



Our Saviour Lutheran Church  
 725 Gastonia Technology Parkway  
 Dallas, North Carolina  
 702-922-4648  
 Email: oslcdallas@aol.com  
 Website: oslc-nc.org



# Our Saviour's Good News

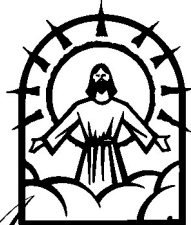
Volume XIX, Issue V

May 2024

## MISSION STATEMENT

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

- Pentecost 2
- Mother's Day Proclamation 3
- Quotes for Mothers
- National Day of Prayer 4
- Armed Forces Day-History 5
- Calendar and Events 6
- Shut-Ins 7
- Worship Ass't Needed
- Agape/Kure Beach Ministry
- World Hunger
- Court Sq. Summer Concerts
- Church News 8
- A Stewardship Minute
- Run-Off Election
- Memorial Day 9
- In Honor of Memorial Day
- 10 Things To Know About Trinity 10
- Not Growing Old 11
- May Mission 12
- VBS- Adventure with God 13
- Stewardship Letter 14



## Ascension OF THE LORD

Take a look at the calendar on your wall. You may find something on Thursday, May 18, 2023 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 9, 2023) and count 40 days, you end up on Thursday, May 18.

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 2,019 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.

# Pentecost

## **WHAT IS PENTECOST?**

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

## **WHAT HAPPENED ON PENTECOST?**

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

## **WHAT IS THE LITURGICAL COLOR FOR PENTECOST?**

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

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

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

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

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

## **WHAT IS THE SEASON AFTER PENTECOST?**

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

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

## **WHY DO WE CELEBRATE PENTECOST?**

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

## 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

### POEMS FOR MOTHER'S DAY

#### GOD'S MASTERPIECE IS MOTHER

BY  
HERBERT FARNHAM

God took the fragrance of a flower...  
The majesty of a tree...  
The gentleness of morning dew...  
The calm of a quiet sea...  
The beauty of the twilight hour...  
The soul of a starry night...  
The laughter of a rippling brook...  
The grace of a bird in flight...  
Then God fashioned from these things  
A creation like no other,  
And when his masterpiece was through  
He called it simply – Mother.

#### *My Angel*

by  
Brenda D. Greathouse

My angel is a woman who walks upon the earth,  
she shows me my potential and all that I am worth.  
When I am sick she heals me and makes me feel all-better,  
and makes sure that in times of need that we are all together.

When we get into all kinds of fusses in our life,  
my angel comes out strong as a mother and a wife.

My angel has raised me to be good and kind,  
and makes sure that I have a strong and intelligent mind,  
my angel is my guardian. my teacher and my friend, but  
most of all my mother til the very end.

#### *Everything Mom*

by  
Joanna Fuchs

How did you find the energy, Mom,  
To do all the things you did,  
To be teacher, nurse and counselor  
To me, when I was a kid.

How did you do it all, Mom,  
Be a chauffeur, cook and friend,  
Yet find time to be a playmate,  
I just can't comprehend.

I see now it was love, Mom,  
That made you come whenever I'd call,  
Your inexhaustible love, Mom,  
And I thank you for it all.

#### *His Mother*

by  
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Even He that died for us upon the cross, in the last hour, in the unutterable agony of death, was mindful of His mother, as if to teach us that this holy love should be our last worldly thought - the last point of earth from which the soul should take its flight for heaven.



May 2, 2024

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 2).

### 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.

### 2024 NATIONAL PRAYER FOR AMERICA

Jesus, we profess our faith in You. You are the Light of the world, and in You there is no darkness. For you are our lamp, O LORD, and our God who lights our darkness. Forgive us for fearing and focusing on the darkness around us instead of being filled with faith and shining like the city on a hill You have called us to be. Forgive us for the times when we have been the absence of light, allowing darkness to dwell in America. Lead us forward to dispel the darkness and bring light throughout the Church, Family, Education, Business, Military, Government, and Arts, Entertainment, and Media.

