



Our Saviour Lutheran Church

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Our Saviour's Good News

Volume XIII, Issue II

February 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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PASTOR'S VOICE

Well, Christmas is over – pack up all the decorations and now let's move into Lent! Wait, how can that be?

What a strange few weeks. Advent was short where Christmas Eve coincided with the 4th Sunday of Advent (last time that happened was in 2004), the first Sunday after Christmas was the Baptism of our Lord (skipping right over Epiphany which was Saturday) and Lent begins on February 14th, Valentine's Day. It seems we are cramming a lot into a little bit of time!

But that is ok, we look forward to these seasons and while it is nice to have time to soak in moments and reflect a little, the length of the seasons do not shake our faith. So with that, we look forward to Lent.

Last year we did a journey through the book of Jonah and dived a bit deeper on Wednesday evenings (with food, of course!) and I found it to be quite introspective. It helped me to dig up some areas that I needed to address with my faith and my spiritual growth and I hope it did the same for you.

This year, I am going to do something similar with the book of Lamentations. This often overlooked book is usually viewed as depressing and a bit confusing, but it is a wonderful and insightful book that fits into the redemptive story that explodes on Easter morning. The other interesting part is there is so much more to this book than what is initially experienced. So I hope this becomes a fresh, new look at a very old book.

So I would suggest you take your sweetheart out for a nice early dinner on Valentine's Day and then join me after for a stark reminder of our mortality and the promise of eternal life.

Grace + Peace!

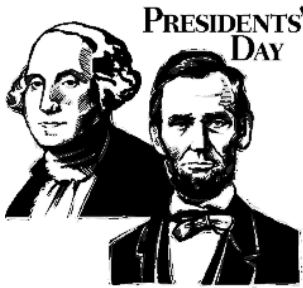
Pastor Pete

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The Season of LENT

"Lent is a time for giving things up," we tell ourselves. Yes, it is. But for a good reason. Lent is the time we remember how much our Lord Jesus Christ gave up for us. In former times, Christians were told to give up eating meat on Fridays during Lent. The reason? It was on a Friday (Good Friday) that Jesus gave up his "meat" -- his flesh, his life -- for us. So every time someone had a meatless meal on Friday, that person was supposed to think, "I'm giving up meat today because on a Friday Jesus gave up so much for me. Thank you, Jesus!"

Why did the One we have seen and heard to be God's beloved Son have to give up his life for us? The very first day of Lent, **Ash Wednesday**, tells us that story. On Ash Wednesday we learn again how Adam and Eve disobeyed the Lord God in the Garden of Eden. God had created Adam from the dust of the earth," the story said. God had given Adam and Eve everything in



PRESIDENTS' DAY

When: Since 1968, it is celebrated on the third Monday in February (15)

President's Day is a day set aside to honor all of the U.S. presidents. We often think of two great presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln when we celebrate this holiday as it falls by design between their birthdays.

But more and more of us, look at this day as a tribute to each and every person who has ever served in the office as President of the United States of America. It is a national holiday, although most businesses and industry do not recognize it as a paid holiday.

George Washington's Birthday

When: February 22nd

The "Father of His Country", George Washington was born on February 22, 1732. He became commander in chief of the Continental Army in 1775 and fought a long and arduous war for freedom from British rule. The war was finally over in 1781 when the Continental Army with the help of the French, forced Cornwallis to surrender at Yorktown.

In 1787, Washington was unanimously elected president by the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia and took the oath of office in 1789. He served two terms of office from 1789 until 1797. After the presidency, Washington retired to his home in Mount Vernon, Virginia where he died on December 14, 1799 of a throat infection.

Quiz: What is George Washington's most famous quote?

Answer... "I Can not tell a lie... .. I chopped down the Cherry Tree!"

Abraham Lincoln's Birthday

When: February 12th.

Every American knows President Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United States. "Honest Abe", as he was commonly known as, was born in the wilderness country of Hardin County, Kentucky on February 12, 1809.

Abraham Lincoln became president in 1861. Although he hated war, he was drawn into it as he believed it was the only way to save the nation after the southern states declared their secession to the Union.

In addition to serving as president during the civil war and saving the Union, Lincoln wrote the Emancipation Proclamation that ended slavery in the U.S. forever. He also wrote and gave The Gettysburg Address, memorializing the bloodiest and most important battle of the Civil War. Gettysburg proved to be the turning point of the war.

Shortly after the war ended, Abraham Lincoln became the first U.S. President to be assassinated. He was shot and mortally wounded on Good Friday, April 14, 1865 by John Wilkes Booth in Ford's Theatre.



The Dallas/High Shoals Christian Social Ministry 24th Annual Chickin N Dumplin

The 2018 Chicken-N-Dumplin will be held on Saturday, February 24, 2018, from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm at Holy Communion Lutheran Church.

With 24 years of supporting the Dallas-High Shoals Christian Ministry our community fund raiser has raised more than \$193,000+.

Our goal is to increase the church community support this year thru ticket sales and initial funds to offset the cost thereby having the full proceeds of the fund raiser going to the ministry.

