



# Our Saviour's Good News

Volume XIX, Issue IX

September 2024

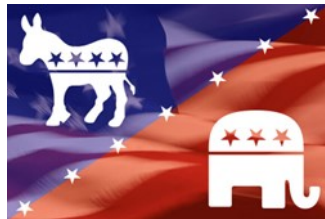
## MISSION STATEMENT

*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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## Democratic and Republican Party Platforms: Where They Stand on the Issues (Decision Magazine)



As Franklin Graham travels to all 50 states on the Decision America Tour, he's urging Christians to boldly live out their faith—at home, in public and at the ballot box.

Many decisions are made at the president's desk, but the major political party to which he or she belongs wields significant power over which domestic and international policies are advanced and what becomes law. Here is a summary of the Democratic and Republican party positions on some of the vital issues facing the country. As Franklin Graham has stated clearly many times, we are not endorsing any candidate or party.

### SANETITY OF HUMAN LIFE:

#### Democratic

Democrats seek to repeal the 1976 Hyde Amendment so that federal funds can be used to pay for abortions. The platform says, "We will continue to stand up to Republican efforts to defund Planned Parenthood health centers." Democrats support ratification of UN efforts that affirm "the reproductive rights of women" globally.

#### Republican

The GOP asserts the sanctity of human life and affirms, "The unborn child has a fundamental right to life which cannot be infringed." The party supports a Human Life Amendment making clear that the 14th Amendment's protections apply to children before birth, and it salutes states that require informed consent, parental consent, waiting periods and clinic regulation.

### MARRIAGE:

#### Democratic

Democrats applaud last year's Supreme Court ruling that "LGBT people—like other Americans—have the right to marry the person they love."

#### Republican

The GOP platform condemns the Supreme Court's rulings that removed the ability of Congress and the people to define marriage as the union of one man and one woman. The GOP urges the reversal of those decisions, whether through judicial reconsideration or a constitutional amendment

### RELIGIOUS FREEDOM:

#### Democratic

The Democratic platform says: "We support a progressive vision of religious freedom that respects pluralism and rejects the misuse of religion to discriminate." The party opposes a religious test to bar immigrants or refugees from entering the country.

(Where They Stand con'td on page 2)

(Where They Stand con't from page 1)

### **Republican**

Republicans affirm that religious freedom in the Bill of Rights protects the right of the people to practice their faith in their everyday lives. The platform endorses the First Amendment Defense Act, which would protect faith-based institutions and individuals from government discrimination.

### **FEDERAL JUDGES:**

#### **Democratic**

The platform says: "We will appoint judges who defend the constitutional principles of liberty and equality for all, and will protect a woman's right to safe and legal abortion."

#### **Republican**

The GOP platform states: "A critical threat to our country's constitutional order is an activist judiciary that usurps powers properly reserved to the people through other branches of government." The GOP supports the appointment of justices and judges who respect the constitutional limits on their power and respect the authority of the states.

### **NATIONAL DEFENSE:**

#### **Democratic**

The Democratic platform says that while the military is crucial, decreased military spending is necessary. The party also favors reducing excessive spending on nuclear weapons. The platform notes that it is "proud of the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell and the opening of combat positions to women."

#### **Republican**

The Republican platform favors building and maintaining a strong military as the path to peace and security. The party seeks to restore the nation's military might and to rebuild troop numbers. The GOP would abandon treaties that benefit adversaries and would modernize the U.S. nuclear arsenal.

### **TERRORISM:**

#### **Democratic**

The Democratic platform uses firm language to say we "must defeat" global terrorism, though noting a preference for "diplomacy and development, to confront global threats and ensure war is a last resort." The party favors improving international intelligence capabilities to defend against external and homegrown threats.

#### **Republican**

The GOP asserts that the Iran deal does not have treaty status and has only emboldened the regime in Tehran in sponsoring terrorism. The platform says, "We must stand up for our friends, challenge our foes, and destroy ISIS." It calls for governmental aid to Christian communities under genocidal attack in cities like Erbil.

### **HUMAN RIGHTS:**

#### **Democratic**

The Democratic platform recognizes gay rights as a human right, and party leaders have tied international development funds in poor countries to adherence to the LGBT agenda. According to the platform, "We will continue to stand with LGBT people around the world, including fighting efforts by any nation to infringe on LGBT rights or ignore abuse."

#### **Republican**

The GOP platform states: "To those who stand in the darkness of tyranny, America has always been a beacon of hope, and so it must remain." The party seeks a radical rethinking of our human rights diplomacy, adopting a "whole of government" approach in which human rights issues are integrated at every appropriate level of our relationships with other nations.

### **IMMIGRATION:**

#### **Democratic**

The party platform denounces Donald Trump's suggested ban on immigrants from countries (mostly Muslim) known to train and equip terrorists.

(Where They Stand con't ON page 3)

(Where They Stand con't from page 2)

### **Republican**

Republicans oppose any form of amnesty for those who have entered illegally. The party supports building a border wall and refusing entrance to refugees who cannot be carefully vetted, especially those whose homelands have "been the breeding grounds for terrorism."

### **INTERNET SFETY AND DECENCY:**

#### **Democratic**

The platform supports "a free and open internet at home and abroad." The party would seek to strengthen cybersecurity while "protecting the privacy and civil liberties of the American people."

#### **Republican**

The platform states: "The internet must not become a safe haven for predators. Pornography, with its harmful effects, especially on children, has become a public health crisis that is destroying the lives of millions."

### **ADDRESSING POVERTY:**

#### **Democratic**

Democrats will "direct more federal resources to lifting up communities that have been left out and left behind." The party would build more affordable rental housing units and seek to "create good-paying jobs and enhance opportunities by investing in small business, youth employment, and reentry programs for formerly incarcerated people."

#### **Republican**

The GOP says that instead of government handouts that keep people dependent, "We propose ... the dynamic compassion of work requirements in a growing economy, where opportunity takes the place of a hand-out, where true self-esteem can grow from the satisfaction of a job well done."

