



Our Saviour's Good News

Volume XIV, Issue V

May 2019

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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Take a look at the calendar on your wall. You may find something on Thursday, May 30, 2019, that says "Ascension Day." And just maybe you're wondering, "What on earth is that?"

Ascension Day marks the day when Jesus Christ ascended up into Heaven. It was 40 days after his resurrection from the dead, which was on Easter Sunday (in A.D. 30). If you begin with Easter Sunday (April 21, 2019) and count 40 days, you end up on Thursday, May 30.

The Biblical account of the Ascension appears in the book of Acts, chapter one: After his suffering, he (Jesus) showed himself to these men (the apostles) and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command:

"Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." *Acts 1:3-11, NIV*

The most *awesome* thing about this account is not that he ascended up into heaven (which was certainly amazing), but that he *will come back* in the same way! We who know Jesus as our Lord and Savior will meet him in the clouds (1 Thessalonians 4:17). And that day is coming soon... possibly much sooner than we think, considering that 2,018 years have already passed since His Ascension!

Ascension Day is one of the earliest Christian festivals dating back to the year 68. According to the New Testament in the Bible, Jesus Christ met several times with his disciples during the 40 days after his resurrection to instruct them on how to carry out his teachings. It is believed that on the 40th day he took them to the Mount of Olives, where they watched as he ascended to heaven.

Ascension Day marks the end of the Easter season and occurs ten days before **Pentecost**. Depending upon the phases of the moon in a particular year, Ascension Day is celebrated on a Thursday. However, some churches, particularly in the United States, celebrate it on the following Sunday.

This is a truly BEAUTIFUL piece. Please read this at a slow pace, digesting every word and in leisure...do not hurry... This is a treasure... For those lucky to still be blessed with your Mom, this is beautiful. For those of us who aren't, this is even more beautiful. For those who are moms, you'll love this.

MOTHER

The young mother set her foot on the path of life. "Is this the long way?" she asked.
And the guide said: "Yes, and the way is hard. And you will be old before you reach the end of it...
But the end will be better than the beginning."

But the young mother was happy, and she would not believe that anything could be better than these years.
So she played with her children, and gathered flowers for them along the way, and bathed them in the clear streams;
and the sun shone on them, and the young Mother cried, "Nothing will ever be lovelier than this."

Then the night came, and the storm, and the path was dark, and the children shook with fear and cold, and the mother
Drew them close and covered them with her mantle, and the children said,
"Mother, we are not afraid, for you are near, and no harm can come."

And the morning came, and there was a hill ahead, and the children climbed and grew weary, and the mother was weary.
But at all times she said to the children, "A little patience and we are there."
So the children climbed, and when they reached the top. They said, "Mother, we would not have done it without you."

And the mother, when she lay down at night looked up at the stars and said,
"This is a better day than the last, for my children have learned fortitude in the face of hardness.
Yesterday I gave them courage. Today, I've given them strength."
And the next day came strange clouds which darkened the earth, clouds of war and hate and evil,
and the children groped and stumbled, and the mother said: "Look up. Lift your eyes to the light."
And the children looked and saw above the clouds an everlasting glory, and it guided them beyond the darkness.
And that night the Mother said, "This is the best day of all, for I have shown my children God."

And the days went on, and the weeks and the months and the years, and the mother grew old and she was little and bent.
But her children were tall and strong, and walked with courage. And when the way was rough, they lifted her,
for she was as light as a feather; and at last they came to a hill,
and beyond they could see a shining road and golden gates flung wide. And mother said, "I have reached the end of my journey. And now I know the end is better than the beginning, for my children can walk alone, and their children after them."

And the children said, "You will always walk with us, mother, even when you have gone through the gates."
And they stood and watched her as she went on alone, and the gates closed after her.
And they said: "We cannot see her but she is with us still.
A mother like ours is more than a memory. She is a living presence....."

Your Mother is always with you... She's the whisper of the leaves as you walk down the street; she's the smell of bleach in your freshly laundered socks; she's the cool hand on your brow when you're not well. Your mother lives inside your laughter. And she's crystallized in every tear drop. She's the place you came from, your first home;
And she's the map you follow with every step you take. She's your first love and your first heartbreak,
and nothing on earth can separate you.

Not time, not space... Not even death!



List of Famous Women in the Bible

By Bill Atkinson

Mary the mother of Jesus is the most famous woman in the Bible.

Of the 188 named women in the Bible, two stand out above all others -- Eve and Mary. Eve is the mother of the human race, according to the Bible, while Mary is the mother of Jesus Christ. They exemplify the ambiguous position women occupy in the largely male-dominated, patriarchal society which produced both the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) and the Christian New Testament.

In the Time of the Patriarchs

Officially women count for little at this time, but, like Sarah the wife of Abraham, they are decision makers. Sarah, who is barren, offers Hagar, a slave girl, to Abraham. Hagar bears Ishmael and feels superior to her mistress. Eventually Hagar and her child Ishmael are driven out of the family, but God protects them. Isaac, Sarah's son, marries Rebecca, another beautiful but initially barren woman. When she has twins Esau and Jacob Rebecca plots with Jacob to steal the birthright from the first born Esau. These are not compliant wives, but mothers plotting for their children. This behavior is later repeated by Bathsheba, the mother of Solomon, who convinces the ailing David to name her son king.

