



Our Saviour's Good News

Volume XVII, Issue IV

April 2022

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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FOLLOW JESUS *through Holy Week* (starting with Psalm Sunday)

Hosanna in the Highest!



Hosanna in the Highest! Jesus enter Jerusalem. On Palm Sunday, we become a part of the parade of people trailing behind Jesus, who is mounted on a lowly donkey. We wave palm branches and shout "Hosanna!" on this day as a way to praise the one who has come to save us all—in great humility. Our joy is mingled with sorrow because we know Jesus is heading into his last days on earth.

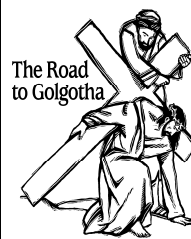
Jesus goes to the Upper Room.



The Last Supper

On Maundy Thursday we climb the stairs to the upper room prepared for Jesus and his disciples, where they share a Last Supper together. In the bread and wine served here, Jesus gives his very body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. Today we partake of this special meal together as the family of believers—to remember his death until he comes, find grace to help in our time of need, and renew our Christian love.

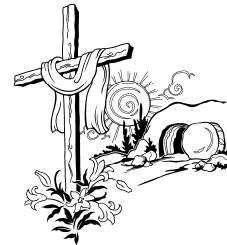
Jesus dies on the cross.



The Road to Golgotha

On Good Friday, we stumble through the streets of Jerusalem to witness Jesus on his path to the cross to suffer and die. We recognize that we should be on this road ourselves, but understand that Jesus is the only one who can walk this way if we are truly to be saved from sin and death. We contemplate the cross, express grief over his suffering, and marvel at the sacrifice of the sinless Son of God.

Jesus rises from the dead.



On Holy Saturday, we wait to walk with women to Christ's tomb on Easter morning. There we will see the stone rolled away. We will see Jesus alive again, beckoning us to come, follow him to life everlasting. As followers of Christ, we rejoice on this day that our house is in heaven.

FOLLOW JESUS *through Scripture*

To get a better feel for the events that transpired during Holy Week, here is a Bible reading for you to follow:

- Palm SundayMatt. 21:1-11
- Mon. of Holy Week.... Matt. 21:12-17
- Tues. of Holy Week... Luke 22:39-54
- Wed. of Holy Week ... Luke 22:66-23:25
- Maundy Thursday.... Matt. 26:17-30
- Good Friday..... Luke 23:26-49
- Holy Saturday..... Matt 27:57-61
- Easter Sunday..... Matt 28:1-9

FOLLOW JESUS *through Prayer*

Jesus said, "*Not my will, but yours be done.*" - Luke 22:42..... As Christ reveals to us, we must always bow to the will of God in our prayers, even if His will is in conflict with our own.

Jesus said, "*Father, forgive them.*" - Luke 23:34..... This prayer makes us realize that asking forgiveness for our sins and asking for help to forgive others should be first and foremost in our prayers.

Jesus said, "*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*" - Mark 15:34.... Jesus shows us in this prayer that we do not need to shy away from expressing our deepest difficulties and frustrations with God in prayer.

(Holy Week cont'd on page 3)



Palm Sunday

is the sixth Sunday of Lent and the last Sunday before Easter. It is also known as Passion Sunday, Willow Sunday, and Flower Sunday.

Palm Sunday commemorates the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, where he would be crucified five days later. According to the Gospels, Jesus rode into town on a donkey as exuberant crowds hailed him as the Messiah and spread out palm branches and cloaks in his path.

The event commemorated on Palm Sunday is told in all four gospels (Matthew 21, Mark 11, Luke 19, John 12). The Matthew narrative, the one most commonly read in services on Palm Sunday, tells the story this way:

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away..

The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" Palm Sunday was the fulfillment of the Prophet Daniel's "seventy sevens" prophecy: " Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times" (Daniel 9:25). John 1:11 tells us, "He (Jesus) came to His own, and His own did not receive Him." The same crowds that were crying out "Hosanna" were crying out "crucify Him" five days later (Matthew 27:22-23).

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" the crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee." (Matthew 21:1-3, 6-11)

The celebration of Palm Sunday probably originated in the churches of Jerusalem, sometime before the third or fourth century AD.

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, an especially solemn and important week in the Christian calendar that focuses on the last days of Jesus' life and anticipates Easter, the most important holiday in Christianity.

