



# Our Saviour's Good News

Volume XIX, Issue VIII

August 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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## Finding Jesus in Jerusalem

by Bishop John Bradosky

Writing this while visiting Jerusalem as ecumenical observers of the 2018 Global Anglican Future Conference, we had some time to visit the Old City, the Way of Sorrows of our Lord's procession from Pilate to the empty tomb, and other significant locations from the life, death and resurrection of our Lord and the early Church.

Along the way, we were blessed by our colleague, interpreter and "tour guide" for this trip, Pastor Bassam Abdallah, a retired NALC pastor, who was born in Jerusalem but served his entire ministry as a Lutheran pastor in the United States.

One interesting (and tragic) bit of information we learned from Pastor Bassam is that there is a disorder called "Jerusalem syndrome."

According to Wikipedia, "Jerusalem syndrome is a group of mental phenomena involving the presence of either religiously themed obsessive ideas, delusions or other psychosis-like experiences that are triggered by a visit to the city of Jerusalem."

While this takes place in a variety of ways for different persons, it seems to be manifested most commonly among Christians who come to Jerusalem expecting to find Jesus, expecting to have a transformative spiritual experience. Despite being overwhelmed amid the myriad significant historical places, churches and shrines, these persons are also disappointed that they do not "find" or "experience" Jesus as they had expected. They do not have the long-hoped-for, life-changing transformation they traveled so far to finally receive.

While I have always dreamed of that day when I would be able to visit Jerusalem and Israel, I had no unrealistic expectations. I did not anticipate my faith would be strengthened nor affected by the visit. Don't misunderstand me, I have been impressed and moved by walking where Jesus walked. Tears have come readily. There are places where silence is the only appropriate response — the Garden of Gethsemane, the place of Jesus' flogging and torture, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher — as we ponder and pray about our Lord's passion and death, for us and for our salvation.

While visiting Jerusalem is a high point of my life, I did not come looking for Jesus in some unique or transformative way, nor did I expect to encounter the Risen Christ in Jerusalem.

A visit to the Holy Land can be interesting, renewing and powerful in bringing the accounts of Holy Scripture to life in a new and concrete manner. But you don't need to come to Israel to "find Jesus." Why?

Because the good news is that Jesus is no longer tied to Jerusalem or the Holy Land! Jesus is not holed up in the churches, shrines and streets of the Old City, waiting for us to come visit him if we have the time and money to make the pilgrimage.

The good news is that "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth" ([John 1:14](#)).

The good news is that our risen, ascended Lord is with us, in Word and Sacrament, where two or three are gathered in his name.

While God may be present where and when he wills, Martin Luther affirms again and again that for our sake, our Lord is present for us in the *means of grace*: the Word, written, read and preached, and broken and poured out for us in the Lord's Supper, specifically, mercifully, so that in the midst

(Finding Jesus con't on page 3)



# Franklin Graham: Don't Hate God's Chosen People

By Franklin Graham, Decision Magazine – June 1, 2024

While I was preaching the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in Kraków, Poland, this spring, I visited the infamous Auschwitz concentration camp, where 1.3 million people, mostly Jews, were held captive, tortured, raped and murdered almost 80 years ago. Multitudes were gassed to death with cyanide, and their bodies then put into ovens and incinerated. In total, the brutal Nazi regime slaughtered more than 6 million Jews across Europe during the Second World War.

Auschwitz made me wonder if mankind has learned a lesson. Could such virulent antisemitism ever erupt again?

It didn't take too long to find out.

I had planned to visit some missionary friends in the Middle East following the Festival in Kraków, but those plans were interrupted when airspace in the region was closed in the aftermath of Iran's April 14 attack on Israel. Iran, a terrorist state, launched more than 300 missiles and drones against Israel. Thanks to defensive assistance from the United States, U.K., and regional forces, most were shot down. Otherwise, many Jewish citizens might have perished—perhaps even more than the 1,200 who died last October when Israel was attacked by Hamas, Iran's agents on Israel's border.

After returning home, I was stunned to see the surge of raucous anti-Israel demonstrations across this nation. From coast to coast, loud protesters filled streets and took over college campuses, not only claiming to support Palestinians but also raging against Israel. The protesters seemed oblivious to the brutality of Hamas, which butchered men, women and children; decapitated babies; and ripped women's wombs open in the Oct. 7 raid on Israel.

Incredibly, college campuses such as Columbia, NYU, Harvard, MIT and Yale—supposedly where America's best and brightest are educated—were filled with hateful rants and deadly threats from pro-Hamas supporters. It was hard to fathom, given the fact that radical Islam rules the entire Gaza strip, where women are oppressed and demeaned. Do you suppose the young women who demonstrated so fervently for Hamas would actually want to live under their rule?

A poll of Generation Z voters—which encompasses today's college students—found that nearly half believe Israel's campaign against Hamas is unjust. One-third of Gen Z thinks Israel does not have the right to exist as a country.

