



Our Saviour's Good News

Volume XII, Issue IV

April 2017

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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Maundy Thursday

"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed and broke it, and gave it to them

and said, 'Take, this is my Body.' And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, and they all drank of it. And He said to them, 'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.'" Mark 14:12-25

Finally, after many weeks of Lenten discipline and observance, we arrive at the Upper Room, where Jesus institutes the Last Supper. How wonderful that the meal Jesus shared with His disciples that night so long ago, we continue to share with Him today.

The meaning of the liturgy of the Lord's Supper is not that we are whisked back in time, as with the old TV show, "You Are There." Rather, in the doing of the liturgy, in the reading of the account of the Last Supper, we participate in the Eucharist in our own time. It's not that we are there, but that Christ Jesus is here, as He incarnates Himself once again, saying in our midst, "This is my Body; This is my Blood of the New Covenant."

The word that is used to describe and explain this reality is "anamnesis." It is most often translated as "remembrance," as in "Do this for the remembrance of me." It might be better for us to leave the original word, "Do this for the anamnesis of me," because no English word translates it accurately. It means, in "doing this," Jesus is re-actualized among us, re-presented among us as the Risen Lord, offering Himself to us in the bread and wine which become His real, true, actual Body and Blood.

As we gather at table with Jesus tonight, we are the disciples—we are the twelve, with Jesus as our Presiding Minister the Great High Priest offering not an animal, but Himself for our forgiveness and salvation. And we receive Him, forgiven, redeemed, say-

ing "Thanks be to God!"

Almighty God, in the Lord's Supper, grant that we may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent, that we may have eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Good Friday

You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your fathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot." I Peter 1:10-20

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world. Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world. Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world. Grant us peace. Amen.

With this hymn, the Agnus Dei, we honor the Lamb who was slain, sacrificed on the cross as one without blemish or spot. Our commemoration of Christ's sacrifice is especially meaningful when we view it in light of the sacrificial system instituted by God for the Israelites in Leviticus. The Lord God provided the many sacrifices in the tabernacle and later the Temple in Jerusalem to provide atonement, forgiveness and restored holiness in order to be in God's presence.

Now, the various animal and grain sacrifices and offerings are ended, replaced by the once-for-all sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, truly the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. And why? Why did Jesus become the sacrifice?

To bring us peace. Peace that is not just the end of strife, the end of war, the end of terrorism and bloodshed in our world. Rather, the peace that Jesus died to bring is peace between God and His children—the restoration of the relationship that was broken by human sin and disobedience.

(Good cont'd on page 2)

Why did Jesus fold the napkin?

Why did Jesus fold the linen burial cloth after His resurrection?

The Gospel of John 20:7) tells us that the napkin, which was placed over the face of Jesus, was not just thrown aside like the grave clothes. The bible takes an entire verse to tell us that the napkin was neatly folded, and was placed separate from the grave clothes. Early Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, 'They have taken the Lord's body out of the tomb, and I don't know where they have put him!' Peter and the other disciple ran to the tomb to see... The other disciple outran Peter and got there first. He stooped and looked in and saw the linen cloth lying there, but he didn't go in. Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying to the side...

Was that important? Absolutely! Is it really significant? Yes!

In order to understand the significance of the folded napkin, you have to understand a little bit about Hebrew tradition of that day. The folded napkin had to do with the Master and Servant, and every Jewish boy knew this tradition.

When the servant set the dinner table for the master, he made sure it was exactly the way the master wanted it.

The table was furnished perfectly, and then the servant would wait, just out of sight, until the master had finished eating, and the servant would not dare touch that table, until the master was finished.

Now if the master was done eating, he would rise from the table, wipe his fingers, his mouth, and clean his beard, and would wad up that napkin and toss it onto the table...

The servant would then know to clear the table. For in those days, the wadded napkin meant, 'I'm done'.

But if the master got up from the table, and folded his napkin, and laid it beside his plate, the servant would not dare touch the table, because.....

The folded napkin meant, *"I'm coming back!"*

What is Easter?

What do Christians Celebrate on Easter?

By Mary Fairchild

On Easter Sunday, Christians celebrate the resurrection of the Lord, Jesus Christ. It is typically the most well-attended Sunday service of the year for Christian churches.

