



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



Volume XIX, Issue XI

November 2024

**MISSION STATEMENT**

*Our Saviour Lutheran Church welcomes all people to a safe place to grow in faith and serve the Lord Jesus Christ*

Inside this issue: \_\_\_\_\_

- **Thanksgiving: Meaning/History** 2
- **Thanksgiving Prayer**
- **Calendar & Events** 5
- **Council Minutes** 6
- **History of Nat'l Prayer Week** 7
- **Old Folks** 8
- **November Mission Emphasis** 9
- **Need Your Help**
- **Stewardship Minutes** 10
- **How to Honor Veterans**
- **Thanksgiving Proclamation** 11
- **Thanksgiving Dinner Prayer**
- **Outreach Mission** 12
- **Prayer Concerns**
- **Women's Group (CLW)**
- **Prayer Group**
- **Poinsettias Cost**
- **Special Prayer: Armed Forces** 13
- **Operation Christman Shoe Box**
- **Veterans Honored** 14
- **Day Light Ends**
- **First Thanksgiving**
- **History of Veterans Day** 15
- **Stewardship Newsletter** 16

**Happy Thanksgiving**



**All Saints Solemnity November 3**

**"The glorious company of the apostles praise Thee. The goodly fellowship of the prophets praise Thee. The white-robed army of martyrs praise Thee. All the saints and elect with one voice do acknowledge Thee, O Blessed Trinity, one God!"** -- Feast of All Saints (November 3), Antiphon at Lauds. from the *Te Deum*

**Origin of All Saint's Day as a feast of the Church:**

What makes this feast so important that the Church celebrates both the night *before* All Saints and the day *after* it?

The Church has always honored those early witnesses to the Christian faith who have died in the Lord. (The Greek word for "witness" is martyr.) During the first three hundred years Christians were severely persecuted, often suffering torture and bloody death -- *because they were faithful*. They refused to deny Christ, even when this denial might have saved their own lives, or the lives of their children and families.

The early history of the Church is filled with stories of the heroic faith of these witnesses to Christ's truth. The stories of these saints -- these baptized Christians of all ages and all states in life, whose fidelity and courage led to their sanctity or holiness -- have provided models for every other Christian throughout history.

Many of those especially holy people whose names and stories were known, the Church later canonized (that is, the Church formally recognized that the life of that person was without any doubt holy, or sanctified -- a "saint" who is an example for us.) The Church's calendar contains many saint's days, which Catholics observe at Mass -- some with special festivities.

But there were thousands and thousands of early Christian martyrs, the majority of whose

names are known only to God -- and throughout the history of the Church there have been countless others who really are saints, who are with God in heaven, even if their names are not on the list of canonized saints.

In order to honor the memory -- and our own debt -- to these unnamed saints, and to recall their example, the Church dedicated a special feast day -- a sort of "memorial day" -- so that all living Christians would celebrate at a special Mass the lives and witness of those "who have died and gone before us into the presence of the Lord".

This feast that we know as All Saint's Day originated as a feast of All Martyrs, sometime in the 4th century. At first it was celebrated on the first Sunday after Pentecost. It came to be observed on May 13 when Pope St. Boniface IV (608-615) restored and rebuilt for use as a Christian church an ancient Roman temple which pagan Rome had dedicated to "all gods", the Pantheon. The pope re-buried the bones of many martyrs there, and dedicated this Church to the Mother of God and all the Holy Martyrs on May 13, 610.

About a hundred years later, Pope Gregory III (731-741) consecrated a new chapel in the basilica of St. Peter to all saints (not just to the martyrs) on November 1, and he fixed the anniversary of this dedication as the date of the feast.

A century after that, Pope Gregory IV (827-844) extended the celebration of All Saints to November 1 for the entire Church. The vigil of this important feast, All Saint's Eve, Halloween, was apparently observed as early as the feast itself.

The festival was retained after the Reformation in the calendar of the Church of England and in many Lutheran churches. In the Lutheran churches, such as the Church of Sweden, it assumes a role of general commemoration of the dead. In the Swedish calendar, the observance takes place on the first Saturday of November. In many Lutheran Churches, it is moved to the first Sunday of November.

## The Meaning of Thanksgiving Day and History of the Holiday

As Christians, we can reclaim Thanksgiving. Rather than just being a day where we eat too much and strategize our Black Friday sales plan of attack, we can go back to our historical and spiritual roots as we give thanks to God.

Thanksgiving Day is a national holiday in the United States starting in 1789. In 2023, Thanksgiving in the US will be on **Thursday, November 28<sup>th</sup>**.

In the United States, Thanksgiving is historically a day to praise and thank God for our blessings and ask Him to heal the nation's wounds. It was also a national day of penitence to humbly repent for our sinfulness and selfishness.

Thanksgiving became a national holiday in 1863. During the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln declared Thanksgiving:

*As a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union.*

### Meaning of Thanksgiving: Praise to God

In the Bible, thanksgiving means devotion, sacrifice, praise, or an offering. Thanksgiving is to glorify God as an act of worship, giving thanks for all things as part of God's providence. **Allabouthistory.org** gives a beautiful definition of Thanksgiving as primarily about relationships:

The true meaning of Thanksgiving focuses upon relationship. Thanksgiving is a relationship between God and man. Upon their arrival at New Plymouth, the Pilgrims composed The Mayflower Compact, which honored God. Thanksgiving begins with acknowledging God as faithful, earnestly giving Him thanks, in advance, for His abundant blessings.

*Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ([1 Thessalonians 5:18](#))  
Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! ([Psalm 107:1](#))*

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ([Philippians 4:6](#))*

*I will give to the Lord the thanks due to his righteousness, and I will sing praise to the name of the Lord, the Most High. ([Psalm 7:17](#))*

### History of the First Thanksgiving

Abraham Lincoln wasn't the first president to declare a national day of thanksgiving for the people of the United States. In 1789, George Washington proclaimed "a day of public thanksgiving and thanks" to thank God for his protection and as the source of all that is good. In his proclamation, he wrote,

*Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26<sup>th</sup> day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be — That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks — for his kind care and protection of the People of this Country previous to their becoming a Nation...*

Thanksgiving in the United States is often traced back to 1621 when the Plymouth Colony settlers and the Wampanoag shared a meal celebrating the harvest. Their trial began in 1620 with the voyage of the storied *Mayflower*, a 65-day-long ordeal in which 102 men, women, and children crossed the stormy Atlantic in a space the size of a city bus.

Then followed a cruel New England winter for which they were ill-prepared. Due to exposure to starvation, their number dwindled rapidly so that by the onset of spring, half of them had died. Fourteen of the eighteen wives had perished, and widowers and orphans abounded. The Pilgrims could celebrate in this setting as a testimony to human resilience and heavenly hope.

Yet celebrate they did, sometime in the autumn of 1621 after God had granted them a bountiful harvest. It's an inspiring story, and it's good for Christians this Thanksgiving to remember it. I don't know about you, but I am always encouraged when I sit down with Christian friends and hear how God has sustained them in hard times.

(Thanksgiving cont'd on page 3)

**(Thanksgiving cont'd from page 2)**

Remembering the Pilgrims' story is a lot like that, although the testimony comes to us not from across the room but across the centuries. The celebration lasted for three days. Here's how settler Edward Winslow described their thankful hearts, *And although it is not always so plentiful, as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want, that we often wish you partakers of our plenty.*

The tradition of giving thanks continued spontaneously in the colonies.

Winslow wrote at length about the occasion that *the Pilgrims* would have remembered as their first Thanksgiving Day in America. It occurred in the summer of 1623, nearly two years after the event that we commemorate. During that summer, a two-month-long drought threatened to wipe out the Pilgrims' crops, and the prospect of starvation in the coming winter loomed over them.

Governor Bradford "set apart a solemn day of humiliation, to seek the Lord by humble and fervent prayer, in this great distress." The Pilgrims gathered for a prayer service that lasted some 8-9 hours, and by its end, a day that had begun hot and clear had become overcast, and for the next fourteen days, a steady, gentle rain restored the parched earth. "But, O the mercy of our God," Winslow exulted, "who was as ready to hear as we to ask." (excerpted from [The First Thanksgiving We Don't Remember](#))

Some historians link the pilgrims' Thanksgiving celebration to the holiday of Sukkot, also called the Feast of Tabernacles in [Leviticus 23:33](#). Other scholars point out the [Puritans'](#) debate of having a fixed date to give thanks; instead, they would proclaim special days of prayer. While the link between Thanksgiving and Sukkot is uncertain, there is no doubt that God calls his people to give thanks.

## Thanksgiving Bible Verses

"Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His name! We give thanks to the Lord for His goodness and His love." [Psalm 100:4](#)

"Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!" [Psalm 95:2](#)

Our choice to give thanks should be based on God's name and His character — His righteousness, goodness, and love. "I will give to the Lord the thanks due to His righteousness, and I will sing praise to the name of the Lord, the Most High." [Psalm 7:17](#)

God's steadfast love is the number one reason we should give thanks. "...Give thanks to the Lord of hosts, for the Lord is good, for His steadfast love endures forever! For I will restore the fortunes of the land as at first, says the Lord."

The phrase "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever!" is found in six different verses ([1 Chronicles 16:34](#), [Psalm 107:1](#), [Psalm 118:1](#), [29](#), [Psalm 136:1](#), [Jeremiah 33:11](#)).

In case we missed how important this is, [Psalm 136](#) repeats this three times:

Give thanks to the God of gods, for His steadfast love endures forever. 136:2  
 Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for His steadfast love endures forever. 136:3  
 Give thanks to the God of heaven, for His steadfast love endures forever. 136:26

"... I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds." [Psalm 9:1](#)

"Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation." [Psalm 111:1](#)

"... O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever!" [Psalm 30:12](#)

## Thanksgiving Reminds Us to Be More Than Grateful

For many people, the Thanksgiving holiday is a time to be grateful. Interestingly, the word "grateful" is not in the King James Version of the Bible and is listed only once in the New International Version (NIV) and the English Standard Version (ESV). Similarly, "gratitude" is only listed a few times in the NIV and once in the ESV.

What's wrong with being grateful? Gratitude is an attitude. Giving thanks is an action. Gratitude appreciates the blessings in one's life, but on its own, it is insufficient. Christians are called to be doers of the word ([James 1:22](#)). We must go beyond being grateful and be intentional about giving thanks.

**(Thanksgiving cont'd on page 4)**

**(Thanksgiving cont'd from page 3)**

The Bible commands us to give thanks. "Give Thanks" appears in the Bible over 128 times in 62 verses. In the majority of these verses, "Give thanks" is imperative. As believers, we are to actively thank God for who He is and the great things He has done. The command to give thanks is not based on our circumstances but on who God is. We are to thank God in anticipation of what He can do.

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Philippians 4:6

## Christian Meaning and Significance of Thanksgiving

As Christians, we can reclaim Thanksgiving — rather than just being a day where we eat too much and strategize our Black Friday sales plan of attack — we can go back to our historical and spiritual roots as we thank God. We can follow Abraham Lincoln's example by repenting and asking for God's forgiveness for our personal sins and our nation's perverseness.

We should seek to reconcile with others and apologize for the harm we have caused. Our actions should reflect our grateful hearts. We should thank God for the people that are in our lives. We can acknowledge God's blessings by enjoying a meal with friends and family.

We can share the grace that God has given us by serving the homeless or inviting people who have no place to go on Thanksgiving.

Just having an attitude of gratefulness is not enough. We must say "thank you" to God for the kind and beautiful things He has done for us. When we thank God for the good things in our lives, we honor His provision, protection, and steadfast love. Saying "thank you" by praising Him, worshiping Him, and honoring Him for what He has done for us is an appropriate response to God's kindness.

