



# Our Saviour Lutheran Church

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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**

### Inside this issue:

• 2018 August Mission	3
"Walk for Life (CPC)	
• Minutes	4
• Help Needed- Worship	
• Calendar & Events	5
• Worship Assistance	
• Flowers	
• Men-in-Mission (Lutheridge)	6
• Friendship Day	
• Stewardship Minute	7
• Purple Heart	
• Church News	8
• Outreach Mission	
• Wake-Up Church	
• Rachel Group	
• 8 <sup>th</sup> CLW Annual Convocation	9
• Assumption Day	
• The Small Catechism	10
• Christ First and Foremost	11
• Luther on War	13
• Summer Concert	
• Daily Bible Reading	13

### ENCLOSED:

- Walk for Life Info Sheet

## *The Lie of "Progressive" Christianity*

### *Christians that conforms to culture is a counterfeit Gospel*

*By Jerry Pierce*

Back in April when Democratic presidential hopeful Pete Buttigieg threw stones at "the Mike Pences of the world" for their historic Christian beliefs about marriage, sexuality and sin, he drew rapt attention from the news media. He also raised the visibility of a religious movement that claims the term *Christian* but denies the full authority of Scripture on which "the faith once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3, NKJV) is based.

Buttigieg's "progressive Christianity" allows him to claim a commitment to the faith that Jesus Christ taught in the Gospels and still remain married to his male partner.

"There's nowhere to hide on these issues. There are a lot of Christians who are trying to hide in the tall grass, and that's not going to work."  
—R. Albert Mohler Jr.

The distortion of God's Word is the root of all unfaithfulness, says R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. It's a sin that began in the Garden of Eden and continues as a temptation for all believers, Mohler notes.

At the CNN Town Hall where Buttigieg described Pence's beliefs as a "kind of social extremism" focused on "sexuality and rectitude," he also served notice to faithful evangelicals about the choice the political and social left has forced upon them: either affirm the new sexuality embodied in the LGBTQ movement, or affirm the full authority of Scripture and be *anathema* in the postmodern culture.

Mohler told *Decision* that as tempting as it is for otherwise Biblically faithful Christians to seek "middle ground" with the prevailing culture's moral positions—most notably on sexual ethics—such a notion is incongruent with a faithful reading of Scripture.

"I have made the argument that everybody's opinion on these matters is going to be known," Mohler says. "It may be when you run for office. It may be when you move into the dorm. It may be when a new neighbor walks in and you end up in conversation. But the point is, there's nowhere to hide on these issues. There are a lot of Christians who are trying to hide in the tall grass, and that's not going to work."

Buttigieg and other progressives aren't hiding anywhere. Their goal, judging by each successive news cycle, appears aimed at driving Biblical Christianity to the outer margins of society.

In the previous century, old-line theological liberalism was mostly tailored toward elites, Mohler says, where it metastasized in mainline Protestant denominations. Today, the new liberalism under the "progressive" banner is encroaching on more conservative churches amid a culture that paints Biblical values as oppressive and bigoted.

(Christianity con't on page 2)

**(Christianity Jesus con't from page 1)**

“Young Christians do not want to appear to be hateful,” Mohler says. “They do not want to appear to be uncool. And by the way, we do not want young Christians to be hateful or unwelcoming. But we can't define those things on the world's terms.”

The term *progressive Christian* represents a broad collection, ranging from moderates who claim belief in an “authoritative” Bible yet dismiss passages they deem as stumbling blocks, to liberals who barely believe in God.

The common thread among progressive Christians is not politics—despite much commonality with left-wing political views—but a postmodern theology that shuns certainty and celebrates mystery for its own sake. A belief statement at [progressivechristianity.org](http://progressivechristianity.org), for example, speaks of finding “grace in the search for understanding,” and adds, “[we] believe there is more value in questioning than in absolutes.”

Mark Tooley, a United Methodist lay leader and president of the conservative Institute on Religion and Democracy in Washington, D.C., has worked for several decades to bring renewal to a denomination that has nearly split over LGBTQ issues, as conservative African and Asian Methodists clash with delegates from liberal and progressive U.S. congregations.

“In many cases the biggest problem is that we haven't been preaching a really strong Gospel message in our churches for years.”

—Michael Brown

Tooley says it's not uncommon to find a progressive Christian, unlike their old-line liberal forebears, who affirms some of the miracles and even the Apostles' Creed, yet denies full Biblical authority and Christian truth claims over other religions. Feelings and sentiment trump Scripture and reason.

“This is true for mainline Protestants, but also increasingly for many members of the post-evangelical left,” Tooley says.

There is also a tendency among religious progressives to loath Western civilization and the idea of American liberty as exceptional, Tooley notes. “Yet typically, they very much are themselves American exceptionalists,” he says. “They have a very extraordinary expectation of what America is and what it is expected to do. They expect Americans to be uniquely altruistic and self-denying, unlike any other societies in the world.”

