



Our Saviour's Good News

Volume XIII, Issue VII

July 2018

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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I AM YOUR FLAG



I am your flag.
I was born on June 14th, 1777.
I am more than just a cloth shaped into a design.
I am the refuge of the World's oppressed people.
I am the silent sentinel of Freedom.
I am the emblem of the greatest sovereign nation on earth.
I am the inspiration for which American Patriots gave their lives and fortunes.

I have led your sons and daughters into battle from Valley Forge to the deserts of Iraq and the mountains of Afghanistan.
I walk in silence with each of your Honored Dead, to their final resting place beneath the silent White Crosses, row upon row.
I have flown through Peace and War, Strife and Prosperity, and amidst it all I have been respected.

My Red Strips ... symbolize the blood spilled in defense of this glorious nation.
My White Strips ... signify the burning tears shed by Americans who lost their love ones.
My Blue Field ... is indicative of God's heaven under which I fly.
"Old Glory" is my nickname, and proudly I wave on high.

Honor me, respect me, defend me with your lives and your fortunes.
Never let my enemies tear me down from my lofty position, lest I never return.
Keep alight the fires of patriotism, strive earnestly for the spirit of democracy.
Worship Eternal God and keep His commandments.
And I shall remain the bulwark of peace and freedom for all mankind.

When you fold me—this is what each fold means.
The first fold is a **symbol of life**.
The second symbolizes **belief in eternal life**.
The third is made in **honor of veterans**.
The fourth reminds us that **humans are weak and in need of divine guidance**.
The fifth is a **tribute to our country**.
The sixth represents the **love in our hearts for America**.
The seventh is a **tribute to the armed forces**.
The eight **honors mothers**.
The ninth **honors all women**.
The tenth **honors fathers**.
The eleventh symbolizes the **God of the Old Testament**.
The twelfth represents the **Christian belief in the Trinity**.

When I am completely folded,
The stars are uppermost,
A reminder of the motto,
"In God We Trust."
A well-folded flag also appears a bit like a cocked hat,
Symbolic of the head-wear of our Founding Fathers.

I Am Your Flag!

By Lois Hoops

FAITH OF THE FOUNDERS

While much has been written in recent years to try to dismiss the fact that America was founded upon the biblical principles of Judeo-Christianity, all the revisionism in the world cannot change the facts. Anyone who examines the original writings*, personal correspondence, biographies, and public statements of the individuals who were instrumental in the founding of America will find an abundance of quotations showing the profound extent to which their thinking and lives were influenced by a Christian worldview.

That is not to say that all of the Founding Fathers were Christians. Clearly, they were not. But the point is that even those who were not Christians were deeply influenced by the principles of Christianity—a mind set that helped to shape their political ideals. It is possible to be so distracted with whether Benjamin Franklin or Thomas Jefferson ever put their personal faith in Jesus Christ that one misses the fact that the Founding Fathers almost all thought from a biblical perspective whether they believed or not.

Here is a small sample of the convictions of some of the Founders:

Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty, as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation, to select and prefer Christians for their rulers. John Jay, First Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

Principally and first of all, I give and recommend my soul into the hands of God that gave it: and my body I recommend to the earth... nothing doubting but at the general resurrection I shall receive the same again by the mercy and power of God. John Hancock, signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Editorial Note: *Important that our young generation knows who to read cursive writing.



The Bible and American Presidents

A NATION IS MADE GREAT by its people and its values, particularly by its leaders and the values they embrace. It has been said that a nation rises and falls on its leadership. Throughout the Bible, when ancient Israel had a king who revered God and held the Word of God in high esteem, the nation prospered. When they had a bad king, life within the nation was fully of misery. American history is vividly clear that a faith in God and reverence for the Bible provided the basis for the founding of our nation, that same reverence for God by many of our presidents has had a profound impact on the greatness of our nation. On fact is undeniable: The Bible has been one of the greatest influences on America's presidents.

It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible, - George Washington

The first and almost the only book deserving of universal attention is the Bible, I speak as a man of the world...and I say to you, "Search the Scripture." - John Quincy Adams, Sixth President.

The Bible is the one supreme source of revelation of the meaning of life, the nature of God, and spiritual nature and needs of men. It is the only guide of life which really leads the spirit in the way of peace and salvation. America was born a Christian nation. America was born to exemplify that devotion to the elements of righteousness which are derived from the revelations of Holy Scripture. - Woodrow Wilson, 28th President.

The strength of our country is the strength of its religious convictions. The foundation of our society and our government rest so much on the teachings of the Bible that it would be difficult to support them if faith in these teachings would cease to be practically universal in our country. - Calvin Coolidge, 30th President.

That book, sir, is the Rock on which our Republic rests. - Andrew Jackson, 7th President.

In regard for this Great Book, I have this to say, it is the best gift God has given to man. All the Good Savior gave to the world was communicated through this book. - Abraham Lincoln, 16th President.

We cannot read the history of our rise and development as a nation without reckoning with the place the Bible has occupied in shaping the advances of the Republic. Where we have been the truest and most consistent in obeying its precepts, we have attained the greatest measure of contentment and prosperity. - Franklin Roosevelt, 32nd President.

The fundamental basis of this nation's laws was given to Moses on the Mount. The fundamental basis of our Bill of Rights comes from the teachings we get from Exodus and Saint Matthew, from Isaiah and Saint Paul.... If we don't have a proper fundamental moral background, we will finally end up with a totalitarian government which does not believe in rights for anybody except the State! - Harry Truman, 33rd President.