"We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was, for you have taken your great power and begun to reign." Revelation 11:17

## Thanksgiving Prayers

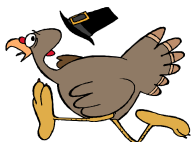
### A Simple Prayer for Thanks.

Dear God, I want to pause this Thanksgiving Day and thank you for the blessings surrounding me. For another day, for family, friends, for food on the table. You are the source of all good things, and we praise you for the simple things that bring us joy. Help us keep our eyes on your this day and every day so our lives may be filled with praise and joy. Amen.

### A Thanksgiving Meal Prayer for Blessings Past and Present.

Lord God, we gather around this table to humbly thank You for all that You have given us this past year – not just what is on this table, but who is sitting around this table. Thank you for life and laughter, health and happiness, relationships and memories. Thank you, too, for the lessons learned and the tears we've cried because of Your ability to grow us through them.

Thank You for Your comfort and presence in light of good days and bad. Thank You for what we have now, what we had yesterday, and what You will continue to give tomorrow. Let us never take that for granted, but to always be grateful for every good and perfect gift that comes from You. May we have hearts full of thanksgiving today and every day of our lives. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, Amen. ~ Cindi McMenamin



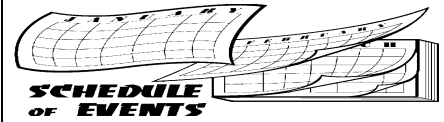
**Happy Thanksgiving**



# November 2024



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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Week Nov 17-23					1  All Saints Day	2
3  For All the Saints All Saints Day Observed.	4	5 ELECTION DAY GO VOTE	6	7	8	9
10 25th Sun after Pentecost	11  Veterans Day	12	13	14	15	16
17 26th Sun after Pentecost	18 Council Meeting	19  Prayer Group	20	21	22	23
24  Thanksgiving	25	26	27	Thanksgiving	29	30

**NOVEMBER IS .....**

- National Hospice Month
- Lutheran World Relief (see p 6)
- **November 1**— All Saints Day
- **November 3**—All Saints Day- Rite of Remembrance  
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS: Nov 3  
*Set time back 1 hour on NOV. 2*
- **November 5**—ELECTION DAY-GO VOTE
- **November 10**— 25th Sunday aft Pentecost
- **November 11**—Veterans Day celebration at Court Square (see p 15)
- **November 17**—26th Sunday aft Pentecost  
Deadline for Christmas Shoeboxes (p 14)  
Bible Sunday—Nov. 17  
BIBLE WEEK—NOV. 17-23 (see p 14)
- November 19**—Prayer Group will meet at Home of Shirlee Marazza at 2:00 pm
- **November 24**—Christ the King Sunday
- **November 28**—Thanksgiving Day

FOOD FOR THE MONTH: **Canned Pinto Beans, Blackeye Peas Canned Meat.**



## Birthdays

- 2 Betty Clemmer
- 4 Sarah Wooten
- 8 Anna Lowery
- 17 Becky Messick
- Danny Wilson



- Bill Trudnak
- Ben Trudnak
- Ethan Petzold
- Allie Trudnak
- Stephen Lowery
- Jacob White
- Brett Lowery
- Easton Finger
- Joanna Trudnak

Holy Communion Schedule:



ALL SUNDAYS

Worship Service Assistance:

- Acolyte: OSLC Member
- Communion
- Asst: OSLC MEMBER
- Lay Reader: Yvonne Finger
- Worship Asst: Yvonne Finger
- Greeters: Members of OSL
- Ushers: Members of OSLC

Collection: Steve Digh

Devotions: November 18  
Alice Vlaservich

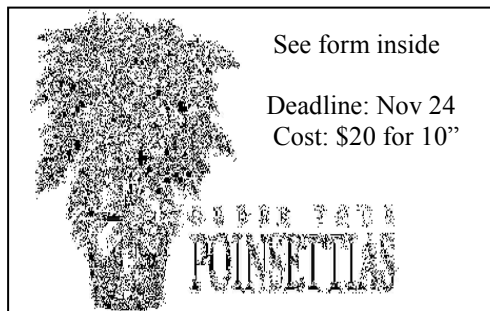


**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS ON 3RD**

# FLOWERS

Flower Schedule:

- November 3 Brady Ratchford
- November 10 Brady Ratchford
- November 17 Open
- November 24 Nick Vlaservich



**A NEW FLOWER CALENDAR** will be posted on the first door in the hallway of the Education wing. So watch for it and please sign up to place flowers on the altar in the glory of God and in honor or memory of your loved

LEADERSHIP BOARD MINUTES  
 SEPTEMBER 23, 2024  
 7:00 PM

OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH  
 ANNA LOWERY, PRESIDENT



Meeting called to order by President, Anna Lowery

**Devotions:** Alice Vlaservich

**Members present:** Anna Lowery, Teri Trudnak, Alice Vlaservich, and Robbie Wooten

**Members Absent:** Steve Digh, Becky Messick and Bill Trudnak

**Minutes:** May 21, 2024, Motion by Teri Trudnak, seconded by Alice Vlaservich and carried to accept the minutes as presented.

**Reception of Petitions and Communication:**

- a. Council received the annual contribution report showing how much each congregation is requested to contribute ((\$870). OSLC contributes (900/yr).
- b. Yulia Helms is recording hymns for our Sundays. Council decided to compensate her for doing this for OSLC (\$25/wk)

**Report of Pastor:** None

**Report of the Treasurer:** July and August (EXHIBIT A). Motion by Teri Trudnak, seconded by Anna Lowery and carried to accept the financial reports.

