



Our Saviour's Good News

Volume XIX, Issue III

March 2024

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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A Celebration of the Last Supper



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

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

Maundy Thursday Rituals

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

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

tion of the Passover meal, performs the ceremony in the evening.

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

The History of Maundy Thursday

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

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

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

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE WILL BE HELD AT HOLY COMMUNION

Good Friday

Origins, Rituals, and Traditions of Good Friday



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

History of Good Friday

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

Good Friday Origins

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

Good Friday Traditions

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

Good Friday Church Rituals

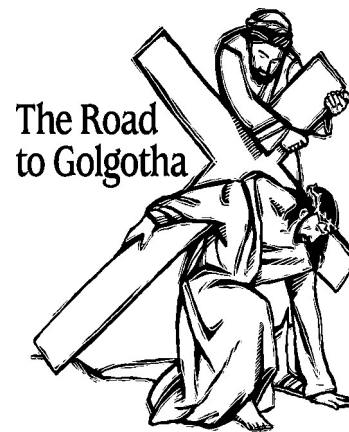
Starting anytime between midnight and 3 a.m., priests and other clerics begin to recite specific prayers. At the morning ceremony, the priest or church official recites lessons from the scriptures. Afterwards, there is a succession of prayers asking for God's mercy and forgiveness on all mankind.

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

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

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

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE WILL BE HELD AT OUR SAVIOUR



Easter and the Resurrection

Significance of the Easter Celebration



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

What is the Real Meaning of Easter?

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

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

As the Western Church began to emerge, its celebration of Easter coincided with the first Sunday after the first full moon of spring, which caused some contention with the Eastern Church. The matter came to the attention of the Emperor Constantine, who convened the Council of Nicaea in AD 325.

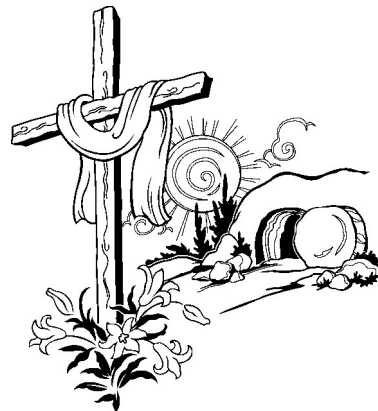
The council ruled that all churches would celebrate Easter on the first Sunday after the first full moon of the Spring Equinox. This became the standard for the Church under the Julian calendar until 1582, when Pope Gregory XIII revised the calendar and the Easter tables by adding the leap-year rule.

What are Easter and the Resurrection?

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

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

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



30th Celebration of Life Fund Raiser

“But Jesus called the children to Him and said, ‘Let the Little Children Come to Me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.’” Luke 18:18

Date: Thursday, March 14, 2024

Location: First Assembly of God,
777 S. Myrtle School Road, Gastonia

Time/Program: **It is Different...**
There will **NOT** be a meal!
Invitations won't be sent.
5:45 pm: Doors Open
6:15 to 7:00 pm—Musical Worship in the Sanctuary.
7:00 pm—Program in the sanctuary.

Speaker: John Owens

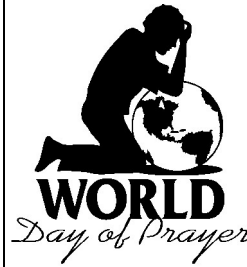
Seating: On a First Come, First Serve basis
There will be reserved seating for those unable to climb steps.



See insert for donation



MARCH 1



is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year, and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service.

- It is a movement initiated and carried out by women in more than 170 countries and regions.

- It is a movement symbolized by an annual day of celebration – the first Friday of March – to which all people are welcome.

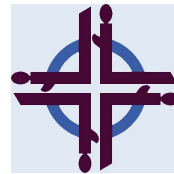
It is a movement which brings together women of various races, cultures, and traditions in closer fellowship, understanding, and action throughout the year.

Through **World Day of Prayer**, women around the world

- affirm their faith in Jesus Christ
- share their hopes and fears, their joys and sorrows, their opportunities and needs
- Through **World Day of Prayer**, women are encouraged
- to become aware of the whole world and no longer live in isolation
 - to be enriched by the faith experience of Christians of other countries and cultures
 - to take up the burdens of other people and pray with and for them
- to become aware of their talents and use them in the service of society

Through World Day of Prayer, women affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and both have immeasurable influence in the world

The symbol for World Day of Prayer was developed by the women of Ireland and adopted as the international logo in 1982. Its design is made up of arrows converging from the four points of the compass, persons kneeling in prayer, the Celtic cross, and the circle, representing the world and our unity through all our diversity.



THIS YEAR PALESTINE IS THE COUNTRY THAT THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER IS CENTER AROUND

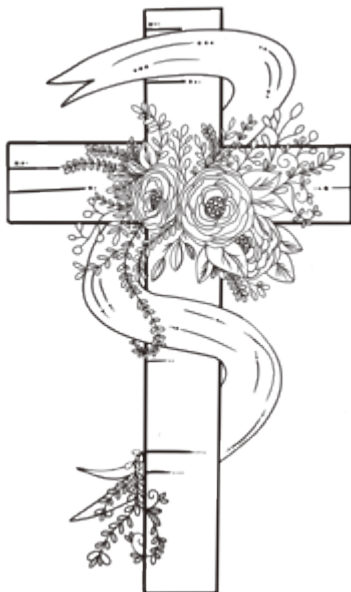
The theme of the worship service “I beg you, bear with one another in love”. The National Committee in Palestine works in conjunction with a wide variety of organizations that are connected to the Christian Church. Involvement with the movement since the 1950s has enabled Palestinian women to interact with over 100 countries, strengthening the Middle East presence and witness.