Nowhere was the insanity more evident than at Columbia University in New York City, where hundreds of students camped out on the campus, shutting down the college while occupying a campus building. They shouted obscene and despicable rants, such as: "We are Hamas ... Hamas makes us proud, kill another [Jewish] soldier now ... Burn Tel-Aviv to the ground."

Clearly, antisemitism—the hatred of Jewish people—has infected much of American culture, and remains as poisonous and prevalent as ever on the global stage. I have no idea if there will ever again be anything on the scale of Auschwitz. I certainly hope not, but we must be ever vigilant. The Bible gives a straightforward answer for those who have so fervently despised the Jews through the centuries.

Why does the world hate the Jewish people? I believe it is because God chose them out of all the nations on Earth as His special people in order to bring us a Savior. He didn't choose the Scots or the Irish or any other people group. As a result, the devil and all his demons do everything they can to destroy the nation of Israel, to destroy the Jewish people.

"The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the Lord loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers" (Deuteronomy 7:7-8).

Starting with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the Old Testament is the continuing story of God's dealing with His chosen, covenant people. From Genesis to Malachi, the Bible tells us of Almighty God's blessing, discipline, chastisement, and unbreakable promises for the often stubborn, sometimes repentant Jewish people. It is the story of their obedience and disobedience, of their kings and prophets, their prosperity and their disgrace.

After thousands of years of Jewish history and 400 years of silence following the Prophet Malachi—the last book of the Old Testament—the New Testament is the story of the Gospel, the Good News of the sacrificial death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Jewish God-Man born to young Jewish parents in the Jewish town of Bethlehem, raised in the Jewish town of Nazareth, and crucified in the Jewish capital of Jerusalem.

The Gospel is for every age, and for every person of every nationality—Jew or Gentile—who comes to saving faith in the Person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. Ethnicity makes no difference. Faith in the sacrificial, substitutionary, atoning

(Franklin cont'd on page 3)

**(Franklin cnt'd from page 2)**

work of the cross and Jesus' glorious resurrection from the tomb is the only thing that matters. Those who receive the Son of God into their hearts through faith are now the true Israel. "But you are a chosen people ... Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God" (1 Peter 2:9-10, NIV).

Sadly, most of the Jewish leaders of Jesus' day turned away from the Messiah. They, like every other unregenerate person, rejected the saving work of the Risen Savior, and refused to love "the Way, the Truth and the Life" in whom the world may be saved (John 14:6).

This is why we preach the Gospel to as many as we can and as often as we can, that spiritual blindness and deadness to God might be overcome through the preaching of the living Word of God and the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit. We want to see thousands upon thousands enter into the eternal Kingdom of God by His mercy and saving grace. Many have done so already this year through our 10-city Southern Border Tour, and through our global Festivals, and the outreaches my son Will holds around the world. I'm scheduled to preach the Gospel this month in the United Kingdom (Birmingham and Glasgow) and in Naples, Italy, in September. Please be in prayer.

Let's remember, however, that God still has a special place in His heart for His covenant people, and that He promises to bless those who bless Israel and curse those who curse Israel (Genesis 12:3). We know that He has promised to preserve a remnant of believing Jewish people, and that in the End Times many of His people will be gloriously saved, people representing all 12 Jewish tribes. In the meantime, let's always be careful to "pray for the peace of Jerusalem" (Psalm 122:6).

Now more than ever.

*Unless otherwise specified, Scripture quotations are taken from The Holy Bible, New King James Version. The Scripture quotation marked NIV is taken from The Holy Bible, New International Version.*

**(Finding Jesus con't from page 1)**

of pain, struggle, grief, loneliness and difficulty, we don't have to go looking for him. We don't have to attempt great spiritual journeys of heart, mind or body to discover Jesus in far-off, hard-to-reach places. Rather, God is with us wherever the Word is read and shared. Jesus is with us as we receive him in the foretaste of the feast to come, in Holy Communion. God is with us at prayer group, potluck, hospital or bedside, as two or three disciples gather together, in Christ's name. As biblical, sacramental Christians, we take seriously Christ's real presence among us, where we are, where we live and move and interact — not in Jerusalem or Rome. Our worship is not focused on us and our ability to spiritually perceive and connect with an abstract, ethereal Lord present only for those spiritually attuned enough to experience him.

The good news is that Jesus comes to us, and his is an "objective" presence — he comes to us regardless of us. He comes to us even when we are so troubled or distracted in life that we fail to see him or know that he is with us. His presence is not an accomplishment or a destination for the hyperfaithful, but the gift of God for those of us who are not saintly, or sanctified or prepared. This is the good news.

And this relates to ministry in the NALC and in our congregations because we often fail to understand this ourselves or to share it with others. It may be that these "Jerusalem syndrome" Christians go looking for Jesus in Jerusalem because they do not grasp the miracle of the Incarnation — the good news of "God with us" in Word and Sacrament.