We are saved by grace through faith, released from the darkness that once held us captive and now free to walk in the newness of life in You. Light dispels darkness and exposes what is hidden and wicked, so we commit to rise and shine! For by You, Lord, we can take courage to run against the enemy, and by our God we can fight the good fight and keep the faith as living lampstands in our communities and country. We fear no evil for You are with us.

Lord, Your way is perfect, You lead us on paths of righteousness for Your name's sake. Your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Your Word is Truth, instructing and inspiring us to live in the abundant life You gave when You saved us from the death and destruction of the enemy. Fill us with Truth as we read, study, and live Your Word.

God, You are a shield for all those who take refuge in You. As we abide in You and Your Word abides in us, we take up our shield of faith and the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God and run boldly into the darkness to Lift Up the Word and Light Up the World! In the Mighty name of Jesus we pray, Amen

### THEME

*"Lift up the Word, Light up the World"*

2 Samuel 22:29-31

73rd Annual National Day of Prayer



**Armed Forces Day**  
 "United in Strength"  
 Saturday, May 18, 2024

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 18, 2024, 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



**HISTORY OF NATIONAL ARMED FORCES DAY**

The history of the United States Armed Forces spans over two centuries. The United States rapidly evolved from being a new nation fighting for independence against Great Britain between 1775 and 1783, to fighting in the landmark American Civil War from 1861 to 1865, to proving their valor and strength during World War II, and finally emerging as a world superpower towards the end of the 20th century. The U.S. armed forces comprise six branches of the military: the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, the Coast Guard and the Space Force (added in 2019)

The origin of the United States Army dates back to 1775 when the Continental Congress established the Continental Army, Continental Navy, and Continental Marines, commanded and led by General George Washington. This newly assembled military force fought the British during the American Revolutionary War with French soldiers by its side, leading to the Treaty of Paris and its independence. In 1789, the new Constitution delegated the president as the commander in chief of the military, with the authority to create laws, levy taxes, and declare war.

Ever since its formation, the primary responsibility of the Army division of the Armed Forces is to fight battles on land and deploy the military for takeover. The United States Army Corps of Engineers mainly control the rivers of inland America. Following the war against the British Army, the U.S. Army was still relatively small and operating in peacetime. This changed in the 1940s when the Air Force became a completely separate unit outside of the Army Air Forces. In 1947, control of the U.S. Army switched over from the War Department to the Defense Department.

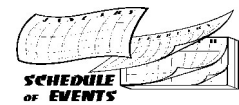
The major wars that the U.S. Army participated in were the Indian Wars of the 1790s, the War of 1812, the American Civil War in 1861, the Spanish-American War of 1898, World Wars I and II in 1917 and 1941 respectively, the Korean War in 1950, and the Vietnam War in 1965. The U.S. military also took part in the Gulf War in 1991 and the war in Afghanistan.

As of 2019, the Armed Forces of America fall under the command of the Department of Defense and the Coast Guard, which is authorized by the Department of Homeland Security.

# May 2024



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



- **May 2**—National Day of Prayer
- **May 6**—Nurse's Day
- **May 7**—6th Sunday of Easter
- **May 9**—Ascension of our Lord (p 1)
- **May 14**—Election Run-Off
- **May 12**—Mother's Day  
7th Sunday of Easter
- **May 18**—Armed Forces Day
- **May 19**—Pentecost Sunday
- **May 21**—"Prayer Group" will meet at the home of Shirlee Marazza at 2:00 p
- **May 26**—The Trinity Sunday  
World Hungry Day
- **May 27**—Memorial Day (see p 10 & 11)
- **May 29**—Women's Group TBA

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 National Day of Prayer	3	4
5 6th Sunday of Easter	6 Nurse's Day	7	8	9  HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN	10	11
12  Mother's Day	13	14 Voting Run Off	15	16	17	18 Armed Forces Day CMD Conv
19  Pentecost	20	21 "Prayer Group"	22	23	24	25
26 The Trinity Sunday	27  Memorial Day ☆	28 Women's Group Mtg.	29	30	31	

