



Our Saviour Lutheran Church
 725 Gastonia Technology Parkway
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 Dallas, North Carolina 28034
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Our Saviour's Good News

Volume XVI, Issue X

October 2021

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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Martin Luther

Martin Luther (1483-1546) stands in history as one of those unique forces, an individual who by force of will and by his ideas changed the world fundamentally. There are several ironies incumbent on Luther's pivotal role in history: 1) he doesn't really represent a break with the past, but rather a flash point where ideas and trends which had been smoldering in Europe for several centuries suddenly blazed aflame; 2) Luther initially saw himself as a great reformer of the Catholic church, a simple monk who thought the force of his ideas would single-handedly redirect the Leviathan of the church; in the end, however, he divided Christianity into two separate churches and that second division, Protestantism, would divide over the next four centuries into a near infinity of separate churches; 3) finally, Luther (and all the other reformers) saw themselves as returning Christianity to its roots, they believed that they were setting the clock back; in reality, their ideas irreparably changed the world and pushed it kicking and screaming, not into some ideal past, but into the modern era.

Luther was not a person you would want to have dinner with; he was temperamental, peevish, egomaniacal, and argumentative. But this single-mindedness, this enormous self-confidence and strident belief in the rightness of his arguments, allowed him to stand against opposition, indeed, to harden his position in the face of death by fire, the usual punishment for heretics. Luther became an Augustinian monk in 1505, disappointing his equally strong-willed father, who wished him to become a lawyer. He earned a doctorate in theology from the University of Wittenberg, but instead of settling down to a placid and scholarly monkish life or an uneventful university career teaching

theology, he began to develop his own personal theology, which erupted into outright blasphemy when he protested the use of indulgences in his **95 Theses**.

Indulgences, which were granted by the pope, forgave individual sinners not their sins, but the temporal punishment applied to those sins. These indulgences had become big business in much the same way pledge drives have become big business for public television in modern America. Luther's Theses, which outlined his theological argument against the use of indulgences, were based on the notion that Christianity is fundamentally a phenomenon of the inner world of human beings and had little or nothing to do with the outer world, such as temporal punishments. It is this fundamental argument, not the controversy of the indulgences themselves, that most people in the church disapproved of and that led to Luther's being hauled into court in 1518 to defend his arguments against the cardinal Cajetan. When the interview focused on the spiritual value of "good works," that is, the actions that people do in this world to benefit others and to pay off the debts they've incurred against God by sinning, Cajetan lost his temper and demanded that Luther recant. Luther ran, and his steady scission from the church was set in motion. The Northern Humanists, however, embraced Luther and his ideas.

Luther's first writing was **The Sermon on Good Works**, in which he argued that good works do not benefit the soul; only faith could do that. Things took a turn for the worse: Pope Leo declared 41 articles of Luther's teachings as heretical teachings, and Luther's books were publicly burned in Rome. Luther became more passionate in his effort to reform the church. His treatise, "Address to the Christian Nobility of Germany," pressed for the German nation to use military means to force the church to discuss grievances and reform; "A Prelude concerning the Babylonish Captivity of the Church" literally called for clergy in the church to openly revolt against Rome.

In 1521, the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V, demanded that Luther appear before the diet of the Holy Roman Empire at Worms. Luther was asked to explain his views and Charles ordered him to recant. (Luther *Cont'd on page 2*)

(Luther cont'd from page 1)

Luther refused and he was placed under an imperial ban as an outlaw. He managed to escape, however, and he was hidden away in a castle in Wartburg where he continued to develop his new church.

In a more conciliatory effort, Luther wrote a letter to Pope Leo explaining the substance of his ideas, *Von der Freiheit des Christenmenschen*, "On the Freedom of the Christian," from which your readings have been selected. This conciliation didn't work (the treatise is not, in fact, very conciliatory, but somewhat arrogant), and Luther was excommunicated from the church in 1521. What had started as a furious attempt to reform the church overnight turned into a project of building a new church independent of the Catholic church. Nevertheless, this small work, "The Freedom of the Christian," is the theological and ideological core of Luther's thinking; the fundamental term of value, that center around which every other aspect of his thought rotates, is the concept of **Freiheit**, "freedom," or "liberty." This is not our concept of freedom, but in the eventual turn of time it will give rise to the notion of "individual freedom," and later "political freedom," and later "economic freedom." Most of the European Enlightenment revolves around freedom and the project of "liberating" people: liberating them from false beliefs, from false religion, from arbitrary authority, etc.--that is, what we will be calling "liberation discourse." Westerners still participate in this Enlightenment project today. This idea of "liberating" people, so common to the international politics of our own period, comes out of Luther's idea of "freedom."



Martin Luther's Seal

"From the wilderness of Koburg Castle" 8 July 1530

Honorable, kind, dear Sir and Friend!

Grace and Peace in Christ!

