



Our Saviour Lutheran Church
 725 Gastonia Technology Parkway
 Dallas, North Carolina
 702-922-4648



Our Saviour's Good News

Volume XIV, Issue IV

April 2019

MISSION STATEMENT

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

- **Minutes** 2
- **Focus On Heaven**
- **Prayer Concerns** 4
- **Shut-ins**
- **A Stewardship** 5
- **Church NEWS** 6
- **Carolina Mission Convocation.**
- **Easter Lilies**
- **VBS**
- **Rachel Group**
- **Seder**
- **Maundy Thursday** 7
- **Good Friday** 8
- **Easter Sunday** 9
- **Relay for Life** 10
- **The Clown**
- **April Mission-Lutheran Camps** 11
- **Daily Bible Guide** 12
- **Life of Hacks** 13
- **Birth**
- **The Journey** 14
- **The Easter Lily** 15

THERE IS NO DOUBT

“There is no dispute among scholars nor in historical records Jesus Christ was born; he lived and he died in the Roman colony of Judea over 2000 years ago. In fact, all of Western civilization marks their calendar around this man’s birth and death.

There is, however, much debate and doubt that he is alive today. After his crucifixion by the Roman government, Jesus was buried in a cave near Jerusalem. But, within a few days his body disappeared from the tomb. Even though it was guarded by dozens of soldiers specifically prepared to prevent anyone from stealing the body, it is just disappeared.

The Bible does not offer an explanation. It reveals that Jesus came back to life after he had been dead for three days. In fact, the Bible records that Jesus predicted his death and resurrection before it happened so his followers would know that he is truly God in human flesh.

Then Jesus said to them, “All of you will run away, because it is written: I will Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered. But after I have been resurrected, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.

Perhaps you have never seriously considered if Jesus is truly alive today. It may simply be too incredible for you to accept that a man could still be alive

over 2000 years after he lived on the earth. As incredible as that may be to you, his reason for coming to the earth so he could die and rise from death is even more incredible. He came because he loves you and wants you to spend eternity with him in heaven.

The Bible describes his act of love as “Salvation.” This action was necessary because all of us have sin that prevents us from knowing God. The Bible says in Romans 3”23, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Sin is a real problem for us because it results in our complete and eternal separation from God. Jesus came to offer the solution to our problem.

This gift of salvation can be yours simply be accepting it from Jesus Christ. He is alive and he wants a relationship with you. All you need to do is talk to him like you talk to a close friend. Here are three simple steps that will help you.

- Acknowledge that God is right and your sin is keeping you apart from him.
- Tell God that you believe Jesus died for you and that you accept him as your Saviour.
- Thank God for this wonderful gift, and just enjoy your new relationship with God.

PRAYER: *“Lord, I long to see you, to behold what all the ages have dreamed about. Come quickly! May we be*

Our Saviour Lutheran Church William Trudnak, President February 18, 2019 Council Minutes

Devotions: Alice Vlaservich

Meeting called to order by President Bill Trudnak.

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

Minutes for January 21, 2019 were reviewed. Motion made by Alice Vlaservich to approve the minutes. Second by Joe Finger and carried.

Reception of Petitions and Communications:

- a. Board considered request from Praise Temple to provide food bags. Motion by Steve Digh to continue collecting food for the food pantry at the Dallas-High Shoals Christian Ministry. Seconded by Joe Finger and carried.

Report of the Pastor: Motion made by Joe Finger to approve the Pastor's Report (attached). Second Joe Finger and carried.

Report of the Treasurer: Motion by Teri Trudnak to accept the Treasurer Report. Seconded by Alice Vlaservich and carried.

- a. Board approved Light Lenten Service. (Wednesday night during Lent)
- b. Sedar Presentation on April 12, 2019. Need clarification on hospitality and what \$150 covers. Alice Vlaservich will talk with Marie Robinson tomorrow. If cleared, Pastor can return letter and \$150.

Report of the Ministries:

- a. Property: Discussed roof leaking.
- b. Stewardship and Finance: No report this month.
- c. Worship & Music: No report this month.
- d. Youth Team: No report.
- e. Witness: Alice Vlaservich sent out Valentine cards.
- f. Christian Education Team: No report.

Report of Auxiliaries:

- a. Rachel Circle: Met at the home of Shirley Marazza for Bible study and refreshments. Next months meeting will be at Marie Robinson's home.

Old and/or Unfinished Business:

- a. Schedule Workday for Church's Campus will be discuss next month.
- b. No Action taken regarding Church Security.

New Business:

- a. Parish Administrator to place either in the bulletin or newsletter notification of the 2019 Carolinas Mission District Convocation and the 96th Annual NC Men-in-Mission State Gathering on March 2 (for anyone who wants to go).

- b. Motion by Alice Vlaservich to allow Renee Falkenberg to use the church grounds at no charge. Seconded by Denise Traveria and carried.
- c. Attendance and Finance Report. Steve Digh, Board member, state that a parish member asked that attendance and offering report be noted every Sunday in bulletin. Motion by Steve Digh to approve request. Seconded by Teri Trudnak and carried. Bill Trudnak will notify Parish Administrator.