FOOD FOR THE MONTH:



**Spaghetti, Spaghetti Sauce, Black-eyes 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: Steve Digh



Birthdays



BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARY

- |                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1 Renee Falkenberg | Emma Dease       |
| 12 Garrett Lowery  | Jean Huffstetler |
| Penley Marie Digh  | 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 Digh     |                  |
| Ella Ray Lowery    |                  |
| 31 Bryten Cole     |                  |



**ANNIVERSARIES**

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

## FLOWERS

**Flower Schedule:**

- |        |                 |
|--------|-----------------|
| May 5  | Jeff White      |
| May 12 | Nick Vlaservich |
| May 19 | OPEN            |
| May 26 | 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

**Cost \$35**



Our Saviour Lutheran Church  
725 Gastonia Technology Parkway  
Dallas, North Carolina  
702-922-4648  
Email: oslcdallas@aol.com  
Website: oslc-nc.org



**OUTREACH MISSION**

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

Please remember our church members who are shut-ins or reside in a nursing home or senior living and visit them or send a card to them

**Wayne Ann Penley**  
109 Polie Ln, Dallas, NC 28034

**Jean Huffstetler** new address coming

(If others, please let the church office know)

# 2024 Court Square Summer Concert

(presented by the Town of Dallas)

Held on the Dallas Historic Court Square, starting at 7:00 pm, Each FREE concert will feature amazing talent (rain or shine). Enjoy the concerts,

- ◆ Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> — Bailey Marie Band
- ◆ Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup>—TED
- ◆ Thursday, July 4<sup>th</sup> —Concert Ben Gatlin  
(7pm-9pm)  
*4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks Show at Cloninger Park begins at dark.*
- ◆ Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup>— Caleb Davis
- ◆ Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>— The Catalinas Steeped in the sound of the 60s, 70s and 80s, they transport listeners to a simpler time when music spoke for a generation.
- ◆ Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>— Chris Taylor and The Rumor

BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIR FOR THE CONCERTS AND FIREWORKS



**GO OUT ON A LIMB**  
**GET INVOLVED**

**BE A WORSHIP ASSISTANT**

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

Sign up sheets for the 2024 calendar year are in BLUE BOOK in holder on the TABLE.

THANK YOU!

+++++

## EVENTS for Agrape/Kure Beach

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

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

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

Directions to Camp Agapé are on the web site.

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

### Events For Lutheridge - Lutherock- Lutherspring- Lutheranch

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



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 26, 2024**



## A Stewardship Minute

An article in the May issue of Stewardship focuses on what might be called "Box Stewardship." Suppose that somewhere in the church we had several tables with boxes with different labels that might read: "Children's clothes." another "Girls and women's clothes," while still other boxes might be for kitchen and table goods, or lawn and garden materials. Members can then make donations of their belongings no longer used. The church arranged to have the donated items delivered on a monthly basis to a church-sponsored outlet that sells them for a small price. One church I know has a very large store that sells everything imaginable! The outlet store is run by volunteers. It is a cheery place just to visit, or to take items to.

Now listen to another story of an older layman in Oklahoma City who felt compelled to collect soft drink cans, take them to a company that buys metal items, and give the money received to his church. Soon many church members brought their empty cans to help the old fellow. In fact, they brought so many cans to him that he bought a trailer, put high sides on it, parked it on the church lot where people could deposit cans whenever they wished. When the trailer is full, he hooks it his car and goes to the metal buyer, gets the money earned and takes it to the church! This is creative stewardship. It is enhancing the kingdom of God by more than tithing; creating ways to work for God on a daily basis and finding the amazing joy that comes from such service.