The Formation and Settling of the Ten Tribes

The women of the Bible are active and often controversial. Miriam, the sister of Moses, plays an important role in the Exodus of Israel from Egypt and is a prophetess in her own right. Rahab, a prostitute in Jericho, protects the spies sent by Joshua to spy out the land and when Jericho falls, she and her family are saved and become part of the 10 tribes. Deborah is one of the Judges of Israel, rallying the men for a conquest over the Canaanites who had oppressed them for 20 years. The defeated and escaping Canaanite general is killed by another woman, Jael, who drives a tent nail through his temple. These are powerful women whose stories are too often forgotten.

The Bad Women of the Bible

Delilah and Jezebel are the most famous bad women. Delilah was a Philistine woman of immense beauty and charm. Samson, the Israelite judge of the time, simply could not leave her alone. In Judges 16 Samson finally tells her that his hair is the secret of his strength. When it is cut, he is bound and blinded but gets his revenge by bringing down the entire temple. The Bible acknowledges just how powerfully attractive women can be, even to destruction.

Jezebel is a Philistine who marries Ahab the king Israel. She brought the worship of Baal into the kingdom including the sacred prostitutes and child sacrifice to Baal. Her prophets are defeated by Elijah in 1 Kings 18 however Jezebel continues to fight Elijah until she herself is killed. The influence of a woman over a man is portrayed as shaping the fortunes of the kingdom.

The New Testament Women

Mary is worshiped as an intercessor with God. Mary Magdalene was the first to know that Christ was raised from the dead. Elisabeth, mother of John the Baptist, receives her own revelation from an angel about her son and his mission. The unnamed Samaritan woman of John 4:1-42 who gives Jesus water to drink and then converts her whole town to Christianity is an important story of faith. Priscilla and her husband, Aquila, are important in Paul's many journeys. She is always mentioned first and was likely the driving force in organizing many branches of the early church. She is the first to be mentioned as a faithful companion in Paul's last letter.

The women of the Bible when carefully studied are all powerful in their own ways and wield the kind of influence that we recognize today as so important.

Bill Atkinson, a retired English and computer science teacher, has been a professional writer since 2011. He has written numerous learning guides for students in Visual Basic and Web design and has developed several Web sites on the Cariboo Gold Rush and the Cottonwood Roadhouse in British Columbia. Bill holds a Master of Education in educational psychology.

Our Saviour Lutheran Church

William Trudnak, President

March 18, 2019 Council Minutes

Devotions: Denise Traveria

Meeting called to order by President Bill Trudnak

Members present: Bill Trudnak, Melinda White, Betty Ratchford, Steve Digh, Denise Traveria, Joe Finger, Robbie Wooten, Alice Vlaservich and Teri Trudnak

Members Absent: Jeff White

Minutes: February 18, 2019 were reviewed. Alice Vlaservich made the motion to approve the minutes and Denise Traveria seconded the motion.

Reception of Petitions and Communications:

- a. Institute of Lutheran Theology asking for donation. It was decided to place this information in the bulletin/newsletter for anyone to donate if interested. We will support in prayer. Melinda White made a motion we accept this action and Denise Traveria seconded that motion.

Report of the Pastor: Report was reviewed. A motion was made by Alice Vlaservich to accept and Teri Trudnak seconded that motion.

Report of the Treasurer: Motion by Steve Digh to accept the Treasurer Report and seconded by Robbie Wooten.

Report of the Ministries:

- a. Property: Steve Digh to follow up on roof leak
- b. Stewardship and Finance: No report this month
- c. Worship & Music: Planning Easter services
- d. Youth Team: No report this month
- e. Witness: Cards and prayers continue to be sent to shut ins
- f. Christian Education Team: VBS planning committee met. Details to follow

Report of Auxiliaries: Rachel Circle met at the home of Marie Robinson for fellowship and devotions.

Old and/or Unfinished Business:

- a. Work Day at the church scheduled for 4/13/2019 at 8:30 am.

New Business:

No new business

General Information:

- a. Kids Alive Report(Laszlo Mission League –new name)
- b. Attendance
- c. Chosen People Ministries

Adjourned with Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting: April 15, 2019

Devotions: Melinda White



Armed Forces Day

"United in Strength"

Saturday, May 18, 2019

On August 31, 1949, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy and Air Force Days. The single-day celebration stemmed from the unification of the Armed Forces under one department -- the Department of Defense. On May 20, 2017, we honor all our men and women who are servicing in the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Navy and Marines. Below are some quotes from some of our notable leaders:

"It is fitting and proper that we devote one day each year to paying special tribute to those whose constancy and courage constitute one of the bulwarks guarding the freedom of this nation and the peace of the free world."