Michael Brown, host of the syndicated “Line of Fire” radio program and president of the FIRE School of Ministry in Concord, North Carolina, says the progressive version of Christianity essentially becomes a different gospel. Many young people are attracted to its social justice emphasis because they see real prejudices and biases and “they have a heart of solidarity for those who seem marginalized and outcast.”

“That's a positive,” Brown says. “The negative is that they are often throwing out the baby with the bath water. They are forgetting the real liberating truths of the Gospel. And in many cases the biggest problem is that we haven't been preaching a really strong Gospel message in our churches for years.”

One antidote to such departures from Christian faithfulness, Brown says, is for Christians to be countercultural in a world where the current is pulling powerfully away from Scripture.

Amid enormous cultural pressure, Mohler fears faithful Christians may eventually find themselves deemed to be as subversive as the early Christians were in Rome.

“These are issues in which there is no middle ground,” Mohler says. “There's no middle ground between affirming and denying the bodily resurrection of Christ. There's also no middle ground between defining marriage as the union of a man and a woman and saying it can be something else. ... So Christians are going to have to answer with the full measure of conviction, or they're just on a slower track than some others to denying the faith.”

Source: Decision Magazine



8

2019 August Mission Emphasis –  
29<sup>th</sup> WALK FOR LIFE (CPC)  
Friday, September 6, 2019  
*“Walk the Walk”*

(SEE INSERT)

The Pregnancy Center is a nonprofit pro-life organization of committed Christians sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ and actively helping women, men and families in Crisis pregnancy situations. We at Crisis Pregnancy Center of Gaston County, Inc. would like to welcome you to our center.

The Walk for Life is a way to raise money for the Crisis Pregnancy Center. At the event there will be no money raised, but a time of celebration and fun with activities for all children, youth, and adults from 4:00 until 8:00 p.m. Key activities besides the walking track are: hot-tethered balloon, rock climbing wall, slide, moon bounce, crafts table, face painting and free hot dogs, popcorn, and drinks. Praise music and times of worship from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

## Our History

Roe vs. Wade in 1973 had gone unanswered in Gaston County, until on November 13, 1985, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. an initial meeting of the Board of Directors was held at the law offices of Cherry, Bekaert, & Holland here in Gastonia.

Seven men and women came together as God had encouraged their hearts to respond compassionately to the needs of those facing unplanned pregnancies. They gathered to initiate a ministry that would upon opening their doors for clients in September of 1986 have an immediate impact.

- No longer would words be heard without matching deeds and actions that gave a visible expression of our concern for the abortion issue.
- No longer would someone who could not afford a pregnancy test be denied one.
- No longer would the longing for a listening ear, a compassionate, caring counselor when the crisis of pregnancy came about be denied.
- No longer would the everyday needs of material assistance and crisis calls from clients of needing a listening ear, go unanswered.

On that day, this Board of Directors, composed of Dale Chase, Rev. Marion Clark, Audrue McMahan, David Ward, Rev. Marlin Mull, Peter Caprise, Rachel Pichet and Cathy Epperson nominated officers, set meeting times, elected an Executive Director, and voted to request information from a sister CPC. Other Board members unable to attend that day were: Steve Baker, Laura C. Atkins, Rev. M.O. Owens, Dr. Glenn Phoenix and Dr. Thomas Will.

From that humble beginning, the Crisis Pregnancy Center of Gaston County has been in three pivotal rental locations and finally was able to purchase property and a home in July 1996. The journey from those initial days included leadership from diversely skilled Board of Director Members, to Executive Directors, to multi-talented staff, to service by Volunteers that utilized the gifts of individuals as well as the strengths of an interdenominational ecumenical corporate body working for the cause of the unborn.

The history of the Crisis Pregnancy Center of Gaston County, Inc. has included immeasurable faith, the development of a support base that transcends race, gender and religion. The experience of serving in this setting allows women, men and their families to see the efforts of all combined to meet the needs of one. It is an awesome testimony to see so many varied agencies, individuals, and churches tackling this single issue.

From its inception, the Crisis Pregnancy Center of Gaston County, Inc. has now served 50,000+ clients, been blessed by faithful volunteers, trusted God for budget needs numerous times, and made an impact in this County that is now indelible and indispensable.

Over the years, an expanding staff, a diversified Board, Abstinence emphasis, ultrasound/medical clinic, seasoned and well trained volunteers, public presentations, our annual fund-raisers, ad. infinitum, are making the future as bright as God's genius and calling.

(CPC Mission cont'd on page 9)

**Our Saviour Lutheran Church**  
**Bill Trudnak, President**  
**June 24, 2019. Board Minutes**



**Devotions: Joe Finger**

Meeting called to order by President Bill Trudnak

**Members present:** Bill Trudnak, Melinda White, Joe Finger, Robbie Wooten, Alice Vlaservich, Jeff White and Denise Traveria

**Members Absent:** Teri Trudnak, Betty Ratchford, Steve Digh

**Minutes:** May 20, 2019 minutes were reviewed. Alice Vlaservich made the motion to approve the minutes and Joe Finger seconded the motion.

