



Our Saviour's Good News

Volume XI, Issue IX

September 2016

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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PASTOR'S VOICE

Why am I a Christian?

I asked this question a few weeks ago to the congregation and the response was great. Some responses were spot-on and some were a bit vague. I think some of us struggle with this question and honestly, many of us have not examined this question. Over the next few weeks I want to explore this vital question.

The good news is this is nothing new. The bigger problem is to deny the question and not addressing it head on. But this should not come as a surprise as culture persuades us to believe we are central in our thinking and that feelings matter more than truth. How one *feels* is more important than what is *true*. Colleges and universities host "safe zones" for anyone who feels marginalized, intolerance is disguised as tolerance, body shaming is frowned upon but ones political affiliation is fair game, and people are protesting the support of socialism and communism but have no recollection of history.

Today it seems like confusing times. Truth is relative, opinions carry considerable weight, there is now such a thing as alternative facts, and the most vocal crowd appears to represent the majority regardless of right or wrong. Yes, it seems like confusing times. Actually, this is exactly the same way it was in 1st century AD. A promising rabbi named Jesus was executed and mysteriously resurrected. Just as mysterious, an esteemed Pharisee and respected Roman citizen walked away from his promising career and became an evangelist for this rabbi only to be arrested by his own government. To complicate things more the city central to all of this, Jerusalem, was in turmoil and Rome was becoming tired of this distraction and plans were being drawn to destroy the city to quell this uprising. This truly was a bad time to consider converting to Christianity.

Yet amazingly it happened. Cities like Philippi, Thessalonica, Corinth, Colossi, Ephesus and others along the Mediterranean Sea and into Asia Minor saw fledgling churches grow. Communities of Christians embraced the news of Christ and welcomed letters encouraging their faith from the ex-Roman/Pharisee named Paul. Interestingly enough and against all odds, the Church was growing. It was flourishing when it should have been extinguished. The Roman suppression did not replace the Gospel truth.

In light of all that, Christianity is here today. It is flourishing and yet still mocked, shunned and persecuted and we are in dire need of encouragement and conviction of why we chose Christ. I want to walk through Paul's encouraging letter to the Colossians and compare what was going on back then with what is going on now and how the Truth in Paul's letter is still relevant today. I look forward to growing in my faith with all of you through this journey.

Grace + Peace!
Pastor Pete

CLAIMING VICTORY OVER WORRY

Worry is a big deal to Jesus, you'd better believe it! Just as parents don't want their children to worry, Father-God doesn't want His children to worry. I know worry's a big deal to God because first of all, He loves us intensely. It hurts Him when those in relationship with Him are hurting, and He knows that when we are consumed with worry, we hurt. And secondly, when we worry it's an indicator of a lack of faith. In fact, worry and faith are opposites. God wants us to trust Him. Truth is, it's impossible to trust and worry simultaneously.

Sounds intellectually spot on, right? But practically speaking, how can we not worry?

When cancer hits, when those we love are in trouble, when the check doesn't come, when the bills need paying, and when there's no answer to the problem . . . we fill our head and heart with worry.

I've discovered that worry is a time-waster, useless, and of the devil. We must become proactive in banishing it as a negative and often daily pastime. I truly want to walk in faith, and I certainly don't like what worry does to me, so here's my commitment:

I choose not to worry. Yep, right here and now I am recognizing that I do have a choice and I am going to make the choice not to worry. I am going to grab hold of my mind and state with my mouth, "I am a woman of faith and I choose not to worry."

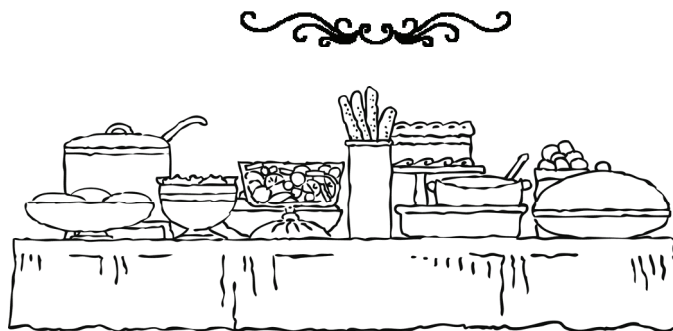
I choose to trust Jesus. At the same moment I choose to not worry, I choose to trust Jesus. I know I must fill that, "void of not worrying," with flowing and functioning trust.

