



Our Saviour Lutheran Church
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Our Saviour's Good News

Volume XVIII, Issue IX

September 2023

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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ENCLOSED:
CPC Volunteer Advocate Training

EMENY OF THE STATE

Missey Bulter

There is a famous saying and it goes, "I've seen the Enemy and the Enemy is us."

The other evening while strolling through the local Barnes and Noble bookstore, I happened to notice an eye-catching, glossy covered novel entitled, *The Enemy Within*.

Out of sheer curiosity, I picked it up and started thumbing through the pages all the while thinking, if a person truly is born of God, the enemy is anything but within, "Praise the Lord," I whispered under my breath.

We are privileged to bear the name of Jesus Christ and are blessed to have His continual abiding presence, and there is absolutely no break in that divine union (1 Corinthians 6:17*). *How reassuring it is to know that we have this wonderful companion with us - every moment of everyday!*

One of my favorite descriptions of Jesus being our closest friend is so wonderfully described by a well known Chinese evangelist named Watchman Nee. In his best-selling books, he affectionately describes this constant companion as our "Resident Boss." That loving, authoritative person of the Christ-head, whose voice is always gentle and re-assuring when He whispers,

"This is the way, walk in it, when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left." (Isaiah 30:21)*

But unfortunately, the disturbing reality is that most Christians today do anything but personify a life full of freedom and deliverance from the cruel dictates of sin. The truth of the matter is our biggest enemy most often arrives in the form of three notorious S's: that of Sin, Self and Satan.

However, as you may have already guessed, there is one of them in particular that we usually have the greatest struggle with, and it isn't sin and isn't Satan. You guessed it ...it's "Self" with a capital "S."

We come straight from our mother's womb, kicking and screaming making quite a ruckus, all the while insisting that our every need be met. Then as we are lovingly held and nestled, the next round of hunger pangs arrives and everything goes south in the diaper department, and before you know it ... the whole cycle starts all over again.

It takes many, many years of nurturing, discipline, love and patience before we develop and mature to the point where we finally become willing to take our eyes off of ourselves and begin to admit that perhaps it wasn't meant for us to have the "starring role" in this thing called "life" after all.

When we purpose within ourselves to begin to focus on the magnificent, finished work of the Cross, that's when we begin to realize that we have been marvelously delivered from the realm of darkness and brought into His marvelous Light.

"Awake thou that sleepest, and Christ shall give thee Light." (Ephesians 5:14)*

(Enemy cont'd on page 2)

(Enemy cont'd from page 1)

Our greatest challenge is gaining and maintaining our spiritual freedom by recognizing who we really are and what we really have in Christ Jesus.

We begin to see that the true enemy of the state is in reality, the enemy of the "State of our being!"

If we truly believe what the New Testament says about us, then it shouldn't be long before we discover that we, at this very moment, have every spiritual blessing named under Heaven (Ephesians 1:3*). Just to mention a few:

I am a child of God. (John 1:12)*

I have been justified. (Romans 5:1)*

I have been bought with a price and I belong to God. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)*

I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins. (Colossians 1:13-14)*

I am complete in Christ. (Colossians 2:9-10)*

I have direct access to the throne of grace through Jesus Christ. (Hebrews 4:14-16)*

I am free from condemnation. (Romans 8:1-2)*

I am assured that God works for my good in all circumstances. (Romans 8:28)*

I am free from any condemnation brought against me. (Romans 8:31-39)*

I have been anointed and sealed by God. (2 Corinthians 1:21-22)*

I am confident that God will complete the good work He started in me. (Philippians 1:6)*

I am a citizen of heaven. (Philippians 3:20)*

I have not been given a spirit of fear but of power, love and a sound mind. (2 Timothy 1:7)*

I am born of God and the evil one cannot touch me. (1 John 5:18)*

And the list goes on... Understanding our true identity in Christ is absolutely essential to our achieving success in living out this victorious Christian life.

