

The Power of God for Salvation

**For I am not ashamed
Of the gospel, for it is
The power of God for
Salvation is everyone
Who believes.** Roman 1:16

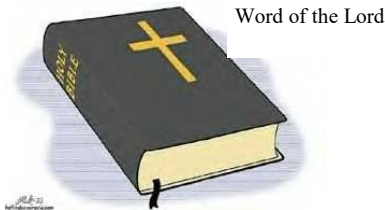
Read Romans 1:1-17 and Ps 40

How do we show our power? Boys show power by flexing their muscles. Adults show power by buying nice homes, owning property, and padding their bank accounts. Governments show power through military strength and economic vitality. If you think about it, all of the ways we show power are just different ways of flexing our muscles.

Following our logic, we would expect God to display His power with amazing feats of strength. We would expect Jesus to conquer the devil with His fists or armies of angels. We would expect him to save us through some miraculous display of power. Instead, He saves us through His death on the cross. We would expect Jesus to come in majesty every Sunday. Instead, He comes to us in His Word on the lips of remarkably un-majestic pastors and hidden in, with, and under bread and wine.

Jesus does not need to display His power as we do. Our God is powerful, to be sure, but His great work of salvation comes to us by rather unremarkable means. Out of His love for us, He comes to save us in humble ways that only the eyes of faith can see as powerful. He comes to us through the Gospel.

**Dear Jesus,
thank You for
saving me through
the power of Your
Gospel. Amen**



Word of the Lord

Praying for Our Nation

From our nation's earliest days, God's promise in 2 Chronicles 7 that He will hear the cry of a humbled people has motivated American's leaders to call citizens to prayer. In 1775, as it began to process the forming a new nation, the Continental Congress called for a day of prayer. At critical junctures during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln called for the nation to fast and pray (see page of newsletter). And in 1952, President Harry Truman signed a bill establishing an annual *National Day of Prayer* (see page of newsletter).

Second Chronicles helps establish a model of national spiritual renewal. The book recounts how a succession of righteous kings in Judah led to reforms that brought the people back to true faith in God. Second Chronicles 16:9 assures us that God will show Himself strong" toward those who place their trust in Him.

GOD AND STATE CONSTITUTIONS (We are a Christian Nation—NOT a Muslim Nation)

While there have been revisions to state constitutions over the years, forth-three state constitutions acknowledge God or a higher power in their preambles (introductory clause of explanation), and the other states acknowledge God in their religious freedom provision.

Connecticut 1818, Preamble: "The people of Connecticut acknowledging with gratitude the good providence of God in permitting them to enjoy a free government...."

Maine 1820, Preamble: "We the People of Maine ... acknowledge with gratitude hearts the goodness of the Sovereign Ruler of the Universe in affording us an opportunity and employing Hid aid and direction in the accomplishment...."

Massachusetts 1789, Preamble: "We, therefore, the people of Massachusetts, acknowledging with grateful hearts, the goodness of the Great Legislator of the Universe, in affording us, in the course of His Providence, an opportunity.... and devoutly imploring His direction...."

New York 1846, Preamble: "We, the people of the State of New York, grateful to Almighty God for our freedom, in order to secure its blessings...."

North Carolina, Preamble: Through its history, North Carolina has had three Constitutions: the Constitution of 1776, the Constitution of 1868, and the Constitution of 1971.

The Preamble and Constitution of 1776:

Preamble: "We, the people of the State of North Carolina, grateful to Almighty God, the Sovereign Ruler of Nations, for the preservation of the American Union and the existence of our civil, political and religious liberties, and acknowledging our dependence upon Him for the continuance of those blessings to us and our posterity....."

Constitution: Article XIX. That all men have a natural and unalienable right to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their own consciences.

The Constitution of 1868, and 1971: It seems like the Preamble did not change

Second Constitution of 1868: Changed the North Carolina government drastically was adopted. For the first time, all major state officers were elected by the people Article I: Declaration of Rights **Sec. 26** All persons have a natural and inalienable right to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their own consciences, and no human authority shall, in any case whatever, control or interfere with the rights of conscience..

Third Constitution of 1971: Article I: Declaration of Rights **Sec. 13. Religious liberty.** All persons have a natural and inalienable right to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their own consciences, and no human authority shall, in any case whatever, control or interfere with the rights of conscience.