This year OSLC will be manning the 3:00—5:00 pm shift and we need volunteers to help.

Once again we will request Thrivent Financials for Lutherans to join us in this fund raiser.

**Price...TBA Adults (All you can eat! Inside)
TBACHildren 12 & under**

*(Adult Tickets available thru OSLC members selling them)
(Children Tickets sold at the door only)*

**Sponsored by: The Men's Groups from the
Dallas Area Churches**

HELP NEEDED

Additional help is needed in preparation of the Chicken-N-Dumplings on Saturday, February 24 ; such as, de-boning the chicken, rolling out the dough for the dumplings, and cleaning up Friday. Saturday morning help is needed to collect the dry dumplings; cleanup and setup the room and then after the dumplings dinner help clean up the hall and kitchen. See Jeff White or Nick Vlaservich

ALSO SEE PAGE 13

Souper Bowl Sunday



FEBRUARY 4

Each year on **Souper Bowl Sunday** congregations from around the nation collect monies to be donated to local and/or regional charities. This year the we will support our local Dallas-High Shoals Christian Ministry. On Sunday, February , the baskets will be at each door of the church with their kettles for any donation you might want to give plus there will be a basket at each door of the church for canned goods. Please help fight hunger and poverty in our community by participating in **SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY.**

**Our Saviour Lutheran Church
Bill Trudnak, President
January 19, 2018**

During the January 19th Leadership Board meeting the below was elected to the Executive Committee of the Board.

- Bill Trudnak, **President**
- Bud Penley, **Vice-President**
- Melinda White, **Secretary**
- Joe Finger, **Treasurer** (appointed by Board)

Board Members on Ministry Teams:

- Facilities & Ground (Property): Bill Trudnak,
Alice Vlaservich
- Learning (Christian Ed): Melinda White
Betty Ratchford
- Praise & Worship (Worship): Teri Trudnak
- Finance & Stewardship: Steve Digh, Jeff White
- Witness: Denise Traveria
Robbie Wooten
- Fellowship/Facility
Youth Bill Trudnak
Melinda White

Ministry Representative: (appointed by Board)

- Dallas-High Shoals Christian Julie Digh
- Chicken-n-Dumplings' Jeff White

The January minutes has not be approved but the Board approved \$200 to help offset the cost for food and supplies for



The legend of Groundhog Day is based on an old Scottish couplet: "If Candlemas Day is bright and clear, there'll be two winters in the year."

Every February 2 –around 7:30 am ET - , people gather at Gobbler's Knob, a wooded knoll just outside of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania.

The ceremony in Punxsutawney was held in secret until 1966, and only Phil's prediction was revealed to the public. Since then, Phil's fearless forecast has been a national media event.

The groundhog comes out of his electrically heated burrow, looks for his shadow and utters his prediction to a Groundhog Club representative in "groundhogese." The representative then translates the prediction for the general public.

If Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow, it means six more weeks of winter. If he does not see his shadow, it means spring is just around the corner.

Phil started making predictions in 1887 and has become an American Institution. Residents contend that the groundhog has never been wrong. Approximately 90% of the time, Phil sees his shadow.

the Annual Chicken-n-Dumplings Dinner on February 24 (all participating churches contributive the same amount).. See page 2 & 8.



**LEADERSHIP BOARD MINUTES
OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH
December 18, 2017
BILL TRUDNAK, PRESIDENT**

Devotions: Bud Penley

Meeting called to order by Vice-President, Bud Penley

Those present: Steve Digh, Shirlee Marazza, Bud Penley, Alice Vlaservich, Melinda White and Robbie Wooten . Absent: Becky Messick, Teri Trudnak and Bill Trudnak

Minutes for November 20, 2017. Motion by Alice Vlaservich to approved the minutes and a seconded was give by Shirlee Marazza.

Reception of Petitions and Communications:
a. None to review this month

Report of the Pastor: Steve Digh made the motion we accept the Pastor's report for November 2017 and Bud Penley gave the second.

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

Report of the Ministries:

- a. Property: To check the roof shingles in Sanctuary for possible leak.
- b. Stewardship: No report.
- c. Worship and Music: Decorated the Sanctuary on 12/2/2017 for Christmas.
- d. Finance Ministry:
- e. Youth Team: No report.
- f. Witness Ministry: Cards and prayers continue to be sent out.
- g. Christian Education Ministries: Confirmation classes continue each Sunday morning during Sunday School hour. Emma Dease will be confirmed at the end of January. Date to be discussed.

Report of Auxiliaries:

- a. Rachel Circle: Betty Clemmer will host on Tuesday 12/19/17 for a Christmas luncheon and Alice Vlaservich will present the program.

Old and/or Unfinished Business:

- a. Discussion was given on the update of the hallway. Plans still in progress.
- b. Congregation approved the budget.

New Business:

- a. Discussion on a visitation schedule for the sick and shut-in. To further discuss with Pastor Feige.
- b. VBS was discussed for the upcoming year. OSLC is the host church and will need committed volunteers in order to fill this obligation. Prayfully consider your time and talents to this ministry.
- c.

