

# Our Saviour's Good News

Volume XV, Issue IV

April 2020

## 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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## CHRIST IS RISEN!

**He is risen indeed—alleluia!** The challenge and response of these words has its roots in our tradition going back for many generations. This is part of what we love about being a Lutheran. We have these traditions that we share with so many different people from different countries and different time periods...and yet our faith and our worship remain relatively unchanged. In fact, even the Order of Worship that we use has its roots going back all the way to the early 100s (almost 2000 years ago!). We have a letter written to the Caesar to explain what it is that Christians did in worship. His letter describes singing hymns and psalms, prayer, reading Scriptures, preaching, taking up offerings, Holy Communion, and sending out in the community. Sounds pretty familiar,

And this Easter season is no different: “Easter is the central east of the Christian Year. Christmas and Epiphany are preparation for it; Pentecost is its culmination. Lent prepares for Easter and the seven weeks of Easter celebrate the rick mystery of the life out of death, cross and resurrection, renewal by the Spirit of God. Every Sunday is a celebration of Christ’s mighty rising ‘on the first day of the week.’ It is a time of glad and joyful celebration marked not by obligation and duty but by willing and eager participation in the recreation of the universe. The centrality of Easter leads to the primacy of Sunday of other days and other festivals.” This cycle of the church year comes directly from that same tradition, and it puts Easter right in the center of all of it...and for good reason!

We are Christians because of the event of Easter, because of Jesus’ suffering and death on the cross, because of his descent to the dead, and because of his victory over death and his resurrection to life everlasting. Easter is the climax of Jesus’ earthly ministry. It is the primary reason he took on flesh and came to be with us. Jesus’ action on Easter ensure that we can live with God forever. And from this we have, as we say in the Nicene Creed, our hope in “the life of the world to come.”

This is a 50 day celebration of what Jsus have done for all of us. It is for that reason that we will come to the Lord’s Table every Sunday in Easter. It is a feast! Each time you come to receive the Lord’s Body and Blood, that a moment to thank Our Savior for his selfless sacrifice foe us. Giving thanks to God is the root of the word we ger “Eucharist” from—the other name for this celebration. We are saved because of what Jesus did at Easter. Thanks be to God –**ALLELUIA!**



(Palm cont'd from page 1)

Today, many Christian churches distribute palm branches to worshipers on Palm Sunday. The people remember Christ's sacrificial death on the cross, praise him for the gift of salvation, and look expectantly to his second coming.

## 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)*

### 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)*

(Why cont'd on page 3)

*(Why cont'd from page 2)*

### **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)*

### **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*.

## **Resurrection of Jesus Christ - Story Summary:**

After Jesus was crucified, Joseph of Arimathea had Christ's body placed in his own tomb. A large stone covered the entrance and soldiers guarded the sealed tomb. On the third day, a Sunday, several women (Mary Magdalen, Mary the mother of James, Joanna and Salome are all mentioned in the gospel accounts) went to the tomb at dawn to anoint the body of Jesus.

A violent earthquake took place as an angel from heaven rolled back the stone. The guards shook in fear as the angel, dressed in bright white, sat upon the stone. The angel announced to the women that Jesus who was crucified was no longer in the tomb, "He is risen, just as he said." Then he instructed the women to inspect the tomb and see for themselves. Next he told them to go inform the disciples.

With a mixture of fear and joy they ran to obey the angel's command, but suddenly Jesus met them on their way. They fell at his feet and worshiped him. Jesus then said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee. There they will see me."

When the guards reported what had happened to the chief priests, they bribed the soldiers with a large sum of money, telling them to lie and say that the disciples had stolen the body in the night.

After his resurrection, Jesus appeared to the women near the tomb and later at least twice to the disciples while they were gathered at a house in prayer. He visited two of the disciples on the road to Emmaus and he also appeared at the Sea of Galilee while several of the disciples were fishing.

### **Points of Interest from the Resurrection of Jesus Christ Story:**

- There are at least 12 different appearances of Christ in the resurrection accounts, beginning with Mary and ending with Paul. They were physical, tangible experiences with Christ eating, speaking and allowing himself to be touched.
- Jesus' resurrected body was different from his physical body. It was no longer subject to the same laws of nature. He could transcend locked doors, and yet he could still be touched and he could eat.
- Before Jesus ascended into heaven he gave the Great Commission, telling his followers to go and make disciples of all nations.
- The stone was not rolled away from the tomb so Jesus could get out. He was able to walk through walls (John 20:19) in his resurrected body. The stone was rolled away so that everyone could see that he was risen.

