



Our Saviour's Good News

Volume XVIII, Issue IV

April 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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FOLLOW JESUS *through Holy Week* (starting with Psalm Sunday)

Hosanna in the Highest! **Jesus enter Jerusalem.** On Palm Sunday, we become a part of the parade of people trailing behind Jesus, who is mounted on a lowly donkey. We wave palm branches and shout "Hosanna!" on this day as a way to praise the one who has come to save us all—in great humility. Our joy is mingled with sorrow because we know Jesus is heading into his last days on earth.



Jesus goes to the Upper Room.

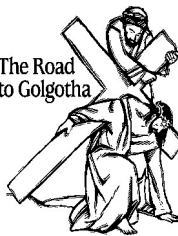


The Last Supper

On Maundy Thursday we climb the stairs to the upper room prepared for Jesus and his disciples, where they share a Last Supper together. In the bread and wine served here, Jesus gives his very body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. Today we partake of this special meal together as the family of believers—to remember his death until he comes, find grace to help in our time of need, and renew our Christian love.

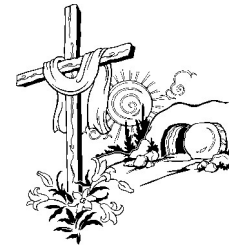
Jesus dies on the cross.

On Good Friday, we stumble through the streets of Jerusalem to witness Jesus on his path to the cross to suffer and die. We recognize that we should be on this road ourselves, but understand that Jesus is the only one who can walk this way if we are truly to be saved from sin and death. We contemplate the cross, express grief over his suffering, and marvel at the sacrifice of the sinless Son of God.



The Road to Golgotha

Jesus rises from the dead.



On Holy Saturday, we wait to walk with women to Christ's tomb on Easter morning. There we will see the stone rolled away. We will see Jesus alive again, beckoning us to come, follow him to life everlasting. As followers of Christ, we rejoice on this day that our house is in heaven.

FOLLOW JESUS *through Scripture*

To get a better feel for the events that transpired during Holy Week, here is a Bible reading for you to follow:

- Palm SundayMatt. 21:1-11
- Mon. of Holy Week.... Matt. 21:12-17
- Tues. of Holy Week... Luke 22:39-54
- Wed. of Holy Week ... Luke 22:66-23:25
- Maundy Thursday.... Matt. 26:17-30
- Good Friday..... Luke 23:26-49
- Holy Saturday..... Matt 27:57-61
- Easter Sunday..... Matt 28:1-9

FOLLOW JESUS *through Prayer*

Jesus said, "**Not my will, but yours be done.**" - Luke 22:42..... As Christ reveals to us, we must always bow to the will of God in our prayers, even if His will is in conflict with our own.

Jesus said, "**Father, forgive them.**" - Luke 23:34..... This prayer makes us realize that asking forgiveness for our sins and asking for help to forgive others should be first and foremost in our prayers.

Jesus said, "**My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**" - Mark 15:34.... Jesus shows us in this prayer that we do not need to shy away from expressing our deepest difficulties and frustrations with God in prayer.

(Holy Week cont'd on page 4)



Maundy Thursday

“And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed and broke it, and gave it to them and said, ‘Take, this is my Body.’ And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, and they all drank of it. And He said to them, ‘This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.’” Mark 14:12-25

Finally, after many weeks of Lenten discipline and observance, we arrive at the Upper Room, where Jesus institutes the Last Supper. How wonderful that the meal Jesus shared with His disciples that night so long ago, we continue to share with Him today.

The meaning of the liturgy of the Lord’s Supper is not that we are whisked back in time, as with the old TV show, “You Are There.” Rather, in the doing of the liturgy, in the reading of the account of the Last Supper, we participate in the Eucharist in our own time. It’s not that we are there, but that Christ Jesus is here, as He incarnates Himself once again, saying in our midst, “This is my Body; This is my Blood of the New Covenant.”

The word that is used to describe and explain this reality is “anamnesis.” It is most often translated as “remembrance,” as in “Do this for the remembrance of me.” It might be better for us to leave the original word, “Do this for the anamnesis of me,” because no English word translates it accurately. It means, in “doing this,” Jesus is re-actualized among us, re-presented among us as the Risen Lord, offering Himself to us in the bread and wine which become His real, true, actual Body and Blood.

As we gather at table with Jesus tonight, we are the disciples—we are the twelve, with Jesus as our Presiding Minister the Great High Priest offering not an animal, but Himself for our forgiveness and salvation. And we receive Him, forgiven, redeemed, saying “Thanks be to God!”

Almighty God, in the Lord’s Supper, grant that we may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent, that we may have eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Good Friday



“You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your fathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.” I Peter 1:10-20

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world. Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world. Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world. Grant us peace. Amen.

With this hymn, the Agnus Dei, we honor the Lamb who was slain, sacrificed on the cross as one without blemish or spot. Our commemoration of Christ’s sacrifice is especially meaningful when we view it in light of the sacrificial system instituted by God for the Israelites in Leviticus. The Lord God provided the many sacrifices in the tabernacle and later the Temple in Jerusalem to provide atonement, forgiveness and restored holiness in order to be in God’s presence.

Now, the various animal and grain sacrifices and offerings are ended, replaced by the once-for-all sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, truly the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. And why? Why did Jesus become the sacrifice?

To bring us peace. Peace that is not just the end of strife, the end of war, the end of terrorism and bloodshed in our world. Rather, the peace that Jesus died to bring is peace between God and His children—the restoration of the relationship that was broken by human sin and disobedience. Now, in Him, that relationship is healed, so that in Christ Jesus we may approach the presence of God without fear. Now, in Jesus, we are at peace with God the Father!