Women's History Month

Women's History Month has been celebrated annually in the month of March since 1987 and serves to pay "...tribute to the generations of women whose commitment to nature and the planet have proved invaluable to society."

3 Reasons Why We Celebrate Women's History Month

1. **So little girls can feel empowered.** In my opinion, learning about the accomplishments of women before them is extremely important in helping young girls gain confidence and feel empowered. Girls need to hear empowering messages throughout their life because as we all probably know, raising girls in this society is still a struggle. Consuming media (both print and digital) with strong female characters and that celebrate the beauty of being a woman goes a long way to establishing a sense of pride for girl.
2. **So little boys can appreciate.** It's not just little girls that need to celebrate Women's History Month. Boys also need to learn about the variety of women in history and consume media with strong female characters. This will help them appreciate past and present struggles of women, so they in turn can help make a change for future generations.
3. **So women's history is not erased.** It can be easy to forget about the past, but as I often tell my children, it's important to know our history and learn from it. Celebrating Women's History Month ensures these stories are not forgotten or erased. The legacy of many important women needs to live on so future generations of women can continue to create history.



NALC NALC Disaster Response is a **vital and active part of our church.** In 2010 the North American Lutheran Church determined a need for a disaster response coordinator to support congregations in their response when disasters strike. They provide disaster preparedness training, early response coordination and long-term recovery training.

Lutheran Disaster Response brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

NALC Disaster Response has resources and capabilities to assist in early response and longer term recovery. We can open the gates to material resources, networking, counseling, training, and volunteers. Remember, the key is early communication!

When disaster strikes the NALC Disaster Response has to have supplies and resources to help those in need. That is where our congregation and others come into the picture by either donating monetary/gift cards donations. Even after (as stated above) the dust has settled, they need to have supplies on hand after a disaster has struck.

Instead of purchasing items, the Board recommend that members can help by purchasing a gift card (Lowe's, Home Depot, Target, Walmart, etc.) and placing it in the basket provided in the Narthex or table in Education wing during month of March.

Or if you would like to make a monetary donation please see the below.

Donate online or mail checks/gift card payable to:
 North American Lutheran Church
 PO Box 860565
 Minneapolis, MN 55486-0565

OR put it in the basket in the Narthex or on the table in Education wing.

2024 MARCH MISSION EMPHASIS

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF



"Hope the choir does some hip-hop for Easter!"



March 10, 2024

about their own potential and self-worth.

Founded in 1912 by Juliette Gordon Low, Girl Scouts' membership has grown from 18 members in Savannah, Georgia, to 3.2 million members throughout the United States, including U.S. territories, and in more than 92 countries through USA Girl Scouts Overseas.

Girl Scout Promise and Law

The Girl Scout Promise and Law are shared by every member of Girl Scouting. The Girl Scout Promise is the way Girl Scouts agree to act every day toward one another and other people, and the Girl Scout Law outlines a way to act towards one another and the world.

The Girl Scout Promise

On my honor, I will try:
To serve God and my country,
To help people at all times,
And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

The Girl Scout Law

I will do my best to be
honest and fair,
friendly and helpful,
considerate and caring,
courageous and strong, and
responsible for what I say and do,
and to
respect myself and others,
respect authority,
use resources wisely,
make the world a better place, and
be a sister to every Girl Scout.



The Community Foundation Run is an annual fundraising event for local nonprofits facilitated by the Foundation. On the day of the Run, thousands of people come together for one of the biggest celebrations of community spirit and support in Gaston County.

When:

April 13, 2024

Who:

Walkers and runners of all ages, participating nonprofits, community members

What:

5K Run, 2K Fun Walk

All registrations will be online through the [Race Roster link](#); no written registrations or checks for runner or walker registration payments will be accepted at the Foundation. The Run will be 100% in person.

•5k Run Registration:

- Early bird registration online is \$30 until March 31st
- Beginning April 1, online registration is \$35
- Day of race (April 13) in-person registration at the park is \$40

•2k Walk Registration:

- Early bird registration online is \$20 until March 31st
- Beginning April 1, online registration is \$25
- Day of walk (April 13) in-person registration at the park is \$30
- Both the 5k run and the 2k walk registrations include a T-shirt (*while supplies last*).
- Packet pickup for **pre-registered** runners and walkers will be available **Tuesday, April 9 through Friday, April 12 from 9:30am - 4:00pm** at the **Gaston Community Foundation**. (Notify Run Director of group packet pick up by April 5)

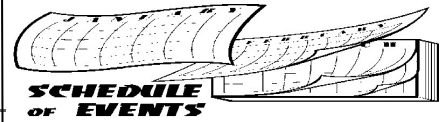
GO ON LINE FOR REGISTRATION FORM, MAP, ETC

LINK: [Community Foundation Run - CF Gaston](#)

March 2024



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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 3rd Sun. in Lent	4	5	6	7 CPC 30th Fund Raising Event	8	9
10 4th Sun in Lent	11	12	13	14 CPC 30th Fund Raising Event	15	16
17 5th Sun. in Lent	18 Council Meetings	19 1st Day of Spring	20	21	22	23
	25	26	27	28		30