### **LAW AND ORDER:**

#### **Democratic**

The Democratic platform seeks to abolish the death penalty, "which has proven to be a cruel and unusual form of punishment. It has no place in the United States of America." The party would reform mandatory minimum sentences, close private prisons, end racial profiling and train officers in de-escalation.

#### **Republican**

The GOP decries the creation of new "crimes" by unelected civil servants and political appointees and sees this as federal over-reach. The platform emphasizes restorative justice, including guidance by faith-based institutions. It notes that the death penalty is firmly settled by the Fifth Amendment and opposes efforts to erode this right.

### **ISRAEL AND JERUSALEM:**

#### **Democratic**

The platform states: "We will always support Israel's right to defend itself, including by retaining its qualitative military edge, and oppose any effort to delegitimize Israel. ... While Jerusalem is a matter for final status negotiations, it should remain the capital of Israel, an undivided city accessible to people of all faiths."

#### **Republican**

Republicans express "unequivocal support for Israel," pointing out that it is the only Middle Eastern country with freedom of speech and freedom of religion. The GOP recognizes "Jerusalem as the eternal and indivisible capital of the Jewish state." The party opposes the U.N.'s treatment of Israel as a pariah state.

***Read the full Republican Party platform and Democratic Party platform from the parties' websites.***



## Our Saviour Lutheran Church Anna Lowery, President July 15, 2024 Council Minutes



Meeting called to order by President, Anna Lowery

**Devotions:** Teri Trudnak

**Members present:** Anna Lowery, Bill Trudnak, Teri Trudnak, and Alice Vlaservich.

**Members Absent:** Steve Digh and Robbie Wooten and Becky Messick

**Minutes:** May 21, 2024 and Special Meeting, Motion by Bill Trudnak, seconded by Alice Vlaservich and carried to accept the minutes as presented.

### Reception of Petitions and Communication:

Letter from Salvation Army requesting donations. Motion by Alice Vlaservich, seconded by Anna Lowery and carried to donate \$100 from the church and ask the congregation if they would like to donate.

**Report of Pastor:** Pastor Feige will not be present on August 11. Anna Lowery will lead the service

**Report of the Treasurer:** May & June (EXHIBIT A). Motion by Alice Vlaservich, seconded by Anna Lowery and carried to accept the financial reports.

### Report of the Ministries

- a. Property Team: Tarp has been secured on sanctuary roof
- b. Stewardship Team
- c. Worship & Music Team:
- d. Finance Committee
- e. Youth Team:
- f. Witness Team: Cards and bulletins continue to be sent to shut ins.
- g. Christian Education Team: VBS was a success. OSLC served pizza on Wednesday night. It was great.

**Auxiliaries:** Prayer Group met at the home of Shirlee Marazza at 2:00 pm on July 16<sup>th</sup>.

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

### New Business:

- a. Discuss Organist/Pianist compensation and Board decided that \$150 was enough
- b. The Board authorized Teri Trudnak to sign checks. She will be the third on authorized to sign.

### General Information:

- a. Attendance
- b. Laszlo Mission Report
- c. UPDATE FROM Darren Lathen, Nverse Architecture/

Engineer (7-9-5024 email): Nick- Sorry for not getting back to you sooner. We are making good progress on the drawings. I hope to complete a permit set by the month's end. Right now we are working through some details related to how this roof panel system will connect to the existing structure and how we will detail the soffits. Attached is a PDF with some of our drawings in progress. We will be adding details and Structural drawings as well. --- Darren

The Council meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.  
Adjournment until September 16, 2024 Meeting.  
Devotion for September: Alice Vlaservich



## DID YOU KNOW?

As you walk up the steps to the building which houses the U.S Supreme Court you can see near the top of the building a row of the world's law givers and each one is facing one in the middle who is facing forward with a full frontal view ... it is Moses and he is holding the Ten Commandments!

As you enter the Supreme Court courtroom, the Two huge oak doors have the Ten Commandments Engraved on each lower portion of each door.

As you sit inside the courtroom, you can see The wall, right above where the Supreme Court judges sit, a display of the Ten Commandments!

There are Bible verses etched in stone all over the Federal Buildings and Monuments in Washington , D.C.

James Madison, the fourth president, known as 'The Father of Our Constitution' made the following statement:

*'We have staked the whole of all our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind for self-government, upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God.'*

Every session of Congress begins with a prayer by a paid preacher, whose salary has been paid by the taxpayer since 1777.

Fifty-two of the 55 founders of the Constitution were members of the established orthodox churches in the colonies.

Thomas Jefferson worried that the Courts would overstep their authority and instead of interpreting the law would begin making law an oligarchy (the rule of few over many.)

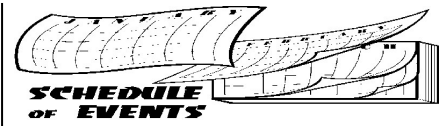
**How then, have we gotten to the point that everything we have done for 247 years in this country is now suddenly wrong and unconstitutional?**

# September 2024



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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 15 <sup>th</sup> Sun of Pentecost	2 	3	4	5	6 34 <sup>th</sup> Walk for Life	7
8 16 <sup>th</sup> Sun of Pentecost	9	10	11  REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11	12	13	14 Court Sq. Summer Concert
15 17 <sup>th</sup> Sun of Pentecost	16	17  Prayer Group	18	19	20	21
22 18 <sup>th</sup> Sun of Pentecost	23	24	25	26 International Day for Peace	27	28
29 19 <sup>th</sup> Sun of Pentecost LCMC Conv.	30 LCMC Convocation	LCMC Convocation Sep 29-Oct 2	CLW Convocation Oct. 19	WOMEN'S GROUP MTG DATE & TIME TBA	 WE WILL NEVER FORGET PATRIOT DAY	 First Day of Autumn Sep 22



LCMC Gathering (see p 14)  
CLW Convocation (see p15)