Since you ask whether my seal has come out correctly, I shall answer most amiably and tell you of those thoughts which now come to my mind about my seal as a symbol of my theology. There is first to be a cross, black, and placed in a heart, which should be of its natural color (red), to put me in mind that faith in Christ crucified saved us. For if one believes from the heart, he will be justified. ["For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved." --Romans 10:10] Even though it is a black cross, which mortifies and which also should hurt us, yet it leaves the heart in its natural color and does not ruin nature...that is, the cross does not kill, but keeps man alive. For the just shall live by faith, by faith in the Savior. ["This Good News tells us how God makes us right in His sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, 'It is through faith that a righteous person has life.'" --Romans 1:17]

Such a heart is to be in the midst of a white rose, to symbolize that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace. In a word, it places the believer into a white joyful rose, for this faith does not give peace and joy as the world gives. ["I am leaving you with a gift--peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give isn't like the peace the world gives. So don't be troubled or afraid." --John 14:27] Therefore, the rose is to be white, not red, for white is the color of the spirits and of all angels. ["..an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and rolled aside the stone and sat on it. His face shone like lightening, and his clothing was as white as snow." --Matthew 28:2b-3 and "She saw two white-robed angels sitting at the head and foot of the place where the body of Jesus had been lying." --John 20:12]

This rose, moreover, is fixed in a sky-blue field, symbolizing that such joy in the Spirit and in faith is a beginning of the future heavenly joy. It is already a part of faith, and is grasped through hope, even though not yet manifest.

And around this field is a golden ring, to signify that such bliss in heaven is endless, and more precious than all joys and goods, just as gold is the most valuable and precious metal.

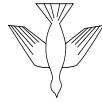
"May Christ, our dear Lord, be with your spirit until the life to come. Amen."

Martin Luther



[Luther's Works - American Edition - Volume 49, pp. 356-359]

Our Saviour Lutheran Church
Anna Lowery, President
August 23, 2021 Council Minutes



Devotions: N/A

Meeting called to order by President, Anna Lowery

Members present: Alice Vlaservich, Melinda White, Anna Lowery, Robbie Wooten, Jeff White, Denise Traveria

Members Absent: Teri Trudnak, Becky Messick, Joe Finger

Minutes: July 2021 minutes were reviewed.; Melinda White made the motion to approve the minutes and Robbie Wooten seconded the motion.

Reception of Petitions and Communications: None available.

Report of the Pastor: None

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

Report of the Ministries:

- a. Property: Completed workday at the Activity Building on 7/24/2021. Thank you to Will, Jack, Stephen, Brett, Jeff, Nick, Billy and Anna.
- b. Stewardship and Finance: No report
- c. Worship & Music: No report
- 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 come to worship service.
- f. Christian Education Team: No report this month

Report of Auxiliaries:

- a. Rachel group met at the home of Marie Robinson for bible study and refreshments. No meeting scheduled for September.

Old and/or Unfinished Business:

- a. Follow up on NALC symbol for outdoor church sign

New Business:

- a. Birthday celebration for Brady Ratchford's 90th birthday party. Counsel to make sure Activity Building is clean and ready. Contact Leon for cleaning if needed.

General Information:

- a. Attendance: BRING A FRIEND!!
- b. Laszlo Mission (Kids International) Report
- c. JAARs Report

The Council meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting is September 20, 2021 at 7pm
 Melinda White will have devotions



**2021 Dallas - North Gaston Area
 CROP WALK HAS BEEN CANCEL**

**If you would like to help the
 Dallas-High Shoals Christian Ministry
 You can do so by donating directly to them
 at
 P.O. Box , Dallas, NC 28034**

**CAROLINA
 LUTHERAN
 WOMEN
 CONVENTION**

**That was scheduled for October 2
Has been rescheduled for
April 2, 2022.**

So remark your calendar.



**EARLY VOTING BEGINS OCTOBER 14
AND ENDS OCTOBER 30
FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS**



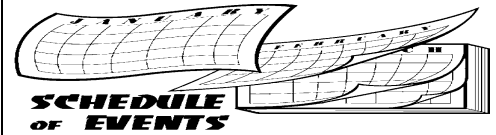
OCTOBER 2021



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

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|----|----|----|----|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 World Communion Sunday | 4 Team Mtg. LCMC Gathering | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 20 th Sun Pentecost | 11 Columbus Day | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 21 st Sun Pentecost | 18 Board Mtg. | 19 Prayer Group | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 22 nd Sun Pentecost | 25 CLW/Rachel Group | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 Reformation Sunday | | | | | | |



- **October 3**— 19th Sunday after Pentecost
World Holy Communion Day
Life Chain of Gaston (see p.6)
Pastor Appreciation Day
- **October 4**— Team Meeting at 7:00 pm
- **October 10**—20th Sunday after Pentecost
- **October 12**— Columbus Day
- **October 17**—21st Sunday after Pentecost
- **October 18**— Council Meeting
- **October 1***— Prayer Group will meet at Home of Shirlee Marazza at 1:00 pm
- **October 24**— 22nd Sunday after Pentecost
- **October 25**— CLW/Rachel Group TBA
- **October 31**—**Reformation Sunday**
Reformation Day
Trunk or Treat— page 14



Birthdays

- 3 Denise Traveria
- 4 Chase Messick
- 5 Christian Clemmer
- 20 Jean Huffstetler
- 21 Jeff Lineberger



- Morgan Dawson
- Nation Finger
- Alice Vlaservich
- Nora Cole
- Bryten Cole



15th**Tony & Kathy Trudnak**

Holy Communion Schedule:



ALL SUNDAYS

Worship Service Assistance:

- Acolyte: OSLC Member
- Communion Asst: OSLC Member
- Lay Reader:
- Worship Asst:
- Greeters: OSLC Members
- Ushers: OSLC Members