- March is Women's History Month
- Mar. 1— World Day of Prayer (see p 2)
- Mar. 2— LMIM 101th Gathering (see p 13)
- Mar. 5— 3rd Sunday in Lent
- Mar. 6— Lenten Study Deuteronomy
- Mar. 9—set your clock ahead one hour for March 10
- Mar. 10— Daylight Saving starts begins
- Mar. 10— 4th Sunday in Lent GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY
- Mar. 12— Prayer Group will meet at the home of Shirlee Marazza at 1:30 pm
- Mar. 13— Lenten Study Deuteronomy
- Mar. 14—CPC 30th Fund Raising Event,
- Mar. 17— St. Patrick's Day (see p 4)
- Mar. 17— 5th Sunday in Lent
- Mar. 18— Council Meeting
- Mar. 19— 1st Day of Spring
- Mar. 20— Lenten Study Deuteronomy
- Mar. 24— Psalm Sunday
- Mar. 27— Lenten Study Deuteronomy
- Mar. 28—Maundy Thursday service will be at Holy Communion
- Mar. 29—Good Friday service will be at Our Saviour
- Mar. 31—Easter "He Has Risen"



Birthdays

- 4 Jack Clemmer
- 19 Bailey Drummond
- Ben Finger
- 22 Steve Digh
- 30 Emma Dease



Christian Clemmer
Mariel Schmideler

Holy Communion Schedule:

Maundy Thursday
All Sundays



Worship Service Assistance:

- Acolyte: Nora Cole
- Communion Asst: Nora Cole
- Lay Reader: OSLC Member
- Worship Asst: OSLC Member
- Greeters:
- Ushers: OSLC Member
- Council Devotions: Robbie Wooten
- Stewardship Collector: Anna Lowery



FOOD FOR THE MONTH:
Pinto Beans, Canned Meat, Corn



Choir practice each Wednesday at 4:00 pm unless otherwise announced the bulletin

FLOWERS

Flower Schedule:

- Mar. 3 None during Lent
- Mar. 10 None during Lent
- Mar. 17 None during Lent
- Mar. 24 Psalm Sunday
- Mar. 31 Wayne Ann Penley

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
Please sign up and help
Decorate the altar of our Lord
Cost \$35



ANNIVERSARIES

- 7thAndrew & Katie Sanderson
- 28thCarlos & Denise Traveria
- 31stBritt & Anna Lowery



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* or senior living and visit them or send a card to them

If you know of anyone, please let the office know.
 Thank you!



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

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

God will bless you in your generosity.

FOOD FOR THE MONTH:
Pinto Beans, Canned Meat, Corn

Souper Bowl Sunday



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT
 UPDATE AND FINAL
 \$150.00 IN DONATIONS
 49 can goods

HAIRCUT

A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and inquired of his father as to when they could discuss his use of the car. His father said he'd make a deal with his son, "You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little, and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk about the car."

The boy thought about that for a moment, decided, he'd settle for the offer, and they agreed on it. After about six weeks his father said, "Son, you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut."

The boy said, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair, and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair."

(You're going to love the Dad's reply below)

"Did you also notice they all walked everywhere they went!"

**Events For
 Lutheridge -Lutherock-Lutherspring-
 Lutheranch**

Web site: www.NovusWay.com

and

Kure/Agape Beach

E-mail: kurebeach@agapekurebeach.org

Web site: www.agapekurebeach.org

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



**GO OUT ON A LIMB
 GET INVOLVED**

BE A WORSHIP ASSISTANT

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

Sign up sheets for the 2024 calendar year are on the wall in the Education wing.
 THANK YOU!

WE ARE SMALL AND NEED YOUR HELP



Lenten
 Study

Deuteronomy

Each Wednesday during March at
 7:00 pm in the Activity Building.
 Snack will be provided

A Stewardship Minute

In the March issue of *Stewardship* there is a brief article by Mother Teresa. It brings to mind how troublesome holy people can often be to those of us who fall short of holiness. Consider this prayer Mother Teresa offered to God:

Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves. Disturb us, Lord, when with the abundance of the things we possess, we have lost our thirst for the water of life.

After her prayer she addressed her listeners with the following words:

“Open your hearts to the love God instills in them. What God gives you is not to be kept under lock and key but to be shared. Let us ask God ...to help us to be generous.” Isn't that the basic meaning of stewardship? Isn't it to be generous ... not simply with money, but generous also with our talents, our strength, our mental ability and our time? Stewardship is considering our many blessings from God and using them for the glory of God and the welfare of mankind.

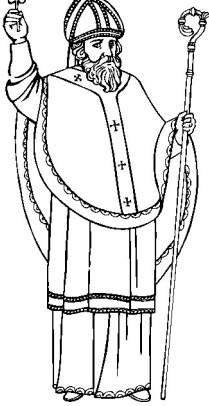
In every congregation on earth there are some dear souls who set an example for those who hide their light under a bushel. These are they who

volunteer their heart, hands and resources to glorify and serve God and God's church. Should not each of us consider making the effort to bring light to the dark places of the world?

