic associations, educational organizations and the like. Units are led entirely by volunteers who are supported by local councils using both paid professionals and volunteers.

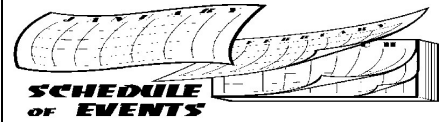
The influence of Scouting on American society is frequently cited by both its advocates and critics. In addition to nostalgic memories of campfires kindling friendships, prominent leaders in various fields of endeavor have credited the skills they learned in Scouting as helping mold them into successful citizens.

The BSA's stated purpose at its incorporation in 1910 was "to teach [boys] patriotism, courage, self-reliance, and kindred values. Later, in 1937, Deputy Chief Scout Executive George J. Fisher expressed the BSA's mission; "Each generation as it comes to maturity has no more important duty than that of teaching high ideals and proper behavior to the generation which follows." The current mission statement of the BSA is "to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law."

February 2024



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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 February 1-28				1	2 	3
4 5th Sunday after the Epiphany	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Transfiguration Sunday	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13	14 Ash Wednesday Valentine's Day	15	16	17
18 1st Sunday in Lent	19 President Day	20 Prayer Group	21 Lenten Service	22 Washington's Birthday	23	24
25 2nd Sunday in Lent	26 CLW/Rachel Group	27	28 Lenten Service	29	 Boy Scouts February 11	 Soup Bowl Sunday February 11

- Feb. 1-29—Black History Month
- Feb. 2— Ground Hog Day
- Feb. 4— 5th Sunday after Epiphany
- Feb. 11— **Transfiguration of Our Lord**
Souper Bowl Sunday
Boy Scout Sunday
- Feb. 12— Lincoln's Birthday
- Feb. 14— Valentine Day
Ash Wednesday at OLSC
- Feb. 18— 1st Sunday in Lent
- Feb. 19— "President Day"
- Feb. 20—"Prayer Group" will meet at the home of Shirlee Marazza at 2:00 pm
- Feb. 21— Lenten Service
- Feb. 22— Washington's Birthday
- Feb. 25— 2nd Sunday in Lent
- Feb. 27— CLW/Women's Group Meeting at the home of TBA
- Feb. 28— Lenten Service

FOOD FOR THE MONTH:



**Soup, Mac n Chesse,
 Beanie Weenies.**



Choir practice each Wednesday to be announced



Holy Communion Schedule:
 Every Sunday

Worship Service Assistance:

Acolyte: Nora Cole

Communion Asst: Nora Cole

Lay Reader: OSLC Members

Worship Asst: OSLC Members

Greeters: OSLC Members

Ushers: OSLC Members

Stewardship Collector: Yvonne Finger

Birthdays



- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1 Tony Trudnak | Rob Trudnak |
| 8 Jared Dease | Kathy Trudnak |
| 9 Donna Clemmer | Becky Messick |
| 16 Teri Trudnak | Ashley Holland |
| 19 Brady Cole | |



ANNIVERSARIES

- 14thNick & Alice Vlaservich
 27thBrian & Anna Cole

FLOWERS

Flower Schedule:

- Feb. 4
- Feb. 11 Nick Vlaservich
- Feb. 20 **Lent**
- Feb. 27 **Lent**

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 for two



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**Remember Our
 SHUT-INS
 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.

(If others, please let the church office know)



**Help fill the pantry
 at the
 Dallas Christian Social Ministry.**

Check and see what food item they need for the month (on page 6—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.

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

Web site: www.NovusWay.com
 and

Kure/Agape Beach

E-mail: kurebeach@agapekurebeach.org
 Web site: www.agapekurebeach.org

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



**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 2024 calendar year are on the wall in the Education wing.
 THANK YOU!



The legend of Groundhog Day is based on an old Scottish couplet: "If Candlemas Day is bright and clear, there'll be two winters in the year."

Every February 2 –around 7:30 am ET - , people gather at Gobbler's Knob, a wooded knoll just outside of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania.

The ceremony in Punxsutawney was held in secret until 1966, and only Phil's prediction was revealed to the public. Since then, Phil's fearless forecast has been a national media event.

