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Our Saviour's Good News

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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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This month we celebrate our national holiday of July 4th, the date written on the document we know as the Declaration of Independence. It has been the date we celebrate and remember our founding fathers and all those who have given their blood, sweat, and tears to make this a great nation. We also remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice, in order that the freedoms we have, might long endure.

The compliment between our faith and our nation's founding documents all point to God as Creator. Many would have us believe that there is no connection at all. If you study early American history (the original documents and dairies written by the founders themselves), you will find that almost all of the men who signed the Declaration of Independence were believers in God and Jesus Christ as the Savior of the world. Some were even pastors and theologians. Their faith was the foundation upon which this nation was established and we find in the founding documents of our nation.

I am reminded of a speech by Winston Churchill given on July 3, 1940. He had just ordered the Royal Navy to destroy the French fleet in northern Africa. The French had just joined Nazi Germany in the war effort. It was on July 4, 1940 that Great Britain and the United States joined together in a loyal agreement (which exists to this day) to support one another in all areas of national respect, defense and alignment. Churchill in his address said:

"I call upon all subjects of His Majesty, and upon our Allies, and well-wishers—and they are not a few—all over the world, on both sides of the Atlantic, to give us the utmost aid," he said. "In the fullest harmony with our Dominions, we are moving through a period of extreme danger and of splendid hope, when every virtue of our race will be tested, and all that we have and are will be freely staked."

Here was Churchill's moral realism on display. Most everyone expected a German invasion of Britain at any moment, a trial whose outcome was uncertain, but which certainly would cause unspeakable suffering and destruction. Nevertheless, with a keen sense of the transcendent meaning of the moment, Churchill summoned his nation to find the courage required for survival. "This is no time for doubt or weakness," he said. "It is the supreme hour to which we have been called."

Churchill spoke words on that July day which are still true for us as a nation and as a church. We live in a time and place in which there is no time for weakness or doubt. We have been called to be strong in the name of Christ. We are called to stand up for the church and for what it stands for. We are called to stand up for Jesus as Lord and Saviour of the world. We are called to witness to our baptism and to share the good news of God's Kingdom with all the world. We must stand up for what is right and be unafraid of those groups or individuals who might be offended. This IS the United States of America. One nation...UNDER GOD... indivisible... with liberty and justice for all. God's blessings upon each of you and... May God bless America!

Pastor J. George (Gil) Gilbert

The Bible's Influence

In 1984, University of Huston political scientists Donald Lutz and Charles Hyne wrote about the sources that most influenced the development of American political thought during our nation's Founding Era, 1760-1805. "The Relative Influence of European Writers on Late Eighteenth-Century American Political Thought" was published in *The American Political Science Review*, 78 (1984).

(Bible cont'd on page 11)

(Bible cont'd from page 1)

After analyzing some fifteen thousand items published during that 45 year period, the authors isolated 3,154 direct quoted cited by the Founders....and discovered that 34 percent came directly out of the Bible. French legal philosopher Baron Charles de Montesquieu was quoted 8.3 percent of the time. Sir William Blackstone, a renowned English purist whose *Commentaries on the Laws of England* were highly accepted in American, was next at 7.9 percent, and English philosopher John Locke was fourth with 2.9 percent. Three-fourth of the biblical citations Came from reprinted sermons, and only 9 percent came from secular literature. These statistics clearly reflect the Bible's impact on the Founding Fathers.

America's Fighting Preachers

In 1775, Lutheran pastor John Gabriel Muhlenberg concluded a sermon: *In the language of the Holy Writ, there is a time for all things. There is a time to preach and a time to fight. And now is the time to fight.* He then threw off his clerical robes to reveal the uniform of a Revolutionary Army officer. That afternoon, at the head of three hundred men, he marched off to join General Washington's troops and became colonel of the 8th Virginia Regiment.

Ministers turned the colonial resistance into a righteous cause not only from the pulpit, but also in state legislatures and on the battlefield from military chaplains to taking up arms and leading troops into battle.

Ultimately, the Continental Army capture two key British armies at Saratoga in 1777 and Yorktown in 1781. That is when the prophetic words of Patrick Henry: "Three millions of people, armed with the holy cause of liberty, and in such a country as that which we possess, are invincible by any force which enemy can send against us.

Spreading the Gospel

The found of our bellowed nation and the growth of Christ's glorious church share some inspiring parallels. Consider that American's Founders gathered at Independence Hall on July 4, 1776, to establish a nation that would be a beacon of hope and freedom to countless millions thought the generations. Similarly, Christ's disciples gathered in Jerusalem to establish a church destined to take the hope of the gospel to the ends of the earth. Acts recounts the bold steps of faith the apostles took after they were filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. God used them to establish an ever-growing community of believers that models Christian virtue and faith in this dark, sin-filled world.

Just as American's Founding fathers did, those early Christians faced many challenges, real dangers, and much opposition. But God's grace as well as with prayer, hard work, and a steadfast reliance on the Almighty, they took the truth of the gospel to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth. Ever today, the gospel of Jesus is the only hope for peace upon which individuals—or nation—can rely.

FREEDOM ON THE 4th OF JULY

With the 4th of July almost upon us, I find myself amazed at how lucky I am to be free! My country is free from dictatorship, I have freedom of speech and in choice of religion.

On 4th of July celebration is a must! My heart, mind and soul are free to praise God and give thanks for all those who have sacrificed their lives for my freedom. Jesus Christ sacrificed himself on a cross to free me from my sins and many American men and women have sacrificed their lives on the battle fields so that I may be free.