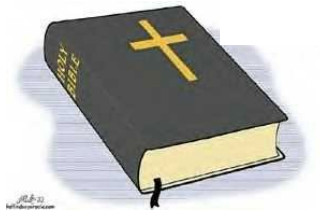
If you are born-again, then the things that are listed above are true for you! But it cannot, for one moment, be appropriated until you recognize that there is an "enemy" who makes it his business to keep you from this knowledge, and the understanding of what your true state of being really is.

The more you reaffirm who you are in Christ, the more your behavior will begin to reflect your true identity! What will be the result? You will have defeated the very enemy of your state. And at last, find your long awaited for, *Freedom in Christ*.

Jesus has already paid the penalty for your sin. He is asking you, in the quiet of your heart, to put your trust in Him and begin to know and experience once and for all the full life that He promises each and every one of us.

Won't you begin today to acknowledge your true Identity? All it takes is recognizing the truth of who you really are and what you already have in Him!

"A thief is only there to steal and kill and destroy. I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of." (John 10:10, The Me*



Our Saviour Lutheran Church

Anna Lowery, President

July 17, 2023 Council Minutes



Meeting called to order by President, Anna Lowery

Members present: Anna Lowery, Becky Messick, Teri Trudnak, and Robbie Wooten.

Members Absent: Stee Digh, and Alice Vlaservich

Minutes: Motion by Anna Lowery to approve the May 15, 2023 minutes. Seconded by Teri Trudnak and carried

Reception of Petitions and Communications:

- Motion Teri Trudnak to have a special offering on August 8, 2023, for the Lutheran Studies Program at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (see attached) and seconded by Robbie Wooten.
- Council received two other appeals (Epiphany Lutheran Church and North American Seminary – see attached) and decided to pray for their success.

Report of the Pastor: None

Report of the Treasurer: Motion by Anna Lowery to accept the May and June reports (see attached). Seconded by Robbie Wooten and carried.

Report of the Ministries:

- Property: Billy Trudnak removed tree limbs from property. Jeff White sprayed for grass and weeds in parking lot.
- Stewardship and Finance: None
- Worship & Music: None
- Finance Committee: None
- Youth: None
- Witness: Cards and bulletins continue to be sent to shut ins.
- Christian Education Team: VBS at Antioch was a success.

Report of Auxiliaries:

- Prayer Group will meet at the home of Shirlee Marazza at 2:00 pm on July 18,
- The Women's Group will not meet during July but will meet at the home of Betty Clemmer at the end of August.

Old and/or Unfinished Business:

- Anna Lowery for volunteers (before church) to fill the vacant position on Council before September 1st.

New Business:

- None

General Information:

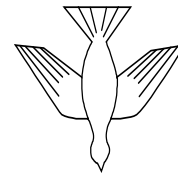
- Attendance

- Laszlo Mission Report
- Statement from Dallas Christian Ministry.
- Special thanks to Brady Ratchford for spraying for fire ants.
- AmeriPro finally received the necessary information from the County to get the engineer to make the plans that insurance will pay for. Also since the work on the other buildings are over \$30, 000 and both buildings are on one property we will use one permit to cover all the buildings.
- Paid invoice from AmeriPro. Amount received from insurance company plus our \$1,000 deductible.

The Council meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting is September 18, 2023 at 7 pm

Devotions: Alice Vlaservich



LUTHER ON WAR

Martin Luther in 1526 wrote a treatise titled *"Whether Soldiers, To Can Be Saved."* He pursued the thought that if all war were wrong, then all persons involved in war, including the soldiers, would be wrong and condemned by God.

He wrote "a distinction must be made between the occupation and the man who is in it." And "the occupation of the soldier in itself is right and a duty, but we must see the persons who are in occupation and who do the work are the right kind of persons." I say that this office or work, even though it were godly and right, can nevertheless become bad and wrong, if the person engaged in it is wrong or bad."

If people were good, and glad to keep peace, war would be the greatest plague on earth; but what are you going to do with the fact that people will not keep peace, but rob, kill, outrage women and children?"

Luther also held that using the sword was something that was to be used only if one is attached and with great caution. He used as his example Duke Frederick, Elector of Saxony. "It would be too bad if that wise prince's saying were to die with his body. He had to endure many wicked plots on the part of his neighbors, and had such cause for war that another crazy prince, who had desire for war, would have started ten wars; and he kept his sword in the sheath, always gave the others good words, and acted as though he were very much afraid and almost ready to flee, and let the others boast and brag, though he held his ground before them. When asked why he let them brag so, he replied, "I shall not start anything, but if I must fight, you shall see that it will be I who say when it is to stop."