Lord Jesus Christ, Lamb of God, have mercy on us and grant us peace with God the Father, through your sacrifice on the cross. Amen.



GRADUALLY-THEN SUDDENLY!

Pastor Paul Clark,
President of Lutherans for Life of Michigan

Ernest Hemingway, in his novel, *The Sun Also Rises*, has exchange between two characters, Bill Gorton and Mike Campbell.

"How did you go bankrupt?" Bill asked.
"Two ways," Mike said. "Gradually and then suddenly."

Many people wonder how our culture has sunk to such low levels as it has, with the attack on the sanctity of human life, the way we may look at unborn babies as disposable, the acceptance by some of physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia, and of course, the ever-increasing attacks on traditional marriage and gender identity as male and female, as God created them.

How did this all happen? Of course, the answer is: Gradually, and then *suddenly*.

For years and years, those who oppose God and His Word have chipped away at such values as the right to life and traditional marriage and family structure. Then, in swift blows, things came rumbling down suddenly. And many are dazed and wonder how it could all happen so quickly.

But in the same way, we can rebuild a culture of life. We have been doing that – gradually – over many years, with our pro-life efforts at changing minds, combatting the lies, electing pro-life officials, and supporting women and their babies in their time of need.

Now, with the coming release of the Supreme Court *Dobbs* decision in June, we may have things going much more "suddenly." If the court would overturn, or even weaken, *Roe v Wade*, that would be wonderful news for our dear unborn children! But even then, there will continue to be a state-by-state battle for life. So, we must not weaken. We must not falter. The Lord of Life is with us in this battle!

For all who have been damaged by the sin of abortion – and for all who have been complicit by not speaking up in defense of innocent babies – repent, and then hear the sweet and comforting words of Jesus: "*Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.*" Matthew 11:28



"Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." Hebrews 4:1-16

For many of us, this is indeed a time when we need to draw near to the throne of grace to receive mercy and find grace to help. We have now not only completed our Lenten journey, but we have walked with Jesus all the way to the cross, and witnessed Him buried in the tomb. And now, Holy Saturday leaves us feeling alone. Though we know what will come with the morning, still our hearts can be troubled.

But it is Jesus, the Son of God who has passed through the heavens, the once-for-all sacrifice who entered into the holy of holies, to pay the price, to make atonement for our sins, that we might approach the Father, not in fear but with confidence that the way to Him is open—not because of who we are, or what we have done or failed to do—but because Jesus Christ is our Great High Priest!

Now sin and death have been overcome by the one who has been tempted as we are, yet remained without sin. Now we can draw near to the throne of grace because our Great High Priest has made sacrifice for us. Now we need no longer fear God, or death, or hell, for Jesus Christ has opened the way to heaven for us.

While our joy may be restrained for one more day, we know what's coming. We know that resurrection and new life come with the new day!

Lord God, on this day when our Lord's body lay in the tomb, give us time for rest and reflection, silence and prayer, that the full meaning of our redemption will settle upon our hearts and minds, as we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast; through Christ our Lord. Amen.





Palm Sunday

is the sixth Sunday of Lent and the last Sunday before Easter. It is also known as Passion Sunday, Willow Sunday, and Flower Sunday.

Palm Sunday commemorates the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, where he would be crucified five days later. According to the Gospels, Jesus rode into town on a donkey as exuberant crowds hailed him as the Messiah and spread out palm branches and cloaks in his path.

The event commemorated on Palm Sunday is told in all four gospels (Matthew 21, Mark 11, Luke 19, John 12). The Matthew narrative, the one most commonly read in services on Palm Sunday, tells the story this way:

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away..

The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" Palm Sunday was the fulfillment of the Prophet Daniel's "seventy sevens" prophecy: " Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times" (Daniel 9:25). John 1:11 tells us, "He (Jesus) came to His own, and His own did not receive Him." The same crowds that were crying out "Hosanna" were crying out "crucify Him" five days later (Matthew 27:22-23).

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" the crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee." (Matthew 21:1-3, 6-11)

The celebration of Palm Sunday probably originated in the churches of Jerusalem, sometime before the third or fourth century AD.

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, an especially solemn and important week in the Christian calendar that focuses on the last days of Jesus' life and anticipates Easter, the most important holiday in Christianity.

(Holy Week cont'd from page 1)

FOLLOW JESUS *through Service to Others.*

"He touched the man's ear and healed him." - Luke 22:52.....

We are called to do what we can to bring healing to others through such simple things as a kind word, a hospital visit, or a phone call.

"Woman, behold your son." *"Behold your mother."* - John 19:26,27.... Now is a perfect time for us to encourage people in their relationships and work to strengthen the bonds we share with family and friends.

"He began to wash his disciples' feet." - John 13:5..... Our task is to serve in love and humility and to consider the needs of others first when deciding how to schedule our days.

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HELP IS NEEDED FOR WORSHIP ASSISTANT



READERS ARE NEEDED
Blue Sign-up Book in Hallway

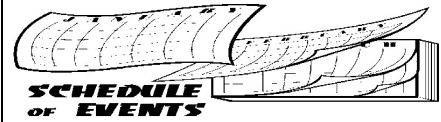


"Here at the church, I only use Resurrection Eggs."