The groundhog comes out of his electrically heated burrow, looks for his shadow and utters his prediction to a Groundhog Club representative in "groundhogese." The representative then translates the prediction for the general public.

If Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow, it means six more weeks of winter. If he does not see his shadow, it means spring is just around the corner.

Phil started making predictions in 1887 and has become an American Institution. Residents contend that the groundhog has never been wrong. Approximately 90% of the time, Phil sees his shadow.



NALC Disaster Response

Kit Packing List, Revised 1/2023

School Kit – High School

- o 1 backpack or duffie bag
- o 4 notebooks
- o 4 pocket folders
- o 4 pencils, 1 pencil sharpener & 1 eraser
- or- 4 mechanical pencils
- o 4 pens

Miscellaneous Items

(Pack like items together)

- o Masks (bundle/pack each type separately)
 - painting
 - sanding
 - N95
- o disposable diapers, baby or adult in assorted sizes
- o feminine hygiene items
- o any school supply item can be donated in bulk.
- o mops, brooms & dustpans
- o leaf and garden rakes, flat bottom shovels, spades

Kitchen Kits

(Pack kits in a 2-gallon plastic storage bag or drawstring backpack)

- o cookbook
- o dish cloths
- o dish towel
- o hot pad
- o spatula (turner)
- o measuring cups
- o measuring spoons
- o another helpful kitchen item of your choice (i.e., mini cutting board, peeler, tongs, etc.)
- o storage container (2-cup w/lid)
- o garbage bags (a few, mixed sizes)

Quilts and Blankets

- o any size including baby
- o any fabric including religious, patriotic/military theme, seasonal

Gift Cards*

**Please write the date purchased on each card*

- o Home Depot
- o Lowes
- o Walmart



MARY BATES

16500 Noble Ave.
Caldwell, Ohio 43724
Phone: 740-509-1132

Email:

disasterresponse@thenalc.org

NALC Disaster Response

Needs YOUR Help!



"Serve one another humbly in love"

GALATIANS 5:13b



Disaster Response

KIT PACKING LIST

* REVISED JULY 2023

IMPORTANT — PLEASE READ FIRST

HOW TO PACK YOUR DISASTER KITS:

- Please send **COMPLETE** kits as outlined here. Incomplete kits must be completed before they can be distributed.
- Pack them, in **STURDY, WELL-TAPED** boxes (not too large).
- Label contents and quantity in **LARGE BLOCK LETTERS** and place labels on at least one end and one side of the box so the contents will be visible regardless of how box is stacked.
- Include the name and address of your group or congregation on each box with a label that says:
"A GIFT FROM [name & address of your church or group]"

Financial donations designated for
NALC Disaster Response*

should be made payable and mailed to:

North American Lutheran Church
PO BOX 860565

Minneapolis, MN 55486-0565

***Indicate "NALC Disaster Response" on the memo line of your check.**

For more information, please email Mary Bates,
disasterresponse@thenalc.org or visit
thenalc.org/nalc-disaster-response/

BIBLIES

(We encourage you to write messages of hope in the front pages of donated Bibles)

- new or used (highlighted & underlined text is acceptable)
- child, teen or adult
- Bible stories for children
- Spanish, or any language
- large print
- prayer books

Flood Buckets

- 1 five-gallon bucket with lid
- 1 jug bleach (1/2 gal. or smaller)
- 2 large trash bags (Contractor 3 mil)
- 1 roll paper towels
- 2 rags
- Comet or scouring cleanser
- Pine Sol or liquid cleaner
- scrub brush
- gloves, 1 pair each, size L preferred
 - rubber (reusable, i.e. Platex, dishwashing type)
 - leather
 - cotton

Health Care Kit

(Pack in 2-gallon plastic storage bag or tote bag)

- 1 bath towel
- 1 wash cloth (optional)
- 1 shampoo (2 if travel size)
- 1 bar of soap (2 if travel size)
- 1 toothbrush (individually sealed)
- 1 pack of floss (optional)
- 1 toothpaste (2 if travel size)
- 1 comb
- 1 deodorant
- 1 nail clippers (optional)

School Kit – Elementary

- 1 backpack or duffle bag
- 4 notebooks
- 4 pocket folders
- 1 blunt scissors
- 1 ruler
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 4 pencils
- 2 pens
- 1 eraser
- 1 box of crayons, colored pencils, or markers

Church News



If you need a Pastor, please contact Pastor Pete Feige at 704-516-2805 or our office at 704-922-4648. Check out our website at oslc-nc.org or email us at oslcdallas@aol.com.