General Information:

Kids Alive Report
Attendance
Carolina Mission District
2019 Parish Directory updated

Adjourned with Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting: March 18, 2019

Devotions: Denise Traveria.

Many reasons to remain focused on Heaven.

Billy Graham

The Bible admittedly doesn't answer all our questions about heaven – because Heaven is far more glorious than our limited minds can fully grasp! But the Bible repeatedly assures us that Heaven is real, and because of Jesus' death and resurrection, we can know our sins are forgiven and we will go there some day. Jesus said, "I am going there to prepare a place for you" (John 14:20).

What difference should Heaven make to us right now? For one thing, Heaven gives us hope – hope for today and hope for the future. No matter what we're facing, we know it only temporary. And ahead of us in Heaven. The Bible says, "Therefore we do not lose heart...For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all" (2Corinthians 4:16-17).

Heaven also makes a difference because we can be in touch with it today. Few people have ever had the honor of speaking with a king – but as believers in Christ, we don't have to wait until we die to have an audience with the King of kings, Jesus Christ. By His Spirit He lives within us, and through prayer and the Bible we have access to Him now.

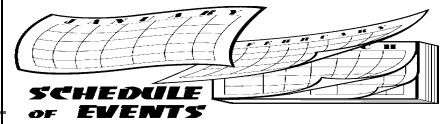
Sickness and sorrows may come our way – but when we keep our eyes focused on Christ and on Heaven, joy and peace can be ours. Therefore, the Bible says, "set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things" (Colossians 3:1-2).

(Column based on words and writings of the late Bill Graham)

April 2019



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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 APRIL FOOL'S DAY	2	3 Lenten Service	4	5	6
7 5th Sunday In Lent	8 Team Meetings	9 Gaston Together	10	11	12 Sader Meeting	13 CHURCH WORKDAY
PALM SUNDAY	15 Council Mtg.	16 Prayer Group	17	18 Maundy Thursday	19 GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE	20
21 CHRIST THE LORD "RISEN TODAY!"	22 Rachel/CLW Group	23	24	25	26	27
28 2nd Sunday Of Easter	29	30				
CHURCH WORKDAY	April 13 8:30 am to 12:30 pm	COMMUNITY FOUNDATION RUN April 13, 2019	Apr. 13	RELAY FOR LIFE American Cancer Society	May 3	

- Apr. 1— April Fools Day
- Apr. 3— Lenten Service
- Apr. 7— 5th Sunday in Lent
- Apr. 8— Team Meetings: Youth 6:30 pm
Others 7:00 pm
- Apr. 9—Gaston Together (see p 8)
- Apr. 12— Sader Meeting
- Apr. 13— WORK DAY at Church 8:30 am
Community Foundation Run (see p 5)
- Apr. 14— Palm Sunday
- Apr. 15—Council Meeting 7:00 p
- Apr. 16— Prayer Group at home of Shirlee Marazza at 1:30 pm
- Apr. 18— Maundy Thursday
- Apr. 19— Good Friday
- Apr. 21— EASTER
Sunrise Service 7:00 am followed by
breakfast
Easter Service 11:00 am
- Apr. 22— Rachel/CLW Group TBA
- Apr. 27—Relay for Life (see p 10)
- Apr. 28— 2nd Sunday of Easter

FOOD FOR THE MONTH: Lima Beans, Crackers, Peanut Butter



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



Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 1 Melinda White | Julie Digh |
| 5 Will Trudnak | Tiffany Cobb |
| 8 Nancy Friday | Donna Clemmer |
| 12 Jill Petzold | Teri Trudnak |
| 22 Dan Clemmer, Jr. | Jill Petzold |
| 23 Nancy Presley | Melinda White |
| Nick Vlaservich | Jared Dease |



BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARY

Holy Communion Schedule:

- Apr. 14: Palm Sunday
- Apr. 21: Easter Sunday

Worship Service Assistance:

- Acolyte: Nick Vlaservich
- Communion Nick Vlaservich
- Asst:
- Lay Reader: Yvonne Finger
- Worship Asst: Yvonne Finger
- Greeters: OSLC Members
- Ushers: OSLC Members
- Devotion: Melinda White
- Stewardship: Betty Ratchford

FLOWERS

Flower Schedule:

- Apr. 7 Lent
- Apr. 14 Palms
- Apr. 21 Wayne Ann Penley (Easter)
- Apr. 28 Alice Vlaservich

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

22 openings
Please sign up and help
Decorate the altar of our Lord



ANNIVERSARIES

24th.....Chris & Becky Messick



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

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)



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

(If others, please let the church office know)



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), BRAXTON Bearden (friend of the Locketts), ADDISON Blanton (friend of Dease's), KATHY Bohanan (cancer), KAREN Brady, HARDY Feige (Pete's dad - chronic back pain), JASON Hames (friend of the White's) DANA Kirshman (friend of Robbie Wooten-cancer), 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 (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, 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)