Christians believe according to Scripture, that Jesus came back to life, or was raised from the dead, three days after his death on the cross. As part of the Easter season, the death of Jesus Christ by crucifixion, is commemorated on Good Friday, always the Friday just before Easter. Through his death, burial and resurrection, Jesus paid the penalty for sin, thus purchasing for all who believe in him, eternal life in Christ Jesus.

In Western Christianity, Easter marks the ending of Lent, a 40-day period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline in preparation for Easter. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter Sunday. Eastern Orthodox churches observe Lent or Great Lent, during the 6 weeks or 40 days preceding Palm Sunday with fasting continuing during the Holy Week of Easter. Lent for Eastern Orthodox churches begins on Monday and Ash Wednesday is not observed.

Because of Easter's pagan origins, and also because of the commercialization of Easter, many Christian churches have begun to refer to it as Resurrection Day.

The biblical account of Jesus' death on the cross, or crucifixion, his burial and his resurrection, or raising from the dead, can be found in the following passages of Scripture: Matthew 27:27-28:8; Mark 15:16-16:19; Luke 23:26-24:35; and John 19:16-20:30.

In Western Christianity, Easter is always celebrated on the Sunday immediately following the Paschal Full Moon. I had previously, and somewhat erroneously stated, "Easter is always celebrated on the Sunday immediately following the first full moon after the vernal (spring) equinox." This statement was true prior to 325 AD; however, over the course of history (beginning in 325 AD with the Council of Nicea), the Western Church decided to established a more standardized system for determining the date of Easter.



(Good cont's from page 1)

Now, in Him, that relationship is healed, so that in Christ Jesus we may approach the presence of God without fear. Now, in Jesus, we are at peace with God the Father!

Lord Jesus Christ, Lamb of God, have mercy on us and grant us peace with God the Father, through your sacrifice on

Our Saviour Lutheran Church
William Trudnak, President
February 20, 2017 Council Minutes

Devotions: Melinda White

Meeting called to order by President Bill Trudnak. Robbie Wooten was welcomed a new member of the Council.

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

Minutes for January 16, 2017 were reviewed. Motion made by Bud Penley to approve the minutes and a second was given by Teri Trudnak.

Reception of Petitions and Communications:

- a. Communication from Cooperative Christian Ministry seeking donations and prayer. OSLC will support in prayer and post in newsletter.

Report of the Pastor: N/A;

Report of the Treasurer: Motion by Bud Penley to accept the Treasurer Report and seconded by Teri Trudnak.

Report of the Ministries:

- a. Property: New commode was installed in Men's room; loose gutter noticed on front side of church and this is to be looked at and repaired.
- b. Stewardship and Finance: No report.
- c. Worship & Music: Continuing to fill/sign up for worship assistants.
- d. Youth Team: No report.
- e. Witness: No report.
- f. Christian Education Team: No report

Report of Auxiliaries:

- a. Rachel Circle: Met at the home of Shirlee Marazza for bible study and refreshments. The next meeting will be at the home of Marie Robinson.

Old and/or Unfinished Business:

- a. Reception for Pastor Feigh's ordination on 3/4/17 at 1pm. The Council will make plans for reception to be held in activity building following the ordination. Also a covered dish luncheon by OSLC congregation will follow the worship service on Sunday 3/5/17.

New Business:

- a. None

General Information:

- a. Attendance
- b. Kids Alive Report.
- c. Thank you from Solo Publishers for donation.
- d. Thank you letter sent to Rev. George Rhyne.

Adjourned with Lord's Prayer
 Next Meeting: March 20, 2017
 Devotions: Bud Penley

- f. Approved Nancy Essary as Council secretary.
- g. Congregational survey about sharing a pastor with Grace Lutheran. Alice Vlaservich will work on preparing survey. We will give survey out the 2nd week in March.
- h. Having visitor cards made to place in pews.
- i. Council to provide meal for Lenten service March 17th.

Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

SKIPPING CHURCH

Father Norton woke up Sunday morning and realizing it was an exceptionally beautiful and sunny early spring day, decided he just had to play golf.

So... he told the Associate Pastor that he was feeling sick and persuaded him to say Mass for him that day.

As soon as the Associate Pastor left the room, Father Norton headed out of town to a golf course about forty miles away.

This way he knew he wouldn't accidentally meet anyone he knew from his parish. Setting up on the first tee, he was alone. After all, it was Sunday morning and everyone else was in church!