President Dwight D. Eisenhower

"Our Armed Forces and our national defense system represent a judicious investment of the nation's resources in the cause of peace. The return on this investment, in terms of national strength, shows the determination of the American people to preserve our way of life and to give hope to all who seek peace with freedom and justice."

The Honorable Neil McElroy
Former Secretary of Defense

"...Word to the Nation: Guard zealously your right to serve in the Armed Forces, for without them, there will be no other rights to guard."

President John F. Kennedy



May 2019



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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 National Day of Prayer	3 Friendship Day	4
5 3rd Sunday of Easter	6 Team Meeting	7 Gaston Together	8	9	10	11 Dallas Mayfair on the Square
12 Mother's Day	13	14 "Prayer Group"	15	16	17 CMD Convocation	18 Armed Forces Day CMD Conv.
19 5th Sunday of Easter	20 Council Meeting	21	22	23	24	25
26 6th Sunday of Easter	27 MEMORIAL DAY	28	29	30 HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN	31	

Holy Communion Schedule:

All Sundays



Worship Service Assistance:

Acolyte:

Communion

Asst:

Lay Reader:

Yvonne Finger

Yvonne Finger

Worship Asst:

Yvonne Finger

Greeters:

Members of OSLC

Ushers:

Members of OSLC

Devotions:

Bill Trudnak

Collections:

Steve Digh



Birth-



BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARY

12 Garrett Lowery
15 Marie Robinson
18 Bo Messick
Nancy Wilson
20 Marilyn Finger
24 Jack Lowery
28 Caleb Dease
31 Bryten Cole

Emma Dease
Jean Huffstetler
Jeff White
Allison Wooten
Carson Dease
Bailey Messick Ledford

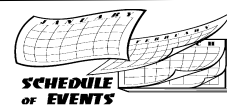


ANNIVERSARIES

2ndJoe & Yvonne Finger

5thScott & Ashley Finger

9thChristian & Kara Clemmer



- May 2— National Day of Prayer (p13)
- May 3— Friendship Day
Workday at Lutherdge
- May 5—94th Annual Lutheran Men in Mission—Grace Lutheran, Hendersonville
- May 5—3rd Sunday of Easter
- May 5- 11— National Family Week
- May 6—Youth Team Meeting 6:30 pm.
Other Team Meetings 7:00 PM
- May 7— Gaston Together (p 9)
- May 11—Mayfair on the Square (p 8)
Car Show and Band Concert.
- May 12—Mother's Day
4th Sunday of Easter
- May 14— "Prayer Group" will meet at the home of Shirlee Marazza at 1:00 p
- May 17-18—Carolinas Mission District (p 11)
- May 18— Armed Forces Day
- May 19— 5th Sunday of Easter
- May 20— Council Meeting 7:00 pm
- May 26— 6th Sunday of Easter
- May 27— Memorial Day (see p 11)
CLW/Rachel Group at the home of Alice Vlaservich at 1:30 pm
- May 30—Ascension of our Lord (p 5)



FOOD FOR THE MONTH: Spaghetti, Spaghetti Sauce, Blackeyes Peas.



Choir practice each
Wednesday at 5:00 pm unless
otherwise announced the bulletin

FLOWERS

Flower Schedule:

May 5 OPEN

May 12 Carlos & Denise Traveria

May 19 OPEN

May 26 OPEN

Thank you for signing up to place flowers on the altar to the glory of God and in honor or memory of your loved ones.

TWENTY-TWO (22) OPEN DATES

CO-FOUNDER OF THE CHURCH

Priscilla/Prisca

The name 'Priscilla' was a nickname, a familiar name; 'Prisca' was her formal name. Aquila was her husband and co-worker in the early Church. When the husband and wife in this story are mentioned in the New Testament, Priscilla's name is usually listed before Aquila's. However, Concordances of the Bible place Priscilla under the heading of 'Aquila'.

Structure of Priscilla's story

There are five separate references to Priscilla in the New Testament:

- Acts 18:1-3. Prisca and Aquila are introduced to the reader
- Acts 18: 18-26. Prisca instructs Apollos, an influential scholar
- Romans 16:3. Priscilla returns to Rome
- 1 Corinthians 16:19. Old friends greet each other
- 2 Timothy 4:19. Paul says a lonely farewell as he faces death

PRISCILLA IS INTRODUCED—Read Acts 18:1-3

Paul had been Saul, but after his conversion to the teachings of Christ, he changed his name to Paul.

St Paul was traveling around ancient Asia Minor, teaching about Jesus and converting Jews and Gentiles.

When he appears in this part of Acts, he was fresh from Athens, where he had a difficult time. Athens was no longer filled with intellectual giants as it once had been, but Paul met some stiff opposition and was hauled before the Court of the Areopagus to explain his teachings.

He moved to Corinth, a great commercial city with a double harbor. It was not the sort of place you would expect to find a follower of Christ: it had a reputation for licentiousness and loose morality, something of which Paul was well aware.