**Events For
Lutheridge -Lutherock-Lutherspring**

Lutheranch

Web site: www.NovusWay.com

and

Kure/Agape Beach

E-mail: kurebeach@agapekurebeach.org

Web site: www.agapekurebeach.org

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



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

**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.

THERE ARE 22 OPENINGS



Easter Lilies will cost \$10.00
The Deadline to order is April 7

Please see order form enclosed



**Mark your calendar
and
plan to attend!**

Vacation Bible School June 16-20, 2019

Location: St Paul's Lutheran Church with Antioch, Holy Communion, Our Saviour and Philadelphia Lutheran Churches

"Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us. -Ephesians 3:20"

Supper: 5:30 pm-6:10 pm

VBS: 6:15 pm- 8:15 pm

Pro- from grams Nursery



A Stewardship Minute

This spring, it is interesting to think about how birds build their nests and prepare for the next generation. The mother bird lays her eggs in the nest, sits on them until they hatch, and then feeds, nurtures and teaches them until the younglings are ready to fly on their own.

We, as Christians, must do the same for our family: build and maintain a place for our children to be nurtured and grow as Christians. Our children certainly are the future and the church will continue to be a place

for their spiritual nurturing. We need to do our best to be stewards of our time, talents and resources to provide that environment.

Just as we attend to our own “nests” at home, we must also attend to maintaining the spiritual nest necessary for the next generation of Christians to grow and flourish. The lead article in this month’s issue of Stewardship points out that when we volunteer our time, or give contributions and offerings to the church to fund programs and build buildings, like Mother Bird, we are providing for our little ones, sustaining and nurtur-

ing the next generation of Christians.

Prayer: Thank you Lord for our church and our church family. Stir us up always to do your will and to be good stewards of all that we have. Amen.



The Community Foundation of Gaston County, Inc.

invites you to
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION RUN

WHEN: Saturday, April 13 2019; 8:00 am...5 K Run and 2K Walk—Go online for Registration.

WHERE: Rotary Pavilion, downtown Gastonia

WHAT: Certified 5K Run, 2K Fun Walk, non-profit booth exhibits, karaoke competition, Healthy Kids food vendors Zone and Cornhole Tournament.

WHO: Walkers and runners of all ages, participating non-profits community spectators.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION INFORMATION: Founded in 1978, the Foundation currently manages more than \$83.5 million in assets and 370 charitable funds. As a primary steward of philanthropic giving in Gaston County, the Foundation focuses on coordinating donors and needs of our community.

Run 2019 is an opportunity to unite community volunteers, donors, and businesses in fun camaraderie to support non-profits in Gaston County.

DID YOU KNOW:

- Since inception, *Community Foundation Run*, \$19,848,318 has been raised over the past 16 years, let's make 2019 a record year for dollars donated! .
- 146 local non-profits are participating in *Run 2019* this year.
- Dollars given to the Match Fund will be applied to the matching grant, which benefits ALL participating nonprofits. Dollars earmarked for certain nonprofits will go to the specific organization(s) named.

What to learn more about *the Run* or get involved? Please contact “Community Foundation of Gaston County, Inc.” by visiting their website www.cfgaston.org or calling 704-864-0927

Church News



GASTON TOGETHER'S CLERGY & CITIZENS COALITION

April 11, 2017

8:30 to Noon

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



The Carolinas Mission District
of the
North American Lutheran Church

2019 Convocation

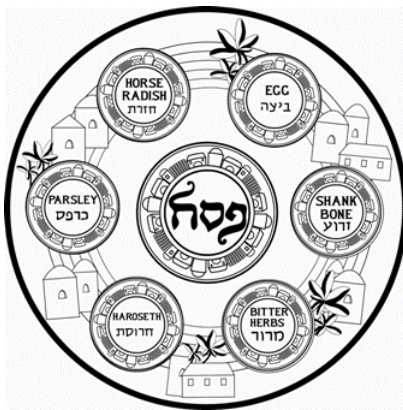
May 17-18

"Compelled by the Spirit"

Acts 20:17-35

Advent
Lutheran
3347 Riv-
North
South

in church



Evangelical
Church
ers Ave.
Charleston,
Chirch

(applications
office)

PASTOR PETE'S TELEPHONE:

Cell Phone: 704-516-2805



WELCA/RACHEL GROUP

Will meet in the home TBA

on April 22



"Prayer Group" will meet at the home of
Shirlee Marazza on April 16 at 1:30 pm



Mark your calendar and plan to attend!



Vacation Bible School June 16-20, 2019

Location: St Paul's Lutheran Church
with Antioch, Holy Communion, Our Saviour and
Philadelphia Lutheran Churches

**"Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all
that we could ask or imagine by his power at
work within us. -Ephesians 3:20"**

Supper: 5:30 pm-6:10 pm

VBS: 6:15 pm-8:15 pm

Maundy Thursday

A Celebration of the Last Supper



Occurring on the last Thursday before Easter, Maundy Thursday (also known as *Holy Thursday*) is a celebration of the Last Supper that Jesus took with his disciples. It was during the Passover that Jesus initiated the Christian sacrament of the Eucharist, known in Protestant churches as the Lord's Supper or Communion. The observance is part of the festivities of Holy Week and is one of Christianity's oldest celebrations, dating back to the first century Church.