Luther concluded "a distinction must be made among wars: some are begun out of desire and will to fight and before one is attacked, others are forced by necessity and compulsion after the attack has been made by the other party. The first kind can be called wars of desire, and the second wars of necessity."

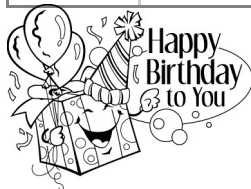
Ben McCracken

September 2023



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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Constitution Day on Sept. 17				1	2
3 14 th Sun of Pentecost	4 	5 	6	7	8 33 rd Walk for Life	9
10 15 th Sun of Pentecost	11 	12	13	14	15	16 Court Sq. Summer Concert
17 16 th Sun of Pentecost At Antioch	18 Council Meeting	19	20	21 International Day for Peace	22	23
24 17 th Sun of Pentecost	25	26	27	28	29	30
WOMEN'S GROUP MTG DATE & TIME TBA						



Holy Communion Schedule: ALL SUNDAYS

Worship Service Assistance:

Acolyte/ Nora Cole
Communion
Asst: Nora Cole
Lay Reader/ Bill & Teri Trudnak
Worship Asst: Bill & Teri Trudnak
Greeters: OSLC Members
Ushers: OSLC Members

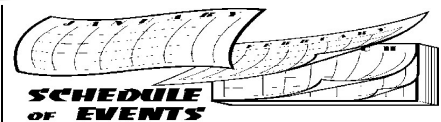
Collection: Anna Lowery

Council Devotion: Alice Vlaservich



3 Brady Ratchford
3 Kennedy Lowery
6 Carlos Traveria
13 Jacob Finger
14 Cara Feige
16 Kellie Marr
17 Ben Trudnak
19 Robbie Wooten
19 Easton Finger
20 Stephen Lowery
21 Scott Finger
28 Bill Trudnak

Wayne Ann Penley
Stephen Digh



LCMC Gathering (see p 9)
CLW Convocation (see p10)

- **Sept. 3**— 14th Sunday after Pentecost
- **Sept. 4**—Labor Day (see p 10)
- **Sept. 5**—"Prayer" Group will meet at the home of Shirlee Marazza @ 2:00 pm
- **Sept. 8**—33rd Walk for Life (see p 9, 10)
- **Sept. 10**—15th Sunday after Pentecost
Grandparent Day (see p 11)
Worship service at Antioch 10:30 am
- **Sept. 11**—Patriot Day—9/11 (see p 6)
Remembrance of 9/11 (see p 7)
- **Sept. 16**—Court Square Summer Concert (see p 7)
- **Sept. 17**—Constitution Day
- **Sept. 17**—16th Sunday after Pentecost
- **Sept. 18**—Council Meeting
- **Sept. 21**—International Day for Peace (see p 10)
- **Sept. 23**—FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN
- CLW Convocation (p 13)
- **Sept. 24**—17th Sunday of Pentecost
- **Oct. 1-4**—LCMC Convention (p 12)

WOMEN'S GROUP MEETING TBA



FOOD FOR THE MONTH:
Spaghetti, Spaghetti Sauce, Corn



Choir Practice
on Wed. 4:00 pm

FLOWERS

Flower Schedule:

September 3 Alice Vlaservich
September 10 Anna Lowery
September 17 Steve & Julie Digh
September 24 Jeff White

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

Nine (9) openings
Decorate the altar of our Lord
And then take home to decorate your home
of give to a love one of shut-in

\$35.00



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

EVENTS for:

Agrape/Kure Beach

Contact Camp Agapé:

Telephone: 919-552-9421

e-mail: agape@agapekurebeach.org

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

First Day of Fall September 23



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

Life Chain, a one-hour, pro-life prayer and witness event, has been held annually since 1987, in thousands of cities and towns across the United States and Canada. The 2020 National Life Chain will be held on **Sunday, October 1, 2023 from 2:00 – 3:30 PM**. We are thrilled to have three locations in Gaston County: Belmont, Gastonia and Mount Holly! See **Event Details** for more information about the sites.