But the inhabitants were not all like this. Paul met a married couple, Prisca and Aquila, who were only recent arrivals. They have been ejected from Rome by an edict of the Emperor Claudius, expelling all Jews from Rome (the idea that anti-Jewish feeling has only existed since the advent of Christianity is nonsense; the Book of Esther describes a nation-wide pogrom centuries before the birth of Christ, and Claudius' expulsion of Jews from Rome in 49-50AD happened when Christianity was still in its infancy).

Paul heard about Prisca and her husband Aquila, and sought them out. They welcomed him into their home. They appear to have been people of some means, having their own business. They are usually described as tent-makers, but this would have been a strange occupation for settled townspeople in the 1st century Roman empire. There would not be much call for tents. Translators have argued that it is more likely that they, and Paul, were workers in leather goods.

The words of Acts 18:3 record that 'by trade, they were tentmakers (or leather-workers). Notice the word 'they'. She was actively involved in the family business.

They offered Paul work, and shelter in their home as well. They were to be generous, loyal friends.

PRISCA INSTRUCTS APOLLOS - Read Acts 18: 18-26

No reason is given for their next move: Prisca and Aquila traveled with Paul to Syria. After a short stay, he traveled on to Jerusalem, but they remained in Ephesus and settled there.

This time, Priscilla had a mission. She taught anyone who would listen about the crucified prophet Jesus, and there is no doubt she was successful. Ephesus was steeped in religion and philosophy. It was the center of worship of Artemis, the mother goddess who was patron of pregnant women.

Priscilla and Aquila were so successful they set up a church in their own home. Now they were leaders of the growing Christian community. As such they became authorities about the teachings of Jesus.

A man from the Jewish community in Alexandria came to Ephesus. He was a scholar, and an eloquent and persuasive speaker. He spoke in the synagogue, and when Priscilla heard him she realized that, learned as he was, he did not know the full story of Jesus. She took him aside and taught him about Jesus – what Jesus did, said, and taught. It was recognized by all that she was the real authority on the teachings of Jesus, and that as such she had a responsibility to pass on her knowledge to others. Aquila is mentioned, but in a secondary capacity. It is clear Priscilla was the one in charge.

Eventually she had to let her pupil go, hoping that her teachings would be faithfully passed on. This happened. Apollos was skilled at talking and arguing, and he passed on her teachings to the Jews in the public arena - something she as a woman could not do.



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Website: oslc-nc.org



OUTREACH MISSION

SHUT-INS **NURSING HOME RESIDENTS**

Please remember our church members who are shut-ins and visit them.

Marilyn Finger
1150 Meadow Way Dr.
Dallas, NC

Jerri Presley
2604 Ole Home Trail, Dallas



Help fill the pantry at the Dallas-High Shoals Christian Ministry.

Check and see what food item they need for the month (on page 5—our calendar) and let us over fill that basket in the hallway. This is a great outreach program.

God will bless you in your generosity.

I asked the Lord to bless you. As I prayed for you today.



To guide you and protect you. As you go along your way....His love is always with you, His promises are true, And when we give Him all our cares, You know He will see us through.

Author unknown



GO OUT ON A LIMB **GET INVOLVED** **BE A WORSHIP ASSISTANT**

A positions are still open. Participate in the service of the Lord and sign up.

Sign up sheets
for the 2019 calendar year are in
BLUE BOOK in holder on

the TA-
THANK



**Bring
a
Friend**

BLE.
YOU!

EVENTS for Agrape/Kure Beach

Contact Camp Agapé:
Telephone: 919-552-9421
e-mail: agape@agapekurebeach.org

Contact Kure Beach Lutheran:
Telephone 910-458-0783
e-mail: kurebeach@agapekurebeach.org

Web site: www.agapekurebeach.org

Directions to Camp Agapé are on the web site.

Please go on-line for information or pull up the Church's website and use our link.

Events For Lutheridge - Lutherock- Lutherspring- Lutheranch

Web site: www.NovusWay.com



MEN-IN-MISSION AT WORK

MARK YOUR CALENDAR LUTHERIDGE

Area Church's Men-in-Mission will join together on Saturday, May 4 to do work at LUTHERIDGE. You can drive up early Saturday morning. If you are interested please contact Nick Vla-servich.

A Stewardship Minute

There is a wonderful old hymn called "In the Garden." Perhaps you will remember the first verse and the refrain:

*I come to the garden alone while
the dew is still on the roses, and
the voice I hear falling on my
ear, the Son of God discloses.
Refrain: And he walks with
me, and he talks with me, and
he tells me I am his own; and
the joy we share as we tarry
there, none other has ever
known. (C. A. Miles 1913)*

We are reminded of Christ's last words: "Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Mt. 28:20) Christ is indeed our eternal companion. His promise is indeed to walk and talk with us throughout all of our lives; a promise on which we can always rely. When we sincerely decide to be open to Christ's companionship and to live so as to make him proud of us, we will want to show it in our daily living ... including our stewardship.

An article in the May issue of **Stewardship** titled "Walking with Jesus" reminds us that St. Paul told the Christians in Ephesus that Christians are "created in Christ Jesus for

good works." (Eph. 2:10) "Good works" has to do with stewardship. That is, using our minds, our strength, our talents, our resources to serve our Lord and Savior daily. That is a big order, so remember we have our eternal Companion who stands ready to help us in our "good works" for the Kingdom of God. Surely we would not want to fail our Lord in that endeavor.