The name "Maundy Thursday" comes from the Latin *Dias Mandatum*, which is the "day of the new commandment," the new commandment being that Christians should love one another, just as Christ has loved them.

Maundy Thursday Rituals

The ceremonies involved on this day are inspired by the events that occurred during the night Jesus observed the Passover with his disciples. One such ceremony is the washing of feet, which was incorporated around the fourth century, and involved the bishop or cardinal within the church washing the feet of the priests and acolytes. The abbot of a monastery would wash the feet of all the monks. While in Rome, the Pope would wash the feet of selected Cardinals. This was seen as fulfilling the mandate that the greatest among the brethren will be the servant of all. Today, the priest of a particular church or diocese does the ceremonial foot washing. Twelve men, who represent the twelve apostles, are chosen to be the participants.

The celebration of the Eucharist on Maundy Thursday day is common to Catholics, Anglicans, and Eastern Orthodox churches. Many Protestants (particularly Evangelicals) celebrate the Lord's Supper or Communion mainly at Christmas, Easter, and at various other times throughout the year. The Roman Catholic ceremony is performed during the day, while the Greek Church, following the tradition of the Passover meal, performs the ceremony in the evening.

Additional ceremonies are also practiced to reflect a more joyous spirit for the day. Baptisms for new believers, confession and absolution for repentant believers who have sinned, and the consecration of the year's supply of holy oil have all been included over the years to expand the celebration. To manifest the solemnity of the anguish of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane and his betrayal by Judas, church bells remain silent until Easter. After the evening ceremony the altar is cleared of all vestments and remains bare until the Easter ceremony.

The History of Maundy Thursday

In the 12th century, the English Church initiated a custom of distributing money to senior citizens who had performed outstanding service to the crown. Known as "Maundy Money," these specially minted coins are handed out in red and white ceremonial purses by the reigning King or Queen. Along with the giving of alms, Kings and Queens of England would also wash the feet of the poor as a way of humbling themselves. This tradition continued until the 17th century.

In Germany, Maundy Thursday was also known as Green Thursday. The name was not due to the color green, but from the close association to the German word for "grief" or "weeping". Many families would eat only green vegetables, spinach in particular, as a way of humbling themselves before God.

In contrast to Corpus Christi, the feast of Maundy Thursday is a more somber event, and many Christians take it as a time to fast and repent before partaking of the Eucharist. This cleansing of the soul before the Good Friday service prepares the believer to better appreciate the sacrifice of Christ and the rejoicing that is to come on Easter Sunday.

To many Christians, Good Friday is felt as a day of sorrow. It is a time to grieve over the sin of man and to meditate upon the love that God has so generously bestowed upon humanity in giving His only Son for the redemption of sin.



Good Friday

Origins, Rituals, and Traditions of Good Friday



Of the numerous Christian holy days on the liturgical calendar, Good Friday is perhaps the most solemn and profound memorial. The dates of Good Friday, which vary by calendar year, occur between March 20th and April 23rd. Good Friday commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus and falls on the last Friday before Easter. It is the pinnacle of Holy Week, and Christians observe this day with great humility and reverence.

History of Good Friday

As early as the first century, the Church set aside every Friday as a special day of prayer and fasting. It was not until the fourth century, however, that the Church began observing the Friday before Easter as the day associated with the crucifixion of Christ. First called Holy or Great Friday by the Greek Church, the name "Good Friday" was adopted by the Roman Church around the sixth or seventh century.

Good Friday Origins

There are two possible origins for the name "Good Friday". The first may have come from the Gallican Church in Gaul (modern-day France and Germany). The name "Gute Freitag" is Germanic in origin and literally means "good" or "holy" Friday. The second possibility is a variation on the name "God's Friday," where the word "good" was used to replace the word "God," which was often viewed as too holy for commoners to speak.

Good Friday Traditions

Good Friday rituals and traditions are distinct from those of all other Church observances and add to Good Friday's considerable significance. The entire ceremony is somber, with priests and deacons dressing in black vestments. The pulpit and the altar are bare, and no candles are lit. The purpose behind the solemn presentation is to create an awareness of grief over the sacrifice of God's only begotten Son.

Good Friday Church Rituals

Starting anytime between midnight and 3 a.m., priests and other clerics begin to recite specific prayers. At the morning ceremony, the priest or church official recites lessons from the scriptures. Afterwards, there is a succession of prayers asking for God's mercy and forgiveness on all mankind.