Jesus said: “You are the light of the world. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:14-16)

Prayer: Serving you, dear Lord, is an honor and a privilege. Grant us the strength and guidance to serve you well. In Christ's name. **Amen**

St. Patrick's Day



The person who was to become St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, was born in Wales about AD 385. His given name was Maewyn, and he almost didn't get the job of bishop of Ireland because he lacked the required scholarship.

Far from being a saint, until he was 16, he considered himself a pagan. At that age, he was sold into slavery by a group of Irish marauders that raided his village. During his captivity, he became closer to God.

He escaped from slavery after six years and went to Gaul where he studied in the monastery under St. Germain, bishop of Auxerre for a period of twelve years. During his training he became aware that his calling was to convert the pagans to Christianity.

His wishes were to return to Ireland, to convert the native pagans to Christianity. But his superiors instead appointed St. Palladius. But two years later, Palladius transferred to Scotland. Patrick, having adopted that Christian name earlier, was then appointed as second bishop to Ireland.

Patrick was quite successful at winning converts. And this fact upset the Celtic Druids. Patrick was arrested several times, but escaped each time. He traveled throughout Ireland, establishing monasteries across the country. He also set up schools and churches which would aid him in his conversion of the Irish country to Christianity.

His mission in Ireland lasted for thirty years. After that time, Patrick retired to County Down. He died on March 17 in AD 461. That day has been commemorated as St. Patrick's Day ever since. Much Irish folklore surrounds St. Patrick's Day. Not much of it is actually substantiated.

Some of this lore includes the belief that Patrick raised people from the dead. He also is said to have given a sermon from a hilltop that drove all the snakes from Ireland. Of course, no snakes were ever native to Ireland, and some people think this is a metaphor for the conversion of the pagans. Though originally a Catholic holy day, St. Patrick's Day has evolved into more of a secular holiday.

One traditional icon of the day is the shamrock. And this stems from a more bona fide Irish tale that tells how Patrick used the three-leafed shamrock to explain the Trinity. He used it in his sermons to represent how the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit could all exist as separate elements of the same entity. His followers adopted the custom of wearing a shamrock on his feast day. The St. Patrick's Day custom came to America in 1737. That was the first year St. Patrick's Day was publicly celebrated in this country, in Boston.

Today, people celebrate the day with parades, wearing of the green, and drinking beer. One reason St. Patrick's Day might have become so popular is that it takes place just a few days before the first day of spring. One might say it has become the first green of spring.



Church News



Altar Flowers

NEW 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 23 OPENINGS

Cost: \$35.00



PASTOR PETE FEIGE TELEPHONE:

704-516-2805



"Prayer Group"

will meet at the home of Shirlee Marazza

March 12th at 2:00 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)



PRAYER CONCERNS— MARGARET Addington, SETH Alexander, AMANDA (friend of the Penley's), MARVIS Anderson, WHITNEY Auten (breast cancer), KELLY Ballard (friend of Shana Dease), NORMAN Bever (Brother-in-law of Brady Ratchford-stroke), ADDISON Blanton (friend of Dease's), KATHY Bohanan (cancer), KAREN Brady, MIKE Coffey (Robbie Wooten's uncle), STEVE Cloninger (friend of Brady Ratchford-cancer), ROB Curley (cancer), STEVE Digh (cancer), JULIE Digh (Thyroid), BAILEY Drummond (Becky and Chris Messick's daughter), GLEEN Fraizer (friend of Steve & Julie Digh -cancer), BECKY Goodwin (friend of Brady's - cancer), JASON Hames (friend of the White's), GRACE Harbin (friend of Robbie Wooten-cancer), LESA Huges (friend of Robbie Wooten-throat cancer), JEFF Lineberger (stroke), DANA Kirshman (friend of Robbie Wooten-cancer), JACK Lonon (Kasey Digh's step-father-cancer), MARINA Marazza (Shirlee Marazza's granddaughter-Long Haul Covid19), CARL Martin (friend of Pattons-multiple myeloma plus chemo) BO Messick (foot), FRANCIS McAllister (broken hip), CHRIS Messick (recovering back surgery), JASON, ALLISON & LEX Murray, ELIZABETH Mustin (rare breast cancer), GARY Neal, (friend of Caleb Dease), JOHN & MARSHA Patton - Grief and Hope for embryo transferred (have four embryos left) ANDY Peeden (cancer), SONDRRA Phillips (friend of Melinda White), BRADY Ratchford, LEON Rawlinson (growth in brain), JAN Splawn (friend of Robbie Wooten- cancer), TERI Trudnak, TONY Trudnak (cancer reoccurring), GARY Turner (father of Jason Murray), JEFF White, KENT Wilborn (friend of Robbie Wooten-heart surgery) NANCY Wilson, MARY BETH Wright (cousin of Nick Vlaservich -cancer).



NORTH CAROLINA
LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION



The 101st Anniversary Gathering "Living Water"

LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION
MARCH 9, 2024

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
1688 Sixth Street
Hickory, NC 28602

Anticipating another year of fellowship, growth, and ministry, we continue to strengthen our bonds and impact our communities positively. Begin planning now to be with us on Saturday, March 9, 2024. Our hosts for this year's Gathering are the men of the NCLMM Chapter at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1688 Sixth Street Southeast, Hickory, NC 28602.

Our key scripture for this 101st Gathering are the words of Jesus as recorded in The Gospel of **John 4:14** ". . .**(T)hose who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty**" (NRSVUE).