I pray to the Lord that I do not take my freedom, both physical and spiritual, for granted. I thank the Lord for the blessing of Jesus Christ in my life and the bravery of many men and women who serve my great country. I ask the Lord to give our servicemen and women the spiritual strength they need to do their jobs and to comfort the families they left behind.

I pray that I may live my life in a way that glorifies God and spreads the message of freedom from sin through His only Son, Jesus Christ. I pray that some day when my only son enters into manhood, if he is called to serve our great country, that I have the courage to put my own fears aside and I find the right words to inspire bravery in him through faith in our Lord.

Written by a Inspirational Mom, Poconos, PA.



Do you know your state's preamble?

Do you think the main stream media has been bending the truth a bit? Why? And what else, if they can't get this right?

Alabama 1901, Preamble: *We the people of the State of Alabama, invoking the favor and guidance of Almighty God, do ordain and establish the following Constitution...*

Alaska 1956, Preamble: *We, the people of Alaska, grateful to God and to those who founded our nation and pioneered this great land.*

Arizona 1911, Preamble: *We, the people of the State of Arizona, grateful to Almighty God for our liberties, do ordain this Constitution...*

Arkansas 1874, Preamble: *We, the people of the State of Arkansas, grateful to Almighty God for the privilege of choosing our own form of government...*

California 1879, Preamble: *We, the People of the State of California, grateful to Almighty God for our freedom...*

Colorado 1876, Preamble *We, the people of Colorado, with profound reverence for the Supreme Ruler of Universe...*

Connecticut 1818, Preamble: *The People of Connecticut, acknowledging with gratitude the good Providence of God in permitting them to enjoy.*

Delaware 1897, Preamble: *Through Divine Goodness all men have, by nature, the rights of worshipping and serving their Creator according to the dictates of their consciences.*

Florida 1885, Preamble: *We, the people of the State of Florida, grateful to Almighty God for our constitutional liberty, establish this Constitution...*

Georgia 1777, Preamble: *We, the people of Georgia, relying upon protection and guidance of Almighty God, do ordain and establish this Constitution...*

Hawaii 1959, Preamble: *We, the people of Hawaii, Grateful for Divine Guidance ... Establish this Constitution.*

Idaho 1889, Preamble: *We, the people of the State of Idaho, grateful to Almighty God for our freedom, to secure its blessings.*

Illinois 1870, Preamble: *We, the people of the State of Illinois, grateful to Almighty God for the civil, political and religious liberty which He hath so long permitted us to enjoy and looking to Him for a blessing on our endeavors.*

Indiana 1851, Preamble: *We, the People of the State of Indiana, grateful to Almighty God for the free exercise of the right to choose our form of government.*

Iowa 1857, Preamble: *We, the People of the State of Iowa, grateful to the Supreme Being for the blessings hitherto enjoyed, and feeling our dependence on Him for a continuation of these blessings, establish this Constitution.*

Kansas 1859, Preamble: *We, the people of Kansas, grateful to Almighty God for our civil and religious privileges establish this Constitution.*

Kentucky 1891, Preamble: *We, the people of the Commonwealth are grateful to Almighty God for the civil, political and religious liberties..*

Louisiana 1921, Preamble: *We, the people of the State of Louisiana, grateful to Almighty God for the civil, political and religious liberties we enjoy.*

Maine 1820, Preamble: *We the People of Maine acknowledging with grateful hearts the goodness of the Sovereign Ruler of the Universe in affording us an opportunity ... And imploring His aid and direction.*

Maryland 1776, Preamble: *We, the people of the state of Maryland, grateful to Almighty God for our civil and religious liberty...*

Massachusetts 1780, Preamble: *We...the people of Massachusetts, acknowledging with grateful hearts, the goodness of the Great Legislator of the Universe In the course of His Providence, an opportunity and devoutly imploring His direction*

Michigan 1908, Preamble: *We, the people of the State of Michigan, grateful to Almighty God for the blessings of freedom, establish this Constitution.*

Minnesota, 1857, Preamble: *We, the people of the State of Minnesota, grateful to God for our civil and religious liberty, and desiring to perpetuate its blessings:*

Mississippi 1890, Preamble: *We, the people of Mississippi in convention assembled, grateful to Almighty God, and invoking His blessing on our work.*

Missouri 1845, Preamble: *We, the people of Missouri, with profound reverence for the Supreme Ruler of the Universe, and grateful for His goodness - Establish this Constitution...*

Montana 1889, Preamble: *We, the people of Montana, grateful to Almighty God for the blessings of liberty establish this Constitution..*

Nebraska 1875, Preamble: *We, the people, grateful to Almighty God for our freedom. Establish this Constitution.*

Nevada 1864, Preamble: *We the people of the State of Nevada, grateful to Almighty God for our freedom, establish this Constitution...*

New Hampshire 1792, Part I.. Art. I. Sec. V: *Every individual has a natural and unalienable right to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience.*

New Jersey 1844, Preamble: *We, the people of the State of New Jersey, grateful to Almighty God for civil and religious liberty which He hath so long permitted us to enjoy, and looking to Him for a blessing on our endeavors.*

(preamble cont'd on page4)

(preamble con't from page 3)

New Mexico 1911, Preamble: *We, the People of New Mexico, grateful to Almighty God for the blessings of liberty..*

New York 1846, Preamble: *We, the people of the State of New York , grateful to Almighty God for our freedom, in order to secure its blessings.*

North Carolina 1868, Preamble: *We the people of the State of North Carolina, grateful to Almighty God, the Sovereign Ruler of Nations, for our civil, political, and religious liberties, and acknowledging our dependence upon Him for the continuance of those...*

North Dakota 1889, Preamble: *We, the people of North Dakota , grateful to Almighty God for the blessings of civil and religious liberty, do ordain...*