Souper Bowl Sunday



FEBRUARY 11

Each year on **Souper Bowl Sunday** congregations from around the nation collect monies to be donated to local and/or regional charities. This year the we will support our local Dallas-High Shoals Christian Ministry. On Sunday, February 11, the baskets will be at each door of the church with their kettles for any donation you might want to give plus there will be a basket at each door of the church for canned goods. Please help fight hunger and poverty in our community.



SIGN-UP FEBRUARY 1 THRU MARCH 1

DALLAS DIXIE YOUTH BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL
SIGN-UPS
BASEBALL AGES 5—15
SOFTBALL AGES 6—14

For more info call: Nick Daniello
704-922-3176 ext. 234

or

www.dallasnc.net

Do you want to **coach** or **sponsor** a team?
Call: 704-386-0530

CLW/RACHEL GROUP

WILL BE MEETING IN THE TBA
on February 20 AT 2:00 PM



PRAYER GROUP

WILL MEET AT THE HOME OF SHIRLEE MARAZZA
on February 26 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)



MARGARET Addington, SETH Alexander, AMANDA (friend of the Penley's), MARVIS Anderson, WHITNEY Auten (breast cancer), LEAH Bredley (Marsha Patton's sister-Pituitary tumor and upcoming surgery), 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), STEVE Cloninger (friend of Brady Ratchford-cancer), ROB Curley (cancer), STEVE Digh (cancer), JULIE Digh (Thyroid), BAILEY Drummond (Becky and Chris Messick's daughter), 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 - Grief and Hope for embryo transferred (lost two embryos, and have three embryos left-biopsy on womb lining before next transfer) 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, MARY BETH Wright (cousin of Nick Vlaservich -cancer).

GOD WANTS YOU!

- (1) God wants you to participate in His worship service for **2024** by servicing as a worship assistant as a Crucifer, Greeter or Usher
See the sign up sheet in notebook in hold on office door and please help.
- (2) New Flower Calendar is up. Please remember your love ones and also help decorate our Lord's altar. **Cost of Flowers has increased to \$35.10 There are 25 openings**

A Stewardship Minute

“My gifts cannot be on a par with God’s gifts to me, but my gifts, large or small, can be my way of showing love and glorifying God.”

That sentence should compel us to stop and ask ourselves “Do my gifts give evidence of my love for God?” And ... “If not, why not?” I wonder sometimes if many, if not most of us have the same mind-set as this rich young man who thought he wanted to follow Jesus. Jesus perceived that the fellow valued worldly riches more than his relationship with God. When the Lord asked him to first get his priorities right regarding worldly goods, the young fellow sadly turned away grieving. (Matthew 19:22) Appar-

ently his love for his possessions had priority over his love for God. Jesus was never prejudiced against people of wealth. He just wanted them to use their money in the right way.

You may remember the story of the Lord going to the home of Zaccheus, the rich tax collector. Zaccheus became a changed man. He got his priorities regarding money straight. He began to help the poor in a very generous way. This story is in the Luke 19: 9. Do you recall what Jesus said after Zacchaeus’ heart and mind were changed from being a greedy selfish person into a loving sharing person? Our Lord said, “Today salvation has come to this house.” When each of us begins to use our resources and talents and time for the glory of God, then we will know that true salvation

has come to us.