Please register with the following link. (click on chain link icon)

101st Gathering of NCLMM Living Water

On site registration will also be available from 9 to 10am.

Go on line for more information

Prayer REQUEST

I have a prayer request. There's a wonderful lady I've known all my life. She's very sick. On top of that, she's being abused by those to whom she has given everything. Just breaks my heart. There's nothing I can do alone, but maybe, if we join in and lift her up together, God will hear us and heal her. She's over 248 years old, but way too young to die. **Her name is United States of America**.... and I love her.



Read all about it! Hot off the press!

HE HAS RISEN! HE HAD RISEN INDEED!

The Resume of Jesus Christ

Address: Ephesians 1:20

Phone: Romans 10:13

Website: The Bible. Keywords: Christ, Lord, Savior and Jesus

Objective

My name is Jesus-The Christ. Many call me Lord! I've sent you my resume because I'm seeking the top management position in your heart. Please consider my accomplishments as set forth in my resume.

Qualifications

I founded the earth and established the heavens, (See Proverbs 3:19)

I formed man from the dust of the ground, (See Genesis 2:7)

I breathed into man the breath of life, (See Genesis 2:7)

I redeemed man from the curse of the law, (See Galatians 3:13)

The blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant comes upon your life through me, (See Galatians 3:14)

Occupational Background

I've only had one employer, (See Luke 2:49).

I've never been tardy, absent, disobedient, slothful or disrespectful.

My employer has nothing but rave reviews for me, (See Matthew 3:15 -17)

Skills Work Experiences

Some of my skills and work experiences include: empowering the poor to be poor no more, healing the brokenhearted, setting the captives free, healing the sick, restoring sight to the blind and setting at liberty them that are bruised, (See Luke 4:18).

I am a Wonderful Counselor, (See Isaiah 9:6). People who listen to me shall dwell safely and shall not fear evil, (See Proverbs 1:33).

Most importantly, I have the authority, ability and power to cleanse you of your sins, (See I John 1:7-9)

Educational Background

I encompass the entire breadth and length of knowledge, wisdom and understanding, (See Proverbs 2:6).

In me are hid all of the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, (See Colossians 2:3).

My Word is so powerful; it has been described as being a lamp unto your feet and a light unto your path, (See Psalms 119:105).

I can even tell you all of the secrets of your heart, (See Psalms 44:21).

Major Accomplishments

I was an active participant in the greatest Summit Meeting of all times, (See Genesis 1:26).

I laid down my life so that you may live, (See II Corinthians 5:15).

I defeated the arch enemy of God and mankind and made a show of them openly, (See Colossians 2:15).

I've miraculously fed the poor, healed the sick and raised the dead!

There are many more major accomplishments, too many to mention here. You can read them on my website, which is located at: [www dot - the BIBLE](http://www.dot-theBIBLE.com). You don't need an Internet connection or computer to access my website.

References

Believers and followers worldwide will testify to my divine healing, salvation, deliverance, miracles, restoration and supernatural guidance.

In Summation

Now that you've read my resume, I'm confident that I'm the only candidate uniquely qualified to fill this vital position in your heart. In summation, I will properly direct your paths, (See Proverbs 3:5-6), and lead you into everlasting life, (See John 6:47).

When can I start? Time is of the essence, (See Hebrews 3:15).

HE IS GOD

He is the First and Last,
The Beginning and the End!
He is the keeper of Creation and the Creator of all!
He is the Architect of the universe and the Manager of all times.
He always was, He always is, and He always will be ...
unmoved, Unchanged, Undefeated, and never Undone!

He is light, love, longevity, and Lord.
He is goodness, Kindness, Gentleness, and God.
He is Holy, Righteous, mighty, powerful, and pure.

His ways are right,
His word is eternal,
His will is unchanging, and His mind is on me.
He is my Savior,
He is my guide, and He is my peace!
He is my Joy,
He is my comfort,
He is my Lord, and He rules my life!

I serve Him because His bond is love,
His burden is light, and His goal for me is abundant life.
I follow Him because He is the wisdom of the wise,
the power of the powerful,
the ancient of days, the ruler of rulers, the leader of leaders, the overseer of the overcomers, and is to come. And if
that seems impressive to you, try this for size.

His goal is a relationship with ME!
He will never leave me,
never forsake me,
never mislead me,
never forget me,
never overlook me and
never cancel my appointment in His appointment book!

When I fall, He lifts me up!
When I fail, He forgives!
When I am weak, He is strong!
When I am lost, He is the way!
When I am afraid, He is my courage!
When I stumble, He steadies me!
When I am hurt, He heals me!
When I am broken, He mends me!
When I am blind, He leads me!
When I am hungry, He feeds me!
When I face trials, He is with me!
When I face persecution, He shields me!
When I face problems, He comforts me!
When I face loss, He provides for me!
When I face Death, He carries me Home!

He is everything for everybody everywhere, every time, and every way.
He is God, He is faithful. I am His, and He is mine!
My Father in heaven can whip the father of this world.
So, if you're wondering why I feel so secure, understand this...
He said it and that settles it.
God is in control, I am on His side,
and that means all is well with my soul.

Everyday is a blessing for GOD Is!

THE SIX STAGES OF JESUS' TRIAL

Although Jesus' trial lasted less than 18 hours, he was taken to six different hearings.