If we think of Jesus' presence as a spiritualized presence, then perceiving his presence often depends upon our persistence in seeking him and finding him. Most of the time, I am not so spiritually perceptive or sensitive. I am a Lutheran because we believe that God comes to us, that Jesus' presence depends, not upon me and my spiritual extra-sensory perception, but upon the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.

The more we lift that up in our congregations, celebrating God with us, incarnate, present objectively in the Word and the Sacraments, the more we may find the lonely, the sick, the lost — yes, the sinner — joining us as we gather around Christ's real presence among us.

Let us have Word and Sacrament be the center of worship and of our life together as Christians, Lutherans and the NALC. Let us worship as if Christ is truly present — because he is! Let us commit ourselves to reading, studying, living in the Word, because the Word proclaims Jesus, crucified, risen and now present with us. Let us so conduct ourselves in our congregations, homes and families that we respect and reflect the very presence of our Lord Jesus, with us every moment of our lives — and with us until the close of the age. Let us share that real, true, objective presence with others, as we connect with visitors, neighbors, friends — life to life, one on one — in home and church and daily life, that Jesus may reach them, through us.



## The Doctrine of the Assumption of the Mary

**August 15:** The Assumption is a doctrine that teaches that the Blessed Virgin Mary had been taken up, body and soul, into heaven. This process is called "translation" in the Bible and there are two notable examples in the scripture, Enoch (Hebrews 11:5) and Elijah (2 Kings 2:11). At the Council of Chalcedon in A.D. 451, when bishops from throughout the Mediterranean met in Constantinople, Emperor Marcian asked the Patriarch of Jerusalem to bring the relics of Mary to Constantinople to be enshrined in the capitol. The patriarch explained to the emperor that there were no relics of Mary in Jerusalem, that "Mary had died in the presence of the apostles; but her tomb, when opened later . . . was found empty and so the apostles concluded that the body was taken up into heaven." There is no scriptural evidence to support or deny this doctrine as applied to Mary.



### **GO OUT ON A LIMB** **GET INVOLVED**

BE A WORSHIP ASSISTANT  
Positions are still open.

Participate in the service of the Lord and sign  
Sign up sheets  
for the 2024 calendar year in a notebook  
on the church office door.  
THANK YOU!



**YOUR HELP IS NEED.**  
**WE DO NOT HAVE ANY**  
**WORSHIP ASSISTANCE, ETC.**  
**FOR**  
**OCTOBER, NOVEMBER AND**  
**DECEMBER**

## House Votes to Reject Title IX Changes

Decision Magazine, July 12, 2024

The U.S. House of Representatives voted on Thursday to pass a joint resolution that would stop the Biden administration's radical changes to Title IX, which was originally drafted largely to give equal opportunities for females in the workplace and in educational settings.

House Joint Resolution 165 (H.J. Res. 165) declares that Congress disapproves of the Biden administration's Final Rule on Title IX, which adds "gender identity" as a protected class under the anti-sex discrimination law. The House action puts the 1996 Congressional Review Act into practice, a law that allows Congress to cancel federal agencies' rules when both houses of Congress disapprove through joint resolutions

"Title IX came around in 1972 and swung open the doors to college athletics for women, who'd historically been excluded from such opportunities," said Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-North Carolina). "By adding gender identity to Title IX's protected classes, the radical Left and the Biden administration will tear down women's sports and eliminate safe and private spaces for girls. The rule puts a man's perceived feelings of femininity on par with actual womanhood, rooted in biological sex."

H.J. Res. 165 passed after debate on Thursday along party lines with a 210-205 vote, with 10 Republicans and eight Democrats not voting. It now heads to the Senate.

Earlier this year, the Department of Education issued a Final Rule on Title IX, changing several aspects of the law, including adding gender identity to the definition of sex. The rule would force schools to allow gender-confused students to participate in school programs and activities consistent with their self-proclaimed gender identity. This, many argue, opens the door for biological males who identify as female to use private spaces, play on female sports teams and have educational opportunities meant for females, putting girls' and women's safety and opportunities at risk.

"We recently celebrated the 52nd anniversary of this body passing Title IX," said Rep. Mary Miller (R-Illinois) during House debate. "Fifty-two years ago, everyone saw the need for equal opportunities in education, scholarships and athletics for our girls. Title IX was enacted to do just that, but Joe Biden's new rule will erase those protections and opportunities for our girls."

"Biden wants to force biological men into our girls' showers and bathrooms, and the Biden Title IX Rule will be the end of girls' sports. The prospect of this is sickening, and parents across this country are horrified."

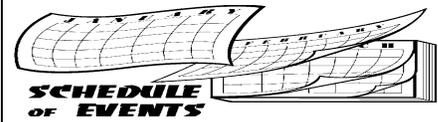
Foxx added, "My womanhood is not a costume, nor is my daughter's or my granddaughter's. . . . Biological sex exists. It existed when Title IX was first drafted, it still exists today."