**Reception of Petitions and Communications:** Town of Dallas sent communications for sponsorship of upcoming soccer team. The Council declined at this time.

**Report of the Pastor:** Report was reviewed. Pastor Feige is planning to further his education in ministry. It will not affect our current schedule of services. A motion was made by Joe Finger to accept the Pastor's report and Melinda White seconded that motion.

**Report of the Treasurer:** Motion by Melinda White to accept the Treasurer Report and seconded by Alice Vlaservich.

**Report of the Ministries:**

- a. Property: Some clean-up was done on the church grounds; will schedule another clean-up day in September
- b. Stewardship and Finance: No report this month
- c. Worship & Music: No report this month
- d. Youth Team: No report this month
- e. Witness: Cards and prayers continue to be sent to shut ins
- f. Christian Education Team: VBS was a success again! Thanks to all that participated and volunteered their time, talent and donations.

**Report of Auxiliaries:** Rachel Circle will not meet during the summer.

**Old and/or Unfinished Business:**

- a. Work day at the church is rescheduled for cooler weather in September

**New Business:**

- a. No new business

**General Information:**

- a. Attendance

Adjourned with Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting: July 15, 2019

Devotions: Teri Trudnak



**GO OUT ON A LIMB**

**GET INVOLVED**

**BE A WORSHIP ASSISTANT**

Positions are still open.

Participate in the service of the Lord and sign

Sign up sheets

for the 2019 calendar year in a notebook  
on the church office door.

THANK YOU!

**YOUR HELP IS NEED.**  
**WE DO NOT HAVE ANY**  
**WORSHIP ASSISTANCE, ETC.**  
**FOR**  
**SEPTEMBER,**  
**OCTOBER, NOVEMBER AND**  
**DECEMBER.**

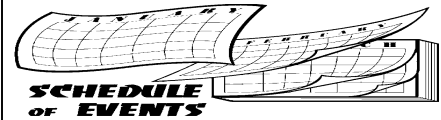


# August 2019



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

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 8 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	5 Team Mtg.	6	7 	8 	9	10
11 9 <sup>th</sup> Sun. after Pentecost	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 10 <sup>th</sup> Sun. after Pentecost	19 Board Meeting	20 	21	22	23	24 Workday at Lutheridge
25 11 <sup>th</sup> Sun. after Pentecost	26 CLW/Rachel	27	28	29	30	



- August 4—8th Sunday after Pentecost  
Holy Communion  
National Friendship Day (see p 6)
- August 5—Team Meetings:  
Youth 6:30 pm  
Others 7:00 p
- August 5-7—Lutheran Week
- August 6—Gaston Together (see p 8)
- August 7—Purple Heart Day (see p 7)
- August 11—Dallas High Shoals Christian  
Social Ministry. 3:00 pm
- August 11—9th Sunday after Pentecost
- August 15—Assumption of Mary (see p 9)
- August 18—10th Sunday after Pentecost  
Ice Cream Social by Lutheran Men in Mission
- August 19—Board Meeting
- August 20—Prayer Group will meet at the  
home of Shirlee Marazza—1:00 pm
- August 24—Workday at Lutheridge ( see p 6)
- August 25—11th Sunday after Pentecost
- August 27—CLW/Rachel Group (see p 8)



FOOD FOR THE MONTH: **Crackers, Peanut Butter, Beanie Weenies**



- |                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 5 Jake Spurrier    | Marilyn Finger   |
| 11 Ryan Gordy      | Joe Finger       |
| 12 Roselee Sanchez | Betty Clemmer    |
| 17 Ethan Petzold   | Jeff Dease       |
| 18 Katie White     | Dan Clemmer, Jr. |
| 20 Shana Dease     | Tony Trudnak     |
| 22 Morgan Dawson   | Preston Clemmer  |
| 23 Preston Clemmer | Jack Lowery      |
| 23 Jacob White.    | Will Trudnak     |
| 24 Jack Dawson     | Caleb Dease      |
| 25 Joanna Trudnak  |                  |
| 25 Nora Cole       |                  |
| 28 Logan Marr      |                  |



**Holy Communion Schedule:**  
All Sundays

**Worship Service Assistance:**

- |                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| <u>Acolyte:</u>      | Nick Vlaservich |
| <u>Communion</u>     |                 |
| <u>Asst:</u>         | Nick Vlaservich |
| <u>Lay Reader:</u>   | Teri Trudnak    |
| <u>Worship Asst:</u> | Teri Trudnak    |
| <u>Greeters:</u>     | Members of OSLC |
| <u>Ushers:</u>       | Members of OSLC |

- |             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| Collection: | Yvonne Finger |
| Devotions:  | Steve Digh    |



NO Choir Practice



- 4<sup>th</sup> .....Reid & Mariel Schmideler  
13<sup>th</sup> .....Doyle & Darlene Clemmer  
23<sup>rd</sup> .....Bill & Teri Trudnak  
25<sup>th</sup> .....Jeff & Melinda White  
29<sup>th</sup> .....Jeff & Shana Dease