**Prayer:** Creative Lord, help us to be the creative people you want us to be in order that your kingdom might be spread by our stewardship. **Amen**



## RUN-OFF ELECTION

**MAY 13, 2024**

**6:30 AM—7:30 PM**

**TEMPORARY PRECINCT CHANGE**

**HOLY COMMUNION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
103 WEST CHURCH ST.  
DALLAS, NC**

**You may have received a post card reminding**



**PASTOR PETE'S TELEPHONE:**

Cell Phone: 704-516-2805

*"Prayer Group" will meet at the  
Home of Shirlee Marazza 5/21 2:00 PM*

## WOMEN'S GROUP

Meeting TBA in May

**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, SETH Alexander, AMANDA (friend of the Penley's), MARVIS Anderson, WHITNEY Auten (breast cancer), KELLY Ballard (friend of Shana Dease), NORMAN Bever (Brother-in-law of Brady Ratchford-stroke), ADDISON Blanton (friend of Dease's), KATHY Bohanan (cancer), KAREN Brady, MIKE Coffey (Robbie Wooten's uncle), BARRY Clemmer (Alice Vlaservich's brother), STEVE Cloninger (friend of Brady Ratchford-cancer), ROB Curley (cancer), STEVE Digh (cancer), JULIE Digh (Thyroid), DUANE Digh (Steve Digh's brother-Heart), BAILEY Drummond (Becky and Chris Messick's daughter), JOHN Finger (friend of Brady Ratchford), GLEEN Fraizer (friend of Steve & Julie Digh -cancer), BECKY Goodwin (friend of Brady's - cancer), JASON Hames (friend of the White's), GRACE Harbin (friend of Robbie Wooten-cancer), NIC Harkey (friend of Marazza's family -16 yr old had tumor removed, awaiting treatment options), LESA Huges (friend of Robbie Wooten-throat cancer), JEFF Lineberger (stroke), DANA Kirshman (friend of Robbie Wooten-cancer), JACK Lonon (Kasey Digh's step-father-cancer), MARINA Marazza (Shirlee Marazza's granddaughter-Long Haul Covid19), CARL Martin (friend of Pattons-multiple myeloma plus chemo) BO Messick (foot), FRANCIS McAllister (broken hip), CHRIS Messick (recovering back surgery), JASON, ALLISON & LEX Murray, ELIZABETH Mustin (rare breast cancer), GARY Neal, (friend of Caleb Dease), JOHN & MARSHA Patton - 2 embryos successfully transferred- pray for full term, ANDY Peeden (cancer), SONDRRA Phillips (friend of Melinda White), BRADY Ratchford, LEON Rawlinson (growth in brain), JAN Splawn (friend of Robbie Wooten- cancer), TERI Trudnak, TONY Trudnak (cancer reoccurring), GARY Turner (father of Jason Murray), JEFF White, KENT Wilborn (friend of Robbie Wooten-heart surgery) NANCY Wilson.





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 America'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

## 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

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

Enjoy Your Freedom & God Bless Our  
Troops



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



## *10 Things You Should Know about the Trinity*

The Trinity is something God wants us to know. The doctrine of the Trinity is not illogical. You should give up on looking for an illustration of the Trinity. The Father sent the Son and the Holy Spirit to save us; that is why we know about the Trinity. God would have been the Trinity even if nothing existed but God.

### **1. The Trinity is something God wants us to know.**

If you believe the Bible reveals that God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, then you ought to believe that God made this known because he wants us to know it. "The secret things belong to the LORD," but God's triunity is not among those secret things, or he wouldn't be talking about it and neither would we. "The things that are revealed belong to us" ([Deut 29:29](#)).

### **2. The doctrine of the Trinity is not illogical.**

It doesn't teach that God is three persons in one person, or three beings in one being, or three in one in some abstract sense. It teaches that God is three persons in one being. Partly because there are no other examples of such a thing, God's triunity transcends our rational comprehension. But it doesn't violate logic or make a claim that it nonsensical.