Ohio 1852, Preamble: *We the people of the state of Ohio , grateful to Almighty God for our freedom, to secure its blessings and to promote our common.*

Oklahoma 1907, Preamble: *Invoking the guidance of Almighty God, in order to secure and perpetuate the blessings of liberty, establish this*

Oregon 1857, Bill of Rights, Article I Section 2.: *All men shall be secure in the Natural right, to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their consciences*

Pennsylvania 1776, Preamble: *We, the people of Pennsylvania , grateful to Almighty God for the blessings of civil and religious liberty, and humbly invoking His guidance...*

Rhode Island 1842, Preamble: *We the People of the State of Rhode Island grateful to Almighty God for the civil and religious liberty which He hath so long permitted us to enjoy, and looking to Him for a blessing....*

South Carolina , 1778, Preamble: *We, the people of the State of South Carolina grateful to God for our liberties, do ordain and establish this Constitution.*

South Dakota 1889, Preamble: *We, the people of South Dakota , grateful to Almighty God for our civil and religious liberties.*

Tennessee 1796, Art. XI.III: *That all men have a natural and indefeasible right to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their conscience...*

Texas 1845, Preamble: *We the People of the Republic of Texas , acknowledging, with gratitude, the grace and beneficence of God.*

Utah 1896, Preamble: *Grateful to Almighty God for life and liberty, we establish this Constitution.*

Vermont 1777, Preamble *Whereas all government ought to enable the individuals who compose it to enjoy their natural rights, and other blessings which the Author of Existence has*

bestowed on man.

Virginia 1776, Bill of Rights, XVI: *Religion, or the Duty which we owe our Creator can be directed only by Reason and that it is the mutual duty of all to practice Christian Forbearance, Love and Charity towards each other*

Washington 1889, Preamble: *We the People of the State of Washington , grateful to the Supreme Ruler of the Universe for our liberties, do ordain this Constitution*

West Virginia 1872, Preamble: *Since through Divine Providence we enjoy the blessings of civil, political and religious liberty, we, the people of West Virginia reaffirm our faith in and constant reliance upon God*

Wisconsin 1848, Preamble: *We, the people of Wisconsin , grateful to Almighty God for our freedom, domestic tranquility...*

Wyoming 1890, Preamble: *We, the people of the State of Wyoming , grateful to God for our civil, political, and religious liberties, establish this Constitution..*

After reviewing acknowledgments of God from all 50 state constitutions, one is faced with the prospect that maybe, the ACLU and the out-of-control federal courts are wrong! If you found this to be 'Food for thought' pass this on to as many as you think will be enlightened as I hope you were.

(Please note that at no time is anyone told that they MUST worship God.)

Quotes

Be kinder than necessary because everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle.'

- A sharp tongue can cut my own throat.
- If I want my dreams to come true, I mustn't oversleep.
- The best vitamin for making friends.... B1.
- The happiness of my life depends on the quality of my thoughts.
- The heaviest thing I can carry is a grudge.
- One thing I can give and still keep...is my word.
- I lie the loudest when I lie to myself.
- If I lack the courage to start, I have already finished.
- One thing I can't recycle is wasted time.
- Ideas won't work unless ' I ' do.
- My mind is like a parachute...it functions only when open. .
- The pursuit of happiness is the chase of a lifetime! It is never too late to become what I might have been.

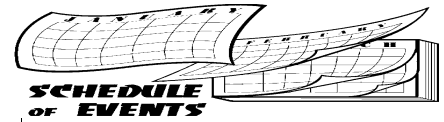
Life is too short to wake up with regrets. So love the people who treat you right. Forget about the one's who don't. Believe everything happens for a reason. If you get a second chance, grab it with both hands. If it changes your life, let it. Nobody said life would be easy, they just promise; it would be worth it.





2024



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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	 Independence Day	5	6
7 7th Sunday after Pentecost	8	9  Prayer Group	10	11	12	13
14 8th Sun. after Pentecost	15 Council Mtg.	16	17	18	19	20
21 9th Sun after Pentecost	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 10th Sun after Pentecost	29	30	31			 Food Collection

- July 4—INDEPENDENCE DAY
Firework Display & Concert (see page 7)
- July 7— 7th Sunday after Pentecost
- July 9—Prayer Group at home of Shirlee Marazza at 2:00 pm
- July 14—8th Sunday after Pentecost
- July 15—Council Meeting 7:00 pm
- July 21—9th Sunday after Pentecost
- July 28—10th Sunday after Pentecost



FOOD FOR THE MONTH:

Pinto Beans, Canned Meat, Pork-n-Beans



Birthdays

10 Marsellus Sanchez	Anna D. Cole
16 Stephen Digh	Chas Messick
18 Joe Finger	Bo Messick
19 Henry Clemmer	Chris Messick
21 Nation Finger	Yvonne Finger
22 Jason Spurrier	Garrett Lowery



22ndBo & Raygan Messick

Holy Communion Schedule:

All Sundays

Worship Service Assistance:

Acolyte: Nora Cole

Communion

Asst: Nora Cole

Lay Reader: Teri Trudnak

Worship Asst: Teri Trudnak

Greeters: OSLC Members

Ushers: OSLC Members

Board Devotions July 15:
Alice Vlaservich

Stewardship Collector:
Teri Trudnak



**DON'T TAKE A
VACATION
FROM CHURCH**



NO Choir practice in July

FLOWERS

Flower Schedule:

July 7 Nick Vlaservich
July 14 John & Marsha Patton
July 21 Brady Ratchford
July 28 OPEN

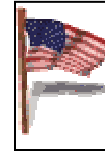
Please sign up to place flowers on the altar in the glory of God and in honor or memory of your love ones.

