



Our Saviour's Good News

Volume XVII, Issue V

May 2022

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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Ascension
 OF THE LORD

Take a look at the calendar on your wall. You may find something on Thursday, May 26, 2022 that says "Ascension Day." And just maybe you're wondering, "What on earth is that?"

Ascension Day marks the day when Jesus Christ ascended up into Heaven. It was 40 days after his resurrection from the dead, which was on Easter Sunday (in A.D. 30). If you begin with Easter Sunday (April 17, 2022) and count 40 days, you end up on Thursday, May 26.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ascension Day marks the end of the Easter season and occurs ten days before **Pentecost**. Depending upon the phases of the moon in a particular year, Ascension Day is celebrated on a Thursday. However, some churches, particularly in the United States, celebrate it on the following Sunday. Our Saviour will celebrate it on Sunday, May 29.



is celebrated to honor all mothers and express gratitude for the hardships they bear in bringing up a child. Mother's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday of May. Mothers Day came into being due to the efforts made by Ms Julia Ward Howe and Ms Anna Jarvis. The Resolution for having a dedicated Mother's Day was signed by US President Woodrow Wilson on May 8, 1914. Since then people across the world have been celebrating Mothers Day with joy and devotion.



The country's greatest proponent of motherhood, Anna Jarvis ironically never had children of her own. Yet that didn't stop her from making the celebration of Mother's Day her lifelong mission. In fact, as the holiday took on a life of its own, Jarvis expressed frequent dismay over its growing commercialization. "I wanted it to be a day of sentiment, not profit," she is quoted as saying.



Quotes for Mother

Mothers are the most precious gifts from God to us. They help us solve our problems and courageously face our tough life. Mother's Day is our opportunity to honor our mothers for their love, affection, care, hard-work and sacrifice.

- **Kaveri Manoharan**

Mothers are angels just like those above. We should thank them for the patience, protection and love. No other person could be so caring and warm. Truly mothers are angels in human form. Love you mom.

- **Damary Rodriguez**

If there was a day for everything you have given to me as a mother, it would be Mother's Day, every day. Thanks for always helping me to remember what is important in life and today it is you! You're the best! Thanks for all you do.

- **Iyanna Lonon**

There is no velvet so soft as a mother's lap, no rose as lovely as her smile, no path so flowery as that imprinted with her footsteps.

- **Archibald Thompson**

A mother is a person who seeing there are only four pieces of pie for five people, promptly announces she never did care for pie.

- **Tenneva Jordan**



The country's greatest proponent of motherhood, Anna Jarvis ironically never had children of her own. Yet that didn't stop her from making the celebration of Mother's Day her lifelong mission. In fact, as the holiday took on a life of its own, Jarvis expressed frequent dismay over its growing commercialization. "I wanted it to be a day of sentiment, not profit," she is quoted as saying.

Poems for Mother

To My Mother

For all the times you gently picked me up, When I fell down,
For all the times you tied my shoes
And tucked me into bed,
Or needed something
But put me first instead.
For everything we shared,
The dreams, the laughter,
And the tears,
I love you with a "Special Love"
That deepens every year.

Author Unknown

A Mother's Love

There are times when only a Mother's love
Can understand our tears,
Can soothe our disappoints
And calm all of our fears.
There are times when only a Mother's love
Can share the joy we feel
When something we've dreamed about
Quite suddenly is real.
There are times when only a Mother's faith
Can help us on life's way
And inspire in us the confidence
We need from day to day.
For a Mother's heart and a Mother's faith
And a Mother's steadfast love
Were fashioned by the Angels
And sent from God above.



First Encounter with Law Enforcement

While taking a routine vandalism report at an elementary school, I was interrupted by a little girl about 6 years old. Looking up and down at my uniform, she asked, "Are you a cop?" "Yes," I answered and continued writing my report.

"My mother said if I ever needed help I should ask the police. Is that right?" "Yes, that's right." I told her.

"Well, then," she said as she extended her foot toward me, "would you please tie my shoe?"



It was the end of the day when I parked my police van in front of the station. As I gathered my equipment, my K-9 partner was barking, and I saw a little boy staring at me.

"Is that a dog you got back there?" he asked. "It sure is," I replied.