I choose to obey Jesus. If I am obedient to His commands, then I will refuse to allow worry to fill my mind. In Matthew 6:25-34 we read the command of Jesus three times; "Do not worry." Sisters, worry is built into our nurturing frameworks. Personally, it's so tempting to worry over the sorrows of yesterday, the anxieties of today, and the apprehensions of tomorrow. But to honor Jesus we must become proactive in not worrying. Why not join me in speaking directly to the source of worry . . .

Devil, I am not biting and feasting on your scheming to set me to worrying. I am choosing instead to trust my Father Who has everything under control.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7 NIV)

Cindi Wood
 Author of Lifeway's best selling
Frazzled Female series
 Web: FrazzledFemale.com



COVERED DISH LUNCHEON after Church service on Sept. 17th.
 So bring your favorite dish and a friend.

Carolinas Lutheran Women



SEVENTH ANNUAL CONVOCATION



“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us...”

Ephesians 5: 1-2a

SATURDAY—SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

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

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

CHECK THE CLW website: www.carolinaslutheranwomen.org or thru our Church's website for letter concerning the Convocation and registration form.

**Our Saviour Lutheran Church
Bill Trudnak, President
July 17, 2017 Council Minutes**

Next Meeting: August 21, 2017
Robbie Wooten

Devotions:

Devotions: Melinda White

Meeting called to order by President Bill Trudnak.

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



Minutes for June 12, 2017 were reviewed. Motion made by Alice Vlaservich to approve the minutes and a second was given by Robbie Wooten.

Reception of Petitions and Communications:

- a. Cooperative Christian Ministry will be supported in prayer and notification to be placed in bulletin and newsletter for congregational review and participation.

Report of the Pastor: No report available this month.

Report of the Treasurer: Motion by Steve Digh to accept the Treasurer Report and seconded by Bud Penley.

Report of the Ministries:

- a. Property: Light bulbs replaced as needed; the committee helped with church work day on 7/15/17; cleaned activity building and church grounds.
- b. Stewardship and Finance: No report.
- c. Worship & Music: No report.
- d. Youth Team: No report.
- e. Witness: Cards and prayers continue to be sent out.
- f. Christian Education Team: No report.

Report of Auxiliaries:

- a. Rachel Circle: No meeting this month. The next meeting will be in August at the home of Betty Clemmer.

Old and/or Unfinished Business:

- a. Agreement with Pastor: A final draft will be reviewed by Council for approval.
- b. The covered dish schedule was changed from monthly to every other month but will remain on the third Sunday of that month. The next covered dish luncheon will be 9/17/17. Alice Vlaservich made a motion we accept this change and Steve Digh seconded.
- c. The sanctuary sound system needs to be tweaked. The company will be contacted.

New Business:

- a. Use of the sanctuary by Sharps & Flats on Oct. 3, 2017 at 7:30 pm was approved. Melinda White made a motion to accept this approval and Alice Vlaservich seconded.
- b. Organ needs to be tuned.

General Information:

- a. Attendance
- b. Kids Alive Report.

Adjourned with Lord's Prayer

WORSHIP

ASSISTANTS

NEED

FOR

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

Be a servant of the Lord

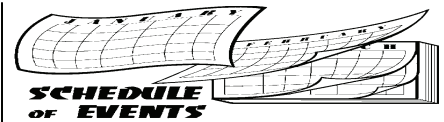
Sign Up



September 2017



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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 13 th Sun. after Pentecost		5 Wake-up Church	6	7	8 Walk for Life	9
10 14 th Sun. after Pentecost	11 Team Mtg	12	13	14	15	16
17 15 th Sun. after Pentecost Covered Dish	18 Board Meeting	19 Prayer Group	20 International Day of Peace	21 Day of Peace	22 First Day of Autumn	23
24 16 th Sun. after Pentecost	25 CLW Rachel Group	26	27	28	29	30 CLW Annual Convocation

