



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



Our Saviour's Good News

Volume XIX, Issue X

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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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RE•FORMATION THEN • NOW ALWAYS

Every year on the last Sunday in October, many churches set aside the day as "Reformation Sunday." If you didn't grow up with this practice, you may wonder where this tradition comes from, and why some congregations continue to practice it. So ... what is Reformation Sunday, and why should we care?

The History of Reformation Sunday



Our story begins in the 16th century – 1517, to be exact. Bear with us here – what follows is a very simplified explanation of complex theological, political, and economic events that all coincided.

Across Europe, the Roman Catholic Church was engaged in one of the greatest fundraisers in all of history.

If a person – out of contrition for their sins and as a sign of repentance – made a financial gift to help with the building Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome, then the church would furnish that person with a certificate acknowledging that gift and promising that they or their loved ones would be freed from a portion of the misery expected in the afterlife.

In short, the church at that time taught that even those bound for heaven had to be cleansed of their earthly sins and this cleansing (purging) in the afterlife took place in a place called Purgatory. The certificates offered by the church (called "Indulgences") promised to lessen this time of cleansing for oneself or others who have already died.

There were some very nuanced explanations of this practice at the time.

And there were other very crass explanations that basically amounted to people paying to be forgiven. November 1st was an important day for the selling and buying of these indulgences, known as All Saints Day on the church's calendar.

The day before a German Monk named Martin Luther posted a list of 95 Theses – 95 reasons that he objected to this practice of selling indulgences. Along with other writings by Martin Luther, those 95 Reasons went viral.

Luther insisted that we are not forgiven because of anything we do – including the buying of Indulgences or doing enough good work. *Instead, we are forgiven because of who God is.* We are loved and forgiven because God is full of grace and mercy.

His teachings and writings got Martin Luther kicked out of the church. But he didn't go alone. Others agreed with him, and after his death those who agreed with Luther became known as Lutherans and also as Protestants. Every Protestant church traces their roots back to this moment in history.

Why Does Reformation Sunday Matter?

October 31st, 1517 was a long time ago. Why does it continue to matter and be remembered in our churches today?

1. Reformation Sunday gives us a chance to tell our story – a chance to remember.

We all have a family story – how we got to this point in history. Stories about parents and grandparents, about the things that have shaped our families over the years. Reformation Sunday is a day when we remember and re-tell the family stories of our faith. Stories about men and women who came before us and taught us about the faith. Stories about people who risked everything so that we would be able to gather and worship in the manner that we do.

2. Reformation Sunday reminds us of the most important things.

Throughout the year we preach about many things in church. About how we live our daily lives, the choices we make, the habits of our faith. On Reformation Sunday we are brought back to the most important thing – the thing that compelled Luther and others to risk their lives.

On Reformation Sunday, we return to the core of our faith: *God loved us first, and God continues to shower us with grace and mercy.*
(Reformation cont'd on page 2)

Daily Prayer

MONDAY — WASHDAY

Lord, help, me wash away my selfishness and vanity, so I may serve you with perfect humility through the week ahead.

TUESDAY — IRONING DAY

Dear Lord, help me iron all the wrinkles of prejudice I have collected through the years so that I may see the beauty in others.

WEDNESDAY — MENDING DAY

O God, help me mend my ways so I will not set a bad example for others.

THURSDAY — CLEANING DAY

Lord Jesus, help me to dust out all the many faults I have been hiding in the secret corners of my heart.

FRIDAY — SHOPPING DAY

O God, give me the grace to shop wisely so I may purchase eternal happiness for myself and other in need of love.

SATURDAY — COOKING DAY

Help me, my Savior, to brew a big kettle of brotherly love and serve it with a clean, sweet bread of human kindness.

SUNDAY, THE LORD'S DAY

O God, I have prepared my house for you. Please come in my heart as my honored guest so that I may spend the day and the rest of my life in your presence.

(Reformation cont'd from page 1)

3. Reformation Sunday challenges us to do better

Through re-telling our story and returning to the core of our faith, Reformation Sunday prods us to do better. We are called to be more loving and grace-filled, because God was gracious and merciful to us. We are called to repent of the times that we have placed barriers that have kept others from hearing the Good News. We are called to remember that all that we are is a gift from God.

In the church in Wittenberg where Martin Luther preached, there is a wonderful painting. In it Luther stands in the pulpit on the right hand side, and the people stand on the left. In between people and the preacher is Christ on the cross. Reformation Sunday is a reminder that this is the bedrock of our faith – the grace and mercy given to us in Jesus Christ. Keeping the most important thing in the center of the picture is the only hope for our faith and for this community that we call “church.”

Happy Reformation Sunday!