**Report of the Ministries**

- a Property Team: Need to fix water leak in Education annex. Bill Trudnak will replace the entrance light bulbs.
- b Stewardship Team: None
- c Worship & Music Team: Compensation for music (see b in Petitions and Communication)
- d Finance Committee
- e Youth Team: None
- f Witness Team: Cards and bulletins continue to be sent to shut ins.
- g Christian Education Team: None

**Auxiliaries:**

- a Prayer Group met at the home of Shirlee Marazza at 2:00 pm on September 15.
- b The CLW "Women's Group" will meet with other CLW members for its annual convocation being held at Holy Trinity in Gastonia on October 19.

**Old and/or Unfinished Business:**

Contact roofer about new tarp for roof.

**New Business:**

- a Discuss Organist/Pianist compensation and Board decided that \$150 was enough
- b The Board authorized Teri Trudnak to sign checks. She will be the third authorized to sign.

**General Information:**

- a Attendance
- b Laszlo Mission Report
- c Statement from Dallas Christian Ministry.
- d Thank you letters from Salvation Army and JAAR

The Council meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Adjournment until November 18, 2024 Meeting.

Devotion for November: Teri Trudnak

## History of National Bible Week

U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt commemorated the word of God by observing the first National Bible Week in 1941. Since then, every president has continued the tradition of celebrating the Holy Bible during Thanksgiving week. Sinking deep into Hitler's tyranny, the world looked different when FDR helmed the presidency. On December 7, 1941, NBC, the leading radio station at the time, opened the day's programming with the founders of the National Bible Association. As the program began, the news of the attack on Pearl Harbor broke in the studio. To hold the attention of a shocked and grieving nation, NBC requested the National Bible Association to continue reading the Bible all day. Before the tragedy, the President had invited the founders of the National Bible Association to the White House to lay the foundation for the first National Bible Week. The founders canceled, writing a telegram to the president stating, "May God bless and guide you in this emergency." The Bible is an incredibly detailed, long-preserved snapshot of an ancient culture and religion. For billions of people, the religious text offers hope, strength, and guidance to navigate difficult times. Leading a nation through its toughest days, President Roosevelt conceptualized the idea of a Bible Week to unite Americans with the stories of the Creator told through the virtue of strength and reconciliation.

The Bible, the ultimate bestseller, is central to the religion of Christianity, and the English translation has over 100 versions. National Bible Week celebrates the holy text in all its glory, bringing communities together to read their favorite verses and share personal interpretations with the world.

### National Bible Week timeline

**1200 B.C.**

**The Old Testament**

The first texts of the original Jewish Bible are written, some believe, by Moses.

**125 A.D.**

**The New Testament**

The oldest manuscript of the New Testament is written on a papyrus fragment.

**175 A.D.**

**The First Translation**

The New Testament is translated, for the very first time, to Latin.

**1384**

**The English Interpretation**

Biblical translator and reformer John Wy-

**1454**

**The Gutenberg Revolution**

German inventor Johannes Gutenberg introduces printing to the European world and produces the first printed version of the Bible.

**1611**

**The Authorized Version**

The King James Version of the Bible is published after being commissioned in 1604.

**1941**

**Inspired by Tragedy**

The first National Bible Week is observed to help Americans grieve the Pearl Harbor Tragedy.



## Old Folks

Remember, old folks are worth a fortune, with silver in their hair, gold in their teeth, stones I their kidneys, lead I their feet, and gas on their stomachs.

I have become older since I last saw you, and a few changes have come into my life since then. Frankly, I have become quite a frivolous old gal.

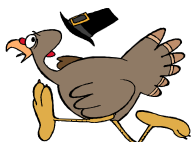
I am seeing five gentlemen every day! As soon as I wake up, Will Power helps me out of bed. Then I go to see John. Then Charles Horse comes along, and when he is here, he takes a lot of time and attention.

When he leaves, Arthur Ritis shows up and stays the rest of the day, He doesn't like to stay in one place very long. So he takes me from joint to joint. After such a busy day I'm really tired and glad to go to bed with Ben Gay. What a life!

P.S. The preacher came to call the other day. He said at my age, I should be thinking about the hereafter. I told him, "Oh, I do all the time, no matter where I am ,, in the parlor, upstairs, in the kitchen, or down in the basement. I ask myself, "Now what am I hereafter?"



**Genesis 12:2-3 (ESV)**- And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth



**HAPPY THANKSGIVING**





## 2024 NOVEMBER MISSION EMPHASIS LASZLO MISSION LEAGUE has ministry in Papua New Guinea

Our Saviour Congregation sponsors two students in Hauna Village, PNG, a boy, Bendomas Roy Wangi and a girl, Azimah Thomson. Please pray for these children. Their whole village is very poor, but they are overcoming since the missionaries have been there. They live in the jungle. If the river water gets low or floods this effects their lives greatly. They fish for meat, use the river for travel, and use its water in many ways. They plant gardens of vegetables that sometimes get washed out or flooded. Sago paste, scraped from the center of a sago log makes staple food. They still live in thatched roof huts, and cook over open fires.

They have built many buildings for the community: a school, church, medical center, sheds for men to work, such as to use machinery to shell rice to sell, or saw logs to sell. Some of the men go up river as trained teachers to help students in others villages to hear God's Word and to teach the children the basics of education.

The village is Christian and has made a huge difference in the lives of the people. The men no longer go to war with their surrounding tribal peoples, but help them and help in their own village. The families co-operate together to get and prepare food, shelter, and have fellowship. The school teachers tell Bible Stories and sing Christian songs as well as teach the basics of education: reading, writing, and math.

What a privilege to be sponsors for this ministry – LASZLO MISSION LEAGUE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, HAUNA VILLAGE – the two students that we sponsor so they can go to school.

Would you and your family like to sponsor a child so he/she can go to school? Go to on and look at the opportunities: [www.laszlomissionleague.com](http://www.laszlomissionleague.com). Please remember to pray for the children and the adults.