(Holy Week cont'd from page 1)

FOLLOW JESUS *through Service to Others.*

"He touched the man's ear and healed him." - Luke 22:52.....

We are called to do what we can to bring healing to others through such simple things as a kind word, a hospital visit, or a phone call.

"Woman, behold your son." **"Behold your mother."** - John 19:26,27.... Now is a perfect time for us to encourage people in their relationships and work to strengthen the bonds we share with family and friends.

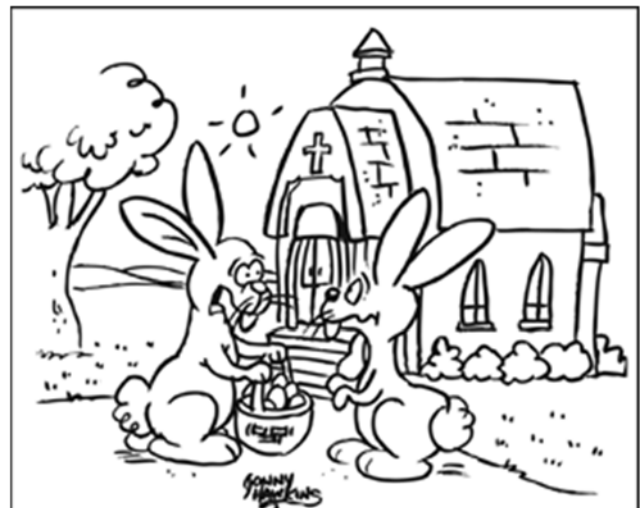
"He began to wash his disciples' feet." - John 13:5..... Our task is to serve in love and humility and to consider the needs of others first when deciding how to schedule our days.

+++++

HELP IS NEEDED FOR WORSHIP ASSISTANT



READERS ARE NEEDED
Blue Sign-up Book in Hallway



"Here at the church, I only use Resurrection Eggs."

GRADUALLY-THEN SUDDENLY!

Pastor Paul Clark,
President of Lutherans for Life of Michigan

Ernest Hemingway, in his novel, *The Sun Also Rises*, has exchange between two characters, Bill Gorton and Mike Campbell.

"How did you go bankrupt?" Bill asked.
"Two ways," Mike said. "Gradually and then suddenly."

Many people wonder how our culture has sunk to such low levels as it has, with the attack on the sanctity of human life, the way we may look at unborn babies as disposable, the acceptance by some of physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia, and of course, the ever-increasing attacks on traditional marriage and gender identity as male and female, as God created them.

How did this all happen? Of course, the answer is: Gradually, and then *suddenly*.

For years and years, those who oppose God and His Word have chipped away at such values as the right to life and traditional marriage and family structure. Then, in swift blows, things came rumbling down suddenly. And many are dazed and wonder how it could all happen so quickly.

But in the same way, we can rebuild a culture of life. We have been doing that – gradually – over many years, with our pro-life efforts at changing minds, combatting the lies, electing pro-life officials, and supporting women and their babies in their time of need.

Now, with the coming release of the Supreme Court *Dobbs* decision in June, we may have things going much more "suddenly." If the court would overturn, or even weaken, *Roe v Wade*, that would be wonderful news for our dear unborn children! But even then, there will continue to be a state-by-state battle for life. So, we must not weaken. We must not falter. The Lord of Life is with us in this battle!

For all who have been damaged by the sin of abortion – and for all who have been complicit by not speaking up in defense of innocent babies – repent, and then hear the sweet and comforting words of Jesus: "*Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.*" Matthew 11:28



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

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

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

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

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

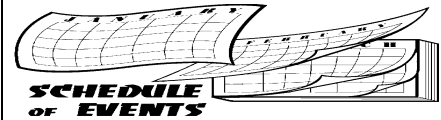
Lord God, on this day when our Lord's body lay in the tomb, give us time for rest and reflection, silence and prayer, that the full meaning of our redemption will settle upon our hearts and minds, as we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast; through Christ our Lord. Amen.