### **Question for Reflection About the Resurrection of Jesus Christ::**

When Jesus appeared to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, they didn't recognize him (Luke 24:13-33). They even talked in great length about Jesus, but they didn't know they were in his very presence. Has Jesus, the resurrected Savior visited you, but you didn't recognize him?

## Our Saviour Lutheran Church Bill Trudnak, President February 17, 2020 Board Minutes



**Devotions:** Melinda White

Meeting called to order by President, Anna Lowery

**Members present:** Alice Vlaservich, Anna Lowery, Denise Traveria, Melinda White; **Members Absent:** Jeff White, Becky Messick, Joe Finger, Teri Trudnak, Robbie Wooten

**Minutes:** January 20, 2020 minutes were reviewed. Alice Vlaservich made the motion to approve the minutes and Anna Lowery seconded the motion.

**Reception of Petitions and Communications:** Several communications were reviewed. Mainly asking for donations. At this time, we will support in prayer.

**Report of the Pastor:** Pastor's report was reviewed and discussed. Pastor will start confirmation classes for one of our youth. He is preparing for the Easter season. He also was in communication with the family of Nancy Friday early in the month and prepared the funeral for Betty Ratchford. Alice Vlaservich made a motion to accept the report and Melinda White gave the second.

**Report of the Treasurer:** Report was reviewed, and a motion was made by Alice Vlaservich to accept the Treasurer Report and seconded by Denise Traveria.

### Report of the Ministries:

- a. Property: The roof/shingle issue was discussed again, and more information is needed.
- b. Stewardship and Finance: No report
- c. Worship & Music: Preparing for the Lenten season with Ash Wednesday service and bible study on Wednesday's at 6pm through the Lenten season, meal to be served before study.
- d. Youth Team: No report this month
- e. Witness: Cards and prayers continue to be sent to shut ins
- f. Christian Education Team: Week of June 14-18 will be VBS at Holy Communion. OSLC will provide a meal one night that week.

**Report of Auxiliaries:** The Rachel Group met at the home of Marie Robinson on 1/27/2020. A new bible study began from the Upper Room devotion book.

### Old and/or Unfinished Business:

- a. Discussed the leaking roof problem. Nick talked with Cathey Roofing and they advised not to use the Flex Seal on the roof. He will be meeting with them again soon to discuss patch work as an option.

### New Business:

- a. 97<sup>th</sup> Annual NC Men-in-Mission State Gathering= March 7. It was discussed and acknowledged but we do not have a representative attending this year.

### General Information:

- a. Attendance
- b. Laszlo Mission (Kids International) Report
- c. Carolina Mission Report
- d. DHSCM \$280 has been donated and OSLC will donate \$200 from the general fund
- e. Council Devotion Schedule completed
- f. CPC had their grounds cleared of branches, etc. by volunteers from Venture Church youth.

Adjourned with The Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting: March 16, 2020

Devotions: Robbie Wooten- March

### The Nail

The nail is used for many things,  
A useful securing tool;  
A hammer is taken by the hand  
And drives it, that's the rule.

A nail is needed when you build,  
It's a necessary thing.  
It was also used over two thousand years ago  
To hang upon a tree, the King.

He took the pain and suffering  
For all mankind, you see.  
Yet He took the torture just for you,  
And He took it just for me.

You cannot keep a good man down,  
Through the years many have said.  
He went down a man, and rose a King  
To deliver the spiritually dead.

He is on the throne  
At God's right hand.  
The First, the Last,  
The Great I Am.

No nail, no hammer can touch Him now--  
The mighty King on high.  
What He built is forevermore,  
Salvation for you and I.

So when you see a simple nail with it's sharpened end,  
And need to build or repair,  
Lift up your eyes, your heart and mind  
And thank Him with a prayer.

By Laurene H. Bell





## ***PRESIDENT TRUMP'S CORONAVIRUS GUIDELINES FOR AMERICA***

Even if you are young, or otherwise healthy, you are at risk and your activities can increase the risk of others, it is critical that you do your part to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

- ◆ Listen and follow the directions of your **STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES**.
- ◆ **IF YOU FEEL SICK**, stay home. Do not go to work.
- ◆ **IF YOUR CHILDREN ARE SICK**, keep them at home. Contact your medical provider,
- ◆ **IF YOU ARE AN OLDER PERSON**, or have a serious underlying health condition, stay home and away from other people.
- ◆ If someone in your household has **TESTED POSITIVE**, keep the entire household at home.
- ◆ Work or study **FROM HOME** whenever possible.
- ◆ **AVOID SOCIAL GATHERINGS** in groups of more than 10 people.
- ◆ Avoid eating or drinking at bars and restaurants—**USE PICKUPS OR DELIVERY OPTIONS**.
- ◆ **DO NOT VISIT** nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.
- ◆ **ALWAYS PRACTICE GOOD HYGIENE:**
  - ⇒ *Wash your hands, especially after touching any frequently used item or surface.*
  - ⇒ *Avoid touching your face.*
  - ⇒ *Sneeze or cough into a tissue or the inside of your elbow.*
  - ⇒ *Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.*

