



# Our Saviour's Good News

Volume XV, Issue V

May 2020

## MISSION STATEMENT

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

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# Pentecost

## WHAT IS PENTECOST?

Pentecost is the great festival that marks the birth of the Christian church by the power of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost means "fiftieth day" and is celebrated fifty days after Easter.

## WHAT HAPPENED ON PENTECOST?

Ten days after Jesus ascended into heaven, the twelve apostles, Jesus' mother and family, and many other of His disciples gathered together in Jerusalem for the Jewish harvest festival that was celebrated on the fiftieth day of Passover. While they were indoors praying, a sound like that of a rushing wind filled the house and tongues of fire descended and rested over each of their heads. This was the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on human flesh promised by God through the prophet Joel (Joel 2:28-29). The disciples were suddenly empowered to proclaim the gospel of the risen Christ. They went out into the streets of Jerusalem and began preaching to the crowds gathered for the festival. Not only did the disciples preach with boldness and vigor, but by a miracle of the Holy Spirit they spoke in the native languages of the people present, many who had come from all corners of the Roman Empire. This created a sensation. The apostle Peter seized the moment and addressed the crowd, preaching to them about Jesus' death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins. The result was that about three thousand converts were baptized that day. (You can read the Biblical account of Pentecost in [Acts 2:1-41](#)).

## WHAT IS THE LITURGICAL COLOR FOR PENTECOST?

Red is the liturgical color for this day. Red recalls the tongues of flame in which the Holy Spirit descended on the first Pentecost. The color red also reminds us of the blood of the martyrs. These are the believers of every generation who by the power of the Holy Spirit hold firm to the true faith even at the cost of their lives.

## WHY IS PENTECOST SOMETIMES CALLED "WHIT SUNDAY"?

A tradition of some churches in ancient times was to baptize adult converts to the faith on Pentecost. The newly baptized catechumens would wear white robes on that day, so Pentecost was often called "Whitsunday" or "White Sunday" after these white baptismal garments. Many Christian calendars, liturgies, and hymnals (particularly those from the Episcopal/Anglican tradition) still use this term.

## WHY IS THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION OFTEN CELEBRATED ON PENTECOST?

Confirmation Sunday is the day when young people who have been instructed in basic Christian doctrine confess their faith in the presence of the church. The key to understanding confirmation is to recognize that the faith the confirmands confess is not of their own making; it is the gift of God that He gives through His means of grace. The Holy Spirit who empowered the disciples to preach the risen Christ two thousand years ago is the same Spirit who empowers the confirmands to make their confession. This is why many churches celebrate the rite of confirmation on Pentecost.

## WHAT IS THE SEASON AFTER PENTECOST?

Because Pentecost is the day that God poured out His Holy Spirit on Christ's disciples, the Season after Pentecost is centered on sanctification, the work of the Holy Spirit in the day to day life of the Christian. This is reflected in the liturgical color for this season: green, the color of life and growth Through the gift of faith that comes only from the Holy Spirit, Christians are enabled to trust in Christ and proclaim Him in their daily lives by service to

(Pentecost con't on page 2)

(Pentecost con't from page 1)

neighbors. The season after Pentecost is the longest season of the church year -- it lasts from Trinity Sunday until the first Sunday of Advent. This is the non-festival portion of the liturgical calendar during which the church stresses vocation, evangelism, missions, stewardship, almsgiving, and other works of mercy and charity as ways in which Christ empowers us by His grace to share the Gospel with others.

### WHY DO WE CELEBRATE PENTECOST?

There are three "mega-festivals" commemorated in the Christian calendar. The first two, Christmas and Easter, are well known to both believers and non-believers. But it's possible that even liturgical Christians may not be as familiar with the third, the festival of Pentecost. God the Father's wonderful Christmas gift of His one and only Son, and Christ's Easter triumph over the power of sin, death, and the devil would be of no benefit to us if the Holy Spirit did not give us the gift of saving faith. Through the Word and Sacraments, the Holy Spirit gives us the power to believe and trust in Christ as our Savior. This precious gift of faith in the saving work of our Lord Jesus Christ is the reason Pentecost is the third "mega-festival" of the church and why we celebrate it with such joy and thanksgiving.



Take a look at the calendar on your wall. You may find something on Thursday, May 21, 2020, that says "Ascension Day." And just maybe you're wondering, "What on earth is that?"