BEFORE JEWISH AUTHORITY	Preliminary Hearing before Annas (John 18: 12-24)	Because the office of high priest was for life, Annas was still the "official" high priest in the eyes of the Jews, even though the Romans had appointed another. Thus, Annas still carried much weight in the high council.
	Hearing before Caiaphas (Matthew 26:57-68)	Like the hearing before Annas, this hearing was conducted at night in secrecy. It was full of illegalities that made a mockery of justice (see sheet "How Jesus trial was illegal.")
	Trial before the High Council (Matthew 27: 1,2)	Just after daybreak, 70 members of the high council met to rubber-stamp their approval of the previous hearings to make them appear legal. The purpose of this trial was not to determine justice, but to justify their own preconceptions of Jesus' guilt.
BEFORE ROMAN AUTHORITY	First Hearing before Pilate (Luke 23: 1-5)	The religious leaders had condemned Jesus to death on religious grounds, but only the Roman government could grant the death penalty. Thus, they took Jesus to Pilate, the Roman governor, and accused him of treason and rebellion, crimes for which the Roman government gave the death penalty. Pilate saw at once that Jesus was innocent, but he was afraid about the uproar being caused by the religious leaders.
	Hearing before Herod (Luke 23: 6-12)	Because Jesus' home was in the region of Galilee, Pilate sent Jesus to Herod Antipas, the ruler of Galilee, who was in Jerusalem for the Passover celebration. Herod was eager to see Jesus do a miracle, but when Jesus remained silent, Herod wanted nothing to do with him and sent him back to Pilate.
	Last Hearing before Pilate (Luke 23: 13-25)	Pilate didn't like the religious leaders. He wasn't interested in condemning Jesus because he knew Jesus was innocent. However, he knew that another uprising in his district might cost him his job. First he tried to compromise with the religious leaders by having Jesus beaten, an illegal action in itself. But finally he gave in and handed Jesus over to be executed. Pilate's self-interest was stronger than his sense of justice.

A Lenten Prayer

*Lord Jesus, help me to see You
When You have fallen,
Your cross to heavt to bear,
On the roadside, in a stairwell,
On a park bench,*

*Let me help to bear Your cross, O Lord:
Your hunger, Your sadness, Your pain,
Let me share with you
My tome, my possessions,
And myself.*

*I gladly reach out to bear the cross,
To lighten the burdens
Of Your suffering children,
I offer this in Your name.
For Your cross bore You alone, my Lord,
Who suffered for my sake. AMEN*

Christ is Risen!

By John Sherrill

Easter morning! Hundreds of tulips and hyacinths and the open trumpets of Easter lilies spill down the step down the altar of St. Mark's in Mt. Kisco, New York, proclaiming the Resurrection. The choir enters singing, "Christ is risen!" For forty-five years I've sung with them, but following a recent throat exam I've had to resign. This is my first Easter sitting in the congregation. My once-fellow choir members process past our pew; How I would love to be with them today!

The moment comes when I'm most going to miss being in the choir. Every Easter Sunday we lead the congregation in the "Hallelujah Chorus."

Now the organ plays Handel's glorious music. The congregation stands. And suddenly I tear up. Not because I'm not in the choir loft; these are tears of surprise and gladness. I'm filled with gratitude precisely because I'm not up there. For the first time. If experiencing Easter as a part of the voice of the whole people.

Everyone around me is facing some sadness or stress. "Hallelujah!" We sing anyway. I glance at Samuel, whose son is in the army, and Phyllis, facing surgery, and Bailey, so long out of work. "Hallelujah" we sing. We are people sharing a great secret; that Christ is risen. And this Easter I am part of the worldwide chorus. ***Christ is risen! Hallelujah!***

Inspiring a deeper understanding of true giving

March 2024

Stewardship

Anne Frank, the young Jewish girl put to death by the Nazis, said many wise things in her diary. "No one," she wrote, "has ever become poor by giving." That may seem strange, but it is quite true. We actually find that we become rich when we give.

Jesus himself said: "Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap." (Luke 6:38) How can it be so?

"No one has ever become poor by giving."

We become rich when we give!


First of all, God honors the good steward. God is not about to neglect a servant who uses his or her talents and resources in a wise and generous manner.

Secondly, the giver who gives freely soon finds that life takes on a joy not known before. He or she sees that the time, money, and effort given to do God's work brings incalculable rich rewards. One man started his habit of giving by slipping money into the coat pocket of a homeless man whom he heard ask a restaurant owner for a meal. The giver felt so good about his secret gift that throughout the years he responded positively to many people and causes in need of a helping hand. He says that he has had many rich experiences. He also says that each year income seems to increase, thus giving

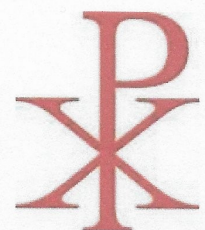


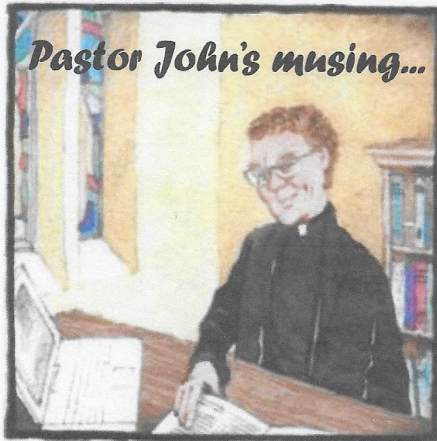
him more with which to make the world a better place.

