



Our Saviour Lutheran Church

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Our Saviour's Good News

Volume XII, Issue VIII

August 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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ENCLOSED:

- *Walk for Life Info Sheet*

Finding Jesus in Jerusalem

by Bishop John Bradosky

Writing this while visiting Jerusalem as ecumenical observers of the 2018 Global Anglican Future Conference, we had some time to visit the Old City, the Way of Sorrows of our Lord's procession from Pilate to the empty tomb, and other significant locations from the life, death and resurrection of our Lord and the early Church.

Along the way, we were blessed by our colleague, interpreter and "tour guide" for this trip, Pastor Bassam Abdallah, a retired NALC pastor, who was born in Jerusalem but served his entire ministry as a Lutheran pastor in the United States.

One interesting (and tragic) bit of information we learned from Pastor Bassam is that there is a disorder called "Jerusalem syndrome."

According to Wikipedia, "Jerusalem syndrome is a group of mental phenomena involving the presence of either religiously themed obsessive ideas, delusions or other psychosis-like experiences that are triggered by a visit to the city of Jerusalem."

While this takes place in a variety of ways for different persons, it seems to be manifested most commonly among Christians who come to Jerusalem expecting to find Jesus, expecting to have a transformative spiritual experience. Despite being overwhelmed amid the myriad significant historical places, churches and shrines, these persons are also disappointed that they do not "find" or "experience" Jesus as they had expected. They do not have the long-hoped-for, life-changing transformation they traveled so far to finally receive.

While I have always dreamed of that day when I would be able to visit Jerusalem and Israel, I had no unrealistic expectations. I did not anticipate my faith would be strengthened nor affected by the visit. Don't misunderstand me, I have been impressed and moved by walking where Jesus walked. Tears have come readily. There are places where silence is the only appropriate response — the Garden of Gethsemane, the place of Jesus' flogging and torture, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher — as we ponder and pray about our Lord's passion and death, for us and for our salvation.

While visiting Jerusalem is a high point of my life, I did not come looking for Jesus in some unique or transformative way, nor did I expect to encounter the Risen Christ in Jerusalem.

A visit to the Holy Land can be interesting, renewing and powerful in bringing the accounts of Holy Scripture to life in a new and concrete manner. But you don't need to come to Israel to "find Jesus." Why?

Because the good news is that Jesus is no longer tied to Jerusalem or the Holy Land! Jesus is not holed up in the churches, shrines and streets of the Old City, waiting for us to come visit him if we have the time and money to make the pilgrimage.

The good news is that "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth" ([John 1:14](#)).

The good news is that our risen, ascended Lord is with us, in Word and Sacrament, where two or three are gathered in his name. **(Finding Jesus con't on page 2)**

(Finding Jesus con't from page 1)

While God may be present where and when he wills, Martin Luther affirms again and again that for our sake, our Lord is present for us in the *means of grace*: the Word, written, read and preached, and broken and poured out for us in the Lord's Supper, specifically, mercifully, so that in the midst of pain, struggle, grief, loneliness and difficulty, we don't have to go looking for him. We don't have to attempt great spiritual journeys of heart, mind or body to discover Jesus in far-off, hard-to-reach places. Rather, God is with us wherever the Word is read and shared. Jesus is with us as we receive him in the foretaste of the feast to come, in Holy Communion. God is with us at prayer group, potluck, hospital or bedside, as two or three disciples gather together, in Christ's name. As biblical, sacramental Christians, we take seriously Christ's real presence among us, where we are, where we live and move and interact — not in Jerusalem or Rome. Our worship is not focused on us and our ability to spiritually perceive and connect with an abstract, ethereal Lord present only for those spiritually attuned enough to experience him.

The good news is that Jesus comes to us, and his is an "objective" presence — he comes to us regardless of us. He comes to us even when we are so troubled or distracted in life that we fail to see him or know that he is with us. His presence is not an accomplishment or a destination for the hyperfaithful, but the gift of God for those of us who are not saintly, or sanctified or prepared. This is the good news.