- **Sept. 1**— 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost
- **Sept. 2**—Labor Day (see p 12)
- **Sept. 6**—34<sup>th</sup> Walk for Life (see p 11, 12)
- **Sept. 8**—16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Grandparent Day (see p 13)
- **Sept. 11**—Patriot Day—9/11 (see p 6)  
Remembrance of 9/11 (see p 7)
- **Sept. 14**—Court Square Summer Concert  
(see p 9)
- **Sept. 15**—17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost
- **Sept. 17**—"Prayer" Group will meet at  
the home of Shirlee Marazza @ 2:00 pm
- **Sept. 17**—Constitution Day
- **Sept. 21**—International Day for Peace
- **Sept. 22**—FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN
- **Sept. 22**—18<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost
- **Sept. 29**—19<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost
- **Sept. 29-Oct. 2** —LCMC Convention (p 14)
- **Oct. 3** — Life Chain (p 6)
- **Oct. 19**—CLW Convocation (p 15)



WOMEN'S GROUP MEETING  
TBA

FOOD FOR THE MONTH: **Spaghetti,  
Spaghetti Sauce, Corn**



**Holy Communion Schedule:**  
ALL SUNDAYS

**Worship Service Assistance:**

Acolyte/ OSLC Member  
Communion  
Asst: OSLC Member  
Lay Reader/ Anna Lowery  
Worship Asst: Anna Lowery  
Greeters: OSLC Members  
Ushers: OSLC Members

Collection: Anna Lowery

Council Devotion: Alice Vlaservich

- 3 Brady Ratchford
- 3 Kennedy Lowery
- 13 Jacob Finger
- 14 Cara Feige
- 19 Robbie Wooten
- 19 Easton Finger
- 20 Stephen Lowery
- 21 Scott Finger
- 28 Bill Trudnak

Wayne Ann Penley  
Stephen Digh



17<sup>th</sup> .....**Steve & Julie Digh**

## FLOWERS

**Flower Schedule:**

September 1 OPEN  
September 8 Alice Vlaservich  
September 15 OPEN  
September 22 OPEN  
September 29 OPEN

Please sign up to place flowers on the altar  
in the glory of God  
and

in honor or memory of your love ones.

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

\$35.00



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

**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)

**First Day of Fall  
 September 22**



"I have set before you  
 LIFE and DEATH ....  
 CHOOSE LIFE so that  
 you and your descendants may live."  
Deuteronomy 30:19, NRSV

Life Chain, a one-hour, pro-life prayer and witness event, has been held annually since 1987, in thousands of cities and towns across the United States and Canada. The 2020 National Life Chain will be held on **Sunday, October 3, 2024 from 2:00 – 3:30 PM**. We are thrilled to have three locations in Gaston County: Belmont, Gastonia and Mount Holly! See **Event Details** for more information about the sites.

**How it Works:** Participants arrive early to park and pick up a sign and then space themselves 10- 15 feet apart on the sidewalk. At 2:00 PM we join

the rest of the Life Chains across the United States and Canada and, for just one hour, pray quietly for the unborn and for a conversion of our nation on the issue of abortion. The reverse side of the signs are printed with prayers and hymns to aid your prayer but feel free to bring or say your own prayers.

**Everyone is welcome and no RSVP is necessary. Just show up at your preferred location on the day of the event! Signs will be provided. GO TO "LIFE CHAIN OF GASTON COUNTY"**

**Gastonia**

**Location:** Sidewalks of E. Garrison Blvd from Union Rd to New Hope Rd

**Parking:** Parkwood Baptist Church, Grier Middle School, East Garrison Baptist Church, Public Library or Lineberger Park

**Sign Pick Up:** Along the sidewalks of the route



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

**NEEDED  
 FOR  
 NOVEMBER  
 DECEMBER**

**Be a servant of the Lord  
 Sign Up**

## A Stewardship Minute

Christopher Chapman died in 1680 and his burial stone is in Westminster Abbey in London. Etched in that stone are the words that describe the way Christopher tried to live:

*What I gave, I have.*

*What I spent, I had.*

*What I left, I lost by not giving it.*

In those words it is clear that he felt most fulfilled in his life when he lived as a giver. What he gave he had, because it came back to him multiplied. What he left behind he lost be-

cause he couldn't take it with him ... and he could have given rather than having left it. There is a very practical side to this story.

A pastor was visiting an old man whose wife had just died. During the conversation the husband told the pastor that his wife left a gift for the church in her will. It was not a large amount, just over a thousand dollars. Of course, the pastor was pleased that the woman had remembered the needs of the church in her will. Two nights later the pastor told the church board that the improvements in the parsonage had cost about one thousand dollars

over the budget. Just as the board members began to wonder if the treasury had enough money to meet the need, the pastor told them about the gift, which would more than take care of the overrun. Suddenly each of the board members began to smile. The problem was solved.

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, every good thing on earth has come from you. Accept our profound gratitude for your indescribable goodness. In Jesus' name. **Amen**



Patriot Day is an annual observance on September 11 to remember those who were injured or died (nearly 3,000) during the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001. Many Americans refer Patriot Day as 9/11 or September 11.



### What do people do?

On the direction of the President, the flag of the United States of America should be displayed on the homes of Americans, the White House and all United States government buildings in the whole world. The flag should be flown at half-mast as a mark of respect to those who died on September 11, 2001. Many people observe a moment of silence at 8:46 AM (Eastern Daylight Time). This marks the time that the first plane flew into the World Trade Center. Some communities, particularly in the areas directly affected by the attacks, hold special church services or prayer meetings. People who personally experienced the events in 2001 or lost loved ones in them, may lay flowers or visit memorials.

### Public life

Patriot Day is not a federal holiday and schools and businesses do not close. Public transit systems run on their regular schedules. Some people and organizations may take some time out to hold prayers for the victims of the attacks, but these do not usually affect public life for more than a few minutes.

### Background

On September 11, 2001, four planes were hijacked. The hijackers then deliberately flew three of the planes into two important buildings, the Pentagon in Washington DC and the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York. The fourth crashed into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. The loss of life and damage that these hijackings caused form the biggest act of terrorism ever on United States soil. Nearly 3000 people died in the attacks and the economic impact was immense. The attacks have greatly increased attention to national security in the United States. This has had huge implications for United States national and international politics. This is particularly true for the relationships between the United States and Islamic countries in the Middle East.