April 2023



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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Food Collection						1 Run for the Money
2 Palm Sunday	3	4	5	6 Maundy Thursday	7 GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE	8
9 CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY!	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 1st Sun. after Easter	17	18 Prayer Group	19	20	21	22
23 2nd Sun. after Easter	24 Rachel Group	25	26	27	28	29
30 3rd Sun. after Easter		25	26	27	28 RELAY FOR LIFE	29

- Apr. 1—April Fool's Day
- Apr. 1—Run for the Money (see p 11)
- Apr. 2—Palm Sunday
- Apr. 6—Maundy Thursday at 7:00 pm
JOINT SERVICE AT ANTIOCH
- Apr. 7—Good Friday Service 7:00 pm
- Apr. 9—EASTER: Christ Has Risen
Regular Service 11:00 am
Bring flowers for cross.
- Apr. 16—1st Sunday after Easter
- Apr. 18—Prayer Group will meet at the home of Shirlee Marazza at 2:00
- Apr. 23—2nd Sunday after Easter
- Apr. 24—Rachel Group (see p 10)
- Apr. 28—Relay for Life (see p 6)
- Apr. 30—3rd Sunday after Easter

FOOD FOR THE MONTH: **Crackers, Peanut Butter, Lima Beans**



Choir practice each Wednesday at 4:00 pm unless otherwise announced in the bulletin



- Birthdays This Month**
- 1 Melinda White
 - 5 Will Trudnak
 - 8 Nancy Friday
 - 22 Dan Clemmer, Jr.
 - 23 Nick Vlaservich



- BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARY**
- Julie Digh
 - Tiffany Cobb
 - Dan Clemmer, Sr.
 - Donna Clemmer
 - Teri Trudnak
 - Melinda White
 - Jared Dease

Holy Communion Schedule:
And all Sundays

Worship Service Assistance:

- Acolyte:** OSLC Member
- Communion Asst:** OSLC Member
- Lay Reader:**
- Worship Asst:**
- Greeters:** OSLC Members
- Ushers:** OSLC Members

Collection: Teri Trudnak

FLOWERS

Flower Schedule:

- Apr. 2 Palms
- Apr. 9 **Open**
- Apr. 16 **Open**
- Apr. 23 Alice Vlaservich
- Apr. 30 **Open**

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

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

After many years charging us the same for the altar flowers, Gaston Florist has increase their charge to \$47 for the altar flowers..



ANNIVERSARIES

24th.....Chris & Becky Messick

Our Saviour Lutheran Church

Anna Lowery, President

March 20, 2023 Board Minutes



Meeting called to order by President, Anna Lowery

Devotions: Robbie Wooten

Members present: Anna Lowery, Teri Trudnak, Alice Vlaservich, Robbie Wooten.

Members Absent: Steve Digh, Becky Messick, Melinda White.

Minutes: Motion by Alice to approve the January 30, 2023 minutes. Seconded by Robbie Wooten and carried

Reception of Petitions and Communications:

The Council agreed to pray for the NALC Convocation that they make sound decisions. (Exhibit A)

Report of the Pastor: The daily Zoom Lenten Devotional at 6:00 pm is going well and council likes it.

Report of the Treasurer: Motion by Robbie Wooten to accept the January and February reports (Exhibit B). Seconded by Anna Lowery and carried.

Report of the Ministries:

- a. Property: To be done: Roof work and trim flowers bed at Activity Building.
- b. Stewardship and Finance: None
- c. Worship & Music: (1) Orders for lilies went out on March 19. (2) Motion by Robbie Wooten to have 1 service (11 am) on Easter Sunday and we will not have breakfast. Seconded by Teri Trudnak and carried.
- d. Youth Team: None
- e. Witness: Cards and bulletins continue to be sent to shut ins.
- f. Christian Education Team: Ask Julie Digh to help Melinda White with VBS

Report of Auxiliaries:

- a. Prayer Group will meet at the home of Shirlee Marazza at 2:00 pm on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.
- b. The Rachel Group will meet at the home of Betty Clemmer on March 27 at 1:30 pm

Old and/or Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

- a. Regarding the roofs for the Church, Parsonage, and Activity Building. Insurance claim submitted with the help of AmeriPro Roofing Company who met with us and Insurance Adjuster representative (AAA Roof Technologies). Motion by Robbie Wooten to let Ameri Roofing do the work if insurance covers the damage. Seconded by Teri Trudnak and carried. See Exhibit C).
- b. The Council accepted the Rewrite of the Church property insurance. (Exhibit D).
- c. Council will consider a covered dish meal after church

soon.

- d. Discussed the possibility of having someone in nurse to help members with little children.

General Information:

- a. Attendance
- b. Laszlo Mission Report
- c. Thanks to 3 Council members the trimming of Crape Myrtle trees and mulch is paid for
- d. VBS will be held in June
- e. NALC Disaster Response Request: \$200 in gift cards (Lowe's, Home Depot, Target, Big Lots) was submitted to the Disaster Response

The Council meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting is May 15, 2023 at 7 pm

Devotions: Alice Vlaservich

**COUNCIL WILL MEET EVERY OTHER MONTH, BUT
MAY CALL SPECIAL MEETINGS**



Relay For Life is the world's largest volunteer-based fundraising event. For more than 36 years, communities across the world have come together to honor and remember loved ones and take action for lifesaving change. We strive to make this event as safe as possible and will follow local COVID related guidelines.

At Relay For Life you'll find community members taking turns walking around a track lined with luminaria bags. You'll have the opportunity to cheer for local survivors (or participate as a survivor) in our first lap of the day. Caregivers of cancer patients (currently or previously diagnosed) will then be invited to join the Survivors. Local entertainers will keep you energized. As it gets dark, we will light the luminaria bags surrounding the track in a memorable luminaria ceremony. There will be opportunities to fundraise & fight back!

