



Our Saviour Lutheran Church
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Our Saviour's Good News

Volume XVIII, Issue V

May 2023

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:

VBS Volunteer Sheet



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 plea 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.

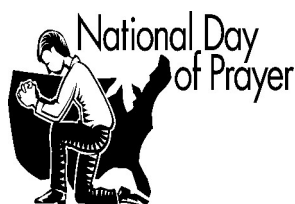
In the name of womanhood and humanity, I earnestly ask that a general congress of women without limit of nationality be appointed and held at some place deemed most convenient and at the earliest period consistent with its objects, to promote the alliance of the different nationalities, the amicable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

Julia Ward Howe
Boston 1870

Quotes for Mother

Our moms are our superheroes and biggest supporters, but we usually don't tell them enough how much they're appreciated. Now's the time with a Mother's Day card or gift. On her special day, tell your mom how much she means to you with these heartwarming messages about motherhood, whether she's new to the role or has a lifetime of memories raising children.

- ◆ "A mother's arms are made of tenderness and children sleep soundly in them." —Victor Hugo
- ◆ "A mother is she who can take the place of all others but whose place no one else can take." —Cardinal Mermillod
- ◆ "A mother's happiness is like a beacon, lighting up the future but reflected also on the past in the guise of fond memories." —Honore de Balzac
- ◆ "The art of mothering is to teach the art of living to children." —Elaine Heffner
- ◆ "In the mother's eyes, her smile, her stroking touch, the child reads the message: 'You are there!'" —Adrienne Rich
- ◆ "If love is as sweet as a flower, then my mother is that sweet flower of love." —Stevie Wonder
- ◆ "Mothers hold their children's hands for a short while, but their hearts forever." —Unknown
- ◆ "Mother's love is peace. It need not be acquired, it need not be deserved." —Erich Fromm
- ◆ "Being a full-time mother is one of the highest salaried jobs since the payment is pure love." —Mildred B. Vermont
- ◆ "When you look at your mother, you are looking at the purest love you will ever know." —Mitch Albom
- ◆ "There is no way to be a perfect mother, and a million ways to be a good one." —Jill Churchill
- ◆ "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's love is everything. It is what brings a child into this world. It is what molds their entire being. When a mother sees her child in danger, she is literally capable of anything. Mothers have lifted cars off of their children and destroyed entire dynasties. A mother's love is the strongest energy known to man." —Jamie McGuire
- ◆ "Motherhood: All love begins and ends there." —Robert Browning



May 4, 2023

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 4).

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.

2023 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



Armed Forces Day
"United in Strength"
 Saturday, May 20, 2023

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



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 five branches of the military: the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and the Coast Guard.

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.

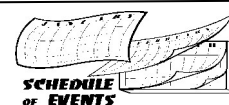
As of 2019, the Armed Forces of America fall under the command of the Department of Defense and the Coast Guard, which is authorized by the Department of Homeland Security.

May 2023



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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 National Day of Prayer	5	6 100th Annual LMIM
7 5th Sunday of Easter	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Mother's Day	15 Council Meeting	16 "Prayer Group"	17	18 HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN	19	20 Armed Forces Day
21 7th Sunday of Easter	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Pentecost	29 Memorial Day	30 Women's Group Mtg.	31			



- **May 4**—National Day of Prayer
- **May 7**—5th Sunday of Easter
- **May 5**—100th Annual Lutheran Men in Mission—Grace Lutheran, Hendersonville
- **May 14**—Mother's Day
6th Sunday of Easter
- **May 15**— Council Meeting 7:00 pm
- **May 16**— "Prayer Group" will meet at the home of Shirlee Marazza at 2:00 p
- **May 18**—Ascension of our Lord (p 1)
- **May 20**— **Armed Forces Day**
- **May 21**— 7th Sunday of Easter
- **May 28**— Pentecost Sunday
World Hungry Day
Love Offering: Melinda White
- **May 29**— Memorial Day (see p 10 & 11)
- **May 30**— Rachel Group at the home of to Alice Vlaservich at 2:00 pm



FOOD FOR THE MONTH:

Spaghetti, Spaghetti Sauce, Blackeyes Peas.