Devotions: Alice Vlaservich
Collection: Teri Trudnak

FOOD FOR THE



MONTH: **Soup, Mac & Chesse, Lima Beans**



CHOIR PRATICE
Wednesday at 5:00 pm

FLOWERS

Flower Schedule:

- October 3 Nick Vlaservich
- October 10 Open
- October 17 Open
- October 24 Melinda White
- October 31 Open



History of Halloween



The Word on Hallows Eve

The word Halloween comes from the phrase 'All Hallows Eve.' It is the evening before the Catholic Church holiday on November 1st known as, All Hallows Day, All Saint's Day, All Souls Day, or All Hallowmas Day. In Old English, Hallow means sanctify. In the past on November 1st, Catholics honored all saints while Romans prayed for the dead *and* honored saints. Halloween, the night before this, has many different customs and origins attached to its history.

Perhaps the oldest recordings of a celebration on Halloween are that of a druidic fire festival called Samhain. This was celebrated by the Celts (people who now live in Great Britain and Northern France), in Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. It meant the closing of a harvest and the beginning of winter. After the Romans conquered most of that territory, they combined two of their own festivals with the traditional Celtic ritual of Samhain. The first Roman festival was called Feralia. This was a day in late October set aside to commemorate the passing of the dead. The second Roman festival was to honor Pomona, the Roman goddess of the harvest or fruit and trees. Her symbol was the apple, which could be the reason we bob for apples on Halloween.

Trick or Treat for Prayers?

As with the history of Halloween, there are many different ways the act of trick or treating came about. One is from the 19th century custom called souling. This means Christians would walk from town to town on Halloween night, begging for soul cakes. The soul cakes were actually square pieces of bread made with currants. The more soul cakes people received, the more prayers they had to say for the dead family members of the donors. During this time, people believed the dead remained in limbo for a while after death. They also thought that prayer, even by strangers, could speed up a soul's passage to heaven.

There was another recording of the handing out of souls cakes, this time to *poor* citizens. It was also in exchange for prayers for the family's dead relatives. The church encouraged this as a way to replace the practice of leaving food and wine on doorsteps for roaming spirits.

Europeans and Celts believed that to avoid the spirits, they should wear masks when they left their homes. The Celts also believed that on Halloween, the disembodied spirits of everyone who had died that past year, would come back to search for bodies to possess. So the people put out all their fires and disguised themselves with masks and costumes and marched around town trying to ward off the spirits.

Today, families can avoid having tricks played on them if they give the kids who wander door-to-door, Halloween treats.

Party Time

Eventually, the customs of European immigrants combined with American and American Indian customs. Although annual autumnal festivals were common, the very first American Halloween celebrations were called 'play parties.' At these public events people celebrated the harvest, shared stories of the

dead, told each other's fortunes, danced, sang, and told ghost stories. During the second half of the 19th century, a new flood of millions of immigrants fleeing the Ireland potato famine of 1846 came to America. This created the meshing of Irish and English Halloween traditions, and people began dressing up in costumes and going house to house for visits. In the 1800's there was a push to make Halloween more of a community-based event, and anything scary and gross was forbidden. In the 20th century, because of the 1950's baby boom, there were a lot of children. Vandalism increased during the celebration of Halloween.

Traditions or Trade-Offs?

As told before, the idea of bobbing for apples could have come from the Roman goddess of the harvest and her scared fruit of apples.

The name 'witch' comes from the Saxon Wicca meaning 'wise one.' A sacred ointment was rubbed on the skin of the which, to give them a feeling of flying.

The use of Jack-O-Lanterns perhaps comes from when children used to carve out potatoes or turnips and light them for Halloween gatherings. The name Jack most likely comes from a story of 'Jack the Irish Villain.' It was about a man rejected by good and evil, who wandered the world forever looking for a place to rest. His only warmth came from a small candle in a rotten potato. With the Irish potato famine from 1845-50, almost 700,000 people immigrated to the Americas. They brought with them the Jack-O-Lantern tradition but turnips were scarce. The pumpkin became a good replacement because there were a lot of them around.

Masks were worn to scare off demons and evil spirits and to keep people from being recognized.



WALK FOR LIFE report

The Walk for Life was sponsored by Crisis Pregnancy Center of Gaston County, Inc. on September 10, 2021 Our church raised \$675.00. Several members contributed time, money, and prayer. Thanks to all who gave. From all over Gaston County, church members joined in this Walk for Life and have exceeded their goal of \$54,000 and funds are still coming in to reach our goal.

The mission statement of Crisis Pregnancy Center is:

The Crisis Pregnancy Center of Gaston County, Inc. affirms the value of life by compassionately sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ and providing the following services: Pregnancy Counseling, Abstinence Education, Limited Ultrasounds and various other Medical Services, Adolescent Parenting Programs, Post Abortion Counseling to women, men, and families affected by crisis pregnancy situations, with the hope of changing lives. Phone number 704-868-4636. Address: 800 Robinson Road Gastonia, NC, 28056,

website: www.cpcgaston.org



725 Gastonia Technology Parkway
Post Office Box 457
Dallas, North Carolina 28034
Phone: 705-922-4648 Email: oslcdallas@aol.com

EVENTS for:

Agrape/Kure Beach

Contact Camp Agapé:

Telephone: 919-552-9421

e-mail: agape@agapekurebeach.org

Contact Kure Beach Lutheran:

Telephone 910-458-0783

e-mail: kurebreach@agapekurebeach.org

Web site: 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



Life Chain, a one-hour, pro-life prayer and witness event, has been held annually since 1987, in thousands of cities and towns across the United States and Canada. The 2021 National Life Chain will be held on **Sunday, October 3, 2021 from 2:00 – 3:30 PM**. We are thrilled to have three locations in Gaston County: Belmont, Gastonia and Mount Holly! See **Event Details** for more information about the sites.