General Information:

- a. Attendance Record.
- b. Accepted Roger's (Rodger's) Construction Co. agreement of using the church's parking lot for a monthly fee of \$500. Confirmation to be made on that amount and also when they plan to begin the project.
- c. Newly elected Board members: Betty Ratchford, Denise Traveria,

(Lent cont'd from page 1)

But they were tempted by Satan and they disobeyed. God confronted them in the Garden: "What have you done?" and reminded them of the consequences: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return." That's why many Christians observe Ash Wednesday by wearing ashes on their foreheads. That's also why the Scripture readings for Ash Wednesday urge us to "return to the Lord, your God" by confessing our sins and seeking God's forgiveness ("Create in me a clean heart, O God").

Those are thoughts we should try to keep on our minds throughout the Lenten season.

The **First Sunday of Lent** gets us off to a good start. The Gospel reading in all three years (Lectionary Series A, B, and C) deals with our Lord's going to the wilderness after he was baptized by John in the Jordan River. (We celebrate our Lord's baptism, remember, on the Sunday after Epiphany, which was January 6. We should maybe celebrate Ash Wednesday the very next week--except that we had all that important Epiphany season stuff to learn about Jesus, and if we are going to live the story, it's a good idea to have all the pieces in place, even if that takes us a while to do.)

A couple of items to note here. One is that the length of time Jesus spent in the wilderness was 40 days. That's how long our season of Lent is, and that's probably why. But in Jesus' day, those 40 days in the wilderness were probably supposed to remind his followers of the 40 years the children of Israel spent in the wilderness after they had crossed the Red Sea on their way to the Promised Land. Can crossing the sea be a foreshadowing of Jesus' baptism? Both of these events involved coming through water, didn't they? And both of them, in a way, marked something wonderful God has done to be a Savior for his people (your baptism certainly does that, doesn't it?)

Another item to note is what was about to happen in the wilderness. The devil was waiting there to try to tempt Jesus to sin. We recognize the tactic, because we saw it back in the Garden of Eden, where the serpent was just waiting for Eve to come by. The devil is still trying to get people to "return to dust." The season of Lent does a good job of reminding us of that.

But we are not alone in the wilderness. Our Lord Jesus is with us here. And so is the family of God has made us part of, going all the way back to Abraham and Sarah, whom we meet on the **Second Sunday in Lent** as God promises to bless them.

As we move through the season of Lent, then, we continue to see temptations to sin--look for them every week--and the dreadful result of sin--look for that too. By the **Fifth Sunday of Lent** we come face to face with death. But, as was the case in the Garden of Eden, we also continue to see a God who is "gracious and merciful--and abounding in steadfast love," a God who is willing to sacrifice in order that people might be rescued from the results of their sin. If "we are dust," Jesus is with us in this wilderness, sharing our dust--our humanity--and eventually sharing its outcome. For our sakes, he will "return to dust" and die.

That is why the Church has chosen to make its observance of Lent a somber affair. "Lent is a time for giving things up," we say. Even in our worship, many churches "give up" joyful music for a while, and joyful colors. Some congregations (like ours) do not



have flowering plants in the chancel during this solemn

February 4

The **Boy Scouts of America (BSA)** is one of the largest youth organizations in the United States, with over four

million youth members in its age-related divisions. In 1909, Chicago publisher W. D. Boyce was visiting London, where he encountered the Unknown Scout and learned of the Scouting movement. Soon after his return to the U.S., Boyce incorporated the Boy Scouts of America on February 8, 1910. Since its founding in 1910 as part of the international Scout Movement, more than 110 million Americans have been members of the BSA.

The BSA goal is to train youth in responsible citizenship, character development, and self-reliance through participation in a wide range of outdoor activities, educational programs, and, at older age levels, career-oriented programs in partnership with community organizations. For younger members, the Scout method is part of the program to inculcate typical Scouting values such as trustworthiness, good citizenship, and outdoors skills, through a variety of activities such as camping, aquatics, and hiking.

The BSA is a constituent member of the World Organization of the Scout Movement. The traditional Scouting divisions are *Cub Scouting* for boys ages 7–10, *Boy Scouting* for boys ages 11–18 and *Venturing* for young men and women ages 14–21. Learning for Life is a non-traditional subsidiary that provides in-school and career education. The BSA operates traditional Scouting locally through units sponsored and operated by churches, clubs, civic associations, educational organizations and the like. Units are led entirely by volunteers who are supported by local councils using both paid professionals and volunteers.

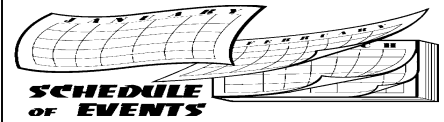
The influence of Scouting on American society is frequently cited by both its advocates and critics. In addition to nostalgic memories of campfires kindling friendships, prominent leaders in various fields of endeavor have credited the skills they learned in Scouting as helping mold them into successful citizens.

The BSA's stated purpose at its incorporation in 1910 was "to teach [boys] patriotism, courage, self-reliance, and kindred values. Later, in 1937, Deputy Chief Scout Executive George J. Fisher expressed the BSA's mission; "Each generation as it comes to maturity has no more important duty than that of teaching high ideals and proper behavior to the generation which follows." The current mission statement of the BSA is "to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law."