## FLOWERS

**Flower Schedule:**

- August 4 Melinda White
- August 11 Ryan Gordy
- August 18 Brady & Betty Ratchford
- August 25 Melinda White

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

Five (5) openings  
Decorate the altar of our Lord  
And then take home to decorate your home of give to a love one of shut-in



## MEN-IN-MISSION AT WORK

MARK OUR CALENDAR

LUTHERIDGE

Area Church's Men-in-Mission will join together on Fridays and Saturdays August 23-24, to do work at LUTHERIDGE. You can either spend the night Friday or drive up early Saturday morning. On August 25 that will be a **joint worship** at Lutheridge followed by a picnic lunch. If you are interested please contact Nick Vlaservich.



### The Friendship Day History

There is not much literature on Friendship Day history as we celebrate today. However, there are numerous folktales and several instance in mythological legends that shows that friends and friendship have been valued since the beginning of civilized world. As an intrinsically social creature, men love to make friends to further this process of socialization.

#### History of Friendship Day in US

Considering the valuable role friends play in our life it was deemed to fit to have a day dedicated to friends and friendship. The United States Congress, in 1935, proclaimed **first Sunday of August as the National Friendship Day**. Since then, celebration of National Friendship Day became an annual event. The noble idea of honoring the beautiful relationship of friendship caught on with the people and soon Friendship Day became a hugely popular festival.

Following the popularity and success of Friendship Day in US, several other countries adopted the tradition of dedicating a day to friends. Today, Friendship Day is enthusiastically celebrated by several countries across the world including India.

In 1997, the United Nations named **Winnie - the Pooh** as the world's Ambassador of Friendship.

#### Importance of Friendship in Bible

The Bible, the primary text of the western civilization, reflects upon friendship as the bond that forms the foundation to human faith, trust and companionship. Following verses from the bible aptly portray the importance of friends:

*"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."* **Matthew 7:7**

*"Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends."* **Matt 15:13-15**

Besides, there are several tales from the Old Testament and the New Testament about the value of friendship and how true friendship is a treasure to unearth. A noticeable point is that, both the versions make a difference between the two broad meanings of friendship- one is a mere acquaintance, the other is a more affectionate relation.

In the **Old Testament**, Abraham is called the "friend of God" because of the intimacy of his relations. God speaks to Moses face to face "as a man...unto his friend" (Ex 33:11). The romantic friendship of Ruth and Naomi, the devotion of the subordinate Hushai for David, or the mutual relation between David and Jonathan - the Old Testament is replete with these interesting tales of friends and friendship.

In the **New Testament**, the relationship between Jesus and his disciples clearly depicts how human friendship can constantly grow. From being teacher and disciple, to lord and servant their relationship finally grew to an unparalleled friendship.

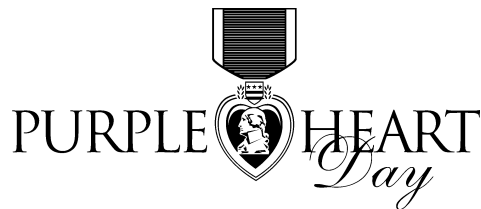
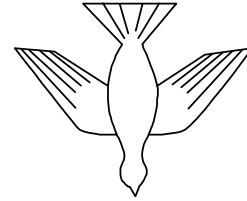
## A Stewardship Minute

A 12th century young Italian man named Giovanni de Bernadone had a wealthy father, who often went to France and nicknamed his son Francis. Young Francis could wear the finest of clothes, have an expensive carriage and go to parties where the rich frolicked together. In short, he could have whatever money could buy. Young Francis, however, began to mature, spiritually speaking, and helped the poor have food, clothing, and other needs met. He worshipped regularly, prayed deeply and wore a common brown robe in contrast to the finely tailored clothes he had worn before.

He became so devout, loving, and

good-hearted that other men began to join him in his ministry. Their Christian work was so important that the pope allowed them to become an order of monks known as the Franciscans. After the pope's blessing was given to them, the order began to spread across the world and is still an effective order to this day. This fascinating story is in the August issue of *Stewardship*. The lesson we learn from Francis is that the stewardship of one's talents, time, and resources of whatever sort are greatly important in living the Christian life. To be a Christian is not only to believe in Christ, but to serve him by serving others in his name.

**Prayer:** O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, not so much to be understood as to understand, not so much to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, it is in dying, that we awake to eternal life.  
**Amen**



### August 7<sup>th</sup>

The Medal of Honor that is now the Purple Heart actually began as the 'Badge of Military Merit.' On August 7<sup>th</sup>, 1782 in Newburgh, New York, General George Washington designed a new badge of distinction for enlisted men and noncommissioned officers. They were awarded for 'any singularly meritorious action.' The badge was a figure of a heart in purple cloth or silk, edged with narrow lace or binding. It was pinned to a uniform coat above the left breast. That was then, this is now.