Puzzled, the boy looked at me and then toward the back of the van. Finally he said, "What did he do?"

Mother's Day Proclamation

This powerful Proclamation was made by Julia Ward Howe in the advocacy for the need of official celebration of Mother's Day in Boston, United States of America in 1870. Miss Howe was the first person in US to recognize the need for Mother's Day holiday. She was successful in raising awareness amongst the masses and pushing her plead to the upper echelons of power.

Following this very potent Proclamation made in 1870, the Mothers' Peace Day Observance was held on the second Sunday in June, 1872. Such observances began to take place each year thereafter and paved the way for Mothers' Day Holiday in US on the second Sunday of May.

Though Ms Howe could not herself get the day recognized as the official holiday, she is revered for her significant contributions towards the celebration of the day and for bestowing honor on mothers.

Julia Ward Howe is also famous as the writer of the Civil War song, 'The Battle Hymn of the Republic'.

Mother's Day Proclamation

Arise, then, women of this day! Arise all women who have hearts, whether your baptism be of water or of tears! Say firmly: "We will not have questions decided by irrelevant agencies. Our husbands shall not come to us reeking of carnage for caresses and applause. Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy, and patience. We women of one country will be too tender to those of another country to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs."

From the bosom of a devastated Earth a voice goes up with our own. It says "Disarm! Disarm!" The sword of murder is not the balance of justice. Blood does not wipe out dishonor, nor violence indicate possession.

As men have forsaken the plow and the anvil at the summons of war, let women now leave all that may be left of home for a great and earnest day of counsel. Let them meet first as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead. Let them solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means whereby the great human family can live in peace, each bearing after his time the sacred impress not of Caesar, but of God.

In the name of womanhood and humanity, I earnestly ask that a general congress of women without limit of nationality be appointed and held at some place deemed most convenient and at the earliest period consistent with its objects, to promote the alliance of the different nationalities, the amicable settlement of international questions, the great and general interests of peace.

Julia Ward Howe
Boston 1870

MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER

Most Gracious Heavenly Father,

We thank You for our mothers to whom You have entrusted the care of every precious human life from its very beginning in the womb.

You have given to woman the capacity of participating with You in the creation of new life. Grant that every woman may come to understand the full meaning of that blessing, which gives her an unlimited capacity for selfless love for every child she may be privileged to bear, and for all Your children.

Watch over every mother who is with child, strengthen her faith in Your fatherly care and love for her and for her unborn baby. Give her courage in times of fear or pain, understanding in times of uncertainty and doubt, and hope in times of trouble. Grant her joy in the birth of her child.

To mothers You have given the great privilege and responsibility of being a child's first teacher and spiritual guide. Grant that all mothers may worthily foster the faith of their children, following the example of Mary, Elizabeth, and other holy women who follow Christ. Help mothers to grow daily in knowledge and understanding of Your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, and grant them the wisdom to impart this knowledge faithfully to their children, and to all who depend upon them.

Assist all "spiritual mothers", those who, though they may have no children of their own, nevertheless selflessly care for the children of others -- of every age and state in life. Grant that they may know the joy of fulfilling this motherly calling of women, whether in teaching, nursing, religious life, or in other work which recognizes and fosters the true dignity of every human being created in Your image and likeness.

We beseech You to send Your Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to all mothers who sorrow for children that have died, are ill or estranged from their families, or who are in trouble or danger of any kind. Help grieving mothers to rely on Your tender mercy and fatherly love for all your children.

We ask your blessing on all those to whom You have entrusted motherhood. May Your Holy Spirit constantly inspire and strengthen them. May they ever follow the example of Mary, mother of Our Lord, and imitate her fidelity, her humility, and her self-giving love. May all mothers receive Your Grace abundantly in this earthly life, and may they look forward to eternal joy in Your presence in the life to come.

We ask this through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

AMEN.