Martin Luther

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

Luther was not a person you would want to have dinner with; he was temperamental, peevish, egomaniacal, and argumentative. But this single-mindedness, this enormous self-confidence and strident belief in the rightness of his arguments, allowed him to stand against opposition, indeed, to harden his position in the face of death by fire, the usual punishment for heretics. Luther became an Augustinian monk in 1505, disappointing his equally strong-willed father, who wished him to become a lawyer. He earned a doctorate in theology from the University of Wittenberg, but instead of settling down to a placid and scholarly monkish life or an uneventful university career teaching theology, he began to develop his own personal theology, which erupted into outright blasphemy when he protested the use of indulgences in his **95 Theses**.

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

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

In 1521, the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V, demanded that Luther appear before the diet of the Holy Roman Empire at Worms. Luther was asked to explain his views and Charles ordered him to recant. Luther refused and he was placed under an imperial ban as an outlaw. He managed to escape, however, and he was hidden away in a castle in Wartburg where he continued to develop his new church.

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

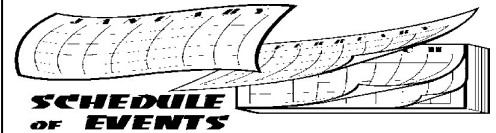


Reformation Day

OCTOBER 2024



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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
World Communion Sunday October 6						
		1	2	3	4	5
6 20 th Sun Pentecost	7	8	9	10 Columbus Day	11 Cotton Ginning Day Thur the 13th	12
13 21 st Sun Pentecost	14	15 Prayer Group	16	17 Early Voting begins	18	19 CLW Convocation
20 22 nd Sun Pentecost	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 REFORMATION SUNDAY	28	29	30	31 Reformation Day		

- **October 6**— 20th Sunday after Pentecost World Holy Communion Day (p12) Life Chain of Gaston (see p.6)
- **October 7-9**— CRM Clergy Retreat (p7)
- **October 10**— Columbus Day
- **October 13-15**—Cotton Ginning Days (p10)
- **October 13**—21st Sunday after Pentecost Pastor Appreciation Day
- **October 15**—22nd Sunday after Pentecost Prayer Group will meet at Home of Shirlee Marazza at 2:00 pm
- **October 17**—Early Voting begins—Ends Nov. 2 (p10)
- **October 19**— CLW Convocation (p 11)
- **October 20**—22nd Sunday after Pentecost
- **October 27**—Reformation Sunday
- **October 31**—Reformation Day

Trunk or Treat— page 10



FOOD FOR THE MONTH:
Soup, Mac & Chesse, Lima Beans



Birthdays



- 4 Chase Messick
- 5 Christian Clemmer
- 18 Amelia Rea Schmideler
- 20 Jean Huffstetler

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

Holy Communion Schedule:



ALL SUNDAYS

Worship Service Assistance:

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

Devotions: Teri Trudnak (Nov)
Collection: Teri Trudnak



15thTony & Kathy Trudnak

FLOWERS

Flower Schedule:

- October 6 Nick Vlaservich
- October 13 Open
- October 20 Brady Ratchford
- October 27 Open



History of Halloween



The Word on Hallows Eve

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

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

Trick or Treat for Prayers?

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

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

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

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

Party Time

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

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

Traditions or Trade-Offs?

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

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

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

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

WALK FOR LIFE report

The Walk for Life was sponsored by Crisis Pregnancy Center of Gaston County, Inc. on September 6, 2024 Our church raised **\$500.00**. Several members contributed time, money, and prayer. Thanks to all who gave. From all over Gaston County, church members joined in this Walk for Life and have exceeded their goal of \$54,000 and funds are still coming in to reach our goal.

The mission statement of Crisis Pregnancy Center is:

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

website:www.cpcgaston.org

Thank you Marie Robinson for working with Walk4Life



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

EVENTS for:

Agrape/Kure Beach

Contact Camp Agapé:
 Telephone: 919-552-9421
e-mail: agape@agapekurebeach.org
Contact Kure Beach Lutheran:
 Telephone 910-458-0783
e-mail: kurebreach@agapekurebeach.org
Web site: www.agapekurebeach.org

Directions to Camp Agapé are on the web site.

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

Events for:

Lutheridge -Lutherock-Lutherspring- Lutheranch

Web site: www.NovusWay.com



Life Chain, a one-hour, pro-life prayer and witness event, has been held annually since 1987, in thousands of cities and towns across the United States and Canada. The 2024 National Life Chain will be held on **Sunday, October 6, 2024 from 2:00 – 3:30 PM**. We are thrilled to have three locations in Gaston County: Belmont, Gastonia and Mount Holly! See **Event Details** for more information about the sites.

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

Gastonia

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

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

Sign Pick Up: Along the sidewalks of the route
 Strollers, walkers, chairs, etc., are welcome
 Arrive early

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (SHOE BOX) IS HERE!

What is Operation Christmas Child? (Shoe boxes in Hallway)

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

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

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



Your gift is powerful!

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

From you to a child in need.