On January 7<sup>th</sup> of the year 1931, a new design was reopened. Ms. Elizabeth Will, an army heraldic specialist in the Office of the Quarter, created the design sketch for the present medal of the Purple Heart. It consists of a purple enameled heart within a bronze quarter inch border showing a relief profile of George Washington in continental uniform. Washington's family coat of arms adorns the medal, along with an inscription inside the heart that reads, 'For Military Merit.'

The Purple Heart is awarded to any member of the Armed Forces that has been wounded or killed, died as a result of a wound in battle, or otherwise designated by the President of the United States. This now includes those persons killed as a result of friendly fire. Now we celebrate Purple Heart Day on the anniversary of its inception, August 7<sup>th</sup>. On this day it is our patriotic duty to remember and recognize those people willing to serve our country, no matter the price.

Source: U.S. Army, Center for Military History,  
The American War Library





GASTON TOGETHER'S CLERGY & CITIZENS COALITION,  
August 6, 2019  
8:30 to Noon  
Clinton Room, Gaston Memorial Hospital  
Breakfast before meeting, if you wish

### ***OUTREACH MISSION***

#### ***SHUT-INS***

#### ***NURSING HOME RESIDENTS***

Please remember our church members who are shut-ins or reside in a nursing home\* and visit them.

#### **Marilyn Finger**

1150 Meadow Way Dr., Dallas

#### **Jerri Presley**

2604 Ole Home Trail, Dallas

(If others, please let the church office know)



### **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: [kurebeach@agapekurebeach.org](mailto:kurebeach@agapekurebeach.org)

Web site: [www.agapekurebeach.org](http://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](http://www.NovusWay.com) or the Church's website for a link

If you need a Pastor,  
please contact Pastor Pete Feige at 704-516-2805  
or our office at 704-922-4648.



#### **CLW Rachel Circle**

Will meet at the home of TBA on  
Monday, August 26<sup>th</sup> 1:30 pm.  
for Bible study .

**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 (Brady Ratchford's sister and friend of the community), 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), KAREN Brady, MIKE Coffey (Robbie Wooten's uncle), LOYD Efird (Lung cancer-co-worker husband of the Gordy's), DAN Green (cancer-friend of Teri & Melinda), HARDY Feige (Pete's dad - chronic back pain), JASON Hames (friend of the White's) DANA Kirshman (friend of Robbie Wooten-cancer), CHRIS Messick (intestinal blockage), GARY Neal, (friend of Caleb Dease), MARY O'Shea (co-worker of Melinda White's), RIVER Peedin (Ursela Peedin's great-grandson- leukemia), JANICE and MATTNY Pendleton (grandparents of Raygan Carpenter - Janice has strokes), SONDRRA Phillips (friend of Melinda White), JERRIE Presley, BETTY Ratchford, TONY Trudnak (cancer), GARY Turner (father of Jason Murray), KELLY Walters (mother of Brie Murray), ANNE White (niece of Betty Ratchford-breast cancer), MARY Wooten (Sara's great-grandmother and Rosalee's great-great grandmother).



### ***"Prayer Group"***

***Will meet at the home of Shirlee Marazza  
On August 20 at 1:00 pm***



(CPC Mission cont'd from page 3 )

Twenty nine years later those actions are bearing much fruit,

- Now, Shepherds, within the church of our Lord, the Body of Christ, can strongly affirm Biblical Sanctity of life from conception to natural death and point them to a place in Gaston County that ministers without manipulation;
- Now, those who have hidden the guilt of past abortions can have a place of healing, experiencing first hand, God's unconditional love, .
- Now, the pro-life constituency can prayerfully point to a place of refuge that will meet not only physical needs but will unashamedly present the gospel of Jesus Christ as the ultimate answer.

Carolinas Lutheran Women



## ***NINTH ANNUAL CONVOCATION***

SATURDAY—SEPTEMBER 28, 2019

**Concordia Lutheran Church**

**740 North Central St., China Grove, NC**

CHECK THE CLW website: [www.carolinaslutheranwomen.org](http://www.carolinaslutheranwomen.org) for letter concerning the Convocation and registration form.



### **The Doctrine of the Assumption of the Mary**

**August 15:** The Assumption is a doctrine that teaches that the Blessed Virgin Mary had been taken up, body and soul, into heaven. This process is called "translation" in the Bible and there are two notable examples in the scripture, Enoch (Hebrews 11:5) and Elijah (2 Kings 2:11). At the Council of Chalcedon in A.D. 451, when bishops from throughout the Mediterranean met in Constantinople, Emperor Marcian asked the Patriarch of Jerusalem to bring the relics of Mary to Constantinople to be enshrined in the capitol. The patriarch explained to the emperor that there were no relics of Mary in Jerusalem, that "Mary had died in the presence of the apostles; but her tomb, when opened later . . . was found empty and so the apostles concluded that the body was taken up into heaven." There is no scriptural evidence to support or deny this doctrine as applied to Mary.