2022 Mission Emphasis for May

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY - GASTON

Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat For Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope

HABITAT GASTON VISION

A world where everyone has a decent place to live

HABITAT GASTON GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ

Focus on shelter

Advocate for affordable housing

Promote dignity and hope

Support sustainable and transformational development

HABITAT INTERNATIONAL VISION

A world where everyone has a decent place to live

HABITAT INTERNATIONAL MISSION

Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope

ALL ARE WELCOME

Habitat for Humanity Gaston County has an open-door policy: All who believe that everyone needs a decent, affordable place to live are welcome to help with the work, regardless of race, religion, age, gender, political views or any of the other distinctions that too often divide people. In short, Habitat welcomes volunteers and supporters from all backgrounds and also serves people in need of decent housing regardless of race or religion. As a matter of policy, Habitat for Humanity International and its affiliated organizations do not proselytize. This means that Habitat will not offer assistance on the expressed or implied condition that people must either adhere to or convert to a particular faith, or listen and respond to messaging designed to induce conversion to a particular faith.

Habitat of Humanity of Gaston County was affiliated in 1988 and built its first home in 1989. Since its founding, Habitat-Gaston has steadily increased its building capacity. The organization has moved from building individual homes to building blocks and has developed plans for an entire Habitat neighborhood. Habitat's work on McArver Street and in the Parkdale Community exemplifies the impact that the organization wants to make all over the county. Working with faith, corporate and community partners.

For thirty years, we have been working with the faith community, and with corporate and community partners to complete \$16 homes in Gaston County: 78 in Gastonia, 19 in Belmont, 8 in Mt. Holly, 3 in Cherryville, 2 in Bessemer City, 6 in Dallas, and 2 in Lowell. Through the Habitat of Humanity International tithing program, Habitat-Gaston has built over 400 houses in Honduras. We encourage you to become involved in our mission to provide decent, affordable housing. Getting involved can happen in many ways. Which way is right for you? Here are a few examples:

- Donate property.
- Donate a home for renovation.
- Shop and donate at our ReStore on Franklin Boulevard

As **Mission Emphasis for May** at Our Saviour, you are encouraged to pray for Habitat organization, its staff, volunteers, and those who receive a home. There are some of our members who have volunteered with Habitat to help in the construction of homes. We encourage you to consider volunteering. Also donations will be received in our offerings during the month of May. Give cash in an envelope marked Habitat, or by check to Our Saviour Lutheran Church with Habitat written on the memo line. Thanks to all who give generously to the ongoing work of the Lord in our community and around the world in addition to your weekly tithe. God loves a cheerful giver.

Habitat for Humanity – Gaston County, 31st Anniversary

Phone: 704-864-6536 FAX: 704-864-3139

Physical Address: 1840 E. Franklin Blvd. Gastonia, NC 28034 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1584, Gastonia, NC 28053



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

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

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

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

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



What civilian should know about Armed Forces Day?

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

How do people celebrate Armed Forces Day?

How to Celebrate US Armed Forces Day

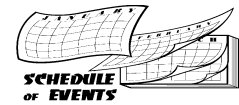
1. Attend a military air show.
2. Check the US Department of Defense's Armed Forces Day page to find local celebrations.
3. Attend a parade.
4. Start a new tradition by sending a care package to overseas military personnel.
5. Fly the flag on Armed Forces Day.
6. Involve children in celebrations:



May 2022



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



- **May 1**— 3rd Sunday of Easter
- **May 2**—Team Meeting 7:00 pm
- **May 5**—94th Annual Lutheran Men in Mission—Grace Lutheran, Hendersonville
- **May 5**— National Day of Prayer (p13)
- **May 8**—Mother's Day
4th Sunday of Easter
- **May 9**— "Prayer Group" will meet at the home of Shirlee Marazza at 1:30 p
- **May 14**— King's Cadence (p14)
- **May 15**— 5th Sunday of Easter
- **May 16**— Council Meeting 7:00 pm
- **May 21**— **Armed Forces Day**
- **May 23**— 6th Sunday of Easter
- **May 24**— Rachel Group at the home of toTBA at 1:30 pm
- **May 26**—Ascension of our Lord (p 1)
- **May 30**— 7th Sunday of Easter
- **May 31**— Memorial Day (see p 10 & 11)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 3rd Sunday of Easter	2 Team Meeting	3	4	5 National Day of Prayer	6	7
 8 Mother's Day	9 "Prayer Group"	10	11	12	13	14 King's Cadence
15 5th Sunday of Easter	16 Council Meeting	17	18	19	20	21 Armed Forces Day CMD Conv
22 6th Sunday of Easter	24 Rachel Group Mtg.	25	26 	27	28	29
30 7th Sunday of Easter	31 					