February 2018



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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 February 4	 February 19			1	2 	3
4 5th Sunday after the Epiphany	5 Team Mtg.	6 Wake-Up Church	7	7	9	10
 11	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13	ASH WEDNESDAY 	15	16	17
18 1st Sunday in Lent	19 Council Mtg.	20	21 Lenten Service	22 Washington's Birthday	23	24
25 2nd Sunday in Lent	26 CLW/Rachel Group	27	28 Lenten Service	AFRICAN-AMERICAN History Month 		

- Feb. 1-28—Black History Month
- Feb. 2—Ground Hog Day (see p 2)
- Feb. 4— The Transfiguration of Our Lord
Holy Communion
SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY (see p 2)
Boy Scout Sunday (see p 4)
- Feb. 5— Team Meetings:
Youth 6:30 pm
Others 7:00 pm
- Feb. 6—Gaston Together (see p 8)
- Feb. 8—Boys Scout of America founded 1910
- Feb. 11— The Transfiguration of Our Lord
- Feb. 12—Lincoln's Birthday (see p 2)
- Feb. 13—Shrove Tuesday
- Feb. 14— ASH WEDNESDAY
Valentine Day
- Feb. 18—1st Sunday in Lent
- Feb. 19— Presidents' Day
Council Meeting—7:00 pm
- Feb. 20—"Prayer Group" will meet at the home of Shirlee Marazza at 1:30 pm
- Feb. 21—Lenten Service
- Feb. 22—Washington's Birthday (see p 2)
- Feb. 24—Chicken-n-Dumplin'
- Feb. 25—2nd Sunday in Lent
- Feb. 26—CLW/Rachel Group Meeting at the home of TBA (See p 8)
- Feb. 28—Lenten Service



Holy Communion Schedule:
 Feb. 4: Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Worship Service Assistance:

Altar Guild: Betty Clemmer
 Shirlee Marazza

Acolyte: Nick Vlaservich

Crucifer: None

Communion Asst: Yvonne Finger

Lay Reader: Yvonne Finger

Worship Asst: Nick Vlaservich

Greeters: OSLC Members

Ushers: Jeff White



FOOD FOR THE MONTH:
Soup, Mac n Chesse, Beanie Weenies.



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

Birthdays



- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 1 Tony Trudnak | Rob Trudnak |
| 8 Jared Dease | Kathy Trudnak |
| 9 Donna Clemmer | Becky Messick |
| 14 Teri Trudnak | Ashley Trudnak |
| 19 Melanie Pitzer | |
| 20 Brady Cole | |



ANNIVERSARIES

- 9thJim & Joann Scarborough
 14thNick & Alice Vlaservich
 27thBrian & Anna Cole

FLOWERS

Flower Schedule:

- Feb. 4 Pete Feige
- Feb. 11 Nick Vlaservich
- Feb. 18 Lent
- Feb. 25 Lent

Please sign up to place flowers on the altar in the Glory of God and in Honor or Memory of your love ones.

Plenty of openings (15)
 Decorate the altar of our Lord
 And then take home to decorate your home of give to a love one of shut-in



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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

Ralph Summey
 1612 Dallas-Cherryville Hwy., Dallas

Jerri Presley
 2604 Ole Home Trail, Dallas
 (If others, please let the church office know)



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

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

God will bless you in your generosity.

**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

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

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

The Origin of St. Valentine

The origin of St. Valentine, and how many St. Valentines there were, remains a mystery. One opinion is that he was a Roman martyred for refusing to give up his Christian faith. Other historians hold that St. Valentine was a temple priest jailed for defiance during the reign of Claudius. Whoever he was, Valentine really existed because archaeologists have unearthed a Roman catacomb and an ancient church dedicated to Saint Valentine. In 496 AD Pope Gelasius marked February 14th as a celebration in honor of his martyrdom.

Saints are not supposed to rest in peace; they're expected to keep busy: to perform miracles, to intercede. Being in jail or dead is no excuse for non-performance of the supernatural. One legend says, while awaiting his execution, Valentinus restored the sight of his jailer's blind daughter. Another legend says, on the eve

of his death, he penned a farewell note to the jailer's daughter, signing it, "From your Valentine."

St. Valentine was a Priest, martyred in 269 at Rome and was buried on the Flaminian Way. He is the Patron Saint of affianced couples, bee keepers, engaged couples, epilepsy, fainting, greetings, happy marriages, love, lovers, plague, travelers, young people. He is represented in pictures with birds and roses.

A Stewardship Minute

The February issue of *Stewardship* focuses on what the writer of the leading article calls "true giving." True giving has to do with love and sacrifice. It has to do with you need a Pastor, please contact Pastor Pete Feige at 704-516-2805 or our office at 704-922-4648. Check out our website at oslc-nc.org or email us at oslcdallas@aol.com.

o with one's mindset, which involves making a serious commitment of one's whole being to God. We should not forget John 3:16 that says: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."