How it Works: Participants arrive early to park and pick up a sign and then space themselves 10- 15 feet apart on the sidewalk. At 2:00 PM we join the rest of the Life Chains across the United States and Canada and, for just one hour, pray quietly for the unborn and for a conversion of our nation on the issue of abortion. The reverse side of the signs are printed with prayers and hymns to aid your prayer but feel free to bring or say your own prayers. **Everyone is welcome and no RSVP is necessary. Just show up at your preferred location on the day of the event! Signs will be provided.**

Gastonia

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

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

Sign Pick Up: Along the sidewalks of the route

Masks, strollers, walkers, chairs, etc., are welcome

Arrive early

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (SHOE BOX) IS COMING!

What is Operation Christmas Child?

This annual project enables caring individuals, families, schools, churches, businesses, and other organizations to fill ordinary shoe boxes with small toys, school supplies, sweets, and other gifts for needy children around the world.

Operation Christmas Child sends a message of hope to children in need around the world through gift-filled shoe boxes.



Operation Christmas Child is the world's largest children's Christmas project. Since 1990 the project has brought the joy of Christmas to more than 47 million boys and girls throughout the world. Last year we sent 1.24 million shoe boxes from the UK to children in hospitals, orphanages, Internally Displaced Persons camps, homeless shelters and impoverished neighborhoods. With your help we want to reach even more children in the poorest parts of the world in 2018.

Your gift is powerful!

Your shoe box will make a child feel special and valued, and let them know that you care about them. Choosing gifts and then wrapping and filling a shoe box is a fun and rewarding activity for all the family – especially when you know these gifts are going to be used and treasured.

From you to a child in need.

Your shoe box will be hand delivered to a child in need, asking nothing from them in return. All boxes are given to the neediest children regardless of nationality, political background or religious beliefs. Operation Christmas Child empowers local overseas partners to ensure that your shoe boxes are delivered with the highest levels of integrity and respect. Where appropriate and in culturally sensitive ways, our local overseas partners will make available a booklet of Bible stories, which gives a message of hope and includes an explanation of the true meaning of Christmas – God's gift of His Son, Jesus

A Stewardship Minute

In 2 Corinthians 8, Paul held up the generosity of the Macedonian churches to those in Corinth. It seemed his desire was that they show some kind of proof for their appreciation of the Lord's blessing and sustaining power to them. He urged them, therefore to bring to completion the great work begun earlier in their ministry: "Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have." (2 Corinthians 8: 11-12)

Apparently they had forgotten, like we often do, the passion with which they had started to serve the Lord. We, too, could use this urging of Paul's periodically. He wanted to bring the churches in Corinth from their relaxed attitude toward giving and sharing, and found it necessary to remind them of their oneness in the body of Christ. The Corinthians had begun to take pleasure in what others were doing for God's kingdom and the sustaining of the earthly churches, and had forgotten their own part.

"Strive for equality" was Paul's urging to the Corinthians. Since Christ bore the total weight of our salvation on himself, could we not at

least share in the earthly ministry as a body so that "He who gathered much does not have too much and he who gathered little does not have too little?" (2 Corinthians 8:15)

Prayer: Do not, O Lord, allow us to grow weary in well-doing. Stir us up to exercise our total stewardship, that our efforts may always please you. Amen



When Will The Supreme Court Honor Its Commitment?

by

Todd Chasteen, Decision Magazine

On June 26, 2015, five unelected lawyers at the U.S. Supreme Court acted as a super-legislature mandating same-sex marriage in all 50 states. In a dissenting opinion, Justice Clarence Thomas noted that "35 states have put the question to the people themselves. In 32 of those 35 states, the people have opted to retain the traditional definition of marriage." Yet, in a razor-thin 5-4 majority, the court eviscerated thousands of years of historical understanding of marriage. The late Justice Antonin Scalia described the decree as an act of "hubris" usurping the role of the people.

As the court redefined marriage, several justices warned that religious liberties would suffer for those holding to historical, traditional, Biblical beliefs about marriage. The majority opinion written by Justice Anthony Kennedy revealed a brief glimpse of light, paying homage to the long-held, revered understanding of marriage holding civilizations together for millennia. Kennedy wrote: "This view long has been held—and continues to be held—in good faith by reasonable and sincere people here and throughout the world." He continued: "It must be emphasized that religions, and those that adhere to religious doctrines, may continue to advocate with utmost, sincere conviction that, by divine precepts, same-sex marriage should not be condoned. The First Amendment ensures that religious organizations and persons are given proper protection as they seek to teach principles that are so fulfilling and so central to their lives and faiths."

But in 2021, we still don't know whether the court will properly protect the religious liberties of "religious organizations and persons."