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

DEAD LNE FOR SHOE BOXES: NOVEMBER 24.

Church News



OUTREACH MISSION
SHUT-INS
NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

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

If you know of anyone,
please let the church office know

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



NEEDED
FOR
NOVEMBER
DECEMBER

Be a servant of the Lord

Sign Up



CAROLINAS MISSION REGIONAL

CMR Clergy Retreat – details forthcoming.
Oct 7-9:

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

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



CLW GROUP

WILL BE ATTENDING THE CLW CONVOCATION AT
HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
ON OCTOBER 19 AT 9:30 PM, (page 11)



PRAYER GROUP

WILL MEET AT THE HOME OF SHIRLEE MARAZZA
ON OCTOBER 17 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), KELLY Ballard (friend of Shana Dease), NORMAN Bever (Brother-in-law of Brady Ratchford-stroke), ADDISON Blanton (friend of Dease’s), KATHY Bohanan (cancer), LEAH Bradley (to have neck surgery-Marsha Patton’s sister), RHONDA Bradley (Marsha Patton’s mother-praising for successful surgery), KAREN Brady, MIKE Coffey (Robbie Wooten’s uncle), BARRY Clemmer (Alice Vlaservich’s brother), STEVE Cloninger (friend of Brady Ratchford-cancer), ROB Curley (cancer), STEVE Digh (cancer), JULIE Digh (Thyroid), BAILEY Drummond (Becky and Chris Messick’s daughter), JOHN Finger (friend of Brady Ratchford), GLEEN Fraizer (friend of Steve & Julie Digh - cancer), JASON Hames (friend of the White’s), GRACE Harbin (friend of Robbie Wooten-cancer), NIC Harkey (friend of Marazza’s family -16 yrs. old had tumor removed, awaiting treatment options), LESA Huges (friend of Robbie Wooten-throat cancer), JEFF Lineberger (stroke), DANA Kirshman (friend of Robbie Wooten-cancer), JACK Lonon (Kasey Digh’s step-father-cancer), MARINA Marazza (Shirlee Marazza’s granddaughter-Long Haul Covid19), CARL Martin (friend of Pattons-multiple myeloma plus chemo) BO Messick (foot), FRANCIS McAllister (broken hip), CHRIS Messick (recovering back surgery), JASON, ALLISON & LEX Murray, ELIZABETH Mustin (rare breast cancer), GARY Neal, (friend of Caleb Dease), MARSHA and BABY Patton – healthy single pregnancy pray for full term, ANDY Peeden (cancer), SONDRRA Phillips (friend of Melinda White), BRADY Ratchford, LEON Rawlinson (growth in brain), JAN Splawn (friend of Robbie Wooten- cancer), TERI Trudnak, TONY Trudnak (cancer reoccurring), GARY Turner (father of Jason Murray), JEFF White, KENT Wilborn (friend of Robbie Wooten-heart surgery) NANCY Wilson.



2024 Mission Emphasis for October :

SAMARITAN'S PURSE

ABOUT US

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

Mission Statement

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

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

SHOE BOX STORY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I still have my stuffed dog 15 years later. That's a glimpse of how much the shoebox meant to me because it was packed with love and prayer. It wasn't just any dog. I could tell she specifically chose that dog for me and wanted to use it to communicate God's love.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Purse cont'd from p 9)

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

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

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

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

Decide who would receive it:

Boy or girl:

Ages: 2-4
5-9
10-14

Fill with gifts:

Select a "wow" toy, such as:
Soccer ball and pump, doll,
Stuffed animal, musical instrument, as harmonica,
Clothes, shoes

Other suggestions:

Yo-yo, jump rope, ball, toys that light up (with extra batteries,
School supplies: pen pencils, sharpeners, markers, crayons, picture and coloring books, playing cards, scissors, stamps

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

Crafts that you make, such as:

Finger puppets, friendship bracelet

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

Things not to include:

Guns, knives, military figures,
Chocolate—hard candy
Liquids,
Medication or vitamins
Anything breakable such as:
Snow globes
Aerosol cans

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

Martin Luther's Seal

"From the wilderness of Koburg Castle" 8 July 1530

Honorable, kind, dear Sir and Friend!

Grace and Peace in Christ!

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

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

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

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

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





The Heritage and Harvest Days Festival will be held at the Dallas Park—October 11 thru October 13.

Not familiar with that name?

It's replacing the Cotton Ginning Days.

Exhibitors from all over the southeast will convene in Dallas, North Carolina (date not set yet) for the annual 'crank-up' of antique steam and gasoline engines and tractors. In addition to the engine show, many activities are planned including a Kids **County** Fair, Heritage Arts Area, Handmade Craft vendors and Music. As always, the food is good and admission and parking are free.