THE NIGHT WATCHMAN

Once upon a time the government had a vast scrap yard in the middle of a desert. Congress said, "Someone may steal from it at night." So, they created a night watchman position and hired a person for the job.

Then Congress said, "How does the watchman do his job without instruction?" So, they created a planning department and hired two people, one person to write the instructions, and one person to do time studies.

Then Congress said, "How will we know the night watchman is doing the tasks correctly?" So, they created a Quality Control department and hired two people. One was to do the studies and one was to write the reports.

Then Congress said, "How are these people going to get paid?" So, they created two positions: a time keeper and a payroll officer then hired two people.

Then Congress said, "Who will be accountable for all of these people?" So, they created an administrative section and hired three people, an Administrative Officer, Assistant Administrative Officer, and a Legal Secretary.

Then Congress said, "We have had this command in operation for one year and we are \$918,000 over budget, we must cut back." So they laid off the night watchman.

NOW slowly, let it sink in.

Quietly, we go like sheep to slaughter. Does anybody remember the reason given for the establishment of the DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY during the Carter administration?

Anybody? Anything? Anyone? No? Didn't think so!

Bottom line is, we've spent several hundred billion dollars in support of an agency, the reason for which very few people who read this can remember!

Ready??

It was very simple... and at the time, everybody thought it very appropriate.

The Department of Energy was instituted on 8/04/1977, TO LESSEN OUR DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN OIL.

Hey, pretty efficient, huh???

AND IN 2022 -- 45 YEARS LATER -- AND THE BUDGET FOR THIS "NECESSARY" DEPARTMENT IS AT \$242 BILLION A YEAR. IT HAS 16,000 FEDERAL EMPLOYEES AND APPROXIMATELY 100,000 CONTRACT EMPLOYEES; AND LOOK AT THE JOB IT HAS DONE!

(THIS IS WHERE YOU SLAP YOUR FOREHEAD AND SAY, "WHAT WERE THEY THINKING?") 34 years ago 30% of our oil consumption was foreign imports. Today 70% of our oil consumption is foreign imports.

NOW, WE HAVE TURNED OVER THE BANKING SYSTEM, HEALTH CARE, AND THE AUTO INDUSTRY TO THE SAME GOVERNMENT? What can possibly go wrong?

Hello!! Anybody Home?

Signed.... *The Night Watchman*





The Doctrine of the Assumption of the Mary

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



GO OUT ON A LIMB **GET INVOLVED**

BE A WORSHIP ASSISTANT
Positions are still open.

Participate in the service of the Lord and sign
Sign up sheets
for the 2023 calendar year in a notebook
on the church office door.
THANK YOU!



YOUR HELP IS NEEDED.
WE DO NOT HAVE ANY
WORSHIP ASSISTANCE, ETC.
FOR
AUGUST, SEPTEMBER,
OCTOBER, NOVEMBER AND
DECEMBER

What was the First Food & Liquid Consumed on the Moon?

Two human beings changed history by walking on the surface of the moon. But what happened before Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong exited the Lunar Module is perhaps even more amazing, if only because so few people know about it. "I'm talking about the fact that Buzz Aldrin took communion on the surface of the moon. Some months after his return, he wrote about it in Guideposts magazine.

And a few years ago I had the privilege of meeting him myself. I asked him about it and he confirmed the story to me, and I wrote about in my book, Everything You Always Wanted to Know About God (But Were Afraid to Ask).

The background to the story is that Aldrin was an elder at his Presbyterian Church in Texas during this period in his life, and knowing that he would soon be doing something unprecedented in human history, he felt he should mark the occasion somehow, and he asked his minister to help him. And so the minister consecrated a communion wafer and a small vial of communion wine. And Buzz Aldrin took them with him out of the Earth's orbit and on to the surface of the moon. He and Armstrong had only been on the lunar surface for a few minutes when Aldrin made the following public statement:

"This is the LM pilot. I'd like to take this opportunity to ask every person listening in, whoever and wherever they may be, to pause for a moment and contemplate the events of the past few hours and to give thanks in his or her own way." He then ended radio communication and there, on the silent surface of the moon, 250,000 miles from home, he read a verse from the Gospel of John, and he took communion.

