



Our Saviour Lutheran Church

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Our Saviour's Good News

Volume XI, Issue VIII

August 2017

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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ENCLOSED:

- **Walk for Life Info Sheet**
- **Registration for Luther: Life & Legacy Class**

Does Faith in Jesus Matter?

by Pr. Steve Shipman

The ELCA New England Synod is asking that the Great Commission be declared null and void. Of course, that isn't what a resolution passed at their 2017 assembly claims it is doing, but it certainly would be the result.

In fact, their rather curious version of the Great Commission in the first "whereas" clause of the resolution states, "Whereas the evangelical mandate of Christ to his apostles in Matthew 28:18-21 calls us to make his teaching and presence known throughout this earth's nations..." Funny, my Bible says that we are to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them into the Triune Name and teaching them to observe all Jesus commanded. Maybe they found a more ancient manuscript and haven't told anybody.

Of course, this brings back memories of the first edition of the AugsburgFortress *Lutheran Study Bible*, which contained a long, windy commentary on the Great Commission that pretty much said that when Jesus said to make disciples of all nations, he didn't really mean that we should make disciples of all nations. So this is nothing new. (After many objections, later editions simply have no commentary on Matthew 28:16-20)

The Resolution asks "...that the New England Synod memorialize the ELCA Church-wide Assembly to initiate a process to amend the phrase 'bring all people to faith in Christ' in C4.02b and its constitutional parallels in order to achieve greater consonance with both our understanding of Christian witness and sensitivity to our interfaith contexts."

The synod website doesn't include minutes of the assembly that we can find, but we understand that the resolution passed overwhelmingly, and the version on their website says "final."

According to the resolution, its purpose, which is admirable, is to advance inter-faith dialogue in a context of mutual respect. Surely as Lutherans we understand that faith can never be forced but is a free act of the Holy Spirit as He comes through the Word and the Sacraments, which the resolution notes.

And it notes that we should not exclusively (in italics in the resolution) be trying to convert others, but reach out in love that genuinely values and respects our neighbors. And so far I agree with their expressed intent.

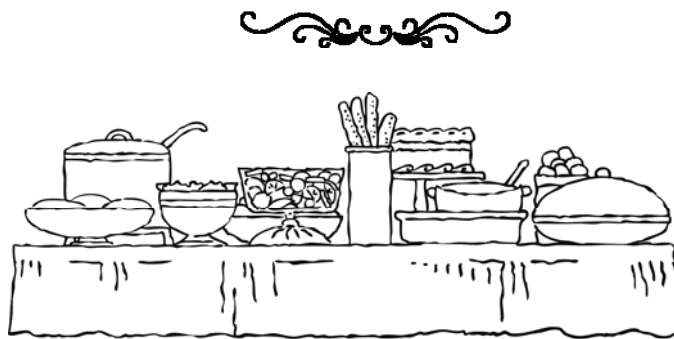
But in the end, any interfaith dialogue needs to be among partners who really believe what their faith teaches. So, yes, we should be trying to convert our dialogue partners and they should be trying to convert us. Otherwise we are pretty much saying that "it doesn't matter what you believe as long as you're sincere," a popular slogan which is utterly ridiculous (who is more sincere today than members of ISIS? In fact it is people who are sincerely evil who are the most dangerous!)

(Faith cont'd on page 11)

August 15:
The Assumption of Mary into Heaven

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

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



COVERED DISH LUNCHEON after Church service will be every two months beginning September 17

So bring your favorite dish or two and a friend.

Check out our website (oslc-nc.org) under events you will find a link (www.perfectpotluck.com) to look and see what others are bringing to eliminate too many duplicated dishes.

SPEAKING OF THE CHURCH'S WEBSITE..... oslc-nc.org. YOU WILL SEE THAT:

- ◆ You can see our current monthly newsletter and a few in archives under **About US**.
- ◆ A link to NALC Daily Devotion prayers.
- ◆ Current monthly calendar of events, birthdays, anniversaries, etc. under events
Also perfectpotluck link as mention above.
- ◆ **Under recommended links** you will find a treasure of websites including the NALC Newsletter, Book of Concord, Carolina Lutheran Women, LCMC, etc. Also you can obtain information about our Lutheran camping sites.

So you are encouraged to check out our website oslc-nc.org. to help keep up with the activity of the Church but also grow spiritually with the different links available.