How does one respond to such love as that? Shouldn't it be with our whole being? And that means dedicating our body, mind, and spirit to loving and serving God in whatever way we can.

Some years ago a beloved seminary professor named Thomas Kepler died and at his funeral a fellow teacher revealed the secret of Dr. Kepler's life. He told how a note was found with some of his possessions, which read something like the following: "On this night I make a vow to take upon myself all saintly disciplines. I will pray throughout the day. I will teach lovingly, treat others kindly, and give of my time and talent in service as much as possible. I will care deeply and consistently for my family. I will

give generously to our church and service organizations. With the help of our loving Creator, I intend to become a saint in this life. Then he signed his name: Thomas Kepler."

Did he achieve his goal? It is doubtful any of his students would speak negatively of him. He had all the markings of a saint and had everything but a halo. Might any of us vow to become a saint? At the very least we should strive to become a dedicated steward!

Prayer: Holy Father: Fill us with your Holy Spirit so that we may, with your help, become the kind of servants you desire. **Amen**



LENTEN SERVICES

Ash Wednesday and Lent

Each year the life of the Church moves with certain rhythms and patterns. One of those is the seasons of the Church year. Although we are currently in the season of Epiphany, a time when we remember how God has revealed His glory through His Son, Ash Wednesday and Lent are just around the corner. Once again, this year, on Ash Wednesday (February 14) we will come together to worship hearing God's call to repentance for our various sins and receive ashes placed on our foreheads as a sign of our mortality, repentance, sacrifice for the sake of our Lord, and to acknowledge the authority of our Lord in our lives.

Each Wednesday evening during the season of Lent we will gather around table for food and fellowship as God's people, and as we have the past couple years, we will share in a time of worship with Holy Scripture, prayer, and song to help Lenten devotions. This year our Lenten worship will focus on the book of Lamentations. This often overlooked book is usually viewed as depressing and a bit confusing, but it is a wonderful and insightful book that fits into the redemptive story that explodes on Easter morning. The other interesting part is there is so much more to this book than what is initially experienced. So I hope this becomes a fresh, new look at a very old book. We hope you will join us each week for the meal at 6:00 pm and our time of Lenten worship at 7:00pm.

MEAL SIGN-UP SHEET ON BULLETIN BOARD

IMAGES AND WORDS OF LENT

LENT: An Anglo-Saxon word meaning "Spring."

FORTY DAYS: The number 40 is attached to historic events—the flood, Moses' days on Mt Sinai, the Israelites' wandering in the wilderness, Jesus' fasting and prayer in the wilderness before beginning his ministry.

JESUS IN THE WILDERNESS: A period of spiritual preparation--just as the 40 days of Lent are to prepare us for the Easter celebration.

PSALM 51 is a Psalm of repentance, just as Lent is a time for repentance.

COLORS VIOLET AND BLACK in church (violet - for repentance- during most of Lent and black--for mourning--on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.



Church News



If you need a Pastor, please contact Pastor Pete Feige at 704-516-2805 or our office at 704-922-4648. Check out our website at oslc-nc.org or email us at oslcdallas@aol.com.

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**GASTON TOGETHER'S CLERGY & CITIZENS COALITION**

February 13, 2018  
 8:30 am to Noon  
 Clinton Room, Gaston Memorial Hospital  
 Breakfast before meeting , if you wish



**CELL PHONES:**

As every day goes by, we find ourselves more and more dependent on our cell phone and less dependent on our land line with any answering machine. To help the Church keep you informed quickly, the Church council is requesting you provide us with your cell phone.... To do this please records it on our Sunday's worship form. Thank you



## CLW/RACHEL GROUP

will meet at the home of TBA  
 February 26<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm

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



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), KAREN Braddy, COLEEN Cloninger (friend of community), ANN Digh (Steve Digh's mother-colon cancer HUNTER Digh (Steve and Julie Digh's nephew - cancer), MARILYN Finger, LEVI Friday (Joan Scarborough's nephew) CHARLIE Fox (friend of the Ratchford's), ROBERT Gentile (friend of Shirlee Marazza-heart attack), ANNA Harbour (CDIFF-Shirlee Marazza's granddaughter), DOUG Hoffman (friend of Bill Trudnak-unknown C(friend of the community), ELAINE Kanupp (friend of the Digh's—colon cancer), BOB Lewis (friend of Shana Dease), HALEY Mauney (brain blockage-daughter of Julie Digh;s co-worker), 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 (Ursula Peedin's great-grandson- leukemia), JANICE and JOHNNY Pendleton (grandparents of Raygan Carpenter - Janice has strokes), SONDRRA Phillips (friend of Melinda White) JERRIE Presley, BERNICE—Leon Rawlinson's mother, LEIGH Sellers (college friend's daughter of Libby Bickley), RALPH Summey, KIM Tucker (friend of Joann Scarborough-heart surgery) GARY Turner (father of Jason Murray), SHERREE B Turner (mother of Jason Turner), KELLY Walters (mother of Brie Murray), LISA Walters (Brie and Emma Murray's aunt -cancer), ANNE White (niece of Betty Ratchford-breast cancer), LORI Wood (Steve Digh's cousin-colon cancer).