At the noon hour comes the Adoration of the Cross, where a representation of the True Cross is unveiled and the clergy and laity pay homage to the sacrifice of Christ. In the Jerusalem Church, a remnant of the True Cross itself is presented for the ceremony. Next comes the Mass of the Presanctified, in which the priest or church official takes Communion from the host that was blessed during the Maundy Thursday ceremony. The ceremony concludes around 3 p.m. with a procession, which is followed by evening prayers.

In many Protestant churches, Good Friday observances begin at noon and last until 3 p.m. This coincides with the hours (according to the scriptures) that Jesus hung on the cross. These services often include sermons on the last seven phrases that Jesus spoke while being crucified. Other services include re-enactments of the Passion according to the Gospel of John, processions of the Stations of the Cross, and the singing of appropriate hymns. All observances add to Good Friday significance and to the richness of meaning for those who know the history of the observance.

To many Christians, Good Friday is felt as a day of sorrow. It is a time to grieve over the sin of man and to meditate upon the love that God has so generously bestowed upon humanity in giving His only Son for the redemption of sin.

Easter and the Resurrection

Significance of the Easter Celebration



Easter Sunday is the day of rejoicing that follows the sorrow of Good Friday and Holy Saturday. For most Christians, Easter is the celebration of Christ's resurrection from the dead. It bears witness to God's enduring promise of eternal life. As the climax of Holy Week, Easter is a time of hope and assurance. It is humanity's turning point from destruction to glory and salvation.

What is the Real Meaning of Easter?

For the first three centuries, the Church celebrated the real meaning of Easter in connection with the Jewish Passover. The Passover began on the evening of the full moon in the Jewish month of Nisan, which coincided with the Spring Equinox.

As the crucifixion occurred on the first day of the feast, early Christians found a scriptural correlation between Jesus and the sacrificial lamb. The Apostle Paul refers to this in his first letter to the Corinthian Church where he states: "For Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth." (1 Corinthians 5:7-8) The flexibility of Passover allowed the early Church to celebrate Christ's resurrection any day of the week on which the third day of the festival happened to fall.

As the Western Church began to emerge, its celebration of Easter coincided with the first Sunday after the first full moon of spring, which caused some contention with the Eastern Church. The matter came to the attention of the Emperor Constantine, who convened the Council of Nicaea in AD 325. The council ruled that all churches would celebrate Easter on the first Sunday after the first full moon of the Spring Equinox. This became the standard for the Church under the Julian calendar until 1582, when Pope Gregory XIII revised the calendar and the Easter tables by adding the leap-year rule.

What are Easter and the Resurrection?

The name "Easter" did not become associated with the resurrection of Christ until the second century. It most likely comes from the ancient Saxon spring festival called Ostern. Some Easter customs also originate from ancient spring festivals. The tradition of the Easter Bunny has its origins with the Saxons, who would adorn their villages with rabbits carved from wood. The giving of brightly colored eggs was a custom in the Middle East during the spring. In many cultures, the egg symbolized rebirth or renewal.

Easter is a time of rejoicing for Christians. The Roman Catholic, Anglican, and Greek Orthodox Churches commemorate the resurrection of Christ with the Easter Mass, which includes special prayers, litanies, psalms, and hymns. In some Churches throughout Spain, Easter customs include special processions to honor the Virgin Mary. Protestant Churches have Easter services that include Communion, special sermons, and sometimes Easter plays. Many Evangelical Churches have sunrise services that include much singing and rejoicing.

The purest meaning of Easter is the celebration of the resurrection or rising of Christ to Heaven, which is the foundation of Christianity. Easter Sunday reminds all Christians of their heavenly calling and of the open door for relationship with God through Jesus, His Son.



This year marks the beginning of our celebration of 35 years of Relay For Life®

What is Relay For Life?

Relay For Life is the American Cancer Society's signature activity. It offers everyone in a community an opportunity to participate in the fight against cancer. Teams of people camp out at a local high school, park, or fairground and take turns walking or running around a track or path. Each team is asked to have a representative on the track at all times during the event. Relays are an overnight event, up to 24 hours in length. **PLEASE CONTACT KATE SCHOBEL AT kate.schober@cancer.org OR 704-553-5386 IF YOU ARE INTEREST IN MAKING A DONATION AN PATICIPATING. Go online: main.acsevents.org**

Relay For Life is a life-changing event that brings together more than 3.5 million people to:

- Celebrate the lives of those who have battled cancer. The strength of survivors inspires others to continue to fight.
- Remember loved ones lost to the disease. At Relay, people who have walked alongside people battling cancer can grieve and find healing.
- Fight Back. We Relay because we have been touched by cancer and desperately want to put an end to the disease.
- May 3, 2019, Sims Legion Park, 5-11 pm

Dedicate a Luminaria

Luminarias honor every life touched by cancer. You can dedicate them to a loved one lost, someone currently battling, or anyone who's overcome it. When you attend a Relay event, you'll see the Luminarias decorated with names and sometimes messages to the people they're dedicated to.