April 2022



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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 CLW Convocation
3 5th Sun. of Lent	4 Team Meetings	5	6 Lenten Service w/very light supper	7	8	Church Work Day
10 Palm Sunday	11	12	13	14 Maundy Thursday	15 GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE	16
17 CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY!	18	19 Prayer Group	20	21	22	23
24 1st Sun. after Easter	25 Rachel Group	26	27	28	29	30

- Apr. 1—April Fool's Day
- Apr. 2—CLW Convocation (see p 11)
- Apr. 3—5th Sunday of Lent
- Apr. 4—Team Meeting
- Apr. 6—Lenten Service w/very light supper 6:00 pm
- Apr. 9—14th Run for the Money (see p 12) CHURCH WOORK DAY 8:00 am
- Apr. 10—Palm Sunday
- Apr. 14—Maundy Thursday at 7:00 pm JOINT SERVICE AT ANTIOCH
- Apr. 15—Good Friday Service 7:00 pm
- Apr. 17—EASTER: Christ Has Risen Sunrise Service 7:00 pm Regular Service 11:00 am Bring flowers for cross.
- Apr. 19—Prayer Group will meet at the home of Shirlee Marazza at 1
- Apr. 24—1st Sunday after Easter
- Apr. 25—Rachel Group (see p 9)



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



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

FLOWERS

Flower Schedule:
Apr. 3 Lent
Apr. 10 Palms
Apr. 18 Easter Lilies
Apr. 25 Alice Vlaservich

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

Plenty of openings

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



Birthdays This Month

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



BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARY

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

Holy Communion Schedule:

And all Sundays

Worship Service Assistance:

Acolyte

Communion

Asst:

Nora Cole

Lay Reader:

Yvonne Finger

Worship Asst:

Yvonne Finger

Greeters:

OSLC Members

Ushers:

OSLC Members

Board Devotion: (May) Melinda White

Collection: Teri Trudnak



ANNIVERSARIES

24th.....Chris & Becky Messick

Our Saviour Lutheran Church
Anna Lowery, President
February 21, 2022 Board Minutes



Devotions: Anna Lowery

Meeting called to order by President, Anna Lowery

Members present: Alice Vlaservich, Melinda White, Anna Lowery, Teri Trudnak, Robbie Wooten

Members Absent: Becky Messick, Steve Digh

Minutes: December 2021 minutes were reviewed; Melinda White made the motion to approve the minutes and Anna Lower seconded the motion.

Reception of Petitions and Communications:

- a. **NALC Disaster Response.** The Council will gather more information to give to the congregation regarding support this cause.

Report of the Pastor: The Pastor's report was reviewed and accepted by Alice Vlaservich and Teri Trudnak.

Report of the Treasurer: Report was reviewed, and a motion was made by Melinda White to accept the Treasurer Report and seconded by Anna Lowery.

Report of the Ministries:

- a. **Property:** Need to trim trees, clean gutters and shrub maintenance
- b. **Stewardship and Finance:** None
- c. **Worship & Music:** Preparing for Lent Season
- d. **Youth Team:** No report this month
- e. **Witness:** Cards and prayers continue to be sent to shut ins. Alice is also sending bulletins to those unable to attend worship service.
- f. **Christian Education Team:** VBS discussion has begun. OSLC will participate again this year.

Report of Auxiliaries:

- a. Prayer Group continues to meet the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 1 pm;
- b. The Rachel Group met at the home of Marie Robinson for bible study and refreshments.

Old and/or Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

- a. Ash Wednesday service scheduled for 3/2/2022 at 6:30 pm; thereafter each Wednesday night at 6:30 in the Morgan classroom for Bible Study of book of Judges. Light supper provided. Please JOIN!
- b. Council: Anna Lowery, President, Alice Vlaservich, Vice President, Melinda White, Secretary, Steve Digh, Becky Messick, Teri Trudnak, Robbie Wooten
- c. Gastonia Sheet Metal cleaned out the gutters at the parsonage or \$300; a parishioner paid for this service. More repairs and cleaning needed on all campus buildings. Estimates will be obtained for future maintenance.
- d. An outstanding check to Carolina Mission Regional was

redeposited to church account.

General Information:

Attendance: BRING A FRIEND!!
 Laszlo Mission Report
 Update Parish Directory for 2022
 JAAR's statement. \$130 contribution

The Council meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting is May 16 2022 at 7pm
 Becky Messick-Devotions

**COUNCIL WILL MEET EVERY OTHER MONTH, BUT
 MAY CALL SPECIAL MEETINGS**



Cost: \$12.00 (Single Stem Deadline: April 3, 2022)

Make check payable to OSLC
 and
 put note on memo line: Easter Lilies

FORM WILL BE ENCLOSED IN BULLETIN



**CHRIST THE LORD
 IS RISEN TODAY!**

APRIL

From the Latin word **“to open”** (bud), because plants begin to grow during this month.