Prayer: Stir us up, O Lord, that we may always be ready to do "good works," including acts of stewardship for the sake of the Kingdom of God.



2019 Court Square Summer Concert and Cruise-In Series

(presented by the Town of Dallas)

Held on the Dallas Historic Court Square, from 6:00—8:30 pm, each FREE concert will feature amazing talent (rain or shine). Enjoy the car show along Main Street and the concert

♦ **Saturday, May 11 — The Catalinas**

Dallas Ambassadors Car Show and Concert by The Catalinas Steeped in the sound of the 60s, 70s and 80s, they transport listeners to a simpler time when music spoke for a generation. 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Car Show and Music (see Dallas Mayfair on the Square below)

♦ **Saturday, June 8— The Chairmen of the Board**

Cruise in and Concert by The Chairmen of The Board. 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

♦ **Wednesday, July 4—Image GTown and Hotwire**

NO Cruise-In this Month - Band Performing 6pm-9pm before the Fireworks at Cloninger Park

♦ **Saturday, September 8—The Catalinas**

Cruise-In and Concert by 20 RIDE - America's #1 Zac Brown Tribute. **Cruise-in and Music 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm.**

=====



DALLAS MAYFAIR ON THE SQUARE

The Town of Dallas, in partnership with the Dallas Ambassadors (formerly known as the Optimist' Club) presents Mayfair on the Square festival . This is fun for the whole family. Car show, live music, food trucks and more to bring the historic court square alive!

Church News



Altar Flowers

FLOWERS CALENDER FOR THE CHURCH is posted on the first door in the hallway of the Education wing. Please sign up to place flowers on the altar in the glory of God and in honor or memory of your loved ones. You can then take them home with you or give them to one of our shut ins. Twenty-two (22) Openings

GASTON TOGETHER'S CLERGY & CITIZENS COALITION

May 7, 2018

8:30 to Noon

Clinton Room, Gaston Memorial Hospital
Breakfast before meeting, if you wish.

PASTOR PETE'S TELEPHONE:

Cell Phone: 704-516-2805

CLW/RACHEL GROUP

At the home of Alice Vlaservich on

May 27 at 1:30 pm

Alice Vlaservich will be program leader.

"Group will not meet in June or July"

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



MARGARET Addington (Brady Ratchford's sister and friend of the community), SUSAN Aderholt, SETH Alexander, AMANDA (friend of the Penley's), MARVIS Anderson, WHITNEY Auten (breast cancer), KELLY Ballard (friend of Shana Dease), BRAXTON Bearden (friend of the Locketts), ADDISON Blanton (friend of Dease's), KATHY Bohanan (cancer), KAREN Brady, MIKE Coffey (Robbie Wooten's uncle), HARDY Feige (Pete's dad – chronic back pain), JASON Hames (friend of the White's) DANA Kirshman (friend of Robbie Wooten-cancer), CHRIS Messick (intestinal blockage), GARY Neal, (friend of Caleb Dease), ED Pfeiffer (Keenan's father – open heart recovery) MARY O'Shea (co-worker of Melinda White's), RIVER Peedin (Ursula Peedin's great-grandson– leukemia), JANICE and JOHNNY Pendleton (grandparents of Raygan Carpenter – Janice has strokes), SONDRRA Phillips (friend of Melinda White), JERRIE Presley, BETTY Ratchford, TONY Trudnak (cancer), GARY Turner (father of Jason Murray), KELLY Walters (mother of Brie Murray), ANNE White (niece of Betty Ratchford-breast cancer), NANCY Wilson (hand). MARY Wooten (Sara's great-grandmother and Rosalee's great-great grandmother)





was originally known as Decoration Day because it was a time set aside to honor the nation's dead by decorating their graves. It was first widely observed on May 30, 1868, to commemorate the sacrifices of Civil War soldiers, by proclamation of General John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of former sailors and soldiers. On May 5, 1868, Logan declared in General Order No. 11 that:

The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land. In this observance no form of ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit.

During the first celebration of Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, after which 5,000 participants helped to decorate the graves of the more than 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried in the cemetery.

This 1868 celebration was inspired by local observances of the day in several towns throughout America that had taken place in the three years since the Civil War. In fact, several Northern and Southern cities claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day, including Columbus, Miss.; Macon, Ga.; Richmond, Va.; Boalsburg, Pa.; and Carbondale, Ill.

In 1966, the federal government, under the direction of President Lyndon Johnson, declared Waterloo, N.Y., the official birthplace of Memorial Day. They chose Waterloo—which had first celebrated the day on May 5, 1866—because the town had made Memorial Day an annual, community-wide event during which businesses closed and residents decorated the graves of soldiers with flowers and flags.