After dark, Relay participants share an emotional moment when each Luminaria is lit in remembrance of a life touched by cancer. Together, we take a moment of silence to remember the loved ones they're dedicated to. When you make a donation for a Luminaria it helps fund the American Cancer Society's mission to help save lives.

The Clown – Another Fool For Christ's Sake"

Check out a few things before you automatically discount the clown as an important Christian symbol. The word "Clown" has some roots in the Anglo-Saxon word "clod" – A common, down-to-earth person. We know that when God touched a clod and breathed His breath (or spirit) into it, something powerful happened.

Consider the authentic clown - among other definitions, don't forget "vulnerable lover" – reaching out with love, care and concern, willing what it means to be called a lover – a relationship is risked, a fall is possible. Yet in that falling there are those resources from within and without which enable the gift of standing to happen. That's a bit like grace, incarnated in a variety of forms, which calls us not only to stand, but to risk falling again.

Don't forget the meaning of the make-up. It's not just a bizarre concoction of smears, not for the real fool for Christ – the white is the symbol of the death mask. When applied it's a bit like dying – in some conscious act of confession. An additional symbol is the clown's moving to the non-verbal, for the dead nod not speak with words. The face applied over the white is the new being, the person and identity the clown has chosen. Freed from the limitations of words, there is the opportunity to speak through notions and happenings. Look at it this way: it's important to know what you are dead to, what you are alive to, and to be consciously aware of both as you live in the present. Death and resurrection symbols are "written upon the flesh of the clown." There are two dimensions are posed in the clown's ability combine the tragic as well as the comic, and to hold them up as a reality of life. As persons who mix various elements, there are moments when one is juxtaposed against the other, and in the process a whole new reality is offered to the viewer who is listening with the eyes.

In a non-verbal liturgy, which uses clowns and clowning techniques, we are faced with peeling off a number of layers which we have imposed on worship from our culture. Questions are raised: If we speak of the "action" of the liturgy, why must it be primarily reduced to words? If we are asked, "What happened?" in worship, why are answers so frequently geared to what was said? If worship is to be combined servant work of the gathered community of believers, why are so many simply spectators? We call our ministry "Faith and Fantasy". Faith is understood as the complete trust in God as our Father, which enables us not only to fear, love and trust in Him, but also as His children authentically to play in His loving presence. Our use of the word "fantasy" includes keeping on foot in the reality situation and the other outside, using the medium of the clown to both interpret, speak, act and assist its objectivity.

When we study more fully the Biblical description of God we discover that "He laughs and delights". Our challenge is to remain child-like and open to His grace rather than allowing our Holy Play to become childish. As to being child-like, we think it's okay simply because Jesus said so.

2019 Mission Emphasis ~ Lutheran Camps

NOVUS WAY

Located across the southeastern United States, these retreat centers in North Carolina ~ Lutheridge and Lutherock, Georgia ~ Lutheranch, and Florida ~ Luther Springs, offer programmed retreats and camps for all ages, and also provide event and meeting spaces for you to plan your own retreat.

Visit www.novusway.com.

People of all ages need time away to build relationships, to connect with peers and co-workers, to rest and find refreshment for life, to re-connect with nature and God's creation, and to be equipped as a leader. Whether attending our programs or planning your own retreat, this is what you will find at NovusWay. Our staff are highly trained in team-building,

group process, and faith formation. Our facilities encourage community building and provide the level of comfort and amenity you need to accomplish your goals in your time away.

Want to know more about the importance of sending your camper to a faith camp? [Visit our YouTube page](#) to see interviews with parents who share the positive and life-long impact a week at Lutheridge has made on their camper.

Check the website videos and information about camp weeks and other

AGAPE /KURE BEACH

WELCOME! to a beautiful place apart; where you can explore what it means to be a unique and important part of the Body of Christ!

With two sites: **Camp Agapé** (near Raleigh,) and **Kure Beach** (near Wilmington), we offer beautiful escapes from the hustle of everyday life to focus on what is truly important in life.

During a stay, our guests are encouraged to take the time to wander the woods at Agape or to play in the ocean's waves at Kure Beach; to pause and live life at a slower

pace. Our goal at both of these natural retreats is for our guests' spirits to be refreshed and renewed.

We hope that you will spend some time wandering thru the pages of our website, www.agapekurebeach.org.

Whether you are sending a child to summer camp, signing up for a special event, or looking into a retreat; there's something for everyone here.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions you might have. Phone: 1.919.552.9421.

The camping experience is an opportunity for all ages to experience fun in a family week, retreat, special activities, or regular camping for school aged children or adults. Pray for the staff and also for those who attend. Our Saviour's April 2017 Mission Emphasis is Lutheran Camps.



WORKDAY SATURDAY, APRIL 13—8:30 AM TO 12:30 PM
BRING RAKE, CLIPPERS, ETC.

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.