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



Choir practice each
Wednesday at 4:30 pm
unless otherwise announced
the bulletin



Holy Communion Schedule:
All Sundays



Worship Service Assistance:

Communion
Ass't/Acolyte Nora Cole
Lay Reader
Worship Ass't
Greeters: Members of OSLC
Ushers: Members of OSLC

Devotions: Becky Messick
Collections: Melinda White



Birthdays



BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARY

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 1 Renee Falkenberg | Emma Dease |
| 12 Penley Marie Digh | Jean Huffstetler |
| 13 Garrett Lowery | Jeff White |
| 15 Marie Robinson | Allison Wooten |
| 18 Bo Messick | Carson Dease |
| Nancy Wilson | Bailey Messick |
| 20 Marilyn Finger | |
| 24 Jack Lowery | |
| 28 Caleb Dease | |
| 30 Raygan Messick | |
| 30 Ella Ray Lowery | |
| 31 Bryten Cole | |



ANNIVERSARIES

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

FLOWERS

Flower Schedule:
May 1 OPEN
May 8 OPEN
May 15 OPEN
May 22 Anna Lowery
May 29 OPEN

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

PLENTY OF OPEN DATES
REMAIN



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



OUTREACH MISSION

SHUT-INS
NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

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

Marilyn Finger
2701 Jackson Square
Anderson, S.C. 29625

Jill Petzold
Brookdale Senior Living, Rm 44,
1680 S. New Hope Rd., Gastonia, NC 28054

(If others, please let the church office know)



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

Check and see what food item they need for the month (on page 6 —our calendar) and let us over fill that basket in the hallway. This is a great outreach program.

God will bless you in your generosity.

WORLD HUNGER SUNDAY, MAY 30, 2022

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



Author unknown



GO OUT ON A LIMB
GET INVOLVED
BE A WORSHIP ASSISTANT

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

Sign up sheets for the 2022 calendar year are in BLUE BOOK in holder on the TABLE.

THANK YOU!

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

Events For
Lutheridge -
Lutherock-
Lutherspring-
Lutheranch

Web site: www.NovusWay.com



Bring
a
Friend

A Stewardship Minute

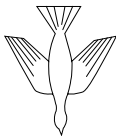
Tithing is part of the larger principle that followers of Jesus know as Christian stewardship. Tithing is important, but is only one part of that broader concept. The idea of Christian stewardship, in contrast to the tithe, includes three basic principles: *God is the owner of all of life; each individual is a steward of all that God has entrusted to us; and, each person must give an accounting of their stewardship.*

It is important for those who tithe to clearly perceive the relationship of their regular giving to the rest of the dedication that they make to God. It has nevertheless been true that others, as they have practiced the stewardship of their money, have felt the urgent need to dedicate their talents and their lives to God, as well.

They are also concerned about how they use their time. The days and years at their disposal is a sacred trust. They are stewards of time as long as they live. People in the 21st century are aware of the significance of time as never before in human history. The idea that this is a leisurely and unhurried existence has been replaced by a rush to accomplish everything immediately, as if there might not be a tomorrow in which to do it.

As part of their stewardship, tithers will also be concerned with the total impact of their lives upon others. They will recognize that their influence should be extended to help make a more Christian world!

Prayer: Dear Lord, please give me the strength to be a good steward of your grace, dedicating my time, talents and treasure to your work. **Amen**



IN HONOR OF MEMORIAL DAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I thought about a graveyard
At the bottom of the sea

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

Enjoy Your Freedom & God Bless Our Troops



Memorial Day
*Remember Those Who
Gave Their Lives*

**Our Saviour Lutheran Church
Anna Lowery, President
March 21, 2022 Council Minutes**

Devotions: Prayer

Meeting called to order by President, Anna Lowery

Members present: Alice Vlaservich, Melinda White, Anna Lowery, Robbie Wooten

Members Absent: Becky Messick, Steve Digh, Teri Trudnak

Minutes: February 21, 2022 minutes were reviewed; Robbie Wooten made the motion to approve the minutes and Alice Vlaservich gave the second motion.