And this relates to ministry in the NALC and in our congregations because we often fail to understand this ourselves or to share it with others. It may be that these "Jerusalem syndrome" Christians go looking for Jesus in Jerusalem because they do not grasp the miracle of the Incarnation — the good news of "God with us" in Word and Sacrament.

If we think of Jesus' presence as a spiritualized presence, then perceiving his presence often depends upon our persistence in seeking him and finding him. Most of the time, I am not so spiritually perceptive or sensitive. I am a Lutheran because we believe that God comes to us, that Jesus' presence depends, not upon me and my spiritual extra-sensory perception, but upon the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.

The more we lift that up in our congregations, celebrating God with us, incarnate, present objectively in the Word and the Sacraments, the more we may find the lonely, the sick, the lost — yes, the sinner — joining us as we gather around Christ's real presence among us.

Let us have Word and Sacrament be the center of worship and of our life together as Christians, Lutherans and the NALC. Let us worship as if Christ is truly present — because he is! Let us commit ourselves to reading, studying, living in the Word, because the Word proclaims Jesus, crucified, risen and now present with us. Let us so conduct ourselves in our congregations, homes and families that we respect and reflect the very presence of our Lord Jesus, with us every moment of our lives — and with us until the close of the age. Let us share that real, true, objective presence with others, as we connect with visitors, neighbors, friends — life to life, one on one — in home and church and daily life, that Jesus may reach them, through us.



The Doctrine of the Assumption of the Mary

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

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2018 August Mission Emphasis –
28th WALK FOR LIFE (CPC)
Friday, September 7, 2018
“Walk the Walk”

(SEE INSERT)

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

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

Our History

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(CPC Mission cont'd on page 9)

Our Saviour Lutheran Church
Bill Trudnak, President
June 18, 2018. Board Minutes



Devotions: Jeff White

Devotions: Pastor Feige

Meeting called to order by President Bill Trudnak

Members present: Bill Trudnak, Bud Penley, Melinda White, Alice Vlaservich, Betty Ratchford, Steve Digh, Teri Trudnak, and Robbie Wooten

Members Absent: Denise Traveria and Jeff White

Minutes for May 21, 2018 were reviewed. Robbie Wooten gave a motion to approve the minutes and a second was given by Betty Ratchford

Reception of Petitions and Communications: None

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

Report of the Treasurer: Motion by Steve Digh to accept the Treasurer Report and seconded by Teri Trudnak

Report of the Ministries:

- a. Property: Mulch for the playground delivered and Jeff White to finish project. A few lights in the activity building need replacing.
- b. Stewardship and Finance: No report this month.
- c. Worship & Music: No report this month
- d. Youth Team: No report.
- e. Witness: Cards and prayers continue to be mailed. Graduates were recognized on 6/3/2018 with a gift from the congregation.
- f. Christian Education Team: VBS planning continues. Curriculum has been selected, "Splash Canyon". 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: Did not meet this month.

Old and/or Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

None

General Information:

- a. Kids Alive Report
- b. Attendance
- c. CPC will be trimming trees at the parsonage
- d. Pastor Feige will be away on July and July 22

Adjourned with Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting: July 23, 2018



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 in a notebook
on the church office door.

THANK YOU!

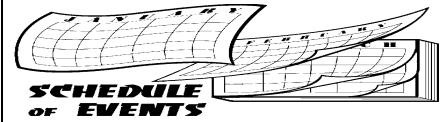
YOUR HELP IS NEED.
WE DO NOT HAVE ANY
WORSHIP ASSISTANCE, ETC.
FOR
SEPTEMBER,
OCTOBER, NOVEMBER AND
DECEMBER.



