



Our Saviour's Good News

Volume XIII, Issue IV

April 2018

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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The Resurrection: Is It True of Just an Idle Tale and Hogwash

"If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ."

1 Corinthians 15:20-22



"But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said, 'Come, see the place where he lay.'"

Matthew 28:5-6

"The Easter Bunny", "The Tooth Fairy", "Frosty the Snowman", "Santa Clause", "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs", "Cinderella" and "The Resurrection," all, in one fell swoop, get sucked into the same bag. They are all nice stories that make us "feel good"; but they are merely wishful thinking and fairy tales, pure fiction and the creation of the human mind. Or, to put it in common, sidewalk English, they are all "hogwash." This is pretty much the perspective one gets from reading the present rash of newly minted atheists and cultured despisers of the faith such as Christopher Hitchens, Samuel Harris and Richard Dawkins. They are simply aping in the 21st Century the same arguments mounted by the towering intellectual atheists of previous generations: Karl Marx, Friedrich Nietzsche, Alber Camus, Ludwig Feuerbach, Bertand Russell and Sigmund Freud. Their arguments are clever, well formulated, seductive, persuasive and worthy of a robust, savvy, intellectual rigorous, biblically grounded and theologically informed challenge.

Paul reminds us that we should seriously consider the consequences if the arguments of the atheists are true. If there is not resurrection and it is for this life only that we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. Nietzsche developed a philosophy

whose logical trajectory declared "god was dead" and concluded with the grand finale of making the despairing leap into the abyss of nihilism. If the Resurrection really is "Hogwash", then there is no God capable of conquering death. The bottomless pit of nothingness is our only destiny. Consequently, we are doomed to the horrifying reality that our lives have no real, lasting significance or meaning and the whole universe is one big, absurd, fleeting, pointless, damnable crap shoot!

The New Testament and St. Paul, in particular, argue repeatedly and cogently that the Resurrection is true. The most persuasive argument for the truth of the Resurrection has been more recently advanced by such renowned scholars and theologians as Wolfhart Pannenberg and N. T. Wright.

If the Resurrection really is "hogwash", then there is not God capable of conquering death. The bottomless pit of nothingness is our only destiny. Consequently, we are doomed to the horrifying reality that our lives have no real, lasting significance or meaning and the whole universe is one big, absurd, fleeting, pointless, damnable crap shoot!

Both scholars cite the dramatic transformation that took place among the disciples between Good Friday and Easter. They argue that their encounter with the living, risen Christ, whose redeeming and transforming presence was stopped neither by their fear and lack of faith nor the barriers of locked doors, is the most logical, plausible and persuasive explanation for the transformation of the disciples for scared, timid, quivering, despairing coward into unswerving witnesses who were willing to face persecution and death as they publicly proclaimed that he who once was dead now lives! **

We invite you to gather with us here at OSLC as we celebrate the redeeming presence of the Risen Christ as the Good News of Christ' Easter victory over Sin, Evil and Death and His Promise of New Life in the Resurrection.

(** contributed from the late Rev. Gary Weant)

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.



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.

Our Saviour Lutheran Church
William Trudnak, President
February 29, 2018 Council Minutes

Adjourned with Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting: March 19, 2018

Devotions: Robbie Wooten

Devotions: Melinda White

Meeting called to order by President Bill Trudnak.

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

Minutes for January 15, 2018 were reviewed. Motion made by Betty Ratchford to approve the minutes and a second was given by Jeff White.

Reception of Petitions and Communications:

- a. None

Report of the Pastor: Pastor Feige joined the meeting via phone and reported completion of confirmation; communion given to Ralph Summey and family; prepared and lead funeral for Mr. Summey; and preparing for the Lenten season with weekly bible study and worship services.

Report of the Treasurer: Motion by Alice Vlaservich to accept the Treasurer Report and seconded by Bud Penley.

Report of the Ministries:

- a. Property: Roof shingles on Sanctuary were checked for possible leaks, none found. Floor tiles in women's restroom to be replaced in few weeks. Cloth was placed on outside cross for Lent.
- b. Stewardship and Finance: No report this month.
- c. Worship & Music: No report this month.
- d. Youth Team: No report.
- e. Witness: Cards and prayers continue to be sent out.
- f. Christian Education Team: Confirmation for Emma Dease was completed and celebrated with a covered dish after the worship service on January 28th. Reviewing VBS material for upcoming VBS. Tentative date is June 17-21. OSLC is the host church this year and will need volunteers. Please consider your time and talents for this ministry.