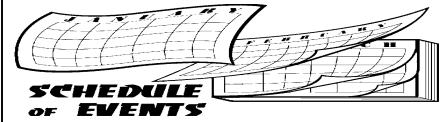
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# April 2020



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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>All services, meetings, and events will be pending because of COVID-19 virus.</i>			1 Lenten Lite	2	3	4
6 Team Meetings	7	8	9  Maundy Thursday	10  GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE	11 Run for Money	
12  CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY!	13 Board Meeting	14	15	16	17	18
19 2nd Sun. of Easter	20	21  Prayer Group	22	23	24	25
26 3rd Sun. of Easter	27 Rachel Group	28	29	30		Food Collection

- **Apr. 1—April Fool's Day**  
Lenten Service
- **Apr. 5—Palm Sunday**
- **Apr. 6— Team Meetings:**  
Youth 6:30 pm  
Others 7:00 pm
- **Apr. 7— Gaston Together** (see p 8)
- **Apr. 9—Maundy Thursday Service**  
Service at Antioch—7:00 pm
- **Apr. 10— Good Friday Service—**  
At OSLC—7:00 pm
- **Apr. 11—12th Run for the Money** (see p 12)
- **Apr. 12—EASTER** Sunrise Service 7:00 am followed by breakfast (see p 9)  
Easter Service 11:00 am
- **Apr. 13—Council Meeting** 7:00 pm
- **Apr. 19—2nd Sunday of Easter**
- **Apr. 21—Prayer Group** will meet at the home of Shirlee Marazza at 1
- **Apr. 27—3rd Sunday of Easter**
- **Apr. 27—Rachel Group** (see p 9)

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



- Birthdays This Month**
- 1 Melinda White
  - 5 Will Trudnak
  - 8 Nancy Friday
  - 12 Jill Petzold
  - 22 Dan Clemmer, Jr.
  - 23 Nancy Presley
  - Nick Vlaservich



- BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARY**
- Julie Digh
  - Tiffany Cobb
  - Dan Clemmer, Sr.
  - Donna Clemmer
  - Teri Trudnak
  - Jill Petzold
  - Melinda White
  - Jared Dease

**Holy Communion Schedule:**

- Apr. 5: Palm Sunday
- Apr. 9: Maundy Thursday
- Apr. 12: Easter Sunday

**Worship Service Assistance:**

- Acolyte:** OSLC Member
- Communion**
- Asst:** Ryan Gordy
  - Lay Reader:** Keenan Gordy
  - Worship Asst:** Keenan Gordy
  - Greeters:** OSLC Members
  - Ushers:** OSLC Members

Board Devotion: Anna Lowery  
Collection:



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

## FLOWERS

**Flower Schedule:**

- Apr. 5 Palms
- Apr. 12 Easter Lilies
- Apr. 19 Alice Vlaservich
- Apr. 26 Becky Messich

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 (14)  
Decorate the altar of our Lord  
And then take home to decorate your home of give to a love one of shut-in



**ANNIVERSARIES**

24<sup>th</sup> .....Chris & Becky Messick



725 Gastonia Technology Parkway  
 Post Office Box 457  
 Dallas, North Carolina 28034  
 Phone: 705-922-4648  
 Email: oslcdallas@aol.com

**OUTREACH MISSION**

**SHUT-INS**  
**NURSING HOME RESIDENTS**

Please remember our church members who are shut-ins and visit them.