**The Small Catechism**  
*Learning the Ten Commandments*  
Pastor Mark Ryman

Always good to review.

THE FIRST COMMANDMENT: ***“You shall have no other gods before me.”***

What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust God above all things.

THE SECOND COMMANDMENT: ***“You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain (for the Lord will not hold guiltless those who take his name in vain).”***

What does this mean? We should fear and love God, and so we should not use his name superstitiously or to curse, swear, lie, or deceive, but call upon him in every time of need, and worship him with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.

THE THIRD COMMANDMENT: ***“Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy”***

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise his Word and the preaching of it, but acknowledge it as holy, and gladly hear and learn it.

THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT: ***“Honor your father and mother, (that your days may be long in the land which the Lord has given you).”***

What does this mean? You should fear and love God so that we should not show contempt for your parent and others in authority nor to provoke them to anger, but respect, obey, serve, love, and honor them.

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT: ***“You shall not kill”***

What does this mean? We should fear and love God that we do our neighbor bodily harm not cause them any suffering, but help and befriend them in every need.

THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT: ***“You shall not commit adultery”***

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that in the matter of sex we are chaste and disciplined in our words and actions, and that husband and wife love and honor one another.

THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT: ***“You shall not steal”***

What does that mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not rob our neighbor of money or property or take from them by unfair dealing or fraud, but help them to improve and protect their property and mean of making a living.

THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT: ***“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor”***

What does that mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not betray, slander, lie or gossip about our neighbor but defend them, speak well of them, but put the most charitable construction on all that they do.

THE NINTH COMMANDMENT: ***“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house”***

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not plot to take your neighbor’s possessions, inheritance, or home, or obtain them through deceptive means, but assist and serve our neighbors in keeping what is theirs.

THE TENTH COMMANDMENT: ***“You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, his workers, or his livestock, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”***

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not ruin our neighbor’s relationships with their husband or wife, workers or livestock, or try to lure them away, but encourage them to remain and serve each other faithful.

***A Christ FIRST and Foremost.***  
***By Decision Magazine Staff.***

Vice presidential candidate Mike Pence laid out his priorities in a straightforward, succinct manner during a speech at the 2016 Republican National Convention.

“I’m a Christian, a conservative, and a Republican—in that order.”

Pence and his wife, Karen, have stayed consistent with that message. As veterans of the political fray, the vice president and second lady knew what they were getting into when they accepted the offer from candidate Donald Trump. Pence became vice president in January 2017 after four years as governor in his home state of Indiana and 12 years in the U.S. House of Representatives representing the Hoosier state.

The vice president has fielded all of the “gotcha” questions and endured the popular caricatures that accompany being an evangelical Christian in Washington.

He’s been relentlessly lampooned by the cultural elites because of his insistence on not meeting with or traveling alone with another woman besides his wife unless a third person is present—a practice some have called “The Billy Graham Rule” because Mr. Graham’s team adopted it early in their ministry. Lately, it’s taken on the moniker “The Pence Rule.”

The rule is now standard among most evangelical organizations. Yet the media could not help but mock or mischaracterize it on the campaign trail in 2016.

Indiana political columnist Brian Howey once wrote, “Pence doesn’t simply wear his faith on his sleeve, he wears the entire Jesus jersey”—a charge Pence would likely own happily.

And lately, Pence has endured the best efforts of Pete Buttigieg, the gay South Bend, Indiana, mayor running for the Democratic presidential nomination, to begin a war of words with Pence, to little avail.

“He knows me, but I get it,” Pence responded, noting the competition among Democratic presidential candidates to distinguish themselves from the pack.

The root of these issues for Mike and Karen Pence leads to Scripture, where, like evangelicals everywhere, they find divine guidance for life and godliness. It’s evidence of a decaying culture that a person’s Biblical beliefs drive headlines, and the Pences are in the eye of the storm in their roles.

“Vice President Pence personally stands for Biblical truth and values.”  
—Franklin Graham

For the vice president, it wasn’t until his college years that he began to explore what it meant to have a personal relationship with Christ. Pence grew up as a churchgoer, but a response from a fraternity “big brother” about a cross the frat brother wore around his neck started a chain of personal questioning for Pence.

Pence complimented fellow Phi Gamma Delta brother John Gable on his cross, to which Gable responded: “Remember Mike, you have got to wear it in your heart before you wear it around your neck.”

A few weeks later, on a Saturday night in 1978, Pence went to a contemporary Christian music festival called Ichthus in Wilmore, Kentucky.

As he sat there in a light rain, he said his heart began to break with the deep realization that what had happened on the cross, “in some infinitesimal way, had happened for me.” He repented of his sins that night.

“And I gave my life [to Christ] and made a personal decision to trust Jesus Christ as my Savior,” he recounted once during a question-and-answer session at the Church by the Glades in Vero Beach, Fla.

**(First from page 11)**

During law school at Indiana University, Mike Pence met his future wife, Karen, and the two started attending a gathering of evangelical Christian students.