### Symbols

The most potent symbol of the events that happened on September 11, 2001 are pictures and videos of planes flying into buildings, of the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center engulfed in smoke and later collapsing and of people falling from buildings. Pictures taken of damaged buildings and relatives looking for loved ones in the days and weeks after the attacks are also often shown. The flag of the United States is often displayed around images of the events on September 11, 2001. This is to remind Americans that their country remained strong in the face of massive terrorist attacks.

Patriot Day should not be confused with Patriot's Day, also known as Patriots Day, which commemorates the battles of Lexington and Concord in 1775, which were two of the earliest battles in the American Revolutionary War.



## Constitution Day and Citizenship Day in United States

Constitution Day and Citizenship Day is a combined event that is annually observed in the United States on September 17. This event commemorates the formation and signing of the Constitution of the United States on September 17, 1787. It also recognizes all who, by coming of age or by naturalization, have become US citizens.

### What do people do?

The United States president may issue each year a proclamation calling on government officials within the nation to display the country's flag on government buildings on Constitution Day and Citizenship Day, as well as inviting the people to observe this event in schools, churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies.

Various civil and educational authorities and individuals throughout the United States observe Constitution Day and Citizenship Day through a range of events and activities each year. For example, the Center for Civic Education provides lesson topics on Constitution Day and Citizenship Day for students at different levels. The US Department of Education provides various resources on the event as the department is responsible for implementing Constitution Day legislated mandates. Among these is the requirement for educational institutions that receive federal funds to hold an educational program on the United States Constitution on September 17 each year.

### Public life

It is not a public holiday on Constitution Day and Citizenship Day in the United States so public life is not affected.

### Background

On Constitution Day and Citizenship Day, an event which falls during Constitution Week, many people in the United States recognize the anniversary of the nation's constitution and the efforts and responsibilities of all citizens. With regard to the nation's constitution, in the summer of 1787 delegates convened in Philadelphia to create "a more perfect union" and to craft the country's constitution. They worked to develop a framework that would provide balance and freedom, taking into account federal and state interests, as well as individual human rights. The delegates signed the Constitution of the United States on September 17 that year. By June 21, 1788, the constitution was effective, having been approved by nine of the 13 states.

With regard to recognizing citizens, newspaper magnate William Randolph Hearst advocated a day to celebrate US Citizenship in 1939. In 1940 the Congress created "I Am an American Day" to be celebrated in the third Sunday in May. On February 29, 1952, President Harry Truman signed into law "Citizenship Day". It was established to replace I am an American Day. On August 2, 1956, the Congress requested that the president proclaim the week beginning September 17 and ending September 23 of each year as "Constitution Week". One more change was made to the event when a federal law enacted in December 2004 designated September 17 as "Constitution Day and Citizenship Day".

When Constitution Day falls on a Saturday, Sunday or on another holiday, the day must be held on a weekday during the preceding or following week. This was the case in 2005, when Constitution Day was generally observed on Friday, September 16, and 2006 when the holiday was observed on Monday, September 18.

### Symbols

Positive images of United States citizens of all backgrounds have been used to promote the "Citizenship" element of Constitution Day and Citizenship Day. The colors (red, white and blue) of the United States flag, as well as images of the flag, have also been used in artwork for promotional material for the day. Painted images of the constitution's founders are also used to illustrate the importance of the meaning behind the day and the words "We the People", which are written in the constitution, have been highlighted in promotional material to symbolize unity and cooperation within the nation.





# Church News



## ***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.

If you would like to add someone, please let the church office know



## 2024 Court Square Summer Concert

(presented by the Town of Dallas)

Held on the Dallas Historic Court Square, from 6:30—10:00 pm, each FREE concert will feature amazing talent (rain or shine).

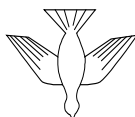
- ◆ **Saturday, September 14— Concert  
Chris Taylor & The Rumor**



## **CAROLINAS MISSION REGIONAL**

**CMR Clergy Retreat – details forthcoming.  
Oct 7-9:**

Laurel Ridge Camp and Conference Center  
124 Penury Drive, Laurel Springs, NC



If you need a Pastor,  
please contact Pastor Pete Feige at 704-516-2805  
or our office at 704-922-4648.



### **PRAYER GROUP**

will meet at the home of Shirlee Marazza  
on September 17 at 2:00 pm



### **WOMEN'S GROUP**

Will meet — To be announced later.

**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), KELLY Ballard (friend of Shana Dease), NORMAN Bever (Brother-in-law of Brady Ratchford-stroke), ADDISON Blanton (friend of Dease's), KATHY Bohanan (cancer) , RHONDA Bradley (Marsha Patton's mother-shoulder operation), 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), BAILEY Drummond (Becky and Chris Messick's daughter), JOHN Finger (friend of Brady Ratchford), GLEEN Fraizer (friend of Steve & Julie Digh - cancer), JASON Hames (friend of the White's), GRACE Harbin (friend of Robbie Wooten-cancer), NIC Harkey (friend of Marazza's family -16 yrs. old had tumor removed, awaiting treatment options), 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), SONDRA 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.



## ***Supreme Court Ruling Bans Males From Female Sports, Restrooms in 10 States*** ***(Decision Magazine)***

The Supreme Court upheld two lower court injunctions Aug. 16 blocking the Biden administration's rewrite of Title IX antidiscrimination policies that would have allowed male public school students who identify as female to compete in girls' sports and use their restrooms and locker rooms.

Tennessee and Louisiana had successfully filed two lawsuits against the federal Department of Education seeking injunctions to block the application of the law. The U.S. Courts of Appeals for the 5th and 6th Circuits had granted preliminary injunctions, blocking the new rules from going into effect.

The Supreme Court voted 5-4 to reject the Biden administration's emergency request to enforce new Title IX provisions for transgender students.

The sweeping rule took effect Aug. 1 and declared that Title IX's ban on "sex" discrimination in schools covers discrimination based on gender identity, sexual orientation and "pregnancy or related conditions."

According to the majority opinion, "the burden is on the Government as applicant to show, among other things, a likelihood of success on its severability argument and that the equities favor a stay."