At about this time, Saint Peter leaned over to the Lord while looking down from the heavens and exclaimed, "You're not going to let him get away with this, are you?"

The Lord sighed, and said, "No, I guess not."

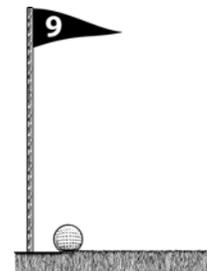
Just then Father Norton hit the ball and it shot straight towards the pin, dropping just short of it, rolled up and fell into the hole.

IT WAS A 420 YARD HOLE IN ONE!

St. Peter was astonished. He looked at the Lord and asked, "Why did you let him do that?"

The Lord smiled and replied, "Who's he going to tell?"

PEACE BE WITH YOU



Ready, click, grow Easter activity

RESURRECTION COOKIES

Materials

- Bible
- 1 cup of whole pecans
- 1 teaspoon vinegar
- 3 egg whites
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 large zipper-locked bag
- Wooden spoon or mallet
- Mixing bowl and utensils
- Mixer
- Waxed paper
- Cookie sheet

Food-n-Faith Activity

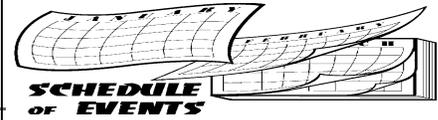
1. Preheat your oven to 300° F (150 C). This must be done or the cookies will not turn out. Cover your cookie sheet with a layer of wax paper.
2. Explain to your family that you will be making a very special kind of cookie. This cookie will help them learn about the death and resurrection of Jesus. Take turns reading the Bible passages as you prepare the cookies.
3. Fill the reseal able plastic with the pecans. Ask a family member to beat them with the wooden spoon or mallet. Say *"When Jesus was arrested, the Roman soldiers beat him just like you are beating the pecans."* **Read Mark 15:15**
4. Open the vinegar bottle and pass it around for your family to smell. As you pour the teaspoon of vinegar into the mixing bowl, say to your family, *"Can you imagine being given this to drink? That's what the Roman soldiers give to Jesus when he got thirsty while handing on the cross."* **Read John 19:28-29**
5. Separate the egg whites from the yolks (save these yolks for another recipe, please) As there egg whites are added to the recipe, explain that eggs are a symbol of life. Jesus gave his life on the cross for us so that we might live. **Read John 10:10-11 and 1 John 5:12**
6. Give each of your family members a taste of salt. When we cry, our tears contain a little pinch of salt. Add the salt to the recipe and say that this is a reminder of the tears that Jesus' family and friends cried when he died. **Read Luke 23:27 and John 20:11-13**
7. Add the sugar to your mix. Explain to your family that the sugar represents the sweetness of God's love for us in Jesus Christ, who died for our sins. **Read Ephesians 5:1-2**
8. With your mixer on high speed, beat the mixture until stiff peaks form, about 12 to 14 minutes. As this happens the mixture will turn white, the color of purity. Because Jesus died for our sins, we are pure in the eyes of God. **Read Psalm 103:12**
9. Gently fold the nuts into the egg mixture. Drop teaspoonfuls of the mixture onto the cookie sheet. You are now done making the cookies. Explain that before he died, Jesus said, *"Everything is done!"* Jesus was saying that the price for our sins are now paid! **Read John 19:30**
10. Turn the oven off. Place the cookie sheet in the oven and close the door. Tell your family that this is like Christ's friends placing his body in the tomb. A large, heavy rock was rolled in front of the entrance to the tomb so that his body could not be stolen. Roman soldiers guarded the tomb as added security. **Read Matthew 27:57-65.** And remember the oven should be turned off.
11. Now it's time to go to bed. Your family may feel anxious about leaving the cookies in the oven overnight. Tell them that the followers of Jesus were scared, frustrated, sad, and anxious after his death as he lay in that dark tomb. Remind your family that the sadness of the followers of Christ turned to joy. **Read John 20:19-20**
12. Open the oven on Easter morning and take out the cookies. Give one to each family member, inviting them to take a bite. Surprise! The cookies are hollow and empty inside, just like Jesus' tomb on that Easter morning so long ago. He is risen! **Read Luke 24:1-12**
13. Pray together, *"Lord, thank you so much for dying for us on the cross. Our sins are forgiven because of what you did. We can now have a friendship with you forever! Amen,"*