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

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

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

Gastonia

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

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

Sign Pick Up: Along the sidewalks of the route



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

**NEEDED
FOR
OCTOBER**
**Be a servant of the Lord
Sign Up**

A Stewardship Minute

A story in this month's *Stewardship* tells of people that wanted to build a bridge over a river. On one side of the river they found bedrock that was not very deep. That meant the stanchion or pillar could easily be built there. On the other side, however, the bedrock was at a depth of 110 feet. Naturally that was going to be a problem for them, yet they came up with a solution. They decided to make a long and large metal pipe that would be placed on the bedrock, then fill it with concrete. Thus they had the two stan-

chions to serve as the foundations for the building of the bridge. The bridge ultimately was built and is there to cross this very day.

The writer makes the point that just as the bridge needed a good foundation, so too, as Christians we need to have a foundation on which we can build a life pleasing to God; a firm foundation to live as Christians. And that foundation is our Christ our Lord. Jesus, telling his listeners that if they called him Lord and followed his teachings, they would be like the man who built his house on a rock foundation. When a flood came, his house would not

be washed away. Then our Lord said if a person did not build a house on a strong foundation, when a flood came, it would be washed away. And great would be the ruin of that house. If we decide to truly call Christ "Lord" and do what he teaches, then we too will have a strong foundation that will not only last us all the days of our lives, but also we will find our Lord saying to us "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Master."

Prayer: Dear Lord, please be our Foundation and our Support as we strive to love and serve you all the days of our lives. **Amen**



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



What do people do?

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

Public life

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

Background

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

Symbols

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

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



Constitution Day and Citizenship Day in United States

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

What do people do?

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

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

Public life

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

Background

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

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

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

Symbols

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





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



2023 Court Square Summer Concert
 (presented by the Town of Dallas)

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

- ◆ **Saturday, September 16— Concert**
THE Catalinas



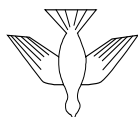
IF YOU REGISTERED FOR THE

CAROLINAS MISSION REGIONAL
FIRST ANNUAL MEN'S RETREAT

September 22-24, 2023

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

DO NOT FORGET



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



PRAYER GROUP

will meet at the home of Shirlee Marazza
on September 5 at 2:00 pm



WOMEN'S GROUP

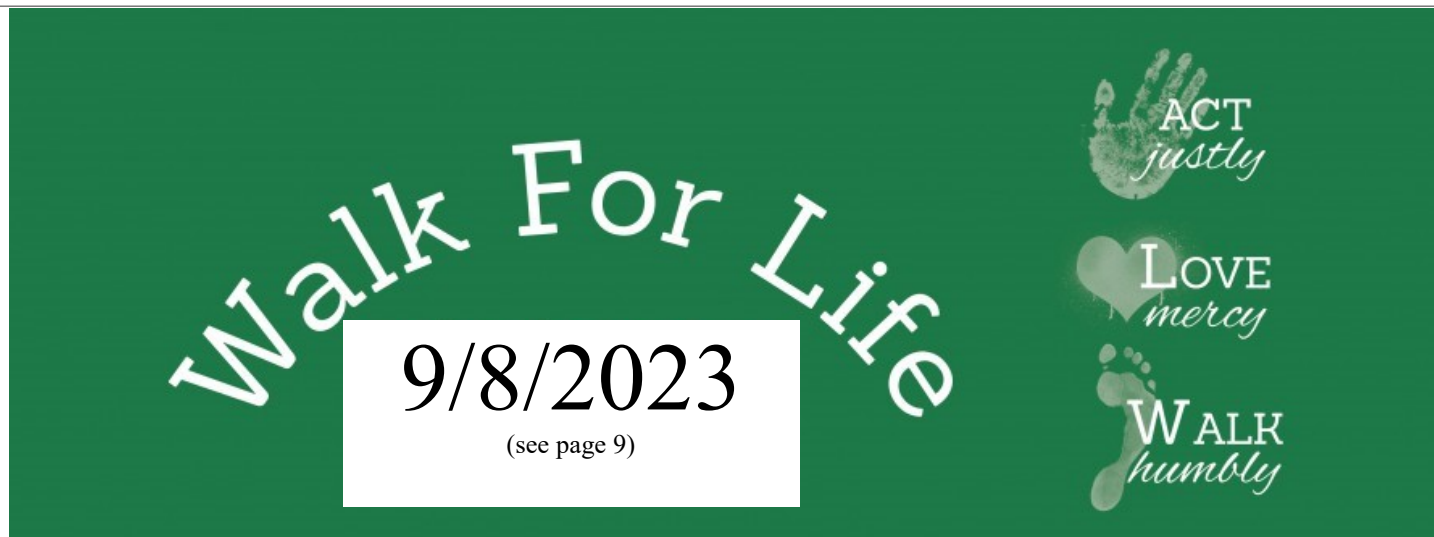
Will meet — To be announced later.