Prayer: Lord God, you have showered each of us with goodness and grace. Stir us up so that we may use our gifts, large or small, to glorify you. In the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen



A Prayer for Healing and Hope

*Almighty god, we give You thanks.
for You are the Creator of all life and goodness.
We praise You for the world You have made us
To build up and enjoy.*

*Loving God, help us to be faithful heralds of
Healing and hope. Grant us the awareness
of the healing needs of those around us
and the compassion to respond willingly
to those needs. We ask this
through Christ, Our Healer
and source of all hope.*

Amen

Healing Prayer

**God, I know
You have the power
To restore me to good health.
I await Your healing
With much hope.
Do not allow the sickness
Of the body
To weaken my spirit.
It is the health
Of our spirit, Lord,
Which is most important.**

Amen



2024 Feb. Mission Emphasis – DCSM

"...and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love kindness and to walk humbly with your God." ---Micah 6:8

OUR MISSION

The mission of The Dallas Christian Social Ministry (DCSM) is to serve as a cooperative ministry of the area churches in bearing witness to the Love of God made visible in Jesus Christ through acts of compassion and mercy by providing crisis assistance, humanitarian aid and developmental (self improvement) opportunities to persons and families in the North Gaston area.

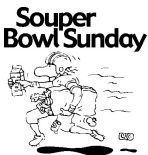
OUR HISTORY

In an effort to enhance the quality of life for all the citizens in the North Gaston area and in response to a number of urgent needs, The Dallas Ministerial Association (DMA), initiated a local food pantry which soon became known as The Dallas Christian Social Ministry. For more than 36 years, DCSM has served faithfully in the North Gaston Community and continues to receive generous and wide spread support from both the area churches and the local community.

A COOPERATIVE EFFORT

DCSM in an effort to enhance the quality of life for all the citizens in the North Gaston area and in response to a number of urgent needs, The Dallas Ministerial Association (DMA), initiated a local food pantry which soon became known as The Dallas Christian Social Ministry (DCSM). For more than 35 years, DCSM has served faithfully and continues to receive generous and wide spread support from both the area churches and the local community.

TWO DCSM MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES FOR OSLC THIS MONTH:



● **Souper Bowl Sunday – February 11, 2024:** Bring soup (and other canned goods) for DCSM. There will be containers in the hallway for the cans.

The DCSM is the February Mission opportunity for you to participate in locally.

- Pray for the organization, its staff, those who come to receive food, clothes, financial emergency support for their unpaid medical, electrical, and gas bills, will be encouraged by the words of care and concern spoken in Jesus' Name.
- Bring cans of soup (or other canned goods) on Souper Bowl Sunday or a monetary gift to DCSM– Feb. 12

+++++

LENTEN SEASON SCHEDULE

*ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE will be Holy Communion at 7:00 pm

*WEDNESDAY LENTEN DEVOTIONS will be held at OSLC at 7:00 pm starting February 21 thru March 27

*MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE will be held at Antioch at 7:00 pm

*GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE will be held at OSLC at 7:00 pm

30th Annual Celebration of Life Beautiful Feet Multiply Good News!

"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, 'Your God reigns!'" Isaiah 52:7

**Thursday,
March 14, 2024**
First Assembly of God
777 South Myrtle School Road
Gastonia, NC 28052

COME AND
JOIN US

Praise & Worship

6:15-7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

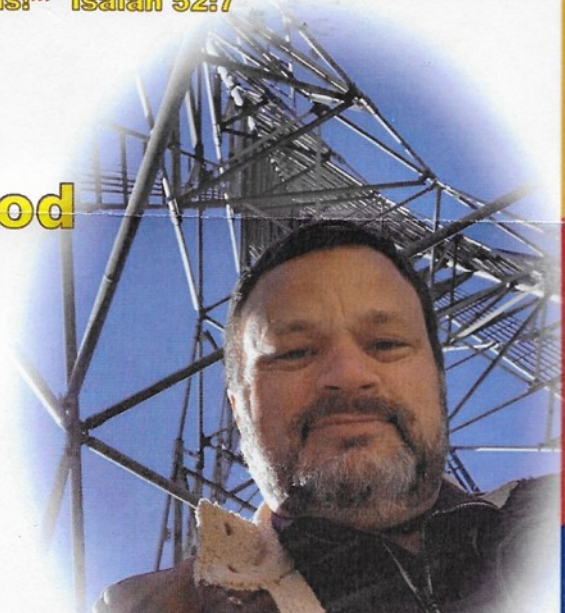
PROGRAM Begins at 7 p.m.