Ascension Day marks the day when Jesus Christ ascended up into Heaven. It was 40 days after his resurrection from the dead, which was on Easter Sunday (in A.D. 30). If you begin with Easter Sunday (April 12, 2119) and count 40 days, you end up on Thursday, May 21.

The Biblical account of the Ascension appears in the book of Acts, chapter one: After his suffering, he (Jesus) showed himself to these men (the apostles) and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command:

"Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." *Acts 1:3-11, NIV*

The most *awesome* thing about this account is not that he ascended up into heaven (which was certainly amazing), but that he *will come back* in the same way! We who know Jesus as our Lord and Savior will meet him in the clouds (1 Thessalonians 4:17). And that day is coming soon... possibly much sooner than we think, considering that 2,018 years have already passed since His Ascension!

Ascension Day is one of the earliest Christian festivals dating back to the year 68. According to the New Testament in the Bible, Jesus Christ met several times with his disciples during the 40 days after his resurrection to instruct them on how to carry out his teachings. It is believed that on the 40th day he took them to the Mount of Olives, where they watched as he ascended to heaven.

Ascension Day marks the end of the Easter season and occurs ten days before **Pentecost**. Depending upon the phases of the moon in a particular year, Ascension Day is celebrated on a Thursday. However, some churches, particularly in the United States, celebrate it on the following Sunday.

This is a truly BEAUTIFUL piece. Please read this at a slow pace, digesting every word and in leisure...do not hurry... This is a treasure... For those lucky to still be blessed with your Mom, this is beautiful. For those of us who aren't, this is even more beautiful. For those who are moms, you'll love this.

## MOTHER

The young mother set her foot on the path of life. "Is this the long way?" she asked.  
And the guide said: "Yes, and the way is hard. And you will be old before you reach the end of it...  
But the end will be better than the beginning."

But the young mother was happy, and she would not believe that anything could be better than these years.  
So she played with her children, and gathered flowers for them along the way, and bathed them in the clear streams;  
and the sun shone on them, and the young Mother cried, "Nothing will ever be lovelier than this."

Then the night came, and the storm, and the path was dark, and the children shook with fear and cold, and the mother  
Drew them close and covered them with her mantle, and the children said,  
"Mother, we are not afraid, for you are near, and no harm can come."

And the morning came, and there was a hill ahead, and the children climbed and grew weary, and the mother was weary.  
But at all times she said to the children, "A little patience and we are there."  
So the children climbed, and when they reached the top. They said, "Mother, we would not have done it without you."

And the mother, when she lay down at night looked up at the stars and said,  
"This is a better day than the last, for my children have learned fortitude in the face of hardness.  
Yesterday I gave them courage. Today, I've given them strength."  
And the next day came strange clouds which darkened the earth, clouds of war and hate and evil,  
and the children groped and stumbled, and the mother said: "Look up. Lift your eyes to the light."  
And the children looked and saw above the clouds an everlasting glory, and it guided them beyond the darkness.  
And that night the Mother said, "This is the best day of all, for I have shown my children God."

And the days went on, and the weeks and the months and the years, and the mother grew old and she was little and bent.  
But her children were tall and strong, and walked with courage. And when the way was rough, they lifted her,  
for she was as light as a feather; and at last they came to a hill,  
and beyond they could see a shining road and golden gates flung wide. And mother said, "I have reached the end of my journey. And now I know the end is better than the beginning, for my children can walk alone, and their children after them."

And the children said, "You will always walk with us, mother, even when you have gone through the gates."  
And they stood and watched her as she went on alone, and the gates closed after her.  
And they said: "We cannot see her but she is with us still.  
A mother like ours is more than a memory. She is a living presence....."

Your Mother is always with you... She's the whisper of the leaves as you walk down the street; she's the smell of bleach in your freshly laundered socks; she's the cool hand on your brow when you're not well. Your mother lives inside your laughter. And she's crystallized in every tear drop. She's the place you came from, your first home;  
And she's the map you follow with every step you take. She's your first love and your first heartbreak,  
and nothing on earth can separate you.

Not time, not space... Not even death!