*Above: Rep. Mary Miller (R-Illinois) urges her colleagues in the House to vote in favor of H.J. Res. 165 during debate on July 11, 2024.*

# August 2024



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



	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	5	6 National Night Out	7 PURPLE HEART Day	8	9	10 Concert on the Square
11 12 <sup>th</sup> Sun. after Pentecost	12	13	14		16	17
18 13 <sup>th</sup> Sun. after Pentecost	19	20	21	22	23	24 Concert on the Square
25 14 <sup>th</sup> Sun. after Pentecost	26	27 CLW Mtg.	28	29	30	31

- August 4—11th Sunday after Pentecost
- August 4—Friendship Day (see p 13)
- August 6—Police Nat'l Night Out (see p 13)
- August 7—Purple Heart Day (see p 6)
- August 10— Concert on the Square (see p 9)
- August 11—12th Sunday after Pentecost
- August 15—Assumption of Mary (see p 4)
- August 20— Prayer Group will meet at the home of Shirlee Marazza—2:00 pm (p 7)
- August 18—13th Sunday after Pentecost
- August 24— Concert on the Square (see p 9)
- August 25—14th Sunday after Pentecost
- August 27—Women's Group will meet at the home of Betty Clemmer 2:00 pm (p 7)



FOOD FOR THE MONTH: **Crackers, Peanut Butter, Beanie Weenies**



Choir Practice TBA in the bulletin



- 5 Jake Spurrier
- 12 Roselee Sanchez
- 12 Penny Wilson
- 17 Ethan Petzold
- 18 Katie Sanderson
- 20 Shana Dease
- 23 Preston Clemmer
- 23 Jacob White.
- 25 Nora Cole
- 25 Kasey Digh



BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARY

- Joe Finger
- Betty Clemmer
- Jeff Dease
- Dan Clemmer, Jr.
- Tony Trudnak
- Preston Clemmer
- Jack Lowery
- Will Trudnak
- Caleb Dease



**Holy Communion Schedule:**  
All Sundays

**Worship Service Assistance:**

- Acolyte: Nora Cole
- Communion Asst: Nora Cole
- Lay Reader: Yvonne Finger
- Worship Asst: Yvonne Finger
- Greeters: Members of OSLC
- Ushers: Members of OSLC

Collection: Yvonne Finger  
Devotions Sept: Alice Vlaservich



- 4<sup>th</sup> .....Reid & Mariel Schmideler
- 13<sup>th</sup> .....Doyle & Darlene Clemmer
- 23<sup>rd</sup> .....Bill & Teri Trudnak
- 29<sup>th</sup> .....Jeff & Shana Dease

## FLOWERS

**Flower Schedule:**

- August 4 OPEN
- August 11 Nick Vlaservich
- August 18 Brady Ratchford
- August 25 OPEN

\$35.00

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

## A Stewardship Minute

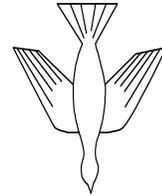
This means that everything of worth we have is on loan to us from our God: Our bodies, our brains, our talents, possessions, and the time we have here on earth. Whatever we have is on loan to us from our loving Creator. The only thing we will have left at the time of our death is our spirit. The bottom line regarding our time here on earth, whether short or long, is the quality of our stewardship. Either we are faithful and diligent servants of God or we are not. Recall Jesus' message about judgment day found in Matthew 25? He said that on judgment day, the sheep representing good stewards would be on his right hand and the goats representing the poor stewards would be on his left

hand. The sheep would be welcomed into the kingdom and the goats would not have that honor. The sheep represented the good and faithful servants of the Lord and the goats were the opposite.

The good stewards had fed the hungry, given them water to drink, found clothes for the poor, visited the sick, welcomed the stranger, and even visited those in prison. Good stewards are a caring, loving, giving and thoughtful group of the Lord's people. The others are not. They are a selfish group with little concern about the needs of the poor, the sick, the hungry, the friendless, and the mistreated. Jesus said, "I am among you as one who serves." (Matthew 22:27) He was...and you and I should be people

who serve as well.

**Prayer:** Lord of all, we remember that you lived a life of caring and serving. Stir up our own zeal and concern that we may follow your lead closely day by day, year by year. In your name we pray. **Amen**



**August 7<sup>th</sup>**

### HISTORY OF PURPLE HEART DAY

The original Purple Heart, designated as a Badge of Merit, was awarded by George Washington in 1782. There was a lack of funds in the Continental Army at the time so the award was a way to honor enlisted and deserving people. The honor is presented to soldiers for "any singularly meritorious action." It was designed with a piece of silk bound through it with a thin edge of silver. Washington only gave out three of the badges himself, and instead authorized subordinates to issue the badges as they saw fit.

The Badge of Merit faded from use but was revived and relaunched in 1932, this time as the Purple Heart. As well as honoring those wounded in combat, this iteration of the Purple Heart recognized commendable action. It was in 1944 that the policy was tweaked slightly and the Purple Heart was given the purpose we know it for today, specifically to honor those who have been wounded or died.

The first service member to be given the modern Purple Heart was General Douglas MacArthur for his service in the Pacific theater during World War II. In total there have been 1.8 million Purple Hearts awarded over the years.