MANY OPENINGS

Cost: \$35.⁰⁰



Signers of the Declaration of Independence



Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence?

Five signers were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army, another had two sons captured. Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War. They signed, and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. What kind of men were they?

Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants, nine were farmers and large plantation owners, men of means, well-educated. But they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags. Thomas McKean was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward.

Vandals or soldiers looted the properties of Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton.

At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson, Jr., noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. He quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt. Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months.

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished. A few weeks later he died from exhaustion and a broken heart. Norris and Livingston suffered similar fates.

Such were the stories and sacrifices of the American Revolution. These were not wild-eyed, rabble-rousing ruffians. They were soft-spoken men of means and education. They had security, but they valued liberty more. Standing tall, straight, and unwavering, they pledged: "For the support of this declaration, with firm reliance on the protection of the divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

They gave you and me a free and independent America. The history books never told us a lot of what happened in the Revolutionary War. Our forefathers didn't just fight the British. They were British subjects at that time, and they fought their own government! Some of us take these liberties so much for granted...and we shouldn't.

So, let's take a few moments while enjoying our 4th of July holiday and silently appreciate these patriots and thank the God who moved them. It's not much to ask for the price they paid.

Submitted by Neednuttin



Vietnam Immigrant.....Quang Nguyen

It looks like we did some good after all! On Saturday, July 24th, 2010 the town of Prescott Valley, AZ, hosted a Freedom Rally. Quang Nguyen was asked to speak on his experience of coming to America and what it means. He spoke the following in dedication to all Vietnam Veterans. Thought you might enjoy hearing what he had to say:

"35 years ago, if you were to tell me that I am going to stand up here speaking to a couple thousand patriots, in English, I'd laugh at you. Man, every morning I wake up thanking God for putting me and my family in the greatest country on earth.

"I just want you all to know that the American dream does exist and I am living the American dream. I was asked to speak to you about my experience as a first generation Vietnamese- American, but I'd rather speak to you as an American.

"If you hadn't noticed, I am not white and I feel pretty comfortable with my people.

"I am a proud US citizen and here is my proof. It took me 8 years to get it, waiting in endless lines, but I got it, and I am very proud of it.

"I still remember the images of the Tet offensive in 1968, I was six years old. Now you might want to question how a 6-year-old boy could remember anything. Trust me, those images can never be erased. I can't even imagine what it was like for young American soldiers, 10,000 miles away from home, fighting on my behalf.

"35 years ago, I left South Vietnam for political asylum. The war had ended. At the age of 13, I left with the understanding that I may or may not ever get to see my siblings or parents again. I was one of the first lucky 100,000 Vietnamese allowed to come to the US. Somehow, my family and I were reunited 5 months later, amazingly, in California. It was a miracle from God.

"If you haven't heard lately that this is the greatest country on earth, I am telling you that right now. It was the freedom and the opportunities presented to me that put me here with all of you tonight. I also remember the barriers that I had to overcome every step of the way. My high school counselor told me that I cannot make it to college due to my poor communication skills. I proved him wrong. I finished college. You see, all you have to do is to give this little boy an opportunity and encourage him to take and run with it. Well, I took the opportunity and here I am.

"This person standing tonight in front of you could not exist under a socialist/ communist environment. By the way, if you think socialism is the way to go, I am sure many people here will chip in to get you a one-way ticket out of here. And if you didn't know, the only difference between socialism and communism is an AK-47 aimed at your head. That was my experience.

"In 1982, I stood with a thousand new immigrants, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and listening to the National Anthem for the first time as an American. To this day, I can't remember anything sweeter and more patriotic than that moment in my life.

"Fast forwarding, somehow I finished high school, finished college, and like any other goofball 21 year old kid, I was having a great time with my life. I had a nice job and a nice apartment in Southern California . In some way and somehow, I had forgotten how I got here and why I was here.

"To those who hate the truth, it will sound like hate. But if you love the truth, the truth will sound loving."
—Tony Dungy

"One day I was at a gas station, I saw a veteran pumping gas on the other side of the island. I don't know what made me do it, but I walked over and asked if he had served in Vietnam . He smiled and said yes. I shook and held his hand. The grown man began to well up. I walked away as fast as I could and at that very moment, I was emotionally rocked. This was a profound moment in my life. I knew something had to change in my life. It was time for me to learn how to be a good citizen. It was time for me to give back.

"You see, America is not just a place on the map, it isn't just a physical location. It is an ideal, a concept. And if you are an American, you must understand the concept, you must accept this concept, and most importantly, you have to fight and defend this concept. This is about Freedom and not free stuff. And that is why I am standing up here.

"Brothers and sisters, to be a real American, the very least you must do is to learn English and understand it well. In my humble opinion, you cannot be a faithful patriotic citizen if you can't speak the language of the country you live in. Take this document of 46 pages - last I looked on the Internet, there wasn't a Vietnamese translation of the US Constitution. It took me a long time to get to the point of being able to converse and until this day, I still struggle to come up with the right words. It's not easy, but if it's too easy, it's not worth doing.

"Before I knew this 46-page document, I learned of the 500,000 Americans who fought for this little boy. I learned of the 58,000 names scribed on the black wall at the Vietnam Memorial. You are my heroes. You are my founders

"At this time, I would like to ask all the Vietnam veterans to please stand. I thank you for my life. I thank you for your sacrifices, and I thank you for giving me the freedom and liberty I have today. I now ask all veterans, firefighters, and police officers, to please stand. On behalf of all first generation immigrants, I thank you for your services and may God bless you all."

Quang Nguyen Creative Director/Founder
Caddis Advertising, LLC

Notice that he referred to himself as an American, NOT Vietnamese - American. How good it would be here in America if all of the immigrants---no, EVERYONE--- felt like Quang Nguyen.