2017 August Mission Emphasis –
 27th WALK FOR LIFE (CPC)
 Friday, September 8, 2017
“Walk the Walk”

(SEE INSERT)

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

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

Our History

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(CPC Mission cont'd on page 9)

Our Saviour Lutheran Church
Bill Trudnak, President
June 12, 2017. Board Minutes



Devotions: Shirlee Marazza

Meeting called to order by President Bill Trudnak.

Members present: Bill Trudnak, Bud Penley, Alice Vlaservich, Robbie Wooten, Becky Messick, Shirlee Marazza, Steve Digh and Teri Trudnak. **Absent:** Melinda White.

Minutes for May 15, 2017 were reviewed. Motion made by Steve Digh to approve the minutes and a second was given by Bud Penley.

Reception of Petitions and Communications:

- a. Kids Alive—"Stand in the Gap" \$100 donation-special gift. A motion was made by Steve Digh and seconded by Alice Vlaservich to approve this donation.
- b. Solo Publishing: Will support in prayer for this mission.
- c.

Report of the Pastor: Pastor's report was reviewed and discussed. Steve Digh made a motion to accept the report and Bud Penley seconded that motion.

Report of the Treasurer: Motion by Bud Penley to accept the Treasurer Report and seconded by Becky Messick.

Report of the Ministries:

- a. Property: The air conditioner in the activity building was not cooling and showed signs of leaking. Bill to contact Doyle Clemmer for maintenance/repair. Also the tile in women's bathroom to be repaired.
- b. Stewardship and Finance: No report.
- c. Worship & Music: No report.
- d. Youth Team: No report.
- e. Witness: Cards and prayers continue to be sent out; Discussion was made regarding someone to visit Jeff Lineberger at home. Also altar flowers were sent to Brady Ratchford and Jeff Lineberger. Alice is sending the bulletin to Ralph Summey every Sunday.
- f. Christian Education Team: VBS was a success this year again. Thanks to all that gave of their time, talents and donations. OSLC will be the host church for VBS in 2018!

Report of Auxiliaries:

- a. Rachel Circle: Met at the home of Shirlee Marazza for bible study and refreshments. The next meeting will be in August.

Old and/or Unfinished Business:

- a. Agreement with Pastor: A final hard copy was reviewed by Council. Becky Messick to email council members and discussion and approval will be on the agenda for the next month's meeting.
- b. Graduates (Garrett Lowery) were honored in June.

New Business:

- a. Work day on church campus scheduled for 7/15/17 from

8am-12noon. To clean gutters, trim bushes, clean activity building, etc. Also follow-up with Perry to see if he is interested in providing cleaning service for the activity building on a monthly basis.

- b. Steve Digh will contact Mr. Rushing to evaluate the sound system in the sanctuary, especially the Pastor's microphone.

General Information:

- a. Attendance
- b. Kids Alive Report.
- c. Seminary- \$141 was collected
- d. CPC Report –Thank you
- e. Lutheran World Relief thank you notes.
- f. Upper Room devotional book will begin in September.

Adjourned with Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting: July 17, 2017

Devotions: Melinda White

MOVIE ON THE LAWN

St. Paul's Lutheran Church has invite us to attend
 movies on the lawn
 on August 4th
 to watch

"Star Wars: Rogue One"

Fellowship and snacks begins at 8:00 pm
 Movie starting between 8:30 pm and 9:00 pm
 (Depending on sunset)

Bring a chair or blanket to sit on!
 Free Popcorn

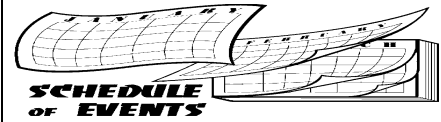
"Downtown Dairy Treats" will be selling ice cream



August 2017



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



	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
August 7 PURPLE HEART Day		1	2	3	4 Movie on the Lawn	5
6 9 th Sunday after Pentecost	7 Team Mtg.	8 Wake-up Church	9	10	11	12 Almost Vintage
13 10 th Sun. after Pentecost	14	15 Prayer Group	16	17	18	19
20 11 th Sun. after Pentecost	21 Board Meeting	22	23	24	25	26 Workday at Lutheridge
27 12 th Sun. after Pentecost	28 CLW/Rachel	29	30	31		