SYMBOLS

THE SURPRISING ORGINS OF EASTER SYMBOLS: FROM LAMBS AND LILIES

From lambs to lilies, there are many beautiful Easter symbols that have significance to us. But do you know why? The origin of the Easter egg is based on ancient fertility lore. The Easter bunny tradition came for the Germans (similar to Santa Claus). And then there are the Easter foods! Understand the symbolism and how Easter tradition began! Here's some table talk for your Easter dinner.

East is the most important feast day in the Christian church, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The feast day is “moveable” and always falls on the first Sunday after the first full Moon after the spring equinox.

EASTER EGGS



The oval-shape egg has been a universal symbol in many religions across the millennia, symbolizing new life, rebirth, and fertility.

According to *The Easter Book* by Francis X. Weiser, S.J. “[t]he origin of the Easter egg is based on the fertility lore of the Indo-European races. To our pre-Christian ancestors, it was a most startling event to see a new and live creature emerge from a seemingly dead object. The egg to them became a symbol of spring. Long ago in Persia, people used to present each other with eggs at the spring equinox, which for them also marked the beginning of a new year.”

In Judaism, eggs are an important part of the Passover seder plate. For some Christians, the egg symbolizes the rock tomb out of which Christ emerged to the new life of his Resurrection. Also, there was a practical reason that eggs became popular on Easter: They were forbidden during the 40 days of Lent. However, chickens still laid eggs, so they were often collected and decorated.

In most countries, the eggs are stained in plain vegetable dye colors. Among Orthodox Christians, the faithful present each other with crimson eggs in honor of the blood of Christ. In parts of Eastern Europe, it's tradition to create intricate designs on the eggs with wax of twine before coloring. In Germany and other countries, the eggs are pierced and made hollow so that they can be suspended from shrubs and trees during Easter Week – much like decorations on a Christmas tree.

Of course, many countries have egg hunts and games, too. Plastic eggs are often filled with candy treats, since it's ends Lent.

THE EASTER BUNNY



The “Easter Bunny” who visits children on Easter morning, was an invention of German Protestants; the *Osterhase* or “Easter Hare,” brought eggs and sweets to “good children,” in the same way that Santa Clause brought gifts to well-behaved youngsters.

The Easter Hare played this Santa Claus—like role at the start of the Easter season. Judging whether or not children has been obedient to their parents. The symbolism is not particularly religious, but we can be reasonably certain that the Lutherans of long ago were not intending to teach their children about fertility. Like Claus, the Easter Bunny is something fun to do with kids.

EASTER LAMB



Among the popular Easter symbols, the lamb is by far the most significant of this great feast. The lamb is said to symbolize Jesus, as it embodies purity and goodness, but also represents sacrifice,

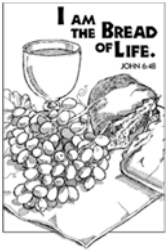
The lamb was a sacrifice made during the Jewish Passover, which is a holiday commemorating the passage of the “angel of death” over the homes of those who the blood of sacrificial lambs on their doorpost, thus sparing the firstborn sons. Roasted lamb shanks are an important part of the Passover seder plate; roasted leg of lamb is popular for Easter in Mediterranean countries such as Italy and Greece.

(April cont'd on page 8)

(April cont'd from page 7)

Jesus was crucified during Passover week and then made the ultimate sacrifice, his life. He is referred to as the "Lamb of God" and "our Passover lamb" in the Bible. During Easter, we celebrate Jesus' Passover from death to life.

EASTER BREADS



Sweet breads are also a tradition, especially with the conclusion of Lent, a period when many people do not indulge in sweets. For Christians, the resurrected Christ is called "the bread of life" (John 6:35), in whom believers will find their daily spiritual sustenance.

In Russia and Austria, the sweet breads are often marked with a cross or image of a lamb. In Germany, the Easter bread is baked in loaves of twisted or braided strands. Another kind of Austrian Easter bread is the *Osterlaib*, a large, flat, round loaf marked with the cross or an image of the lamb. In Poland and other countries, folks enjoy a special cake called the Easter *baba*.

In Greece, the traditional Easter bread is baked with a red-dyed egg on top, covered with two strips of dough in the form of a cross. In Italy, the Easter bread is braided with eggs, symbolizing new life.

HOT CROSS BUNS



Hot cross buns, hot cross buns! Traditionally, this delicious, sweet bun was served on Good Friday, the Friday prior to Easter. Good Friday marks the end of Lent and is the day that Jesus died on the cross. The sweet bun is marked with a cross to help the bread rise and as a visible sign that the bread was "blessed."