Karen, a longtime school teacher, was the object of scorn from the left earlier this year when she announced she was taking a part-time position at the Washington-area Christian school where she formerly taught when her husband was a congressman. But when the news media discovered that the school, Immanuel Christian School, has a faith statement that requires employees to abide by Biblical sexual ethics, the radical left had a field day.

“What is outrageous,” the Family Research Council’s Tony Perkins wrote in his “Washington Update,” “is the outrage over the fact that Karen Pence is going to teach at a school that believes the Bible it teaches.”

Longtime Virginia Congressman Frank Wolf (R-Virginia) told *Decision* that throughout Pence’s career in the House, as governor and now as vice president, he has consistently stood for the sanctity of human life, human dignity and religious freedom.

Wolf credits Pence for keeping international religious freedom and human rights a top priority, noting the administration’s work with groups such as Samaritan’s Purse to aid the persecuted Christians and Yazidis in the Nineveh Plains of Iraq.

He should also be commended, Wolf said, for helping champion the prison reform legislation that passed last year. The late Charles Colson, founder of Prison Fellowship who came to faith in Christ in federal prison following the Watergate scandal, became a mentor and friend to Pence after Pence came to Washington.

“Chuck really thought a lot of Mike Pence,” said Wolf, noting that Colson repeatedly advocated for the kind of legislation that the Trump administration pushed through last year.

“Mike Pence is a kind, honest, ethical Christian man. And we’re very blessed to have him in the White House,” Wolf added.

Franklin Graham posted these comments on Facebook March 5, after former vice president Joe Biden caught heat for calling Mike Pence a decent guy.

“The truth is, there isn’t a more ‘decent guy’ than Mike Pence. And Vice President Pence personally stands for Biblical truth and values. He defends our nation and the rights of all citizens. Thank you Vice President Mike Pence for serving our nation with excellence and for setting an example that goes far beyond decency.”

Pence often expresses thanks to those who pray for him, as he did at Church by the Glades. “The sweetest words that I or the president ever hear are across a rope line or as we walk through a public place. Someone will reach out earnestly and say ‘I’m praying for you.’ I just want you to know we all feel it.”

Source: *Decision Magazine*



## LUTHER ON WAR

Martin Luther in 1526 wrote a treatise titled "*Whether Soldiers, To Can Be Saved.*" He pursued the thought that if all war were wrong, then all persons involved in war, including the soldiers, would be wrong and condemned by God.

He wrote "a distinction must be made between the occupation and the man who is in it." And "the occupation of the soldier in itself is right and a duty, but we must see the persons who are in occupation and who do the work are the right kind of persons." I say that this office or work, even though it were godly and right, can nevertheless become bad and wrong, if the person engaged in it is wrong or bad."

If people were good, and glad to keep peace, war would be the greatest plague on earth; but what are you going to do with the fact that people will not keep peace, but rob, kill, outrage women and children?"

Luther also held that using the sword was something that was to be used only if one is attached and with great caution. He used as his example Duke Frederick, Elector of Saxony. "It would be too bad if that wise prince's saying were to die with his body. He had to endure many wicked plots on the part of his neighbors, and had such cause for war that another crazy prince, who had desire for war, would have started ten wars; and he kept his sword in the sheath, always gave the others good words, and acted as though he were very much afraid and almost ready to flee, and let the others boast and brag, though he held his ground before them. When asked why he let them brag so, he replied, "I shall not start anything, but if I must fight, you shall see that it will be I who say when it is to stop."

Luther concluded "a distinction must be made among wars: some are begun out of desire and will to fight and before one is attacked, others are forced by necessity and compulsion after the attack has been made by the other party. The first kind can be called wars of desire, and the second wars of necessity."



## 2019 Court Square Summer Concert

(presented by the Town of Dallas and the Gaston County Museum of Art & History)

Held on the Dallas Historic Court Square, from 7:00 pm—10:00 pm, each FREE concert will feature amazing talent (rain or shine). Enjoy the car show along Main Street and local craft beverage from Ole Dallas Brewery.

- ◆ **Saturday, August 31**—Cruise-In and Concert with Live Music by **Coming Up Brass**—7:00 pm-10:00 pm—Dallas Court Square
- ◆ **Saturday, September 14**—Cruise-10:00 pm—Dallas Court Square in and Concert with **20 Ride**—7:00 pm-





Every year, the North American Lutheran Church gathers for **Lutheran Week!** The week is more than a conference, more than a church festival and much more than a business meeting. The NALC Lutheran Week is all of that and more!

This year's theme is *Walking by the Spirit with the Fruit of the Spirit.*

“But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”

— [Galatians 5:16-23](#)

The events of Lutheran Week will include the annual Ventures in Youth Ministry Symposium, Women of the NALC Gathering, Carl E. Braaten-Robert D. Benne Lectures in Theology, Mission Festival and Convocation.