April 2017



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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 5th Sun. In Lent	3 Team Meetings	4	5 Lenten Service	6	7	8
	10	11 Gaston Together	12	13	14	15
16	17 Council Mtg.	18	19	20	21	22
23 1st Sun. Easter	24 Rachel/CLW Group	25	26	27		29
30 2nd Sun. Easter						

- Apr. 1— April Fools Day
- Apr. 2— 5th Sunday in Lent
- Apr. 3— Team Meetings: Youth 6:30 pm
Others 7:00 pm
- Apr. 5—Lenten Service w/lite supper 6 pm
- Apr. 8— Community Foundation Run (see p 12)
- Apr. 9— Palm Sunday
- Apr. 11—Gaston Together (see p 8)
- Apr. 13—Maundy Thursdays Service 7:00 p (joint service at Holy Communion Lutheran)
- Apr. 14—Good Friday Service 7:00 pm
- Apr. 16— **EASTER**
Sunrise Service 7:00 am followed by breakfast
Easter Service 11:00 am
- Apr. 17—Council Meeting 7:00 p
- Apr. 18— Prayer Group at Allie Clemmer at 3 pm
- Apr. 23— 1st Sunday of Easter
- Apr. 24— Rachel/CLW Group TBA
- Apr. 28—Relay for Life (see p 10)
- Apr. 30— 2nd Sunday of Easter

FOOD FOR THE MONTH: Lima Beans, Crackers, Soup



Choir practice each Sunday at 7:00 pm unless otherwise announced the bulletin



Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 1 Melinda White | Julie Digh |
| 5 Will Trudnak | Tiffany Cobb |
| 11 Barry Clemmer | Donna Clemmer |
| 12 Jill Petzold | Teri Trudnak |
| 18 Darlene Clemmer | Jill Petzold |
| | Melinda White |
| 22 Dan Clemmer, Jr. | Jared Dease |
| Glady | |
| 23 Nancy Presley | |



BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARY

Holy Communion Schedule:

Apr. 16: Easter Sunday

Worship Service Assistance:

- Altar Guild: Betty Clemmer
Shirlee Marazza
- Acolyte: Nick Vlaservich
- Crucifer: Nick Vlaservich

Communion

- Asst: Becky Messick
- Lay Reader: Becky Messick
- Worship Asst: Becky Messick
- Greeters: OSLC Members
- Ushers: OSLC Members
- Devotion: Steve Digh
- Stewardship: Betty Ratchford

FLOWERS

Flower Schedule:

- Apr. 2 Lent
- Apr. 9 Palms
- Apr. 16 Easter
- Apr. 23 Becky Messick
- Apr. 30 Charla Powell



ANNIVERSARIES

24th.....Chris & Becky Messick



Nursery Guardians Schedule

- Apr. 2 Julie Digh
- Apr. 9 Melinda White
- Apr. 16 Becky Messick
- Apr. 23 Joann Scarborough
- Apr. 30 Anna Cole



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

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



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



OUTREACH MISSION
SHUT-INS
NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

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

Marilyn Finger (at home)
1150 Meadow Way Dr.
Dallas, NC

(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



North American Lutheran Church

2017 Convocation
May 19-29

St. James Lutheran Church
1942 St. James Church Road
Newton, N.C.

(See bulletin board application)

***N.C. LUTHERAN MEN
IN
MISSION
GATHERING***

May 6, 2017

Grace Lutheran Church
Hendersonville



IT IS THAT TIME AGAIN!

Help decorate the church for Easter putting them in memory or honor of someone.

Our deadline is soon this year. April 1. You can fill out the form and before April 1 and pay on April 2.

Cost per plant will be \$9.00.

THANK YOU

A Stewardship Minute

In the April issue of *Stewardship* there is a profound statement defining what Christian stewardship truly is: "Christian stewardship is the practice of systematic and proportionate giving of time, talent (abilities) and material possessions. These are a trust from God to be used in service for the benefit for all humankind in grateful acknowledgement of God's redeeming love." When we think of God's redeeming love we may think of the words from John 3:16. Many of us will be able to recite them from memory: "For God so loved the world

that he gave his only begotten Son so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." I would also like to call your attention to a verse in the book of 1 John, chapter 4: "We love because (God) first loved us." Actually we are stewards because God served us. God gave us life. God gave us talents. God gave us time, God gave us salvation. God gave us a wonderful world. God gave us hope and joy. Everything that makes life worth living has come from our loving Creator.