Contact Meg Koontz,
Fundraiser Coordinator

704.867.3706 or

Meg.Koontz.CPC@gmail.com

E CRISIS
PREGNANCY
ENTER
OF GASTON COUNTY



Keynote Speaker:

John Owens

John Owens, began his radio career during high school working in Country radio. He gave his life to Christ while hosting a morning show on WCTK and continued until he was called to be the Network Program Director and Morning Show Host for the Family Life Network, NY & PA, 1997-2008. He then served as Operations Manager of 89.7 WMHK, Columbia, SC, from 2008 until being called in 2015 to serve as General Manager of Blue Ridge Broadcasting, The Light FM. John and his wife, Tamara, have been married for 31 years with three sons, three daughters-in-law and two grandchildren. John has 35+ years of media experience, both in leadership and on-air along with traveling the world serving international organizations through partnerships. John was named one of "The 30 Best Managers in Radio", Radio Ink, October 2020 and currently serves on the Board of Directors of Christian Music Broadcasters.



Phone 704-867-3706, Fax 704-868-4656
 Email: meg.koontz.cpc@gmail.com
 Text Meg: 724-263-1709
 Website: www.cpcgaston.com



700 Robinson Road, Gastonia, NC 28056
East: 399 Belmont Mt. Holly Road, Belmont, NC 28012
North: 717 Gastonia Technology Parkway, Dallas, NC 28034
Northwest: 607 East First Street, Cherryville, NC 28021

January 5, 2024

Beautiful Feet Multiply Good News!

"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" Isaiah 52:7

Date: Thursday, March 14, 2024
Location: First Assembly of God, 777 S. Myrtle School Road, Gastonia, NC 28052
Time/Program: **INVITATIONS WILL BE SENT! Meal NOT provided!**
6:15 to 7 p.m. - Musical Worship (Sanctuary) & Ministry Tables (Foyer)
7:00 p.m. - Program in the sanctuary
Cost: \$100.00 for 10 people including you the Host
Speaker: John Owens-WMIT General Manager
Seating: On a First Come, First Seated Basis! There will be a reserved seating section for those unable to climb steps and wheelchair accessible seating
Host: Please respond that you'll Host by January 23 and include your email address
 Pray, contact your guests, and fill out the "Guest Invitation Address List"
 Mail your Guest List and \$100.00 by February 5



Dear Nick & Alice,

You believe in what God is doing here through us. **THANK YOU!** We want you to share your testimony of why you are a supporter of CPC with your friends. We need them to come hear the message of God's calling. We are delighted to announce **John Owens, of WMIT, as the guest speaker** for our 2024 Celebration of Life. It will be a night of **celebration!** To His Glory!

We want to save postage and be a good steward: So we are not serving food, because we save \$8000.00 off the top and because food trucks don't work well for this kind of event. Besides, as staff and volunteers, we need to save our energy to serve our clients. So we are sending you now, a "Guest Invitation Address List" to fill out for the guests you invite and to get it back to us. Last year we had lots of sponsors but many did not follow through and invite their friends, thus the enclosed "Guest Invitation Address List" so we can send invitations to your guests this year.

In 2023, we have had **85** clients accept Christ and **10** babies were saved from abortion. Phenomenal! With your help CPC enjoyed a superb financial year. You exceeded last year's Celebration of Life goal raising \$271,880.91. Bless you! Prayise Him with us for how He's worked through you and us at CPC! The goal for our 2024 event is \$225,000.00.

Now with Operation Road to 100, explained in detail at our Celebration of Life event, we can spread the Good News even further.

Nick & Alice, here's our prayeising for you as you receive this request, "LORD instruct once again these recipients, by the power of the Holy Ghost at work in them, to help us accomplish this task in Jesus name." **Respond and let us know that you will be a part of this special event by being a host for 10, including yourself, and allowing the Holy Spirit to point out who to invite. We ask that you pay the full amount of \$100 for the seats no matter the amount of guests you invite.** We've chosen to keep the same price for 20+ years. **Please mail or bring the \$100 seating cost and your filled out "Guest Invitation Address List" to the Center by February 5.** If your guest needs wheelchair accessible seating note that on Guest List.