WHEN: April 28, 2023 at 6:00 pm

WHERE: Gaston Cillege

MORE INFORMATION:

Go on line for Lincoln and Gaston Relay for Life.

HE IS GOD

He is the First and Last,
 The Beginning and the End!
 He is the keeper of Creation and the Creator of all!
 He is the Architect of the universe and the Manager of all times.
 He always was, He always is, and He always will be ...
 unmoved, Unchanged, Undefeated, and never Undone!



He is light, love, longevity, and Lord.
 He is goodness, Kindness, Gentleness, and God.
 He is Holy, Righteous, mighty, powerful, and pure.



His ways are right,
 His word is eternal,
 His will is unchanging, and His mind is on me.
 He is my Savior,
 He is my guide, and He is my peace!
 He is my Joy,
 He is my comfort,
 He is my Lord, and He rules my life!



I serve Him because His bond is love,
 His burden is light, and His goal for me is abundant life.
 I follow Him because He is the wisdom of the wise,
 the power of the powerful,
 the ancient of days, the ruler of rulers, the leader of leaders, the overseer of the overcomers, and is to come.
 And if that seems impressive to you, try this for size.



His goal is a relationship with ME!
 He will never leave me,
 never forsake me,
 never mislead me,
 never forget me,
 never overlook me and
 never cancel my appointment in His appointment book!



When I fall, He lifts me up
 When I fail, He forgives!
 When I am weak, He is strong!
 When I am lost, He is the way!
 When I am afraid, He is my courage!
 When I stumble, He steadies me!
 When I am hurt, He heals me!
 When I am broken, He mends me!
 When I am blind, He leads me!
 When I am hungry, He feeds me!
 When I face trials, He is with me!
 When I face persecution, He shields me!
 When I face problems, He comforts me!
 When I face loss, He provides for me!
 When I face Death, He carries me Home

(cont'd on page 15)

APRIL

From the Latin word **“to open”** (bud), because plants begin to grow during this month.

SYMBOLS

THE SURPRISING ORGINS OF EASTE SYMBOLS: FROM LAMBS AND LILIES

From lambs to lilies, there are many beautiful Easter symbols that have significance to us. But do you know why? The origin of the Easter egg is based on ancient fertility lore. The Easter bunny tradition came for the Germans (similar to Santa Claus). And then there are the Easter foods! Understand the symbolism and how Easter tradition began! Here's some table talk for your Easter dinner.

East is the most important feast day in the Christian church, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The feast day is “moveable” and always falls on the first Sunday after the first full Moon after the spring equinox.

EASTER EGGS



The oval-shape egg has been a universal symbol in many religions across the millennia, symbolizing new life, rebirth, and fertility.

According to *The Easter Book* by Francis X. Weiser, S.J. “[t]he origin of the Easter egg is based on the fertility lore of the Indo-European races. To our pre-Christian ancestors, it was a most startling event to see a new and live creature emerge from a seemingly dead object. The egg to them became a symbol of spring. Long ago in Persia, people used to present each other with eggs at the spring equinox, which for them also marked the beginning of a new year.”

In Judaism, eggs are an important part of the Passover seder plate. For some Christians, the egg symbolizes the rock tomb out of which Christ emerged to the new life of his Resurrection. Also, there was a practical reason that eggs became popular on Easter: They were forbidden during the 40 days of Lent. However, chickens still laid eggs, so they were often collected and decorated.

In most countries, the eggs are stained in plain vegetable dye colors. Among Orthodox Christians, the faithful present each other with crimson eggs in honor of the blood of Christ. In parts of Eastern Europe, it's tradition to create intricate designs on the eggs with wax of twine before coloring. In Germany and other countries, the eggs are pierced and made hollow so that they can be suspended from shrubs and trees during Easter Week – much like decorations on a Christmas tree.

Of course, many countries have egg hunts and games, too. Plastic eggs are often filled with candy treats, since it's ends Lent.

THE EASTER BUNNY



The “Easter Bunny” who visits children on Easter morning, was an invention of German Protestants; the *Osterhase* or “Easter Hare,” brought eggs and sweets to “good children,” in the same way that Santa Clause brought gifts to well-behaved youngsters.

The Easter Hare played this Santa Claus—like role at the start of the Easter season. Judging whether or not children has been obedient to their parents. The symbolism is not particularly religious, but we can be reasonably certain that the Lutherans of long ago were not intending to teach their children about fertility. Like Claus, the Easter Bunny is something fun to do with kids.

EASTER LAMB



Among the popular Easter symbols, the lamb is by far the most significant of this great feast. The lamb is said to symbolize Jesus, as it embodies purity and goodness, but also represents sacrifice,

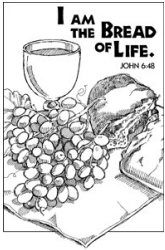
The lamb was a sacrifice made during the Jewish Passover, which is a holiday commemorating the passage of the “angel of death” over the homes of those who the blood of sacrificial lambs on their doorpost, thus sparing the firstborn sons. Roasted lamb shanks are an important part of the Passover seder plate; roasted leg of lamb is popular for Easter in Mediterranean countries such as Italy and Greece.

(April cont'd on page 9)

(April cont'd from page 8)

Jesus was crucified during Passover week and then made the ultimate sacrifice, his life. He is referred to as the "Lamb of God" and "our Passover lamb" in the Bible. During Easter, we celebrate Jesus' Passover from death to life.