- **August 4**—Movie on the Lawn (see p 4)
- **August 6**—9th Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion
Donald & Nancy Deal (see p 10)
- **August 7**—Team Meetings:
Youth 6:30 pm
Others 7:00 pm
Purple Heart Day (see p 7)
- **August 8**—Gaston Together (see p 8)
WAKE-UP CHURCH (see p 8)
- **August 12**—Almost Vintage (see p 10)
- **August 13**—10th Sunday after Pentecost
- **August 15**—Assumption of Mary (see p 2)
- **August 15**—Prayer Group will meet at the home of Shirlee Marazza—1:00 pm
- **August 20**—11th Sunday after Pentecost
Gaston & SW District LLM Social & Vesper (see p 8)
- **August 21**—Board Meeting
- **August 26**—Workday at Lutheridge (see p 6)
- **August 27**—12th Sunday after Pentecost
- **August 28**—CLW/Rachel Group (see p 8)



FOOD FOR THE MONTH: **Grits, Instant Oatmeal, Rice**



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



Holy Communion Schedule:
August 6: 9th Sunday of Pentecost

Service Assistance:

- Altar Guild:** Betty Ratchford/
Alice Vlaservich
- Acolyte:** Nick Vlaservich
- Crucifer:** Will Trudnak
- Communion**
Asst: Nick Vlaservich
- Lay Reader:** Pastor Peter/
Teri Trudnak
- Worship Asst:** Teri Trudnak
- Greeters:** Members of OSLC
- Ushers:** Members of OSLC

Collection: Yvonne Finger
Devotions: Open



NO Choir Practice



- 1stJason & Allison Murray
13thDoyle & Darlene Clemmer
23rdBill & Teri Trudnak
25thJeff & Melinda White
29thJeff & Shana Dease



- | | |
|-----------|-------------------|
| August 6 | Becky Messick |
| August 13 | Joann Scarborough |
| August 20 | Anna Cole |

FLOWERS

Flower Schedule:

- August 6 Open
August 13 Marilyn Finger
August 20 Brady & Betty Ratchford
August 27 Becky Messick

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

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



MEN-IN-MISSION AT WORK

MARK OUR CALENDAR

LUTHERIDGE

Area Church's Men-in-Mission will join together on Fridays and Saturdays August 26-27, to do work at LUTHERIDGE. You can either spend the night Friday or drive up early Saturday morning. We plan to replace some split rail fence near the Chapel. On Sunday Antioch and St. Paul will worship in the Chapel and have a covered dish luncheon on the lake. If you are interested please contact Jim Scarborough or Nick Vlaservich.



The Friendship Day History

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

History of Friendship Day in US

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

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

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

Importance of Friendship in Bible

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

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

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

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

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

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

A Stewardship Minute

The August issue of *Stewardship* is full of explanations of what Christian stewardship really is. Listen to one writer's thoughts: "Christian stewardship is the means by which we make the church and the Kingdom of God a joy rather than a burden." Another writer wrote the following: "Whenever we consider Christian stewardship as a response to God for the salvation we have through Christ's love and sacrifice we want to respond. Giving becomes not a duty but a joyful privilege." We should remember that stewardship is not al-

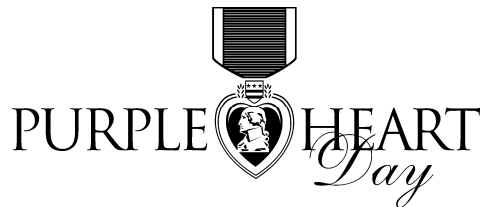
ways about money. Money is obviously important for the church and the Kingdom of God but offering our time, our talent, our labor, our thoughtfulness are also needed.

Some years ago the gifted painter, Norman Rockwell, painted a picture of a Cathedral with 19 people walking in front of it. What is unusual about the people is that every one of them was walking with their head bent down as though each one had a heavy burden and was without hope. But if each of those sad people had looked up toward the big door of the church they would have seen a sign of hope.

The door was opened and a priest was standing there as if he could have offered hope for each of the people. There is one more sign of hope to be seen in that painting. A workman was standing on a ladder having just finished putting words on a sign. The sign read: "Lift up thine eyes." Lift up thine eyes. That sign offered hope. The clergyman offered hope. The church offered hope.

Prayer: Dear Lord, as you know, your world is full of wars and woes. Help us to be good servants bearing your words of love and wisdom to an aching world.

Amen



August 7th

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

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

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

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



Church News



~~~~~  
 GASTON TOGETHER'S CLERGY & CITIZENS COALITION,  
 August 8, 2017  
 8:30 to Noon  
 Clinton Room, Gaston Memorial Hospital  
 Breakfast before meeting, if you wish  
 ~~~~~

Gaston & SW District LLM will have another ice cream and vesper service at Baker's Buffalo Creek Winery north of Waco. More details to come.