A pastor was near his church early one morning and what he saw fascinated him. There was a man

whom he knew was in his nineties cutting back some of the bushes growing around the front of the church. The pastor did not try to stop him. He knew that the old fellow was joyously serving the Lord. It was his way of showing his love for his loving Creator. He loved because God first loved him.

Let us pray: Holy and loving Creator, we are so grateful for your love being poured out upon us daily. Prompt us to be aware of places where we can exercise stewardship. And give us the will and the strength to serve wherever you lead us. In our Lord Jesus' name. **Amen**

How Jesus' trial was illegal:

1. The religious leaders were not interested in giving Jesus a fair trial. In their minds, Jesus had to die. This blind obsession led them to pervert justice they were appointed to protect. Below are many examples of the actions taken by the religious leaders that were illegal according to their own laws.

a. Even before the trial began, it had been determined that Jesus must die. There were no "innocent until proven guilty" approach.

John 11:50. Caiaphas said, "Why should the whole nation be destroyed? Let this one man die for the people."

Mark 14:1. "It was now two days before the Passover celebration and the Festival of Unleavened Bread. The leading priests and the teaches of religious law were still looking for an opportunity to capture Jesus secretly and put him to death.

b. False witnesses were sought to testify against Jesus. Usually the religious leaders went through an elaborate system of screening witnesses to ensure justice.

Matthew 26:59. "Inside, the leading priests and the entire high council were trying to find witnesses who would lie about Jesus, so they could put him to death."

c. No defense for Jesus was sought or allowed.

Luke 22:67-71. Jesus was let before the high council. "and they said, 'Tell us if you are the Messiah.' But he replied, 'If I tell you, you won't believe me. And if I ask you a question, you won't answer. But the time is soon coming when I, the Son of Man, will be sitting at God's right hand in the place of honor.' They all shouted, 'Then you claim you are the Son of God?' And he replied, 'You are right in saying that I am.' 'What need do we have for other witnesses?' they shouted. 'We ourselves heard him say it.'"

d. The trial was conducted at night, which was illegal according to the religious leaders' own laws.

Mark 14:53:64. "Jesus was led to the high priest's home where the leading priest, other leaders, and teaches of religious law had gathered. Meanwhile, Peter followed far behind and then slipped inside the gates of the high priest's courtyard. For a while he sat with the guards, warming himself by the fire. Inside, the leading priests and the entire high council were trying to find witnesses who would testify against Jesus, so they could put him to death. But their efforts were in vain. Many false witnesses spoke against him, but they contradicted each other. Finally, some men stood up to testify against him with this lie: 'We heard him say, "I will destroy this Temple made with human hands, and in three days I will build another, made without human hands.'" But then they didn't get their stories straight! Then the high priest stood up before the others and asked Jesus, 'Well aren't you going to answer these charges? What do you have to say for yourself?' Jesus made no reply. Then the high priest asked him, 'Are you the Messiah, the Son of the blessed God?' Jesus said, 'I am, and you will see me, the Son of Man, sitting at God's right hand in the place of power and coming back on the clouds of heaven.' Then the high priest tore his clothing to show his horror and said, 'Why do we need other witnesses? You have all heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?' And they all condemned him to death."

e. The high priest put Jesus under oath, but then incriminated him for what he said.

Matthew 26: 63-66. "But Jesus remained silent. Then the high priest said to him, 'I demand in the name of the living God that you tell us whether you are the Messiah, the Son of God.' Jesus replied, 'Yes, it is as you say. And in the future you will see me, the Son of Man, sitting at God's right hand in the place of power and coming back on the clouds of heaven.' Then the high priest tore his clothing to show his horror, shouting, 'Blasphemy! Why do we need other witnesses? You have all heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?' 'Guilty' they shouted. 'He must die.'"

f. Cases involving such serious charges were to be tried only in the high council's regular meeting place, not in the high priest's home.

Mark 14:53-64. see above.

Church News



From Our Members in the Military



Easton Finger, grandson of Marilyn Finger, has entered basic training in Chicago, IL. Starting in April-June 2017, he will be attending Naval School following his training for seven (7) months Pensacola Naval Station in Pensacola, FL.