- Sept. 3—13th Sunday after Pentecost Holy Communion
- Sept. 4—Labor Day (see p 9)
- Sept. 5— Gaston Together (see p 8) WAKE-UP CHURCH (see p 8)
- Sept. 8—27th Walk for Life (see p 9 & 11)
- Sept. 10— 14th Sunday after Pentecost Grandparent Day (see p 10)
- Sept. 11—Patriot Day—9/11 (see p 7)
- Sept. 11—Team Meetings:
Youth 6:30 pm
Others 7:00 pm
- Sept. 17—15th Sunday after Pentecost Covered Dish Luncheon (see p 2)
- Sept. 18—Board Meeting
- Sept. 19—"Prayer" Group will meet at the home of Shirlee Marazza @ 1:30 pm
- Sept. 21—International Day of Peace (p 9)
- Sept. 22—FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN
- Sept. 24—16th Sunday after Pentecost
- Sept. 25—Rachel (CLW) Group will meet at home of TBA 7:00 pm
- Sept. 30—CLW Convocation (see p3)



Holy Communion Schedule:
September 3: 13th Sunday of Pentecost

Worship Service Assistance:

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 1 Ralph Summey | Libby Bickley |
| 3 Brady Ratchford | Ralph Summery |
| 5 Jim Scarborough | Wayne Ann Penley |
| 12 Joann Scarborough | Stephen Digh |
| 13 Jacob Finger | |
| 16 Kellie Marr | |
| 17 Ben Trudnak | |
| 19 Robbie Wooten | |
| 19 Easton Finger | |
| 20 Stephen Lowery | |
| 21 Scott Finger | |
| 28 Bill Trudnak | |

- Altar Guild:** Yvonne Finger
Marie Robinson
- Acolyte:** NONE
- Crucifer:** Nick Vlaservich
- Communion**
- Asst:** Marie Robinson
- Lay Reader:** Alice Vlaservich/
Betty Clemmer
- Worship Asst:** NONE
- Greeters:** OSLC Members
- Ushers:** OSLC Members
- Collection:** Melinda White

FOOD FOR THE MONTH: **Lima Beans,**
Crackers and Soup



Choir Practice
on Wed. 6:00 pm



FLOWERS

Flower Schedule:

- September 3 Nick Vlaservich
September 10 Jim Scarborough
September 17 Steve Digh
September 24 Marie Robinson

Please sign up to place flowers on the altar in the glory of God and

in honor or memory of your love ones.

Three (3) openings
Decorate the altar of our Lord
And then take home to decorate your home of give to a love one of shut-in



17thSteve & Julie Digh

Nursery Guardians Schedule

- | | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| September 3 | Teri Trudnak |
| September 10 | Julie Digh |
| September 17 | Melinda White |
| September 24 | Joann Scarborough |



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

EVENTS for:

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

Events for:

Lutheridge -Lutherock-Lutherspring- Lutheranch

Life Is a Gift



Rosalee Annette Sanchez was born on Saturday,

August 12 at 2:40 am

She weighed 5 lbs. 8 oz. and is 19" long.

Both parents, Sarah and Anthony,
are doing well.

We celebrate with Robbie Wooten as a proud great-grandmother and with grandmother, Alison Murray



*"I have set before you
LIFE and DEATH
CHOOSE LIFE so that
you and your descendants may live."
Deuteronomy 30:19, NRSV*

Gaston County will host a **Life Chain** in conjunction with the National Life Chain on Sunday, October 1, from 1:30 pm– 3:00 pm at Main and Central in Belmont. Life Chain is an annual, peaceful, prayerful witness in which people line the sidewalks standing 10 feet from each other holding pro-life signs and praying quietly to form a

"living monument" for life. Everyone is invited to participate. Contact Tom Carey for more information at 904-728-4300.



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

**NEED
FOR
OCTOBER
NOVEMBER
DECEMBER**

Be a servant of the Lord

A Stewardship Minute

The September issue of Stewardship recounts the story of what the prophet Jeremiah did when the Babylonian army was about to invade his homeland. It seems strange, but in the midst of great turmoil, Jeremiah bought land as a sign of faith. He believed that although his country would be defeated by the Babylonians and his people taken as slaves, God would bring the Jews home again at some future time.