OUTREACH MISSION

SHUT-INS

NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

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

Marilyn Finger*

1150 Meadow Way Dr., Dallas

Ralph Summey*

1612 Dallas-Cherryville Hwy., Dallas

Jerri Presley*

2604 Ole Home Trail, Dallas

(If others, please let the church office know)



EVENTS for Agrape/Kure Beach

Contact Camp Agapé:

Telephone: 919-552-9421

e-mail: agape@agapekurebeach.org

Contact Kure Beach Lutheran:

Telephone 910-458-0783

e-mail: kurebeach@agapekurebeach.org

Web site: www.agapekurebeach.org

Directions to Camp Agapé are on the web site.

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

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

Web site: www.NovusWay.com

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



CLW Rachel Circle

Will meet at the home of Betty Clemmer on
 Monday, August 28 at 1:30 pm.
 The Bible study will be from our book
Come Holy Spirit, session 6
 Come and join us.

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



PRAYER CONCERNS: MARGARET Addington (friends of the community), SUSAN Aderholt, SETH Alexander, AMANDA (friend of the Penley's), MARVIS Anderson, KELLY Ballard (friend of Shana Dease), ADDISON Blanton (friend of Dease's), KATHY Bohanan (cancer), KAREN Braddy, ANN Digh (Steve Digh's mother-colon cancer), HUNTER Digh (Steve and Julie Digh's nephew -cancer), MARILYN Finger, LEVI Friday (Joan Scarborough's nephew) CHARLIE Fox (friend of the Ratchford's), ROBERT Gentile (friend of Shirlee Marazza-heart attack), ANNA Harbour (CDIFF-Shirlee Marazza's granddaughter), DOUG Hoffman (friend of Bill Trudnak-unknown mass in his side), JEAN Huffstetler, LESLIE Hunsucker, JOHNNY Lineberger (friend of the community), MARY Johnson (Pastor Feige's mother-in-law), ELAINE Kanupp (friend of the Digh's—colon cancer), BOB Lewis (friend of Shana Dease), HALEY Mauney (brain blockage- daughter of Julie Digh;s co-worker), ROBERT L. McCanless, Jr. (failing health - Charles McCanless' father), GARY Neal, (friend of Caleb Dease), NANCY Parker (friend of Marie Lingle-ALS), EDITH Paysour, LAWRANCE Paysour (friend of Ratchford's), RIVER Peedin (Ursela Peedin's great-grandson— leukemia), SONDRRA Phillips (friend of Melinda White) JERRIE Presley, BERNICE—Leon Rawlinson's mother, LEIGH Sellers (college friend's daughter of Libby Bickley), RALPH Summey, KIM Tucker (friend of Joann Scarborough-heart surgery) GARY Turner (father of Jason Murray), SHERREE B Turner (mother of Jason Turner), KELLY Walters (mother of Brie Murray) ANNE White (niece of Betty Ratchford-breast cancer), LORI Wood (Steve Digh's cousin-colon cancer).

(CPC Mission cont'd from page 3)

Twenty nine years later those actions are bearing much fruit,

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

Carolinas Lutheran Women



**SEVENTH
CONVOCA-**



**Living as
"SON" Flowers**

**ANNUAL
TION**

“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us...”
Ephesians 5: 1-2a

SATURDAY—SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

**St. Peter's Lutheran Church
1130 St. Peter's Road, Lexington, SC 29072**

**\$8.00 REGISTRATION includes LUNCH
Registration begins @ 9:00 am
Convocation begins @ 9:30 am
Deadline for Registration September 17**

**ONE THING ABOUT THE ANTICHRIST IS CERTAIN:
HE HAS ALREADY LOST.
Billy Graham/My Answer**

B: Is the antichrist alive today? I'm not sure I know what the antichrist is, but the world is in such a mess that I sometimes wonder if we're already living in the last days.

A: The Bible refers to the antichrist as an evil person of great spiritual power who will appear at the end of the present age (just before Christ returns to establish His Kingdom, as He has promised). The Bible says that shortly before Christ comes again, "the man of lawlessness is revealed. ..He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is call God" (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4).

As the name "Antichrist" implies, he will be completely and utterly opposed to Christ and His people. He even will try to get people to worship him by calming to be God, and both by his words and his actions he will do everything he can fight against everything God is doing in the world. Just as Satan tried to tempt Jesus and stop Him from following God's will for His life, so Satan and his demonic forces will attempt to overpower Christ as the end of the present age draws near.