By the late 1800s, many communities across the country had begun to celebrate Memorial Day and, after World War I, observances also began to honor those who had died in all of American's wars. In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be celebrated the last Monday in May. (Veterans Day, a day set aside to honor all veterans, living and dead, is celebrated each year on November 11.) Today, Memorial Day is celebrated at Arlington National Cemetery with a ceremony in which a small American flag is placed on each grave. Also, it is customary for the president or vice-president to give a speech honoring the contributions of the dead and lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. About 5,000 people attend the ceremony annually.



General John A. Logan

How To Receive Eternal Life!

According to the Bible, we are saved by God's a grace through our faith in Him and that eternal life is NOT something we can earn for ourselves or receive by our good works. It is a gift of God.

Using the word FAITH, you can see how to have eternal life today.

F is for forgiveness. We cannot have eternal life without forgiveness. *In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.* (Ephesians 1:7a)

A is for available. Forgiveness is available for all. *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believe in Him should not perish but have eternal life."* (John 3:16) Forgiveness is not automatic. *"Not everyone who say to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the Kingdom of heaven."* (Matthew 7:21a)

I is for impossible. It is impossible for God to allow sin into heaven, and all people are sinful. *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."* (Romans 3:23)

T is for turn. Turn means repent. You must repent from your sin. *"But unless you repent you will all likewise perish."* (Luke 13:3b) As you turn from sin, trust Christ for salvation.

H is for heaven. Heaven is eternal life. When you turn from sin and trust Christ, you receive eternal life. *"....I will come again and receive you Myself, that where I am, there you may be also."* (John 14:3)

Trust Christ today by FAITH, and receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life.



The Carolinas Mission District
of the
North American Lutheran Church

2019 Convocation
May 17-18

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

May 2, 2019

The 68th Annual National Day of Prayer will take place Thursday, May 2, 2019. Millions will unite in prayer as thousands of events will take place from coast to coast. We invite you to join the Gaston County Family YMCA as we take time to unite for a morning of prayer, friendship and celebration of all our blessings during the Annual YMCA Prayer Breakfast beginning at 7:30 am with a keynote speaker Hope Park

Why We Pray

As American troops stormed the beaches of Normandy, President Franklin Roosevelt called for our nation to unite in prayer. He also offered a prayer to prepare each citizen for the road ahead. "Let our hearts be stout, to wait out the long travail, to bear sorrows that may come, to impart our courage unto our sons where so ever they may be. And, O Lord, give us faith. Give us faith in Thee." The victory that followed on June 6, 1944-also known as D-Day-began the march to Berlin. Eighteen months later, WWII was over and one of the world's greatest evils had been defeated. The prayers of a nation had been a powerful force

Prayer has always been used in this country for guidance, protection and strength-even before we were a nation or a handful of colonies. The Pilgrims at Plymouth relied on prayer during their first and darkest winter. Our founding fathers also called for prayer during the Constitutional Congress. In their eyes, our recently created nation and freedoms were a direct gift from God. And being a gift from God, there was only one way to insure protection-through prayer.

President Abraham Lincoln knew this well. It was his belief that, "it is the duty of nations as well as men, to owe their dependence upon the overruling power of God." When it came to the fate of the nation, he practiced what he preached. Before the battle of Gettysburg, he turned to God in prayer. "I went to my room one day and I locked the door and got down on my knees before Almighty God and prayed to him mightily for victory at Gettysburg." Won by the Union, Gettysburg was one of the turning points in the war that ended slavery and kept the states united. Today the need for prayer is as great as ever. Our nation again faces battlefields, along with an epidemic of broken homes, violence, sexual immorality and social strife. As the heroes of our nation did in the past, we must again bow our heads in prayer. We must ask the Lord to bless our leaders with wisdom and protection, and that we will have the fortitude to overcome the challenges at hand. If Roosevelt, the Pilgrims and Lincoln never underestimated the power of prayer, neither should we.

Our theme this year is "Love One Another," based upon the words of Jesus in John 13:34, which says, "Love one another. As the 2019 **National Day of Prayer on May 2nd** approaches, thousands of individuals, churches, and communities will be working to rally millions of Christian's to once again heed this call!

Scripture tells us again and again that our fervent prayer is effective. That our loving God responds to His children's earnest pleas in mighty ways that avail much, and ultimately determine the course of history.

At this crucial time for our nation, we can do nothing more important than pray. Thank you in advance for making this spiritual discipline a personal priority and for standing with us as we encourage others to incorporate prayer in their lives. The Lord has graciously anointed our efforts, empowering them to touch and change many hearts and lives. We look forward to seeing His hand move across our land in exciting ways each May in response to our petitions!

It is our goal that you, your family and friends would participate in the National Day of Prayer. We pray that the event impacts your life, and that praying for our nation moves from a one-day event to a lifetime endeavor. So join us on the first Thursday in May and pray with conviction that God would continue to shed His grace on thee.