April



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i> 2 Sam 15:8-33 Ps. 86 Titus 3:1-15	<i>2</i> 2 Sam 19:1-23 Ps. 87 Philemon 1-25	<i>3</i> 2 Sam 19:24-43 Ps. 88 Heb. 1:1-7	<i>4</i> 2 Sam 20 Ps. 89 Heb. 1:1-8	<i>5</i> 2 Sam 21 Ps. 90 Heb. 2:1-9	<i>7</i> 2 Sam 22:1-25 Ps. 91 Heb. 2:10-18
<i>7</i> 2 Sam 22:26-51 Ps. 92 Heb. 3:1-11	<i>8</i> 2 Sam 23:1-12 Ps. 93 Heb. 3:12-19	<i>9</i> 2 Sam 23:13-38 Ps. 94 Heb. 4:1-13	<i>10</i> 2 Sam 24 Ps. 95 Heb. 4:14-5:10	<i>11</i> Prov. 1:1-19 Ps. 96 Heb. 5:11-6:8	<i>12</i> Prov. 1:20-33 Ps. 97 Heb. 6:9-20	<i>13</i> Prov. 2 Ps. 98 Heb. 7:1-10
<i>14</i> Passion Sun Deut. 32:36-39 Ps 31 Phil. 2:5-11 Luke 23:1-56	<i>15</i> Prov. 3:1-18 Ps. 99 Heb. 7:11-28	<i>16</i> Prov. 3:19-35 Ps. 100 Heb. 8:1-13	<i>17</i> Prov. 4 Ps. 101 Heb. 9:1-10	<i>18</i> Maundy Thur Ex. 12:1-14 Ps. 116 1 Cor. 11:23-32 John 13:1-17	<i>19</i> Good Friday Is. 53 Ps. 22 Heb. 4:14-16, 5:7-9 John 19:17-30	<i>20</i> Prov. 5 Ps. 102 Heb. 9:11-28
<i>21</i> Easter Is. 65:17-25 Ps. 16 1 Cor 15:19-26 Luke 24:1-12	<i>22</i> Prov. 6:1-19 Ps. 103 Heb. 10:1-10	<i>23</i> Prov. 6:20-35 Ps. 104 Heb. 10:11-18	<i>24</i> Prov. 7 Ps. 105 Heb. 10:19-31	<i>25</i> Prov. 8:1-21 Ps. 106 Heb. 10:32-39	<i>26</i> Prov. 8:22-36 Ps. 107 Heb. 11:1-12	<i>27</i> Prov. 9 Ps. 108 Heb. 11:13-2/
<i>28</i> Prov. 10:1-17 Ps. 109 Heb. 11:29-40	<i>29</i> Prov. 10:18-32 Ps. 110 Heb. 12:1-6	<i>30</i> Prov. 11:1-15 Ps. 111 Heb. 12:7-17				 Invite a Friend to Church

LIFE HACKS

- ◆ Do not use chemicals to kill ants. Instead, get a spray bottle, fill it with water and salt (255), shake well, spray.... Boom, dead!
- ◆ Nine foods that get rid of an upset stomach: Bananas, Ginger, Plain yogurt, Papaya, Apple Sauce, Oatmeal, White Rice, Chamomile Tea, Chicken Broth.
- ◆ Running your Bacon under cold water before cooking will reduce shrinking by up to 50%
- ◆ Use the bottom portion of an empty 2 liter pop bottle to make flavored ice for your punch bowl. It will look like a flower!
- ◆ At Shell gas stations, press the button on the side of the air pump three times. The pump will start without having to insert coins. (Good luck on finding a station around here)
- ◆ Putting a small amount of 7up in a flower vase will preserve them for much longer.
- ◆ Can't afford Microsoft Word? Get "open office," it's the same thing except it's free and has more features. (Haven't looked at this yet. I wonder if you can transfer your files over it "open office")
- ◆ Holding a banana peel over a bruise (for 10 to 39 minutes), will remove it's color!
- ◆ If you're in an area where you should have cell phone service but don't, put your phone on airplane mode and then switch back. This will cause your phone to register and find all the towers in our vicinity.
- ◆ Baking soda catalyzes Superglue. A light sprinkle will cause even a large amount to set in seconds!
- ◆ If you peel a banana from the bottom, you won't have to pick the little "stringy things" off of it.
- ◆ When approaching a door look for the hinges. If you see them, pull. In not, push. This will help you avoid some embarrassing moments!
- ◆ Eat more marshmallows! Marshmallows relieve toothaches, asthma, sore throats, and arthritis. (I wonder if this is grandma's prescription?)
- ◆ Never feed bread to ducks. They can't digest it properly and it could kill them.
- ◆ According to a study, smelling rubbing alcohol can relieve nausea almost instantly.
- ◆ Falling air pressure causes pain in bird's ears, so if birds are flying low to the ground it almost always means a thunderstorm is coming.

From 1000hacklife.com

Life Is a Gift



Travis and Ashley Holland are the proud parents of Hazel Ivy Holland born of March 22, 2019.

Hazel weighs 6 lbs. 12 oz. and 19" long.

Both Ashley and Hazel are doing well.

Bill and Teri Trudnak are the proud grandparents.