Thirdly, those who discover the joy of giving freely also learn that they become richer in their knowledge of how to get the most from their time, talent, energy, and income.

Lastly, the good steward has the satisfaction of knowing that he or she is becoming what Jesus called "rich toward God" (Luke 12:21). Yes, it is true that no one has ever become poor by giving. 

What could be more strange than the attitude of those who claim their right to "own," denying any substantial obligation to give. God is the true and unchallenged owner, yet giving is his life. We are but temporary holders of a title with rights limited by time and other factors.



Pastor John's musing...

"Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality."

2 Corinthians 8:13


During this Lenten season and for the rest of the year we have a chance to give back a little of what has been given to us. There are a number of ways to show our love by giving our time, our money, or our talents. We must learn to give every day to add our little bit to that which Christ gave to us during that Easter season long ago.

Paul held up the generosity of the Macedonian churches to those in Corinth (2 Cor. 8). It seemed his desire was that they show some kind of proof for their appreciation of the Lord's blessing and sustaining power to them. He urged them, therefore to bring to completion the great work begun earlier in their ministry. It seemed apparent they had forgotten, like we often do, with what fervor and fire they had started to serve the Lord with.

We, too, could use this urging of Paul's periodically. He wanted to bring the churches in Corinth from their relaxed attitude toward giving and sharing, and found it necessary to remind them of their oneness in the body of Christ. The Corinthians had begun to take pleasure in what others were doing for God's kingdom and the sustaining of the earthly churches, and forgotten their own part.

Strive For Equality

"Strive for equality," was Paul's urging to the Corinthians. Since Christ bore the total weight of our salvation on himself, could we not at least share in the earthly ministry as a body so that "He who gath-

ered much does not have too much and he who gathered little does not have too little?" (2 Cor. 8:15) 

Stewardship Prayer

Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves; when our dreams have come true because we have dreamed too little; when we arrived safely because we have sailed too close to shore.

Disturb us, Lord, when with the abundance of the things we possess, we have lost our thirst for the water of life.

Stir us, Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture on wider seas, where storms will show your mastery; where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars. We ask you to push back the horizons of our hopes and to push us into the future in strength, courage, hope and love.

Open your hearts to the love God instills in them. God loves you tenderly. What he gives you is not to be kept under lock and key, but to be shared. The more you save the less you will be able to give. The less you have, the more you will now how to share. Let us ask God, when it comes to ask God for something, to help us to be generous.

Mother Teresa



The stewardship of all of life will lead some to enter full time Christian service. To all, it will mean an on-the-job witnessing, no matter what our abilities, our bank accounts, or our jobs. Christian stewardship means the glad contribution of time and abilities to the work of the local church and church-related causes around the world.

Because our gifts and circumstances differ, we cannot all be ministers or missionaries, teachers or nurses. We cannot all witness to Christ in the professions, like Albert Schweitzer, or in the business world, like a "Golden Rule" Nash.

But we can all give of our time and energy right where we are. This is where such gifts are most needed and most appreciated.

And the answer that the Christian steward will make, will include voluntary service in some of the opportunities in his or her church.

Of course, we do not all have the same abilities or the same material resources. Not all of us can do the same things. But all of us should do as many of them as time, abilities, and circumstances will allow. ☩

Tithing is More

Why is it that so many of us are unfamiliar with the idea of tithing? It's one of mankind's oldest customs, reaching back to the beginnings of recorded history. The Bible mentions tithing 39 times. Christians have always tithed.

Yet, we modern Christians seem vague and uneasy about it. We are familiar with Christian concepts that ask us "to work, pray, and give for the spread of the kingdom of God." And we accept that. But how much should we give?

One suggestion comes from the gospel of Luke: "Every one to whom much is given, of him will much be required." Fine. But that's not very specific. St. Paul suggests a weekly offering, that tells us how, but not how much.

How Much?

One time-tested guide available to us is the tithe. When we tithe, we return a tenth of our annual income for the work of God and his church. We are to plan for it ... just as we plan for the rent or mortgage payments, for food, for clothing, for school expenses. The same way, we can set aside ten percent for the Lord.

It's Not Easy

Not everyone will find this easy, or even possible. It can require much sacrifice, considerable pulling back from your other expenditures. But you can have tithing in mind, and consider seriously how you can move toward it in the years to come.

Tithing is not just pledging money; it is another step in the spiritual journey that brings you closer to God and God's love. ☩

Don't shudder when someone says you have no talents, for every one of us has been given talents by God, which are to be used partially in his specific work. It does not take a great deal of talent to visit an elderly person, but only the will to do so. We must make the decision to invest our talents in the services of Christ.

“From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.”

Luke 12: 48



Steward of the Month


Servants

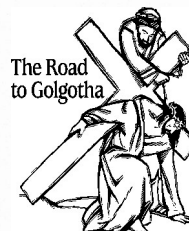
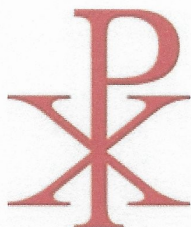
Submitted by: George, Georgetown, TX

Being a servant for Christ perhaps best exemplifies Christian stewardship. Our congregation is blessed to have two spousal servant teams that are indispensable to our ministry.