If you have questions, contact Meg, at meg.koontz.cpc@gmail.com, text at 724-263-1709, or call 704-867-3706.

Grace and Peace to you in Christ Jesus,

Meg Koontz

Meg Koontz

Event Coordinator

Serving Greater Gaston Area and A Greater God Since 1986 ...



700 Robinson Road
Gastonia, NC 28056
704-867-3706

Beautiful Feet Multiply Good News!

"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" Isaiah 52:7

"Celebration of LIFE" Annual Fundraiser - March 14, 2024

Giving Goal: \$225,000.00 (Annual Budget: \$563,002.00)

Please bring this Commitment Form to the Fundraiser and fill out the "2 Giving Options" after listening to John Owens and the appeal at the Fundraiser. Please allow the Holy Spirit to lead you in your giving. Insert this form into the envelope provided at the Fundraiser. Put the envelope in the Commitment bucket as it is passed. OR mail it to CPC.

My Personal Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Church/Business: _____

Opportunities:

- Contact me about: [] Hosting a pew or table in 2025 [] Baby Bottle Blessings [] Walk for Life
[] Sexual Risk Avoidance Presentations [] Monthly praying at a CPC office
I would like to: [] Daily/weekly praise for CPC [] Be a driver for the RV Ministry
[] Volunteer at the Center [] Receive the monthly newsletter via email (Include email above)

2 GIVING OPTIONS:

1. SINGLE GIFT

- [] I would like to make a single gift of: [] \$20,000 [] \$50,000 [] Other _____
[] My business/employer/church will MATCH my donation. Company Name: _____
[] I'll give through Community Foundation Run: \$ _____ Make check to Gaston Community Foundation by April 22

2. MONTHLY GIFT/PARTNER

- [] \$1,000 per month = \$12,000 annually
[] \$ 500 per month = \$6,000 annually
[] \$ 250 per month = \$3,000 annually
[] \$ 200 per month = \$2,400 annually
[] \$ 150 per month = \$1,800 annually
[] \$ 100 per month = \$1200 annually. I would like to [] become [] continue as a SPONSOR A DAY at the Center.
[] \$ 30 per month = \$360 annually. I would like to [] become [] continue as a PARTNER PLUS!
[] \$ 20 per month = \$240 annually. I would like to [] become [] continue as a PARTNER!
[] \$ 15 per month = \$180 annually

OFFICE USE:
Amount Received:

[] Other \$ _____
[] NEW monthly automatic transfer of funds from my checking account on the 10th.
Account # _____ Routing # _____ Signature _____

In the box below, please write in your intended giving for the coming year (combine 1 + 2)

My Total Annual Gift: [] Bill Me [] Check # [] PayPal [] Cash [] Bank Draft
(Enclosed) (at cpcgaston.com) (Enclosed) Bank Draft will continue on the 10th of the month until you contact us.
\$ [] , [] , [] . 00 Make checks out to: CPC of Gaston County Please include a cancelled/voided check.

What touched you most tonight? _____

Stewardship

Inspiring a deeper understanding of true giving

February 2024

King David was truly remarkable in the depth of his devotion to God, but no less remarkable was the distance he was able to fall away from God at times. At one point fairly late in his reign, David ordered a census to be taken of the population of his kingdom. For reasons that are not clear from the Scriptures, this census was a sin against God.

The Bible does not even hint at why this act aroused God's anger, but we may assume that the wrongness of the act was so obvious at the time that the biblical author did not feel that he needed to explain it.

It was so clearly wrong that even Joab, the commander-in-chief of David's army, strongly advised the king not to do it, but David ordered it done anyway. Soon thereafter, a plague, which was understood to be God's punishment for David's sin, killed 70,000 men in Israel in three days. The plague ended before Jerusalem itself was touched by it, and David was deeply repentant of his sin.