August 2018



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



	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 11 th Sunday after Pentecost	6 Team Mtg.	7 	8 	9	10	11
12 12 th Sun. after Pentecost	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 13 th Sun. after Pentecost	20 Board Meeting	21 	22	23	24	25 Workday at Lutheridge
26 14 th Sun. after Pentecost	27 CLW/Rachel	28	29	30		

- **August 5**—11th Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion
- **August 6**—Team Meetings:
Youth 6:30 pm
Others 7:00 p
- **August 7**—Gaston Together (see p 8)
Purple Heart Day (see p 7)
- **August 12**—Dallas High Shoals Christian Social Ministry. 3:00 pm
- **August 12**—12th Sunday after Pentecost
- **August 15**—Assumption of Mary (see p 2)
- **August 19**—13th Sunday after Pentecost
- **August 20**—Board Meeting
- **August 21**—Prayer Group will meet at the home of Shirlee Marazza—1:00 pm
- **August 25**—Workday at Lutheridge (see p 6)
- **August 26**—14th Sunday after Pentecost
- **August 27**—CLW/Rachel Group (see p 8)



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

Food Collection



BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARY

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 5 Jake Spurrier | Marilyn Finger |
| 17 Ethan Petzold | Joe Finger |
| 18 Katie White | Betty Clemmer |
| 20 Shana Dease | Jeff Dease |
| 22 Morgan Dawson | Dan Clemmer, Jr. |
| 23 Preston Clemmer | Tony Trudnak |
| 23 Jacob White. | Preston Clemmer |
| 24 Jack Dawson | Jack Lowery |
| 25 Joanna Trudnak | Will Trudnak |
| 25 Nora Cole | Caleb Dease |
| 28 Logan Marr | |



Holy Communion Schedule:

August 5: 11th Sunday of Pentecost

Worship Service Assistance:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <u>Altar Guild:</u> | Julie Digh/
Denise Traveria |
| <u>Acolyte:</u> | Nick Vlaservich |
| <u>Communion</u> | |
| <u>Asst:</u> | Nick Vlaservich |
| <u>Lay Reader:</u> | Teri Trudnak |
| <u>Worship Asst:</u> | Teri Trudnak |
| <u>Greeters:</u> | Members of OSLC |
| <u>Ushers:</u> | Bill Trudnak |

- Collection: Yvonne Finger
Devotions: Bud Penley



NO Choir Practice



- 1stJason & Allison Murray
13thDoyle & Darlene Clemmer
23rdBill & Teri Trudnak
25thJeff & Melinda White
29thJeff & Shana Dease

FLOWERS

Flower Schedule:

- August 5 Wayne Ann Penley
August 13 Marilyn Finger
August 20 Brady & Betty Ratchford
August 27 Julie Digh

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

Five (5) openings
Decorate the altar of our Lord
And then take home to decorate your home of give to a love one of shut-in



MEN-IN-MISSION AT WORK

MARK OUR CALENDAR
LUTHERIDGE

Area Church's Men-in-Mission will join together on Fridays and Saturdays August 24-25, to do work at LUTHERIDGE. You can either spend the night Friday or drive up early Saturday morning. If you are interested please contact Nick Vlaservich.



The Friendship Day History

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

History of Friendship Day in US

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

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

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

Importance of Friendship in Bible

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

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

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

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

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

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

A Stewardship Minute

Young friends, do you know about the life of St. Francis of Assisi? He was one of the most fascinating Christians who ever lived! You will be astounded as you find out about this very faithful follower of our Lord.

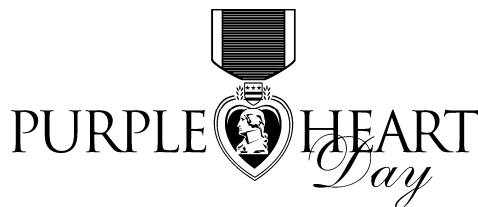
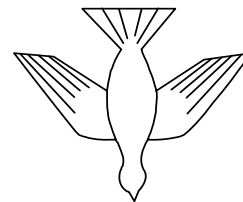
You should know that St. Francis believed and taught that the world and all that exist in it: people, animals, plants, mountains, insects, and so forth, were all gifts of God's love. According to the Bible, immediately after God finished creating everything: "God saw everything he had made, and indeed, it was very good." (Genesis 1:31) He believed that since God created the earth and all good things in it, that God intended

for us to be stewards (or caretakers) of the world.