" God Bless America " "One Flag" "One Language" "One Nation Under God"



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Day Camp for Kids

Agape-Kure Beach Ministries, Inc.
Summer Day Camp
 at
Philadelphia Lutheran Church —
July 1-15, 2024!
 Mon-Thurs. 9 am—3 pm.
 Fri. 9am—Noon

Contact Philadelphia Church Office (704-922-5334)



Food Collection

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

Food items they need for the month are **Pinto Beans, Canned Meat, Pork-n-Beans.** Let us over fill the basket in the hallway. This is a great outreach program.

God will bless you for your generosity

EVENTS for Agrape/Kure Beach

Contact Camp Agapé:

Telephone: 919-552-9421

e-mail: agape@agapekurebeach.org

Contact Kure Beach Lutheran:

Telephone 910-458-0783

e-mail: kurebreach@agapekurebeach.org

Web site: www.agapekurebeach.org

Directions to Camp Agapé are on the web site.

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

Events For Lutheridge - Lutherock- Lutherspring- Lutheranch

Web site: www.NovusWay.com



GO OUT ON A LIMB GET INVOLVED

BE A WORSHIP ASSISTANT

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!

Share Your
 Faith in Christ



A Stewardship Minute

The July issue of *Stewardship* has an upbeat story about 32 teenagers going to a small church and working diligently to clean, paint and generally rehabilitate the older building. As they worked, ate, sang and worshiped together, they discovered that they were bonding with joy and friendship. Doing much needed work for the Lord and the members of the little church, they grew closer to one another ... and much closer to God as well. The youth group discovered what most of us discover when we do service work. They found unity, joy, pur-

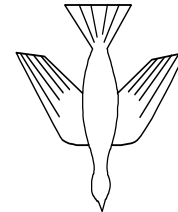
pose, and the best way of living the Christian life.

In the Old Testament, Ezra tells what the Jews did as they participated in celebrating the rebuilding of their once destroyed temple. Ezra writes "They sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever ... And all the people shouted with a great shout." *Ezra 3: 10-11*

To put Ezra's words simply: Do the Lord's work, serve the Lord with steadfast love and persistence and

you will find that your heart, mind, and spirit will be rewarded bountifully!

Prayer: Lord, never let us forget the needs of our souls which is to give our all for the sake of the Kingdom of God.
Amen



"You need a miracle tomorrow"

So here goes...Prov. 29:25: *You never know when God is going to bless you!! Good things happen when You least expect them to !*

Dear Lord, I thank You for this day, I thank You for my being able to see and to hear this morning.

I'm blessed because You are a forgiving God and an understanding God. You have done so much for me and You keep on blessing me.

Forgive me this day for everything I have done, said or thought that was not pleasing to you. I ask now for Your forgiveness.

Please keep me safe from all danger and harm. Help me to start this day *With a new attitude and plenty of gratitude*. Let me make the best of each and every day to clear my mind so that I can hear from You.

Please broaden my mind that I can accept all things. Let me not whine and whimper over things I have no control over. And give me the best response when I'm pushed beyond my limits.

I know that when I can't pray, You listen to my heart. Continue to use me to do Your will. Continue to bless me that I may be a blessing to others.

Keep me strong that I may help the weak. Keep me uplifted that I may have words of encouragement for others. I pray for those that are lost and can't find their way.

I pray for those that are misjudged and misunderstood.

I pray for those who don't know You intimately.

I pray for those that don't believe. But I thank You that I believe that God changes people and God changes things.

I pray for all my sisters and brothers. For each and every family member in their households.

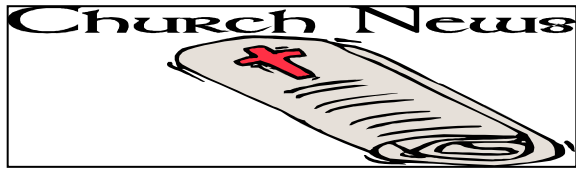
I pray for peace, love and joy in their homes; that they are out of debt and all their needs are met.

I pray that every eye that reads this knows there is no problem, circumstance, or situation greater than God. Every battle is in Your hands for You to fight.

I pray that these words be received into the hearts of every eye that sees it in Jesus' name. Amen!

Just repeat this phrase and see how God moves!!

God I love you and I need you, come into my heart, please.



2024 Court Square Summer Concert

(presented by the Town of Dallas)

Held on the Dallas Historic Court Square, from 7:00—9:00 pm, FREE concert will feature amazing talent (rain or shine). Enjoy the concert.

- ◆ **Thursday, July 4—Concert at Cloninger Park with Image (7pm-9pm)**

Fireworks Show at Cloninger Park begins at dark. Bring your lawn chair.



- ◆ **Saturday, August 12th— Concert Gary Lowder and Smoking**

- ◆ **Saturday, September 16th—**
The Catalinas Steeped in the sound of the 60s, 70s and 80s, they transport listeners to a simpler time when music spoke for a generation.



Anarchy In Your Head .com

by Dale Everett

IF YOU NEED A PASTOR: Until OSLC can find a pastor, Pastor George Rhyne as agreed to assist us. If you need to reach him, please call his cell number 704-813-5007

WELCARACHEL GROUP

The CLW Group will not meet again until September. Have a safe summer!