God is calling all of its members of OSLC to assist Him in our worship service. Sign-up sheets for worship assistants for the calendar year of 2024 are posted in the hall way in the Education section of the church. So be a **doer** and **participant** of your service and sign-up. **THANK YOU!**



## A Stewardship Minute

There is a paragraph in November's *Stewardship* that sums up what stewardship is all about. It says, "It is not wise to think that giving money to the church satisfies our obligation to God, God wants us first! God wants our hearts to show our love toward him. God knows that when we are truly connected, the fruits of our minds and hands are available to serve the Kingdom." This goes to the very heart of the matter regarding stewardship. Forget for a moment about giving money to the church. Think about loving God with a sincere and dedicated heart ... with your entire being: body, mind, spirit and tal-

ents. If we do that to the best of our ability, we will discover what true stewardship really is.

Do you remember the story of a Pharisee asking Jesus what the greatest commandment was? In Matthew 22, Jesus replied to the Pharisee with these words: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment." Jesus went on to say, "And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" True stewardship is a matter of loving God with one's whole being and loving one's neighbor as oneself. Think about what we call those who serve God

whole-heartedly. We call them saints, and while it would take total dedication to God on our part, should we not strive to be completely dedicated to God as are the saintly people among us?

**Prayer:** Loving Creator, help us to understand your will for our lives for we know that it is in loving and serving you that we shall know the greatest joys of life. **Amen**



## HOW TO HONOR VETERANS



Coming home from war can be a difficult experience for veterans. Soldiers who experience combat are often changed in ways that most civilians cannot comprehend. In a recent study conducted by the University of California, San Francisco and the San Francisco VA Medical Center, it was found that 31 percent of soldiers returning from Iraq between 2001 and 2005 were diagnosed with mental health and/or psychosocial challenges. The most common diagnoses include post traumatic stress disorder, anxiety disorder, adjustment disorder, depression and substance abuse disorder.

Many soldiers who return with war injuries - from lost limbs to blindness to brain damage and countless other disabilities that can make even simple, everyday tasks incredibly difficult. Often such injuries make finding and maintaining employment nearly impossible.

Even soldiers who return without health issues frequently find it difficult to return to their "normal" pre-war life. They may meet with incomprehension and even fear and anger from their friends, families or other civilians. And yet, these are the men and women who have willingly put their lives on the line for their country. While civilians may not be able to fully understand what veterans have endured and sacrificed for their country, you can show them the respect they deserve and accept them with the loving, open arms of Christ.

On November 11, millions of people across the U.S. will celebrate Veteran's Day. There are many ways you can take part in honoring our veterans, this day and any other:

- Write a veteran a thank you note, or send a letter to an entire Veteran's of Foreign War or American Legion post.
- Write a letter to a soldier currently in the Middle East
- Talk to your children about who veterans are, what they do and what their service means to our country.

If you would like more information on how you can support veterans visit [www.vfwfoundation.org](http://www.vfwfoundation.org).



**Veterans Day**

## Abraham Lincoln Thanksgiving Proclamation

At this time of year 158 years ago, in the middle of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln issued his second presidential proclamation setting apart the last Thursday of November as a day of national holiday.

George Washington was the first president to proclaim a day of thanksgiving, issuing his request on October 3, 1789, exactly 74 years before Lincoln's.

### A Proclamation.

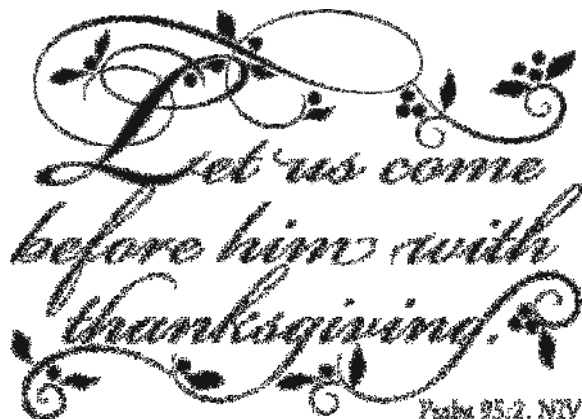
The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God. In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign States to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict; while that theatre has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union. Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defence, have not arrested the plough, the shuttle or the ship; the axe has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege and the battle-field; and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom. No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this Third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the Eighty-eighth.

By the President: Abraham Lincoln

William H. Seward,  
Secretary of State



### *Thanksgiving Dinner Prayer*

Heavenly Father, on Thanksgiving Day,  
We bow our hearts to You and prayer

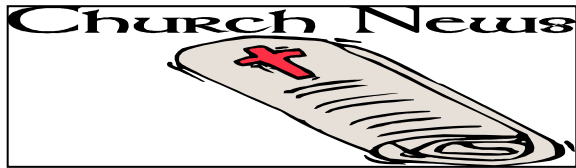
We give You thanks for all You've have done  
Especially for the gift of Jesus, Your Son

For beauty in nature, Your glory we see,  
For joy and health, friends, and family.

For daily provision, Your mercy and care,  
These are the blessings You graciously share.

So today we offer this response of praise  
With a promise to follow You all of our days.

Mary Fairchild



OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH  
 725 Gastonia Technology Parkway  
 Post Office Box 475  
 Dallas, North Carolina 28034  
 Phone: 705-922-4648  
 Email: [oslcdallas@aol.com](mailto:oslcdallas@aol.com)  
 Website: [oslc-nc.org](http://oslc-nc.org)

**OUTREACH MISSION**

**SHUT-INS**

**NURSING HOME RESIDENTS**

Please remember our church members who are shut-ins or reside in a senior living/nursing home\* and visit them or send them a card.