Hold fast to the Bible as the sheet anchor of your liberties, write its precepts in our hearts, and practice them in your lives. To the influence of this Book are we indebted for all the progress made in true civilization, and to this we must look as our guide in the future. Righteousness exalteth a nation but sin is reproach to any people. - Ulysses S. Grant, 18th President.

If you take out of your statutes, your constitution, your family life all that is taken from the Sacred Book, what would there be left to bind society together? - Benjamin Harrison, 23rd President

Inside the Bible's pages lie all the answer to all the problems man has ever known... It is my firm belief that the enduring values presented in its pages have a great meaning for each of us and for our nation. The Bible can touch our hearts, order our minds, and refresh our souls. - Ronald Reagan, 40th President.



Betsy Ross and the American Flag

Betsy would often tell her children, grandchildren, relatives, and friends of a fateful day, late in May of 1776, when three members of a secret committee from the Continental Congress came to call upon her. Those representatives, George Washington, Robert Morris, and George Ross, asked her to sew the first flag. George Washington was then the head of the Continental Army. Robert Morris, an owner of vast amounts of land, was perhaps the wealthiest citizen in the Colonies. Colonel George Ross was a respected Philadelphian and also the uncle of her late husband, John Ross.

Naturally, Betsy Ross already knew George Ross as she had married his nephew. Betsy was also acquainted with the great General Washington. Not only did they both worship at Christ Church in Philadelphia, but Betsy's pew was next to George and Martha Washington's pew. Her daughter recalled, "That she was previously well acquainted with Washington, and that he had often been in her house in friendly visits, as well as on business. That she had embroidered ruffles for his shirt bosoms and cuffs, and that it was partly owing to his friendship for her that she was chosen to make the flag." (

In June 1776, brave Betsy was a widow struggling to run her own upholstery business. Upholsterers in colonial America not only worked on furniture but did all manner of sewing work, which for some included making flags. According to Betsy, General Washington showed her a rough design of the flag that included a six-pointed star. Betsy, a standout with the scissors, demonstrated how to cut a five-pointed star in a single snip.

What do the red, white, and blue of the flag represent?

The Continental Congress left no record to show why it chose the colors. However, in 1782, the Congress of the Confederation chose these same colors for the Great Seal of the United States and listed their meaning as follows:

- Red: Valor and hardiness,
- White: Purity and innocence
- Blue: Vigilance, perseverance, and justice.

According to legend, George Washington interpreted the elements of the flag this way: the stars were taken from the sky, the red from the British colors, and the white stripes signified the secession from the home country. However, there is no official designation or meaning for the colors of the flag.

Why are the stars in a circle?

The stars were in a circle so that no one colony would be viewed above another. It is reported that George Washington said, "Let the 13 stars in a circle stand as a new constellation in the heavens."



Our Saviour Lutheran Church William Trudnak, President May 21, 2018 Council Minutes

Devotions: Betty Ratchford

Meeting called to order by Vice-President Bud Penley

Members present: Bud Penley, Melinda White, Alice Vlaservich, Jeff White, Betty Ratchford, Steve Digh. **Members Absent:** Denise Traveria, Robbie Wooten, Teri Trudnak and Bill Trudnak.

Minutes for April 16, 2018 were reviewed. Motion made by Alice Vlaservich to approve the minutes and a second was given by Betty Ratchford.

Reception of Petitions and Communications:

- LCMC Annual Gathering and resolution changes. The Council reviewed as point of information.
- St. Peter Lutheran Church requesting support. The Council reviewed and will support in way of prayer.
- Gastonia, Freedom School is a vision of a new type of school in Gastonia to service low income and special needs children. The Council reviewed the letter as point of information.

Report of the Pastor: Reviewed and motion made by Steve Digh to accept and Alice Vlaservich gave a second on the motion.

Report of the Treasurer: Motion by Betty Ratchford to accept the Treasurer Report and seconded by Jeff White.

Report of the Ministries:

- Property: No report this month.
- Stewardship and Finance: No report this month.
- Worship & Music: No report this month
- Youth Team: No report.
- Witness: Cards and prayers continue to be sent out. Four graduates from our congregation will be recognized during the worship service on 6/3/2018.
- Christian Education Team: VBS planning committee met 4/22/18 to select curriculum and discuss program details. Dates for VBS are July 15-19 2018 and OSLC is the host church this year. OSLC will serve the meal on opening night, Sunday July 15th. Please try to volunteer your time, talent and/or donations. See Melinda White or Julie Digh.

Report of Auxiliaries:

- Rachel Circle: Met at the home of Shirlee Marazza for a program presented by Alice Vlaservich. No meeting in June or July.

Old and/or Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

- Melinda White would like to purchase a small desk in back classroom that is not currently being used. Motion made by Alice Vlaservich to approve this request and Steve Digh seconded that motion.

- Gifts for our graduates were discussed and Alice Vlaservich volunteered to shop for the gifts to be presented on 6/3/18.

General Information:

- Kids Alive Report
- Attendance
- Attempted break in at the parsonage on May 14, 2018. No damaged noted. CPC will install security system and assume all costs involved.