Archie and Judy coordinate our participation in Meals on Wheels by recruiting and scheduling drivers to deliver hot, nutritious meals to 110 homebound seniors in the community every tenth week. Their participation in Faith in Action Caregivers not only provides transportation for the elderly, but they also manage the Medical Loan Closet, providing equipment such as walkers, wheelchairs, and bath/shower seats, etc. to those needing them. Both help maintain our facilities, serve as ushers, and take communion to the homebound. Archie has served on the congregation council and Judy participates in the womens organization. Finally, they organized an Agape Feast on Maundy Thursday, which is when our young members commune for the first time at a meal similar to that experienced in the early church.

Joe and Candy are largely responsible for our congregation successfully becoming a Stephen Ministry congregation. Joe explored this possibility while serving as president and accepted the responsibility to be trained as a Stephen Leader; Candy was trained as a Stephen Minister during our first class. Joe is also the coordinator of our Memorial Garden/Columbarium and our Guyana mission, which is concerned with constructing facilities, as well as providing health and spiritual resources. In addition, he has served on the Stewardship Committee, coordinating one of our successful Consecration Sunday programs and teaching classes on spiritual gifts as we redirected our ministry to that approach.

The wide array of gifts which Archie, Judy, Joe, and Candy have identified and developed as servants indeed qualify them to be recognized as good stewards within our congregation and its ministry in our community. 





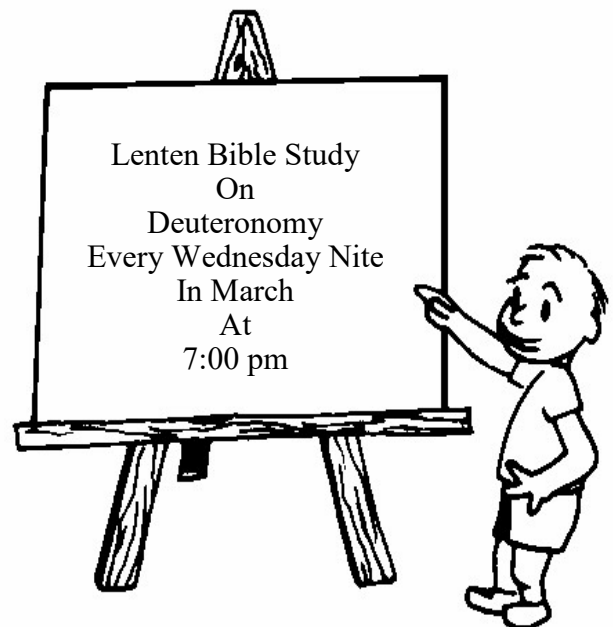
Our Saviour Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 457
725 Gastonia Technology Parkway
Dallas, NC 28034



March 2024



**March 9
For
March 10**





700 Robinson Road
Gastonia, NC 28056
704-867-3706

Beautiful Feet Multiply Good News!

"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, 'Your God reigns!'" Isaiah 52:7

"Celebration of LIFE" Annual Fundraiser – March 14, 2024
Giving Goal: \$225,000.00 (Annual Budget: \$563,002.00)

Please bring this Commitment Form to the Fundraiser and fill out the "2 Giving Options" after listening to John Owens and the appeal at the Fundraiser. Please allow the Holy Spirit to lead you in your giving. Insert this form into the envelope provided at the Fundraiser. Put the envelope in the Commitment bucket as it is passed. OR mail it to CPC.

My Personal Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Church/Business: _____

Opportunities:

- Contact me about: Hosting a pew or table in 2025 Baby Bottle Blessings Walk for Life
- Sexual Risk Avoidance Presentations Monthly praying at a CPC office
- I would like to: Daily/weekly prayise for CPC Be a driver for the RV Ministry
- Volunteer at the Center Receive the monthly newsletter via email (Include email above)

2 GIVING OPTIONS:

1. SINGLE GIFT

- I would like to make a single gift of: \$20,000 \$50,000 Other _____
- My business/employer/church will MATCH my donation. Company Name: _____
- I'll give through Community Foundation Run: \$ _____ Make check to Gaston Community Foundation by April 22

2. MONTHLY GIFT/PARTNER

- \$1,000 per month = \$12,000 annually
- \$ 500 per month = \$6,000 annually
- \$ 250 per month = \$3,000 annually
- \$ 200 per month = \$2,400 annually
- \$ 150 per month = \$1,800 annually
- \$ 100 per month = \$1200 annually. I would like to become continue as a SPONSOR A DAY at the Center.
- \$ 30 per month = \$360 annually. I would like to become continue as a PARTNER PLUS!
- \$ 20 per month = \$240 annually. I would like to become continue as a PARTNER!
- \$ 15 per month = \$180 annually
- Other \$ _____

NEW monthly automatic transfer of funds from my checking account on the 10th.
Account # _____ Routing # _____ Signature _____

OFFICE USE: _____
Amount Received: _____

In the box below, please write in your intended giving for the coming year (combine 1 + 2)

My Total Annual Gift:	<input type="checkbox"/> Bill Me	<input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> PayPal	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash	<input type="checkbox"/> Bank Draft
\$ _____, _____, _____ .00	(Enclosed) (at cpcgaston.com)		(Enclosed) Bank Draft will		
	Make checks out to: CPC of Gaston County		continue on the 10 th of the month until you contact us. Please include a cancelled/voided check.		

What touched you most tonight? _____