*God's triunity transcends our rational comprehension. But it doesn't violate logic or make a claim that it nonsensical.*

### **3. You should give up on looking for an illustration of the Trinity.**

God's triunity is one of those divine realities that have no parallel, like "being the creator of everything from nothing," or "being omnipotent." Any illustration you think of for such realities is vastly more unlike God than like God.

### **4. The Father sent the Son and the Holy Spirit to save us; that is why we know about the Trinity.**

God didn't make his triunity known to us by informing us of facts about it. Instead, he made it known through the incarnation of the Son and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The revelation of the Trinity took place in those acts, which God then explained.

### **5. God would have been the Trinity even if nothing existed but God.**

The doctrine of the Trinity is a teaching about God's eternal, essential being. So even if everything we know about the Trinity is derived from God's outward works as creator and (especially) redeemer, the Trinity would have been itself even without having done these things.

### **6. The Trinity is always bundled with the gospel.**

It's the doctrine of who God must be if salvation is what we think it is. The Father who gave his Son and Spirit to save us must be a Father who always had a Son and Spirit. If you describe the Trinity and then have to tack on the fact that the Trinity saves, you probably described it too abstractly in the first place. The Bible bundles Trinity and gospel, and so should we.

(Trinity cont'd on page 2)

(Trinity cont'd on page 2)

### 7. You're already soaking in it.

Whether you have been attending to it or not, everything about the Christian life works only because there is a Trinitarian reality underlying it. If you got saved, you got picked up by the Trinity and brought into God's own fellowship. Learning about the Trinity is a matter of learning the deeper reasons why this Christian life works.

### 8. Prayer and worship have a Trinitarian structure.

Every time Christians approach God, they come before God (the Father) in the name of Jesus (not in their own name) by the power of the Spirit (not by their own power). Again, this is true even if they're not consciously thinking about it.

### 9. You don't have to choose between being Christ-centered or being Trinity-centered.

The simple reason for this is that Christ is Trinity-centered, right in the middle of the Trinity as the Son sent by the Father and filled with the Spirit. If you focus on Jesus properly, you will find yourself necessarily focusing on the Trinity—as long as you don't focus on Jesus in a Father-forgetful or Spirit-ignoring way.

### 10. You can be a good Trinitarian without talking about the Trinity all the time.

*The doctrine of the Trinity is the vast, deep background behind all our theology, and when we explicitly talk about it we make a comprehensive claim about who God is if the gospel is true. But often the background stays in the background, and enables us to say particular things about Jesus, discipleship, the cross, the Holy Spirit, and so on, without making the big picture explicit. That's how the New Testament mostly does it, so you're in good company. Go ahead and talk about the Trinity sometimes and think about it deeply sometimes. Praise the Trinity at all times, and when necessary, use the word "Trinity." But don't feel like you have to focus mentally on this gigantic doctrine at all times in order to be a good Trinitarian.*

Fred Sanders (PhD, Graduate Theological Union) is professor of theology at the Torrey Honors Institute at Biola University. Sanders is the author of *The Deep Things of God* and blogs at [ScriptoriumDaily.com](http://ScriptoriumDaily.com).

## NOT GROWING OLD

*"Though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day." 2 Cor. 4:16*

They say that I am growing old.  
I've heard them tell it ties untold  
In language plain and bold —  
But I am not growing old

This frail old shell in which I dwell  
Is growing old, I know full well —  
But I am not the shell.

What if my hairs are turning grey?  
Grey hairs are honorable, they say.  
What is if my eyesight's growing dim?  
I still can see to follow Him.  
Who sacrificed His life for me.  
Upon the cross of Calvary.

What should I care if time's old plow  
Has left his furrows on my brow?  
Another house, not made with hands,  
Awaits me in the Glory Lands.

What though I falter in my walk?  
What though my tongue refuse to talk?  
I still can tread the Narrow Way.  
I still can watch, and praise, and pray.

My hearing may not be as keen  
As in the past it may have been;  
Still I can hear my Saviour say  
In whisper soft, "This is the way."