The court's redefining of marriage created a vulnerability for individuals and ministries who follow sincerely held religious beliefs about marriage and human sexuality. With uncertainty, the faithful wait to see if that vulnerability will be remedied by the court giving substance to Kennedy's words. To date, the court appears unwilling to bring clarity to conflicting worldviews. The question is simple: Are Christians and Christian ministries in our country allowed to live by and serve according to their utmost convictions about marriage and sexuality? The Supreme Court continues to find creative ways to avoid clearly answering the question.

Christian views on marriage and sexuality should not surprise anyone. The satirical news website *The Babylon Bee* captured this concept in the headline "Bombshell Report Reveals Christian Believes Christian Things." Scripture is exceedingly clear on standards for marriage and sexuality. Will the Supreme Court ever make it clear that followers of Christ can live according to those Biblical standards? Will the court once again give the First Amendment's religious free exercise clause its original and intended authority? We don't know.

Consider *Fulton v. City of Philadelphia*, decided by the court a few months ago. In *Fulton*, Catholic Social Services (CSS) followed a policy of not placing foster children with unmarried couples or same-sex couples per Catholic teachings. Dozens of foster care agencies in Philadelphia placed children with same-sex couples. Despite access for same-sex couples, the city told CSS to either place children with same-sex couples or lose its ability to assist foster children. Deny your convictions, or else. In what appeared to be a historic religious freedom victory, a unanimous 9-0 court concluded the city had violated religious free exercise rights of CSS based on a contract technicality.

(When cont'd on page 9)

Church News



GASTON TOGETHER'S CLERGY & CITIZENS COALITION

October 8, 2018

8:30 to 10:00 am

Clinton Room, Gaston Memorial Hospital

OUTREACH MISSION

SHUT-INS

NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

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

Jill Petzold*

Brookside Senior Living Rm 44
1680 S. New Hope Rd
Gastonia, NC 328054

(If others, please let the church office know)

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



NEEDED

FOR

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

Be a servant of the Lord

Sign Up

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



CLW/RACHEL GROUP

WILL BE MEETING AT THE HOME OF ALICE VLASERVICH

AT 1:30PM, DATE TBA



PRAYER GROUP

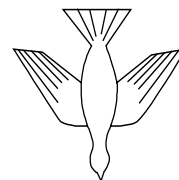
WILL MEET AT THE HOME OF SHIRLEE MARAZZA

ON OCTOBER 19 AT 1:00 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)

PRAYER CONCERNS: MARGARET Addington, SUSAN Aderholt, SETH Alexander, AMANDA (friend of the Penley's), MARVIS Anderson, WHITNEY Auten (breast cancer), KELLY Ballard (friend of Shana Dease), BRAXTON Bearden (friend of the Locketts), ADDISON Blanton (friend of Dease's), KATHY Bohanan (cancer), KAREN Brady, JACKIE Carpenter (friend of Alice Vlaservich-liver cancer), 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), HARDY Feige (Pete's dad - chronic back pain), NANCY Friday, JAMES Goudelock (cancer), JASON Hames (friend of the White's), GRACE Harbin (friend of Robbie Wooten-cancer), JEFF Lineberger (stroke), JOYCE in Morganton (Nick & Alice Vlaservich's acquaintance-cancer), DANA Kirshman (friend of Robbie Wooten-cancer), MARINA Marazza (Shirlee Marazza's granddaughter-Covid19), SAM Marr (Heart), 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), GWEN Ratchford (Brady Ratchford's sister-in-law-cancer), MARTHA Surret (friend of Alice Vlaservich-Cancer), TERI Trudnak, TONY Trudnak (cancer reoccurring), GARY Turner (father of Jason Murray), HAL White, JOE White (stroke), NANCY Wilson, REESE Wilson (blood cancer)



Halloween is celebrated on the 31st of October night. It is common among children to dress up in scary costumes and move from door-to-door collecting sweets and gifts. They shout at each door, "trick or treat!" before their sacks are filled with treats. Watching horror movies, visiting haunted houses and enjoying some haunted hayrides form a part of the traditional celebrations.

Anoka, Minnesota is the Halloween capital of the world. The history of Halloween dates back to 1920, where the festivities originated in Anoka in an attempt to keep younger people away from vandalism. At that time Halloween was known as "Samhain" and was a pagan festival among the Celts of Ireland and Great Britain. Other western countries have embraced Halloween as part of American pop culture later.

Countries like United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, United Kingdom, Peru, Australia and others also celebrate Halloween. Some parts in Western Europe also are celebrating it recently.

Halloween is the shortened name for All-hallow-even as it is on the eve of All Saints Day. It is also called Pooky Night in some parts of Ireland, named after a mischievous spirit. However, there are some fascinating symbols, which make the Halloween celebrations all the more exciting, like:

The Carved Pumpkin

Many families carve out a scary or a comical face onto a pumpkin and place a candle inside it to illuminate the carved out features. They leave it on their doorstep after dark. Legend has it that a stingy, greedy and drunkard old farmer tricked a devil into climbing a tree and trapped him there by carving a cross on the tree trunk. The devil curses Jack to wander on the Earth seeking Eternity. The carved pumpkin basically symbolizes this event.