Report of Auxiliaries:

- a. Rachel Circle: Met at the home of Shirley Marazza for program and refreshments.

Old and/or Unfinished Business:

- a. Paint was purchased for the hallway. Church grounds/inside cleaning workday is scheduled for 3/3/2018 at 9am. Please come out and lend a hand.

New Business:

- None

General Information:

- a. Kids Alive Report
- b. Attendance
- c. Park Sterling Bank changing name to South State
- d. Consider monthly donation to LCMC
- e. Parish Directory updated

~DEATH~

WHAT A WONDERFUL WAY TO EXPLAIN IT ..

A sick man turned to his doctor as he was preparing to

Leave the examination room and said,

'Doctor, I am afraid to die.

Tell me what lies on the other side.'

Very quietly, the doctor said, 'I don't know..'

'You don't know? You're, a Christian man,

and don't know what's on the other side?'

The doctor was holding the handle of the door;

On the other side came a sound of scratching and whining,

And as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room

And leaped on him with an eager show of gladness.

Turning to the patient, the doctor said,

'Did you notice my dog?

He's never been in this room before.

He didn't know what was inside.

He knew nothing except that his master was here,

And when the door opened, he sprang in without fear.

I know little of what is on the other side of death,

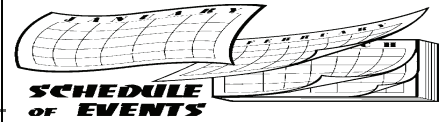
But I do know one thing...

I know my Master is there and that is enough.'

April 2017



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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 	2 Team Meetings	3	4	5	6	7
8 2nd Sunday of Easter	9	10 Gaston Together	11	12	13	14
15 3rd Sunday of Easter	16 Council Mtg.	17 	18	19	20	21
22 4th Sunday of Easter	23 Rachel/CLW Group	24	25	26		28
29 5th Sunday of Easter	30					

- **Apr. 1—EASTER**
Sunrise Service 7:00 am followed by breakfast
Easter Service 11:00 am
April Fools Day
- **Apr. 2—** Team Meetings: Youth 6:30 pm
Others 7:00 pm
- **Apr. 8—** 2nd Sunday of Easter
- **Apr. 10—** Gaston Together (see p 8)
- **Apr. 14—** Annual Gathering of Men-in-Mission (see p 6)
Community Foundation Run (see p 12)
- **Apr. 15—** 3rd Sunday of Easter
- **Apr. 16—** Council Meeting 7:00 p
- **Apr. 17—** Prayer Group at Allie Clemmer at 3 pm
- **Apr. 22—** 4th Sunday of Easter
- **Apr. 23—** Rachel/CLW Group TBA
- **Apr. 27—** Relay for Life (see p 10)
- **Apr. 29—** 4th Sunday of Easter

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

Choir practice each Sunday at 6:00 pm unless otherwise announced the bulletin



Birthdays

- 1 Melinda White
- 5 Will Trudnak
- 8 Nancy Friday
- 11 Barry Clemmer
- 12 Jill Petzold
- 18 Darlene Clemmer
- 22 Dan Clemmer, Jr.
- 23 Nancy Presley
- Nick Vlaservich



- Julie Digh
- Tiffany Cobb
- Donna Clemmer
- Teri Trudnak
- Jill Petzold
- Melinda White
- Jared Dease

Holy Communion Schedule:

Apr. 1: Easter Sunday

Worship Service Assistance:

- Altar Guild: Yvonne Finger
Marie Robinson
- Acolyte: Nick Vlaservich
- Crucifer: Nick Vlaservich
- Communion Asst: Yvonne Finger
- Lay Reader:
- Worship Asst:
- Greeters: OSLC Members
- Ushers: OSLC Members
- Devotion: Steve Digh
- Stewardship: Betty Ratchford

FLOWERS

Flower Schedule:

- Apr. 1 Easter (Wayne Ann)
- Apr. 8 Denise Traveria
- Apr. 15 Wayne Ann Penley
- Apr. 22 Becky Messick
- Apr. 29 Alice Vlaservich

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

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



ANNIVERSARIES

24th.....Chris & Becky Messick



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



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

Jerri Presley
2604 Ole Home Trail, Dallas

(If others, please let the church office know)

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



MARGARET Addington (Brady Ratchford's sister and friends of the community), SUSAN Aderholt, SETH Alexander, AMANDA (friend of the Penley's), MARVIS Anderson, KELLY Ballard (friend of Shana Dease), ADDISON Blanton (friend of Dease's), KATHY Bohanan (cancer), JENNIFER Christy (cancer is back- co-worker of Julie Digh), KAREN Braddy, COLEEN Cloninger (friend of community), 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), ROBERT L. McCanness, Jr. (failing health - Charles McCanness' father), GARY Neal, (friend of Caleb Dease), NANCY Parker (friend of Marie Lingle-ALS), MARY O'Shea (co-worker of Melinda White's). EDITH Paysour, LAWRANCE Paysour (friend of Ratchford's), RIVER Peedin (Ursela Peedin's great-grandson- leukemia), JANICE and JOHNNY Pendleton (grandparents of Raygan Carpenter - Janice has strokes), SONDRRA Phillips (friend of Melinda White) JERRIE Presley, BERNICE—Leon Rawlinson's mother, GENE Rohm (cousin of Robbie Wooten), LEIGH Sellers (college friend's daughter of Libby Bickley), GARY Turner (father of Jason Murray), SHERREE B Turner (mother of Jason Turner), KELLY Walters (mother of Brie Murray), LISA Walters (Brie and Emma Murray's aunt -cancer), MELINDA White, ANNE White (niece of Betty Ratchford-breast cancer), NANCY

**Events For
Lutheridge -Lutherock-Lutherspring**

Lutheranch

Web site: www.NovusWay.com

and

Kure/Agape Beach

E-mail: kurebeach@agapekurebeach.org

Web site: www.agapekurebeach.org

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



GO OUT ON A LIMB
GET INVOLVED
BE A WORSHIP ASSISTANT

**Altar
Flowers**

FLOWERS CALENDER FOR THE CHURCH is posted on the first door in the hallway of the Education wing. Please sign up to place flowers on the altar in the glory of God and in honor or memory of your loved ones. You can then take them home with you or give them to one of our shut ins.

THERE ARE 5 OPENINGS



VBS is coming in July

Light Supper
5:30 pm- 6:10 pm

VBS stations
6:15 pm-8:15 pm

A Stewardship Minute

In the April issue of *Stewardship*, we are reminded of how God called Moses to be his servant in leading the Jews out of captivity in Egypt. Moses was quite reluctant to take on that dangerous task. But after being told that God would be with him giving him strength for the job, he consented to do what was needed.

Moses was truly a man worthy of honor. Yet, his life and obedience to God remind us that God also has a role for each of us. Yes, for you and for me.

Oh, we may think that God's plan for us is inconsequential. That is not true. While the world may take little notice of our service on God's behalf, God is aware of our stewardship and faithfulness. And, believe me, when we actually follow the Lord's plan, we know within our hearts that God is pleased with our stewardship. A certain peace and sense of fulfillment comes. God knows and we know. The inner joy we have is enough.

St. Paul wrote the following words to the Christians at Corinth: "Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and the stewards of God's mysteries. Moreover it is required of

stewards that they be found trustworthy." (I Corinthians 4: 1-2)

Let us pray: Inspire us to be trustworthy stewards, Lord, that we may be pleasing to you. **Amen.**



The Community Foundation of Gaston County, Inc.

invites you to
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION RUN

WHEN: Saturday, April 14, 2018; 8:00 am...5 K Run and 2K Walk—Go online for Registration.

WHERE: Rotary Pavilion, downtown Gastonia

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

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

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

Run 2018 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 \$18 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 2018* 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 or calling 704-864-0927

Church News



GASTON TOGETHER'S CLERGY & CITIZENS COALITION

April 11, 2017

8:30 to Noon

Clinton Room, Gaston Memorial Hospital

Breakfast before meeting, if you wish



The Carolinas Mission District
of the
North American Lutheran Church

2018 Convocation
May 18-19

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Troutman, N.C.