"On this limited record and in its emergency applications, the Government has not provided this Court a sufficient basis to disturb the lower courts' interim conclusions ...," continued the justices in the 12-page ruling.

The opinion also concluded that "the Courts of Appeals will render their decisions" in the litigation surrounding the federal rule change "with appropriate dispatch."

The Supreme Court's ruling halts the Biden-Harris administration's rules in the states of Tennessee, Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky, Virginia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, and Idaho.

Tennessee, Louisiana, and others who joined the lawsuits argued that the administration's Title IX rules unlawfully redefine sex discrimination and violate students' and employees' rights to bodily privacy and safety. They argued that a definition of harassment based on the creation of a "hostile environment" violates the First Amendment by requiring students and teachers to use preferred pronouns.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor authored a dissenting opinion, being joined by Justices Elena Kagan, Neil Gorsuch and Ketanji Brown Jackson, arguing that the lower court injunctions against the federal rule are "overbroad."

Before the Supreme Court ruling, a number of states had refused to abide by the DOE's gender ideology edict. Twenty-six attorneys general and multiple nonprofits, school boards and parents' groups have also filed lawsuits opposing the Title IX policy change.

A ruling July 2 in Kansas by U.S. District Judge John Broomes blocked the Title IX revisions in more than 2,000 schools across 45 states where a student specifically has a parent who belongs to Moms for Liberty, a parental rights advocacy organization that signed onto the legal challenges. U.S. District Judge Terry Doughty, who granted the preliminary injunction on June 13 in Louisiana, referred to the Biden administration's unilateral Title IX changes as a "threat to democracy." "This case demonstrates the abuse of power by executive federal agencies in the rulemaking process," Doughty said in his ruling. "The separation of powers and system of checks and balances exist in this country for a reason."

Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), a prominent conservative Christian law firm, represents a West Virginia high school female athlete and Christian Educators Association International, which joined with Tennessee's lawsuit. ADF also represents a Louisiana school board serving more than 20,000 students, which joined Louisiana's lawsuit.

"The Biden-Harris administration's radical redefinition of sex turns back the clock on equal opportunity for women, undermines fairness, and threatens student safety and privacy," Jonathan Scruggs, ADF vice president of litigation strategy, said in a public statement on the ruling. "The Supreme Court rightly affirmed the 5th and 6th Circuit decisions to restrain the administration's illegal efforts to rewrite Title IX while these critical lawsuits continue." "This administration is ignoring biological reality, science, and common sense," Scruggs added. "Female athletes, students, and teachers across the country are right to stand against the administration's adoption of extreme gender ideology, which would have devastating consequences for students, teachers, administrators, and families."



## Our History

Roe vs. Wade in 1973 had gone unanswered in Gaston County, until on November 13, 1985, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. an initial meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the law offices of Cherry, Bekaert, & Holland here in Gastonia. (SEE NEXT PAGE)

Seven men and women came together as God had encouraged their hearts to respond compassionately to the needs of those facing unplanned pregnancies. They gathered to initiate a ministry that would upon opening their doors for clients in September of 1986 have an immediate impact.

- No longer would words be heard without matching deeds and actions that gave a visible expression of our concern for the abortion issue.
- No longer would someone who could not afford a pregnancy test be denied one.
- No longer would the longing for a listening ear, a compassionate, caring counselor when the crisis of pregnancy came about be denied.
- No longer would the everyday needs of material assistance and crisis calls from clients of needing a listening ear, go unanswered.

On that day, this Board of Directors, composed of Dale Chase, Rev. Marion Clark, Audrue McMahan, David Ward, Rev. Marlin Mull, Peter Caprise, Rachel Pichet and Cathy Epperson nominated officers, set meeting times, elected an Executive Director, and voted to request information from a sister CPC. Other Board members unable to attend that day were: Steve Baker, Laura C. Atkins, Rev. M.O. Owens, Dr. Glenn Phoenix and Dr. Thomas Will.

From that humble beginning, the Crisis Pregnancy Center of Gaston County has been in three pivotal rental locations and finally was able to purchase property and a home in July 1996. The journey from those initial days included leadership from diversely skilled Board of Director Members, to Executive Directors, to multi-talented staff, to service by Volunteers that utilized the gifts of individuals as well as the strengths of an interdenominational ecumenical corporate body working for the cause of the unborn.

The history of the Crisis Pregnancy Center of Gaston County, Inc. has included immeasurable faith, the development of a support base that transcends race, gender and religion. The experience of serving in this setting allows women, men and their families to see the efforts of all combined to meet the needs of one. It is an awesome testimony to see so many varied agencies, individuals, and churches tackling this single issue.

From its inception, the Crisis Pregnancy Center of Gaston County, Inc. has now served 20,000+ clients, been blessed by faithful volunteers, trusted God for budget needs numerous times, and made an impact in this County that is now indelible and indispensable.

Over the years, an expanding staff, a diversified Board, Abstinence emphasis, ultrasound/medical clinic, seasoned and well trained volunteers, public presentations, our annual fund-raisers, ad. in fitnitum, are making the future as bright as God's genius and calling.

Nineteen years later those actions are bearing much fruit,

- Now, Shepherds, within the church of our Lord, the Body of Christ, can strongly affirm Biblical Sanctity of life from conception to natural death and point them to a place in Gaston County that ministers without manipulation;
- Now, those who have hidden the guilt of past abortions can have a place of healing, experiencing first hand, God's unconditional love,

Now, the pro-life constituency can prayerfully point to a place of refuge that will meet not only physical needs but will unashamedly present the gospel of Jesus Christ as the ultimate answer.

## LABOR DAY ]

### Why we celebrate Labor Day?

For a lot of people, Labor Day means two things: a day off and the end of summer. But why is it called **Labor Day**? Labor Day is a day set aside to pay tribute to working men and women. It has been celebrated as a national holiday in the United States since 1894.