It happened! 70 years into their captivity, the Persian army defeated the Babylonians and the Jews were able to return to the Promised Land. Therefore, once again, the Jews could buy property; and build homes, busi-

nesses, and their place of worship. Jeremiah's purchase of land in a troublesome time had served as an act of hope.

That story reminds us that God always wants the best for those that keep their faith. Investing your talents and resources alongside your faith will reap rewards. God ultimately is in control of all things.

Prayer: Blessed Lord, God of grace and glory, thank you for those who see beyond despair remembering that "all things work together for good to those who love you." Amen

Prayer is one of the best free gifts we receive.

I asked God for water,
He gave me an ocean.
I asked God for a flower,
He gave me a garden.
I asked God for a friend,
He gave me all of YOU.
If God brings you to it,
He will bring you through it.

Happy moments..... praise God.
Difficult moments... seek God.
Quiet moments..... worship God
Painful moments..... trust God.
Every moment..... thank God.



Patriot Day is an annual observance on September 11 to remember those who were injured or died (nearly 3,000) during the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001. Many Americans refer Patriot Day as 9/11 or September 11.

What do people do?

On the direction of the President, the flag of the United States of America should be displayed on the homes of Americans, the White House and all United States government buildings in the whole world. The flag should be flown at half-mast as a mark of respect to those who died on September 11, 2001. Many people observe a moment of silence at 8:46 AM (Eastern Daylight Time). This marks the time that the first plane flew into the World Trade Center. Some communities, particularly in the areas directly affected by the attacks, hold special church services or prayer meetings. People who personally experienced the events in 2001 or lost loved ones in them, may lay flowers or visit memorials.

Public life

Patriot Day is not a federal holiday and schools and businesses do not close. Public transit systems run on their regular schedules. Some people and organizations may take some time out to hold prayers for the victims of the attacks, but these do not usually affect public life for more than a few minutes.

Background

On September 11, 2001, four planes were hijacked. The hijackers then deliberately flew three of the planes into two important buildings, the Pentagon in Washington DC and the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York. The fourth crashed into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. The loss of life and damage that these hijackings caused form the biggest act of terrorism ever on United States soil. Nearly 3000 people died in the attacks and the economic impact was immense. The attacks have greatly increased attention to national security in the United States. This has had huge implications for United States national and international politics. This is particularly true for the relationships between the United States and Islamic countries in the Middle East.

Symbols

The most potent symbol of the events that happened on September 11, 2001 are pictures and videos of planes flying into buildings, of the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center engulfed in smoke and later collapsing and of people falling from buildings. Pictures taken of damaged buildings and relatives looking for loved ones in the days and weeks after the attacks are also often shown. The flag of the United States is often displayed around images of the events on September 11, 2001. This is to remind Americans that their country remained strong in the face of massive terrorist attacks.

Patriot Day should not be confused with Patriot's Day, also known as Patriots Day, which commemorates the battles of Lexington and Concord in 1775, which were two of the earliest battles in the American Revolutionary War.

Church News



~~~~~  
 GASTON TOGETHER'S CLERGY & CITIZENS COALITION ,  
 September 5, 2016  
 8:30 to Noon  
 Clinton Room, Gaston Memorial Hospital  
 Breakfast before meeting , if you wish