Purple Heart Day was first observed in 2014 and has been observed every year since. It's a chance to reflect on the bravery of those who have fought for the U.S. and to ensure that their courage is never forgotten.



# 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



## 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: [kurebeach@agapekurebeach.org](mailto:kurebeach@agapekurebeach.org)

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

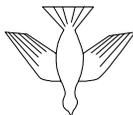
Directions to Camp Agapé are on the web site.

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) or the Church's website for a link

You can also pull this link up through Church's website.



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



"Prayer Group" will meet at the home of Shirlee Marazza August 20, 2:00 pm



"Women's Group" will meet at the home of Betty Clemmer On August 27 at 2:00 pm.

**LET US PRAY...** "Are any among you suffering? They should pray...The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up." (James 5:13-15)



MARGARET Addington, SETH Alexander, AMANDA (friend of the Penley's), MARVIS Anderson, WHITNEY Auten (breast cancer), 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), BECKY Goodwin (friend of Brady's - 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), SONDRÁ 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.



# *The Gospel Alphabet*

Take of on a Bible Adventure  
An easy and fun way to memorize Scripture

**A**ll have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. *Romans 3:23*

**B**ehold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. *John 1:29b*

**C**ome to me, all who labor and are heaven laden, and I will you rest. *Matthew 11:28*

**D**raw near to God and He will draw near to you. *James 4:8a*

**E**ven so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish. *Matthew 18:14*

**F**or by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God. *Ephesians 2:8*

**G**od so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. *John 3:16*

**H**im that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out. *John 6:37a KJV*

**I** am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. *John 14:6b*

**J**esus answered and said to them. His is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent. *John 6:29*

**K**nock, and it will be opened to you. *Matthew 7:7c*

**L**ook to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! *Isaiah 45:22a*

**M**y grace is sufficient for you. *2 Corinthians 12:9b*

**N**ow is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. *2 Corinthians 6:2b*

**P**eace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. *John 14:27*

**Q**uicken me according to Thy Word. *Psalms 119:154b KJV*

**R**est to the Lord, and wait patiently for Him. *Psalms 37:7a*

**S**eek, and you will find. *Matthew 7:7b*

**T**he blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanses us from sin. *1 John 1:7b*

**U**nto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. *Luke 2:11 KJV*

**V**erily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on Me hath everlasting life. *John 6:47 KJV*

**W**hat will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? *Mark 8:36*

**E**xcept a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God. *John 3:3b KJV*

**Y**ou are not your own...For you were bought at a price. *1 Corinthians 6:19b-20a*

**Z**ealous for good works. *Titus 2:14c*

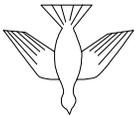


**LOCK BOX PROGRAM**

The Dallas Fire Department offers a lock box program to the Town of Dallas residents in the event of a medical emergency and the resident cannot open the door emergency responders, The lock box will be installed by the Fire Department.

Program is free of charge.

Call 704-922-7736 or 980-745-5192



# DALLAS POLICE DEPARTMENT NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

August 6, Cloninger Park, 5:30-7 pm

Come out & enjoy a night with Dallas's PD



National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.

Millions of neighbors take part in National Night Out across thousands of communities from all fifty states, U.S. territories and military bases worldwide on the first Tuesday in August (Texas and select areas celebrate on the first Tuesday in October). Neighborhoods host block parties, festivals, parades, cookouts and various other community events with safety demonstrations, seminars, youth events, visits from emergency personnel, exhibits and much, much more

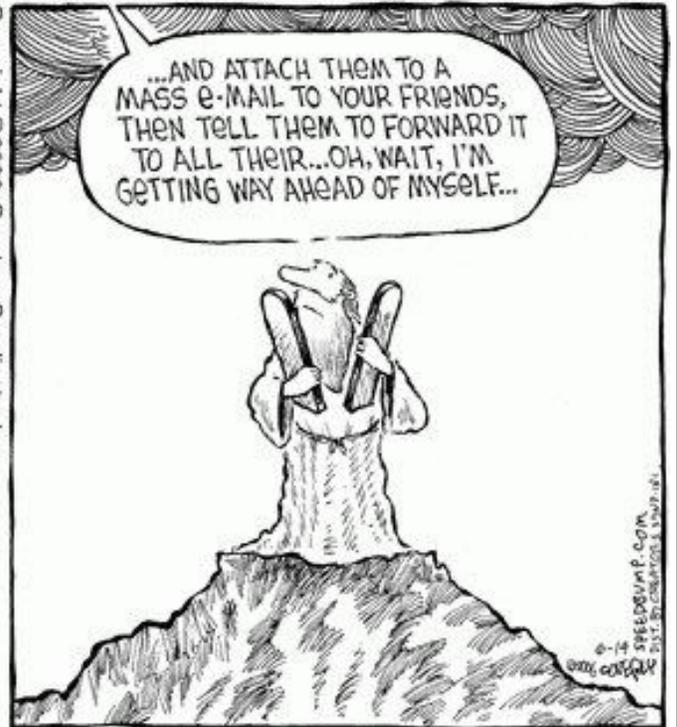
## 2024 Court Square Summer Concert

(presented by the Town of Dallas)

Held on the Dallas Historic Court Square, from 7:00—10:00 pm, each FREE concert will feature amazing talent (rain or shine). Enjoy the concerts. Food Vendors present.