The outward man, do what I can  
To lengthen out this life's short span,  
Shall perish and return to dust,  
As everything in nature must.

The inward man, the Scriptures say,  
Is growing stronger every day.  
Then how can I be growing old  
When safe within my Saviour's fold?

E'er long my soul shall fly away,  
And leave this tenement of clay.  
This robe of flesh I'll drop and rise  
To seize the "everlasting prize."  
I'll meet you on the streets of gold.  
And prove that I'm not growing old.

John E. Roberts.

*"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." 2 Cor. 5:1*

## 2024 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 **116** 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, 32<sup>nd</sup> 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

# Vacation Bible School June 16-20, 2024

at Philadelphia Lutheran Church

5:30pm—8:30 pm

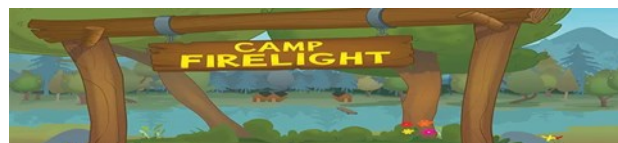


## A Summer Camp Adventure With God !

Theme: *Whenever I'm afraid, I put my trust in You.* Psalm 56:3



The Bible is full of stories about God and God's relationship with humanity. The first part of the Bible, the Old Testament, is about a group of people who were descendants of a man named Abraham. Genesis, the first book of Old Testament, mostly centers on Abraham's family through its first few generations: Abraham's family; the family of his son, Isaac; and the family of Isaac's son, Jacob. Although this family had a special relationship with God, its people were far from perfect. Genesis 28:10-22 tells a story about Jacob running away from home after tricking his father and stealing from his brother. Jacob was the second-born of twin boys and was therefore not entitled to the privileges that were customarily passed from a father to the eldest son—in Jacob's case, his older twin, Esau. Jacob's father, Isaac, was nearing the end of his life and wanted to pass along a blessing to his oldest son. With the help of his mother, Rebekah, Jacob tricked his father into blessing him instead of Esau. Esau was angry about Jacob's deception, and Jacob fled his home and ran into the unknown. Genesis 28 is the first time Jacob appears by himself in the Bible. This is a new beginning for him, and an introduction into a larger story. One night, while traveling to a new home, Jacob had a dream of a raised staircase—perhaps like a staircase on the ziggurats found throughout ancient Mesopotamia— with "its foundation on earth and its top touching the sky" (28:12). Jacob saw messengers from God ascending and descending this heavenly staircase, but the messengers did not speak to Jacob. Instead, God spoke directly to him. God did not condemn the underhanded way Jacob treated his family and obtained the blessing his father intended for his older brother. Instead, God repeated to Jacob the same promises made to his grandfather, Abraham, years before: promises about land, descendants, blessing, presence, protection, and more. God told Jacob that despite living a life that has, so far, been defined by deception, God still loves him, is present with him wherever he goes, and will be his God—just as he was the God of his father and grandfather. Jacob's dream confirmed to him that this place was sacred ground. When he woke up from his dream and divine message, he made his own covenant with God and marked the spot of this divine encounter with a stone pillar. Jacob named this special place Bethel, meaning "God's house." Despite venturing into the unknown, Jacob was not alone. God was always with him, even if Jacob did not realize it all the time. And God would keep the promises made to Jacob, even if Jacob did not realize that, either. We can trust God to keep the promises made to us, as well—like the promise to be with us, even when we travel to our own unknowns! Whenever we are afraid, we know we can Trust God to Go with Us!



The following churches will be participating: Antioch, Bethel, Holly Communion,  
Our Saviour, Philadelphia and St. Paul's.

***Our Saviour will have to serve a meal. Help Needed.***

Inspiring a deeper understanding of true giving

May 2024

# Stewardship

**A**re you doing your part? So much more can be achieved when everyone pulls together towards a goal. If everyone contributes something, then the total achievement will increase substantially with less effort from each person.