**Our Saviour Lutheran Church  
Anna Lowery, President  
March 16, 2020 Council Minutes  
NONE DUE TO VIRUS**



**Armed Forces Day**  
"United in Strength"  
Saturday, May 16, 2020

On August 31, 1949, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy and Air Force Days. The single-day celebration stemmed from the unification of the Armed Forces under one department -- the Department of Defense. On May 16, 2020, we honor all our men and women who are servicing in the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Navy and Marines. Below are some quotes from some of our notable leaders:

"It is fitting and proper that we devote one day each year to paying special tribute to those whose constancy and courage constitute one of the bulwarks guarding the freedom of this nation and the peace of the free world."

President Dwight D. Eisenhower

"Our Armed Forces and our national defense system represent a judicious investment of the nation's resources in the cause of peace. The return on this investment, in terms of national strength, shows the determination of the American people to preserve our way of life and to give hope to all who seek peace with freedom and justice. "

The Honorable Neil McElroy  
Former Secretary of Defense

"...Word to the Nation: Guard zealously your right to serve in the Armed Forces, for without them, there will be no other rights to guard."

President John F. Kennedy



## What civilian should know about Armed Forces Day?

It's the United States' only holiday celebrating every branch of the U.S. military. Armed Forces Day is the day every one of those groups shares the spotlight. It was founded in 1949 to commemorate the unification of the military branches under a single umbrella: the Department of Defense. Unity is at the heart of this holiday.

## How do people celebrate Armed Forces Day?

### How to Celebrate US Armed Forces Day

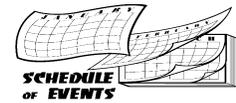
1. Attend a military air show.
2. Check the US Department of Defense's Armed Forces Day page to find local celebrations.
3. Attend a parade.
4. Start a new tradition by sending a care package to overseas military personnel.
5. Fly the flag on Armed Forces Day.
6. Involve children in celebrations:



# May 2020



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



- **May 3**— 4th Sunday of Easter
- **May 5**—94th Annual Lutheran Men in Mission—Grace Lutheran, Hendersonville
- **May 4-8**— National Family Week
- **May 7**— National Day of Prayer (p13)
- **May 10**—Mother's Day  
5th Sunday of Easter
- **May 12**— "Prayer Group" will meet at the home of Shirlee Marazza at 1:00 p
- **May 16**— **Armed Forces Day**
- **May 17**— 6th Sunday of Easter
- **May 18**— Council Meeting 7:00 pm
- **May 26**— 6th Sunday of Easter
- **May 21**—Ascension of our Lord (p 5)
- **May 25**— Memorial Day (see p 11)  
CLW/Rachel Group at the home of Alice Vlaservich at 1:30 pm pending

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
National Family Week May 4-8					1	2
3 4th Sunday of Easter	4	5	6	National Day of Prayer	8	9
Mother's Day	11	12 "Prayer Group"	13	14	15	16 Armed Forces Day CMD Conv.
17 6th Sunday of Easter	18 Council Meeting	19	20	21 HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN	22	23
24 7th Sunday of Easter	25 MEMORIAL DAY	26	27	28	29	30
31 8th Sunday of Easter						

FOOD FOR THE MONTH: **Spaghetti, Spaghetti Sauce, Blackeyed Peas.**



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



**Holy Communion Schedule:**  
All Sundays



**Worship Service Assistance:**

Lay Reader Teri Trdeunak  
Worship Ass't Teri Trudnak  
Greeters: Members of OSLC  
Ushers: Members of OSLC

Devotions: Denise Traveria  
Collections: Steve Digh



Birthdays



Emma Dease  
Jean Huffstetler  
Jeff White  
Allison Wooten  
Carson Dease  
Bailey Messick

- 12 Garrett Lowery
- 15 Marie Robinson
- 18 Bo Messick
- Nancy Wilson
- 20 Marilyn Finger
- 24 Jack Lowery
- 28 Caleb Dease
- 30 Raygan Digh
- 31 Bryten Cole



## ANNIVERSARIES

- 2nd .....**Joe & Yvonne Finger**
- 5th .....**Scott & Ashley Finger**
- 9th .....**Christian & Kara Clemmer**

## FLOWERS

**Flower Schedule:**

- May 3 OPEN
- May 10 Brady Ratchford
- May 17 Becky Messick
- May 24 OPEN
- May 31 Julie Digh

Thank you for signing up to place flowers on the altar to the glory of God and in honor or memory of your love ones.

**TWENTY-TWO (20) OPEN DATES**



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



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.

I asked the Lord to bless you. As I prayed for you today. To guide you and protect you. As you go along your way....His love is always with you, His promises are true, And when we give Him all our cares, You know He will see us through.