(applications in church office)

LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION GATHERING

April 14, 2018

Morning Star Lutheran Church
Matthews, NC

Please find registration form enclosed
Need to be returned by April 4.

This year's focus:

Discipleship

Building Relationships

Creative Ministries

Connecting with Men

PASTOR PETE'S TELEPHONE:

Cell Phone: 704-516-2805



WELCA/RACHEL GROUP

Will meet in the home TBA

on April 23



The North American Lutheran Church

2018 Convocation

August 13-17

Crowne Plaza Denver Airport Convention Center
Denver, Colorado

The NALC Constitution states: A Convocation of the NALC shall be held annually.

Delegates with voting privileges at a Convocation shall be the ordained ministers of the NALC and at least an equal number of laypersons. Each congregation of the NALC shall elect one lay delegate to the Convocation for every 750 baptized members, or fraction thereof, of such congregation. In the event that the total number of lay delegates elected pursuant to the preceding sentence is less than the total number of ordained clergy, the Executive Council shall apportion additional lay delegates based on the relative size of the congregations of the NALC.

All members of the Convocation are delegates and as such represent their congregations.

The responsibilities of the annual Convocation shall include:

- election of the Bishop, the Executive Council and any other position requiring election;
 - adoption of a budget for the subsequent calendar year;
 - consideration of teaching statements;
 - reception of reports;
- and other items of business as may be determined by the Executive Council or by the Convocation.

Teaching statements must be endorsed by the Bishop prior to being submitted to the Convocation, and shall require for approval at least two-thirds of the votes cast. Teaching statements so approved shall not become effective until ratified by at least two-thirds of the congregations of the NALC pursuant to the ratification procedures in section 17.03 of the Constitution.

Special Convocations may be called for specified purposes by the Bishop or by the Executive Council.

Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern the business of a Convocation absent the approval by the Convocation



This year marks the beginning of our celebration of 34 years of Relay For Life®

What is Relay For Life?

Relay For Life is the American Cancer Society's signature activity. It offers everyone in a community an opportunity to participate in the fight against cancer. Teams of people camp out at a local high school, park, or fairground and take turns walking or running around a track or path. Each team is asked to have a representative on the track at all times during the event. Relays are an overnight event, up to 24 hours

in length. **PLEASE CONTACT KATE SCHOBEL AT kate.schober@cancer.org OR 704-553-5386 IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN MAKING A DONATION AND PARTICIPATING.** Go online: main.acsevents.org

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

- Celebrate the lives of those who have battled cancer. The strength of survivors inspires others to continue to fight.
- Remember loved ones lost to the disease. At Relay, people who have walked alongside people battling cancer can grieve and find healing.
- Fight Back. We Relay because we have been touched by cancer and desperately want to put an end to the disease.
- April 27th 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.***

2018 Mission Emphasis ~ Lutheran Camps

NOVUS WAY

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

Visit www.novusway.com.

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

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

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

Check the website videos and information about camp weeks and other

AGAPE /KURE BEACH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Daily Bible reading guide from NALC, LCMS and LCC

Reading the Word of God, a daily Bible reading guide, has been prepared for Lutherans to use over the next three years.

The North American Lutheran Church has joined with the Lutheran Church-Canada and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to compile a three-year plan of *daily* Bible readings and a year-long series of *weekly* readings on Martin Luther's approach to the Scriptures.

Daily readings

The daily readings are listed on calendars for **2018**, **2019** and **2020**. The plan provides a guide that will take the reader through the entire Old Testament one time in three years, with the exception of Psalms, which are read twice each year. The New Testament will be read twice in the three years.