EASTER LILY



The magnificent Easter lily, with its sheer white petals, symbolizes life, purity, innocence, joy, and peace. The beautiful white flowers of the lily were connected with these traits well before Jesus Christ. Many ancient allegories connect the flower with motherhood.

In early paintings, the Angel Gabriel is seen handing a bouquet of white lilies to the Virgin Mary. In other paintings, the saints are bringing vessels full of lilies to Mary and the baby Jesus. It is said that beautiful white lilies spring up in the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus wept in the last hours before he was betrayed by Judas. The lilies sprang up where drops of Christ's sweat fell to the ground in his final hours of sorrow.

The lilies from Christ's time were not the Easter lily that we know today (*Lilium longiflorum*), which is native to the southern islands of Japan and now cultivated in areas such as California and Oregon. The lilies in Jesus' area were wild lilies of the valleys and fields. Still, our Easter lily serves as a reminder of the lilies mentioned frequently throughout the Bible. Easter lilies grace homes and churches each spring as a symbol of new life.



Worship Attendance and Our National Mental Health Crisis by Sandy Yoder

I admit my tendency to often base my columns on the insights and observations of other writer. No doubt some of you question whether I have any original thought, opinions and idea. The answer is yes I do, on occasion.

However, sometimes I come across an article that I'm convinced needs to be brought to your attention; and the sooner the better. That's definitely the case with the article, in the November, 2021 issue of *Christianity Today*, entitled "*Empty Pews Are An American Public Health Crisis*." The authors of this article are Tyler Vanderweele and Brenden Case. Vanderweele is director of the Human Flourishing Project at Harvard University, and Case is the associate director of that same program.

The "public health crisis" they are bringing to our attention is the toll decreased in-person worship attendance is taking on American public health. This crisis has been developing over many years. However, the Covid pandemic has, to an alarming degree, contributed, since early 2020, to the severity of this crisis. And it is a crisis in terms of not only mental, emotional and spiritual health, but physical health as well.

One sentence from this article expresses the authors' theme succinctly: "People find their social and personal lives improved – something their lives are even physically saved – when they go to church often."

This article cites recent Barna Group surveys, In 2011, 43% of Americans stated that they attended church weekly. In 2020, this had declined to 29%.

Another quote from the article: "A number of large, well-designed research studies have found that religious service attendance is associated with greater longevity, less depression, less suicide, less smoking, less substance abuse, better cancer and cardiovascular-disease survival, less divorce, greater social support, greater meaning in life, greater life satisfaction, more volunteering, and greater civic engagement."

And more specific to worship attendance. "Our research (at the Harvard University Human Flourishing Project) suggests that religious service attendance specifically, rather than private practices or self-assessed religiosity or spirituality, most powerfully predicts health.

And this: "Our own research indicated that declining religious service attendance account for about 40 percent of the rise in (national) suicide rates over the past 15 years. If the declines in attendance could have been prevented, how many lives could have been saved?"

Another quote: "in sum, there are a number of ways in which religious service attendance might positively influence a person's mental and physical well-being, including providing a network of social support, offering clear moral guidance, and creating relationships of accountability to reinforce positive behavior."

One more recent Barna Group survey indicates the even more immediate crisis that has developed due to the pandemic's impact on worship attendance. They found that about a third of "practicing Christians have stopped joining in-person worship completely due to the pandemic. And "this group reported higher levels of anxiety and depression that those still worshipping..."

So are there any helpful suggestions for our congregation after reading these demoralizing revelations? Absolutely. Here are three mentioned in this article.

"When the present pandemic has passed, it will be important to reestablish face-t-face meetings and service, rather than relying entirely on remote alternatives."

"This research should challenge the growing number of Americans who self-identify as "spiritual but not religious," or who harbor doubts about organized religion, to consider whether their own spiritual journeys might be better undertaken in a community of like-mind seekers and under the discipline of a tried and tested tradition of belief and practice."

"Finally, this research has implications on a more individual level. For the roughly half of all Americans who do believe in God but do not regularly attend services, the relationship between service attendance and health may constitute an invitation back to communal religious life."

And my suggestion? Perhaps read this article again, and while doing so ask yourself how these insights can guide your congregation's ministry planning for 2022.