Alabama pastor, Thomas Lane Bush, tells a humorous story from his teen years, which carries a great lesson. Tom was helping an uncle harvest logs for a saw mill. After a rain one day, they started down a dirt road in a truck loaded with logs. Suddenly, the truck slipped off the road and became stuck in the muddy ditch. They knew that they needed help to get it back on the road.


Tom's uncle went to a farmhouse nearby and asked the farmer if he could help them. The farmer said he had a mule that he thought could do the job. A deal was made and the farmer was soon hitching a mule, which he called ol' Blue, to the truck. When all was ready, the farmer yelled, "Pull, Blue!" Blue pulled, but the truck did not move at all. The farmer yelled again, "Pull Blue! Pull Mack! Pull Maude!" Ol' Blue dug his hooves into the road, strained forward mightily, and the truck was soon out of the ditch and back on the road.

Tom and his uncle were relieved, but both were confused. "Why," the uncle asked the farmer, "did you call out the names of two other mules besides ol' Blue?"

Smiling, the farmer said, "Well, ol' Blue is blind and when he thought he was pulling alone he couldn't do the job. But when he thought Mack and Maude were pulling with him, he was



encouraged to pull all the more. So now your truck is out of the ditch."

Do you see the message in this story that has to do with stewardship? It is this. No one of us can meet all of the needs of our church. But when we know we are pulling together with others, we can accomplish whatever needs to be done. 



*Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, ...but encouraging one another.*

*Hebrews 10:24*




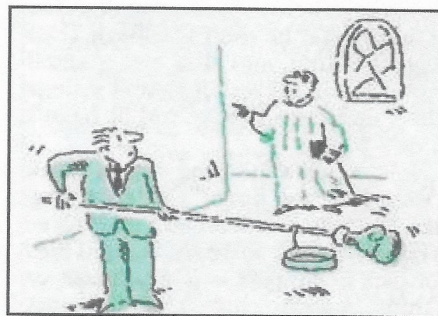
## Open Hands

**J**ack is in our Men's Fellowship Group. He has worked for the local utility for many years and has done well financially. You'd never know it though because he is a little rough around the edges and always wears the same worn jeans and ruffled shirt. Time and again I've heard through the grapevine that whenever anyone from church was struggling financially, Jack was right there to help, usually anonymously. What he lacks in social graces is more than made up for by his generous heart and desire to help those who have fallen on hard times or are out of work.

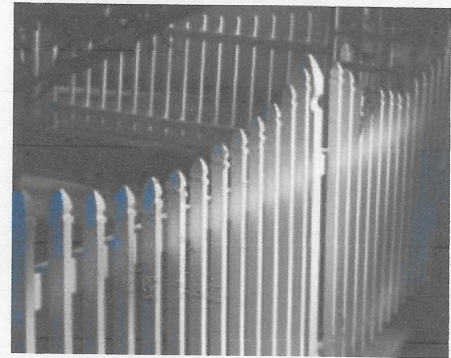
The Bible says we are all part of one Body (Christ's), and that no one part is more important than another. We all need each other. Jack will never be asked to lead a ministry or sing a solo. He has no such aspirations. But when he hears of a family or individual in need, he's right there, never seeking anything in return. He knows God has blessed him with considerable wealth and he holds it with open hands.

What gift has God given you for the support and encouragement of your local church?

All God asks is open hands. 



"George, about that collection plate of yours..."



## Thought You Wouldn't Ask

**I** was curious while visiting my neighbor, who had lived across our garden fence for many months. When she indicated she was a Christian, I wondered why she did not go to church.

I told my wife I was going to invite her to go with us the next time I saw her.


Soon we met over the garden fence and I said, "Would you like to go to church with us sometime?"

She smiled appreciatively, "I thought you'd never ask. Since I don't drive any more, I have no way to go places."