(When cont'd from page 9)

But if the *Fulton* decision was a decisive, clarifying win for religious free exercise, why did Justices Samuel Alito, Clarence Thomas and Neil Gorsuch join in a 77-page lament chiding the court for not giving religious free exercise its due? Why did Justice Gorsuch question the "fortitude" of the court to fix a problem it created by not giving religious free exercise its original meaning and weight? Gorsuch wrote: "We owe it to the parties, to the religious believers and to our colleagues on the lower courts to cure the problem this court created." The problem the court did not fix involved its failure to overrule a precedent that neutered religious free exercise, leaving religious persons and organizations uncertain where the court stands.

Justice Alito rightly noted that by deciding the case on a technicality, instead of clear religious free exercise grounds, the city could fix the technicality and force CSS right back in court. Alito wrote, "This decision might as well be written on the dissolving paper sold in magic shops." Alito expressed dismay that after a half-year and 2,500 pages of briefing, the "court has emitted a wisp of a decision that leaves religious liberty in a confused and vulnerable state." Gorsuch complained that this indecision not only wastes the time of CSS but "individuals and groups across the country will pay the price—in dollars, in time and in continued uncertainty about their religious liberties."

The court's unwillingness to clarify whether Christians have the freedom to live out Christian teachings arose in the *Masterpiece Cakeshop* case, where a narrow holding protected cake artist Jack Phillips primarily because a Colorado commission exhibited open hostility toward religion and did not act with religious neutrality. Unsurprisingly, the peaceful, humble baker is already back in court.

And while it seems absurd that a charity of nuns should ever be forced to include abortion-inducing drugs in their health plan, there is a chance that Little Sisters of the Poor will head to the Supreme Court a third time because the court never decided with certainty that the First Amendment requires that they have a religious exemption.

Why these narrow decisions that fall short of honoring religious free exercise protections spelled out in the First Amendment? Some speculate that Chief Justice Roberts prefers creeping incremental changes in precedent. Others note the desire to avoid taking sides in the religious freedom clash with progressive sexuality. Or is the court swayed by threats of court packing?

In *Fulton*, Gorsuch implied the justices lacked the fortitude to give due weight to the religious free exercise clause. Justices Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett disappointed religious liberty advocates when they refused to join Alito, Thomas and Gorsuch in giving proper weight to religious free exercise in *Fulton* and in refusing to accept florist Barronelle Stutzman's case, leaving her exposed to financial ruin.

Despite the court's shortcomings on protecting religious liberties, we rejoice that God's Word cannot be chained (2 Timothy 2:9). And as John Stonestreet, the president of the Colson Center for Christian Worldview, constantly reminds us, in the midst of cultural confusion and upheaval, "Christ is Risen!" Whatever the circumstances, we can give thanks.

Todd Chasteen is Samaritan's Purse vice president of public policy and general counsel.



About the CROP Hunger Walk and CWS

CROP Hunger Walks are community-wide events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by local congregations or groups to raise funds to end hunger at home and around the world.

Why should I register?

Hunger is one of the greatest injustices facing our world, but it doesn't have to be this way. Ending hunger is possible, and it is possible in our lifetime. You can help make it happen.

For nearly half a century, CROP Hunger Walks have ensured that more people worldwide have access to nutritious, sustainable food sources. From combating droughts in Nicaragua to providing agricultural training in Indonesia to stocking shelves in hundreds of food pantries across the United States, CROP Hunger Walks help end hunger by raising funds to support local food programs and the international anti-hunger work of Church World Service.

Stand with neighbors in your community who rely on food assistance programs. Partner with parents worldwide as they ensure a bright future for their children. Support those struggling in the face of grinding poverty and open up new doors of opportunity for them.

Tens of thousands of CROP Hunger Walkers are committed to building a hunger-free world. Join the movement!

Where do CROP Hunger Walk funds go?

CROP Hunger Walks help to support the overall ministry of Church World Service, especially grassroots, hunger-fighting development efforts around the world. In addition, each local CROP Hunger Walk can choose to return up to 25 percent of the funds it raises to hunger-fighting programs in its own community.

CROP Hunger Walks help to provide food and water, as well as resources that empower people to meet their own needs. From seeds and tools, to wells and water systems, to technical training and micro-enterprise loans, the key is people working together to identify their own development priorities, their strengths and their needs something CWS has learned through some 70 years of working in partnership around the world.

Background

With its inception in 1969, CROP Hunger Walks are "viewed by many as the granddaddy of charity walks," notes the Los Angeles Times (Oct. 26, 2009).

On October 17, 1969, a thousand people in Bismarck, ND, walked in what may have been the start of the hunger walks related to CROP – and raised \$25,000 to help stop hunger. As far as we know, York County, Penn., was the first walk officially called the CROP Walk for the Hungry – and that event has been continuous since 1970. Several other CROP Hunger Walks occurred soon thereafter, and before long there were hundreds of Walks each year in communities nationwide.

Currently, well over 1000 communities across the U.S. join in more than 800 CROP Hunger Walks each year. More than five million CROP Hunger Walkers have participated in more than 36,000 CROP Hunger Walks in the last two decades alone.

What does CROP stand for?

When CROP began in 1947 (under the wing of Church World Service, which was founded in 1946), CROP was an acronym for the Christian Rural Overseas Program. Its primary mission was to help Midwest farm families to share their grain with hungry neighbors in post-World War II Europe and Asia.