Adjourned with Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting: June 18, 2018

Devotions: Denise Traveria



**July 15-19
5:30 pm—8:30 pm**

At

Our Saviour Lutheran Church

"Splash Canyon"

"God's Promise on Life's Wild Ride"

Supper: 5:30 pm-6:10 pm

VBS: 6:15 pm—8:15 pm

There will be a closing celebration
and ice cream social on Thursday evening.

Programs from Nursery to Adults

Volunteers are needed...

PLEASE FILL OUT FORM ENCLOSED

Churches involved: Antioch, Holy Communion, OSLC,
Philadelphia and St. Paul's

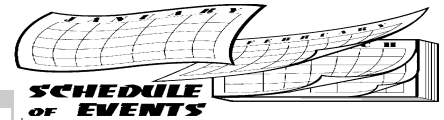
OSLC will prepare supper on July 15..Help will be needed




HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!

July 2018



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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 st Sun. after Pent.	2	3	4 	5	6	7
8 th Sun. after Pent.	9 Team Mtgs.	10 Gaston Together	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 Prayer Gp	18	19	20	21
Vacation Bible School—July 15-19						
22 nd Sun. after Pent.	23 Board Mtg.	24	25	26	27	28
29 th Sun after Pent	30	31				 Food Collection

- July 1— 6th Sunday after Pentecost
- July 4— INDEPENDENCE DAY
4th Celebration at Cloninger Park 6 pm
Summer Concert "Image" on the Square
- July 8— 7th Sunday after Pentecost
- July 9— Team Meeting: 6:30 pm Youth
7:00 pm Other
- July 10—Gaston Together (see p 8)
- July 15— 8th Sunday after Pentecost
- July 15-19— VBS—"Splash Canyon"
- July 17—Prayer Group at Shirlee Marazza
at 1 pm
- July 22— 9th Sunday after Pentecost
- July 23—Board Meeting 7:00 pm
- July 29—10th Sunday after Pentecost
Hunger Sunday.



Birthdays

16 Stephen Digh
18 Joe Finger
19 Henry Clemmer
21 Nation Finger
21 Jason Spurrier
31 Libby Bickley



Anna Digh
Chas Messick
Bo Messick
Chris Messick
Yvonne Finger
Garrett Lowery

Holy Communion Schedule:

July 1 No Communion



Worship Service Assistance:

Crucifer: Nick Vlaservich
Communion
Asst:
Lay Reader:
Worship Asst:
Greeters: OSLC Members
Ushers: OSLC Members

FOOD FOR THE MONTH:

Crackers, Instant Potatoes, Soup



NO Choir practice in July

Board Devotions July 23: Melinda White



FLOWERS

Flower Schedule:

July 1 Nick Vlaservich
July 8 Wayne An Penley
July 15 Julie Digh
July 22 Jeff Lineberger
July 29 Open

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



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

OUTREACH MISSION

SHUT-INS
NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

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

Marilyn Finger

1150 Meadow Way Dr., Dallas

Jerri Presley

2604 Ole Home Trail, Dallas



EVENTS
for
Agrape/Kure Beach

Contact Camp Agapé:

Telephone: 919-552-9421

e-mail: agape@agapekurebeach.org

Contact Kure Beach Lutheran:

Telephone 910-458-0783

e-mail: kurebeach@agapekurebeach.org

Web site: www.agapekurebeach.org

Directions to Camp Agapé are on the web site.

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

Events For
Lutheridge -
Lutherock-
Lutherspring-
Lutheranch

Web site: www.NovusWay.com



Food Collection

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

Food items they need for the month are crackers, instant potatoes and soup. Let us over fill the basket in the hallway. This is a great outreach program.

God will bless you for your generosity



July 29 will be the 5th Sunday of the month and

You are asked to help the Dallas-High Shoals Christian Ministry with a financial donation to help those that are not blessed as we are.



GO OUT ON A LIMB
GET INVOLVED

BE A WORSHIP ASSISTANT

Positions are still open.

Participate in the service of the Lord and sign

Sign up sheets

for the 2018 calendar year are on the wall in the Education wing.

THANK YOU!

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



A Stewardship Minute

The July issue of *Stewardship* has a fascinating story about a man who saw to it that his family put God first in the use of their time, talents, and their possessions. He knew that our lives would best be "made" when we lived with a passion to serve God and conveyed this to his children in everything he did. He knew that if each of us wants to work on behalf of the Kingdom of God, then we are compelled to live as God's heirs. To do so is to fulfill God's plan for our existence.

This man lived a purposeful life for God. He was loyal to both God and others and obeyed the Command-

ments. He was a diligent worker at his job. He served, not only in his church, but in his community as well. He had time for what was good, but no time to waste foolishly.

Most importantly, he saw to it that there was joy in his family. They took time to pray together, share their lives, laugh and cry together, and comfort one another. It is no wonder that his children learned to use their brains and bodies and personalities as children of God. They learned to do their best in all their endeavors: school, sports, work, etc. They understood that to do less would be letting down their family, as well as God. Their father taught them how to handle their money wisely, as though they were accountable to God in its

use. "In all they do," the father told them, "they must be an honor to the King, our loving God."

Prayer: Heavenly Lord, we thank you for those who have given their all in serving you. Give us the grace to follow their lead with faithfulness. Amen.



2018 Court Square Summer Concert

(presented by the Town of Dallas and the Gaston County Museum of Art & History)

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 local craft beverage from Ole Dallas Brewery.