Here is his own account of what happened: "In the radio blackout, I opened the little plastic packages which contained the bread and the wine. I poured the wine into the chalice our church had given me. In the one-sixth gravity of the moon, the wine slowly curled and gracefully came up the side of the cup. Then I read the scripture, 'I am the vine, you are the branches. Whosoever abides in me will bring forth much fruit ..Apart from me you can do nothing.' [John 15:5]

"I had intended to read my communion passage back to Earth, but at the last minute Mission Control requested that I not do this. NASA was already embroiled in a legal battle with Madelyn Murray O'Hare, the notorious opponent of religion, over the Apollo 8 crew reading from Genesis while orbiting the moon at Christmas. I agreed reluctantly."

"I ate the tiny Host and swallowed the wine. I gave thanks for the intelligence and spirit that had brought two young pilots to the Sea of Tranquility. It was interesting for me to think the very first liquid ever poured on the moon, and the very first food eaten there, were the communion elements."

And of course, it's interesting to think that some of the first words spoken on the moon were the words of Jesus Christ, who made the Earth and the Moon - and Who, in the immortal words of Dante, is Himself the "Love that moves the Sun and other stars."

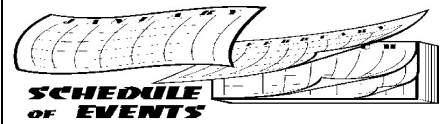
How many of you knew this? Too bad this type good news doesn't travel as fast as the bad does. Share it if you've felt God's love.

Jesus said, "If you are ashamed of me, I will be ashamed of you before My Father on Judgment Day." [Mark8:38, Luke 9:26]

August 2023



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



	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 10 th Sunday after Pentecost	7 	8	9	10	11	12 Concert on the Square
13 11 th Sun. after Pentecost	14 	15	16	17	18	19
20 12 th Sun. after Pentecost	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 13 th Sun. after Pentecost	28	29 CLW Mtg.	30	31		

- August 6—National Friendship Day (see p 12)
- August 6—10th Sunday after Pentecost
- August 7—Purple Heart Day (see p 6)
- August 7—Friendship Day (see p 13)
- August 12— Concert on the Square (see p 3)
- August 13—11th Sunday after Pentecost
- August 15—Assumption of Mary (see p 4)
- August 15— Prayer Group will meet at the home of Shirlee Marazza—2:00 pm (p 7)
- August 20—12th Sunday after Pentecost
- August 27—13th Sunday after Pentecost
- August 29—Women's Group will meet at the home of Betty Clemmer 2:00 pm (p 7)



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



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

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



Holy Communion Schedule:
All Sundays

Worship Service Assistance:

- Acolyte: Nora Cole
- Communion Asst: Nora Cole
- Lay Reader: Anna Lowery
- Worship Asst: Anna Lowery
- Greeters: Members of OSLC
- Ushers: Members of OSLC

- Collection: Yvonne Finger
- Devotions Sept: Alice Vlaservich



NO Choir Practice



- 4thReid & Mariel Schmideler
- 13thDoyle & Darlene Clemmer
- 23rdBill & Teri Trudnak
- 29thJeff & Shana Dease

FLOWERS

Flower Schedule:

- August 6 OPEN
- August 13 OPEN
- August 20 Jeff White
- August 27 Steve & Julie Digh

\$35.00

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

Five (17) openings
Decorate the altar of our Lord
And then take home to decorate your home of give to a love one of shut-in

A Stewardship Minute

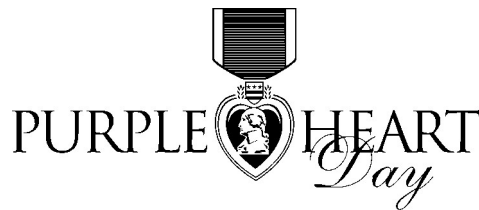
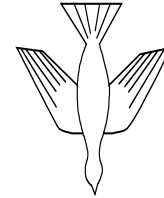
An article in the August issue of Stewardship reminds us of our duty to respond to God's goodness. For example, the article states that no portion of "our time" is really our time ... it is all God's "time" and we should be grateful for the days and years God gives us to live here on earth. Likewise, since our bodies, minds, and spirits are gifts to us from God, we have the responsibility to use them all to honor God. If we misuse our minds, our bodies, or our talents, we are not being good stewards of what God has given us; we are ignoring the Source of our existence and thus cheating

both God and ourselves.