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

**Jerri Presley**  
 2604 Ole Home Trail, Dallas

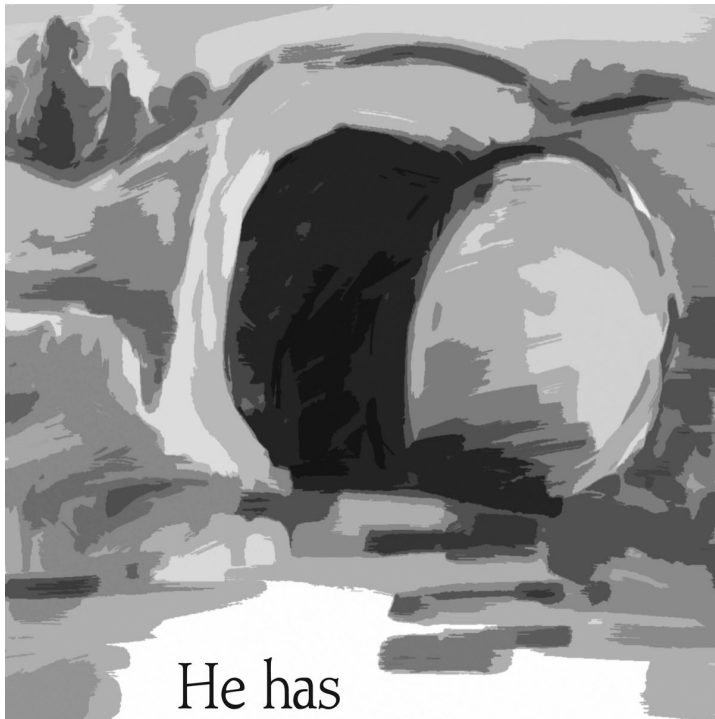
(If others, please let the church office know)



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

Check and see what food item they need for the month (on page 6—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.



He has  
 given us a new  
 birth into a living hope  
 through the resurrection  
 of Jesus Christ  
 from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3, NRSV



**EVENTS**  
**for**  
**Lutheridge -Lutherock,**  
**and**  
**Kure/Agape Beach**

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

You can visit their website  
 by

visiting OSLC website  
[oslc-nc.org](http://oslc-nc.org)

and go to links

and click on their name.

**GOD WANTS YOU!**

- (1) God wants you to participate in His worship service for **2014** by servicing as a worship assistant, reader, communion assistant, a Crucifer, Greeter or Usher  
 See the sign up sheet on the bulletin board 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 7 openings**

## A Stewardship Minute

What opportunities are you overlooking or missing? Just at the point when we think all is lost and nothing is going to improve, God surprises us with a new opportunity!

The disciples who thought the crucifixion of Jesus ended his life, his leadership, and his mission judged too early; their hopes for a future with him were dashed. Yet, the Resurrection of Jesus proved that God took the worst of man's failings and turned them into mankind's opportunity for salvation and our hope for eternity.

Furthermore, the Resurrection means that God offers each of us great opportunities to live victorious lives in his service. Each of us can be a useful steward of God. Not occasionally, but daily.

The cover article in this month's issue of **Stewardship** goes on to point out the our attitudes towards new opportunities help in shaping our future: "See the excitement that God has built into your life and say a hearty 'Yes' to the occasions for joy and life and goodness God sets before you in the opportunities of this mo-

ment." Consider this: Unless we consent to take the opportunities to do good works on behalf of God, we will miss out on the greatest blessings God has in store for us.

**Prayer:** Lord of heaven and earth, thank you for giving us the opportunity to be your stewards here and now and for the hope of spending eternity with you. **In Christ's name, Amen.**



## Question: "What does it mean that God is love?"

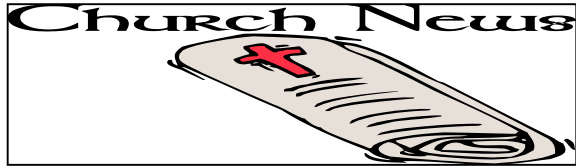
**Answer:** Let's look at how the Bible describes love, and then we will see a few ways in which God is the essence of love. "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails" (1 Corinthians 13:4-8a). This is God's description of love, and because God is love (1 John 4:8), this is what He is like.

Love (God) does not force Himself on anyone. Those who come to Him do so in response to His love. Love (God) shows kindness to all. Love (Jesus) went about doing good to everyone without partiality. Love (Jesus) did not covet what others had, living a humble life without complaining. Love (Jesus) did not brag about who He was in the flesh, although He could have overpowered anyone He ever came in contact with. Love (God) does not demand obedience. God did not demand obedience from His Son, but rather, Jesus willingly obeyed His Father in heaven. "The world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me" (John 14:31). Love (Jesus) was/is always looking out for the interests of others.

The greatest expression of God's love is communicated to us in John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." Romans 5:8 proclaims the same message: "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." We can see from these verses that it is God's greatest desire that we join Him in His eternal home, heaven. He has made the way possible by paying the price for our sins. He loves us because He chose to as an act of His will. Love forgives. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

So, what does it mean that God is love? Love is an attribute of God. Love is a core aspect of God's character, His Person. God's love is in no sense in conflict with His holiness, righteousness, justice, or even His wrath. All of God's attributes are in perfect harmony. Everything God does is loving, just as everything He does is just and right. God is the perfect example of true love. Amazingly, God has given those who receive His Son Jesus as their personal Savior the ability to love as He does, through the power of the Holy Spirit (John 1:12; 1 John 3:1, 23-24).