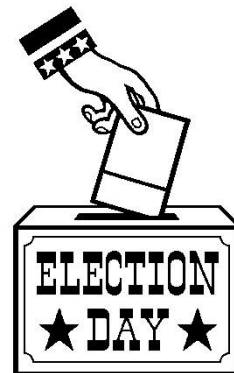
The festival will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on both Friday and Saturday, and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday. The festival will be held rain or shine, and there is no charge for either admission or parking.

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



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

Sponsored by the Town of Dallas
 Local Businesses
 And Local Churches



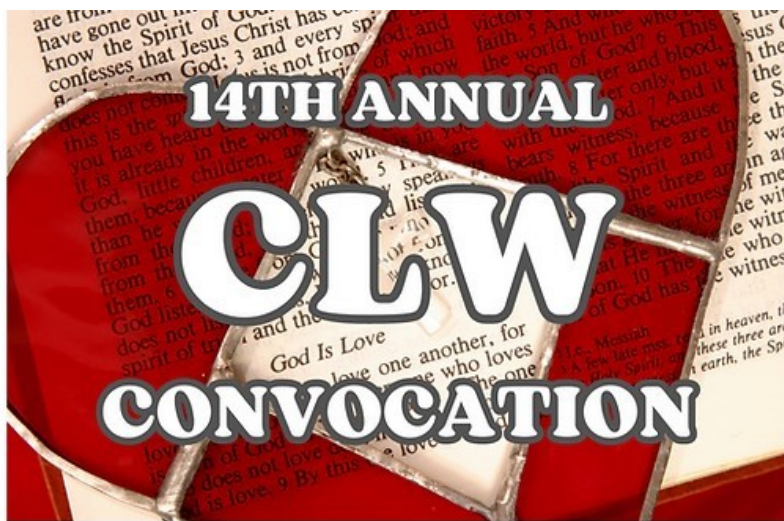
2024 GENERAL ELECTION
EARLY VOTING BEGINS OCTOBER 17
AND ENDS NOVEMBER 2

ELECTION DAY—NOVEMBER 5

VOTER ID REQUIRED-PAGES 13-14



As sisters in Christ, led by the Holy Spirit, we dedicate ourselves to serve God by using the gifts we have received to reach out to others.

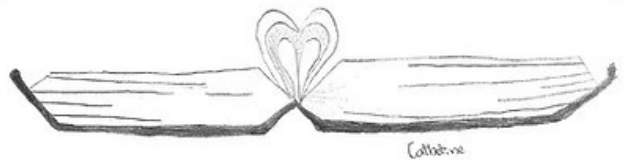


WHEN:
10:00am Saturday, October 19
 Registration at 9:30am

WHERE:
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
 805 S York St. Gastonia, NC 28052



God's Unfailing Love



DEVOTION
 Presented by:
LeaAnn Buckwell
Bring your bible!

IN-KIND GIFTS
for Displaced Roses
Donated items will be used to help the homeless in Gastonia.

OFFERING
to NALC Disaster Response
Please make checks to CLW, and note "Convocation Offering".

- The Convocation Offering will be designated to NALC Disaster Response. Please make checks to Carolinas Lutheran Women with "Convocation Offering" on the memo line. • CLW Council Minutes and annual meeting forms are available on our website: (www.carolinaslutheranwomen.org). If you have any questions, need more information, or would like hard copies, please contact Robin McLaughlin (mclaughlins@cte.net) or (704) 202-6361.
- The Convocation Offering will be designated to NALC Disaster Response. Please make checks to Carolinas Lutheran Women with "Convocation Offering" on the memo line.

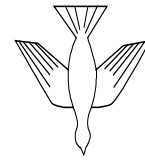
A Stewardship Minute

The October issue of *Stewardship* has a story about farmers who won awards for their success in farming. Each of them were found to be wise managers of their land, their animals, their farm equipment, their water source, their farm buildings, and whatever else was in their domain. One farmer said that good stewardship of his family farm was woven into their way of management and care, so much so, "that it is both a conscious and unconscious response."

It seems clear that anyone who uses his or her God-given brain-power, talent and energy can be successful. Indeed, with God's guidance, if fully followed, success will be inevitable!

For instance, as a young man in 1902, J. C. Penney, started a retail store in Wyoming. His store did well for a while, but during a period of depression, the business completely failed. During this dark period of his life Mr. Penney decided to allow God to be his Senior Partner as he started a business all over again. The business grew and grew spreading all over our country, ultimately employing thousands of workers. Mr Penney also tithed his income and contributed to many worthy. If still alive, Mr. Penney could tell us how successful any of us might be. It starts by having God as our Senior Partner.