In the fifth chapter of Matthew we find Jesus saying: "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can it be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but it is thrown out and trampled underfoot." Are we good "salt" striving to give a wonderful flavor to this world through our stewardship or are we simply living for ourselves without trying to serve God? If we are to be effective "salt," doesn't this mean that we must live as God's people striving to be good stewards of our time, talents, and whatever resources God has given us? Surely

Christ's desire for us as his servants is to work to bring love, peace, hope, and service to the entire world!

Prayer: Help us to live our lives being worthy stewards, dear Lord, that we may ultimately enjoy eternal fellowship with you. **Amen.**



August 7th

HISTORY OF PURPLE HEART DAY

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

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

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

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



Church News



OUTREACH MISSION

SHUT-INS

NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

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

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



EVENTS for Agrape/Kure Beach

Contact Camp Agapé:

Telephone: 919-552-9421

e-mail: agape@agapekurebeach.org

Contact Kure Beach Lutheran:

Telephone 910-458-0783

e-mail: kurebeach@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 or the Church's website for a link

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



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



"Prayer Group" will meet at the home of Shirlee Marazza August 15, 2:00 pm



"Women's Group" will meet at the home of Betty Clemmer Date to be announced.

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), 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), 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), ANDERSON Jones (friend of Penny Wilson-paralyzed by fall), 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), (SONDRA Phillips (friend of Melinda White), BRADY Ratchford, TERI Trudnak, RONNIE Shiles (friend of Brady Ratchford-declining health), TONY Trudnak (cancer reoccurring), GARY Turner (father of Jason Murray), NANCY Wilson, MARY BETH Wright (cousin of Nick Vlaservich -cancer).



In this crazy political season I decided a little religion might be appropriate so here is a short Bible study.

Remember what Jesus said: 'Goats on the left, sheep on the right' (Matthew 25:33).

Jesus also told Peter that if he wanted to catch fish do it from the right side of the boat. They did and filled the boat with fish. John 21:6 (NIV) ... He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish."

Origin of Left & Right...I have often wondered why it is that Conservatives are called the "right" and Liberals are called the "left". By chance I stumbled upon this verse in the Bible: Ecclesiastes 10:2 (NIV) - "The heart of the wise inclines to the right, but the heart of the fool to the left."

Thus sayeth the Lord. Amen.

It surely can't get any simpler than that.

Spelling Lesson: The last four letters in American..... I Can
The last four letters in Republican..... I Can
The last four letters in Democrats..... Rats

End of lesson! ...

Please share this Bible Lesson with all your friends and email buddies to help achieve that goal.
Never grow a wishbone where a backbone ought to be.



Q: It is fascinating to read the Bible verse that the disciples of Jesus turned the world upside down. What exactly does this mean?

A: From the writings of the Rev. Billy Graham

Because the disciples dared to buck the tide of public opinion and be different, because they dared to believe when other people doubted, because they were willing to risk their lives for what they stood for, because they chose death rather than to live an empty life, the world took notice of what motivated these men and women. In due time, they turned the philosophical and religious world upside down.

The Apostle Paul told Christ's followers not to conform to the world (Romans 12:2) and these words still have a tremendous and significant meaning for believers today. These words cut like a sharp sword across our way of life. They are not comfortable words. They have the tone of the battle call in them. They separate the weak from the strong. But they are words of inspiration and conviction, and we need to hear them today—and heed them.

We must not be conformed to this world mentally. The world by its advertisements, conversation, and philosophy is engaged in a gigantic brainwashing task. Christians must not allow the world's sewage system to contaminate the Christian mind. We also must not conform to the world physically. Our bodies are meant to be the temple of the Spirit of God that abides in us. Nor should we conform to the world socially. The world attempts to absorb us into its secular society and to conform us to its earthly image, but Christ tells us not to conform: "They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world" (John 17:16). The disciples turned the world's ways upside down by the power of the Word of God.

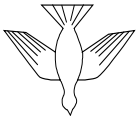
(This column is based on the words and writings of the late Rev. Billy Graham.)

LOCK BOX PROGRAM

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

Program is free of charge.

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



Saying Grace In A Restaurant?

God grant us the faith of a little child.