Reception of Petitions and Communications:
None

Report of the Pastor: None

Report of the Treasurer: Report was reviewed, and a motion was made by Melinda White to accept the Treasurer Report and seconded by Anna Lowery.

Report of the Ministries:

- a. Property: Need to trim trees, clean gutters and shrub maintenance to be rescheduled
- b. Stewardship and Finance: None
- c. Worship & Music: Preparing for Easter Sunrise Service
- d. Youth Team: No report this month
- e. Witness: Cards and prayers continue to be sent to shut ins. Alice is also sending bulletins to those unable to attend worship service.
- f. Christian Education Team: VBS meetings via email. June 19-23, 2022 at Antioch. OSLC will participate again this year and prepare the meal on Tuesday of that week.

Report of Auxiliaries:

- a. Prayer Group continues to meet the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 1 pm;
- b. The Rachel Group will meet in March at the home of Betty Clemmer for bible study and refreshments. Planning on (4) members going to Convocation, Faith, NC.

Old and/or Unfinished Business:

Grounds workday to be rescheduled

New Business:

- a. Antioch Lutheran would like to share the Holy week services. Antioch will host the Maundy Thursday service and OSLC will host the Good Friday service.
- b. The Easter sunrise service will be at 7 am and refreshments afterwards in the Morgan classroom.

General Information:

- a. Attendance: BRING A FRIEND!!
- b. Laszlo Mission Report
- c. Organ Tuning Company will have a slight increase in service moving forward

The Council meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

**Next meeting is May 16, 2022 at 7pm
Becky Messick-Devotions**



PASTOR PETE'S TELEPHONE:
Cell Phone: 704-516-2805

*"Prayer Group" will meet at the
Home of Shirlee Marazza 5/9 1:30 PM*

RACHEL GROUP
Will meet at home of
TBA
1:30 pm

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



MARGARET Addington, SUSAN Aderholt, SETH Alexander, AMANDA (friend of the Penley's), MARVIS Anderson, WHITNEY Auten (breast cancer), KELLY Ballard (friend of Shana Dease), ADDISON Blanton (friend of Dease's), KATHY Bohanan (cancer), MARTHA JO Bonnett (friend of Alice Vlaservich - cancer) KAREN Brady, JACKIE Carpenter (friend of Alice Vlaservich-liver cancer), MICHAEL Clemmer (Alice Vlaservich's brother-back surgery), SYLVIA Cloninger (friend of Nick Vlaservich), MIKE Coffey (Robbie Wooten's uncle), STEVE Cloninger (friend of Brady Ratchford -cancer), BEVERLY Copeland (friend of Robbie's-cancer), STEVE Digh (cancer), RENEE Falkenberg (shoulder), HARDY Feige (Pete's dad - chronic back pain), GLEEN Fraizer (friend of Steve & Julie Digh [cancer]), NANCY Friday, BECKY Goodwin (friend of Brady's - cancer), JAMES Goudelock (cancer), JASON Hames (friend of the White's), GRACE Harbin (friend of Robbie Wooten-cancer), JEAN Huffstetler (two broken wrist), JEFF Lineberger (stroke), JOYCE in Morganton (Nick & Alice Vlaservich's acquaintance-cancer), DANA Kirshman (friend of Robbie Wooten-cancer), JACK Lonon (Kasey Digh's step-father-cancer), MARINA Marazza (Shirlee Marazza's granddaughter-Covid19), BO Messick (foot), FRANCIS McAllister (broken hip), CHRIS Messick (recovering back surgery), JASON, ALLISON & LEX Murray, ELLEN & ED Pfeiffer (Keenan Gordy's Parents - Heart issues), GARY Neal, (friend of Caleb Dease), SON-DRA Phillips (friend of Melinda White), TERI Trudnak, RONNIE Shiles (friend of Brady Ratchford-declining health), MARTHA Surratt (friend of Alice Vlaservich-cancer). TONY Trudnak (cancer reoccurring), GARY Turner (father of Jason Murray), HAL White, JOE White (stroke), NANCY Wilson, REESE Wilson (blood cancer). MARY BETH Wright (cousin of Nick Vlaservich -cancer)

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

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

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

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

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

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



General John A. Logan

How To Receive Eternal Life!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



National Day of Prayer

May 5, 2022





May 5, 2022

It's no news that faith is a big part of American culture. It's a diverse nation filled with people from various ethnicities with a variety of beliefs. Americans sure are no stranger to faith, and so it shouldn't be a big surprise that they've decided to create a day that has a theme all about these religious diversities (May 5).