St. Francis did his part. He lovingly cared for the earth and all on it as best he could. Every man was his brother; every woman his sister. He even thought of animals as his brothers and sisters. He cared for them all. It is said that one day he saw a worm crawling on a road, picked it up and carried it to a place where it would be safe. After all, did not God have a purpose for the worm? It could help cultivate the soil for one thing. It could be used to catch a fish for another. There are many stories of Francis, another of which is in this month's issue of Stewardship. It will help you think about how God has

provided for you and how you can show gratitude to God.

Prayer: Thank you Lord for St. Francis and his wonderful example of caring for the earth and all its inhabitants. Amen.



August 7th

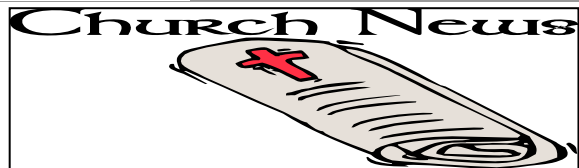
The Medal of Honor that is now the Purple Heart actually began as the 'Badge of Military Merit.' On August 7th, 1782 in Newburgh, New York, General George Washington designed a new badge of distinction for enlisted men and noncommissioned officers. They were awarded for 'any singularly meritorious action.' The badge was a figure of a heart in purple cloth or silk, edged with narrow lace or binding. It was pinned to a uniform coat above the left breast. That was then, this is now.

On January 7th of the year 1931, a new design was reopened. Ms. Elizabeth Will, an army heraldic specialist in the Office of the Quarter, created the design sketch for the present medal of the Purple Heart. It consists of a purple enameled heart within a bronze quarter inch border showing a relief profile of George Washington in continental uniform. Washington's family coat of arms adorns the medal, along with an inscription inside the heart that reads, 'For Military Merit.'

The Purple Heart is awarded to any member of the Armed Forces that has been wounded or killed, died as a result of a wound in battle, or otherwise designated by the President of the United States. This now includes those persons killed as a result of friendly fire. Now we celebrate Purple Heart Day on the anniversary of its inception, August 7th. On this day it is our patriotic duty to remember and recognize those people willing to serve our country, no matter the price.

Source: U.S. Army, Center for Military History,
The American War Library





GASTON TOGETHER'S CLERGY & CITIZENS COALITION ,

August 7, 2017

8:30 to Noon

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

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

(If others, please let the church office know)

EVENTS for Agrape/Kure Beach

Contact Camp

Telephone: 919-
e-mail:



agape@agapekurebeach.org

Contact Kure Beach Lutheran:

Telephone 910-458-0783

e-mail: kurebeach@agapekurebeach.org

Web site: www.agapekurebeach.org

Directions to Camp Agapé are on the web site.

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

Events For: Lutheridge -Lutherock-Lutherspring-Lutheranch

Web site: www.NovusWay.com or the Church's website for a link

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



CLW Rachel Circle

Will meet at the home of Betty Clemmer on
Monday, August 27th 1:30 pm.
for Bible study .

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



PRAYER CONCERNS:

MARGARET Addington (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), ADDISON Blanton (friend of Dease's), KATHY Bohanan (cancer), JENNIFER Christy (cancer is back- co-worker of Julie Digh), KAREN Braddy, JOE Glenn (Melinda White's father), DANA Kirshman (friend of Robbie Wooten-cancer), ROBERT L. McCanness, Jr. (failing health - Charles McCanness' 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), SONDRÁ 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 Ratchford-breast cancer), NANCY Wilson (eyes)

(CPC Mission cont'd from page 3)