Last week, I took my children to a restaurant. My six-year-old son asked if he could say grace? As we bowed our heads he said, "God is great, God is good. Let us thank Him for our food. And I would even thank you more if Mom gets us ice cream for dessert. And Liberty and justice for all! Amen!"

Along with the laughter from the other customers nearby, I heard a woman remark, "That's what's wrong with this country. Kids today don't even know how to pray. Asking God for ice cream! Why, I never!"

Hearing this, my son burst into tears and asked me, "Did I do it wrong? Is God mad at me?"

As I held him and assured him that he had done a terrific job, and God was certainly not mad at him, an elderly gentleman approached the table. He winked at my son and said, "I happen to know that God thought that was a great prayer."

"Really?" my son asked.?

"Cross my heart," the man replied.

Then, in a theatrical whisper, he added (indicating the woman whose remark had started this whole thing), "Too bad she never asks God for ice cream. A little ice cream is good for the soul sometimes."

Naturally, I bought my kids ice cream at the end of the meal. My son stared at his for a moment, and then he did something I will remember the rest of my life.

He picked up his sundae and, without a word, walked over and placed it in front of the woman. With a big smile he told her, "Here ma'am, this is for you. Ice cream is good for the soul sometimes; and my soul is good already."

I love this story! Sometimes, we all need some ice cream. I hope God sends you some Ice Cream today.

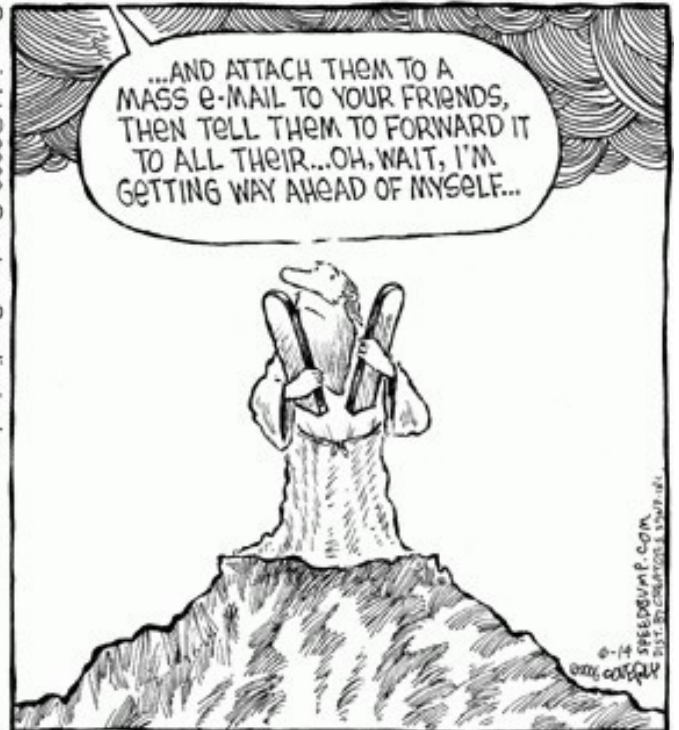
2023 Court Square Summer Concert

(presented by the Town of Dallas)

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

- ◆ **Saturday, August 12th— Concert Gary Lowder and Smokin' Hot**
- ◆ **Saturday, September 16— Concert THE Catalinas**

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2023 August Mission Emphasis –
34th WALK FOR LIFE (CPC)
Friday, September 8, 2023
“Walk the Walk”

The Pregnancy Center is a nonprofit pro-life organization of committed Christians sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ and actively helping women, men and families in Crisis pregnancy situations. We at Crisis Pregnancy Center of Gaston County, Inc. would like to welcome you to our center.

The Walk for Life is a way to raise money for the Crisis Pregnancy Center. At the event there will be no money raised, but a time of celebration and fun with activities for all children, youth, and adults from 4:00 until 8:00 p.m. Key activities besides the walking track are: hot-tethered balloon, rock climbing wall, slide, moon bounce, crafts table, face painting and free hot dogs, popcorn, and drinks. Praise music and times of worship from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Our History

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

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

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

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

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

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

From its inception, the Crisis Pregnancy Center of Gaston County, Inc. has now served 50,000+ clients, been blessed by faithful volunteers, trusted God for budget needs numerous times, and made an impact in this County that is now indelible and indispensable.