**Labor unions themselves celebrated the first labor days in the United States, although there's some speculation as to exactly who came up with the idea. Most historians credit Why we celebrate Labor Day?**

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## CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER OF GASTON COUNTY

### THE ANNUAL 34<sup>th</sup> WALK FOR LIFE Friday, September 6, 2024

With the results of Roe v. Wade now known, this is going to be a [pivotal year! There are many who do not believe in the sacredness of life and the God given right of life. You are invited to join with our local Crisis Pregnancy Center in our continuing commitment to both protect the lives of unborn and given tangible support to Moms and Dads who struggle to provide for their babies.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Marie Robinson (704-922-3302).  
Also see enclosed.

For more information call—(704) 867-3706

(See page 8)

## 2024 SEPTEMBER PRAYERS FOR MISSION EMPHASIS

*“Walk for Life” and “Samaritan’s Purse”*



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (SHOE BOX) IS COMING!

Since 1993, more than 100 million boys and girls in over 130 countries have experienced God's love through the power of simple shoebox gifts from donations to Operation Christmas Child. Samaritan's Purse works with local churches and ministry partners to deliver the gifts and share the life-changing Good News of Jesus Christ.

### HOW CAN I HELP?

In October, the boxes will be passed out at Our Saviour congregation for you to fill and bring back to be collected and turned over to Samaritan's Purse staff.



## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE. WHAT IS IT?

The International Day of Peace (“Peace Day”) is observed around the world each year on 21 September. Established in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution, Peace Day provides a globally shared date for all humanity to commit to Peace above all differences and to contribute to building a Culture of Peace.

Let us all create Peace Day every day!



In the United States, Russell Capper (age 9 in 1969) sent a letter to President Nixon suggesting a special day be set aside as Grandparents' Day. On June 12, 1969, he received a letter back from Rose Mary Woods (Personal Secretary to the President) reading, "Dear Russell, Thank you for your letter to President Nixon. Your suggestion regarding a Grandparent's Day is appreciated, but the President ordinarily issues proclamations designating periods for special observance only when a Congressional resolution authorizes him to do so. With best wishes, Sincerely, Rose Mary Woods Personal Secretary to the President".

Since the aforementioned letter, Marian McQuade was recognized nationally by the United States Senate – in particular by Senators Jennings Randolph<sup>[14]</sup> and Robert Byrd – and by President Jimmy Carter, as the founder of National Grandparents Day. McQuade made it her goal to educate the youth in the community about the important contributions seniors have made throughout history. She also urged the youth to "adopt" a grandparent, not just for one day a year, but rather for a lifetime. Co-founder Cynthia Bennett, who worked for Marian's husband, contributed by writing letters of verification.

In 1973, Senator Jennings Randolph introduced a resolution to the senate to make Grandparents' Day a national holiday. West Virginia's Governor Arch Moore had proclaimed an annual Grandparents' Day for the state, at the urging of Marian McQuade. When Senator Randolph's resolution in the U.S. Senate died in committee, Marian McQuade organized supporters and began contacting governors, senators, and congressmen in all fifty states. She urged each state to proclaim their own Grandparents' Day. Within three years, she had received Grandparents' Day proclamations from forty-three states. She sent copies of the proclamations to Senator Randolph.<sup>[citation needed]</sup>

In February 1977, Senator Randolph, with the concurrence of many other senators, introduced a joint resolution to the senate requesting the president to "issue annually a proclamation designating the first Sunday of September after Labor Day of each year as 'National Grandparents' Day'." Congress passed the legislation proclaiming the first Sunday after Labor Day as National Grandparents' Day and, on August 3, 1978, then-President Jimmy Carter signed the proclamation. The statute cites the day's purpose: "...to honor grandparents, to give grandparents an opportunity to show love for their children's children, and to help children become aware of strength, information, and guidance older people can offer".

The flower of the U.S. National Grandparents Day is the forget-me-not which blooms in the spring. As a result, seasonal flowers are given in appreciation to grandparents on this day.



## God's Gift of Grandparents

Grandparents are like honeybees;  
They are the very sweetest.  
They give you hugs and kisses,  
And their stories are the neatest.

The honey they produce  
Is more valuable than gold,  
For this honey is the lessons  
That we lovingly are told.

Grandparents want the best for us  
And say we can achieve  
Any goal that we have set,  
If only we believe.

They help us spread our wings  
So when we leave our honeycomb,  
We'll make the right decisions  
Though we be away from home.

Yes, grandpas are like silver,  
And grandmas are a gem,  
But better than one hundred diamonds  
Are the things I learn from them.

- By Alyssa Marie Bentham

Grandparents  
Are a Gift



## LCMC 24th Annual Gathering & Convention

September 29 - October 2, 2024 |

FaithLife Lutheran Church\* | Marion, IA



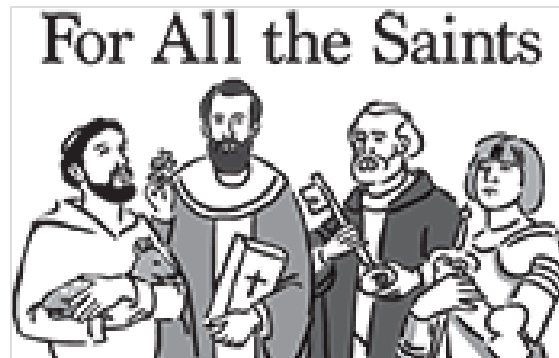
Our association is made up of many different types of congregations: large and small, rural and urban, younger and older, traditional and contemporary, U.S. and international. Although we may have differences in where we're located and how we do things, we all have one thing in common: we each have the ability to engage the unique cultural moments before us when God presents us with an opportunity to do so. The challenge is being prepared to act on it!