## Schedule

### **Ventures in Youth Ministry Symposium**

Dates: Monday, August 5th, 9 a.m. to Tuesday, August 6th, 12 p.m.

Cost: \$80 (includes Monday lunch)

### **Women of the NALC Annual Gathering**

Dates: Tuesday, August 6th, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Cost: \$100 (includes Tuesday lunch)

### **Carl E. Braaten-Robert D. Benne Lectures in Theology**

Dates: Tuesday, August 6th 1 p.m. to Wednesday, August 7th 11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$150 (includes Wednesday lunch)

### **Mission Festival & Convocation**

Dates: Mission Festival, Wednesday, August 7th 1:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. & Convocation, Thursday, August 8th 8 a.m. to Friday, August 9th 5 p.m.

Cost: \$250 (includes Wednesday dinner, Thursday lunch and dinner, Friday lunch)

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

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

# August

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> <i>2 Kings 5:15-6:7</i> <i>Ps. 31</i> <i>Matt 15:21-39</i>	<b>2</b> <i>2 Kings 6:8-23</i> <i>Ps. 32</i> <i>Matt 16:1-20</i>	<b>3</b> <i>2 Kings 6:24-7:2</i> <i>Ps. 33</i> <i>Matt 16:21-28</i>
<b>4</b> <i>2 Kings 7:3-20</i> <i>Ps. 34</i> <i>Matt 17:1-21</i>	<b>5</b> <i>2 Kings 38:1-15</i> <i>Ps. 35</i> <i>Matt 17:22-18:6</i>	<b>6</b> <i>2 Kings 8:16-29</i> <i>Ps. 36</i> <i>Matt 18:7-20</i>	<b>7</b> <i>2 Kings 9:1-13</i> <i>Ps. 37:1-22</i> <i>Matt 18:21-35</i>	<b>8</b> <i>2 Kings 9:14-29</i> <i>Ps. 37:23-40</i> <i>Matt 19:1-15</i>	<b>9</b> <i>2 Kings 9:30-10:17</i> <i>Ps. 38</i> <i>Matt 19:16-30</i>	<b>10</b> <i>2 Kings 10:18-11:3</i> <i>Ps. 39</i> <i>Matt 20:1-16</i>
<b>11</b> <i>2 Kings 11:5-12:3</i> <i>Ps. 40</i> <i>Matt 20:17-34</i>	<b>12</b> <i>2 Kings 112:4-21</i> <i>Ps. 41</i> <i>Matt 21:1-17</i>	<b>13</b> <i>2 Kings 13:1-13</i> <i>Ps. 42</i> <i>Matt 21:18-27</i>	<b>14</b> <i>2 Kings 13:14-25</i> <i>Ps. 43</i> <i>Matt 21:28-44</i>	<b>15</b> <i>2 Kings 14:1-22</i> <i>Ps. 44</i> <i>Matt 21:45-22:14</i>	<b>16</b> <i>2 Kings 14:23-15:16</i> <i>Ps. 45</i> <i>Matt 22:15-33</i>	<b>17</b> <i>2 Kings 15:17-38</i> <i>Ps. 46</i> <i>Matt 22:34-46</i>
<b>18</b> <i>2 Kings 16</i> <i>Ps. 47</i> <i>Matt 23:1-22</i>	<b>19</b> <i>2 Kings 17:1-23</i> <i>Ps. 48</i> <i>Matt 23:2-36</i>	<b>20</b> <i>2 Kings 17:24:18:12</i> <i>Ps. 49</i> <i>Matt 23:37-24:2</i>	<b>21</b> <i>2 Kings 18:13-37</i> <i>Ps. 50</i> <i>Matt 24:3-14</i>	<b>22</b> <i>2 Kings 19:1-19</i> <i>Ps. 51</i> <i>Matt 24:15-35</i>	<b>23</b> <i>2 Kings 19:20-37</i> <i>Ps. 52</i> <i>Matt 24:36-25:13</i>	<b>24</b> <i>2 Kings 20:1-21</i> <i>Ps. 53</i> <i>Matt 25:14-30</i>
<b>25</b> <i>2 Kings 21:1-18</i> <i>Ps. 54</i> <i>Matt 25"31-46</i>	<b>26</b> <i>2 Kings 21:19:22:7</i> <i>Ps. 55</i> <i>Matt 26:1-16</i>	<b>27</b> <i>2 Kings 22:8-20</i> <i>Ps. 56</i> <i>Matt 26:17-35</i>	<b>28</b> <i>2 Kings 23:1-20</i> <i>Ps. 57</i> <i>Matt 26:36-56</i>	<b>29</b> <i>2 Kings 23:21-35</i> <i>Ps. 58</i> <i>Matt 26:57-75</i>	<b>30</b> <i>2 Kings 23:36-24:17</i> <i>Ps. 59</i> <i>Matt 27:1-14</i>	<b>31</b> <i>2 Kings 24:18-25:21</i> <i>Ps. 60</i> <i>Matt 27:15-31</i>



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AUGUST 2019