- ◆ **Wednesday, July 4—Image**
NO Cruise-In this Month / Band Performing "Image" 6pm-9pm before the Fireworks at Cloninger Park
- ◆ **Saturday, August 11—Ocean Boulevard Band**
Cruise-in and Music
- ◆ **Saturday, September 8—The Catalinas**
Since its creation in 1957, over 60 accomplished guitarists, keyboardists, trumpet players, drummers, bass players and singers have been part of **The Catalinas**. The band owner, Gary Barker of Statesville, has performed with the band since 1965 and attributes its long success to the ongoing popularity of beach music and the tunes the band has composed, particularly "*Summertime's Calling Me*" in the 70s.
Cruise-in and Music

+++++
SUNDAY SCHOOL HUMOR

A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Bible class. As she ran she prayed, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!" While she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again! As she ran she once again began to pray, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late...But please don't shove me either!"

A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem .. A small child replied, "They couldn't get a baby-sitter."

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to "Honor thy father and thy mother," she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without missing a beat, one little boy answered, "Thou shall not kill.."

At Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs. Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and she said, "Johnny, what is the matter?" Little Johnny responded, "I have pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."



GASTON TOGETHER'S CLERGY & CITIZENS COALITION

July 10, 2015

8:30 to Noon

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

"Hi, God"(Nice and short)

This will just take a couple of seconds ... He's with you for a life time.

"Hi, God, it's me. Some of us are getting older and things are getting bad here. Energy, healthcare and food costs are too high and the future doesn't look good. I know some have taken you out of our schools, government, veteran's funerals and even Christmas. But God I'm asking you to come back and re-bless America . We really need you! As you know, there are more of us who want you than those who don't!

Thank You, God, I love you.



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

CLW/RACHEL GROUP

***The CLW/Rachel Group will not meet again
until August. Have a safe summer!***



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 friends of the community), SUSAN Aderholt, SETH Alexander, AMANDA (friend of the Penley's), MARVIS Anderson, KELLY Ballard (friend of Shana Dease), AD-DISON Blanton (friend of Dease's), KATHY Bohanan (cancer), JENNIFER Christy (cancer is back- co-worker of Julie Digh), KAREN Braddy, DANA Kirshman (friend of Robbie Wooten-cancer), ROBERT L. McCanless, Jr. (failing health - Charles McCanless' father), GARY Neal, (friend of Caleb Dease), NANCY Parker (friend of Marie Lingle-ALS), MARY O'Shea (co-worker of Melinda White's). EDITH Paysour, LAWRENCE Paysour (friend of Ratchford's), RIVER Peedin (Ursela Peedin's great-grandson- leukemia), JANICE and JOHNNY Pendleton (grandparents of Raygan Carpenter - Janice has strokes), SONDRRA Phillips (friend of Melinda White) JERRIE Presley, BERNICE— Leon Rawlinson's mother, GARY Turner (father of Jason Murray), KELLY Walters (mother of Brie Murray), LISA Walters (Brie and Emma Murray's aunt -cancer), MELINDA White, ANNE White (niece of Betty Ratch-

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



WORK DAY

Get involved—workers are needed to make repairs or improvements at Lutheridge.

Work day will be 1n August 25 followed by Church on 26th

Interest contact: Nick Vlaservich.

We share fellowship with each other and other churches.

Why go to Church?

I think this is fantastic. I just love the guy's answer, and the 'interpretation' for Bible, Enjoy!!

If you're spiritually alive, you're going to love this!
If you're spiritually dead, you won't want to read it.
If you're spiritually 'curious', there is still hope!

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made 'no sense' to go to church every Sunday.

He wrote: "I've gone for 30 years now, and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time, the preachers and priests are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column

Much to the 'delight' of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals."

"But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today".

"Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are DOWN to nothing, God is UP to something!

Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible & receives the impossible!

Thank God for our physical and our spiritual nourishment!

IF YOU CANNOT SEE GOD IN 'ALL', YOU CANNOT SEE GOD AT ALL !

B. I. B L. E. simply means: **Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth!**

When you are about to tell this story to others, the devil will discourage you.

So go on! Tell this to people who are DEAR to you and TRUST GOD.

VBS: July 15—19



Facts about July

According to the Gregorian calendar, July is the seventh month. On the Roman calendar, it was the fifth month and it was called 'Quintilis', meaning 'fifth'. Julius Caesar gave the month 31 days in 46 B.C. The Roman Senate named it 'Julius', in honor of Caesar.

July is usually the hottest month of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. July is one of the winter months in the Southern Hemisphere. The climate is mild in most of the Southern Hemisphere, with the exception of the COLD Antarctica, and the cold, rainy part of South America.

During July, when there isn't much rain, the grass often loses its greenness. Some flowers are abundant in July, because they thrive on the heat. Also, insects are abundant as well - life is thriving in July!

Independence Day is observed in the United States on July 4. On that day in 1776, the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence.