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



MARGARET Addington, SETH Alexander, AMANDA (friend of the Penley's), MARVIS Anderson, WHITNEY Auten (breast cancer), ASHLEY (friend of Marsha Patton-Pituitary tumor and upcoming surgery), KELLY Ballard (friend of Shana Dease), NORMAN Bever (Brother-in-law of Brady Ratchford-stroke), ADDISON Blanton (friend of Dease's), KATHY Bohanan (cancer), RONDA Bradley (Marsha Patton's mom, surgery for neck fusion), KAREN Brady, MIKE Coffey (Robbie Wooten's uncle), STEVE Cloninger (friend of Brady Ratchford-cancer), ROB Curley (cancer), STEVE Digh (cancer), JULIE Digh (Thyroid) HARDY Feige (Pete's dad – chronic back pain), GLEEN Fraizer (friend of Steve & Julie Digh - cancer), DON Gardner (John Patton's uncle - cancer in lung, liver, stomach & pancreas going into remission and improving), BECKY Goodwin (friend of Brady's – cancer), JASON Hames (friend of the White's), GRACE Harbin (friend of Robbie Wooten-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), 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 (the in vitro procedure produces healthy baby(ies)), ANDY Peeden (cancer), SON-DRA Phillips (friend of Melinda White), BRADY Ratchford, TERI Trudnak, TONY Trudnak (cancer reoccurring), GARY Turner (father of Jason Murray), NANCY Wilson, MARY BETH Wright (cousin of Nick Vlaservich - cancer).





Our History

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nineteen years later those actions are bearing much fruit,

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

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

LABOR DAY]

Why we celebrate Labor Day?

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

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

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CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER OF GASTON COUNTY

THE ANNUAL 33th WALK FOR LIFE Friday, September 8, 2023

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

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

Also see enclosed.

For more information call—(704) 867-3706

(See page 8)

2023 SEPTEMBER PRAYERS FOR MISSION EMPHASIS

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



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (SHOE BOX) IS COMING!

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

HOW CAN I HELP?

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



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE. WHAT IS IT?

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

Let us all create Peace Day every day!



Grandparents Day is always celebrated on the first Sunday after Labor Day. As its name suggests, Grandparents Day honors the nation's grandparents, who play an important role in the lives of many young people and their families.

The history of Grandparents Day can be traced back to 1961 with the efforts of Mrs. Hermine Beckett Hanna. Hermine made it her goal to educate the young in the community to the important contributions senior citizens have made, and to the important contributions they are willing to make if asked. She also urged the young to adopt a grandparent, not for 1 day a year, not for material giving, but for a lifetime of experience and caring just waiting to be shared with others.

Marian McQuade of Oak Hill, W.V. is credited with lobbying for a national observance of Grandparents Day. Her goal was realized in 1979 when President Jimmy Carter signed Public Law 96-62 designating the first Sunday after Labor Day as National Grandparents Day. The statute cites the day's purpose as: "... to honor grandparents, to give grandparents an opportunity to show love for their children's children, and to help children become aware of strength, information, and guidance older people can offer."