GASTON TOGETHER'S CLERGY & CITIZENS COALITION  
 April 10, 2011  
 8:30 to Noon  
 Clinton Room, Gaston Memorial Hospital  
 Breakfast before meeting , if you wish



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
**June 14-20**  
**5:30 pm—8:30 pm**  
**At**  
**Holy Communion Lutheran Church**

"Quest for the King's Armor"

**Supper :5:30 pm-6:00 pm**  
**VBS: until—8:30 pm**



**Prayer Group**

will meet at the home of Shirlee Marazza on April 21st  
 at 1:00 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)



SUSAN Aderholt, SETH Alexander, AMANDA (friend of the Penley's), MARVIS Anderson, WHITNEY Auten (breast cancer), KELLY Ballard (friend of Shana Dease), BRAXTON Bearden (friend of the Locketts), ADDISON Blanton (friend of Dease's), KATHY Bohanan (cancer), RHONA and ADRIAN Carpenter (parents of Raygen Messick), KAREN Brady, MIKE Coffey (Robbie Wooten's uncle), HARDY Feige (Pete's dad – chronic back pain), NANCY Friday, JASON Hames (friend of the White's) DANA Kirshman (friend of Robbie Wooten-cancer), CHRIS Messick (intestinal blockage), GARY Neal, (friend of Caleb Dease), BUD and WAYNE ANN Penley, MARY O'Shea (co-worker of Melinda White's), ELLEN Pfeiffer (friend of the Gordy's – heart surgery) SONDRRA Phillips (friend of Melinda White), JERRIE Presley, GARY Turner (father of Jason Murray), , ANNE White (niece of Betty Ratchford-breast cancer), JOE White (stroke), MARY Wooten (Sara's great-grandmother and Rosalee's great-great grandmother). NANCY Wilson.



## 2020 MISSION EMPHASIS FOR APRIL

*Experience the Spirit  
Christ, Creation, Community*

*Providing year round, summer camping programs and high comfort retreat facilities*

### AGAPE/KURE BEACH MINISTRIES

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

With two sites, **Camp Agape**(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 or to play in the ocean's waves; to pause and life at a slower pace. Our goal at both of these natural retreats is for our guests' spiritual life to be refreshed and renewed.

***MISSION STATEMENT: Agape/KureBeach Ministries calls and gathers all people to experience the Spirit through unique small group encounters with Christ, in Creation and Community.***

#### ***AGAPE SUMMER CAMP is just around the corner!***

Camp is always fun and unique. Campers' days are packed with swimming, hiking, nature, songs, stories, skits, campfires, worship, discovery times, crafts, archery, canoeing, sleep-outs, mud-whompin', and the 600 foot long zip line. You don't want to miss out on any of this year's summer fun. Register now.

Check out the website: [www.agapekurebeach.org](http://www.agapekurebeach.org)

***Looking for a special vacation location for your family? Come spend a week at Camp Agape!***

Spend a week of your summer at Camp Agape! Plan your own retreat or bring grandma, grandpa, and a car load of cousins in for a special family camp vacation. You'll have the run of the Retreat House. Yes, there will be campers on site, but that won't keep you from the pool or the mud-pit or off the zip-line. Cook your own meals or eat in the dining hall. Canoe, fun-bug, hike, fish, and finish your day with a campfire.....it's guaranteed to be five days of fun to remember! Check out **July 20-25, 2014** and rent the Retreat House (maximum number of guests is 32.) Contact: **Lauren for rates at 919-552-9421.**

#### ***Join us at Kure Beach Retreat Center***

Kure Beach is a beautiful, coastal retreat community, long known as an ideal setting for renewal. Our Faith Center provides a spiritual haven open to all people: families, church groups, weddings, family reunions, business groups. The beachfront property includes two floors of bedrooms, meeting rooms, and dining areas overlooking the sea.

Both the Bird's Nest (upper level) and The Starfish (lower level) feature connecting outside decks. Each level features 4 bedrooms that sleep 6 guests each. The dining/meeting space provides kitchen space for do-it-yourself meals or you may request food service.