- The Ruby is the gem for July.
- The water lily is the flower for the month of July.
- **July 1, 1792**, Kentucky became the 15th state.
 - 1725, Comte de Rochambeau, French commander in the Revolutionary War in America, was born.
 - 1867, The British North American Act went into effect, establishing the Dominion of Canada.
 - 1898, American troops occupied San Juan Hill in the Spanish-American War.
 - 1916, Battle of the Somme began in World War I.
- **July 2, 1881**, President James Garfield shot.
 - 1890, Sherman Antitrust Act passed.
 - 1908, Thurgood Marshall first black justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, born.
- **July 3, 1728**, Furniture designer Robert Adam born.
 - 1738, John S. Copley, American painter, born.
 - 1879, Composer George M. Cohan born.
 - 1890, Idaho became the 43rd state.
- **July 4, 1776**, Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence, and John Hancock signed it.
 - 1804, Nathaniel Hawthorne, American author, born.
 - 1817, Work began on the Erie Canal.
 - 1826, Stephen Foster, American songwriter, born.
 - 1863, Vicksburg surrendered to the Union Army in the Civil War.
 - 1872, Calvin Coolidge, 30th President of the United States, born in Plymouth Notch, Vt.
 - 1903, First Pacific cable, running between San Francisco and Manila, opened by President Theodore Roosevelt.
- **July 5, 1810**, P.T. Barnum, American circus owner, born.
 - 1971, Amendment 26, which sets the voting age at 18 in the United States, was proclaimed.
- **July 6, 1747**, John Paul Jones, American naval hero, born.
 - 1777, British troops captured Fort Ticonderoga.
 - 1854, The Republican Party held its first state convention, at Jackson, Mich.
- **July 7, 1937**, Japanese and Chinese troops clashed, beginning the struggle that became World War II.
- **July 8, 1839**, John D. Rockefeller born.
- **July 9, 1819** Elias Howe, American inventor, born.
- **July 10, 1509**, Protestant leader, John Calvin born.
- **July 10, 1834**, J.A.M. Whistler, American painter, born.
 - 1890, Wyoming became the 44th state, July 10, 1890.
- **July 11, 1767**, John Q. Adams, sixth President of the United States, born in Braintree (now Quincy), Mass.
 - 1804, Aaron Burr killed Alexander Hamilton in a duel.
- **July 12, 1817**, Author Henry D. Thoreau born.
 - 1854, Inventor George Eastman born.
 - 1917, Andrew Wyeth, American painter, born.
- **July 13, 1863**, Mary Emma Woolley, American educator, born.
- **July 14, 1913**, Gerald R. Ford, 38th President of the United States, born in Omaha, Nebr.
- **July 15, 1918**, Second Battle of the Marne in World War I began.
- **July 16, 1769**, First mission in California established at San Diego by Father Junipero Serra.
 - 1790, District of Columbia established.
 - 1821, Mary Baker Eddy, founder of the Christian Science movement, born.
 - 1945, Scientists set off the first atomic bomb, Alamogordo, N. Mex.
- **July 17, 1821**, Spain officially turned Florida over to the United States.
- **July 17-18, 1836**, Spanish Civil War began, July 17-18, 1936.
- **July 19, 1814**, Samuel Colt, firearms inventor, born.
 - 1848, First woman's rights convention in United States met at Seneca Falls, N.Y.
- **July 20, 1969**, U.S. astronaut Neil A. Armstrong became the first person to walk on the moon.
- **July 21, 1861**, First Battle of Bull Run or Manassas, in the Civil War.
 - 1899, Ernest Hemingway American author and winner of the Nobel Prize, born.
- **July 22, 1864**, Battle of Atlanta in the Civil War.
 - 1898, Stephen Vincent Benet, American poet, born.
- **July 24, 1847**, The Mormons settled Salt Lake City.
 - 1897, Amelia Earhart American aviator and first woman to fly the Atlantic, born.
- **July 25, 1814**, George Stephenson, first successfully demonstrated a steam locomotive.
 - 1909, Louis Bleriot made first flight across the English Channel
- **July 26, 1788**, New York ratified the Constitution, .
 - 1856, Playwright George Bernard Shaw born.
- **July 27, 1866**, The first permanent Atlantic cable completed.
 - 1953, Truce signed, ending Korean War.
- **July 28, 1868**, Amendment 14, which defines United States citizenship, was proclaimed.
- **July 29, 1805**, Alexis de Tocqueville, author of Democracy in America, born July 29, 1805.
 - 1869, Booth Tarkington, American novelist, born.
- **July 30, 1619**, First representative assembly in America convened in Jamestown.
 - 1857, American social scientist Thorstein Veblen born.
 - 1863, Henry Ford, American automobile manufacturer, born.

Thomas Jefferson

Thomas Jefferson was a very remarkable man who started learning very early in life and never stopped.

- At 5, began studying under his cousin's tutor. At 9, studied Latin, Greek and French.
- At 14, studied classical literature and additional languages.
- At 16, entered the College of William and Mary. Also could write in Greek with one hand while writing the same in Latin with the other.
- At 19, studied Law for 5 years starting under George Wythe.
- At 23, started his own law practice.
- At 25, was elected to the Virginia House of Burgesses.
- At 31, wrote the widely circulated "Summary View of the Rights of British America" and retired from his law practice.
- At 32, was a Delegate to the Second Continental Congress.
- At 33, wrote the Declaration of Independence.
- At 33, took three years to revise Virginia's legal code and wrote a Public Education bill and a statute for Religious Freedom.
- At 36, was elected the second Governor of Virginia succeeding Patrick Henry.
- At 40, served in Congress for two years.
- At 41, was the American minister to France and negotiated commercial treaties with European nations along with Ben Franklin and John Adams.
- At 46, served as the first Secretary of State under George Washington.
- At 53, served as Vice President and was elected president of the American Philosophical Society.
- At 55, drafted the Kentucky Resolutions and became the active head of Republican Party.
- At 57, was elected the third president of the United States.
- At 60, obtained the Louisiana Purchase doubling the nation's size.
- At 61, was elected to a second term as President.
- At 65, retired to Monticello.
- At 80, helped President Monroe shape the Monroe Doctrine.
- At 81, almost single-handedly created the University of Virginia and served as its first president.
- At 83, died on the 50th anniversary of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence along with John Adams.