Prayer: Dear Lord, teach us to always rely on you for guidance in our lives. Encourage us to understand how good our lives can be if you are always our loving Companion. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**



History of World Communion Sunday October 6, 2024



John A. Dalles, a pastor from the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America (PCUSA), researched the history of this day. The origin of this day is a brainwave that came to Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr, pastor of Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh. He came up with this idea in 1930 when he served as moderator of the General Assembly. Dr. Kerr's younger son, Rev. Dr. Donald Kerr, himself pastor emeritus of the Roland Park Presbyterian Church in Baltimore, stated that World Communion Sunday arose from the celebration at the Division of Stewardship at Shadyside. His father had attempted to bring churches together in service of Christian unity, and the idea grew from there.

Initially, this idea did not take hold. Whatever celebrations there were grew only incrementally, and people did not give this day a lot of thought. With the Second World War came an increased understanding of one's own mortality, and the spirit of this day caught hold. This day symbolized the effort of bringing the world together, in a spiritual sense, thought Kerr. This celebration was adopted in the U.S., in the period during World War II, and soon, the organization, now known as the National Council of Churches, started endorsing and promoting the event to churches worldwide, led by their leader, Jesse Moren Bader. Many celebrations revolve around the 'Last Supper' theme when Jesus Christ broke bread with his disciples right before he was betrayed by Judas. People even partake in the universal Christian practice of baking bread.

Today, this day is celebrated the world over, bringing together the unique flavor of all denominations with a strong individual spirit, just like the world we live in.

History of Pastor Appreciation Day

The concept of Pastor Appreciation Day stems from early Christianity. For example, the Apostle Paul demanded early Christian congregations through his letters to respect their leaders. In 1 Timothy 5:17, Paul charges that those who preach and teach God's Word are worthy of "double honor."

Modernly, however, Pastor Appreciation Day officially began in the 1990s, when Hallmark Cards and Focus on the Family spearheaded it. These groups called for congregations to take a moment in time to appreciate and thank their pastors for their relentless dedication to the church



NORTH CAROLINA

Voter Photo ID Requirement

Beginning with the 2023 municipal elections, North Carolina voters will be asked to show photo ID when they check in to vote. Voters who vote by mail will be asked to include a photocopy of an acceptable ID when returning their ballot by mail.

For detailed information about the photo ID requirement, go to ncsbe.gov/voter-ID.



WHAT PHOTO ID CAN I USE?

Any of the following that is, **unexpired or expired for one year or less:**

- North Carolina Driver's License
- U.S. Passport/U.S. Passport Card
- State ID ("non-operator ID"), from the NCDMV
- NC Voter Photo ID card, issued by a county board of elections (*available soon*)
- College/university student ID approved by NCSBE
- Charter school employee ID approved by NCSBE
- State/local government employee ID approved by NCSBE
- Driver's license/non-driver ID from another state, D.C. or U.S. territory (*only if voter registered in NC within 90 days of election*)

Any of the following, **regardless of whether the ID contains an expiration or issuance date:**

- Military or veteran ID card issued by the U.S. government
- Tribal enrollment card issued by a State or federally recognized tribe
- ID card issued by a U.S. government agency or the State of NC for a public assistance program

Note: Voters ages 65+ may use an expired ID if it was unexpired on their 65th birthday.

To see the complete list of acceptable photo ID's and details on how to request State Board approval for student and employee ID's, visit ncsbe.gov/voter-ID.



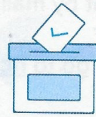


WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE A PHOTO ID?


All voters **will be allowed to vote with or without a photo ID**. If any voter is unable to show a photo ID when voting, they may:

FREE PHOTO ID CARDS


Any North Carolina resident can get a free non-driver's ID from the NCDMV. All county boards of elections will soon be able to issue free voter photo IDs to registered voters in their county. County board contact information can be found at vt.ncsbe.gov/BOEinfo.



Vote with a **Provisional Ballot**, and...



Complete an **ID Exception Form**



Return to the elections office with ID by the day before county canvass.

On the form, the voter will **choose from the following permitted exceptions:**

- Voter has a "reasonable impediment" preventing them from showing ID.
- Voter has a religious objection to being photographed.
- Voter was a victim of a natural disaster within 100 days before Election Day.