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

(CPC Mission cont'd on page 11)



Our Saviour's Good News

Volume XVIII, Issue VIII

August 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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THE HANDS OF JESUS

TEXT: Luke 24:39

The New Testament constitutes a picture book of Jesus' hands.

1. **The creating hands.** "All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made" (John 1:3). Jesus "is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature. For by him were all things created.... visible and invisible" (Col. 1:15-16). All the mountains, all the seas, all the stars, all the planets, and all the galaxies were made by him. His hands flung those galaxies into space, "whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him" Col. 1:16)
2. **The healing hands.** (a) Lepers were social outcasts. They were to call out "Unclean! Unclean!" to keep people away from them. Jesus walked up to a leper and put his hand on him. Can you imagine what that meant to the leper? Probably years had gone by since the leper had felt the touch of a human hand, and Jesus touched him. The leper was healed. (b) Think of the man born blind. Jesus took a little dust from the earth, collected saliva, and put it in the dust. He made a little salve and with his hands put in on the man's eyes. The blind man was healed. The touch of the hand of the Lord Jesus Christ is a healing touch. © The hands of Jesus can heal your heart, heal your mind, heal your soul, and heal your body, if he wills. Has he come into your heart to heal your hurt? The hurt between you and your spouse? The hurt between you and your child(ren)? The hurt between you and your siblings? The hurt between you and your neighbor? The hurt of poverty? The hurt of bad health? Whatever is it let Jesus touch you. He loves you. He wants to help.
3. **The compassionate hands.** He said, "I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat" (Matt. 15:32). Jesus has compassion on you in your need, in your hurt, in your place of suffering.
4. **The hands of blessing.** "Verily I say unto you, who soever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And he took up the little children and he blessed them: (Mark 10:15-16). (a) You may have gray hair or you may have a bald head, but in God's sight you are as a little child. Jesus wants to take you in his arms and love you and bless you and change you and make you a new person. He wants to make your home a new place and give you hope and purpose and meaning in life, if you will let Him. (b) You have to open the door. You have to become as a little child. You can't come to Jesus with your shoulders reared back and with a lot of pride. You have to surrender that pride and say: "Lord, I'm a sinner. You died for me on the cross, and I'm coming to that cross. I want your blessing. I want forgiveness for my sins." Have you done that?
5. **The suffering hands.** He suffered when the soldiers drove the nails through his hands. When they hung Jesus between heaven and earth, the terrible jolt tore his hands. After his resurrection the disciples could see the nail scars in his hands and the place where he had been pierced. The wounds were such that Thomas could have put his own finger into the holes. Jesus will wear those scars for eternity, and all that time we'll be saying, "Thank you, Lord."
6. **The outstretched hands.** He is stretching out his hands to you and saying: "I love you, and I died for you. Come, let me be all that you need in your soul, in your heart, in your mind." He came not just to save you from sin and to save you for eternity; he came to save you right now, to walk with you now. ----- Billy Graham

ILLUSTRATIONS FOR "THE HANDS OF JESUS"

A Christian is anyone who is consciously a flower of Christ, who looks to Christ as his pattern and guide and sincerely tries to live the Christ-like-life of self-surrender and purity and love, he life that aims not to be ministered unto but to minister in the midst of a selfish and sensual world. --- Durant Drake

It's impossible to clap with one hand. It takes the cooperation to two hands clasping. Here's how the Bible describes another kind of cooperation: "We know that all things work together for good to them that love God." You might say all things cooperate for good, like two hands clasping, when our hearts overflow with love for God. ----- Robert J. Hastings



Why I Walk for Life.

A young father showed up at up at our doors (CPC) at 9:00 am. He WALKED 14 MILES to get baby supplies for his baby. His gentle demeanor and grateful smile were a blessing to all who were privileged to meet him. His gratitude overflowed.

I WALK FOR LIFE so we will continue to have a bounty of supplies to give to desperate parents like this.

How far will YOU WALK 4 LIFE?