Thomas Jefferson knew because he himself studied the previous failed attempts at government. He understood actual history, the nature of God, his laws and the nature of man. That happens to be way more than what most understand today. Jefferson really knew his stuff. A voice from the past to lead us in the future:

John F. Kennedy held a dinner in the white House for a group of the brightest minds in the nation at that time. He made this statement: *"This is perhaps the assembly of the most intelligence ever to gather at one time in the White House with the exception of when Thomas Jefferson dined alone."*

"When we get piled upon one another in large cities, as in Europe, we shall become as corrupt as Europe."

-- Thomas Jefferson

"The democracy will cease to exist when you take away from those who are willing to work and give to those who would not."

-- Thomas Jefferson

"It is incumbent on every generation to pay its own debts as it goes. A principle which if acted on would save one-half the wars of the world."

-- Thomas Jefferson

"I predict future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them."

-- Thomas Jefferson





You always hear the usual stories of pennies on the sidewalk being good luck, gifts from angels, etc. This is the first time I've ever heard this twist on the story. Gives you something to think about....

Several years ago, a friend of mine and her husband were invited to spend the weekend at the husband's employer's home. My friend, Arlene, was nervous about the weekend. The boss was very wealthy, with a fine home on the waterway, and cars costing more than her house.

The first day and evening went well, and Arlene was delighted to have this rare glimpse into how the very wealthy live. The husband's employer was quite generous as a host, and took them to the finest restaurants. Arlene knew she would never have the opportunity to indulge in this kind of extravagance again, so was enjoying herself immensely.

As the three of them were about to enter an exclusive restaurant that evening, the boss was walking slightly ahead of Arlene and her husband. He stopped suddenly, looking down on the pavement for a long, silent moment.

Arlene wondered if she was supposed to pass him. There was nothing on the ground except a single darkened penny that someone had dropped, and a few cigarette butts. Still silent, the man reached down and picked up the penny. He held it up and smiled, then put it in his pocket as if he had found a great treasure. How absurd! What need did this man have for a single penny? Why would he even take the time to stop and pick it up?

Throughout dinner, the entire scene nagged at her. Finally, she could stand it no longer. She casually mentioned that her daughter once had a coin collection, and asked if the penny he had found had been of some value. A smile crept across the man's face as he reached into his pocket for the penny and held it out for her to see.. She had seen many pennies before! What was the point of this? 'Look at it,' he said. 'Read what it says.' She read the words ' United States of America .' 'No, not that; read further. "One cent?" 'No, keep reading.' 'In God we Trust?' 'Yes!' 'And... ?'

He explained, 'And if I trust in God, the name of God is holy, even on a coin. Whenever I find a coin I see that inscription. It is written on every single United States coin, but we never seem to notice it! God drops a message right in front of me telling me to trust Him. Who am I to pass it by? When I see a coin, I pray, I stop to see if my trust IS in God at that moment. I pick the coin up as my response to God; that I do trust in Him. For a short time, at least, I cherish it as if it were gold. I think it is God's way of starting a conversation with me. Lucky for me, God is patient and pennies are plentiful! '

When I was out shopping today, I found a penny on the sidewalk. I stopped and picked it up, and realized that I had been worrying and fretting in my mind about things I cannot change. I read the words, 'In God We Trust,' and had to laugh. Yes, God, I get the message.

It seems that I have been finding an inordinate number of pennies in the last few months, but then, pennies are plentiful! And, God is patient..



SALVATION ARMY

The Salvation Army began in 1865 when William Booth, a London minister, gave up the comfort of his pulpit and decided to take his message into the streets where it would reach the poor, the homeless, the hungry and the destitute.

His original aim was to send converts to established churches of the day, but soon he realized that the poor did not feel comfortable or welcome in the pews of most of the churches and chapels of Victorian England. Regular churchgoers were appalled when these shabbily dressed, unwashed people came to join them in worship. Booth decided to found a church especially for them - the East London Christian Mission. The mission grew slowly, but Booth's faith in God remained undiminished.

In May 1878, Booth summoned his son, Bramwell, and his good friend George Railton to read a proof of the Christian Mission's annual report. At the top it read: THE CHRISTIAN MISSION is A VOLUNTEER ARMY. Bramwell strongly objected to this wording. He was not a volunteer: he was compelled to do God's work. So, in a flash of inspiration, Booth crossed out 'Volunteer' and wrote 'Salvation'. The Salvation Army was born.

ONE ARMY: We see a God-raised, Spirit-filled Army for the 21st century - convinced of our calling, moving forward together: We will...deepen our spiritual life, unite in prayer, identify and develop leaders, increase self-support and self-denial

ONE MISSION: Into the world of the hurting, broken, lonely, dispossessed and lost, reaching them in love by all means : We will...emphasize our integrated ministry, reach and involve youth and children, stand for and serve the marginalized, encourage innovation in mission

ONE MESSAGE: With the transforming message of Jesus, bringing freedom, hope and life

We will... communicate Christ unashamedly, reaffirm our belief in transformation, evangelize and disciple effectively, provide quality teaching resources.