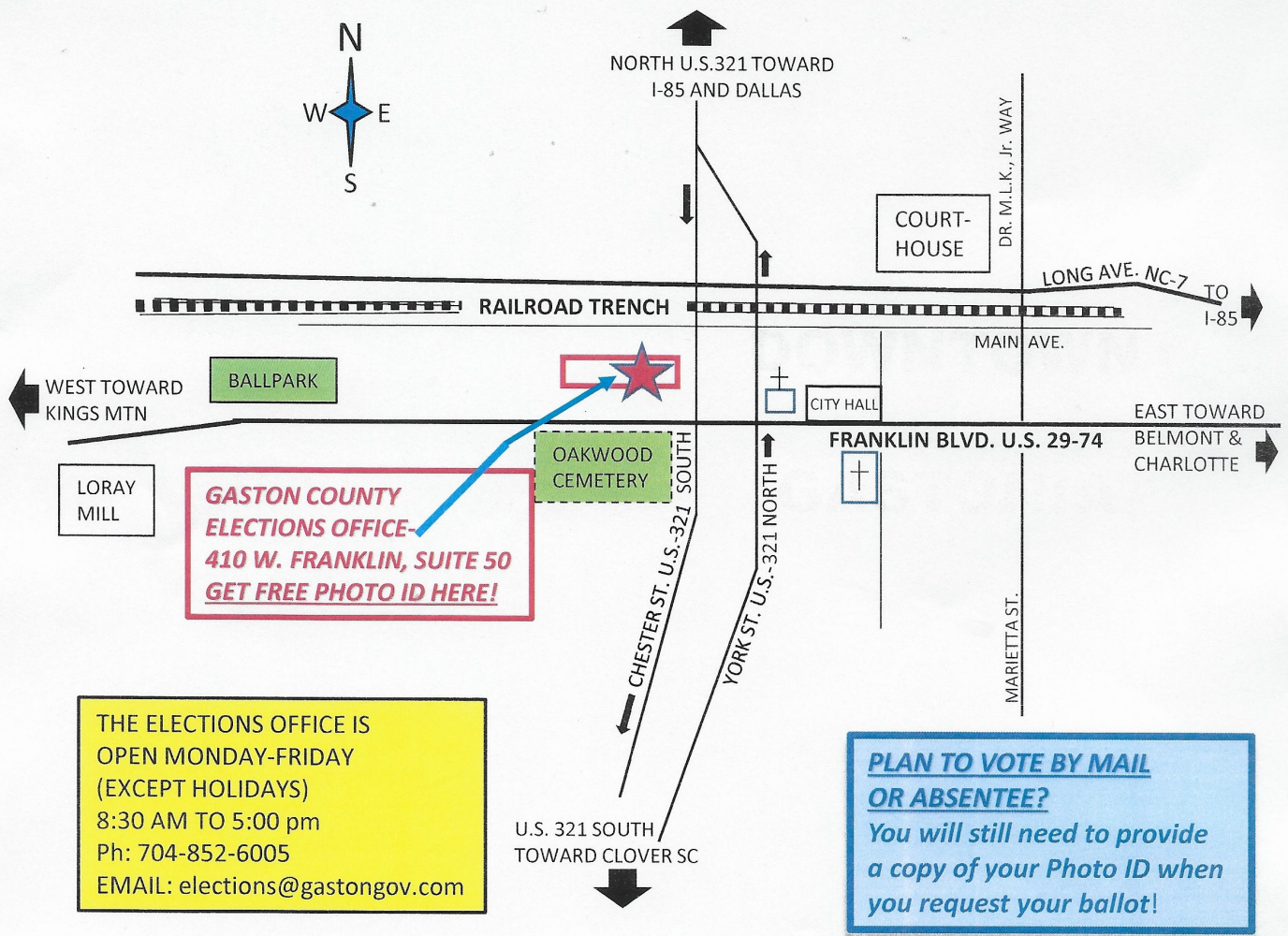
Information regarding North Carolina's voter ID requirement is updated frequently; for the latest guidance on this law, acceptable types of photo ID, voting procedures, exceptions and more, visit ncsbe.gov/voter-ID.

This resource was last updated: July 1st, 2023.



NOTICE

ALL VOTERS WILL NOW BE ASKED TO SHOW AN OFFICIAL PHOTO IDENTIFICATION (ID) TO VOTE. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE AN ACCEPTABLE ID FOR VOTING, AN EASY WAY TO GET ONE FOR FREE IS AT THE GASTON COUNTY ELECTIONS OFFICE, LOCATED AT 410 W. FRANKLIN BLVD., SUITE 50 IN DOWNTOWN GASTONIA. SEE MAP BELOW:



IF YOU NEED FURTHER HELP OR ADVICE IN OBTAINING AN ACCEPTABLE PHOTO ID TO VOTE, CALL: 704-852-6005

Stewardship

Inspiring a deeper understanding of true giving

October 2024

Stewardship sounds like a “churchy” word, so it’s always somewhat of a surprise to come across it in a non-church setting. And it’s even more of a surprise to find it connected to farm management. But such surprise was exactly what I experienced as I thumbed through

a recent edition of *Buckeye Farm News*, a publication of the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation.

A feature story in the magazine reported about awards given by the Ohio Livestock Coalition, an organization representing Ohio farmers who raise beef cattle, dairy cows, pigs, sheep or poultry. The five awards given were for “stewardship.” Specifically, each of the five family farming operations honored were commended for following a “manure management plan,” developed and approved either by their local soil and water conservation district, the United States Department of Agriculture or the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

David White, executive director of the Livestock Coalition stated, “Each award recipient has worked hard and smart to protect the resources entrusted to their care while at the same time ensuring productivity. That’s what stewardship is all about – faithfully developing and using gifts, talents and resources to realize the maximum possible return on the resources that have been entrusted in one’s care.”