Holy Communion Schedule:

All Sundays



Worship Service Assistance:

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

Devotions: Alice Vlaservich
Collections: Steve Digh



Birthdays



1 Renee Falkenberg	Emma Dease
12 Oenley Marie Digh	Jean Huffstetler
12 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 Digh	
30 Ella Lowery	
30 Raygan Messick	
31 Bryten Cole	



ANNIVERSARIES

2ndJoe & Yvonne Finger
5thScott & Ashley Finger
9thChristian & Kara Clemmer

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



FLOWERS

Flower Schedule:

May 7 OPEN
May 14 Nick Vlaservich
May 21 OPEN
May 28 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



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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

(If others, please let the church office know)

2023 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 13th — Daniel Jeffers
- ◆ Saturday, June 10th—Coming Up Brass
- ◆ Tuesday, July 4th —Concert
Image (7pm-9pm)
4th Fireworks Show at Cloninger Park begins at dark.
- ◆ Saturday, August 12th—
Gary Lowder and Smoking
- ◆ Saturday, September 16th—

The Catalinas Steeped in the sound of the 60s, 70s and 80s, they transport listeners to a simpler time when music spoke for a generation.

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 2023 calendar year are in
BLUE BOOK in holder on
the TABLE.

THANK YOU!

+++++

INCREASE IN ALTAR FLOWERS **COST— \$47.00**

Gaston Floral has not increase
Their cost in many years while Uncle Sam has required him to tax the delivery service

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



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

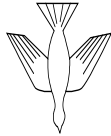
Check and see what food item they need for the month (on page 6 —our calendar) and let us over fill that basket in the hallway. This is a great outreach program.

God will bless you in your generosity.

WORLD HUNGER SUNDAY,
MAY 28, 2023

Our Saviour Lutheran Church
Anna Lowery, President
Council Meeting
2023, 7:00 pm

Devotion Alice Vlaservich



A Stewardship Minute

An article in the May issue of *Stewardship* focuses on the importance of faith and the wonderful results we discover when we take faith seriously. The author confesses that for some years faith was not always a serious matter for her. But the time came when faith became her top priority and life took on a whole new perspective. Instead of worrying and finding daily life a burden, the writer discovered that living by faith brought meaning and joy; that to have a partnership with God throughout life brought guidance, hope and strength to handle the many decisions, worries, and woes which came her way.

Think about the following: However intelligent we are, we need the wisdom and guidance of God in our lives. To live life solely on our own, going our own way, doing as we please without the guidance of God available to us surely would not be wise, would it? Especially, when one considers the indescribable intelligence and wisdom of our Creator, which is available for us when we humbly ask and faithfully follow it.

And what should be our response to the amazing grace and goodness of God? It is to be a responsible steward of all that our loving God has given and will give to us throughout life. That means to offer our all to be used by God; our hearts, minds, bodies and souls ... our resources of whatever sort. For what do we have that God has not given to us to use as God's stewards and the fulfillment of our lives?

Prayer: Dear God, you but open your loving hands toward us and shower us with all that we truly need in life. We humbly thank you. In the name of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord. **Amen**



PASTOR PETE'S TELEPHONE:

Cell Phone: 704-516-2805

*"Prayer Group" will meet at the
 Home of Shirlee Marazza 5/16 2:00 PM*

WOMEN'S GROUP

**Will meet at home of Alice Vlaservich
 on May 30, 2:00 P**

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), ADDISON Blanton (friend of Dease's), KATHY Bohanan (cancer), RONDA Bradley (Marsha Patton's mom, surgery for neck fusion), KAREN Brady, MIKE Coffey (Robbie Wooten's uncle), MAGGIE Cloninger (niece of Alice Vlaservich- installing pulmonary valve on 4/18), STEVE Cloninger (friend of Brady Ratchford-cancer), ROB Curley (cancer), STEVE Digh (cancer), HARDY Feige (Pete's dad - chronic back pain), GLEEN Fraizer (friend of Steve & Julie Digh -cancer), DON Gardner (John Patton's uncle -cancer in lung, liver, stomach & pancreas going into remission and improving), BECKY Goodwin (friend of Brady's - cancer), JASON Hames (friend of the White's), GRACE Harbin (friend of Robbie Wooten-cancer), ANDERSON Jones (friend of Penny Wilson-paralyzed by fall), 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), 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 (the in vitro procedure produces healthy baby(ies), (SONDRA Phillips (friend of Melinda White), BRADY Ratchford, 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), ALICE Vlaservich (healing), MELINDA White (blood cancer -pray to trial clinic drug works.), NANCY Wilson, MARY BETH Wright (cousin of Nick Vlaservich -cancer).