- ◆ **Saturday, August 12th— Concert Caleb Davis**
- ◆ **Saturday, August 24th— Concert THE Catalinas**
- ◆ **Saturday, September 14th— Concert Chris Taylor & The Rumor**

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2024 August Mission Emphasis –  
34<sup>th</sup> WALK FOR LIFE (CPC)  
Friday, September 6, 2024  
*“Walk the Walk”*

## 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.

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.

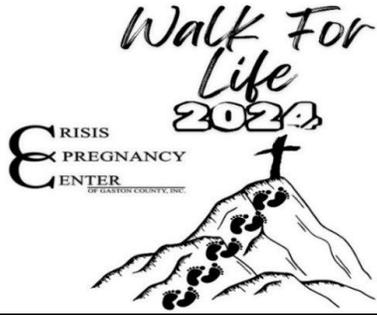
From that humble beginning, the Crisis Pregnancy Center of Gaston County has been in three pivotal rental locations and finally was able to purchase property and a home in July 1996. The journey from those initial days included leadership from diversely skilled Board of Director Members, to Executive 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 50,000+ 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. inifitnum, are making the future as bright as God's genius and calling.

**(CPC Mission cont'd on page 11)**



34th Annual WALK 4 LIFE  
 700/800 Robinson Road  
 Gastonia, NC

**September 6, 2024**  
**4:00-8:00 PM**

**For more information, call us at 704-867-3706**

Dear Walk for Life Supporter,

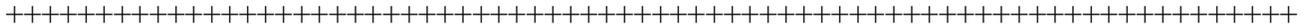
Our Annual Walk for Life is quickly approaching. The big day is Friday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. We are so excited about the possibilities of seeing what God is going to do through each of you. We want you to be a part of this year's historic 34th Annual Walk for Life. We are trusting in Him to pull this all together as only He can do. It is totally in His hands! Our foundational scripture this year is **Isaiah 52:7 NIV**:

*"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!'"*

We serve an unchanging GOD who is faithful in the middle of unique and trying times!

We will have hotdogs, popcorn, snow cones, and family friendly activities during the 4:00 – 7:30 pm time period. We will have bottled water stations as we strive to offer a safe environment.

**Our goal this year will be \$70,000. Yes, that's a BIG number but we serve an even BIGGER GOD!**



**(CPC Mission cont'd from page 10 )**

- Thirty-four 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.

# Friendship Day History

There is not much literature on Friendship Day history as we celebrate today. However, there are numerous folktales and several instances in mythological legends that show that friends and friendship have been valued since the beginning of the civilized world. As an intrinsically social creature, men love to make friends to further this process of socialization.

## History of Friendship Day in US

Considering the valuable role friends play in our life it was deemed to fit to have a day dedicated to friends and friendship. The United States Congress, in 1935, proclaimed the first Sunday of August as the National Friendship Day. Since then, the celebration of National Friendship Day became an annual event. The noble idea of honoring the beautiful relationship of friendship caught on with the people and soon Friendship Day became a hugely popular festival.

Following the popularity and success of Friendship Day in US, several other countries adopted the tradition of dedicating a day to friends. Today, Friendship Day is enthusiastically celebrated by several countries across the world including India.

In 1997, the United Nations named **Winnie - the Pooh** as the world's Ambassador of Friendship.

## Importance of Friendship in Bible

The Bible, the primary text of the western civilization, reflects upon friendship as the bond that forms the foundation to human faith, trust and companionship. Following verses from the Bible aptly portray the importance of friends:

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." **Matthew 7:7**

"Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends." **John 15:13-15**

Besides, there are several tales from the Old Testament and the New Testament about the value of friendship and how true friendship is a treasure to unearth. A noticeable point is that, both the versions make a difference between the two broad meanings of friendship- one is a mere acquaintance, the other is a more affectionate relation.

In the **Old Testament**, Abraham is called the "friend of God" because of the intimacy of his relations. God speaks to Moses face to face "as a man...unto his friend" (Ex 33:11). The romantic friendship of Ruth and Naomi, the devotion of the subordinate Hushai for David, or the mutual relation between David and Jonathan - the Old Testament is replete with these interesting tales of friends and friendship.

In the **New Testament**, the relationship between Jesus and his disciples clearly depicts how human friendship can constantly grow. From being teacher and disciple, to lord and servant their relationship finally grew to an unparalleled friendship.

## Importance of Friendship in Mahabharata

In the famous Hindu epic 'Mahabharata', Lord Krishna demonstrates the many colors of friendship - affection, romance, brotherhood, protection, guidance, intimacy and even teasing. Friendship is all about these and much more.