One of the award recipients, C. Ray Nocker, of Ashville, Ohio, put it this way: “Stewardship of the environment is not something you just think about. It

is part of everything you do, every decision you make, every waking hour as you manage the business. Stewardship is not a separate part of the business; it is an integral part that is woven through all aspects in a conscious and unconscious way.”

Aren’t those also good descriptions of

God can manage without money, but the church, being in this world, cannot. The free will offerings of church members are crucial if we are to carry on its work. How else are we to provide for the spread of the Gospel?



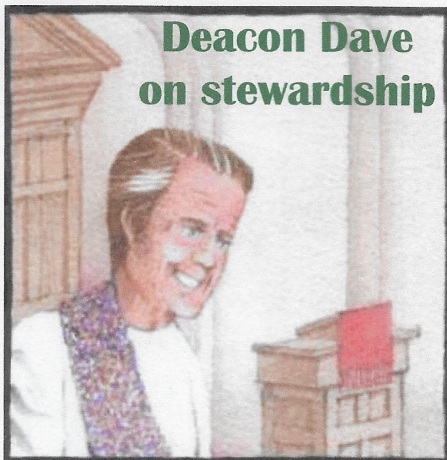
what Christian stewardship should be? Faithfully developing and using gifts entrusted to one’s care ... realizing a good return (though sometimes for more than our own benefit). .. something so woven into our way of living that it is both a conscious and unconscious response.

Don’t get hung up that we are talking about manure. Properly recycled on the

(Continued on page 4)



Deacon Dave on stewardship



We live in time, the time given to us by God, the Creator of time. Time is given to us to live in, for and through God. Time is made holy by how we use it, either to the glory of God, or to the Glory of ourselves, as we are known to God. Whatever time is given to us must be acknowledged with a thankful return of a portion of the time to God.

It is always inspiring to hear about a wonderful act of stewardship and Chuck Collins is just that example!

When he was 21, Chuck Collins, of Springfield, MA came into a \$475,000 inheritance, his share of the fortune made by his great grandfather.


Six years later, he gave it all away. "Wherever I look around at the world, I see so many problems that sitting on a mountain of money creates a problem in and of itself," Collins told me.

He earned a master's degree in business at the University of New Hampshire, then moved to Worcester to work at a crisis intervention center and later joined a voter education project.

Giving away money

"I began to realize how hard it would be for poor people to stop being poor," he said. "Meanwhile, I could see that people of privilege my own age felt that the sky was the limit." In 2006 he decided to give away his fortune. He moved to Cambridge and made about \$30,000 a year teaching community economics and working for an organization that helped neighborhood groups develop affordable housing.

He said he had no regrets about giving away his money, though he sometimes wished for ready cash to help a


friend in trouble or "to fix that noise in the car." 

Pizza Margherita!

In 1889, the king and queen of Italy were traveling throughout their country. As they visited each city, its mayor and other VIP's gave them expensive gifts. The city of Naples was quite poor, but wanted to do its best. A local chef, Raffaele Esposito, was planning a dinner for the royals. Why not invent a dish for them? he thought.

Taking tomatoes, mozzarella, and basil (the red, white, and green of Italy's flag), he baked them on a flat piece of dough. Italians had baked different toppings on bread for centuries, and called it pizza. But Chef Esposito's recipe ... called pizza Margherita after the queen ... is the one most famous now. Few remember the extravagant presents the king and queen received on their tour. But millions of people enjoy the simple present that Chef Esposito invented.

God grants each of us talents. Too often, we assume that talent refers only to the performing arts. However, that's not true. A talent for cooking could earn money at a church dinner. A talent for carpentry might perform needed repairs on the church.

What are your talents? Think about how you can give them to God. God is, after all, our King. 





Dear Editor:

There is an increasing tendency on the part of some Christians to take the attitude that "I will give to the church only if my money is not used for some radical cause of which I disapprove." Some do not give at all, for fear their money will be misused.

Giving money to the church is giving it back to God. It is the recognition that the goods and property we have comes from God and thus a part of these should be given to the worship of God and to the church that represents him. This is simply a recognition of God's ownership of all things in life and a proof of personal appreciation for having received them from him.

When we give to the church, we are not giving to the particular people who administer God's works in this world. Our only motive should be to promote God's work. When we give generously out of love for God, we live in relation to him and therefore will receive our reward from him, not from the temporal administrators.


The efficacy of our gift does not depend on whether the human agent administers the funds according to our reasoned conviction. Regardless of how the money is used, we have returned our share to God. The human agent has the responsibility, and will be accountable to God for his or her stewardship, not yours.