The local chapter of Salvation Army is located: 107 South Broad Street, Gastonia, NC 28052-4101. Their motto: Doing the most good.

Open letter from: Mark Hunter, Corps Officer, Salvation Army, Gastonia, NC

One of my favorite songs as a youngster was *Jesus Loves Me*. Those three simple words assured me that if I was frightened, He would look out for me. If I was lonely, He would be by my side. If I was confused, He would guide me. If I made a mistake, He would forgive.

Though I've kept that song in my heart all my life, it was especially important to me as I struggled through the challenges and frustrations of adolescence. Today, the number of boys and girls I meet who are lonely, frightened and confused because they don't know about God's Love saddens me. They don't believe anyone cares for them. That is why Salvation Army in the Gastonia area does everything possible to demonstrate God's Love, protection, and direction to disadvantaged children. Through the year, we open our doors to young people of all ages.

During the summer, we offer camp activities at Camp Walter Johnson that help 25 youngsters develop their talents and self-confidence, as well as strengthen their relationship with Christ. And during the year, The Salvation Army's Boys and Girls Club provides 100 kids every day with supervised alternatives to going home to an empty house while their parents are still at work. Our Club has educational programs in areas such as literacy (through our R.E.A.C.H. program – reading, education, attendance, conduct, honors), health, the arts, careers, leadership development and athletics. We also make sure children are receiving the food, clothing and care they need to be healthy and strong.

Like all of our services for the poor, our children's programs are possible only because others care. Little ones are searching for something to believe in and cling to. Together, we can help them grow in the knowledge that Jesus Loves them, and will instill a lasting song of hope in their hearts. Hundreds of boys and girls will participate in our programs this year alone. We believe that the camp experience makes a difference in the lives of underprivileged boys and girls who need a safe place to explore and learn while strengthening their faith in God. Your support is very important.

OUR SAVIOUR'S MISSION EMPHASIS FOR JULY is Salvation Army of Gaston County. This is an opportunity for us to pray for them, to volunteer, and give to a mission in our own area. They are helping the poor and disadvantaged in many ways. Their emphasis for this summer is to help children get to their summer camps. For those who would like to give through Our Saviour Lutheran Church, you can put a check in the offering any Sunday during July.

2016 is half way done. Have you participated in some of the Mission Emphasis opportunities? Some of us have. Some of the opportunities are in our own area and other opportunities are for ministries around the world. Be encouraged to seek the Lord as to how you can participate this month and each month.

Billy Graham's Six Rules of Living

From his book "The Journey", Billy Graham shared principles for living:

1. **Make it your goal to live at peace with others.** Is it possible to do this with everyone in our lives? Unfortunately, no; even our best efforts may not change another person's efforts ma not change another person's attitude. The key is to ask God if we're at fault, and if so, to confess it and seek his help to overcome it. Life is temporary and fleeting. We're here for just a short time. We shouldn't waste our days but live them for God's glory.
2. **Avoid revenge.** Don't be a captive of the past. If someone has harmed us by breaking the law, we have the right to bring that person to justice, both for our good and the good of society. But hurting someone only because they have hurt us is another matter. We can't change the past; we can only seek God's forgiveness for whatever it is we did wrong.
3. **Guard your tongue.** Use it for good instead of evil. Ow many marriages and friendships have been destroyed because of criticism that has spun out of control? But the tongue can also be used for good; that should be our goal. When people ask me for advice about their personal problems, which they often do, I always try to give them an answer based on the Bible. "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs."
4. **Never repay evil with evil.** Evil is sin; t's a deadly cancer that hat invaded our souls. It isn't just an illusion or an absence of good. Ultimately, all evil comes from Satan, according to the Bible. Satan is real, and he is absolutely opposed to God. Still, we are responsible for our own actions. Why some people repeatedly choose to do evil instead of good is a puzzle to me, because evil eventually destroys those who practice it. Only God can replace the evil and sin in our hearts with love and kindness.
5. **Treat others as you'd want them to treat you.** This simple but profound principle – the Golden Rule – comes from Jesus's Sermon on the Mount. How different our lives would be if we actually practiced this! The Bible also tell us, "With humility comes wisdom." Every day I realize I'm just a sinner like everyone else, and I have been forgiven only because of God's grace.
6. **Practice the power of forgiveness.** I adhere to the philosophy of hating the sin but loving the sinner. The key is to realize that this is the way God sees us. When we sin, it's as if we're shaking our fists in God's face, telling him we know better then he does how to run our lives. But God also hates sin because he lives us, and he knows what sin does to us.



Planting Patriotism

By Steve Hartman from CBS NEWS

Young boys aren't easily appalled, but 12 year old Preston Sharp sure knows the felling.

"Yeah, I was surprised," Preston said. And disappointed.

Preston's mon, April Sharp, had never seen hm like that before. "Not this angry and passionate," she said.

What upset her son so much was visiting his grandpa's grave in Redding, California, and realizing that not every veteran in the cemetery has a flag. So April told him, "Son, if you're going to complain about something, you have to do something about it or let it go."