David's Sacrifice

The prophet Gad came to David with God's instruction. David was to offer a sacrifice at the place where the angel of death stopped. That spot happened to be the farm of a Jebusite named Araunah.

Araunah was working at his threshing floor harvesting grain when David approached and asked to purchase the threshing floor to build an altar unto the Lord. Araunah felt that it would be a great honor to serve the king and of-

fered to give David not only the threshing floor for the location, but also his oxen for the sacrificial animals and the threshing sleds and ox yoke for the firewood.

But David replied, "No, but I will buy it from you for a price; I will not



offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God which cost me nothing."

The gift must cost the giver

II Samuel 24:18-25 speaks loudly to us of honoring God. David could have accepted Araunah's generous offer but in so doing he would have dishonored God and himself. The kingdom of God

(Continued on page 4)

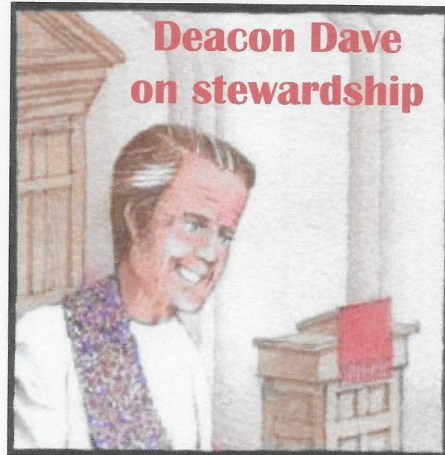
We often forget to thank God and show recognition to the source of our blessings.

That is why Old Testament people were required to return the first and best portion of all they gained to God. It was not theirs to keep; it belonged to God.



Every person receives from God some special ability or quality that can be used to build the church, so it may become more effective in its mission to reach and transform the world.

If you have committed yourself to Jesus Christ, then God has committed to your care some special gift or gifts: an ability, a talent or a quality of personality that God expects you to use in service of the kingdom.



The Deuteronomic Law makes it abundantly clear that the poor and those in need will always be with us and that we are to open our hearts and hands to them in generosity.

St. Paul goes a step beyond this legalistic command and cautions us that our giving must not be with reluctance or under a feeling of compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. In the face of need, wherever it may exist, we, as God's friends are to be generous!


Which was the most generous?

Once, as Jesus sat in the Temple courtyard, He observed the people dropping their money into the Treasury. Large sums were deposited by the wealthy in their support of the Temple and the needy. However, it was the gift of two small coins by a widow that gladdened the Lord's heart. Why? The rich gave out of their abundance of resources, but the widow gave from her poverty. She gave all that she had. Which, then was most generous?

Can we doubt our abundance?

Jesus reminds us that much is required from those to whom much is given, and that even more should be expected from those to whom much more is given. Can we American Christians, whether we consider ourselves rich or

poor, doubt our abundance when compared with the rest of God's world and to most of God's children?

Are we not called upon to be cheerful givers, large or small, as we are able? As God's friends, we are to be generous. 

LIVE TO GIVE ... WHAT?


Waiting for a red light to turn green, my eye caught some bold graffiti on a corner telephone pole. "I live 2 give," was the large black spray-painted message.

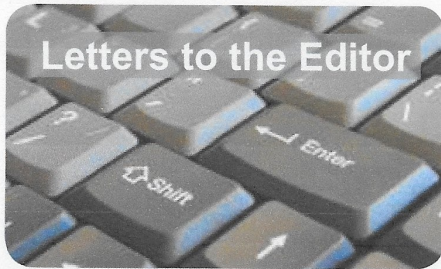
"Well, that's different," I thought to myself. In fact, it struck me as a rather noble sentiment ... at first. But then, the incongruity of a generous thought delivered by means of a careless defacing of property became apparent.

What makes a gift a real gift?

I wondered what kinds of gifts does this person "live to give?" And what types of "gifts" are unwelcome ones ... graffiti? thoughtlessness? cheap attention getters? What makes a gift a real gift?

How about quality control! And before judging another, how about my own kind of gifts and my own quality control? Who sets my standard?