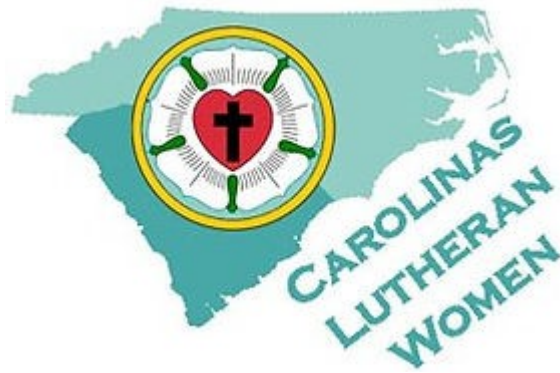
The theme of our 24th Annual Gathering & Convention is **"Engaging Your Cultural Moment"**. Together, we will explore how the cultural moments happening all around us can be seen not as something negative, but as potential opportunities for carrying out the Great Commission. We'll cover topics such as:

- How can we embrace our Lutheran theology and use it to positively impact the lives of the people around us?
- How do we empower the people in our churches to be ready to share the gospel with others, and to recognize a propitious moment to do so?
- How can we reach people who are living in smaller, less populated, or less accessible areas?

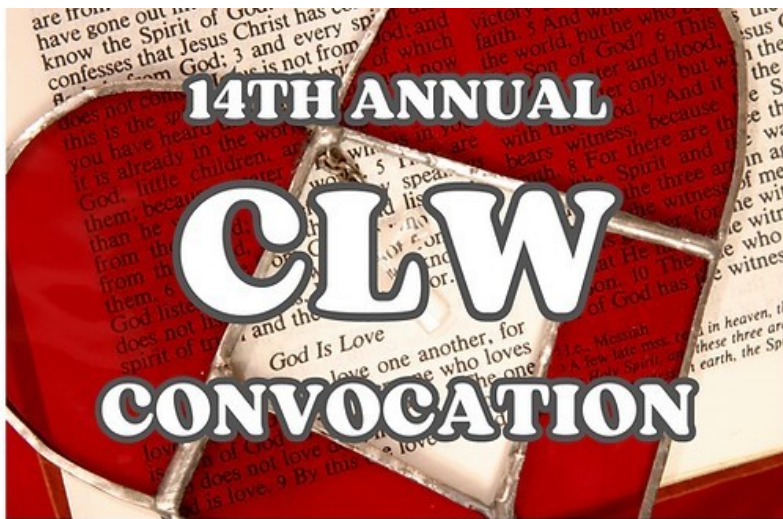
What resources are available to help congregations carry out this mission in their communities?

The LCMC Annual Gathering & Convention serves as an opportunity for pastors, leaders, and church members from all types of congregations to join together for an intentional time of worship, prayer, fellowship, networking, learning, and inspiration. We look forward to seeing you there!





*As sisters in Christ, led by the Holy Spirit, we dedicate ourselves to serve God by using the gifts we have received to reach out to others.*

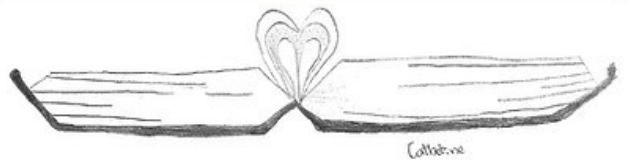


**WHEN:**  
**10:00am Saturday, October 19**  
 Registration at 9:30am

**WHERE:**  
**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church**  
 805 S York St. Gastonia, NC 28052



God's Unfailing Love



**DEVOTION**  
 Presented by:  
**LeaAnn Buckwell**  
*Bring your bible!*

**IN-KIND GIFTS**  
**for Displaced Roses**  
*Donated items will be used to help the homeless in Gastonia.*

**OFFERING**  
**to NALC Disaster Response**  
*Please make checks to CLW, and note "Convocation Offering".*

- The Convocation Offering will be designated to NALC Disaster Response. Please make checks to Carolinas Lutheran Women with "Convocation Offering" on the memo line. • CLW Council Minutes and annual meeting forms are available on our website: ([www.carolinaslutheranwomen.org](http://www.carolinaslutheranwomen.org)). If you have any questions, need more information, or would like hard copies, please contact Robin McLaughlin ([mclaughlins@ctc.net](mailto:mclaughlins@ctc.net)) or (704) 202-6361.
- The Convocation Offering will be designated to NALC Disaster Response. Please make checks to Carolinas Lutheran Women with "Convocation Offering" on the memo line.

Inspiring a deeper understanding of true giving

September 2024

# Stewardship

A visitor to Westminster Abbey in London will find these words on the burial place of Christopher Chapman who died in 1680:

*What I gave, I have.*

*What I spent, I had.*

*What I left, I lost by not giving it.*

## What I gave, I have

Are the words true as far as your experience is concerned? Surely the words point in the direction of what those who have practiced Christian stewardship have discovered over the years.

Good stewards soon learn that what they have given, they still have ... not in dollars and cents ... but in the lingering joy that comes from the realization that their gifts have made a lasting difference on behalf of the Kingdom of God. For example, a church has been built, a Christian school has been supported, housing for the homeless has been subsidized, a home has been provided for children from dysfunctional families, missionaries have been supplied funds for their work, and so on. Gifts for such noble enterprises are never lost. When we give to them we see the lasting effect of our gifts throughout our life. Therefore, the words are true: *What I gave, I have.*

## What I spent, I had

The epitaph goes on: *What I spent, I had.* There is nothing wrong with spending money, of course, especially



if we spend it wisely. Indeed, spending money helps others, in the sense that it keeps the economy humming, keeps people working, and “greases the wheels of commerce” as the saying goes.

How terribly destitute many countries are whose citizens have almost nothing to spend. Some economists call them “basket cases” and they are. Economically they are “down the line” in the so-called Third World, another name for poverty-stricken and bankrupt.

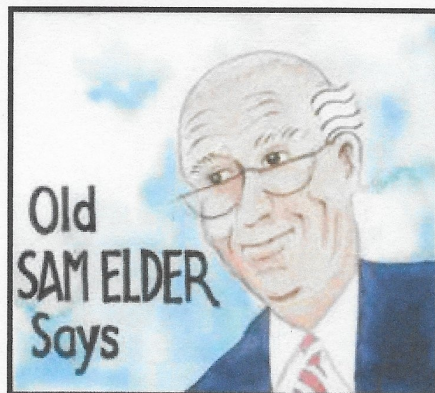
Ah, but most of us do have something to spend and we do just that. Many of us spend, spend, and spend some more without being frugal, without making sure we are also saving and planning for the future. Many seem unwilling to acknowledge that hard times can do us in, can leave us “basket cases” ourselves.