PRAYER GROUP

Will meet at the home of Shirlee Marazza

on

July 9 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:

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), BARRY Clemmer (Alice Vlaservich's brother), STEVE Cloninger (friend of Brady Ratchford-cancer), ROB Curley (cancer), STEVE Digh (cancer), JULIE Digh (Thyroid), BAILEY Drummond (Becky and Chris Messick's daughter), JOHN Finger (friend of Brady Ratchford), 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), NIC Harkey (friend of Marazza's family -16 yr old had tumor removed, awaiting treatment options), 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 - 2 embryos successfully transferred-pray for full term, 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

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Jean Huffstetler
P.O. Boc 42

Battle Forest Apt. 21B
201 Cleveland Ave.
Kings Mountain, NC 28086



SALVATION ARMY (Gastonia Branch close of lack of Funds)

The Salvation Army began in 1865 when William Booth, a London minister, gave up the comfort of his pulpit and decided to take his message into the streets where it would reach the poor, the homeless, the hungry and the destitute.

His original aim was to send converts to established churches of the day, but soon he realized that the poor did not feel comfortable or welcome in the pews of most of the churches and chapels of Victorian England. Regular churchgoers were appalled when these shabbily dressed, unwashed people came to join them in worship. Booth decided to found a church especially for them - the East London Christian Mission. The mission grew slowly, but Booth's faith in God remained undiminished.

In May 1878, Booth summoned his son, Bramwell, and his good friend George Railton to read a proof of the Christian Mission's annual report. At the top it read: THE CHRISTIAN MISSION is A VOLUNTEER ARMY. Bramwell strongly objected to this wording. He was not a volunteer: he was compelled to do God's work. So, in a flash of inspiration, Booth crossed out 'Volunteer' and wrote 'Salvation'. The Salvation Army was born.

ONE ARMY: We see a God-raised, Spirit-filled Army for the 21st century - convinced of our calling, moving forward together: We will...deepen our spiritual life, unite in prayer, identify and develop leaders, increase self-support and self-denial

ONE MISSION: Into the world of the hurting, broken, lonely, dispossessed and lost, reaching them in love by all means : We will...emphasize our integrated ministry, reach and involve youth and children, stand for and serve the marginalized, encourage innovation in mission

ONE MESSAGE: With the transforming message of Jesus, bringing freedom, hope and life

We will... communicate Christ unashamedly, reaffirm our belief in transformation, evangelize and disciple effectively, provide quality teaching resources.

The local chapter of Salvation Army is located: 107 South Broad Street, Gastonia, NC 28052-4101. Their motto: Doing the most good.

Open letter from: Mark Hunter, Corps Officer, Salvation Army, Gastonia, NC

One of my favorite songs as a youngster was *Jesus Loves Me*. Those three simple words assured me that if I was frightened, He would look out for me. If I was lonely, He would be by my side. If I was confused, He would guide me. If I made a mistake, He would forgive.

Though I've kept that song in my heart all my life, it was especially important to me as I struggled through the challenges and frustrations of adolescence. Today, the number of boys and girls I meet who are lonely, frightened and confused because they don't know about God's Love saddens me. They don't believe anyone cares for them. That is why Salvation Army in the Gastonia area does everything possible to demonstrate God's Love, protection, and direction to disadvantaged children. Through the year, we open our doors to young people of all ages.

During the summer, we offer camp activities at Camp Walter Mattson that help 25 youngsters develop their talents and self-confidence, as well as strengthen their relationship with Christ. And during the year, The Salvation Army's Boys and Girls Club provides 100 kids every day with supervised alternatives to going home to an empty house while their parents are still at work. Our Club has educational programs in areas such as literacy (through our R.E.A.C.H. program - reading, education, attendance, conduct, honors), health, the arts, careers, leadership development and athletics. We also make sure children are receiving the food, clothing and care they need to be healthy and strong.

Like all of our services for the poor, our children's programs are possible only because others care. Little ones are searching for something to believe in and cling to. Together, we can help them grow in the knowledge that Jesus Loves them, and will instill a lasting song of hope in their hearts. Hundreds of boys and girls will participate in our programs this year alone. We believe that the camp experience makes a difference in the lives of underprivileged boys and girls who need a safe place to explore and learn while strengthening their faith in God. Your support is very important.

OUR SAVIOUR'S MISSION EMPHASIS FOR JULY is Salvation Army of Gaston County. This is an opportunity for us to pray for them, to volunteer, and give to a mission in our own area. They are helping the poor and disadvantaged in many ways. Their emphasis for this summer is to help children get to their summer camps. For those who would like to give through Our Saviour Lutheran Church, you can put a check in the offering any Sunday during July.

2024 is half way done. Have you participated in some of the Mission Emphasis opportunities? Some of us have. Some of the opportunities are in our own area and other opportunities are for ministries around the world. Be encouraged to seek the Lord as to how you can participate this month and each month.

The Story of Independence Day and America's Birthday

Independence Day is the national holiday of the United States of American commemorating the signing of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

At the time of the signing the US consisted of 13 colonies under the rule of England's King George III. There was growing unrest in the colonies concerning the taxes that had to be paid to England. This was commonly referred to as "Taxation without Representation" as the colonists did not have any representation in the English Parliament and had no say in what went on. As the unrest grew in the colonies, King George sent extra troops to help control any rebellion. In 1774 the 13 colonies sent delegates to Philadelphia Pennsylvania to form the First Continental Congress. The delegates were unhappy with England, but were not yet ready to declare war.

The In April 1775 as the King's troops advanced on Concord Massachusetts Paul Revere would sound the alarm that "The British are coming, the British are coming" as he rode his horse through the late night streets.

The battle of Concord and its "shot heard round the world" would mark the unofficial beginning of the colonies war for Independence.

The following May the colonies again sent delegates to the Second Continental Congress. For almost a year the congress tried to work out its differences with England, again without formally declaring war.