God's Gift of Grandparents

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

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

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

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

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

- By Alyssa Marie Bentham

*Grandparents
Are a Gift*





OCTOBER 1-4, 2023 | ST. CHARLES CONVENTION | ST. CHARLES, MO

<https://www.lcmc.net/annual-gathering>

Prepare for a gathering like never before as LCMC 3.0 takes us into new waters...

We're about to set forth on a new adventure, and we would love for you to come along!

It's no secret that we've grown quite a bit since we held our first Annual Gathering & Convention in 2001, but with that growth comes many new challenges, questions, and opportunities. Consequently, it is time for us to join together and intentionally take a look at who we are and where we need to go from here. Our nickname for this new season of doing life and ministry together? LCMC 3.0.

As an association of congregations, LCMC is focused on four main principles:

- We're free in Christ
- We're accountable to one another
- We're rooted in the scriptures and in the Lutheran Confessions
- We're all working together to fulfill Christ's Great Commission to go and make disciples of all nations

Working together is essential if we're going to keep moving forward. Every congregation, leader, and member of our association is important and has something to offer in order to fulfill the call that God has given us. That's why we chose "All Hands on Deck" as the theme of our 23rd Annual Gathering & Convention.

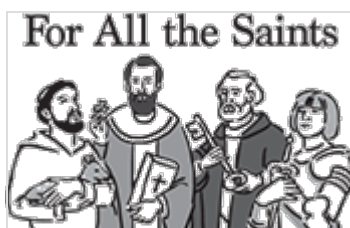
If there's one thing we know about ships, it's that they are not made for the harbor. In order for us to be able to take on the challenge of navigating new waters, we need a strong and functioning crew. That's where YOU come in!

We hope you will consider joining us October 1-4, 2023 at the Saint Charles Convention Center in St. Charles, MO for our upcoming Annual Gathering & Convention. You'll have a chance to connect with other people in LCMC, explore what God is doing in us and through us as we enter this new season of LCMC 3.0, and weigh in on some ways in which we can all work together to make that happen!

Livestream Information:

More detailed information on how to access the livestream will be available on this page in October. Please note that all times listed on the event schedule are in local time for St. Charles, MO and plan accordingly.

After the event has ended, we plan to make videos available for streaming on our [media page](#) and in the [LCMC app](#). If you would like to be notified when the edited videos have been added, please subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter



Carolina Lutheran Women 13TH Annual Convocation



*"The Cord of Hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold."*

Psalm 46:7



Discipleship: *Living and Sharing the Love of Jesus*

The Carolinas Lutheran Women (CLW) Council invites North and South Carolina and Virginia Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) and North American Lutheran Church (NALC) congregations to our thirteenth annual meeting

on Saturday, September 23, 2023, at

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (225 Morgan Street, Troutman, NC 28155)

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. Meeting at 10:00 am
(go to carolinaslutheranwomen.org for registration form)

IN KIND GIFTS:

Sanitary Products
Tpwe;s/Washcloths
Bodywash/Soap
Shampoo/Conditioner
Ethnic Hair Care Products

Offering to NALC Disaster Response (check s Payable to CLW)

We encourage each congregation to send representatives.



Inspiring a deeper understanding of true giving

September 2023

Stewardship

Our Lord's caution about erecting one's home on bedrock in the well-known parable reminds me of a building project in 1917 that illustrated the same lesson. Here it was a case of bridge-building ... the building of a bridge over the waters of the Genesee River at Charlotte, New York.

A bridge at this spot near the river-mouth had been needed for many years; but action had long been deferred because the river, though not wide, was


"Just as bridges need solid foundations, so do Christian stewards. The foundation of stewardship encompasses the bedrock wisdom of accountability."

navigable to large ships. Finally, the decision was reached to erect a bascule bridge; one whose floor was split across at the middle so that both sides could be lifted to accommodate tall ships. But major problems faced the engineers. They saw that it would be easy to root the bridge on the west-side, since this was a rocky hill. However, the east bank was lower and swampy, and borings showed that the bedrock was down 110 feet. At first they thought it would suffice if they sank wooden piles here to a depth of 70 feet. This didn't work at all. The speedy current soon tore at the piles and made them lean four feet out of plumb.