Because God gives first to you and to me, giving should be a response to God's loving gifts. God's gifts set the standard! My gifts cannot be on a par with God's gifts to me, but my gifts, large or small, can be my way of showing love and glorifying God. With the best of intentions, I should give my best, knowing that God's grace will overcome my inadequacy. Hopefully, I, too, "can live 2 give," but live to give my best to God and others! 



Dear Editor:

Thank you for your thought-provoking piece in the December 2012 issue of *Stewardship* about the two-year-old who offered the first bite of his pear to daddy.

My first thought is that this child had absolutely no thought of generosity. Two-year-olds don't think that way by nature (Actually, neither do adults!). Rather, he gave up the first bite, not the second, and not the core ... really, he gave up the whole pear, trusting he would get most of it back ... and out of self-interest and dependency.

This reminds me of another story about little Johnny who was visiting Mrs. Jenkins with his mother. Mrs. Jenkins gave Johnny an orange. Bewildered, Johnny just stood there silently holding the big orange in his tiny little hands. His mother, wishing to teach him gratitude, bent over and whispered in his ear, "What do you say, Johnny?" Johnny finally looked up directly at Mrs. Jenkins and said, "Peel it!"

How was Johnny supposed to appreciate the orange, much less say "thanks," if his tiny mouth with newly formed teeth and his tender little fingers could not get into it? He had to give it back for preparation.

Infants and toddlers need their pears progressively peeled, cut up, or at least "started" in order to have access to the sweetness and nourishment. The father and author who was offered back the first bite understands that his son

was not so much kind and generous, as needful and dependent on daddy to prepare the snack for eating.

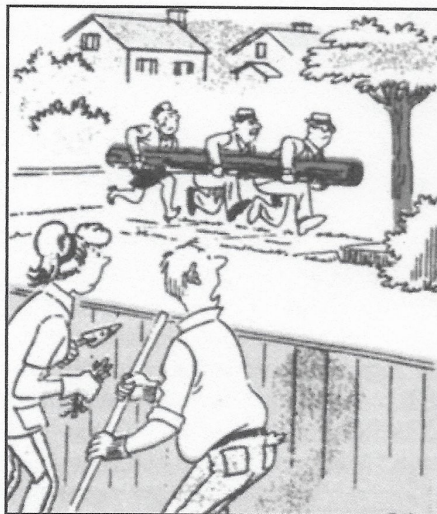
We waste, misuse and destroy time, talent and treasure when we presume to have unilaterally earned and owned and managed them. How we make a mess of ourselves when we try to bite into the whole, big thing without regard to our own juvenile helplessness and dependency.

How pleased is our Father when we offer it all back to him, for him to bless it and make it palatable.

As we view tithes and offerings as beneficial to the giver, our stewardship indeed becomes a new way of life.

God bless you and your ministry!

L. Turner



"I told them they'd have trouble with another parish fund drive!"

Stewardship is for every day and not just for February. Come to know that stewardship is not a yearly pledge of money that buys the services of your church for you and your family, but, rather, an offertory to God of your time, talent, and treasure, that by the grace of God, builds up the church and bears witness to the Gospel.

On that day Gad went to David and said to him, "Go up and build an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite."

2 Samuel 24: 18



Continued from page 1...

King David was truly...

requires sacrificial devotion, and that can only be so when the gift costs the giver.

David knew that the sacrifice would have far less value and meaning if he offered to God that which belonged to another. It was meaningful only if it cost him. David knew something that Christians often overlook ... that stewardship, which is another name for honoring God, is not an optional part of our faith, but an integral element of it. In fact, without stewardship, the rest of our Christian witness is devalued, just as David's sacrifice would have been had he not paid for it. ☩





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

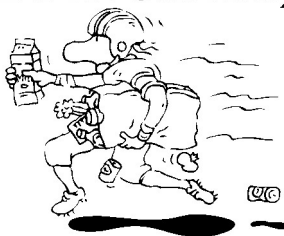


FEBRUARY 2024

LENTEN SEASON

SEE PAGE 12 INSIDE

Souper Bowl Sunday



**Don't forget to bring can goods on
February 11**