Author unknown



**OUTREACH MISSION**

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

Please remember our church members who are shut-ins and visit them. (Due to virus—give them a call or send a card\_

**Marilyn Finger**  
1150 Meadow Way Dr.  
Dallas, NC

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



**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 2020 calendar year are in BLUE BOOK in holder on the TABLE.  
THANK YOU!

+++++



**Bring  
a  
Friend**

**EVENTS  
for  
Agrape/Kure Beach**

Contact Camp Agapé:  
Telephone: 919-552-9421  
e-mail: [agape@agapekurebeach.org](mailto:agape@agapekurebeach.org)

Contact Kure Beach Lutheran:  
Telephone 910-458-0783  
e-mail: [kurebreach@agapekurebeach.org](mailto:kurebreach@agapekurebeach.org)

Web site: [www.agapekurebeach.org](http://www.agapekurebeach.org)

Directions to Camp Agapé are on the web site.

Please go on-line for information or pull up the Church's website and use our link.

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

Web site: [www.NovusWay.com](http://www.NovusWay.com)



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

*"Quest for the King's Armor"*

VBS needs volunteers to work the different areas. Please see Melinda to sign up to assist, crafts, teacher, nurse snack, music....

contact Melinda White

## A Stewardship Minute

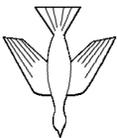
In the early days of our country, grist mills ground grain for various foods. Many mills were powered by water wheels until gasoline engines replaced them. The water-powered mill could not work during the dry season when the flowing water was not powerful enough to turn the wheel. The gasoline-powered mill, however, worked steadily, supplying ground grain consistently.

As followers of Christ, we can only fulfill the mission of the church if we are consistent and faithful in doing the work of the Lord. The work of the Lord is dependent upon us being reliable in the use of our talents, time, energy, and financial resources. The church can only be as fruitful as we Christians enable it to be, therefore our dependability is as important as it is with the grist mill.

An article in the May issue *Stewardship* describes these two grist mills. The author makes the point that the mill powered by gasoline was more dependable than the one which relied on water-power because of the varying levels of the water in the river; therefore, the gasoline-powered mill consistently met its goals!

St. Paul wrote the following words to the Christians at Corinth: "Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." (I Corinthians 15:58) "Excelling in the work of the Lord" should be our goal and mission!

**Prayer:** Lord of all, make us restless until we are steadfast in serving you rightly. In Christ's name. **Amen**



## IN HONOR OF MEMORIAL DAY

I watched the flag pass by one day,  
It fluttered in the breeze.

A young Marine saluted it,  
And then he stood at ease..

I looked at him in uniform  
So young, so tall, so proud,  
With hair cut square and eyes alert  
He'd stand out in any crowd.

I thought how many men like him  
Had fallen through the years.  
How many died on foreign soil  
How many mothers' tears?

How many pilots' planes shot down?  
How many died at sea  
How many foxholes were soldiers' graves?  
No, freedom isn't free.

I heard the sound of Taps one night,  
When everything was still,  
I listened to the bugler play  
And felt a sudden chill.  
I wondered just how many times  
That Taps had meant "Amen,"

When a flag had draped a coffin.  
Of a brother or a friend.

I thought of all the children,  
Of the mothers and the wives,  
Of fathers, sons and husbands  
With interrupted lives.

I thought about a graveyard  
At the bottom of the sea

Of unmarked graves in Arlington.  
No, freedom isn't free.

Enjoy Your Freedom & God Bless Our Troops



**Memorial Day**  
*Remember Those Who  
Gave Their Lives*

# Church News



## 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. Twenty-two (20) Openings

**PASTOR PETE'S TELEPHONE:**

Cell Phone: 704-516-2805

### CLW/RACHEL GROUP

On hold because of COVID-19

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



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



UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE OUR SAVIOUR WILL HOLD OUR WORSHIP SERVICE VIA ZOOM IN OUR REAR PARKING LOT. IF WE HAVE INCLEMENT WEATHER, SERVICE WILL BE HELD VIA ZOOM AND YOU AND VIEW IT AT HOME.