Next thing April knew, Preston was taking on odd jobs and soliciting donations to buy flags and flowers for every veteran in his grandpa's cemetery. And when that cemetery was covered, he moved on to another, and then another.

Here we are, nearly three years and an estimated 65,000 graves later. And he does it every week, rain or shine – especially rain. "They were out there in the rain doing their job protecting us," Preston said.

His devotion is contagious. When word gets out that Preston will be at a cemetery – he has a Facebook page, Preston Sharp/Vet flags and flowers – folks feel compelled to join in. People like Vietnam veteran Fred Loveland. "It's amazing," Loveland said. "What he's doing brings them out because they can't believe a young man in this country is doing what he does."

It is a movement of young and old, of those who serve and those who are grateful they did, all led by a proud grandson who saw an injustice and decided to do something about it.

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 **2018**, **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

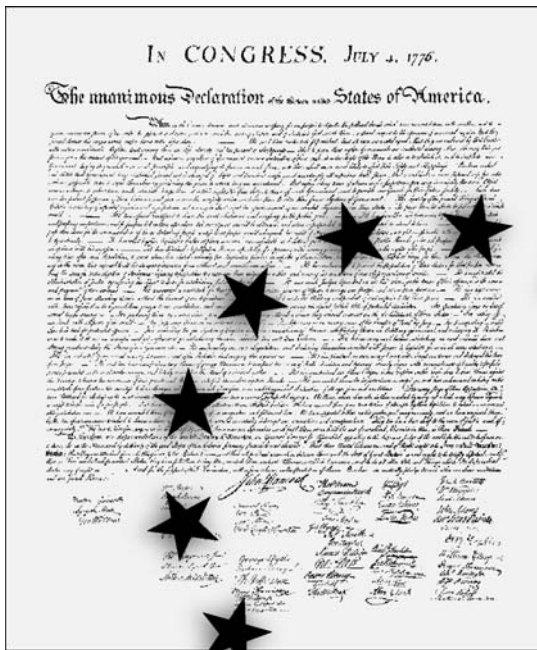
July

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Num. 8</i> <i>Ps. 1</i> <i>2 Cor 11:1-15</i>	2 <i>Num. 9</i> <i>Ps. 2</i> <i>2 Cor 11:16-33</i>	3 <i>Num. 10</i> <i>Ps. 3</i> <i>2 Cor 12:1-10</i>	4 <i>Num. 11:1-15</i> <i>Ps. 4</i> <i>2 Cor 12:11-21</i>	5 <i>Num. 11:16-35</i> <i>Ps. 5</i> <i>2 Cor 13</i>	6 <i>Num. 12</i> <i>Ps. 6</i> <i>John 1:1-28</i>	7 <i>Num. 13:1-25</i> <i>Ps. 7</i> <i>John 1:29-42</i>
8 <i>Num. 13:26-14:19</i> <i>Ps. 8</i> <i>John 1:43-51</i>	9 <i>Num. 14:20-45</i> <i>Ps. 9</i> <i>John 2:1-22</i>	10 <i>Num. 15:1-21</i> <i>Ps. 10</i> <i>John 2:23-3:15</i>	11 <i>Num. 15:22-41</i> <i>Ps. 11</i> <i>John 3:16-36</i>	12 <i>Num. 16:1-23</i> <i>Ps. 12</i> <i>John 4:1-15</i>	13 <i>Num. 16:24-50</i> <i>Ps. 13</i> <i>John 4:16-45</i>	14 <i>Num. 17</i> <i>Ps. 14</i> <i>John 4:46-5:17</i>
15 <i>Num. 18: 1-19</i> <i>Ps. 15</i> <i>John 5:18-29</i>	16 <i>Num. 18:20-32</i> <i>Ps. 16</i> <i>John 5:30-47</i>	17 <i>Num 19</i> <i>Ps. 17</i> <i>John 6:1-21</i>	18 <i>Num 20:1-21</i> <i>Ps. 18:1-30</i> <i>John 6:22-40</i>	19 <i>Num 20:22-21:20</i> <i>Ps. 18:31-50</i> <i>John 6:41-59</i>	20 <i>Num 21:21-35</i> <i>Ps. 19</i> <i>John 6:60-71</i>	21 <i>Num 22:1-20</i> <i>Ps. 20</i> <i>John 7:1-24</i>
22 <i>Num 22:21-41</i> <i>Ps. 21</i> <i>John 7:25-36</i>	23 <i>Num 23:1-26</i> <i>Ps. 22</i> <i>John 7:37-52</i>	24 <i>Num 23:27-24:9</i> <i>Ps. 23</i> <i>John 8:1-11</i>	25 <i>Num 24:10-25</i> <i>Ps. 24</i> <i>John 8:12-30</i>	26 <i>Num 25</i> <i>Ps. 25</i> <i>John 8:31-47</i>	27 <i>Num 26:1-25</i> <i>Ps. 26</i> <i>John 8:48-59</i>	28 <i>Num 26:26-51</i> <i>Ps. 27</i> <i>John 9:1-23</i>
29 <i>Num 26:52-27:11</i> <i>Ps. 28</i> <i>John 9:24-41</i>	30 <i>Num 27:12-28:10</i> <i>Ps. 29</i> <i>John 10:1-21</i>	31 <i>Num 28:11-25</i> <i>Ps. 30</i> <i>John 10:22-42</i>				

the specific occasion.



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Vacation Bible School

July 15-19