Same contact information for Kure Beach Retreat Center or for Camp Agape

Website: [www.agape/kurebeach.org](http://www.agape/kurebeach.org) Phone: 919-552-9421

### **2014 MISSION EMPHASIS FOR APRIL – Lutheran Camps in and around NC**

NOVUSWAY includes Lutheridge, Lutherock, Luther Ranch, and Luther Springs. (You can go the link site on the church's website—[oslc-nc.org](http://oslc-nc.org))

Located across the southeastern United States, these retreat centers offer programmed retreats and camps for all ages, and also provide event and meeting spaces for you to plan your own retreat.

**(Mission cont'd on page 11)**

(Mission cont'd from page 10)

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.

The combination of our quality staff, the excellent facilities, the unique 1,900 acres of land, and your participation with NovusWay will lead you to get inspired.

**Summer camping begins in June. There are opportunities for camping for children, adults, families, youth groups, at Lutheridge and Lutherock, both in North Carolina.**

**Check out the website at [www.novusway.org](http://www.novusway.org) and find out the opportunities. Get in your early registration by May 15 and there is a discount.**

**Camping opportunities are year round. There are cottages to rent, with the program or as a place to stay while going into the mountains (on off season camping).**

Summer camping for children will include:

- Activities you cannot do during the school year:
- Playing outside from morning until night! Catching fireflies, roasting marshmallows,
- Making new friends and hating to say good-bye,
- Silly skits and songs, games galore! Who needs TV?
- Bible stories that come to life: lessons learned by living them,
- New skills and adventures: make a craft or climb a mountain!
- Counselors who model Jesus, always watching, teaching, and caring.
- Providing for faith formation of young people as well as leadership development for the Christian church

Look for brochures and pamphlets in Our Saviour hallway in the near future.

*Pray for our Lutheran Camping Programs that God may use this ministry to minister to those who plan the programs, staff the camps, and the campers of all ages who attend the camps. May it be a time of refreshing, strengthening, and worshipping our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. May there be good fellowship among all those involved.*





**The Community Foundation of Gaston County, Inc.**  
 invites you to  
**RUN FOR THE MONEY**  
**CANCELLED**

We have been monitoring the global and local impact of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) and are following the guidance of the Gaston County Department of Health & Human Services and the NC DHHS. Our top priority is always the health and safety of our runners, volunteers, spectators and supporters.

**The 2020 Community Foundation Run scheduled for April 4<sup>th</sup> has been canceled.** Due to the months of planning that it takes to coordinate the event and the number of vendors that are involved, unfortunately it's just not possible to reschedule. However, we've been working on plans to have a

“virtual race” instead.

Please understand the cancellation in no way affects what nonprofit organizations have already raised or if it will be matched. Fundraising will continue through Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>.

We are still accepting donations through Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. -This cancellation in no way affects the matching grant. Organizations will still have a portion of their donations matched at the end of the giving period. -More important than ever to donate to nonprofits that are at forefront of outbreak -There are several ways to give: You can donate online: [cfgaston.org/Run](http://cfgaston.org/Run). Donations can be mailed to our office: P.O. Box 123, Gastonia, NC 28053. On Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> we'll have a drop box installed outside of our office doors where and you can drop off donations there as well during our normal business hours, 8:30am – 5:00pm, Monday through Friday.

*This year marks the beginning of our celebration of 37 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 SEE NANCY ESSARY IF YOU ARE INTEREST IN MAKING A DONATION OR LUMINARIES**



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.

**PENDING      \*\*\*Kick-off will be at 6:00 pm on Saturday, April 25, at North Gaston High School\*\*\***

— — Just for Laugh — —

**Obedient Wives**

While creating wives, God promised men that good and obedient wives would be found in all corners of the world. And then He smiled and made the earth round.

**2 Quarters and a Dollar**

A young boy enters a barber shop and the barber whispers to his customer, “This is the dumbest kid in the world. Watch while I prove it to you.” The barber puts a dollar bill in one hand and two quarters in the other, then calls the boy over and asks, “Which do you want, son?”

The boy takes the two quarters and leaves the dollar. “What did I tell you?” said the barber. “That kid never learns!”

Later, when the customer leaves, he sees the same young boy coming out of the ice cream store and says, “Hey, son! Can I ask you a question? Why did you take the quarters instead of the dollar bill?” The boy licked his cone and replied, “Because the day I take the dollar, the game's over!”



## 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, saying “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. 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 the cross. Amen.*





*“Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”* Hebrews 4:1-16

For many of us, this is indeed a time when we need to draw near to the throne of grace to receive mercy and find grace to help. We have now not only completed our Lenten journey, but we have walked with Jesus all the way to the cross, and witnessed Him buried in the tomb. And now, Holy Saturday leaves us feeling alone. Though we know what will come with the morning, still our hearts can be troubled.