**GOD WANTS YOU!**

- (1) God wants you to participate in His worship service for **2018** by servicing as a worship assistant as a Crucifer, Greeter or Usher  
 See the sign up sheet on the hallway wall and please help.
- (2) New Flower Calendar is up. Please remember your love ones and also help decorate our Lord's altar. **Cost of Flowers has increased to \$35.10 There are 15 openings**



## *The History and Meaning of Ash Wednesday*

*By Dr. Richard P. Bucher*

Ash Wednesday is the name given to the first day of the season of Lent, in which the Pastor applies ashes to the foreheads of Christians to signify an inner repentance. But what is the history and the meaning of this Christian holy day?

Ash Wednesday, originally called *dies cinerum* (day of ashes) is mentioned in the earliest copies of the Gregorian Sacramentary, and probably dates from at least the 8th Century. One of the earliest descriptions of Ash Wednesday is found in the writings of the Anglo-Saxon abbot Aelfric (955-1020). In his *Lives of the Saints*, he writes, "We read in the books both in the Old Law and in the New that the men who repented of their sins bestrewed themselves with ashes and clothed their bodies with sackcloth. Now let us do this little at the beginning of our Lent that we strew ashes upon our heads to signify that we ought to repent of our sins during the Lenten fast." Aelfric then proceeds to tell the tale of a man who refused to go to church for the ashes and was accidentally killed several days later in a boar hunt! This quotation confirms what we know from other sources, that throughout the Middle Ages ashes were sprinkled on the head, rather than anointed on the forehead as in our day.

As Aelfric suggests, the pouring of ashes on one's body (and dressing in sackcloth, a very rough material) as an outer manifestation of inner repentance or mourning is an ancient practice. It is mentioned several times in the Old Testament. What is probably the earliest occurrence is found at the very end of the book of Job. Job, having been rebuked by God, confesses, "Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:6). Other examples are found in 2 Samuel 13:19, Esther 4:1,3, Isaiah 61:3, Jeremiah 6:26, Ezekiel 27:30, and Daniel 9:3. In the New Testament,

Jesus alludes to the practice in Matthew 11:21: "Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes."

In the typical Ash Wednesday observance, Christians are invited to the altar to receive the imposition of ashes, prior to receiving the holy Supper. The Pastor applies ashes in the shape of the cross on the forehead of each, while speaking the words, "For dust you are and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). This is of course what God spoke to Adam and Eve after they eat of the forbidden fruit and fallen into sin. These words indicated to our first parents the bitterest fruit of their sin, namely death. In the context of the Ash Wednesday imposition of ashes, they remind each penitent of their sinfulness and mortality, and, thus, their need to repent and get right with God before it is too late. The cross reminds each penitent of the good news that through Jesus Christ crucified there is forgiveness for all sins, all guilt, and all punishment.

Many Christians choose to leave the ashes on their forehead for the remainder of the day, not to be showy and boastful (see Matthew 6:16-18). Rather, they do it as a witness that all people are sinners in need of repentance AND that through Jesus all sins are forgiven through faith.

Ash Wednesday, like the season of Lent, is never mentioned in Scripture and is not commanded by God. Christians are free to either observe or not observe it. It also should be obvious that the imposition of ashes, like similar external practices, are meaningless, even hypocritical, unless there is a corresponding inner repentance and change of behavior. This is made clear in Isaiah 58:5-7 when God says,

Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for a man to humble himself?

Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed and for lying on sackcloth and ashes? Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? 6 "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? 7 Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter-- when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?"

With this in mind, however, the rite of ashes on Ash Wednesday is heartily recommended to the Christian as a grand opportunity for repentance and spiritual renewal within the framework of confession and absolution. A blessed Ash Wednesday observance to all.

# 24th Annual Fundraising Event

*Together, Let's Stand Up, Speak Up!*

*"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed. Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless, and see that they get justice." Proverbs 31:8-9*



**March 8, 2018**

**First Assembly of God, Gastonia**

**Keynote Speaker:**

**MEET, GREET, & EAT**

**5:30 to 6:30 p.m.**

**Pew: \$100.00, Ticket \$15.00**

**Request a pew seating 5-10 people.**

**Music Entertainment**

**Interlude: 6:30-7:00 p.m.**

**PROGRAM Begins at 7 p.m.**

**PROGRAM ONLY Doors Open  
at 6:30**

**Call to reserve a block  
of PROGRAM ONLY seating.**

**Contact Meg Koontz,  
Banquet Coordinator**

**704.867.3706**

**Meg.Koontz.CPC@gmail.com**

**Dr. Ron Archer**

Dr. Ron Archer is a Best Selling Author, Business Executive, NFL Consultant, Military Leadership Consultant, Corporate Leadership Trainer, Presidential Advisor, TV Pundit and he serves as an Envoy to Latin America, Africa, Europe and Korea. He is also the leader of a Global Human Rights Movement through-out Africa and Latin America. Dr. Archer was awarded the Martin Luther King Leadership Award for his work developing the hearts, hands and habits of third world leaders to transform their nations from chaos to collaboration. Ron Archer has cultivated an extensive following reaching more than 250,000 people a year through speaking engagements alone, and over a million through satellite simulcasts.