(If others, please let the church office know)

**EVENTS for:**

**Agrape/Kure Beach**

**Contact Camp Agapé:**  
 Telephone: 919-552-9421  
 e-mail: [agape@agapekurebeach.org](mailto:agape@agapekurebeach.org)

**Contact Kure Beach Lutheran:**  
 Telephone 910-458-0783  
 e-mail: [kurebreach@agapekurebeach.org](mailto:kurebreach@agapekurebeach.org)

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

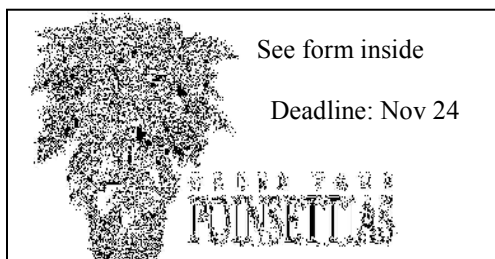
**Directions to Camp Agapé are on the web site.**

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

**Events for:**

**Lutheridge -Lutherock-Lutherspring- Lutheranch**

**Web site:** [www.NovusWay.com](http://www.NovusWay.com)



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



**WOMEN'S GROUP (CLW)**

Will not meet in November but instead they will meet  
 The home of Betty Clemmer Dec. 12 at 12:30 pm



**PRAYER GROUP**

**WILL MEET AT THE HOME OF SHIRLEE MARAZZA  
 ON NOVEMBER 19 AT 2:00 PM**

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



**PRAYER CONCERNS:**

MARGARET Addington, SETH Alexander, AMANDA (friend of the Penley's), MARVIS Anderson, WHITNEY Auten (breast cancer), LEAH Bradley(Marsha Patton;s sister-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) , RHONDA Bradley (Marsha Patton's mom, surgery for foot 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), ROWDY and BAILEY Drummond (Becky and Chris Messick new grandson and daughter) HARDY Feige (Pete's dad – chronic back pain), GLEEN Fraizer (friend of Steve & Julie Digh -cancer), MONA gardner (John Patton;s grandma-declining health), BECKY Goodwin (friend of Brady's – cancer), JASON Hames (friend of the White's), GRACE Harbin (friend of Robbie Wooten-cancer), LESA Huges (friend of Robbie Wooten-throat cancer), JEFF Lineberger (stroke), DANA Kirshman (friend of Robbie Wooten-cancer), JACK Lonon (Kasey Digh's step-father-cancer), MARINA Marazza (Shirlee Marazza's granddaughter-Long Haul Covid19), CARL Martin (friend of Pattons-multiple myeloma plua chemo) BO Messick (foot), FRANCIS McAllister (broken hip), CHRIS Messick (recovering back surgery), JASON, ALLISON & LEX Murray, ELIZABETH Mustin (rare breast cancer), GARY Neal, (friend of Caleb Dease), JOHN & MARSHA Patton (the in vitro procedure produces healthy baby(ies), ANDY Peeden (cancer), SONDRRA Phillips (friend of Melinda White), BRADY Ratchford, JAN Splawn (friend of Robbie Wooten- cancer) TERI Trudnak, TONY Trudnak (cancer reoccurring), GARY Turner (father of Jason Murray), KENT Wilborn (friend of Robbie

## A Special Prayer for Those Who Serve in Our Armed Forces

The following Scripture passages and prayer are for those who have experience something so horrible, or been involved in a situation so distressing, that their minds are infected by the scene.

*"I always keep the LORD in front of me.  
When he is at my side, I cannot be moved."* Psalm 16:8

Heavenly Father, the evil things I witnessed and experience in combat today have caused me great distress. Please uphold and comfort me. As you raised Jesus from the tomb by your glorious power and gave him victory over death and Satan, I ask that you also uplift me, my fellow soldiers, and all those who may be similarly distressed and troubled what we have witnessed today. Especially be with those who were injured during this horrible encounter, and heal them of all their injuries—both physical and mental. I pray that you would also comfort our families, and let none of us ever forget as we carry on our respective duties in the days ahead..

*"The LORD your God is with you. He is hero who saves you.  
He happily rejoices over you, renews you with His love,  
and celebrates over you with shouts of joy."* Zephaniah 3:17

I ask all  
name – the  
me with His



of this in Jesus'  
one who "renews  
love." Amen.

For those our Lord and Saviour has called home.

**Marilyn S. Fin-**



**ger**

The Dallas/High Shoals Christian Ministry is in desperate need  
for the following thru Thanksgiving;  
canned pinto beans

blackeye peas  
canned meats  
SO PLEASE  
THANK YOU!



HELP!



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (SHOE BOX) IS HERE!

### What is Operation Christmas Child?

This annual project enables caring individuals, families, schools, churches, businesses, and other organizations to fill ordinary shoe boxes with small toys, school supplies, sweets, and other gifts for needy children around the world. Operation Christmas Child sends a message of hope to children in need around the world through gift-filled shoe boxes.

Operation Christmas Child is the world's largest children's Christmas project. Since 1990 the project has brought the joy of Christmas to more than 47 million boys and girls throughout the world. Last year we sent 1.24 million shoe boxes from the UK to children in hospitals, orphanages, Internally Displaced Persons camps, homeless shelters and impoverished neighborhoods. With your help we want to reach even more children in the poorest parts of the world in 2020.

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

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

SHOE BOXES ARE DUE TO BE COLLECTED ON **NOVEMBER 24<sup>th</sup>**.  
THEY ARE ASKING FOR A \$10.00 TO BE INCLUDED WITH THE  
BOX TO HELP WITH PROCESSING COSTS.  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED  
GENEROSITY.

Thank you for caring!

**DUE**  
**vember 17**



**DATE: No-**



**FIRST THANKSGIVING** In 1621, the Plymouth colonists and Wampanoag Indians shared an autumn harvest feast which is acknowledged today as one of the first Thanksgiving celebrations in the colonies. This harvest meal has become a symbol of cooperation and interaction between English colonists and Native Americans. Although this feast is considered by many to be the very first

Thanksgiving celebration, it was actually in keeping with a long tradition of celebrating the harvest and giving thanks for a successful bounty of crops. Native American groups throughout the Americas, including the Pueblo, Cherokee, Creek and many others organized harvest festivals, ceremonial dances, and other celebrations of thanks for centuries before the arrival of Europeans in North America.