Finally, they had to resort to the costlier method of sinking a huge broad pipe or caisson down to bedrock. Then they brought in "sand hogs" ... special workmen who would shovel all the earth out



of the tube. The caisson was then filled with concrete ... a great 110 foot column of cement resting in rock. It has supported the bridge well to the present day.

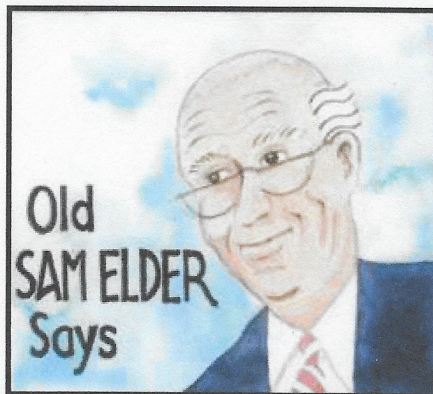
Just as bridges need solid foundations, so do Christian stewards. The foundation of stewardship encompasses the bedrock wisdom of *accountability*. We should know that all that we have on earth is a *gift* from God, and we should recognize that someday we will have to account for the way in which we have managed God's gifts. And we should know that giving is at the heart of genuine religion; that we must all be givers ... givers of time, talent and treasure. 

What should be made clear is that stewardship is an attitude. It's not so much what we do, as it is why we are doing something. Stewardship is a continuous revelation that God has given us special talents. By these gifts of talents, we can reveal God to the world.



Do I respect my own abilities and gifts; do I develop them and use them for the Kingdom of God? Do I use the gifts God has given me so that others may be happier? Do I see myself as unique, as important and gifted? In what way have I used my talents for myself, my family, my church and for my community?

It is good for us to reflect upon the way we fulfill the stewardship of our talents.



“Our church is becoming a congregation of the elderly. That means our income is limited while our caregiving expenses increase,” declared Phil Banks, our treasurer. “We must somehow adapt to our situation.”

“For a brief moment, yesterday, I thought I saw what our church should do,” answered old Sam Elder. “Homer Graveside proposed that we accept his house, land, pickup truck and personal property if in exchange we would provide for his modest needs while he lived and give him a decent funeral. For a moment, I wondered if other elderly might want similar arrangements.”

“After further thought, I realized that Homer was indeed giving his ALL, including ALL of his troubles,” Sam indicated. “But even worse, I could see that Our church would be rendering Homer extensive services in expectation of payment from his estate. That’s not charity — that’s a business. Whereas, I can see that some elderly might want such services, I’m convinced that they are not the proper mission for our church.”

“Perhaps that mission warrants further study” said the Pastor.

“Before we could act on it, yes!” said old Sam Elder. “But as I see it, as long as the elderly person retains intelligence, we should be cautious about attempting control of their lives. In other words, we must assist God — NOT compete with God. No! I must advise Homer to

increase his giving to the church while he still lives and to immediately create a will to include the church. In turn, we will try to make sure that appropriate social agencies care for his physical needs.




Every Moment an Opportunity

If one lives to be 70 years of age, the average person spends:

- 20 years sleeping.
- 20 years working.
- 6 years eating.
- 7 years playing.
- 5 years dressing.
- 1 year on the telephone.
- 2 1/2 years in bed.
- 3 years waiting for somebody.
- 5 months tying shoes.
- 2 1/2 years for “other things.”

Does “other things” in your life include some time for participation in serving on a church program?

While our daily lives may have about them a certain “sameness,” still, Christians affirm that every moment is creative by how we experience and respond to this new moment. Within every moment of this day, God is about his creative activity and is presenting us with occasions for discipleship.

Time is one of the most important gifts given us by God. God has given it equally to all. It is our responsibility to use it wisely and well. And we can do so by dedicating some part of it to some apostolic activity, organized within the framework of our own church. 