Born prematurely to a 16 year old single mother in the ghetto of Cleveland, Ohio, Archer was born with a severe learning disability and stuttering disorder. His life was plagued by extreme poverty, ridicule, physical abuse and sexual abuse. Through his compelling life story you will clearly see a journey that led him from pain to power, from wounds to wisdom, and from failure to fortune. The Lord led him from the out-house of life to the White House where he served as an advisor to several U.S. Presidents, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Foreign Prime Ministers and other world leaders.

**CRISIS  
PREGNANCY  
CENTER**  
OF GASTON COUNTY, INC.

## Crisis Pregnancy Center of Gaston County

We at Crisis Pregnancy Center of Gaston County, Inc. would like to welcome you to our center. Our 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.

Questioned frequently asked:

- Where can a pregnant women go for physical help and emotional support
- Where can a a new mom or dad go for resources and support for their newborn to twelve month old?
- Where can a pregnant teenager go for support, advice and mentoring?
- Where can a woman carrying the guilt of an abortion go for healing and support?
- Where can a teen hear the truth of Purity and practical ways to live an Abstinent lifestyle?

The answer to all those questions is Crisis Pregnancy.

Since 1986, Crisis Pregnancy Center of Gaston County has offered all of our servies for free thanks to the donations and support of individuals, churches and businesses across Gaston County.

### Now, how can we serve you?

- |                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pregnancy test</li> <li>• Adolescent Parenting</li> <li>• Baby Clothes</li> <li>• Diapers</li> <li>• Formula</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peer Counseling</li> <li>• Abstinence Education</li> <li>• Car Seats</li> <li>• Wipes</li> <li>• Baby Food</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ultrasound</li> <li>• Maternity Clothes</li> <li>• Pack &amp; Plays</li> <li>• Baby Supplies</li> <li>• Blankets and more</li> </ul> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## Opportunity for 2018

### 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraising Banquet March 8

With Dr. Ron Archie, keynote  
(INTERESTED IN GOING? See Marie Robinson)  
SEE PAGE 10

### Baby Bottle Blessings

**May 13 till June 17**

Mother's Day till Father's Day

### 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk for Life

**September 9, Friday 4—8**

### Volunteer Training

**Starting March 26 and September 22**

*Call Rhonda or CPCGaston.Counselor@gmail.com*

(see brochure enclosed)

## 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.

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

# February

| Sun                                                                                                                    | Mon                                                                           | Tue                                                                            | Wed                                                                                                                     | Thu                                                                         | Fri                                                                          | Sat                                                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                        |                                                                               |                                                                                |                                                                                                                         | <b>1</b><br><i>Gen. 24:32-66</i><br><i>Ps. 30</i><br><i>Matt. 15:1-20</i>   | <b>2</b><br><i>Gen. 25:1-18</i><br><i>Ps. 31</i><br><i>Matt. 15:21-39</i>    | <b>3</b><br><i>Gen. 25:19-21:11</i><br><i>Ps. 32</i><br><i>Matt. 16:1-20</i> |
| <b>4</b><br><i>Gen. 26:12-34</i><br><i>Ps. 33</i><br><i>Matt. 16:21-28</i>                                             | <b>5</b><br><i>Gen. 27:1-40</i><br><i>Ps. 34</i><br><i>Matt. 17:1-21</i>      | <b>6</b><br><i>Gen. 27:41-28:9</i><br><i>Ps. 35</i><br><i>Matt. 17:22-18:6</i> | <b>7</b><br><i>Gen. 28:10-29:14</i><br><i>Ps. 36</i><br><i>Matt. 18:7-20</i>                                            | <b>8</b><br><i>Gen. 29:14-29</i><br><i>Ps. 37</i><br><i>Matt. 18:21-35</i>  | <b>9</b><br><i>Gen. 30:1-24</i><br><i>Ps. 38</i><br><i>Matt. 19:1-15</i>     | <b>10</b><br><i>Gen. 30:25-43</i><br><i>Ps. 39</i><br><i>Matt. 19:16-30</i>  |
| <b>11</b> <u>Transfiguration</u><br><i>Ex 34:29-35</i><br><i>Ps. 50</i><br><i>2 Cor. 3:12-4:6</i><br><i>Mark 9:2-9</i> | <b>12</b><br><i>Gen 31:1-24</i><br><i>Ps. 40</i><br><i>Matt. 20:1-16</i>      | <b>13</b><br><i>Gen. 31:25-55</i><br><i>Ps. 41</i><br><i>Matt. 20:17-34</i>    | <b>14</b> <u>Ash Wednesday</u><br><i>Joel 2:12-19</i><br><i>Ps. 51</i><br><i>2 Cor. 5:20-6:10</i><br><i>Matt. 6:1-6</i> | <b>15</b><br><i>Gen. 32</i><br><i>Ps 42</i><br><i>Matt 21:1-17</i>          | <b>16</b><br><i>Gen. 33</i><br><i>Ps. 43</i><br><i>Matt. 21:18-27</i>        | <b>17</b><br><i>Gen. 34</i><br><i>Ps. 44</i><br><i>Matt. 21:28-44</i>        |
| <b>18</b><br><i>Gen. 35:1-15</i><br><i>Ps. 45</i><br><i>Matt. 21:45-22:14</i>                                          | <b>19</b><br><i>Gen. 35:16-36:9</i><br><i>Ps. 46</i><br><i>Matt. 22:15-33</i> | <b>20</b><br><i>Gen. 36:10-43</i><br><i>Ps. 47</i><br><i>Matt. 22:34-46</i>    | <b>21</b><br><i>Gen. 37:1-12</i><br><i>Ps. 48</i><br><i>Matt. 23:1-22</i>                                               | <b>22</b><br><i>Gen. 37:13-36</i><br><i>Ps. 49</i><br><i>Matt. 23:23-36</i> | <b>23</b><br><i>Gen. 38:1-12</i><br><i>Ps. 50</i><br><i>Matt. 23:37-24:2</i> | <b>24</b><br><i>Gen. 38:13-30</i><br><i>Ps. 51</i><br><i>Matt. 24:3-14</i>   |
| <b>25</b><br><i>Gen. 39</i><br><i>Ps. 52</i><br><i>Matt. 24:15-35</i>                                                  | <b>26</b><br><i>Gen. 40</i><br><i>Ps. 53</i><br><i>Matt. 24:36-25:13</i>      | <b>27</b><br><i>Gen. 41:1-40</i><br><i>Ps. 54</i><br><i>Matt. 25:14-30</i>     | <b>28</b><br><i>Gen. 41:41-57</i><br><i>Ps. 55</i><br><i>Matt. 25:31-46</i>                                             |                                                                             |                                                                              |                                                                              |
|                                                                                                                        |                                                                               |                                                                                |                                                                                                                         |                                                                             |                                                                              |                                                                              |