Historians have also recorded other ceremonies of thanks among European settlers in North America, including British colonists in Berkeley Plantation, Virginia. At this site near the Charles River in December of 1619, a group of British settlers led by Captain John Woodlief knelt in prayer and pledged "Thanksgiving" to God for their healthy arrival after a long voyage across the Atlantic. This event has been acknowledged by some scholars and writers as the official first Thanksgiving among European settlers on record. Whether at Plymouth, Berkeley Plantation, or throughout the Americas, celebrations of thanks have held great meaning and importance over time. The legacy of thanks, and particularly of the feast, have survived the centuries as people throughout the United States gather family, friends, and enormous amounts of food for their yearly Thanksgiving meal.

#### What Was Actually on the Menu?

What foods topped the table at the first harvest feast? Historians aren't completely certain about the full bounty, but it's safe to say the pilgrims weren't gobbling up pumpkin pie or playing with their mashed potatoes. Following is a list of the foods that were available to the colonists at the time of the 1621 feast. However, the only two items that historians know for sure were on the menu are venison and wild fowl, which are mentioned in primary sources. The most detailed description of the "First Thanksgiving" comes from Edward Winslow from *A Journal of the Pilgrims at Plymouth*, in 1621:

*"Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after a special manner rejoice together after we had gathered the fruit of our labors. They four in one day killed as much fowl as, with a little help beside, served the company almost a week. At which time, among other recreations, we exercised our arms, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and among the rest their greatest king Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five deer, which they brought to the plantation and bestowed upon our governor, and upon the captain, and others. And although it be not always so plentiful as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want that we often wish you partakers of our plenty."*



## Veterans Day

Honoring Veterans

on

November 11 at 11:00 am  
with a Parade followed  
with a small service

at

Dallas Historic Court-  
house

*"Honoring All Who Serve"*



Turn your clock back 1 hours  
on  
November 2

## HISTORY OF VETERANS DAY

World War I – known at the time as “The Great War” - officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of “the war to end all wars.”

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..."

The original concept for the celebration was for a day observed with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11:00 a.m.

The United States Congress officially recognized the end of World War I when it passed a concurrent resolution on June 4, 1926, with these words:

**Whereas** the 11th of November 1918, marked the cessation of the most destructive, sanguinary, and far reaching war in human annals and the resumption by the people of the United States of peaceful relations with other nations, which we hope may never again be severed, and  
**Whereas** it is fitting that the recurring anniversary of this date should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations; and  
**Whereas** the legislatures of twenty-seven of our States have already declared November 11 to be a legal holiday: Therefore be it Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), that the President of the United States is requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the officials to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on November 11 and inviting the people of the United States to observe the day in schools and churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies of friendly relations with all other peoples.

An Act (52 Stat. 351; 5 U. S. Code, Sec. 87a) approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday—a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as "Armistice Day." Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I, but in 1954, after World War II had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen in the Nation's history; after American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting in its place the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

Later that same year, on October 8th, President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued the first "Veterans Day Proclamation" which stated: "In order to insure proper and widespread observance of this anniversary, all veterans, all veterans' organizations, and the entire citizenry will wish to join hands in the common purpose. Toward this end, I am designating the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs as Chairman of a Veterans Day National Committee, which shall include such other persons as the Chairman may select, and which will coordinate at the national level necessary planning for the observance. I am also requesting the heads of all departments and agencies of the Executive branch of the Government to assist the National Committee in every way possible."

On that same day, President Eisenhower sent a letter to the Honorable Harvey V. Higley, Administrator of Veterans' Affairs (VA), designating him as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee.

In 1958, the White House advised VA's General Counsel that the 1954 designation of the VA Administrator as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee applied to all subsequent VA Administrators. Since March 1989 when VA was elevated to a cabinet level department, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has served as the committee's chairman.

The Uniform Holiday Bill (Public Law 90-363 (82 Stat. 250)) was signed on June 28, 1968, and was intended to ensure three-day weekends for Federal employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays: Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Columbus Day. It was thought that these extended weekends would encourage travel, recreational and cultural activities and stimulate greater industrial and commercial production. Many states did not agree with this decision and continued to celebrate the holidays on their original dates.

The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on October 25, 1971. It was quite apparent that the commemoration of this day was a matter of historic and patriotic significance to a great number of our citizens, and so on September 20th, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed Public Law 94-97 (89 Stat. 479), which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978. This action supported the desires of the overwhelming majority of state legislatures, all major veterans service organizations and the American people.

Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

Inspiring a deeper understanding of true giving

November 2024

# Stewardship

## Misleading Perceptions

There is an old joke about a really stingy fellow who visits the Empire State building for the first time. As he stands on one of the upper floors, he notices a quarter lying on the sidewalk below. Never being one to miss an opportunity to pick up free money, the man races down flight after flight of stairs, running as hard as he can, determined to get to the quarter before someone else picks it up. With his heart pounding and chest burning, he bursts through the doors onto the sidewalk. There, to his shock and disappointment, he discovers that what he had seen was not a quarter after all. It was a trashcan lid.

This is the power of perspective. We think something is true. We make decisions based on our perception. Then we find out we were mistaken. It wasn't what we thought at all. It was a trashcan lid.

### The perspective of wealth

There are those who organize their priorities and values around the perspective of wealth. Wealth and worldly goods are gifts of God. They lie at our disposal like instruments that can be well used by those who know how.

God has given us reason, freedom and responsibility, as well as goods, wealth and property. Stewardship does not necessarily mean renouncing wealth; it does mean responsibly using that which God has entrusted to us.

## Talents of All Kinds

There are hundreds of talents, small abilities that, if invested out of love for our Lord, would return dividends of countless benefit.