THE POWER OF PRAYER AND THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST:

- Thursday, May 2nd 7:30 – 9:00 am
Warlick Family YMCA Matthews Chapel 2221 Robinwood Road Gastonia, NC 28054
- 7:30 am doors open and breakfast served, 7:45 am Program Begins
- Featured Speaker: Hope Parks
Warlick Family YMCA Matthews Chapel 2221 Robinwood Road Gastonia, NC 28054
- Weather permitting this event will be outdoors
- \$10/person includes breakfast
 - Tickets available:
- YMCA Front desk or [online](#)



National Day of Prayer

2019 Mission Emphasis for May

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY - GASTON

Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat For Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope

HABITAT GASTON VISION

A world where everyone has a decent place to live

HABITAT GASTON GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ

Focus on shelter

Advocate for affordable housing

Promote dignity and hope

Support sustainable and transformational development

HABITAT INTERNATIONAL VISION

A world where everyone has a decent place to live

HABITAT INTERNATIONAL MISSION

Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope

ALL ARE WELCOME

Habitat for Humanity Gaston County has an open-door policy: All who believe that everyone needs a decent, affordable place to live are welcome to help with the work, regardless of race, religion, age, gender, political views or any of the other distinctions that too often divide people. In short, Habitat welcomes volunteers and supporters from all backgrounds and also serves people in need of decent housing regardless of race or religion. As a matter of policy, Habitat for Humanity International and its affiliated organizations do not proselytize. This means that Habitat will not offer assistance on the expressed or implied condition that people must either adhere to or convert to a particular faith, or listen and respond to messaging designed to induce conversion to a particular faith.

Habitat of Humanity of Gaston County was affiliated in 1988 and built its first home in 1989. Since its founding, Habitat-Gaston has steadily increased its building capacity. The organization has moved from building individual homes to building blocks and has developed plans for an entire Habitat neighborhood. Habitat's work on McArver Street and in the Parkdale Community exemplifies the impact that the organization wants to make all over the county. Working with faith, corporate and community partners.

For twenty-seven years, we have been working with the faith community, and with corporate and community partners to complete 110 homes in Gaston County: 70 in Gastonia, 19 in Belmont, 8 in Mt. Holly, 3 in Cherryville, 2 in Bessemer City, 6 in Dallas, and 2 in Lowell. Through the Habitat of Humanity International tithing program, Habitat Gaston has built over 400 houses in Honduras. We encourage you to become involved in our mission to provide decent, affordable housing. Getting involved can happen in many ways. Which way is right for you? Here are a few examples:

- Donate property.
- Donate a home for renovation.
- Shop and donate at our ReStore on Franklin Boulevard

As **Mission Emphasis for May** at Our Saviour, you are encouraged to pray for Habitat organization, its staff, volunteers, and those who receive a home. There are some of our members who have volunteered with Habitat to help in the construction of homes. We encourage you to consider volunteering. Also donations will be received in our offerings during the month of May. Give cash in an envelope marked Habitat, or by check to Our Saviour Lutheran Church with Habitat written on the memo line. Thanks to all who give generously to the ongoing work of the Lord in our community and around the world in addition to your weekly tithe. God loves a cheerful giver.

Habitat for Humanity – Gaston County, 31st Anniversary

Phone: 704-864-6536 FAX: 704-864-3139

Physical Address: 1840 E. Franklin Blvd. Gastonia, NC 28034 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1584, Gastonia, NC 28053

Billy Graham's Prayer For Our Nation
A GOOD VIEW OF WHAT'S HAPPENING TO OUR COUNTRY!

'Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask your forgiveness and to seek your direction and guidance. We know Your Word says, 'Woe to those who call evil good,' but that is exactly what we have done.

- ◆ We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values.
- ◆ We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery.
- ◆ We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare.
- ◆ We have killed our unborn and called it choice.
- ◆ We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable.
- ◆ We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self esteem.
- ◆ We have abused power and called it politics.
- ◆ We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it ambition.
- ◆ We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression.
- ◆ We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlight-enment.
- ◆ Search us, Oh God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from sin and set us free.

Amen!"

With the Lord's help, may this prayer sweep over our nation and wholeheartedly become our desire so that we once again
can be called 'One nation under God!'



"SIX LITTLE STORIES"

1. Once all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella.
That's FAITH.
2. When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them.
That's TRUST.
3. Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still we set the alarms to wake up.
That's HOPE.
4. We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future.
That's CONFIDENCE
5. We see the world suffering, but still we get married and have children.
That's LOVE.
6. On an old man's shirt was written a sentence 'I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience.'
That's ATTITUDE.

Have a happy day, live your life like the six stories.

When I was a child, I thought nap time was punishment. Now it's like a mini-vacation.

"GOOD FRIENDS ARE THE RARE JEWELS OF LIFE. DIFFICULT TO FIND AND IMPOSSIBLE TO REPLACE!"

Daily Bible reading guide from NALC, LCMS and LCC

Reading the Word of God, a daily Bible reading guide, has been prepared for Lutherans to use over the next three years.

The North American Lutheran Church has joined with the Lutheran Church-Canada and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to compile a three-year plan of *daily* Bible readings and a year-long series of *weekly* readings on Martin Luther's approach to the Scriptures.

Daily readings

The daily readings are listed on calendars for **2019** and **2020**. The plan provides a guide that will take the reader through the entire Old Testament one time in three years, with the exception of Psalms, which are read twice each year. The New Testament will be read twice in the three years.