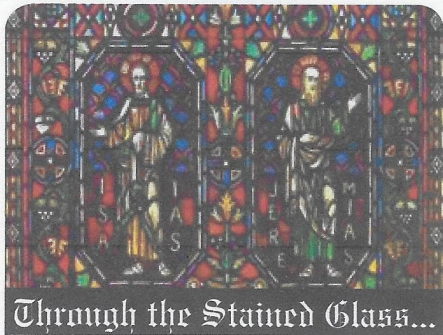
I offered, "It would be no problem for us to take you. We go right by your place."

"How about next Sunday? She quickly accepted.

She now attends services when her health allows. We have been privileged to minister to her in times of illness, and she has helped us in many ways. It is always a joy when she favors us with a loaf of freshly baked bread or a pot of home cooked beans.

I am encouraged daily to reach out to others when I remember the words my neighbor spoke, "I thought you would never ask?" 

*"You shall open your hands wide to your brother, and to your needy in the land." (Deut. 15:11) In addition to faith, add brotherly kindness, love, self-control, knowledge, goodness and generosity to create a recipe for stewardship.*



**A**re you familiar with the saying, “Think outside the box?” It means to be creative, to think of something new. Of course, that’s easier said than done, just as stewardship is.

Often, we think of stewardship in terms of boxes. In many churches, boxes for donations (of food, school sup-

### It Depends On You

**H**erman and Mary were riding in their new car. Mary said, “You know, honey, without me and my money, we wouldn’t be able to afford this great car.” Herman was silent.

Returning to their lovely home, Mary said, “You know, honey, without me and my money, we couldn’t afford to live in such a wonderful home.” Herman was silent. Mary continued, “Look at our gourmet kitchen, our family room with its entertainment center. Consider our elegant living room, the expensive furniture, the oriental rugs, the paintings, the crystal pieces. Without me or my money we couldn’t have all this.”

Finally, Herman spoke. “You know, dear,” he said, “the truth of the matter is...without you and your money, I wouldn’t be here either.”

What does that story have to do with any given church? The answer is “Ev-

plies, books, winter clothing...the list goes on), appear regularly throughout the year. These are highly important outlets for giving. Many people depend on them.

Yet “box stewardship” shouldn’t stop there. Churchgoers need to be reminded of the boxes. If possible, the boxes should be decorated to attract more attention. (A Sunday school class could take on that job. It would remind them of the importance of giving.) The contents of the boxes usually need to be delivered. Questions should be asked regularly about what supplies are most urgently needed.

By thinking (and working) “outside the box,” we can make the donations inside the boxes more helpful to those in need. ☩

everything!” The truth for us is that we wouldn’t be in this wonderful house of God without you and your money. You paid for this church. You paid for everything you see: the nave, chancel, altar, pulpit, pews, hymnals, cross and communion ware, and musical instruments. Everything on this site, all buildings and equipment, parking spaces and landscaping are all due to gifts from you.

You are also the source of all salaries and services the church provides. Missionaries and mission work, our seminaries and colleges depend on you. The church’s work on behalf of the homeless, the elderly, the children, youth and those in need of counseling depends on you.

The bottom line is that churches would not be able to exist or to serve Christ efficiently without you and the dedicated gifts that you give. Really, it all depends on you and your money.

☩

*God gave human beings superior minds...to be used to their fullest capacity in discovering God’s plan, in understanding self and others. We were also given bodies in which to accomplish God’s work. Use both to their fullest to inspire stewardship in your church and community.*





**“The truth for us is that we wouldn’t be in this wonderful house of God without you and your money.”**

**Importance of Stewardship**

Stewardship plays an important role in the lives of people who seek to follow Christ. In particular, Christians must be stewards of their personal vocations, for it is these which show how, according to the circumstances of their individual lives, God wants them to cherish and serve a broad range of interests and concerns: life and health, along with their own intellectual and spiritual well-being and that of others; material goods and resources; the natural environment; the cultural heritage of humankind — indeed, the whole rich panoply of human goods, both those already realized and those whose realization depends upon

the present generation or upon generations yet to come. ☩





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



May 2024



May 12