Mary Smith, Parenting Educator

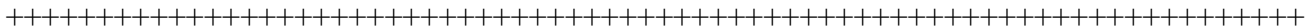
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If you want to come and support LIFE in a visible way
to our community, come and join us for our

Annual WALK 4 LIFE ON September 8

**For more information,
call: 704-867-3706,
or
email: cpcdir@gmail.com**

Crisis Pregnancy Center Gaston County



(CPC Mission cont'd from page 10)

- Thirty-four years later those actions are bearing much fruit,
- Now, Shepherds, within the church of our Lord, the Body of Christ, can strongly affirm Biblical Sanctity of life from conception to natural death and point them to a place in Gaston County that ministers without manipulation;
- Now, those who have hidden the guilt of past abortions can have a place of healing, experiencing first hand, God's unconditional love, ·
- Now, the pro-life constituency can prayerfully point to a place of refuge that will meet not only physical needs but will unashamedly present the gospel of Jesus Christ as the ultimate answer.

Friendship Day History

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

History of Friendship Day in US

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

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

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

Importance of Friendship in Bible

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

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

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

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

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

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

Importance of Friendship in Mahabharata

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

What a
Friend
we have
in Jesus

Sanctity of Human Life

Sanctity of Human Life

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



Stewardship

Inspiring a deeper understanding of true giving

August 2023

And Jesus sat down opposite the temple and watched the people putting their money in the treasury. Many wealthy members came along and put in large sums of money. Then a widow came and prepared to put in one penny. Jesus called his disciples and said to them, "See that widow, she is about to give all that she has in the world ... her last cent. Rush to her and stop her that she might not be penniless.

These others have given out of their abundance, but this woman wants to give all that she has; don't let her give even that away!" And Jesus' disciples hurried over to her, and took her by the hand, preventing her from giving her last penny. And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly I say to you, this is a nice old lady."

That isn't the way the story goes, but that's how it should go isn't it?

What goes on in this story is crazy. Jesus allows this woman to give her last penny in the world to the church. She needs that money as much as anybody the church could give it to. She is poor herself. When she drops that last penny in the treasury she's broke ... no money for food, no money for housing, no money for clothes, no money for the necessities of life. She has nothing.

This story is shocking to us. We're trying to build up bank accounts, get some investments going, build up a little security, cut some corners to save money, then she goes and gives her last penny away. We want the money. We want to save, to put more money away.

But this woman gives everything that she has for the poor.

Studies have shown that the less money people have, the more generous they are with it. Percentage wise, in many cases, the more money we have, the less willing we are to share it. Sometimes those with good incomes become more tied to their money than the poor do. This woman, who had almost nothing to give, gave it all.

The motive behind her giving is that she cares for other people. She cares about them even more than she cares about herself. The issue Jesus is raising here is not the amount of money that is given, but the compassion behind the gift.

(Continued on page 4)

Charge them to do good, to be rich in good works and generous, sharing what they have. 1 Timothy 6:18



Young STEWARD'S Corner



Giving What You Have...

There is no portion of our time that is our time, and the rest God's.

There is no portion of money that is our money, and the rest God's money.


It is all God's; God made it all, gave it all, and God simply trusted it to us for his service.

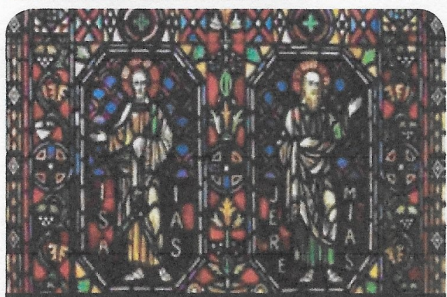
Do you remember the story of two country boys talking, and one asked, "Billy Bob, if you had a million dollars, would you give me half of it?" Ole Billy Bob replied, "Lee Roy, you know I would." So Lee Roy questioned again, "If you had a thousand dollars, would you give me five hundred?" "Lee Roy, we have been friends for over twenty years," said Billy Bob, "and you know I would give you five hundred dollars if I had a thousand." Well, Ole Lee Roy scratched his chin and asked, "If you had two hogs, would you give me one?" Billy Bob shouted loudly, "That's not fair. You know I have two hogs."

Have you ever heard people say something like that? I have heard many people say if God would let them win the lottery, they would give half of it to the church, spend a lot on helping the poor, and live on the rest. We all need to understand that God never requires of us to give what we do not have. God's requirement is that we give from what we have.