EASTER BREADS



Sweet breads are also a tradition, especially with the conclusion of Lent, a period when many people do not indulge in sweets. For Christians, the resurrected Christ is called "the bread of life" (John 6:35), in whom believers will find their daily spiritual sustenance.

In Russia and Austria, the sweet breads are often marked with a cross or image of a lamb. In Germany, the Easter bread is baked in loaves of twisted or braided strands. Another kind of Austrian Easter bread is the *Osterlaib*, a large, flat, round loaf marked with the cross or an image of the lamb. In Poland and other countries, folks enjoy a special cake called the Easter *baba*.

In Greece, the traditional Easter bread is baked with a red-dyed egg on top, covered with two strips of dough in the form of a cross. In Italy, the Easter bread is braided with eggs, symbolizing new life.

HOT CROSS BUNS



Hot cross buns, hot cross buns! Traditionally, this delicious, sweet bun was served on Good Friday, the Friday prior to Easter. Good Friday marks the end of Lent and is the day that Jesus died on the cross. The sweet bun is marked with a cross to help the bread rise and as a visible sign that the bread was "blessed."

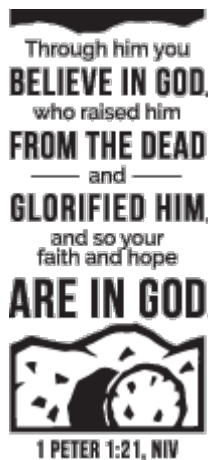
EASTER LILY



The magnificent Easter lily, with its sheer white petals, symbolizes life, purity, innocence, joy, and peace. The beautiful white flowers of the lily were connected with these traits well before Jesus Christ. Many ancient allegories connect the flower with motherhood.

In early paintings, the Angel Gabriel is seen handing a bouquet of white lilies to the Virgin Mary. In other paintings, the saints are bringing vessels full of lilies to Mary and the baby Jesus. It is said that beautiful white lilies spring up in the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus wept in the last hours before he was betrayed by Judas. The lilies sprang up where drops of Christ's sweat fell to the ground in his final hours of sorrow.

The lilies from Christ's time were not the Easter lily that we know today (*Lilium longiflorum*), which is native to the southern islands of Japan and now cultivated in areas such as California and Oregon. The lilies in Jesus' area were wild lilies of the valleys and fields. Still, our Easter lily serves as a reminder of the lilies mentioned frequently throughout the Bible. Easter lilies grace homes and churches each spring as a symbol of new life.



The LORD'S Prayer

By a 15-year-old school kid who got an A+ for this entry

The Lord's Prayer is not allowed in most U.S. Public schools any more.

A kid in Minnesota, wrote the following
.....

Now I sit me down in school
Where praying is against the rule
For this great nation under God
Finds mention of Him very odd.

If scripture now the class recites,
It violates the Bill of Rights.
And anytime my head I bow
Becomes a Federal matter now.

Our hair can be purple, orange or green,
That's no offense; it's a freedom scene..
The law is specific, the law is precise.
Prayers spoken aloud are a serious vice.

For praying in a public hall
Might offend someone with no faith at all..
In silence alone we must meditate,
God's name is prohibited by the State..

We're allowed to cuss and dress like freaks,
And pierce our noses, tongues and cheeks...
They've not outlawed guns, but FIRST the Bible.
To quote the Good Book makes me liable.

We can elect a pregnant Senior Queen,
And the 'unwed daddy,' our Senior King.
It's 'inappropriate' to teach right from wrong,
We're taught that such 'judgments' do not belong..

We can get our condoms and birth controls,
Study witchcraft, vampires and totem poles...
But the Ten Commandments are not allowed,
No word of God must reach this crowd.

It's scary here I must confess,
When chaos reigns the school's a mess.
So, Lord, this silent plea I make:
Should I be shot; My soul please take!

Amen



725 Gastonia Technology Parkway
 Post Office Box 457
 Dallas, North Carolina 28034
 Phone: 705-922-4648
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Church News



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

Marilyn Finger
 2701 Jackson Square, Andersin, SC 29625



Prayer Group

will meet at the home of Shirlee Marazza on April 18th
 at 2:00 pm.



Rachel Group

Will meet at the home of TBA on April 24
 At 1:30 pm

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



MARGARET Addington, 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), 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), NANCY Friday, 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)), SONDRRA 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 find a clinic study program.), NANCY Wilson, MARY BETH Wright (cousin of Nick Vlaservich -cancer).

EVENTS for Lutheridge -Lutherock, and Kure/Agape Beach

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

You can visit their website
 by

visiting OSLC website
oslc-nc.org

and go to links

and click on their name.

GOD WANTS YOU!

- (1) God wants you to participate in His worship service for **2023** by servicing as a worship assistant, reader, communion assistant, Greeter or Usher
 See the sign up sheet on the bulletin board and please help.
- (2) New Flower Calendar is up. Please remember your love ones and also help decorate our Lord's altar. **Cost of Flowers has increased to \$47.00 There are many openings**

A Stewardship Minute

In this month's issue of *Stewardship* there is a story of a lady who had difficulties speaking clearly. So, when she was asked to be a greeter and welcome worshippers on Sundays, she wanted to say no.