Twenty nine years later those actions are bearing much fruit,

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

Carolinas Lutheran Women



EIGHTH ANNUAL CONVOCATION

"Show me thy ways, O Lord, teach me thy paths." Psalm 25:4



"Rod Trip: Navigating Your Faith Journey"

SATURDAY—SEPTEMBER 29, 2018

St. John's Lutheran Church

740 North Central St., Stateville, NC 28677

\$8.00 REGISTRATION includes LUNCH

Registration begins @ 9:30 am

Convocation begins @ 10:00 am

Deadline for Registration September 17

CHECK THE CLW website: www.carolinaslutheranwomen.org or thru our Church's website for letter concerning the Convocation and registration form.

SAVED BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?**

Salvation by Faith or by Works?

At the center of Christian faith is the promise of Jesus Christ. Scripture makes it clear that human beings are saved by faith in Jesus Christ, and not by our own human works. We are justified ("made right") in the sight of God, not by what we do, but through trust in the saving work of Christ.

Unfortunately, many Christians – even after acknowledging that we are saved by faith and not by works – go on to describe faith itself **as if it were a work** by which we accomplish our won salvation. They speak of faith itself as a spiritual action or decision that we need to make in order to earn eternal life.

But again, Scripture shows that "salvation by grace through faith" is not a human accomplishment. The Bible teaches that faith is not a human work we perform to earn salvation.

By Grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God– not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared before-hand to be our way of life. (Ephesians 2:8-10)

The Bible clearly states that being saved through faith is not our own doing. It happens "by grace" – that is, through the gracious act of God himself. We are people of faith, not because of an act or decision on our part. On the contrary, "we are what he has made us."

A Human Decision?

Christians who describe faith as a human work also tend to reflect this understanding in the way they approach evangelism. It is not uncommon to hear the promise of the gospel into what amounts to a threat:

"If you want to be saved, you must make a decision for Christ..." or "you must accept Jesus as your Savior..."

Such an approach gives the false impression that human beings can earn salvation by simply obeying the First Commandment (the command to believe in God). However, Scripture shows that obeying the law – even a law demanding faith – does not have the power to save our lives.

If a law had been given that could make alive, then righteousness would indeed come through the law. But the Scripture has imprisoned all things under the power of sin, so that what was promised through faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. (Galatians 3:21b-22)

The gospel of Jesus Christ is more than just a human-centered command to "accept Christ." It is first and foremost the divine promise that Christ has accepted us. The true gospel is the message of what Christ has done for us – a promise given and based on the saving work of Christ alone.

Scripture says that God justifies us "by faith and not by works of the law." Therefore, by definition, saving faith cannot be a work of the law. Faith is not something that we can choose by our own human will.

If **God said: "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." So, it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God who shows mercy. (Romans 9:15-16)**

is God himself who

chooses us to be people of faith, by his own Holy Spirit at work in his Word.

Who Really Decides?

To claim that we are able to save ourselves by an action of the human will, is to greatly underestimate the power of sin. To trust in our own free-will, is to make free-will into an idol. For when we trust in our ourselves, we no longer trust completely in Christ.

Jesus said: "You did not choose me by I choose you." (John 15:16)

To call Jesus our Saviour is to admit that he saved us when we could not save ourselves, this is what faith is all about

Salvation by Grace through Faith

Scripture teaches that we are saved by faith in Jesus Christ. It also teaches faith is not our own doing. So then how does faith happen?

Faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the work of Christ. (Romans 10:17)

According to Scripture, God himself creates faith through the message of Jesus Christ. By God's own Word, the Holy Spirit moves

our hearts to believe the promise that I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation in everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For it is the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written,

Chits
believe
promise
that
Chits

has died for our sins and is risen for us.

Scripture says that the gospel itself brings about faith within us, by the active power of God. In the speaking of his Word, God himself changes our heart and gives us the hope of eternal life.