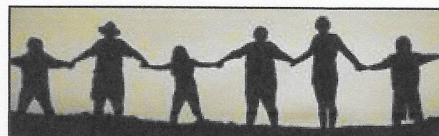
David

The Good Steward

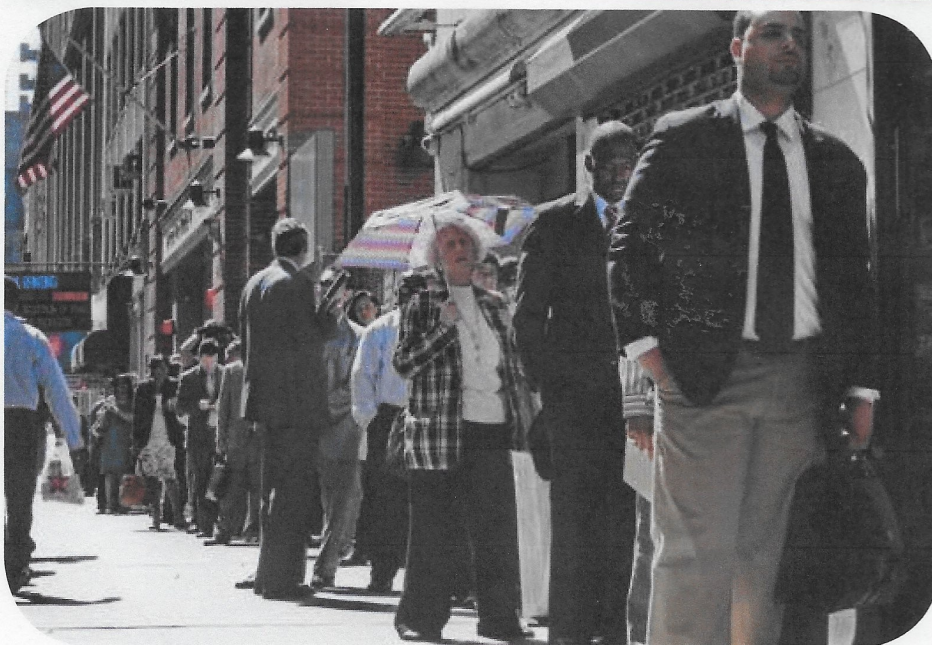
Some years ago two football players on the Minnesota Vikings team were riding snowmobiles in the Rocky Mountains. They ignored the snow falling upon and around them until it occurred to them that they were in the midst of a relentless blizzard. Confused as to where they were and running out of gas, they knew they were in trouble. Lost and getting colder, they decided to try to build a fire. They had matches and they had fairly large pieces of wood but they had no kindling or paper to start the wood burning. Finally, one of the men had an idea. He suggested that they go through their wallets, take out all of the paper money, set it afire and hope to ignite the wood. The plan worked. Soon they were standing around a blazing fire, which not only warmed them, but was a signal to anyone who might come searching for them. Within a few hours they were found and taken to the warm lodge where they were staying.

When I first came across their story, I was a bit shocked at the thought of burning money. Upon second thought, I realized the act had saved their lives. Without the fire, what good would the money have done them? It would have been cold and useless cash indeed.

Just as it's foolish to try to gain the whole world therefore, jeopardizing our souls, it is also unwise to try to hoard all of our resources without doing our part to save lives that are in danger of perishing from hunger and hopelessness. Remember these words of Jesus: "You cannot serve God and wealth." (Matthew 6:24) 



We are to share generously. Our ways of sharing affect our inner disposition. A disciple can be identified by viewing his/her check stubs and calendar ... true indications of his/her value system, of how money and time are used. Our Lord takes what we are willing to share and multiplies it, as the loaves and fishes, for the benefit of others.



“I began to realize how hard it would be for poor people to stop being poor”

Continued from page 1...

Stewardship sounds like...

fields, while at the same time prevented from contaminating water supplies, it enriches the soil. Even this so called waste is a resource from God entrusted into the farmer’s care, and the way he manages it has a great bearing on how future generations will be able to thrive on this good earth.

Each of us had been entrusted with many things, too ... talents, compassion, finances, the physical world, material things, health, the gospel message itself. As part of our commitment to God, let us seek to make stewardship part of everything we do and every decision we make. And where the award ceremony for our stewardship is held is ... well, *out of this world!* ☩



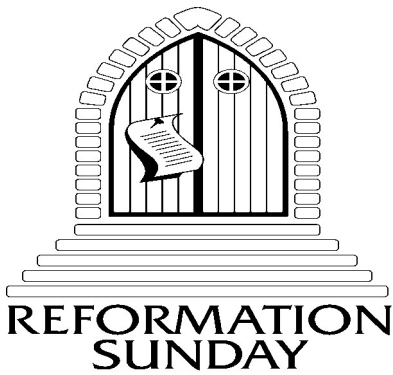
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Our Saviour Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 457
725 Gastonia Technology Parkway
Dallas, NC 28034



October 2024



**REFORMATION
SUNDAY**

OCTOBER 27