"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." (Hebrews 10:24-25, ESV)



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Church News



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

Marilyn Finger

2701 Jackson Square, Andersin, SC 29625

Jill Petzold

Brookdale Senior Living, Rm 44,
 1680 S. New Hope Rd., Gastonia, NC 28054

(If others, please let the church office know)



Prayer Group

will meet at the home of Shirlee Marazza on April 19th
 at 1:00 pm.



Rachel Group

Will meet at the home of TBA on April 25
 At 1:30 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, SUSAN Aderholt, SETH Alexander, AMANDA (friend of the Penley's), MARVIS Anderson, WHITNEY Auten (breast cancer), KELLY Ballard (friend of Shana Dease), ADDISON Blanton (friend of Dease's), KATHY Bohanan (cancer), MARTHA JO Bonnett (friend of Alice Vlaservich - cancer) KAREN Brady, JACKIE Carpenter (friend of Alice Vlaservich-liver cancer), MI-CHAEL Clemmer (Alice Vlaservich's brother-back surgery), SYLVIA Cloninger (friend of Nick Vlaservich), MIKE Coffey (Robbie Wooten's uncle), STEVE Cloninger (friend of Brady Ratchford-cancer), BEVERLY Copeland (friend of Robbie's-cancer), STEVE Digh (cancer), RENEE Falkenberg (shoulder), HARDY Feige (Pete's dad - chronic back pain), GLEEN Fraizer (friend of Steve & Julie Digh [cancer]), NANCY Friday, BECKY Goodwin (friend of Brady's - cancer), JAMES Goudelock (cancer), JASON Hames (friend of the White's), GRACE Harbin (friend of Robbie Wooten-cancer), JEAN Huffstetler (two broken wrist), JEFF Lineberger (stroke), JOYCE in Morganton (Nick & Alice Vlaservich's acquaintance-cancer), DANA Kirshman (friend of Robbie Wooten-cancer), JACK Lonon (Kasey Digh's step-father-cancer), MARINA Marazza (Shirlee Marazza's granddaughter-Covid19), BO Messick (foot), FRANCIS McAllister (broken hip), CHRIS Messick (recovering back surgery), JASON, ALLISON & LEX Murray, ELLEN & ED Pfeiffer (Keenan Gordy's Parents - Heart issues), GARY Neal, (friend of Caleb Dease), SONDRRA Phillips (friend of Melinda White), TERI Trudnak, RONNIE Shiles (friend of Brady Ratchford-declining health), MARTHA Surratt (friend of Alice Vlaservich-cancer). TONY Trudnak (cancer reoccurring), GARY Turner (father of Jason Murray), HAL White, JOE White (stroke), NANCY Wilson, REESE Wilson (blood cancer). MARY BETH Wright (cousin of Nick Vlaservich -cancer).

EVENTS for Lutheridge -Lutherock, and Kure/Agape Beach

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

You can visit their website
by

visiting OSLC website
oslc-nc.org

and go to links

and click on their name.

GOD WANTS YOU!

- (1) God wants you to participate in His worship service for **2021** by servicing as a worship assistant, reader, communion assistant, Greeter or Usher
 See the sign up sheet on the bulletin board and please help.
- (2) New Flower Calendar is up. Please remember your love ones and also help decorate our Lord's altar. **Cost of Flowers has increased to \$35.10 There are 7 openings**

A Stewardship Minute

Giving is an adventure that makes one feel good about life. So why wouldn't every one choose to be givers? Giving our energy, talent, time and financial resources to serve as God directs us can provide untold happiness!

A Phoenix newspaper recently carried the story of a successful businessman named Jim Pierce. He was born to a couple who were both alcoholics. During his youth, he was abused in too many ways to mention. Yet, he said, "When you're beaten, a lot of times you have an out-of-body experience." In his pain, he called upon God and one day he made a vow,

saying "God, if you send help, I promise when I grow up, I will help others." Over time help came. Good stewards like caring teachers, concerned relatives, and church people ministered to him.

It seems unbelievable how his life evolved. He became a sensible, well-balanced person and went to one of the finest business schools in America, became an accountant, and eventually became a leading executive of a successful business.

He also fulfilled his pledge to help prevent child abuse and was honored by being given the Heart of Compassion Award by Childhelp, an organiza-

tion dedicated to the prevention and treatment of child abuse. He said, "I felt the award was God's way of telling me that I held up my end of the bargain I made many years ago." As a dedicated steward, Jim has participated in an adventure that made him feel good about life and he has experienced happiness in good measure. For more on this story, please refer to the April issue of *Stewardship*.