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### GASTON TOGETHER'S CLERGY & CITIZENS COALITION

April 11, 2017

8:30 to Noon

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



# 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 10 OPENINGS

### PASTOR PETE'S TELEPHONE:

Cell Phone: 704-516-2805



### WELCA/RACHEL GROUP

Will meet in the home TBA  
on April 24

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



### PRAYER CONCERNS:

MARGARET Addington (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, HOLDEN Britton (Denise & Jeff's nephew), 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), JEAN Huffstetler, LESLIE Hunsucker, JOHNNY Lineberger (friend of the community), MARY Johnson (Pastor Feige's mother-in-law), ELAINE Kanupp (friend of the Digh's—colon cancer), BETTY Mullen, GARY Neal, (friend of Caleb Dease), NANCY Parker (friend of Marie Lingle-ALS), EDITH Paysour, RIVER Peedin (Ursela Peedin's great-grandson— leukemia), SONDRAL Phillips (friend of Melinda White) JERRIE Presley, BERNICE—Leon Rawlinson's mother, MARY Brown Robinson (aunt of Brady Ratchford), 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) ANNE White (niece of Betty Ratchford-breast cancer), LORI Wood (Steve Digh's cousin-colon cancer).



VBS is coming June 18-22  
5:30 pm– 6:10 pm (light supper)  
6:15 pm—8:15 pm VBS stations  
Philadelphia Lutheran Church

We will serve supper on Tues.



# Why Did Jesus Have to Die?

## Learn Why Jesus Had to Die

By Mary Fairchild

A member of the Christianity forum, Jane recently asked, "Why did Jesus have to die? As a Christian I should know the answer to this but I can't think of any convincing explanation. No exemplar of any other religion that I can think of ended up getting killed because of his beliefs. Why wouldn't it have been possible for Jesus to spread his message and gain adherents like Mohamed, Moses and Buddha? Does Christianity only make sense by God deciding that Jesus had to be crucified?"

### Why Did Jesus Have to Die?

This incredibly important question involves a matter central to Christianity, yet effectively answering it is often difficult for Christians. We will take a careful look at the question and lay out the answers offered in Scripture.

However, before we answer the question, "Why did Jesus have to die?" it's also important to understand that Jesus clearly understood his mission on earth involved laying down his life as a sacrifice. In other words, **Jesus knew it was His Father's will for him to die.**

He proves his foreknowledge and understanding of his death in these passages from Scripture:

**Mark 8:31** *Then Jesus began to tell them that he, the Son of Man, would suffer many terrible things and be rejected by the leaders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, and three days later he would rise again.* (NLT)  
(See also Mark 9:31)

**Mark 10:32-34** *Taking the twelve disciples aside, Jesus once more began to describe everything that was about to happen to him in Jerusalem. "When we get to Jerusalem," he told them, "the Son of Man will be betrayed to the leading priests and the teachers of religious law. They will sentence him to die and hand him over to the Romans. They will mock him, spit on him, beat him with their whips, and kill him, but after three days he will rise again."* (NLT)

**Mark 10: 38** *But Jesus answered, "You don't know what you are asking! Are you able to drink from the bitter cup of sorrow I am about to drink? Are you able to be baptized with the baptism of suffering I must be baptized with?"* (NLT)

**Mark 10:43-45** *Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be the slave of all. For even I, the Son of Man, came here not to be served but to serve others, and to give my life as a ransom for many.* (NLT)

**Mark 14:22-25** *As they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread and asked God's blessing on it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take it, for this is my body." And he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them, and they all drank from it. And he said to them, "This is my blood, poured out for many, sealing the covenant between God and his people. I solemnly declare that I will not drink wine again until that day when I drink it new in the Kingdom of God."* (NLT)

**John 10:17-18** *"Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."* (NKJV)

This last verse also explains why it is pointless to blame the Jews or the Romans—or anyone else, for that matter, for "killing" Jesus. Jesus, having the power to "lay it down" or "take it again," freely gave up his life. It truly doesn't matter then, who "killed" Jesus. The ones who nailed the nails only helped carry out the destiny he came to fulfill by laying down his life on the cross.

Now, on to answering the question, "**Why did Jesus have to die?**"

**God is Holy** Though God is all merciful, all powerful and all forgiving, God is also holy, righteous and just.

**Isaiah 5:16** *But the LORD Almighty is exalted by his justice. The holiness of God is displayed by his righteousness.* (NLT)

**Sin and Holiness are Incompatible** Sin entered the world through one man's disobedience - Adam, and now all of us are born into this "sin nature."