Today, we've outgrown the acronym but we retain it as the historic name of the program. CROP Hunger Walks are inter-faith hunger education and fundraising events sponsored,

NORTH GASTON AREA CROP WALK HAS BEEN CANCELED.
If you would like to help the Dallas-High Shoals Christian Ministry
You can do so by donating directly to them at
P.O. Box , Dallas, NC 28034

Save
the
Date

**Come join us
for this
life-saving
event!**

LIFE CHAIN OF GASTON COUNTY

PRO-LIFE PRAYER & WITNESS



**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4TH | 2-3 PM
BELMONT | GASTONIA | MT HOLLY | STANLEY**

Sign up or more info: Linda (704) 589-3930

E CRISIS
PREGNANCY
CENTER
OF GASTON COUNTY, INC.

2021 Mission Emphasis for October :

SAMARITAN'S PURSE

ABOUT US

After sharing the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus said "Go and do likewise." That is the mission of Samaritan's Purse—to follow the example of Christ by helping those in need and proclaiming the hope of the Gospel.

Mission Statement

Samaritan's Purse is a nondenominational evangelical Christian organization providing spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world. Since 1970, Samaritan's Purse has helped meet needs of people who are victims of war, poverty, natural disasters, disease, and famine with the purpose of sharing God's love through His Son, Jesus Christ.

The organization serves the Church worldwide to promote the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

SHOE BOX STORY

Yuliya received a shoebox at age 9 in a Central Asian country.

When I lifted the lid on my purple plastic shoebox, the first thing I saw was a stuffed dog. I was filled with exuberant joy! I just remember hugging it.

Even though I had toys growing up, the dog was an item you couldn't find in my country. It was really soft and had puppy eyes. *"It was my new best friend, my newfound treasure."*

My second favorite item was bubble gum-flavored toothpaste that came in a pink tube. We didn't know such a thing existed. We would squeeze out a bit the size of the tip of a match so we could get a little bit of flavor and make it last as long as possible.

Word traveled fast. My friends would line up in our bathroom and my sister and I would squeeze out a tiny amount on their toothbrushes. I think we made it last about two years.

My third favorite item was an Etch A Sketch. At first we had no idea what it was. We kept pushing down on the buttons and asking, "Why is it not working?"

After having it displayed on a shelf for a couple of months, my sister was dusting and she turned the knobs. When she saw the line going up and down on the screen she was so excited. The item we thought was broken was drawing!

The toys were the most important things. "Here was someone I'd never met ... to me as a 9-year-old it also stood

out that the letter in the box said, *"I am praying for you."* As time went on, I realized why she was still praying for me."

We became pen pals and she would always close her letters, "I am praying for you." I always wondered, "Why is she praying for me?" The impact hit me more than seven years later after I became a Christian. She was showing me the love of Christ all along, starting with the shoebox and continuing in her prayers. "She specifically chose that dog for me and wanted to use it to communicate God's love."

The shoebox was a seed. That's how the Lord works. He patiently knocks on the door of our heart and waits until we open the door. Sometimes you see fruit right away and other times it takes years for the seed to grow.

I still have my stuffed dog 14 years later. That's a glimpse of how much the shoebox meant to me because it was packed with love and prayer. It wasn't just any dog. I could tell she specifically chose that dog for me and wanted to use it to communicate God's love.

Shoebox stories is a 13-week series by shoebox recipients telling about the eternal impact of a simple gift.

Check back each Monday from www.samaritanspurse.org for the next installment

Operation Christmas Child delivers great joy to millions of children around the world through shoeboxes lovingly and prayerfully packed with gifts that will bring delight to a child. In the hands of local churches, every gift-filled shoebox is a powerful tool for evangelism and discipleship—transforming the lives of children and their families around the world through the Good News of Jesus Christ!

After receiving shoebox gifts, boys and girls are invited to enroll in The Greatest Journey, our 12-lesson discipleship program, where children learn what it means to faithfully follow Christ and share their faith with others.

The story of the Good Samaritan (Mark 10:30-37) gives a clear picture of God's desire for us to help those in desperate need wherever we find them.

After describing how the Samaritan rescued a hurting man whom others had passed by, Jesus told His hearers, "Go and do likewise."

For over 40 years, Samaritan's Purse has done our utmost to follow Christ's command by going to the aid of the world's poor, sick, and suffering. We are an effective means of reaching hurting people in countries around the world with food, medicine, and other assistance in the Name of Jesus Christ. This, in turn, earns us a hearing for the Gospel, the Good News of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

(Purse cont'd on p 13)

(Purse cont'd from p 12)

As our teams work in crisis areas of the world, people often ask, "Why did you come?" The answer is always the same: "We have come to help you in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ."

In addition to Operation Christmas Child, they have many other expressions of God's Love. Very visible in the USA as well as overseas is International Crisis Response, helping those in emergency

As the Apostle Paul said, "For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake" (2 Corinthians 4:5, NIV).