A reading from the Old Testament, a psalm (or portion of a psalm) and a reading from the New Testament are assigned for each day. Certain church festivals - Christmas, Easter, Pentecost and so forth - have readings appointed for the specific occasion.

Each month of the Daily Bible Reading Guide will be in the monthly newsletter.

May

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>Prov. 11:16-31</i> <i>Ps. 112</i> <i>Heb 12:18-29</i>	2 <i>Prov. 12</i> <i>Ps. 113</i> <i>Heb 13:1-16</i>	3 <i>Prov. 13</i> <i>Ps. 114</i> <i>Heb 13:17-24</i>	4 <i>Prov. 14</i> <i>Ps. 115</i> <i>James 1:1-18</i>
5 <i>Prov 15</i> <i>Ps. 116</i> <i>James 1:19-27</i>	6 <i>Prov 16</i> <i>Ps. 117</i> <i>James 2:1-13</i>	7 <i>Prov 17</i> <i>Ps. 118</i> <i>James 2:14-26</i>	8 <i>Prov 18</i> <i>Ps. 119:1-8</i> <i>James 3:1-18</i>	9 <i>Prov 19</i> <i>Ps. 119:9-16</i> <i>James 4:1-13</i>	10 <i>Prov 20</i> <i>Ps. 119:17-24</i> <i>James 5:1-19</i>	11 <i>Prov 21</i> <i>Ps. 119:25-32</i> <i>1 Peters 1:1-12</i>
12 <i>Prov 22</i> <i>Ps. 119:33-40</i> <i>1 Peters 1:13-25</i>	13 <i>Prov 23</i> <i>Ps. 119:41-48</i> <i>1 Peters 2:1-12</i>	14 <i>Prov 24:1-22</i> <i>Ps. 119:49-56</i> <i>1 Peters 2:13-25</i>	15 <i>Prov 24:23-34</i> <i>Ps. 119:57-64</i> <i>1 Peters 3:1-7</i>	16 <i>Prov 25</i> <i>Ps. 119:65-72</i> <i>1 Peters 3:8-22</i>	17 <i>Prov 26</i> <i>Ps. 119:73-80</i> <i>1 Peters 4:1-19</i>	18 <i>Prov 27</i> <i>Ps. 119:81-88</i> <i>1 Peters 5:1-14</i>
19 <i>Prov 28</i> <i>Ps. 119:89-96</i> <i>2 Peters 1:1-15</i>	20 <i>Prov 29</i> <i>Ps. 119:97-104</i> <i>2 Peters 1:16-21</i>	21 <i>Prov 30</i> <i>Ps. 119:105-112</i> <i>2 Peters 2:1-10</i>	22 <i>Prov 31</i> <i>Ps. 119:113-120</i> <i>2 Peters 2:10-22</i>	23 <i>1 Kings 1:1-31</i> <i>Ps. 119:121-128</i> <i>2 Peters 3:1-13</i>	24 <i>1 Kings 1:32-53</i> <i>Ps. 119:129-136</i> <i>2 Peters 3:14-18</i>	25 <i>1 Kings 2:1-25</i> <i>Ps. 119:137-144</i> <i>1 John 1:1-10</i>
26 <i>1 Kings 2:26-46</i> <i>Ps. 119:145-152</i> <i>1 John 2:1-14</i>	27 <i>1 Kings 3</i> <i>Ps. 119:153-160</i> <i>1 John 2:15-27</i>	28 <i>1 Kings 4</i> <i>Ps. 119:161-168</i> <i>1 John 2:28-3:10</i>	29 <i>1 Kings 5</i> <i>Ps. 119:169-176</i> <i>1 John 3:11-24</i>	30 <u>Ascension Day</u> <i>Acts 1:1-11</i> <i>Ps. 47</i> <i>Eph 1:15-23</i> <i>Luke 24:44-53</i>	31 <i>1 Kings 6:1-18</i> <i>Ps. 120</i> <i>2 John 4:1-21</i>	

IN HONOR OF MEMORIAL DAY

I watched the flag pass by one day,
It fluttered in the breeze.

A young Marine saluted it,
And then he stood at ease..

I looked at him in uniform
So young, so tall, so proud,
With hair cut square and eyes alert
He'd stand out in any crowd.

I thought how many men like him
Had fallen through the years.
How many died on foreign soil
How many mothers' tears?

How many pilots' planes shot down?
How many died at sea
How many foxholes were soldiers' graves?
No, freedom isn't free.

I heard the sound of Taps one night,
When everything was still,
I listened to the bugler play
And felt a sudden chill.
I wondered just how many times
That Taps had meant "Amen,"

When a flag had draped a coffin.
Of a brother or a friend.

I thought of all the children,
Of the mothers and the wives,
Of fathers, sons and husbands
With interrupted lives.

I thought about a graveyard
At the bottom of the sea

Of unmarked graves in Arlington.
No, freedom isn't free.

Enjoy Your Freedom & God Bless Our Troops





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



May 2019