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

April



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Ex. 15:1-11</i> <i>Ps. 118</i> <i>1 Cor 5:6-8</i> <i>John 20:1-18</i>	2 <i>Ex. 16:17-36</i> <i>Ps. 83</i> <i>Rom 12:1-21</i>	3 <i>Ex. 17</i> <i>Ps. 84</i> <i>Rom 13:1-14</i>	4 <i>Ex. 18</i> <i>Ps. 85</i> <i>Rom 14:1-12</i>	5 <i>Ex. 19</i> <i>Ps. 86</i> <i>Rom 14:13-15:7</i>	6 <i>Ex. 20:1-17</i> <i>Ps. 84</i> <i>Rom 15:8-21</i>	7 <i>Ex. 20:18-21:11</i> <i>Ps. 88</i> <i>Rom 15:22-33</i>
8 <i>Ex. 21:12-36</i> <i>Ps. 89</i> <i>Rom 16:1-16</i>	9 <i>Ex. 22:1-15</i> <i>Ps. 90</i> <i>Rom 16:17-27</i>	10 <i>Ex. 22:16-23:9</i> <i>Ps. 91</i> <i>Mark 1:1-15</i>	11 <i>Ex. 23:10-26</i> <i>Ps. 92</i> <i>Mark 1:16-34</i>	12 <i>Ex. 23:27-24:17</i> <i>Ps. 93</i> <i>Mark 1:35-2:12</i>	13 <i>Ex. 25:1-22</i> <i>Ps. 94</i> <i>Mark 2:13-28</i>	14 <i>Ex. 25:23-40</i> <i>Ps. 95</i> <i>Mark 3:1-21</i>
15 <i>Ex. 26</i> <i>Ps. 96</i> <i>Mark 3:22-35</i>	16 <i>Ex. 27</i> <i>Ps. 97</i> <i>Mark 4:1-25</i>	17 <i>Ex. 28:1-13</i> <i>Ps. 98</i> <i>Mark 4:26-41</i>	18 <i>Ex. 28:14-43</i> <i>Ps. 99</i> <i>Mark 5:1-20</i>	19 <i>Ex. 29:1-34</i> <i>Ps. 100</i> <i>Mark 5:21-43</i>	20 <i>Ex. 29:35-30:10</i> <i>Ps. 101</i> <i>Mark 6:1-13</i>	21 <i>Ex. 30:11-38</i> <i>Ps. 102</i> <i>Mark 6:14-29</i>
22 <i>Ex. 31</i> <i>Ps. 103</i> <i>Mark 6:30-44</i>	23 <i>Ex. 32:1-16</i> <i>Ps. 104</i> <i>Mark 6:45-56</i>	24 <i>Ex. 32:17-33:6</i> <i>Ps. 105</i> <i>Mark 7:1-13</i>	25 <i>Ex. 33:7-23</i> <i>Ps. 106</i> <i>Mark 7:14-30</i>	26 <i>Ex. 34:1-28</i> <i>Ps. 107</i> <i>Mark 7:31-8:10</i>	27 <i>Ex. 34:29-35:29</i> <i>Ps. 108</i> <i>Mark 8:11-21</i>	28 <i>Ex. 35:30-36:30</i> <i>Ps. 109</i> <i>Mark 8:22-9:1</i>
29 <i>Ex. 36:31-37:29</i> <i>Ps. 110</i> <i>Mark 9:2-13</i>	30 <i>Ex. 38:1-20</i> <i>Ps. 111</i> <i>Mark 9:14-29</i>		 Invite a Friend to Church			

THE TRANSFORMING POWER OF GOD'S WORD

FROM Wycliff Bible Translator

This story is of the miraculous work of God, the hard work of men and women and a courageous act by one believer. Sani (not his real name) has been working with scripture translation workshops and is a former Muslim, the son of a former Imam. A couple weeks ago, Sani received a phone call from an unknown number. The caller said that he and his four friends were aware of Sani's work among the Muslim people group to which they belonged. They wanted Sani to come and meet with them and tell them about Jesus. It wasn't long into the conversation that it became apparent that these five may belong to a radical militant group, causing Sani to wonder if this was a trap. He declined to meet because of the risk. The caller phoned again the next day, begging Sani to meet. To help persuade Sani, he related an account of their recent experiences.

The five admitted they were leaders of a militant group, even leaders of 2,500 men. They were about to launch an attack on a neighboring state, when they were blocked by a vision of a man in brilliant white whose feet were on the ground and his head in the sky. All five leaders and many of the larger group saw this vision and they wisely retreated. They wondered if they had stumbled upon a "holy" trail and not to be deterred decided to proceed by a different way the next day. Again they were confronted by the same vision. This happened five separate times.