HOW TO PACK A SHOEBOX**Find a cardboard or plastic shoebox.**

Decide who would receive it:

Boy or girl:

Ages: 2-4

5-9

10-14

Fill with gifts:

Select a "wow" toy, such as:

Soccer ball and pump, doll,

Stuffed animal, musical instrument, as harmonica,

Clothes, shoes

Other suggestions:

Yo-yo, jump rope, ball, toys that light up (with extra batteries,)

School supplies: pen pencils, sharpeners, markers, crayons, picture and coloring books, playing cards, scissors, stamps

Accessories: t-shirt, socks, hats, sunglasses, hair clips, jewelry, watches, flashlight (extra batteries)

Crafts that you make, such as:

Finger puppets, friendship bracelet

Hygiene items: toothbrush, and toothpaste, bar soap (in plastic bag), comb, brush

Things not to include:

Guns, knives, military figures,

Chocolate—hard candy

Liquids,

Medication or vitamins

Anything breakable such as:

Snow globes

Aerosol cans

*****You can pick up a card Shoebox in the hallway of the Ed Bldg. on October 4 or use a plastic box.

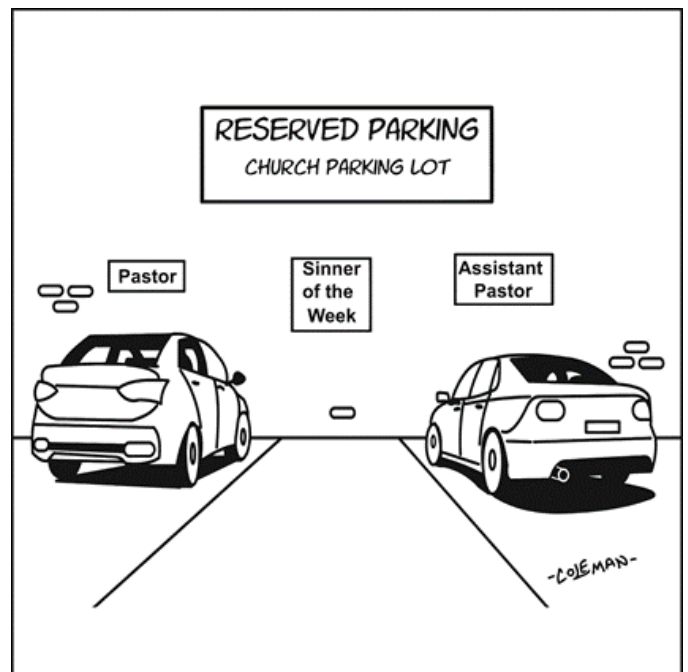
DO YOU WANT TO HELP THE HURRICANE VICTIMS?

You can either donate on line or mail.

On Line: samaritanspurse.org Select Hurricane Relief.

Mail: Samaritan's Purse, P.O. Box 3000, Boone, NC 28607

Memo: Hurricane Florence





The Heritage and Harvest Days Festival will be held at the Dallas Park on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, Oct. 8-10.

Not familiar with that name?

It's brand new, replacing the Cotton Ginning Days which had been held for 33 consecutive years prior to being canceled in 2020 due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Exhibitors from all over the southeast will convene in Dallas, North Carolina on October 8-10, 2021 for the annual 'crank-up' of antique steam and gasoline engines and tractors. In addition to the engine show, many activities are planned including a Kids **County** Fair, Heritage Arts Area, Handmade Craft vendors and Music. As always, the food is good and admission and parking are free.

The festival will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on both Friday and Saturday, and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday. The festival will be held rain or shine, and there is no charge for either admission or parking.

Dallas Park is located at 1303 Dallas Cherryville Highway in Dallas.



TRUNK OR TREAT
Oct. 31 from 5-7 pm
Dallas Court Square

Sponsored by the Town of Dallas
Local Businesses
And Local Churches



LCMC 21st Annual Gathering and Convention

**OCTOBER 3-6, 2021
UPPER ARLINGTON LUTHERAN CHURCH
HILLIARD, OH**

Join together with fellow pastors, church leaders, and congregation members at Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ's 21st Annual Gathering & Convention, which takes place October 3-6, 2021 at Upper Arlington Lutheran Church in Hilliard, Ohio.

“Speak It, Live It, Share It” is the theme of this year’s event, and keynote speakers Jeremey King, Nathan Hoff, Jenn Alexander, Julie Smith, Andrea Taphorn, and Mike Bradley will help us uncover some practical ways in which we can speak, live, and share the Gospel in our everyday lives, as well as how the association can support our congregations to do so.

(For more information about registration go to: www.LCMC.net)

+++ +++

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY



Why is World Communion important to the church? On this day churches around the world will come to the Table of the Lord as an expression of their oneness in Jesus Christ. The liturgy, sermon, and celebration of the Lord's Supper are all designed to highlight the unity of the Church of Christ world-wide.

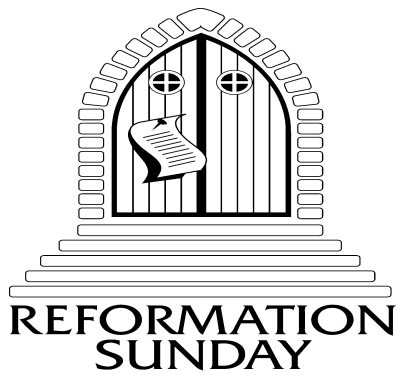
The official day of World Communion Sunday is **October 3, 2021**. All are encouraged to celebrate this Sunday on any Sunday throughout the year.



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



October 2021



OCTOBER 30