Is the antichrist alive today? On one hand, the bible urges us not to speculate about this or become overly anxious about it. On the other hand, however, it does warn us to be alert -- because Satan and his servants are always active. The Bible says, "Even how many antichrists have come" (1 John 2:18).

The most important fact about the antichrist, however is that he will not win! Like his master, Satan, he is already a defeated foe -- because by Christ's death and resurrection He has gained the victory over all the forces of evil. Is your faith and hope in Him?



2017 Court Square Summer Concert

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

Held on the Dallas Historic Court Square, from 6:00—8:30 pm, each FREE concert will feature amazing talent (rain or shine). Enjoy the car show along Main Street and local craft beverage from Ole Dallas Brewery. For more information contact Jason Luker, Assistant Director of the Gaston Museum, at 704-922-7681 ext. 105 or Jason.luker@gaston.gov.com.

◆ **Saturday, August 12—Almost Vintage**

Morganton based, classic-rock groove-maters **Almost Vintage** begins the feeling of a carefree Woodstock afternoon to any venue they play! 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 9—The Catalinas**

Since its creation in 1957, over 60 accomplished guitarists, keyboardists, trumpet players, drummers, bass players and singers have been part of The Catalinas. The bad owner, Gary Barker of Statesville, has performed with the bank since 1965 and attributes its long success to the ongoing popularity of beach music and the tunes the band has composed, parivularly "*Summertime's Calling Me*" in the 70s.



Pastor Donald Deal was our pastor for ten years in the last fifties and sixties. He and Nancy, his wife, has visit us on occasion and has attend several funeral. Now he and Nancy will be celebrating their



60th wedding anniversary
on Sunday, August 6th,
2:00-4:00 pm,
St. John's Lutheran Church
Fellowship Building
6200 Mt. Olive Road, Concord

(Faith cont'd from page 1)

We of Lutheran CORE have been saying all along that the issues in the ELCA are not really about sex but about Jesus: Who He is and what He does. The action of the New England Synod certainly proves us correct.

The sainted James Burtness wrote an article many years ago as he saw this beginning in the LCA. You don't have to read the article (which was in *Dialog*), because the title says it all: *Does Anybody Out There Care Any More Whether Anybody Believes in Jesus?*

We need to ask whether it was really necessary for Jesus to take on human flesh and die on the cross for salvation, or is this just a story invented by some ancient Jews to express "spiritual" truths? Is Jesus really the only Son of the Father, an eternal Person of the Trinity, or is he another great teacher along with the Buddha, Mohammed, and the famous rabbis?

While the intentions of those asking the ELCA no longer to seek "to bring all people to faith in Christ" may be honorable (and a cynic would note that the ELCA hasn't been trying all that hard anyhow), in fact their proposal simply shows that too many in prominent positions in the ELCA no longer believe that faith in Jesus matters (the motion passed with little or no expressed objection according to our sources). Or at least they don't believe that it matters in the sense the Bible teaches, that there is "no other Name under heaven by which we must be saved."

Pr. Haug notes in this issue that the ELCA has been very sloppy in dealing with attacks on the faith from within. It is long past time for bishops and other ELCA leaders to stand up and shout, "Enough!" If faith in Jesus doesn't matter, then the ELCA should go out of business, sell its property, and designate the proceeds to various good works. And let those disciples who believe "the faith once delivered to the saints" go about making disciples by baptizing and teaching as Jesus commanded.

*Pr. Shipman is editor of CORE Voice, a retired ELCA pastor, and former Director of Lutheran CORE.
(Article from Lutheran Core Voice)*



Church Bulletins

*They're back! Those wonderful Church Bulletins! Thank God for the church ladies with typewriters.
These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services:*

- ◆ The Fasting & Prayer Conference, includes meals.
- ◆ The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus'
- ◆ Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
- ◆ Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.
- ◆ Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.
- ◆ Irving Benson and Janet Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.
- ◆ For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- ◆ Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation



LUTHER: Life & Legacy

In observance of the anniversary of Luther's posting of the *95 Theses*, the Department of Lutheran Studies of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary is offering a non credit course. It is open to anyone, lay and clergy, who desires to participate in a guided study of Luther's life and theology. There will be ample time for discussion and reflection among class participants. (See registration from enclosed=cost \$150)



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AUGUST 2017