Upon returning to camp, the five leaders took their prayer rugs and separated themselves from the camp and each other to pray and reflect. While sitting alone, a man in white approached the caller, greeted him and sat down next to him. The visitor told him his own thoughts and also spoke to him from the scriptures. This baffled the man. He said, "Who are you and how do you know these things?" The visitor pulled out his hands and displayed them palms forward showing holes in each and proclaimed, "I am Jesus. I have come that you might have salvation and bring salvation to others." The militant leader fell to his knees and accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior. The visitor walked away and disappeared into the bush. The newly converted leader got up and ran to the closest of the other four leaders to tell him what had happened but discovered that the other four leaders had just experienced the same visit at the same time. They discussed what to do next and remembered hearing about Sani, a man that talked about Jesus in their own language.

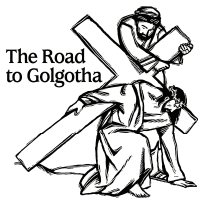
After hearing this story, praying and discussing with his wife, Sani decided to respond to the invitation despite the risk. He drove out of town where he met the caller, who then took him by motor bike to their camp. Arriving late at night, he retired to a restless sleep. At daybreak, Sani entered the camp to find 2,500 militants assembled and waiting to hear him speak. Even though he is a preacher, something prompted Sani to simply read the scripture. Fortunately, the New Testament had been completed and dedicated six years earlier, which meant that Sani could read God's word to them in their heart language! He read from the book of James. After reading four chapters, he gave an invitation to accept Jesus and all 2,500 responded! They pressed Sani to remain and answer their many questions for three days. Later, he returned for one day and read again from the scriptures in their language, this time from John 1-3.

The caller who had met Sani on the motor bike treated him in such a way that it removed his fear. At the camp, in the few short days he was there, he could see clear changes in their lives and how they treated each other. Now Sani is trying to figure out how to disciple these 2,500 new converts. Sani and these men will need our prayers with them for the sure persecution that will follow.

*A story that took place in an African country...

May the Lord use them as he did Paul the apostle to take the good news to others who are fighting against Christ.





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)

An incredible way to look at God

When GOD solves our problems, we have faith in HIS abilities. When GOD doesn't solve our problems HE has faith in our abilities

God's accuracy may be observed in the hatching of eggs. . . .

- those of the canary in 14 days;
- those of the barnyard hen in 21 days;
- eggs of ducks and geese in 28 days;
- those of the mallard in 35 days;
- The eggs of the parrot and the ostrich hatch in 42 days.

(Notice, they are all divisible by seven, the number of days in a week!

God's wisdom is seen in the making of an elephant. The four legs of this great beast all bend forward in the same direction. - No other quadruped is so made. - God planned that this animal would have a huge body too large to live on two legs. For this reason He gave it four fulcrums so that it can rise from the ground easily.

- The horse rises from the ground on its two front legs first
- A cow rises from the ground with its two hind legs first.

How wise the Lord is in all His works of creation!

- Each watermelon has an even number of stripes on the rind.
- Each orange has an even number of segments.
- Each ear of corn has an even number of rows.
- Each stalk of wheat has an even number of grains.
- Every bunch of bananas has on its lowest row an even number of bananas, and each row decreases by one, so that one row has an even number and the next row an odd number.

Amazing.

The waves of the sea roll in on shore twenty-six to the minute in all kinds of weather.

All grains are found in even numbers on the stalk.

God has caused the flowers to blossom at certain specified times during the day. Linnaeus, the great botanist, once said that if he had a conservatory containing the right kind of soil, moisture and temperature, he could tell the time of day or night by the flowers that were open and those that were closed.

The lives of each of us may be ordered by the Lord in a beautiful way for His glory, if we will only entrust Him with our life. If we try to regulate our own life, it will only be a mess and a failure.

Only God, who made our brain and heart, can successfully guide them to a profitable end

When you carry "the Bible", Satan has a headache; when you open it, he collapses. When he sees you reading it, he loses his strength, and when you stand on the Word of God, Satan can't hurt you!

Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil - it has no point.



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April 2018

WORSHIP SERVICES



April 1

Sunrise, 8:00 am

Worship, 11 am

EASTER