HISTORY OF NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

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

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

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

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

2022 NATIONAL PRAYER FOR AMERICA

Lord, we exalt You.

We are filled with awe and wonder as our praise joins the heavenly hosts saying,
 "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of hosts,
 The whole earth is full of His glory."

You have established Your throne in heaven and the foundations of the earth.
 You alone are the Creator; the earth is Yours and all it contains is for Your glory.
 You created and established all of us as Your image bearers.

May our lips and lives continually praise You, reflecting and magnifying You in all our words and ways.
 You are the author of our days, You have established Your plans and purpose for us.

We respond to your glory and authority in obedience to Your Word and will.

You have established prayer that we, Your children,
 Can communicate with our Heavenly Father directing, strengthening, and discipling us in Your everlasting love.
 We join heaven's activities as we lift up our prayers
 And pour out our praise, repentance, thanks, intercession and supplication.

Lord, You have established America through the hearts of our founding fathers and the documents they penned declaring our dependence on Your sovereignty and supremacy.
 We overflow with gratitude having been firmly rooted and built up in our faith in You.

Let our reputation be of our faith in Christ alone,
 our love for all people, and fruitful lives bearing the attitude, affections, and actions of Your Spirit,
 Who dwells and works within us and through us.
 We pray for America: the Church, Family, Education,
 Military, Workplace, Government, Arts, Entertainment and Media.
 United in Your love, we exalt the Lord who has established us.

In Jesus Name we always pray, Amen!

Kathy Branzell
 President, National Day of Prayer Task Force

How to Pray for America

WHY PRAY FOR AMERICA?

God is sovereign and nothing comes as a surprise to Him. Whether we face fluctuating economics, threats from abroad, unrest at home, or other troubling circumstances, our Heavenly Father is not caught unaware. Through prayer, we are able to tap into His wisdom, strength, protection, and peace. He stands ready to respond to our needs when we humbly ask for divine intervention in the affairs of men.

As we Pray for America whose pledge of allegiance recounts that we are “one nation under God,” and whose currency states that it is “in God we trust,” we want Americans to encounter the God who rules over their country. “He who forms the mountains, creates the wind, and reveals His thoughts to man, He who turns dawn to darkness, and treads the high places of the earth—the LORD God Almighty is His name.”—Amos 4:13 NIV

He is the One who gave us this promise in 2 Chronicles 7:14: “If my people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” As we humbly and diligently seek Him, we’ll be changed, and we’ll see transformation in America through prayer!

HOW TO PRAY FOR AMERICA - BY PRAYING INTO SEVEN CENTERS OF INFLUENCE IN OUR NATION

GOVERNMENT

Pray for your leaders, as well as the judges in our courts. Ask God to grant them wisdom to act with integrity. (1 Kings 3:28; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; Exodus 18:21; Proverbs 11:3; Romans 13:1-2)

Federal Government

Consider praying for our President, Vice President, Cabinet Members, Congressional Leaders, Supreme Court Justices

State Government

Consider praying for your Governor, Executive Leaders, Legislative Leaders, Judicial Leaders

Local Government

Consider praying for your Mayor, City Counsel, Police Chief, Fire Chief, Judges, County Officials

MILITARY

“He appointed military officers over the people and assembled them...and encouraged them with these words: ‘Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged because of the king of Assyria and the vast army with him. With him only is the arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord our God to help us and to fight our battles...” (2 Chronicles 32:6-8)

Perseverance to endure hardship (Isaiah 43:2; Deuteronomy 31:6)

Wise leaders who inspire respect from those under their command (Romans 13:1)

Protection and support for the families they have left behind (Romans 1:8-10)

To read more on WHY, HOW, and WHAT to pray for the military, visit ["Praying For Our Armed Services"](#)

MEDIA

“...Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.” (Philippians 4:8)

The decision makers within the media to realize they can make a profit by producing uplifting projects (Proverbs 8:10-11)