What a  
Friend  
we have  
in Jesus

## Sanctity of Human Life

### Sanctity of Human Life

- For more than 3 decades we have been making a difference in Gaston, Lincoln and the greater Piedmont area of NC. Simply, by the grace of God, He has strategically placed us here for such a time as this with a reminder that he will honor them, and they will not be insignificant. This is our time.
- We work with each client on an individual basis to meet their needs so that giving life to their baby is a viable option. We also prevent unwanted pregnancies by training our youth to save sex for marriage and offer healing and forgiveness in Jesus to those already wounded by an abortion in their past. By PARTNERing with us you can help end the tragedy of abortion one life at a time. YOU can make a difference.
- In April and September: Attend volunteer training at CPC.
- Our other services:
  - Abstinence Education
  - Birds and Bees without Butterflies (parents)
  - Pure Living (churches)
  - S.H.A.P.E. (schools)
  - Adolescent Parenting Program
  - One on One Mentoring
  - HelpLine 704-867-3706
  - Peer counseling; Male counseling
  - Networking/Referrals
  - Post Abortion Counseling and Education
  - Ultrasound
  - Informed speakers for your church, business or organization.
  - All of our serves are free because God cares through you.



# Stewardship

Inspiring a deeper understanding of true giving

August 2024

**M**y wife and I own a cottage on a small piece of land near a lake. We and the bank own it, since there is a mortgage. But ultimately, it is all the Lord's.

We hold it as temporary stewards. It is a great thing to have use of the land during our stay on this earth. All things belong to the Lord, and yet God freely gives them to us for our use.

The recognition of the extent to which we are blessed by God materially, mentally and spiritually should lead first to gratitude and then to generosity.

There is something missing in our makeup if we can look at all we have to enjoy and not be moved by some desire to express our thanks. And a natural expression of our gratitude is responsible generosity.

## **Eskimos build a monument**

Some years ago, Marie Perry Stafford, the daughter of the famed Admiral Perry, went to Greenland to arrange for the erection of a monument to her father. She began by going to the governor and asking his permission to buy materials and hire laborers. The governor said, "Mrs. Stafford, you don't seem to understand. It is not a matter of getting permission. When the news gets out you are here and wish to erect a monument to your father, Eskimos will come from all over Greenland to make contributions and do the work. They have not forgotten the great friend who

did so much for them. Their undying gratitude will build your monument!" And it did.

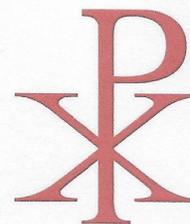
*Shout from the rooftops that work is a gift from God! It makes no sense to classify people differently, according to their occupation, as if some jobs were nobler than others.*



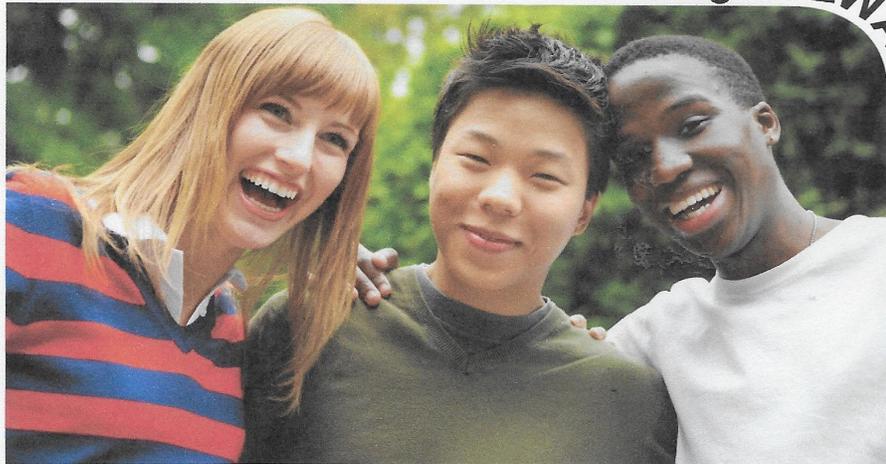
## **Stewardship is not optional**

Gratitude for all that comes from God's hand should lead to generous giving. The fact is, we can decide to accept or reject Christ, but once we have decided to accept him, stewardship is no longer optional. We may be a good steward or a poor steward, but once

(Continued on page 4)



## Young STEWARD'S Corner



### What does Awareness Mean?

There is a story about a pilgrim who scales a tall mountain in the hope of finding a wise man who lives on its peak. The seeker is asking for a single word. The guru responds, "Awareness."

"Yes, but what does that mean?" the pilgrim asks.

And the guru replies, "Awareness means Awareness."