The Journey

Every journey has a beginning and an end. The Lenten/Easter journey is just that way. We cannot begin and end on Ash Wednesday, knowing our sin and our need for God's gracious forgiveness. We cannot end the journey in the middle of Lent, just knowing the compassion of Jesus that led him to Jerusalem. We cannot end the journey in Holy Week with the Last Supper, the arrest in the garden, Jesus' trial and crucifixion or we will never hear the Good News.

Now we come to the triumphal moment in which Jesus is resurrected from the stone tomb, the moment our hearts are lifted up from darkness to the realm of glory. But we cannot even stop at the empty tomb, as Peter and John did, or we will hear but not understand the Good News.

We must be like Mary Magdalene, who knew her own weakness, acknowledged her need for the Savior that she stayed in the garden and was granted a glimpse of the risen Christ. It was in her moment of great loss and need that she became the first witness to the risen Christ. We, like Mary, yearn for our living Lord, and he comes to us in the gracious gift of a living faith.

Yet, the journey doesn't end there. It was not immediately clear to Mary or the other disciples that in Jesus' resurrection is also a promise of our own resurrection in him.

Eventually they realized that the Good News was better than they had ever imagined. Not only does God love us, but God intends to raise us, even as he raised Jesus, so that we may live forever, brothers and sisters with one another in Christ.

The journey doesn't end on Easter Day. For some folks, the journey begins and ends on Easter Day. It is sad to think that for many it may seem like Easter is good news for someone else simply because they have not made the connection. For them Easter is no more than an event on the calendar and not a renewing moment in the journey of faith. "Easter faith" creates a community that lives and celebrates the presence of the risen Christ among them. A community living out of the joy that God has done all this for us.

Could this be a description of Our Saviour Lutheran Church?

Well, where does the journey end? The journey continues into God's eternal joy. The many Easters in our lives are points of renewal, joy, hope, celebration and thanksgiving. **Our Lord constantly invites all of us to join the journey.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!



**He was bruised and brought healing!
 He was pierced and eased pain!
 He was persecuted and brought freedom!
 He was dead and brought life!
 He is risen and brings power!
 He reigns and brings Peace!
 The world can't understand him,
 The armies can't defeat Him,
 The schools can't explain Him, and The leaders can't ignore Him.
 Herod couldn't kill Him, The Pharisees couldn't confuse Him, and The people couldn't hold Him!
 Nero couldn't crush Him, Hitler couldn't silence Him,
 The New Age can't replace Him, and "Oprah" can't explain Him away!**

The Easter Lily

The Easter Lily. For many, the beautiful trumpet-shaped white flowers symbolize purity, virtue, innocence, hope and life—the spiritual essence of Easter.

History, mythology, literature, poetry and the world of art are rife with stories and images that speak of the beauty and majesty of the elegant white flowers. Often called the “white-robed apostles of hope,” lilies were found growing in the Garden of Gethsemane after Christ’s agony. Tradition has it that the beautiful white lilies sprung up where drops of Christ’s sweat fell to the ground in his final hours of sorrow and deep distress. Churches continue this tradition at Easter time by banking their altars and surrounding their crosses with masses of Easter Lilies, to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ and hope of life everlasting.

The pure white lily has long been closely associated with the Virgin Mary. In early paintings, the Angel Gabriel is pictured extending to the Virgin Mary a branch of pure white lilies, announcing that she is to be the mother of the Christ Child. In other paintings, saints are pictured bringing vases full of white lilies to Mary and the infant Jesus. St. Joseph is depicted holding a lily-branch in his hand, indicating that his wife Mary was a virgin.

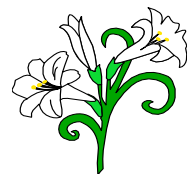
The legend is told that when the Virgin Mary’s tomb was visited three days after her burial, it was found empty save for bunches of majestic white lilies. Early writers and artists made the lily the emblem of the Annunciation, the Resurrection of the Virgin: the pure white petals signifying her spotless body and the golden anthers her soul glowing with heavenly light....

A mark of purity and grace throughout the ages, the regal white lily is a fitting symbol of the greater meaning of Easter. Gracing millions of homes and churches, the flowers embody joy, hope and life. Whether given as a gift or enjoyed in your own home, the Easter Lily serves as a beautiful reminder that Easter is a time for rejoicing and celebrating.

The following poem by Louise Lewin Matthews captures the spiritual essence of the Easter Lily:

Easter morn with lilies fair
 Fills the church with perfumes rare,
 As their clouds of incense rise,
 Sweetest offerings to the skies.
 Stately lilies pure and white
 Flooding darkness with their light,
 Bloom and sorrow drifts away,
 On this holy hallow’d day.
 Easter Lilies bending low
 in the golden afterglow,
 message from the sod.

Bear a





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



April 2019



WORSHIP SERVICES

Palm
 Sunday



April 14, 11:00 am



Good
 Friday

April 18, 7:00 pm



EASTER

April 21
 Sunrise, 7:30 am
 Worship, 11:00 am