Christians in media to find favor and be filled with creative ideas that bring kingdom principles and life-giving messages to the public (Proverbs 2:1-15)

To read more on WHY, HOW, and WHAT to pray for businesses, visit ["Praying for Arts, Entertainment and Media"](#)

BUSINESS

“I have filled him with the Spirit of God, giving him great wisdom, ability, and expertise in all kinds of crafts. He is a master craftsman, expert in working...” (Exodus 31:3-4)

Impartation of ideas and resources to open principled businesses, especially in areas that need an economic boost (Psalm 132:15)

Christian workers to display Christ-like humility and service to their co-workers (Philippians 2:3)

(cont'd on page 13)

(cont'd from page 12)

EDUCATION

"If you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding." (Proverbs 2:3-6)

A safe atmosphere conducive to learning

Excellence in educators (Exodus 18:20-21)

Equal opportunities for every student to achieve their full potential (Philippians 1:9)

CHURCH

"So then, just as you received Jesus Christ as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ." (Colossians 2:6-8)

The church would find a new zeal and commitment to the mission and purpose of Jesus Christ (Matt 22:37)

Unity with and among churches that reveal God's love to the world (John 17:23)

Integrity—that God's people look and act differently from the world (I Peter 2:11; 1 Corinthians 13:6)

FAMILY

"If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand." (Mark 3:25)

Unity and love in individual families that reach out in hospitality toward others (Romans 12:9-13)

Establish healthy relationships between parents and children (Malachi 4:5-6)



Vacation Bible School is coming June 19-23, 2022

at Holy Communion Lutheran Church

5:30pm—8:30 pm

NEED HELP TOMAKE THE VBS A GREAT SUCCESS

PLEASE FILL OUT THE ENCLOSED FORM. - THANK YOU!

Quest For God's Great Light!

Discovery on Adventure Island invites children to arise and shine because the light of God's love has come and is shining on them. The children will be empowered by exploring ways God shines great light in the world and by learning how they can also shine God's light by reflecting what they learned. Through stories in the Old and New Testaments, this program will show students how connection with God brings the invitation to God's light in a world that needs it now more than ever.

From a whimsical lighthouse on the tropical, enchanted Adventure Island, children (Explorers) begin their quest in search of five mysterious infinity lanterns that help light their way on the island. These lanterns are the light of Love, the light of Trust, the light of Faith, the light of Joy, and the light of Hope.

In each session, children (Explorers) with the guidance of the lighthouse keeper and Adventure Island expert (Beacon the Puffin), will discover map coordinates and clues from their Reference Book (the Bible) that help them find each lantern. They will also learn the ways God's great light shines in the lives of familiar Bible characters and explore how the same light can be shining in their lives!

Through this VBS, children will learn many ways of sharing God's love everywhere they go!



KING'S CADENCE



Concert at St. Paul's Lutheran Church 531 Hardin Road, Dallas NC 28034 (704-922-4387) Saturday, May 14, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.

Invite your friends and family!

We are excited to bring this male “gospel-rooted” quartet to St. Paul’s. We hope you will invite your family and friends to this free event. Below you will find information about the singers and how this group was formed.

Who is King’s Cadence? King’s Cadence Quartet had been a dream of KC Armstrong’s since 1994. Planning, recording and scheduling began while leading up to KC’s retirement from the US Army Chorus in the summer of 2019. As a Christ-centered ministry, their vision is to sing great songs to people who are yearning for GOOD NEWS, an encouraging word, or maybe just something to smile about! Although their first official concert together as King’s Cadence was not until August 4, 2019, each member has been singing gospel music with other groups for decades. All four men have vocal training at the collegiate level and hold degrees in music. Collectively they bring years of experience and a variety of musical styles to the platform. Having been friends since 1996, they originally met in studio sessions and performing with ensembles based out of the Chattanooga area.



Todd Gaither, Tenor...Todd brings a classic “Contemporary Christian” sound to the mix and with little effort consistently produces that high tenor register that rivals any in the industry.



Jay Craig, Lead...Jay brings a modern “Soulful Gospel” sound to the group and with passionate conviction hand delivers the message of the song every time he steps out front.



Daniel Varnell, Baritone...Daniel brings a clean “Choral Blend” to the ensemble which helps tie all the voices together and has the versatility to tackle any style we attempt.