LET US ALL PRAY THE WE WILL CONQUER THE COVID-19 WITH GOD'S HELP. PRAY ESPECIALLY ON MAY 7 "NATIONAL PRAYER DAY"





was originally known as Decoration Day because it was a time set aside to honor the nation's dead by decorating their graves. It was first widely observed on May 30, 1868, to commemorate the sacrifices of Civil War soldiers, by proclamation of General John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of former sailors and soldiers. On May 5, 1868, Logan declared in General Order No. 11 that:

*The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land. In this observance no form of ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit.*

During the first celebration of Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, after which 5,000 participants helped to decorate the graves of the more than 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried in the cemetery.

This 1868 celebration was inspired by local observances of the day in several towns throughout America that had taken place in the three years since the Civil War. In fact, several Northern and Southern cities claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day, including Columbus, Miss.; Macon, Ga.; Richmond, Va.; Boalsburg, Pa.; and Carbondale, Ill.

In 1966, the federal government, under the direction of President Lyndon Johnson, declared Waterloo, N.Y., the official birthplace of Memorial Day. They chose Waterloo—which had first celebrated the day on May 5, 1866—because the town had made Memorial Day an annual, community-wide event during which businesses closed and residents decorated the graves of soldiers with flowers and flags.

By the late 1800s, many communities across the country had begun to celebrate Memorial Day and, after World War I, observances also began to honor those who had died in all of American's wars. In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be celebrated the last Monday in May. (Veterans Day, a day set aside to honor all veterans, living and dead, is celebrated each year on November 11.) Today, Memorial Day is celebrated at Arlington National Cemetery with a ceremony in which a small American flag is placed on each grave. Also, it is customary for the president or vice-president to give a speech honoring the contributions of the dead and lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. About 5,000 people attend the ceremony annually.



General John A. Logan

## How To Receive Eternal Life!

According to the Bible, we are saved by God's a grace through our faith in Him and that eternal life is NOT something we can earn for ourselves or receive by our good works. It is a gift of God.

Using the word FAITH, you can see how to have eternal life today.

**F** is for forgiveness. We cannot have eternal life without forgiveness. *In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.* (Ephesians 1:7a)

**A** is for available. Forgiveness is available for all. *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believe in Him should not perish but have eternal life."* (John 3:16) Forgiveness is not automatic. *"Not everyone who say to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the Kingdom of heaven."* (Matthew 7:21a)

**I** is for impossible. It is impossible for God to allow sin into heaven, and all people are sinful. *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."* (Romans 3:23)

**T** is for turn. Turn means repent. You must repent from your sin. *"But unless you repent you will all likewise perish."* (Luke 13:3b) As you turn form sin, trust Christ for salvation.

**H** is for heaven. Heaven is eternal live. When you turn form sin and trust Christ, you receive eternal life. *"....I will come again and receive you Myself, that where I am, there you may be also."* (John 14:3)

Trust Christ today by FAITH, and receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life.



## NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER May 7, 2020

It's no news that faith is a big part of American culture. It's a diverse nation filled with people from various ethnicities with a variety of beliefs. Americans sure are no stranger to faith, and so it shouldn't be a big surprise that they've decided to create a day that has a theme all about these religious diversities (May 7).

### HISTORY OF NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Throughout history, there have been few national days of prayer. In fact, there were only a few noteworthy ones between the 1700s – 1900s. The National Day of Prayer that we know today was founded in 1952, and it was co-founded effort between the United States Congress and President Harry S. Truman.

The holiday was signed into law by President Truman, and every president since has signed a proclamation that encourages Americans to pray on and celebrate this day. The national holiday has always been the first Thursday of May every year since it was founded in 1952. It stands as a day that continues the decision-making of the country's founding fathers, which used the morals from biblical lessons in difficult situations. Basically, using God's guidance to make important decisions in the country and for yourself. Just like Thanksgiving and Christmas, the National Day of Prayer has become recognized by Americans nation-wide, and it is even recognized and celebrated in all Hallmark calendars.

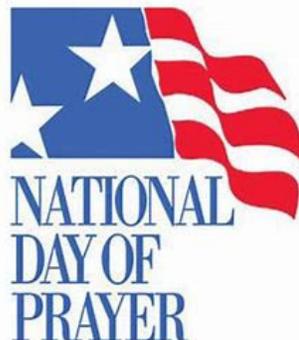
Knowing that America was founded by people of European-descent with predominantly Christian backgrounds, it's no surprise that this holiday was originally created to celebrate Christian faith. National Day of Prayer was an effort to ask American citizens "to turn to God in prayer and meditation."