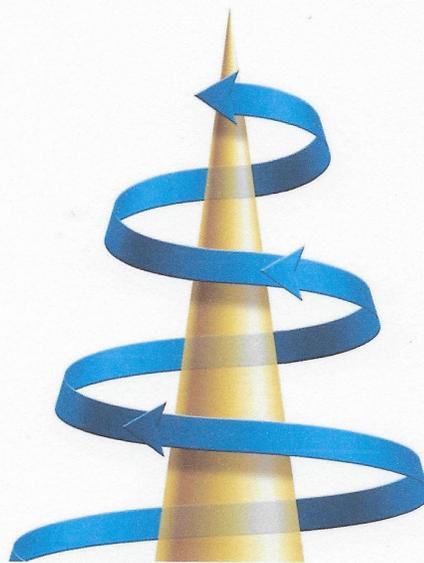
Are the majority of Christians in the world today really aware of the simple and sometimes difficult needs of others as Jesus had been?

Opportunities to serve are all around us. Small gestures of kindness, like walking home after school with someone who seems lonely, shows that they are aware.

There are our churches, where volunteers can commit to being a disciple of Christ by willingly giving of their *time*.

As Ernest Crosby said, "No one could show me where my soul might be; I searched for God, and God eluded me; I served my neighbor, and I found all three." ☩

*Giving is not only a practical matter making possible the operation of a church, but is also a symbolic act of offering ourselves and all we have to the Father. And the symbolic act is really the more important of the two. Everywhere in the Gospel, Jesus emphasizes the motivation of a person.*





### Through the Stained Glass...

**I**n 1 Corinthians:16 Paul talks about giving of our material possessions to God:

*Now the matter about the money to be raised to help God's people in Judea: you must do what I told the churches in Galatia to do. On the first day of every week each of you must put aside some money, in proportion to what he has earned, and save it up, so there will be no need to collect money when I come.*

*"On the first day of the week"* means that giving is a regular, planned activity, and not a "when I get around to it" function.

*"Let everyone"* means that each person as an individual has a particular responsibility to give. Giving to God is not a responsibility that can be shifted to someone else.

*"According to his financial prosperity."* Paul does not state the exact amount we are to give because each can give according to his prosperity. The more the prosperity, the greater the amount given.

To sum up, Paul's stewardship theology seems to be: Give at a regular interval from a responsible position with a grateful heart and in proportion to what you have received. 

## Using Your Talents

**H**ere's a switch: my sister thanked me for a gift that she had given me a few years earlier. She was grateful that I was using it and enjoying it.

Truthfully, I hadn't given much thought to how it would make her feel when I used her gift to me. I just knew that her gift was exactly what I needed and wanted. On that day, I realized that every time we use a gift, it's like a big warm "thank you" to the giver.

The Lord has given each of us special gifts. Whether you have a talent for music, an ability to make others feel welcome, a knack for drawing ... whatever it is, you have a gift from the Lord. Of course, these gifts don't come in pretty packages with colorful bows. Sometimes we have to find our gifts. The best place to look is in your own heart. What do you really love to do? When do others commend your talents? The answers to these questions are your gifts from the Lord.

### Appreciate blessings

How appreciated it makes the Lord feel when we use God's gifts to make this world a little better! Wherever and  
(Continued on page 4)

*Jesus calls us as his disciples to a new way of life, the Christian way of life. He calls us individually by name. Each one of us ... clergy, layperson; married, single, adult, child ... has a personal vocation.*

*God intends each one of us to play a unique role in carrying out the divine plan. The challenge then is to understand our role, our vocation, and to respond generously to this call from God. Christian vocation entails the practice of stewardship. In addition, Christ calls each of us to be stewards of our personal vocations, which we receive from God.*





### Giving should reflect our gratitude

Continued from page 1...

#### My wife and I own...

we have become a Christian, we are a steward. We have been entrusted with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We are stewards of that. We have been entrusted with material things. We are stewards of those.

#### Giving should reflect our gratitude

It is no secret that one form of stewardship has to do with how much we give to our church. Someone has called the sermon preached on Pledge Sunday the "Sermon on the Amount." And a magazine article a few years back compared pastors to newspaper editors. It pointed out that "editors worry about their advertisers, and pastors worry about their contributors." The article suggested that Pledge Sunday should be called "Worry Sunday."

I am also sensitive to the charge we sometimes hear that the church is always asking for money. But to tell the truth, I usually hear that complaint from people who don't give the church any!

Naturally, that which we give to the church and to others should reflect our

gratitude to God for letting us enjoy the earth and its fullness.

In considering how much we give, two questions are helpful: (1) Is this a responsible use of that which God has given me to care for and to use? (2) Am I in any way acting as though all I have is mine, and no one, not even God, has any claim on it?

Stewardship means responsible use of that which we hold in trust from God, that which he has loaned for our blessing and enrichment while on this earth. 

Continued from page 3...

#### Using Your Talents...

whenever we volunteer our talents, we are essentially thanking the Lord for such wonderful gifts. We are showing God that we appreciate our blessings. Find a way to use your gifts at church and in the community. The rewards will be far more than you ever expected.







Our Saviour Lutheran Church  
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725 Gastonia Technology Parkway  
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AUGUST 2024