KC Armstrong, Bass...KC brings an old school “Southern Gospel” sound to round off the quartet, warms up the background vocals, and opens his heart through his solo performance.

Visit www.kingscadence.com to learn more and hear some of their music!

May

*Named for the Roman goddess Maia, who oversaw the growth of plants.
Also from the Latin word maires, "elder," who were celebrated during this month.*

May Day (May 1) is a holiday rich in history and folklore, celebrating the return of spring! It's the halfway point between the spring equinox and the summer solstice! Learn about some of the fun traditions, from May Day baskets to dancing around the maypole.

As with many early holidays, May Day is rooted in agriculture. Springtime festivities filled with song and dance celebrated the sown fields starting to sprout. Cattle were driven to pasture, special bonfires were lit, and doors of houses as well as livestock were decorated with yellow May flowers. In the Middle Ages, the Gaelic people celebrated the festival of Beltane. Beltane means "Day of Fire." People created large bonfires and danced at night to celebrate.

May Day has a long history and many traditions in England, some of which eventually came to America. Children would dance around the maypole holding on to colorful ribbons. People would "bring in the May" by gathering wildflowers and green branches, weaving of floral hoops and hair garlands, and crowning a May king and queen. Such rites originally may have been intended to ensure fertility for crops and, by extension, for livestock and humans, but in most cases this significance was gradually lost, so that these practices survived largely as popular festivities.

THE MAYPOLE DANCE

Did you ever dance around the maypole as a child? Wrapping a maypole with colorful ribbons is a joyous tradition that still exists in some schools and communities.

- * Originally, the maypole was a living tree chosen from the woods with much merrymaking. Ancient Celts danced around the tree, praying for good crops and fertility. For younger people, there was the possibility of courtship. If a young woman and man paired by sundown, their courtship continued so that the couple could get to know each other and, possibly marry 6 weeks later on June's Midsummer Day. This is now the "June wedding" became a tradition.
- * In the Middle Ages, all villages had a maypole. Towns would compete to see who had the tallest or best maypole. Over time, this old English festival incorporated dance performances, plays, and literature. People would crown a "**May Queen**" for the day's festivities.

The strict Puritans of New England considered the celebrations of May Day to be licentious and pagan, so they forbade its observance and the springtime holiday never became an important part of American culture as it was in many European countries,

Interestingly, from the late 19th century through the 1950's, the maypole dance and festivities became a rite of spring at some U.S. colleges. Seen as a wholesome tradition, this celebration often included class plays. Scottish dancing, Morris dancing, a cappella concerts, and cultural dancing and music displays.

In the 1960s and 1970s, interest waned, the May Queen and her court became more of a popularity contest. Today, the maypole dance is mainly celebrated on schools (from elementary through college) as a fun spring activity.

MAKING A MAY BASKET

Ever heard of May baskets? People would leave a paper basket or cone containing spring flowers and sweets on each other's doorsteps, usually anonymously.

This tradition was popular through the 19th and 20th centuries, especially with children or sweethearts. The custom was to knock on the door, yell "May basket!" and then run. If the recipient caught the giver he or she was entitled to a kiss.

Lousia May Alcott wrote about May Basket Day in the later 1800s. In the 1920s, some bold schoolchildren hung a May basket on the white House door for First Lady Grace Coolidge.

The May Day basket is still a cherished tradition for some Americans, although it is not well known today. To make a simple May basket, fold a piece of colored paper into the shape of a cone. Then fill with wildflowers! If you don't have colored paper roll up and secure (with tape or a staple) a paper plate. Draw on the plate with spring colors and fill with flowers.

You could also fill a real basket with little gifts, such as, flower seeds packets, baked cookies, candies, and pretty trinkets. If you don't have a basket, an empty milk carton or seed pot would also do the trick. Just cover in colored paper or pretty streamers and fill with tissue paper!

So, now you know all about May Day! As colts and calves kick up their heels, seedlings seek the Sun, and birds call for mates, we humans may join their revels for one day; during spring's "May Day" festival. Even serious-minded folks can put work aside to enjoy Nature's exuberance!

(From *The Old Farmer's Almanac*)



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



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

May 2022



May 8