**Romans 5:12** *When Adam sinned, sin entered the entire human race. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.* (NLT)

**Romans 3:23** *For all have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious standard.* (NLT)

### Sin Separates Us from God

**Isaiah 35:8** *And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness. The unclean will not journey on it; it will be for those who walk in that Way; wicked fools will not go about on it.* (NIV)

**Isaiah 59:2** *But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.* (NIV)

(Why continued on page 10)



*This year marks the beginning of our celebration of 33 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](mailto:kate.schober@cancer.org) OR 704-553-5386 IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN MAKING A DONATION AND PARTICIPATING.** Go online: [main.acsevents.org](http://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.
- April 28<sup>th</sup> Sims Legion Park, 5-11 pm

(Why continued from page 9)

**Sin's Punishment is Eternal Death** God's holiness and justice demand that sin and rebellion be punished. The only penalty or payment for sin is eternal death.

**Romans 6:23** *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.* (NASB)

**Romans 5:21** *So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God's wonderful kindness rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.* (NLT)

**Atoning Sacrifice** Our death is not sufficient to atone for sin because atonement requires a perfect, spotless sacrifice, offered in just the right way. Jesus, the one perfect God-man, came to offer the pure, complete and everlasting sacrifice to remove, atone, and make eternal payment for our sin.

**1 Peter 1:18-19** *For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And the ransom he paid was not mere gold or silver. He paid for you with the precious lifeblood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.* (NLT)

**Hebrews 2:14-17** *Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.* (NIV)

**Only Through Jesus Christ** Only through Jesus Christ can our sins be forgiven, thus restoring our relationship with God and removing the separation caused by sin.

**2 Corinthians 5:21** *God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.* (NIV)

**1 Corinthians 1:30** *It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.* (NIV)

**The Messiah - Savior** The suffering and the glory of the coming Messiah was foretold in Isaiah chapters 52 and 53. God's people in the Old Testament looked forward to the Messiah that would save them from their sin. Though he did not come in the form they expected, still their faith looking forward to his salvation saved them. Our faith, looking backward to his act of salvation, saves us. When we accept Jesus' payment for our sin, his perfect sacrifice washes away our sin and restores our right standing with God. God's mercy and grace provided a way for our salvation.

**Romans 5:10** *For since we were restored to friendship with God by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be delivered from eternal punishment by his life.* (NLT)

In Summary, when we are "in Christ Jesus" we are covered by his blood through his sacrificial death, our sins are paid for, and we no longer have to die an eternal death. We receive eternal life through Jesus Christ. And this is **why Jesus had to die.**

# Timeline of Jesus' Final Hours

## Events Surrounding the Crucifixion as Recorded in Scripture

By Mary Fairchild

During the Easter season, especially on Good Friday, Christians focus on the passion of Jesus Christ, or his suffering and death on the cross. Jesus' final hours on the cross lasted about six hours. We will break down these events recorded in Scripture, including the events just before and immediately following the Crucifixion.

**Note:** Many of the actual times of these events are not recorded in Scripture. The timeline represents an *approximate* sequence of events.

### Preceding Events:

- **The Last Supper** (Matthew 26:20-30; Mark 14:17-26; Luke 22:14-38; John 13:21-30)
- **In the Garden of Gethsemane** (Matthew 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:39-45)
- **Jesus is Betrayed and Arrested** (Matthew 26:47-56; Mark 14:43-52; Luke 22:47-53; John 18:1-11)
- **The Religious Leaders Condemn Jesus** (Matthew 27:1-2; Mark 15:1; Luke 22:66-71)

### 6 a.m.

- **Jesus Stands Trial Before Pilate** (Matthew 27:11-14; Mark 15:2-5; Luke 23:1-5; John 18:28-37)
- **Jesus Sent to Herod** (Luke 23:6-12)

### 7 a.m.

- **Jesus Returned to Pilate** (Luke 23:11)
- **Jesus is Sentenced to Death** (Matthew 27:26; Mark 15:15; Luke 23:23-24; John 19:16)

### 8 a.m.

- **Jesus is Led Away to Calvary** (Matthew 27:32-34; Mark 15:21-24; Luke 23:26-31; John 19:16-17)