## 2018 Feb. Mission Emphasis – DHSCSM

"...and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love kindness and to walk humbly with your God." ---Micah 6:8

### *OUR MISSION*

The mission of The Dallas/High Shoals Christian Social Ministry (DHSCSM) is to serve as a cooperative ministry of the area churches in bearing witness to the Love of God made visible in Jesus Christ through acts of compassion and mercy by providing crisis assistance, humanitarian aid and developmental (self improvement) opportunities to persons and families in the North Gaston area.

### *OUR HISTORY*

In an effort to enhance the quality of life for all the citizens in the North Gaston area and in response to a number of urgent needs, The Dallas Ministerial Association (DMA), initiated a local food pantry which soon became known as The Dallas/High Shoals Christian Social Ministry. For more than 34 years, DHSCSM has served faithfully in the North Gaston Community and continues to receive generous and wide spread support from both the area churches and the local community.

### *A COOPERATIVE EFFORT*

DHSCSM in an effort to enhance the quality of life for all the citizens in the North Gaston area and in response to a number of urgent needs, The Dallas Ministerial Association (DMA), initiated a local food pantry which soon became known as The Dallas/High Shoals Christian Social Ministry. For more than 35 years, DHSCSM has served faithfully and continues to receive generous and wide spread support from both the area churches and the local community.

### **TWO DHSCSM MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES FOR OSLC THIS MONTH:**

Souper  
Bowl Sunday

- **Souper Bowl Sunday – February 4, 2018:** Bring soup (and other canned goods) for DHSCSM There will be containers in the hallway for the cans



- **Chicken Dumpling Dinner—Eat in or Take-Out**  
Place: Holy Communion Lutheran Church Corner of South Gaston and Church Streets  
Day: Saturday, February 24, 2018  
Time: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Price: Adults (TBA ) Children: (TBA)



This is an excellent opportunity for the folks in our churches to build bridges beyond our denominational boundaries, to develop new friendships, to bear witness to our oneness in Christ and to share in Christ's call to faithfulness and discipleship. It is crucial that we support this effort in order to help the local congregations provide a stronger witness and greater level of servanthood as we work toward a more constructive partnership between government, business, civic and the religious sectors of our community. These efforts can also help foster a more stable and healthy quality of life for all. Over the previous nineteen years, the annual Chicken 'N Dumplin' FEAST has provided in excess of \$154,038 in support of the Dallas/High Shoals Christian Social Ministry.

**DHSCSM is the February Mission opportunity** for you to participate in locally.

- **Pray** for the organization, its staff, those who come to receive food, clothes, financial emergency support for their unpaid medical, electrical, and gas bills, will be encouraged by the words of care and concern spoken in Jesus' Name.
- **Bring cans of soup** (or other canned goods) on Souper Bowl Sunday – Feb. 4
- **Participate** in Chicken 'N Dumplin' Feast – February 24. Go on Friday and help roll out and cut dumplin's or cook and cut up the chicken. Be one of the guys who helps to serve the food at the dinner. Come with family, friends, or alone and enjoy the delicious feast. Drop-in 11-7





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



# Souper Bowl Sunday



Febru-  
ary  
2018



**Don't forget to bring can goods on  
February 4.**