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

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*

2023 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, 32nd 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 is coming June 11-15, 2023

at Antioch Lutheran Church

5:30pm—8:30 pm



Our God can make the impossible possible!

He does marvelous things!

A science lab conducts experiments that explain how things are possible. In Jesus' ministry, He did things that are impossible. His greatest miracle of all was dying on the cross and rising from the dead for our salvation. At God's Wonder Lab, discover that Jesus does the impossible for us.

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



Experiments and other forms of scientific exploration help us to see how God made the world we live in! We start to explain how things are possible with our findings. However, during Jesus' time on earth, He did things that are impossible to explain. His greatest miracle of all was dying on the cross and rising from the dead to give us the gift of eternal life. There are kids all over the world who do not know what impossible things Jesus did for them. You can help spread the Gospel right here at church! With your help, we can send Jesus-focused materials to those who need to hear the Good News in communities just like yours!

Mission: U.S. is an outreach project that sends books about God's love to kids in communities all over the United States. This project focuses on reaching children and families in our own country who have not heard the Gospel or do not have any books about Jesus. By getting your students involved in this project, you will teach them—and the kids they help us serve—that God values all people regardless of race, ethnicity, or social status. God did the impossible for all of us and knows and cares about our struggles.



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

Our Saviour, along with Bethel, will be serving supper (pizza) on Tuesday, June 13.

NEED HELP TO MAKE THE VBS A GREAT SUCCESS

PLEASE FILL OUT THE ENCLOSED FORM. - THANK YOU!

Inspiring a deeper understanding of true giving

May 2023

Stewardship

I'd like to tell you about my personal experience with faith and worry; about what faith can do for you and what worry can do to you. The dictionary says that faith is "a belief and trust in and loyalty to God." Well, that sounds simple enough. We all believe in God and are loyal.

And we all say we trust in God. But this is the rub: how complete is our trust in God? I know that mine isn't. My faith, my trust in God is challenged every day. For a long, long time my faith was so shallow, my complete trust so lacking that I literally worried myself sick. Two ulcer operations and the resulting phlebitis that nearly did me in, are testimony to that. I didn't realize it at the time, but for years, I had much less faith than the proverbial mustard seed. I tried to take on the problems of the world, at least my little corner of it, all by myself. I have learned the painful lesson that I can't do it by myself. I've got to let God be my partner in all I do. Not just in my church or just in my spiritual life, but my business, my home, in my relationships with my loving family and friends, and in my dealings with the stranger on the street. Without faith, we worry; we fear the unknown and the future.

This is where faith, worry and giving all tie in. We, as individuals and as a congregation, are worried that if we give away a proportionate share of our possessions ... a tithe, or whatever ... we will not have enough left for ourselves for tomorrow.

Giving is a Privilege

Let me pick up on something our pas-



tor said about giving last week. First, giving is a privilege, and it is! If we weren't so richly blessed, we wouldn't have the privilege of giving so much.

Giving is Fun

Think of how much fun it is to give a gift that really makes someone happy.

It doesn't have to be a grand, expensive purchase. It can be just giving your love and friendship through a visit to someone who needs you. I've seen recently in my own family how by picking up the phone at the right time (and I didn't know when I called if it was the right time) you can reach out and help someone with a difficult problem you didn't even know they had. Things like this seem coincidental, but through faith you see that they are not just left to chance.

One of the biggest pleasures of seeing my kids grow up has been to see the joy they get, not from receiving a special present at Christmas or a birthday, but the joy they get giving something special to someone else.

Continued on page 4...

Jesus said: "Stop worrying, then, over questions like, 'What are we to eat, or what are we to drink, or what are we to wear?' The unbelievers are always running after these things. Your heavenly Father knows all that you need. Seek first God's kingship over you, God's way of holiness, and all these things will be given you besides"

Matthew 6:31-33



How Much Did He Leave?

Jesus tells us that upon earth we are in charge of things that are not really ours. We cannot take them with us when we die.

Someone inquired about Howard Hughes' will. "How much did he leave?" they asked.

"He left it all," they answered. "He did not take any of it with him."

None of us ever do. What we have is only lent to us. We are a steward of it, manager of it, an accountant for it, an agent for another. It is not permanently ours because we are not permanently here.