By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing.... (Eph. 2:8)

There-
fore,

since God has saved us by his grace through his own gift of faith, we do not need a law-based scheme of salvation, founded on our own deeds or decisions. Nor should we seek after such a thing, for to do so would be to turn away from the grace we have received in Christ.

True faith is a God-given trust in Christ alone. By this faith God gives us the assurance of forgiveness and eternal life.

Digging Deeper into Scripture:

For those who are interested in learning more about how God saves us through his own gift of faith, one of the best places to go is the **Book of Romans.**



In Romans, the Apostle Paul lays out the logic of how God brings about salvation apart from the works of law, through his own saving work in Jesus Christ. Paul explains that it is the Holy Spirit at work in God's Word alone that has the power to change hearts and create faith.

From [Sola Publishing](#).

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.

◆ **Saturday, August 11—Ocean Boulevard Band**

The ELCA Breaks Trust

by Pr. Dennis D. Nelson,
CORE Director and President

The ELCA is guilty of a massive breach of trust. The ELCA cannot be trusted. We realize that those are very strong statements, but they are confirmed by the presentation given by one of the keynote speakers at the recent ELCA Youth Gathering. Nadia Bolz-Weber (NBW) is a gifted communicator. As she shares very honestly about the struggles in her own life, she has an amazing ability to connect with and encourage young people who are struggling with self-confidence, self-image, and shame. She is absolutely correct that God loves us as we are, and she communicates that message powerfully (even though her description of grace says nothing about the cross!). But even so, anyone who cares about truth, integrity, and young people should be totally up in arms with how she ended her presentation on the night of June 29, 2018.

List of Lies

In that presentation, she described the devil as that voice within us that accuses. She said that her favorite part of the baptismal liturgy is when we are asked, "Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil and all his empty promises?" Fairly enough, she equated the devil's "empty promises" with "lies," but then she led the audience through a series of questions, in which she asked 30,000 young people whether they renounced a list of things that she considered to be such lies. In response to each lie the audience shouted, "I renounce them!" Included in these renunciations was the question, "Do you renounce the lie that queerness is anything other than beauty?" The arena full of young people shouted their agreement.

Beholden to a lie?

There you have it: if queerness is deemed beauty and a belief that queerness is not beauty is deemed a lie, then the traditional view of human sexuality has just been described at an official gathering of 30,000 young members of the ELCA as a lie, one of the devil's empty promises. So now, those who hold to that traditional view are, according to an official and privileged speaker of the ELCA, beholden to a lie from Satan that must be renounced. Can you imagine what would happen if an ELCA Youth Gathering keynote speaker had asked, "Do you renounce the lie that same-sex erotic behavior is anything other than sin?" Or if such a speaker had in any way implied that the LGBTQIA+ community is beholden to a lie? 2009 Churchwide Assembly Commitment Whatever happened to the commitment that was made at the 2009 Churchwide Assembly (CWA)? That assembly purported to give an official place for a wide range of views, including the traditional view, within the ELCA. Was a traditional speaker allowed to address the youth in Houston? Or whatever happened to the boundaries that were set at that same Assembly? The only kind of same gender relationships that were approved are those that are publicly accountable, lifelong, and monogamous (PALMS). That assembly did not approve bisexuality, transgenderism, or any of the other forms of sexual identity and expression that are a part of the LGBTQIA+ community. And yet here we have the organizing committee of the ELCA Youth Gathering scheduling, as one of the keynote speakers, a prominent face in the ELCA who has now publicly condemned any perspective on same-sex erotic behavior but the most revisionist. She is not only a signer of the "We Are Naked and Unashamed" document, which rejects marriage by any definition as normative for sexual activity, but now she has gone even beyond that. She has described the traditional view of human sexuality as a lie from Satan that needs to be renounced.