A generation ago, William Allen White was the brilliant editor of a newspaper in Emporia, Kansas. He was also a very generous person. One day he decided to give a fairly large piece of land to his city. In doing so he wrote that he always found three kicks in a dollar. The first kick, he explained, was in making a dollar. "I dearly love to make a dollar," he said. The second kick he indicated is in having a dollar. His father had been a frugal Yankee who had taught the importance of saving money. Therefore, Mr. White said, "I greatly enjoy having it." Then the wise editor went on to say, "The third kick is when you give dollars away." With exultation, he told his fellow citizens that he was getting a big kick that day in giving them the dollars represented by the piece of land he had turned over to the city.


It's OK to have money

Christians would do well to remember those three kicks Mr. White mentioned. There is nothing wrong with making a dollar legitimately. It is not the quest for money that is wrong, it is making an idol of money. It is putting the quest of wealth ahead of the quest for obedience to God.


It is also permissible for Christians to have money. Better to be in a position of having resources than being

dependent upon the government or beholden to people who misuse power and authority. There is a certain healthy freedom that comes to those who have adequate resources. If we are proper stewards of money, there is a legitimate "kick" in having it.

Stewards always share

But, of course, being a good steward of money always involves sharing it with God's Church and with others. Those who practice such giving invariably testify as to the enjoyment of being able to give. They know that it is indeed more "blessed to give than to receive." That, too, is a "kick." 

Seeing a Need

One afternoon in Chicago, officials gathered to await the arrival of the new Nobel Peace Prize winner. When he arrived, the officials came to greet him. The man thanked them, and then looking over their heads, asked if he might be excused for a moment. He walked through the crowd until he reached an elderly woman who was struggling to carry two large suitcases to a bus. He picked up the bags and escorted the woman to the bus, then returned to the welcoming committee. Later, a member of that committee was telling a friend about the event. He summed it up by saying, "I think that was the first time I ever saw a sermon walking." The man who had delivered that graphic sermon was the missionary doctor who had spent his life helping the poor in Africa, Dr. Albert Schweitzer. Seeing the need, then doing what Jesus would do. That is stewardship of our time. It will say more to those around us than our position or our words. And it gives anyone a chance to be a walking sermon! 

God has filled our lives with good things. They were for us to enjoy. They were also for us to share. Even when we share a generous portion of them, we still have more than we can use. The Bible calls this "proportionate giving." It is the reality that all we have comes from God, and as stewards of these gifts, God asks us to return and to share a portion of them ... just a small portion.



Within every moment of this day, God is about creative activity and is presenting us with occasions for discipleship.


Steward of the Month

A Heart of Gold

Submitted by: Linda, Logansport, LA

The young lady I am about to tell you about wants no recognition for her mission work, yet she is on the mission 24/7! She has been given a 50/50 chance of survival within a six month time frame, yet she has not stopped caring for others. Her job requires that she interact with people on a daily basis. Therefore she sees the downward side of their life style.

Each day you will find her witnessing to someone. There was a homeless lady that was living on the streets of her small hometown. Officers of the law would pick her up regularly and instead of helping her find some where to live they arrested her. Ms. T. Brown went and found the lady a place to live and went to her congregation that collected food and clothing for her. Then Ms. Brown took her last dollar and gave it to the woman to pay a bill that was due. On several occasions she has taken food from her own home to give to some hungry person. Days she will skip lunch and give her lunch money to others.

Give and it shall be given unto you good measures; press down shaken together and running over. Ms. Brown does not share her health conditions with those around her because she wants no special treatment. Her stewardship takes us to universities, jail houses, hospitals, poverty areas and churches. She is a 30ish year old woman with two children. Even children seek her out for help. Some of these kids have been abused in ways that bring tears to your heart. We need more people like Ms. Brown. 





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



NALC
North American Lutheran Church



lcmc
Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ



Honoring Grandparents

SEPTEMBER 10th

September 2023

WALK 4 LIFE 2023

Your **SILVER** change, checks, and **GREEN** currency help us to help women, men and their families facing crisis pregnancy situations with the truth about LIFE.



Let the **Little Children** Come to Me!

"But Jesus called the children to Him and said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.'" Luke 18:16

2023

**CRISIS
& PREGNANCY
CENTER**
OF GASTON COUNTY

33rd Annual Walk 4 Life

Friday

September 8, 2023

Crisis Pregnancy Center
(700 Robinson Road)

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Goal : \$70,000