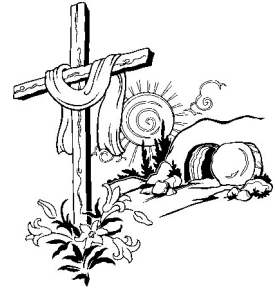
Her thinking led her to the story of Moses. She remembered that when God called Moses to lead the Jews out of Egypt, he tried to dodge the responsibility. Moses reminded the Lord that he had a speech impediment and could not properly carry out what God desired him to do. God told Moses that he wanted Moses to do the job and that he would help him to achieve the task. The lady, who was asked to be a greeter, decided that she would give it

a try. After all, even if she were totally mute, she could communicate lovingly by a winsome smile and a warm handshake.

Her story is a reminder God can use each of us in one way or another. Christian stewardship means being willing to use any and all of the gifts God has given us or will give us to enhance the kingdom of God on earth.

Jesus gave us his mandate in the 5th chapter of Matthew: "You are the light of the world. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel, but on the lamp stand and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

Prayer: Loving God, giver of every good and perfect gift, help us to use the light you give us to repel the darkness of sin and evil and to make our world to be as you desire it to be in our Lord's name,
Amen



The Community Foundation of Gaston County, Inc. invites you to **2023 Community Foundation Race!**

The Community Foundation Run is an annual fundraising event for local nonprofits facilitated by the Foundation. On the day of the Run, over 5,000 people come together for one of the biggest celebrations of community spirit and support in the county.

When:

The 2023 Run will be held IN PERSON on Saturday, April 1, 2023 at 9am.

Who:

Walkers and runners of all ages, participating nonprofits, community members

What:

5K Run, 2K Fun Walk

Where:

Downtown Gastonia, CaroMont Health Park, 800 W Franklin Blvd, Gastonia, NC 28052

Deadline:

The deadline to contribute to nonprofits is Monday, April 10.

Packet Pickup:

Run packets will be available for pickup Tuesday--Friday, March 28-31, from 9:30am-4:30pm, at the Foundation office (250 S. New Hope Road) for those who have preregistered to participate in the 5K run or 2K walk, and for those who wish to preregister. (*Run packets will not be ready for pickup on Monday, March 27.* We apologize for this inconvenience.) Race day registration and packet pickup for pre-registered participants will be available on April 1st from 6:30am - 8:00am at the Picnic Pavilion in CaroMont Health Park.

2023 MISSION EMPHASIS FOR APRIL

*Experience the Spirit
Christ, Creation, Community*

Providing year round, summer camping programs and high comfort retreat facilities

AGAPE/KURE BEACH MINISTRIES

WELCOME! To a beautiful place apart; where you can explore what it means to be a unique and important part of Christ!

With two sites, **Camp Agape** (near Raleigh) and **Kure Beach** (near Wilmington,) we offer beautiful escapes from the hustle of everyday life to focus on what is truly important in life. During a stay, our guests are encouraged to take the time to wander the woods or to play in the ocean's waves; to pause and life at a slower pace. Our goal at both of these natural retreats is for our guests' spiritual life to be refreshed and renewed.

MISSION STATEMENT: Agape/KureBeach Ministries calls and gathers all people to experience the Spirit through unique small group encounters with Christ, in Creation and Community.

AGAPE SUMMER CAMP is just around the corner!

Camp is always fun and unique. Campers' days are packed with swimming, hiking, nature, songs, stories, skits, campfires, worship, discovery times, crafts, archery, canoeing, sleep-outs, mud-whompin', and the 600 foot long zip line. You don't want to miss out on any of this year's summer fun. Register now.

Check out the website: www.agapekurebeach.org

Looking for a special vacation location for your family? Come spend a week at Camp Agape!

Spend a week of your summer at Camp Agape! Plan your own retreat or bring grandma, grandpa, and a car load of cousins in for a special family camp vacation. You'll have the run of the Retreat House. Yes, there will be campers on site, but that won't keep you from the pool or the mud-pit or off the zip-line. Cook your own meals or eat in the dining hall. Canoe, fun-bug, hike, fish, and finish your day with a campfire.....it's guaranteed to be five days of fun to remember! Check out **July 20-25, 2014** and rent the Retreat House (maximum number of guests is 32.) Contact: **Lauren for rates at 919-552-9421.**

Join us at Kure Beach Retreat Center

Kure Beach is a beautiful, coastal retreat community, long known as an ideal setting for renewal. Our Faith Center provides a spiritual haven open to all people: families, church groups, weddings, family reunions, business groups. The beachfront property includes two floors of bedrooms, meeting rooms, and dining areas overlooking the sea.

Both the Bird's Nest (upper level) and The Starfish (lower level) feature connecting outside decks. Each level features 4 bedrooms that sleep 6 guests each. The dining/meeting space provides kitchen space for do-it-yourself meals or you may request food service.

Same contact information for Kure Beach Retreat Center or for Camp Agape

Website: www.agape/kurebeach.org Phone: 919-552-9421

2022 MISSION EMPHASIS FOR APRIL – Lutheran Camps in and around NC

NOVUSWAY includes Lutheridge, Lutherock, Luther Ranch, and Luther Springs. (You can go the link site on the church's website—oslc-nc.org)

Located across the southeastern United States, these retreat centers offer programmed retreats and camps for all ages, and also provide event and meeting spaces for you to plan your own retreat.

(Mission cont'd on page 14)

(Mission cont'd from page 13)

People of all ages need time away to build relationships, to connect with peers and co-workers, to rest and find refreshment for life, to re-connect with nature and God's creation, and to be equipped as a leader. Whether attending our programs or planning your own retreat, this is what you will find at NovusWay. Our staff are highly trained in team-building, group process, and faith formation. Our facilities encourage community building and provide the level of comfort and amenity you need to accomplish your goals in your time away.