According to the National Day of Prayer website, there's a need for every individual to take time to personal repentance and prayer and to mobilize the Christian community. However, there's no laws saying National Day of Prayer can't be celebrated by all cultures, beliefs, and religions, and as America grew to become a multicultural nation, it is widely celebrated by more than just those in the Christian community.

Our theme this year is "Praise God's Glory Across th Earth," based upon the words of Habakkuk 2:14 . As the 2020 **National Day of Prayer on May 7<sup>th</sup>** approaches, thousands of individuals from their homes will be working to rally millions of Christian's to once again heed this call!

Scripture tells us again and again that our fervent prayer is effective. That our loving God responds to His children's earnest pleas in mighty ways that avail much, and ultimately determine the course of history.

At this crucial time for our nation, especially with the COVID-19, we can do nothing more important than pray. Thank you in advance for making this spiritual discipline a personal priority and for standing with us as we encourage others to incorporate prayer in their lives. The Lord has graciously anointed our efforts, empowering them to touch and change many hearts and lives. We look forward to seeing His hand move across our land in exciting ways each May in response to our petitions!



## 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 **2020**. The plan provides a guide that will take the reader through the entire Old Testament one time in three years, with the exception of Psalms, which are read twice each year. The New Testament will be read twice in the three years.

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

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

# May

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<i>1</i> 2 Chron 35:20-27 Ps. 111 Luke 18:31-43	<i>2</i> 2 Chron 36:1-23 Ps. 112 Luke 19:1-10
<i>3</i> Nah 1 Ps. 113 Luke 19:11-27	<i>4</i> Nah 2 Ps. 114 Luke 19:28-44	<i>5</i> Nah 3 Ps. 115 Luke 19:45-20:8	<i>6</i> Hab 1:1-11 Ps. 116 Luke 20:9-26	<i>7</i> Hab 1:12-21 Ps. 117 Luke 20:27-40	<i>8</i> Hab 2:2-20 Ps. 118 Luke 20:41-21:9	<i>9</i> Hab 3:1-13 Ps. 119:1-8 Luke 21:10-24
<i>10</i> Hab 3:14-19 Ps. 119:9-16 Luke 21:25-38	<i>11</i> Zeph 1:1-6 Ps. 119:17-24 Luke 22:1-13	<i>12</i> Zeph 1:7-18 Ps. 119:25-32 Luke 22:14-30	<i>13</i> Zeph 2:1-7 Ps. 119:33-40 Luke 22:31-38	<i>14</i> Zeph 1:8-15 Ps. 119:41-48 Luke 22:39-53	<i>15</i> Zeph 3:1-8 Ps. 119:49-56 Luke 22:54-65	<i>16</i> Zeph 3:9-13 Ps. 119:57-64 Luke 22:66-23:16
<i>17</i> Zeph 3:14-20 Ps. 119:65-72 Luke 23:18-31	<i>18</i> Jer 1 Ps. 119:73-80 Luke 23:32-43	<i>19</i> Jer 2:1-13 Ps. 119:81-88 Luke 23:44-56	<i>20</i> Jer 2:14-28 Ps. 119:89-96 Luke 23:1-12	<i>21</i> Ascension Day Acts 1:1-10 Ps. 47 Eph 1:15-23 Luke 24:44-53	<i>22</i> Jer 2:29-3:5 Ps. 119:97-104 Luke 24:13-35	<i>23</i> Jer 3:6-18 Ps. 119:105-112 Luke 3:1-13
<i>24</i> Jer 3:19-25 Ps. 119:113-120 Acts 1:1-11	<i>25</i> Jer 4:1-18 Ps. 119:120-128 Acts 1:12-26	<i>26</i> Jer 4:19-31 Ps. 119:12-136 Acts 2:1-13	<i>27</i> Jer 5:1-13 Ps. 119:137-144 Acts 2:14-1	<i>28</i> Jer 5:14-31 Ps. 119:145-152 Acts 2:42-3:10	<i>29</i> Jer 6:1-15 Ps. 119:153-160 Acts 3:11-24	<i>30</i> Jer 6:16-30 Ps. 11:161-168 Acts 4:1-22
<i>31</i> Pentecost Ezek 37:1-14 Ps. 139 Acts 2:1-21 John 16:4-15						



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**A**s a mother comforts  
her child, so will I  
comfort you.  
Isaiah 66:13

May 2020



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