When we give time, talent, and money to God, it is blessed. There is in

Malachi 3:8-10 a blessing and a curse. The curse may be the absence of the blessing. When something is blessed, it simply means it has the capacity to do more than it would normally do. So which would you rather have: ten dollars blessed of God because you gave the tithe, or ten dollars without the blessing of God because you did not give the tithe? The real question is: Can ten dollars blessed do more than ten dollars not blessed? The answer is ten dollars not blessed can do only what ten dollars can do in our economy. Ten dollars blessed of God can do what **GOD CAN DO**.

I am not one of those claim-it-and-name-it kind of people, but I am saying you can claim what God has named. So give what you have and not what you don't have. Then you can claim God's blessing. 




Through the Stained Glass...

Imagine that you are having a picnic by a bend in a swift-flowing river. Suddenly, you see someone being swept by, drowning. You jump in and rescue the person. Before you have a chance to dry off, another drowning person comes around the bend. And then another. You walk upstream to see what is happening, and discover a rickety bridge. It has no side rails, and much of its flooring has rotted away; many who try to cross the bridge fall into the river. You could spend all day rescuing them from drowning. Or you could spend a couple of days repairing the bridge, and prevent anyone from falling into the river.

Similarly, it may be argued, one answer to poverty and starvation in the world today is not to “give a person a fish, feeding him or her for a day; but teach them to fish, and feeding them for life.”

Responding to the needs of our neighbors is one of the basic beliefs of Christianity. This sounds so simple. But it is really more complex than it sounds because the real question is: What are the real needs of people?

Sometimes our charity merely eases our nagging consciences and fills our needs, rather than meeting the real needs of the people around us. In our charity, we need to be careful that we are not really just fulfilling our own needs. 

What Size is Your Corn?


Suppose that you are given a piece of land composed of fine river bottom soil, capable of immense profits in truck gardening. You waste very little time puzzling over why anyone would be so generous as to give away such land; you become busy preparing the soil and working it and planning on spending your profits, perhaps for more land.

If the person who gave you this wondrous land were living right next door, instead of in some far off land, you would naturally pause from time to time; and finally, in the joy of your rich harvest and in the certainty that you would be meeting again and again, you would likely come to feel you should share some of your harvest.

Would any of us at that point, screen out our produce and present our donor with only the wilted, scraggly warped vegetables which are the culls, the tossed aside overflow of those who sell produce? If this generous giver had also been instrumental in giving us the fine health it takes to work a truck farm, would not our gratitude be such that we would choose for him the plumpest, sweetest, freshest vegetables?

So it is with giving.

Few of us are farmers today, but a serious look at our income and the bit we slice off to give back to God, measuring and examining it as a farmer would his vegetables, will help us to see our offering in its true light. What size ears of corn are you returning to your God?

Anything less than a fair share of every dollar of your income, which comes to you through “luck” or hard work, is surely giving only the nubbins from your patch! 

Consider this paradox. Compared to the government and the bill collectors, the church almost never asks for money. Yet, of all the things your money could be used for, very few are more important than what the church provides.

The church is here to share the love of Jesus Christ himself. Our money goes to serve him. The church continues to provide ministry in Jesus' name to everyone, whether they can afford to contribute or not. Isn't that something you would like to be a part of?



Suppose that you are given a piece of land composed of fine river bottom soil, capable of immense profits in truck gardening...

More Than Artistic!


Have you ever stopped to consider that talents include many more abilities than merely athletic, artistic or musical? In God's Kingdom, each of us is given a talent according to our ability and the opportunity to use and develop that talent. Jesus does not pass judgement on how many talents we have. He holds us accountable for using the one we have to his glory.

A dormant talent?

Come and discover that talent that may be lying dormant within you or that you may be using every day, but because it isn't a painting you can display for everyone to see, you may believe that you don't have any talent.


Outside the church

God does not require our talents to be used necessarily in the church. A candy striper in the hallways of a local hospital sharing his or her talent of

giving comfort and hope to burn victims is certainly glorifying God with their talent as much as a Sunday School teacher who loves the children in the class. 

Continued from page 1...

And Jesus sat down...

This woman gave more than anybody else because she was willing to sacrifice, completely. They gave a lot of money, but it was small in proportion to their wealth; she gave a penny, but it was everything she had. She gave "the little that is all." It was an enormously greater sacrifice on her part. 





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