Prayer: Loving God, prevent us from failing to be good stewards in our time on earth. Stir us up to be ready at all times to say, "Gracious Lord, use me in whatever way you choose. May I always serve you well." In Christ's name. **Amen**

2022 CAROLINAS LUTHERAN WOMEN ANNUAL CONVOCATION



*"Coffee Break -
Time With God"*

*Please Join Us
Saturday - April 2, 2022*

 **TIME:**

Registration from 8:45-9:30
Meeting begins at 9:30
\$8.00 Registration (includes lunch)

WHERE: 

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church
205 S Main St.
Faith, NC 28041



2022 MISSION EMPHASIS FOR APRIL

*Experience the Spirit
Christ, Creation, Community*

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

AGAPE/KURE BEACH MINISTRIES

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

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

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

AGAPE SUMMER CAMP is just around the corner!

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

Check out the website: www.agapekurebeach.org

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

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

Join us at Kure Beach Retreat Center

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

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

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

Website: www.agape/kurebeach.org Phone: 919-552-9421

2022 MISSION EMPHASIS FOR APRIL – Lutheran Camps in and around NC

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

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

(Mission cont'd on page 13)

(Mission cont'd from page 12)

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

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

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

Check out the website at www.novusway.org and find out the opportunities. Get in your early registration by May 15 and there is a discount.

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

Summer camping for children will include:

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

Check out the website at www.novusway.org and find out the opportunities they offer.

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





The Community Foundation of Gaston County, Inc.
invites you to
2022 Community Foundation Race!

The Community Foundation Run is an annual fundraising event for local nonprofits facilitated by the Foundation. On the day of the Run, over 5,000 people come together for one of the biggest celebrations of community spirit and support in the county.

When: The 2022 Run will be held IN PERSON on **Saturday, April 9, 2022 at 9am.**

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

What: 5K Run, 2K Fun Walk

Where: Downtown Gastonia

How:

To participate in the Community Foundation Run, nonprofits are required to attend an informational meeting. The meetings are held virtually each year in October. The deadline to participate in the 2022 Run has passed, but mark your calendar for the informational meetings for the 2023 Run beginning in October.

On Tuesday, February 1st, 2022 registration will open and the Foundation will begin accepting donations. Stay tuned!

About:

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

Dollars given to the Match Fund will be applied to the matching grant, which benefits ALL participating nonprofits. Dollars earmarked for certain nonprofits will go to the specific organization(s) named. For qualifying agencies, up to \$10,000 of total dollars raised will be matched by a percentage based on a ratio of the total amount of dollars collected in the match pot compared to the amount of eligible donor contributions. Gaston County schools share a \$15,000 cap.

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



TREE TRIMMING AND OTHER WORK
APRIL 9 BEGINNING AT 8:00 AM



SUNRISE BREAKFAST

Sunday, April 17, 2022
AFTER SUNRISE SERVICE



Maundy Thursday

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

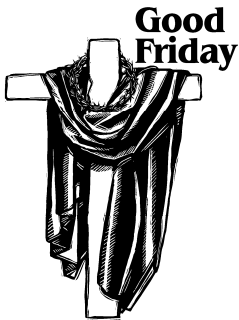
Finally, after many weeks of Lenten discipline and observance, we arrive at the Upper Room, where Jesus institutes the Last Supper. How wonderful that the meal Jesus shared with His disciples that night so long ago, we continue to share with Him today.

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

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

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

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



Good Friday

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

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

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

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

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

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



2022 Lenten Daily Devotion



April 1: Friday of the Fourth Week of Lent... Gospel Reading: John 7:1-2, 10, 25-0

"...I know him, because I am from him and he sent me."

Give testimony to God's infinite love by performing a corporal or spiritual work of mercy.



April 2: Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent... Gospel Reading: John 7:40-53

"Some in the crowd who heard these works said, 'This is truly the Prophet.' Others said, 'This is the Christ,'" John 7:40-41

Give testimony to God's infinite love by performing a corporal or spiritual work of mercy.



April 3: Fifth Sunday of Lent... Gospel Reading: John 11:1-45

"Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise.'" John 11:23

Pray the "Our Father" while meditating on the gift of eternal life.



April 4: Monday of the Fifth Week of Lent... Gospel Reading: John 8:12-20

"Jesus spoke to them again, saying 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'" John 8:12

Perform a small act of kindness for a stranger today to proclaim God's greatness.