But it is Jesus, the Son of God who has passed through the heavens, the once-for-all sacrifice who entered into the holy of holies, to pay the price, to make atonement for our sins, that we might approach the Father, not in fear but with confidence that the way to Him is open—not because of who we are, or what we have done or failed to do—but because Jesus Christ is our Great High Priest!

Now sin and death have been overcome by the one who has been tempted as we are, yet remained without sin. Now we can draw near to the throne of grace because our Great High Priest has made sacrifice for us. Now we need no longer fear God, or death, or hell, for Jesus Christ has opened the way to heaven for us.

While our joy may be restrained for one more day, we know what’s coming. We know that resurrection and new life come with the new day!

*Lord God, on this day when our Lord’s body lay in the tomb, give us time for rest and reflection, silence and prayer, that the full meaning of our redemption will settle upon our hearts and minds, as we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast; through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



**CHRIST THE LORD  
IS RISEN TODAY!**

## **Easter Sunday: The Festival of our Lord’s Resurrection!**

*“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.”* John 1:1-18

**Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia, Alleluia!**

How wonderful that the daily lectionary connects Christmas with Easter! The Incarnation of our Lord is intimately related to His death and resurrection, and our Redemption. Today we behold the glory of the Word become flesh—the Word who was born at Bethlehem, nailed to a cross outside Jerusalem, buried in a borrowed tomb, raised to new life on the third day!

And this Word was resurrected to continue to dwell among us. Had the Word remained dead and buried, God would be as distant from us as He once was. But now, the cold, lifeless Word that had been silenced on Good Friday is alive again—speaking hope and grace and newness of life!

**Jesus Christ is Risen today! Alleluia!**



# How to Know God!

## 1 Recognize that you're a sinner

First, you must admit your spiritual need: "There is none righteous, no, not one" (Romans 3:10). We can't make excuses or blame others and our circumstances for our actions. "For all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

## 2 Recognize that *Jesus Christ* died on the cross for you.

"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God..." (1 Peter 3:18). Jesus paid the price for your sin. The Apostle Paul said, "...the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

## 3 Repent of your sins.

The word "repent" means "to change your direction." The Bible tells us, "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord" (Acts 3:19). God commands us to repent. You must be willing to turn away from the things that displease God.

## 4 Receive *Jesus* as your Saviour.

Jesus said, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). It is essential that you come to Jesus as you are. Don't try to "clean up your life" before you come to God. Instead, receive Him and allow Him to do the "cleansing." Jesus said, "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out" (John 6:37).

## 5 Experience God's Grace

If you just prayed a prayer of salvation and meant it, Jesus Christ has now taken residence in your heart! Your decision to follow Christ means God has forgiven you and that you will spend eternity in heaven. The Bible tells us, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9 NIV).



When we receive the bread offered during Holy Communion, it's the spiritual equivalent of receiving free bread. No matter how you slice it the terms of your own denominational tradition, the "real" bread and "real drink connect us deeply and spiritually with God through Christ. We are nourished by the grace we receive, encouraged by the diverse crowd around us and strengthened to the live life to the full. There's no substitute for the love and life we experience when we break the **Bread of Life**. Like Peter we cry out, "Lord, to who [else] shall we go? You have the words of eternal life"

(John 6:68, NIV) - Homiletics

# 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 calendar for **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. **THIS IS PUR LAST YEAR,**

A reading from the Old Testament, a psalm (or portion of a psalm) and a reading from the New Testament are assigned for each day. Certain church festivals - Christmas, Easter, Pentecost and so forth - have readings appointed for the specific occasion.