2009 CWA Vote Opened Flood Gates

How are we now to view all of the language that we were given leading up to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly? How shall we now trust the ELCA? In the time leading up to the 2009 assembly, we were told that what was being proposed would merely allow churches who wanted to call a pastor in a same gender relationship to do so. Any congregation that did not wish to, would not need to do so. Given the public denunciation of traditional teaching (before youth, no less), how can we view all of that chatter as anything other than a set up? Once those who have been driving this revisionist agenda got the vote that they had been working relentlessly to get, the flood gates were opened. The true agenda is revealed. The traditional view of human sexuality is no longer included as one acceptable option among many. Rather it is characterized as a lie from Satan that needs to be renounced.



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 the specific occasion.

August

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>Num. 28:26-2:11</i> <i>Ps. 31</i> <i>John 11:1-27</i>	2 <i>Num. 29:12-40</i> <i>Ps. 32</i> <i>John 11:28-44</i>	3 <i>Num. 30</i> <i>Ps. 33</i> <i>John 11:45-57</i>	4 <i>Num. 31:1-24</i> <i>Ps. 34</i> <i>John 12:1-11</i>
5 <i>Num. 31:25-53</i> <i>Ps. 35</i> <i>John 12:12-26</i>	6 <i>Num. 32</i> <i>Ps. 36</i> <i>John 12:27-43</i>	7 <i>Num. 33:1-36</i> <i>Ps. 37:1-22</i> <i>John 2:23-3:15</i>	8 <i>Num. 33:37-56</i> <i>Ps. 37:23-40</i> <i>John 13:1-20</i>	9 <i>Num. 34</i> <i>Ps. 38</i> <i>John 13:21-55</i>	10 <i>Num. 35:1-15</i> <i>Ps. 3</i> <i>John 13:56-14:14</i>	11 <i>Num. 35:16-34</i> <i>Ps. 40</i> <i>John 14:15-31</i>
12 <i>Num. 36</i> <i>Ps. 41</i> <i>John 15:1-17</i>	13 <i>Deut. 1:1-25</i> <i>Ps. 42</i> <i>John 15:18-16:4</i>	14 <i>Duet. 1:26-46</i> <i>Ps. 43</i> <i>John 16:4-24</i>	15 <i>Duet. 2:1-23</i> <i>Ps. 44</i> <i>John 16:25-33</i>	16 <i>Duet. 2:24-3:11</i> <i>Ps. 45</i> <i>John 17:1-26</i>	17 <i>Duet. 3:12-29</i> <i>Ps. 46</i> <i>John 18:1-18</i>	18 <i>Duet. 4:1-14</i> <i>Ps. 48</i> <i>John 18:19-40</i>
19 <i>Duet. 22:21-41</i> <i>Ps. 21</i> <i>John 7:25-36</i>	20 <i>Duet. 23:1-26</i> <i>Ps. 22</i> <i>John 7:37-52</i>	21 <i>Duet. 23:27-24:9</i> <i>Ps. 23</i> <i>John 8:1-11</i>	22 <i>Duet. 24:10-25</i> <i>Ps. 24</i> <i>John 8:12-30</i>	23 <i>Duet. 25</i> <i>Ps. 25</i> <i>John 8:31-47</i>	24 <i>Duet. 26:1-25</i> <i>Ps. 26</i> <i>John 8:48-59</i>	25 <i>Duet. 26:26-51</i> <i>Ps. 27</i> <i>John 9:1-23</i>
26 <i>Duet. 26:52-27:11</i> <i>Ps. 28</i> <i>Gal. 9:24-41</i>	27 <i>Duet. 27:12-28:10</i> <i>Ps. 29</i> <i>Gal. 10:1-21</i>	28 <i>Duet. 28:11-25</i> <i>Ps. 30</i> <i>Gal. 10:22-42</i>	29 <i>Duet. 28:11-25</i> <i>Ps. 30</i> <i>Gal. 10:22-42</i>	30 <i>Duet. 28:11-25</i> <i>Ps. 30</i> <i>Gal. 10:22-42</i>	31 <i>Duet. 28:11-25</i> <i>Ps. 30</i> <i>Gal. 10:22-42</i>	



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