By June 1776 their efforts had become hopeless and a committee was formed to compose a formal declaration of independence. Headed by Thomas Jefferson, the committee included John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Robert R. Livingston and Roger Sherman. Thomas Jefferson was chosen to write the first draft which was presented to the congress on June 28. After various changes a vote was taken late in the afternoon of July 4th. Of the 13 colonies, 9 voted in favor of the Declaration, 2 - Pennsylvania and South Carolina voted No, Delaware undecided and New York abstained.

To make it official John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress, signed the Declaration of Independence. It is said that John Hancock signed his name "with a great flourish" so "King George can read that without spectacles!."

The following day copies of the Declaration were distributed. The first newspaper to print the Declaration was the Pennsylvania Evening Post on July 6, 1776. On July 8th the Declaration had its first public reading in Philadelphia's Independence Square. Twice that day the Declaration was read to cheering crowds and peeling church bells. Even the bell in Independence Hall was rung. The "Province Bell" would later be renamed "Liberty Bell" after its inscription -

Proclaim Liberty Throughout All the Land Unto All the Inhabitants Thereof

And although the signing of the Declaration was not completed until August, the 4th of July has been accepted as the official anniversary of United States independence. The first Independence Day celebration took place the following year - July 4 1777. By the early 1800s the traditions of parades, picnics, and fireworks were established as the way to celebrate



**Our Saviour Lutheran Church
Anna Lowery, President
May 21, 2024 Board Minutes**



Meeting called to order by President, Anna Lowery

Mr. Darren Lathan, Nverse Architects. Present several models and drawings for the roof in the sanctuary .. The Board pick one and Mr. Lathen will start working on the design for the roof.

Devotions: Anna Lowery

Members present: Steve Digh, Anna Lowery, Bill Trudnak, Teri Trudnak, and Alice Vlaservich.

Members Absent: Steve Digh Robbie Wooten and Becky Messick

Minutes: March 18, 2024 and Special Meeting, April 28, 2024. Motion by Bill Trudnak and seconded by Steve Digh to accept the minutes as presented.

Reception of Petitions and Communication

- a. Letter from St. Paul's in Alaska requesting financial assistance, Motion by Alice Vlaservich and seconded by Bill Trudnak to pray for them.
- b. Letter from Ethiopian Mission Church in Columbia, SC. Motion by Alice Vlaservich and seconded by Teri Trudnak to pray for their mission.

Report of Pastor: None

Report of the Treasurer: March & April (EXHIBIT A). Motion by Bill Trudnak and seconded by Anna Lowery to accept the reports.

Report of the Ministries

- a. Property Team: Met with Mr. Darren Lathan, Iverse Architects.
- b. Stewardship Team
- c. Worship & Music Team: Placed the black and white clothes on the outdoor cross. When we do not have a musician, we will sing familiar hymns
- d. Finance Committee
- e. Youth Team:
- f. Witness Team: Cards and bulletins continue to be sent to shut ins.
- g. Christian Education Team: VBS will be at Philadelphia Lutheran Church June 16-20. OSLC will serve pizzas on Wednesday night.

Auxiliaries:

- a. Prayer Group met at the home of Shirlee Marazza at 2:00 pm on May 22

Old and/or Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

- a. OSLC will serve supper (Pizza Night) on Wednesday for VBS. Volunteers needed.

General Information:

- a. Attendance

- b. Laszlo Mission Report
- c. Engineer has looked at the church's roof and had a pull test on the roof last month. Results show that the north-side of the roof did not pass, This means roof could not hold nails for shingles.
- d. NALC Disaster Response Update: \$150 in gift cards were given.

The Council meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.
Adjournment until July 16, 2024 Meeting.
Devotion for July: Teri Trudnak

+++++

April 28, 2024 Special Board Meeting

The Board met in Special Meeting to discuss a proposal from Nverse Architects/Engineer for the church's roof.

Meeting called to order by President, Anna Lowery

Members present: Steve Digh, Anna Lowery, Bill Trudnak, Teri Trudnak, and Alice Vlaservich.

Members Absent: Becky Messick and Robbie Wooten

The following questions, concerns and comments were discussed: Who will do the work? AmeriPro who has already replaced the Activity Bldg.'s roof. Will it be put out for bid. No. Need to have engineer estimate (after design is done Iverse will submit to church and forward to Farm Bureau adjuster). AmeriPro will give an estimate to adjuster == no open ended contact. Need to protest the organ and other things. The architect/engineer will come every week or two to check on work.

The Board agreed to sign the contact. Motion by Teri Trudnak to authorize President to sign Work Proposal and Authorization with Nverse Architects. Seconded by Bill Trudnak

The Council meeting adjourned.



Inspiring a deeper understanding of true giving

July 2024

Stewardship

In the nine years we've lived next-door to Rocky, I've never seen him so excited! "Hey," he called as he motioned two of us over to the side of the yard. "I've got to tell you about our trip. It was awesome!"

Rocky, a Physical Education teacher, is also an adult advisor to the youth group in his church. Why was he so excited? He and his son had just returned from a ten-day trip with their youth group.

Kids Give Time

The church had flown thirty-two high school boys and girls, plus their counselors, to a four-day work camp. There they'd slept in sleeping bags on the basement floor of the church they were helping. They cooked their own meals, and worked untiringly painting, repairing, etc. at this small church. The kids had also prepared a number of very moving worship services. In his words, "They jumped in with both feet." It had been a "life-changing experience."

Then they headed on to a national meeting. One evening, their group put on a lively musical program for the two thousand other youth and adults in attendance. He was so proud of these kids, their talent, their dependability, their hard work, and their cooperation. He was radiant and still excited by it.

Parents Sacrifice Vacation

What a joy for parents to feel this way about their children and their activities. It's rewarding when families faithfully

participate in their church and grow spiritually. It's satisfying to contribute money and help with the fund-raising needed to make such trips possible.