# April



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i> 2 Chron 18:1-34 Ps. 86 Luke 9:10-20	<i>2</i> 2 Chron 19:1-11 Ps. 87 Luke 9:21-36	<i>3</i> 2 Chron 20:1-23 Ps. 88 Luke 9:37-50	<i>4</i> 2 Chron 20:24-37 Ps. 89 Luke 9:51-10:12
<i>5</i> <b>Passion Sun</b> Is. 50:4-9 Ps. 31 Phil. 2:5-11 John 12:20-43	<i>7</i> 2 Chron 21:1-20 Ps. 90 Luke 10:13-34	<i>7</i> 2 Chron 22:1-12 Ps. 91 Luke 10:25-37	<i>8</i> 2 Chron 22:1-21 Ps. 92 Luke 10:38-11:13	<i>9</i> <b>Maundy Thur</b> Ex. 24:3-11 Ps. 116 Heb 9:11-22 Matt 26:17-30	<i>10</i> <b>Good Friday</b> Is. 53 Ps. 22 Heb. 4:14-16, 5:7-9 John 18:1-19:42	<i>11</i> 2 Chron. 24:1-19 Ps. 93 Luke 11:14-26
<i>12</i> <b>Easter</b> Acts 10:34-43 Ps. 118 Col. 3:1-4 Matt 28:1-10	<i>13</i> 2 Chron. 24:20-27 Ps. 94 Luke 11:27-36	<i>14</i> 2 Chron. 25:1-13 Ps. 95 Luke 11:37-54	<i>15</i> 2 Chron. 25:14-28 Ps. 6 Luke 12:1-12	<i>16</i> 2 Chron. 26:1-25 Ps. 97 Luke 12:12-34	<i>17</i> 2 Chron. 26:16-23 Ps. 98 Luke 12:35-47	<i>18</i> 2 Chron. 127:1-28:4 Ps. 99 Luke 12:48-13:5
<i>19</i> 2 Chron. 28:5-21 Ps. 100 Luke 13:6-17	<i>20</i> 2 Chron. 28:22-29:2 Ps. 101 Luke 13:18-30	<i>21</i> 2 Chron. 29:3-19 Ps. 102 Luke 13:31-14:11	<i>22</i> 2 Chron. 29:20-36 Ps. 103 Luke 14:12-35	<i>23</i> 2 Chron. 30:1-27 Ps. 104 Luke 15:1-10	<i>24</i> 2 Chron. 31:1-21 Ps. 105 Luke 15:11-32	<i>25</i> 2 Chron. 32:1-1 Ps. 106:1-23 Luke 16:1-13
<i>26</i> 2 Chron. 32:20-33 Ps. 106:24-4 Luke 11:1-12	<i>27</i> 2 Chron. 33:1-9 Ps. 107 Luke 17:1-19	<i>28</i> 2 Chron. 33:10-34:7 Ps. 108 Luke 17:20-37	<i>29</i> 2 Chron. 34:8-33 Ps. 109 Luke 18:1-14	<i>30</i> 2 Chron. 35:1-19 Ps. 110 Luke 18:15-30		

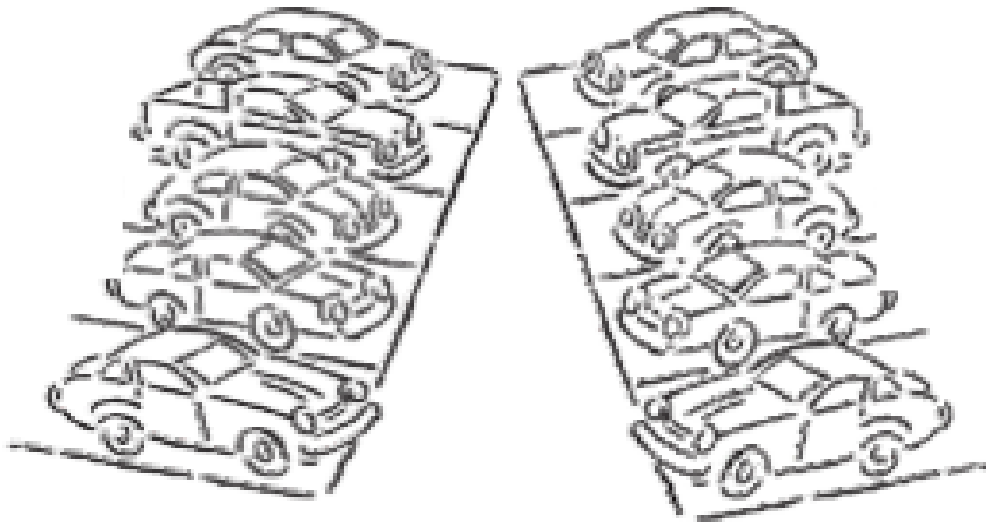


**PLANS ARE BEING MADE TO HOLD  
PSALM SUNDAY SERVICE  
AS A DRIVE IN SERVICH.**

**You will remain in our car  
and  
directed on how to park behind the Church.**

**Communion will be distributed in the bread form.**

**Please make an effort to come so we all can gather  
together to worship and sing praise to our Lord and Saviour.**





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



**NALC**

North American Lutheran Church

## WORSHIP SERVICES

April 2020

(All Services pending)



Palm  
Sunday

**April 5, 11:00 am**



Maundy  
Thursday

**April 12**

**April 9, 7:00 pm**

**Worship,**



**Sunrise, 7:30 am**

**11:00 am**

**EASTER**



Good  
Friday