The combination of our quality staff, the excellent facilities, the unique 1,900 acres of land, and your participation with NovusWay will lead you to get inspired.

Summer camping begins in June. There are opportunities for camping for children, adults, families, youth groups, at Lutheridge and Lutherock, both in North Carolina.

Check out the website at www.novusway.org and find out the opportunities. Get in your early registration by May 15 and there is a discount.

Camping opportunities are year round. There are cottages to rent, with the program or as a place to stay while going into the mountains (on off season camping).

Summer camping for children will include:

- Activities you cannot do during the school year:
- Playing outside from morning until night! Catching fireflies, roasting marshmallows,
- Making new friends and having to say good-bye,
- Silly skits and songs, games galore! Who needs TV?
- Bible stories that come to life: lessons learned by living them,
- New skills and adventures: make a craft or climb a mountain!
- Counselors who model Jesus, always watching, teaching, and caring.
- Providing for faith formation of young people as well as leadership development for the Christian church

Check out the website at www.novusway.org and find out the opportunities they offer.

Pray for our Lutheran Camping Programs that God may use this ministry to minister to those who plan the programs, staff the camps, and the campers of all ages who attend the camps. May it be a time of refreshing, strengthening, and worshipping our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. May there be good fellowship among all those involved.



FIFTEEN THINGS THAT GOD WON'T ASK:

1. God won't ask what kind of car you drive, but will ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.
2. God won't ask the square footage of your house, but will ask how many people you welcomed into your house.
3. God won't ask about the fancy clothes you had in your closet, but will ask how many of those clothes helped the needy.
4. God won't ask about your social status, but will ask what kind of class you displayed.
5. God won't ask how many material possessions you had, but will ask if they dictated your life.
6. God won't ask you what your highest salary was, but will ask if you compromised your character to obtain that salary.
7. God won't ask how much overtime you worked, but will ask if you worked overtime for your family and loved ones.
8. God won't ask how many promotions you received, but will ask how you promoted others.
9. God won't ask what your job title was, but will ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.
10. God won't ask what you did to help yourself, but will ask what you did to help others.
11. God won't ask how many friends you had, but will ask how many people to whom you were a true friend.
12. God won't ask what you did to protect your rights, but will ask what you did to protect the rights of others,
13. God won't ask in what neighborhood you lived, but will ask how you treated your neighbors.
14. God won't ask about the color of your skin, but will ask about the content of your character.
15. God won't ask how many times your deeds matched your words, but will ask how many times they didn't

(GOD cont'd from page 7)

He is everything for everybody everywhere, every time, and every way.

He is God, He is faithful. I am His, and He is mine!

My Father in heaven can whip the father of this world.

So, if you're wondering why I feel so secure, understand this...

He said it and that settles it.

**God is in control, I am on His side,
and that means all is well with my soul.**

Everyday is a blessing for GOD Is!

Stewardship

Inspiring a deeper understanding of true giving

April 2023

Several months ago, in early spring, a young family of cardinals had prepared its nest just outside the windows of the church adjacent to our pipe organ. The male cardinal would, in response to the beautiful, celestial music coming through the stained glass window,

charge the glass, perhaps fearing competition for his mate or protecting the eggs she was tending in the nest. That father bird knew exactly what to do: protect its family. Without a moment's conscious thought, he flew into action. Wouldn't it be lovely if humans would obey orders as strictly?

It's interesting to note how naturally animals obey The Laws of Nature. They

The Holy Spirit, once you place your trust there, orchestrates our movements, synchronizing things to perfection; it knows exactly what it is doing.

follow their instincts, for that is all they know how to do. It isn't their choice, but rather their responsibility. They simply know what to do, and they do it. Maybe we can take their example and obey God's law, and just watch as the Bible's promises take form in our lives.

The Holy Spirit, once you place your trust there, orchestrates our movements, synchronizing things to perfection; it knows exactly what it is doing. It provides just the right opportunities at just the right times. It will also, according to the biblical promise, provide for our needs. Christ himself stated that God


supplies the sparrows with enough food to sustain themselves, and that we are even more precious to God than are the sparrows. So trust!

What can each of us do to put into action the biblical advice to give a healthy percentage of our resources to the church? Do so! There is a very sound reason why

It's incredible to think that while most people are complaining about losing time, the Christian steward is constantly finding time for God's work.

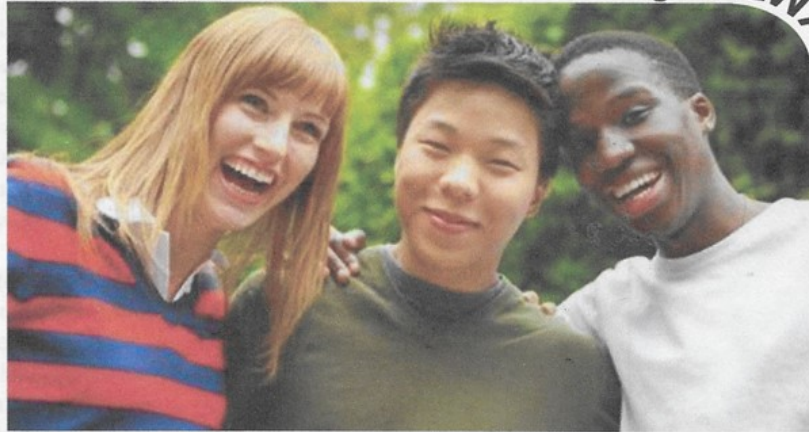


we must obey the Word spoken through the Bible; we call him Jesus.