Worshipping with their children and their friends adds a special blessing. It was worth sacrificing some summer vacation time to not just send their kids,



but go with them to work at a needy church, attend an inspirational national meeting, and to share in a "life-changing experience."

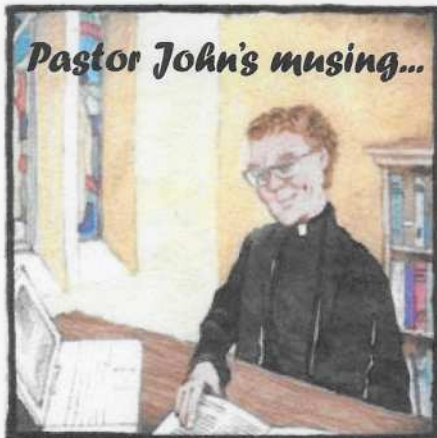
You can call these stewardship choices. By his actions, Rocky has said, "Yes, count me in!" I'm willing to give my time. I'll share my talent. And I'll contribute money, too.

Does he have any regrets? Only one, and that is that his wife and daughter couldn't be there with them. But that's because they'd already volunteered to go on a medical mission to South America!

Our neighbors are excited about stewardship! They're excited about the worldwide "neighborhood" in which they live and serve! 

We cannot all be missionaries. 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.




Pastor John's musing...

Scripture tells us God sows all things and places material things in our possession. God entrusts what is his to our care to use in his service. It follows then that we are not the owners, but managers of God's property.

There is one fact that every gardener knows, and it is the "Law of the Harvest." In order to enjoy the harvest of fruits and vegetables at the end of a growing season you must first have planted the seeds in the spring. If you do not plant, you will not have a harvest. And, you cannot plant the seeds one day and expect a harvest next week! The seeds need water, fertilizer, sunshine and time to grow. So the gardener who is hoping for a harvest must first pay attention to the basics and take time to plant a garden.

In your personal life of service in God's garden here on earth, what type of harvest are you planning for? If you are expecting to reap the rewards of a fulfilling life, what "seeds" of service are you offering to God today?

God has blessed us all with unique talents that he expects us to be using now when we have time to plant. Or, are you waiting for just the right time ... delaying planting for "the right conditions?" Only God knows when we will be called to account for our actions and the use of his resources of time, talent and treasure. *The fruits of our labor in service to the church are pleasing to God.*


We cannot hope to gain heaven by our works, but our actions here on earth reflect our faith and the hope for a heavenly harvest after our earthly lives. 

Spiritual Benefits of Giving

Tom Gildee broke out of a tough Baltimore neighborhood, got rich on software and retired a few years ago ... to a full-time job giving away his money.

But somebody forgot to tell Tom he was supposed to retire to a yacht and a private island. He started spending all of his time in charitable activities, giving away several hundred thousand dollars a year, mostly for scholarships to Baltimore private schools. By 2012 he was giving away \$1 million a year to help pay for 300 poor kids to go from kindergarten through high school. When he dies, he plans to leave his entire estate to his Kids-R-VIPs program.

Take a look at his upbringing. Gildee grew up in a poor area of Baltimore, raised by his maternal grandmother, who stepped in after his mother abandoned him when he was five years old. His grandmother, on welfare at times, persuaded a parochial school, St. Ambrose, to accept him on a full scholarship.

Many years later he sold his company. Now it was payback time. He is giving St. Ambrose, his elementary school, \$50,000 a year for several years for scholarships. "Some donor obviously had to pay for my education," Gildee says. "I want to do the same thing for other disadvantaged kids." 



Our World ...and welcome to it!




When thinking about Seattle, Washington, many people envision rain, rain, rain. But that's not always a true picture of this beautiful place. None other than *The Seattle Times* reported a summer of drought conditions in the area and told about a group of volunteers anxious to save drooping, thirsty trees.

One volunteer described herself and others as "tree stewards." Although the city cares for trees on city property, trees planted on residential streets are the responsibility of adjacent property owners. But unfortunately, residential care doesn't always take place. So, armed with hoses and four-gallon buckets, the volunteers seek out trees that are in trouble, especially the young

ones. They then go to work watering and alleviating the parched condition of those trees.

Trees need about five gallons of water per week per inch of trunk diameter. The more mature trees can survive the lack of rain quite well because they have long, deep root systems that reach subterranean water sources. But those younger than four years are dependent upon surface water.

In order to nurture those trees suffering from a summer of drought, the Seattle volunteers willingly shared their own treasure of God-given resources, time, and talents. Working together they are good stewards of this earth and the environment with which God has blessed all of us. 


Stewardship relates to everything we have: our bodies, our minds, our talents, our family, our possessions, our finances. Mother Earth and "the fullness thereof." Nothing or no one is outside the realm of God's creation. And you and I are responsible for the care of everything and everyone.





Steward of the Month

Stew's Saturday Night Choir Submitted by: Jen, Spokane, WA

Stew is the director of the Saturday adult modern choir. He plays the guitar, sings, laughs, and shares so much more with us as a group. There are only thirteen of us now, but Stew works like crazy to make us sound good. We hold rehearsal every Tuesday evening, at times it takes us an hour to learn one piece, but he has faith in us and that gets us through. Stew also heads the stewardship committee, a job he has held for eight years now. Most of us are on the stewardship committee with him, and he comes up with wonderful ideas all the time. (The latest was a pancake breakfast to raise money to upgrade the kitchen in the hall.) Stew is very creative with his ideas, and is so happy about giving his time to church. He is a great model for all of us. 





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



July 2024



4th day of July , 1776