Continued on page 2...

*Stewardship is our responsible management of all of God's gifts: The earth in all its fullness, our entire lives, including our bodies, the time God gives us, our talents, our finances, our relationship with family and friends, our work efforts, etc.*








“Tom, I’m happy to see you giving some time to the church,” said old Sam Elder. “I wish some others would do as well.”

“It’s not easy,” responded Tom Newlywed. “Between my job, my studying and my setting up a new household, I can only squeeze out a little time for our church. Yet, time is what I want to offer it. It will be many years before I have money.”

“Tom, you understand the principles of giving quite well,” commented Sam. “Some of us give money, some give time and we even have a few that are talented. Together we make a strong church.”

“I don’t want to sound as though I am boasting,” continued Tom, “but I have the satisfaction of giving all possible time to the church. It’s a good feeling to know I am doing all that I can.” “I know the feeling,” advised Sam. “However, one problem in being a Christian is that you can never feel self-satisfied for very long. The Lord surrounds us with so much to be done. Even the time we give is not equal in value.” “Would you explain that value?” asked Tom.

“All of us tend to give time at our convenience, whenever we can fit it into our busy schedules,” explained Sam. “Yet the time with the greatest value is that given when the church most needs it.” 

*A talent is a talent until it is used to serve God. At that point it becomes a gift of ultimate value, multiplying every time we use it. In a person’s eyes it may seem insignificant, in God’s eyes, however, you are a superstar!*

Continued from page 1...

### A visitor to Westminster...

When we spend foolishly and without cognizance of the “lean years” that are certain to come, the likelihood is that one day we will realize that Chapman’s words are true: “*What I spent, I had.*”


### What I left, I lost by not giving it

Chapman’s last words may be the most insightful of all: *What I left, I lost by not giving it.*

Ultimately, we lose everything, don’t we? We leave earth empty-handed. Even if money were buried with us, as in the case of a man whose family put coins in his burial suit in case he needed to make a phone call, it would be to no avail. When we die, we die losers ... total losers. Unless. Unless we have made arrangements for our worldly goods to be given to worthy people and worthy causes. When we leave earth, we lose ... but only if we are guilty of not providing for a meaningful distribution of what God has lent to us for our journey on earth.

### Responsible stewardship

Responsible stewardship requires such forethought. A good steward will have an updated legal will and will make certain that it provides for those people and the Christian work the steward has cherished far into the future.

Indeed, it is possible for a gift to continue as long as earth lasts if it is handled right and divested wisely. When such resources are properly designated by us, we will never have to worry about them vanishing when we go home to God. We will never have to acknowledge Chapman’s words as being applicable for us: *What I left I lost by not giving it.* 



**W**e bury our talent, or the grace given to us, by neglecting to use it: or possibly by the fear of making a mistake, or possibly from the vanity that is unwilling to do anything unless it is showy or great.

People throughout the ages have heard the call to be the salt of the earth, but sometimes become afraid of losing their saltiness and withdraw from community, church, even family. They bury their grace and end up with their fears becoming reality.

#### **Invest in others**

The talents that God so generously invests in us are for our own healing, growth, reconciliation and transformation. God wants us to be all that we can be: wants us to be righteous; right with ourselves, right with others, right with God. But God invests in us so that we can invest in others. It is to be shared in a handclasp, a smile, a shared tear, a listening ear.

The grace we have received is to be invested in others as we tutor children in after-school programs, help with the many things that are needed to be done in our church, or to drive an elderly person to the store or doctor's office. *Don't bury your talent!* ☩

## **Beautiful Bananas**

**B**ecause our daughter served with the Peace Corps in Albania, she speaks the Albanian language. Therefore, when ethnic Albanian refugees from Kosovo arrived in our community, our family volunteered to help them. We were assigned to a family that spoke only Albanian and no English. The hardships this family had already endured were horrible. But they were now safely here and doing their best to start over.

That's a difficult job for a family. The husband cooked at a fast food restaurant and tried to use his earnings to support his wife, his elderly mother, and four children between the ages of 1 and 11. Like other volunteers we did our best to augment the "starter setup," which the refugee agency provided.

From friends and neighbors, we gathered household goods and clothing for them. Because they came from a farming village, they needed to learn many new skills such as how to use a telephone, run a washing machine, shop at the supermarket, understand the school system for their children, and other things too numerous to mention. Of course, they did not have the money they needed.

In their culture hospitality is very important. Each time we went to their home, they insisted on giving us something to eat or drink. It's difficult to accept such kindness from people who are living at a subsistence level. But it was more important to not insult them by declining what they offered.

#### **A New Understanding**

One day when our daughter returned from delivering some things to them,

Continued on page 4...

*Give an hour to a friend. Give a portion of what we have to someone who has less.*

*Giving our time, our talent and money is an adventure that can bring thrills to others and to ourselves. When we give of our time and talent we are actively involved in the church's mission.*




**Though they knew we were a family of three,  
they wanted us to have all four bananas.**

Continued from page 3...

### **Beautiful Bananas ...**

she had four beautiful large bananas. The family had insisted she bring them home with her. Though they knew we were a family of three, they wanted us to have all four bananas. It was such a generous gift. And it was humbling to us.

Do you remember Jesus' story of the widow's mite? The coin she gave as her offering represented the very smallest amount of money. But she gave it lov-

ingly and gratefully. We now have a new understanding of this biblical story. Like that widow, our Kosovar family was giving to us from a very meager supply. But they gave their best ... and with great love and gratitude. In loving concern we gave to them from our abundance. Proportionately, everything we did for them would never equal the four beautiful bananas they gave us. We may have taught them a few things about living in America. They taught us about sacrificial giving. 





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



# Honoring Grandparents

**SEPTEMBER 8<sup>th</sup>**

September 2024



**ISAIAH 52:7**  
*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!"*

**September 6, 2024  
 4:00-8:00 PM**  
**For more information, call us at 704-867-3706**  
**Walk for Life Goal: \$70,000**