And just the way he trusted and obeyed his Father, we must trust and obey. Our needs will be taken care of. Try it yourself and see. Watch the results! 



Young STEWARDS' Corner



The Symbolism of Sheep and Shepherd

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.

When I was a child on our small coastal farm on the Eastern Shore of Nova Scotia, one of my chores was to care for the sheep in the winter, to watch for the young lambs coming in the spring, and to help shear the wool off the sheep in early summer for the benefit of my family.

As Christians, we belong to the Church of Jesus Christ, we are his people and we are called by his name. Sometimes the church is designated as the Flock of Christ ... we are the sheep and he is the Shepherd ... the Good Shepherd. Some see the people in the pew as simply suppliers of money ... pledgers, givers, without dialogue or decision, a philosophy symbolized in the flippant remark of one pastor who wrote to the parishioners, "My dear sheep, I am about to fleece you!"

Sheep are good followers. Jesus is our leader and we must follow him. In the church, in order to preach the Gospel, administer the Sacraments and bring the people to Christ, we must have leaders and followers. The leaders must care for the sheep, the followers, in the coldness of the world, the winter. The leaders must strengthen the followers and help them to be more faithful, day by day, and Sunday by Sunday.

The leaders of the local congregation, all parish leaders, have a responsibility to care for the young of the parish, the lambs of the flock, who must be both allowed to romp and restrained to learn. When the local parish leaders, the shepherds of the community, lead their people, they have to help them to know that the wool they give, their offering of money and time, is for the benefit of the whole family, the family of Christ, the church throughout the world. ☩



The Good Steward


A long-time member of a congregation was asked to consider serving as a greeter. She was both surprised and appalled; after all, everyone knew she had a severe speech impediment! Reluctantly she agreed to give it some thought.

By the following Saturday she felt certain her response would be a polite refusal, "... there must be someone better suited for such a task..." However, as she began her evening prayers a picture of Christ came to mind. There he stood with hopeful eyes and outstretched arms. She was reminded of the posters of Uncle Sam as he beckoned to people's consciences to come and serve.

The vision was so overwhelming she was moved to reread the story of Moses in Exodus. There she found God asking Moses to lead the people out of Egypt, and Moses throwing up barriers: "I am not eloquent; I am slow of speech" to

God. Yet, God would not let Moses off the hook. Instead God directed him to Aaron. The woman thought, "If God could use, and in fact, chose Moses for such a great task, then certainly God could use me. After all, who am I to refuse?" The next morning she eagerly accepted the task as greeter.

Our greatest misconception of Christ is that he seeks the perfect. If that were the case, there would be none fit to serve him! When, in fact, Christ desires all to serve: the timid, weak, faint-hearted, wavering, reluctant, shy, inhibited, old, young. We should remember how he used Paul, formerly an unbeliever!

It is through Christ we are empowered to be the best suited. He can change our fears to confidence, erase our doubts and turn our inadequacies into a bold belief and the ability to carry out a given task. 



Dear Editor:

Recently a friend of mine asked the question, Would you believe me if I told you that our Lord spoke about money more than any other one thing?

My first reaction was, "God wouldn't do a thing like that! He was too spiritual." Remember the parables of the Lost Coin, the Laborers in the Vineyard, the Rich Fool, the Talents, the Hidden Treasure, the Unjust Steward, the Pearl

of Great Price, the Two Debtors, the Rich Man and the Beggar. And, of course, the parable of the Good Samaritan who paid a victim's motel bill. And remember Jesus' encounter with the Rich Young Ruler, "sell all you have," and the Prodigal Son who demanded his inheritance and Zacchaeus who made grandiose promises about his ill-gotten wealth. Or remember his discussion about paying taxes to the Temple and to Caesar or even his actions in driving the money-changers out of the Temple, and ... Remember.

Isn't it strange, or is it very natural, that our Lord should find stewardship such an interesting topic. Ever wonder why?

A. Heiserling Milwaukee, WI

We all have some talent to give. Our own growth and the growth of our church depends on the willingness of us all to invest that talent for others.

As a member of your church, you are called to share in all aspects of its life. Membership is responsibility ... the response to the call to ministry and service. To be a church member is to answer that call with time and talent.



“The woman thought, ‘If God could use, and in fact, chose Moses for such a great task, then certainly God could use me. After all, who am I to refuse?’ The next morning she eagerly accepted the task as greeter.”


The Day Nothing Happened

I asked someone the other day, “How are things going?” He replied, “All right, I guess. Nothing’s happened today!” There are some days when it does seem that nothing happens. But are there really any such days?

God is always at work. When we look around us and really seek to see God at work, we will find that the sick are always being healed, people are always being saved, lives are being blessed. The Holy Spirit is always offering leadership and guidance. We may not always recognize what God is doing and many things may happen that we don’t understand. But God is always there!

Has God been doing something in your life? Have you counted your blessings lately? Don’t ever say, “Nothing happened today.” Something is always happening! God is still on his throne and is always looking over his children and giving them blessings.

Look around you this week ... See what is happening! If you will notice the changes that are occurring in your own life and in the lives of those around you, you will see that God is at work. As we receive the blessings of God from day to day and week to week, we share a portion of what God has first given to us. We invest this returned portion in doing God’s work.

As you have freely received God’s blessings, freely give of those blessings. 





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



NALC

North American Lutheran Church

WORSHIP SERVICES

April 2023

April 2, 11:00 am



Palm Sunday

April 6, 7:00 pm at Antioch



April 7, 7:00 pm



April 9
 Worship, 11:00 am



EASTER