April 5: Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Lent... Gospel Reading: John 8:21-30

"He said to them, 'You belong to what is below, I belong to what is above. You belong to this world, but I do not belong to this world. That is why I told you that you will die in your sins. For if you do not believe that I AM, you will die in your sins.'" John 8:23-24

Consider the damages caused by sin, and strive to love God above all else.



April 6: Wednesday of the Fifth Week of Lent... Gospel Reading: John 8:31-42

"If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'" John 8:1-32

God to help you prepare your heart for the celebration of the Death and Resurrection of His Son.

(Lent cont'd on page 16)

(Lent cont'd from page 15)



April 7: Thursday of the Fifth Week of Lent... Gospel Reading: John 8:51-59

"Jesus said to the Jews; 'Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever keeps my word will never see death.'" John 8:51

Pray a prayer of your choosing for the courage to place your trust in God's providence.



April 8: Friday of the Fifth Week of Lent... Gospel Reading: John 10:31-42

"Jesus answered them, 'I have shown you many good works from my Father. For which of these are you trying to stone me.'" John 10:32

Ask Jesus to teach you how to humbly accept the crosses you bear.



April 9: Saturday of the Fifth Week of Lent... Gospel Reading: John 11:45-46

"So the chief priests and the Pharisees convened the Sanhedrin and said, 'What are we going to do? This man is performing many signs.'" John 11:47

Extra time today to quietly contemplate a passage from Sacred Scripture, and pray for an increase of faith, hope, and charity.



April 10: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord... Gospel Reading: Luke 22:4—23:56 or 23:1-49

"But Peter said, 'My friend, I do not know what you are talking about.' Just as he was saying this, the cock crowed, and he Lord turned and looked at Peter; and Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, 'Before the cock rows today, you will deny me three times.'" Luke 23:60-61

Pray that all our pastors may remain faithful to their ministry.



April 11: Monday of Holy Week... Gospel Reading: John 12:1-11

"Mary took a liter of costly perfumed oil made from genuine aromatic nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and dried them with her hair; the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil" John 12:3

Consider the way in which Mary humbled herself before Jesus, and ask God to inspire within you the virtue of true humility.



April 12: Tuesday of Holy Week... Gospel Reading: John 13:21-33, 36-38

"Master, who is it? Jesus answered, 'It is the one to whom I hand the morsel after I have pipped it.' So he dipped the morsel and took it and handed it to Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot. After Judas took the morsel, Satan entered him" John 13:25-27

Provide kind words of encouragement to a friend or lived one who is experiencing a crisis in faith.

(Lent cont'd on page 17)

(Lent cont'd from page 16)



April 13: Wednesday of Holy Week... Gospel Reading: Matthew 26:14-25

“Then one of the Twelve, who was call Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, ‘What are you willing to give me if I had him over to you?’ They paid him thirty pieces of silver, and from that time on h looked for an opportunity to hand him over” Matthew 26:14-16

Pray for true conversion of heart, so that you might turn permanently away from all that separates you for the love of God.



April 14: Holy Thursday... Gospel Reading: John 13:1-15

“Do you realize what I have done for you? You call me ‘teacher’ and ‘teacher,’ and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do.” John 13:12-15

Spend time in the church or in a quiet place, praying with Our Lord, and keeping him company in the Garden of Gethsemane while He awaits the suffering He is to endure.



April 15: Good Friday of the Passion of the Lord... Gospel Reading: John 18:1—19:42

“When Jesus had taken the wine, he said, ‘It is finished.’ And bowing his head he handed over the spirit.” John 19:13

Provide kind words of encouragement to a friend or lived one who is experiencing a crisis in faith.



April 16: Holy Saturday... Gospel Reading: Luke 24:1-12

“But Peter got up and ran to the tomb, bent down, and saw the burial cloth alone; then he went home amazed at what had happened” Luke 12:12

Abstain from frivolous activities and make an effort to focus your thoughts throughout the day on the death of Jesus for your Salvation.



April 17: Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord... Gospel Reading: John 20:1-9

“Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the scripture that he had to rise from the dead” John 20:8-9

Celebrate the glory of the Resurrection and share the joyful news of the Risen Christ!



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



NALC
North American Lutheran Church

WORSHIP SERVICES

April 2022

April 14, 7:00 pm



April 15, 7:00 pm



April 17
Worship, 11:00 am



EASTER