### The Crucifixion

#### 9 a.m. - "The Third Hour"

- **Jesus is Crucified on the Cross**  
**Mark 15: 25** - *It was the third hour when they crucified him.* (NIV). The third hour in Jewish time would have been 9 a.m.  
**Luke 23:34** - *Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."* (NIV)
- **The Soldiers Cast Lots for Jesus' Clothing** (Mark 15:24)

#### 10 a.m.

- **Jesus is Insulted and Mocked**  
**Matthew 27:39-40** - *And the people passing by shouted abuse, shaking their heads in mockery. "So! You can destroy the Temple and build it again in three days, can you? Well then, if you are the Son of God, save yourself and come down from the cross!"* (NLT)  
**Mark 15:31** - *The leading priests and teachers of religious law also mocked Jesus. "He saved others," they scoffed, "but he can't save himself!"* (NLT)  
**Luke 23:36-37** - *The soldiers mocked him, too, by offering him a drink of sour wine. They called out to him, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!"* (NLT)  
**Luke 23:39** - *One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!"* (NIV)

#### 11 a.m.

- **Jesus and the Criminal**  
**Luke 23:40-43** - *But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."* (NIV)
- **Jesus Speaks to Mary and John.** **John 19:26-27** - *When Jesus saw his mother standing there beside the disciple he loved, he said to her, "Woman, he is your son." And he said to this disciple, "She is your mother." And from then on this disciple took her into his home.* (NLT)

#### Noon - "The Sixth Hour"

- **Darkness Covers the Land.** **Mark 15:33** - *At the sixth hour darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour.* (NLT)

(Timeline continued on page 12)

(Timeline continued from page 11)

**1 p.m.**

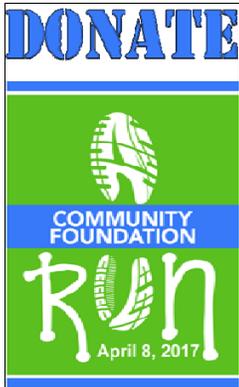
- **Jesus Cries Out to the Father.** **Matthew 27:46** - *And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"* (NKJV)
- **Jesus is Thirsty.** **John 19:28-29** - *Jesus knew that everything was now finished, and to fulfill the Scriptures he said, "I am thirsty. "A jar of sour wine was sitting there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put it on a hyssop branch, and held it up to his lips.* (NLT)

**2 p.m.**

- **It is Finished.** **John 19:30a** - *When Jesus had tasted it, he said, "It is finished!"* (NLT)  
**Luke 23:46** - *Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.* (NIV)

**3 p.m.** - "The Ninth Hour"

- **Events Following Jesus' Death**
- **The Earthquake.** **Matthew 27:51-52** - *At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life.* (NIV)
- **The Centurion** - "Surely he was the Son of God!" (Matthew 27:54; Mark 15:38; Luke 23:47)
- **The Soldiers Break the Thieves' Legs** (John 19:31-33)
- **The Soldier Pierces Jesus Side** (John 19:34)
- **Jesus is Laid in the Tomb** (Matthew 27:57-61; Mark 15:42-47; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42)
- **Jesus Rises from the Dead** (Matthew 28:1-7; Mark 16:1; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-9)



## The Community Foundation of Gaston County, Inc.

invites you to  
**COMMUNITY FOUNDATION RUN**

**WHEN:** Saturday, April 8, 2017; 8:00 am...5 K Run and 2K Walk—Registration close at 8:00 am (\$25 registration fee for runners in 5K Run; \$30 after April 6; \$35 on Run Day; 2K Walk \$10 registration fee for walkers; \$15 after April 6; \$20 on Run Day; )

**WHERE:** Rotary Pavilion, downtown Gastonia (Start/finish at Main Ave. and South St.

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

**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 2017* 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* has raised \$17 million for local non-profits with \$2.8 million in grants from the Community Foundation in the last fourteen years.
- 146 local non-profits are participating in *Run 2017* this year.

**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](http://www.cfgaston.org) or calling 704-864-0927

## 2017 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](http://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](http://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.





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



April 2017



**WORSHIP SERVICES**

Palm  
 Sunday



April 9, 11:00 am

Thursday

Sunrise, 7:00

Good Friday, April 12, 7:00 pm

Holy Communion Lutheran



April 16

am

Worship, 11 am

**EASTER**