Do you like to read? Doesn't sound like much does it? Have you ever thought of investing that talent and an hour a week to tutor someone who is illiterate?

Can you cook? We don't mean fancy, but just good nutritious meals? Not everyone has this talent. Our stomachs will testify to that. Do you know there are shut-ins in most parishes who would love to have a home cooked meal once a week?

Do you have \$100 extra in some savings account that you have no use for? Doesn't sound like much, does it? Do you realize how many college students would be so grateful for \$100 to help buy their books? You would be investing in a future. Who could measure the return?



*It is not wise to think that giving money to the church satisfies our obligation to God. God wants us first! God wants our hearts to show our love toward him. God knows that when we have truly connected, he will have the fruits of our minds and hands to serve the Kingdom.*





## Pastor John's musing...



*Our stewardship is based on thanksgiving. We give of our time, talent and treasure out of gratitude for all the blessings and gifts God showers on us, regardless of the needs of those we serve.*

Charlie Dickson had a question. "Why is it that you stewardship fellows claim that stewardship is a lot more than money, then you end up asking for it?"


"Charlie," I told him, "There's nothing wrong with doing our job. Remember that Christ talked about money a lot. There is *Caesar's Coin*, *Parable of the Three Stewards*, the *Unfaithful Steward*, *Parable of the Vineyard*, and the story of the *Widow's Mite*, just to mention a few."

"Maybe so ...," said Charlie, "But I don't rightly know why he did it."

"Same reason we talk about money today," I answered. "Everyone is acquainted with money, even you, Charlie."

"With me, it's just a passing acquaintance," Charlie mourned.

So I explained that in his early days, Christ knew from his experience as a carpenter just how much rugged labor a Talent coin would buy. So when we try to illustrate the fine art of Christian giving, one way we can do it is by using the giving of money as an example.

"You see Charlie...," I concluded, "Money is our easiest language. When you become a good steward of your wealth, then you can advance to spiritual treasures." 

## Stewardship Questions

### What is stewardship?

A steward is one who takes care of the property of another. Christian stewardship is that which follows Christ's example and motive as the supreme steward. His example was to put himself ... his life and gifts ... at the complete disposal of his heavenly father. His motive was love, love for his father, and love for us, his brothers and sisters.


### What about people?

Stewardship includes a concern for all persons, the elderly, the handicapped, children and the poor. Christ told us our eternal future would be determined by our treatment of those in want (Matthew 25).

### What about community work?

Stewardship includes joining and working with civic groups, service clubs and youth groups to better the condition of life for all.

### Do I have to join anything?

The servant will be generous enough to say yes, and wise enough to know when to say no, taking family needs into consideration. 




*"I would like to begin the budget report by saying that the person who wrote 'Pennies from Heaven,' created a mental misconception of monstrous proportions."*

## *Our World ...and welcome to it!*



**T**he Yellowstone Environmental Stewardship (YES!) Initiative is a multi-year action plan to help Yellowstone National Park further reduce its ecological footprint, increase operational efficiency, and better preserve park resources for future generations.

Yellowstone National Park has set ambitious environmental sustainability goals for its operations. They complement and build upon prior stewardship successes in Yellowstone and give employees, visitors, partners, corporations and foundations an opportunity to help serve the goals of making Yellowstone's operations more sustainable, and of ensuring Yellowstone's place as a model for environmental stewardship. The YES! projects cover six key areas: Energy, transportation, water conservation, waste reduction, green purchasing, and leadership and education. Yellowstone aims to achieve the following by the 100th birthday of the National Park Service:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 30%
- Reduce electricity consumption by 15%
- Reduce fossil fuel consumption by 18%
- Reduce water consumption by 15%
- Divert 100% of solid waste from landfills. 



*When you think about your church offering, do you think in terms of "how much is the church budget?," whether "they spend it wisely?," or "how much can I afford to give?" Or, do you think in terms of how many blessings the Lord has showered on your life and the privilege of saying, "thank you" through your financial response to the church's work.*



**I**s the sole role of your church to serve you, or are you supposed to provide service to your church? The Bible has several answers to this question. Matthew 20:26-28 says, "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and give his life as a ransom for many." And in John 12:26 we read, "Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me."

#### **Jesus served us**


The lesson is quite clear that Jesus served us by dying on the cross for us and he asks us to serve others in return. We are to live a life of serving because we have been served by the Chief Servant. Service done at your church, in the community and in the world for the benefit of all of God's creatures and creation is part of our total stewardship of life. The use of talents, gifts and skills for the well being of others is a habit that leads to spiritual maturity.

#### **The church serves you**

Your church serves you through its worship services and the many programs it provides for you and you in return are expected to reciprocate by participating in the operation of the church. George Barna writes in his book "*The Habits of Highly Effective Churches*" that "Highly effective churches agree that ministry is not the domain of spectators; it must be populated by activists. Rather than allow people to simply come, watch and give money at ministry events, great churches make it clear that you cannot be part of the real church unless you get involved."

#### **We serve the church**

Churches have a myriad of opportunities for involvement. There is something for everyone. There is a job for everyone for we all have God given gifts (Romans 12:6-8) that can be put to work. George Barna commented that "To be a part of church, you must be involved for then there is no uncertainty about expectations nor any value associated with 'spectator Christianity.'"

Don't be a spectator; use your gifts to provide a service to your church! 





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



**NALC**  
North American Lutheran Church

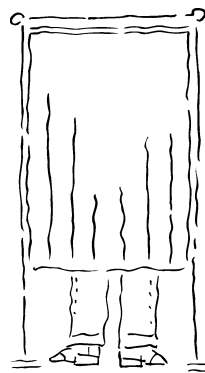


**lcmc**  
Lutheran Council in Mission for the United States



November

**Set your clock  
Back 1 hour on  
November 2**



**CAST 2024  
YOUR  
VOTE!**

**ON  
NOVEMBER 5**

**GENERAL ELECTION**