DeWitt Wallace was the owner of the Reader's Digest and his father was a minister and the first president of Macalester College. Over the years he gave the college over ten million dollars, and numerous other institutions other millions. He has said that "the dead carry with them to the grave in their clutched hands only that which they have given away." ☩

Christian stewardship is nothing less than a way of life. It is the understanding that everything we have, including our own lives, is a gift from God. It is a way of looking at the world ... at everything that touches our lives ... through the eyes of faith.



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



Herb Hocker challenged me because I stressed "Giving" without mentioning "Saving." This was when I used to wonder why Herb always questioned the annual budget so sharply. Gradually, I learned how sincere Herb was in his concern.

"You're spending dollars that should go for missions!" Herb would scold us at budget time. He argued that we should use more volunteer labor; that we must keep church purchases economical.

"We are barely sustaining ourselves, when our mission is to help others," Herb would despair. He believed that a church without significant missions was a dying church. I now agree.

"You are wasting the Widow's Mite," Herb would taunt us, concerned for those who gave from a pittance. He felt that dollars earned by hard work and sacrifice should be especially conserved.

Each church must examine its priorities. Does it exist to entertain an audience or does it exist to provide people opportunity to worship and serve their Lord? The church that exists mainly for its own self-preservation gives little satisfaction to its members.


Herb would certainly advise every church: "Don't let expensive church-keeping rob you of your mission dollars." ☩



Through the Stained Glass...

At the time of the Haitian earthquake in 2010, hundreds of missionaries were on the island. Did you know any of them? Probably not. They were anonymous mostly, known only to a few. Nevertheless, they were faithful souls who gave God their private and public lives.

In every congregation there are quiet servants of the Lord, who rather anonymously go about their duty to God and humankind, giving of their time and talent to their church.

There are more than a few such quiet, faithful souls who take seriously the teaching of Jesus. Someone wrote "of the plain heroic breed that loved Heaven's silence more than fame." They are indeed all about us. Anonymous followers perhaps, living faithful, almost hidden lives, but like numerous Johnny Appleseeds, casting seeds wherever they go. Seeds of love and hope and joy without which any church cannot exist, nor the church fulfill its mission. 

Steward of the Month


A Stewardship Family

Submitted by: Linda, Elizabethtown, PA

Tom and Patty are raising six children and they still have time to help God. Tom has a band of high-schoolers that produces Christian songs. He also takes groups on Mission trips to help others, like fixing up homes for the disadvantaged. He teaches the Lenten series for the adult education at our parish. He is involved in our Sunday School and VBS program when he is needed. He also serves on several church committees.

Patty home-schools her children and helps other parents home-school too. She organizes the RCIA class that helps others become full members of our church. She guides the people to a fuller understanding of their own journey and helps them to see where their next step might lead them. She is also a leader of the Moms' Group, always starting sessions with a prayer and many times donating items for crafts and activities.

During the summer she gives a day to each of her friends and helps them with whatever household chore or project that they choose. She watches other peoples' children. And, will open her home to provide a meal for a family in need.

They teach their children to pray whenever there is a need. We are very blessed to have them in our church family and for all the time, talent and stewardship the whole family gives to our church. May God continue to bless this family and everyone else. 

God has given us many gifts and calls us to use those gifts to build up the Kingdom. Our faith identifies us as stewards and gives us a relationship with God.

Many of these gifts are given for our needs; others are given for the needs of others. Stewardship is a ministry by which we nurture and share our gifts.



"There are more than a few quiet, faithful souls who take seriously the teaching of Jesus. Someone wrote "of the plain heroic breed that loved Heaven's silence more than fame." They are indeed all about us."

Continued from page 1...

Worrying about the Budget

We, as a congregation, lose the opportunity for much joy because we do a lot of unnecessary worrying. We worry about meeting our yearly budget. The Finance Committee worries about presenting a budget that will be within our reach and about how best to get us to contribute enough to cover the budget. Then if we fall short, they have to start worrying about what can be cut so that we can end up in the black. We, as individuals, worry about how we can give more and still have enough left with the ever rising costs of everything.

Yet, the Bible tells us over and over again that this worrying is all unnecessary. The answer is to have faith and to be a cheerful giver.

I won't go into the details, but if we met the challenge of giving the first portion of our income, as a congregation, we would give extra thousands to our church.

Wouldn't it be fun, if instead of worrying about the budget, we could have the joy of deciding what to do with that extra money? How we could use it to help others, to make others happy. Wouldn't that be a refreshing change? ☩





Our Saviour Lutheran Church
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May 2023



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