~~~~~  
WAKE-UP-CHURCH
 will meet on September 5 at 6:30 pm
 in OSLC Activity Building

~~~~~  
***OUTREACH MISSION***  
***SHUT-INS***  
***NURSING HOME RESIDENTS***

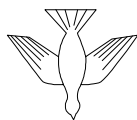
Please remember our church members who are shut-ins or reside in a nursing home\* and visit them.

**Marilyn Finger\***  
 1150 Meadow Way Dr., Dallas

**Ralph Summey\***  
 1612 Dallas-Cherryville Hwy., Dallas

**Jerri Presley\***  
 2604 Ole Home Trail, Dallas

(If others, please let the church office know)



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



## **CLW/RACHEL GROUP**

Will meet at the home of TBA  
 on September 25 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)



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



## LABOR DAY ]

### Why we celebrate Labor Day?

For a lot of people, Labor Day means two things: a day off and the end of summer. But why is it called **Labor Day**? Labor Day is a day set aside to pay tribute to working men and women. It has been celebrated as a national holiday in the United States since 1894.

**Labor unions themselves celebrated the first labor days in the United States, although there's some speculation as to exactly who came up with the idea. Most historians credit Why we celebrate Labor Day?**

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## CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER OF GASTON COUNTY, INC.

**THE ANNUAL 27<sup>th</sup> WALK FOR LIFE**  
Friday, September 8, 2017 ~ 3:30-8:00 p.m.

The Field between 700- 800 Robinson Road, Gastonia, NC

**Afternoon activities: Hot Air Tethered Balloon (6-8 pm), Rock Climbing Wall, Slide, Moon Bounce, Face-Painting, Craft Activities, Free Refreshments**  
4:00 pm until 7:30 pm

**Evening Activities: Praise and Worship by local church ministries—6:00 pm until 7:30 pm**

**Also information about the Center: services available, positive results, volunteer possibilities, opportunities for donations to save lives, T shirts for walkers**

**Consider taking part in this WALK for LIFE on the first Friday in September.....,This is a reliable organization working to save lives.**

**If you are interested in participating, please contact Marie Robinson. Also see bulletin board.**

**For more information call—(704) 867-3706**

(See page 11)

## International Day of Prayer for Peace



The International Day of Peace (“Peace Day”) is observed around the world each year on 21 September. Established in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution 36/37, the General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to **“commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples.”**

### The 2017 U.N. Peace Day Theme:

***Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All***

This theme is based on the **TOGETHER** global campaign that promotes respect, safety and dignity for everyone forced to flee their homes in search of a better life. **TOGETHER** brings together the organizations of the United Nations System, the 193 member countries of the United Nations, the private sector, civil society, academic institutions and individual citizens in a global partnership in support of diversity, non-discrimination and acceptance of refugees and migrants.

For more about this campaign, go to: [together.un.org](http://together.un.org).



**Grandparents Day** is always celebrated on the first Sunday after Labor Day. As its name suggests, Grandparents Day honors the nation's grandparents, who play an important role in the lives of many young people and their families.

The history of Grandparents Day can be traced back to 1961 with the efforts of Mrs. Hermine Beckett Hanna. Hermine made it her goal to educate the young in the community to the important contributions senior citizens have made, and to the important contributions they are willing to make if asked. She also urged the young to adopt a grandparent, not for 1 day a year, not for material giving, but for a lifetime of experience and caring just waiting to be shared with others.

Marian McQuade of Oak Hill, W.V. is credited with lobbying for a national observance of Grandparents Day. Her goal was realized in 1979 when President Jimmy Carter signed Public Law 96-62 designating the first Sunday after Labor Day as National Grandparents Day. The statute cites the day's purpose as: "... to honor grandparents, to give grandparents an opportunity to show love for their children's children, and to help children become aware of strength, information, and guidance older people can offer."



## God's Gift of Grandparents

Grandparents are like honeybees;  
They are the very sweetest.  
They give you hugs and kisses,  
And their stories are the neatest.

The honey they produce  
Is more valuable than gold,  
For this honey is the lessons  
That we lovingly are told.

Grandparents want the best for us  
And say we can achieve  
Any goal that we have set,  
If only we believe.

They help us spread our wings  
So when we leave our honeycomb ,  
We'll make the right decisions  
Though we be away from home.

Yes, grandpas are like silver,  
And grandmas are a gem,  
But better than one hundred diamonds  
Are the things I learn from them.

- By Alyssa Marie Bentham

*Grandparents  
Are a Gift*





## Our History

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

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

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

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

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

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

From its inception, the Crisis Pregnancy Center of Gaston County, Inc. has now served 20,000+ clients, been blessed by faithful volunteers, trusted God for budget needs numerous times, and made an impact in this County that is now indelible and indispensable.

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

Eighteen years later those actions are bearing much fruit,

- Now, Shepherds, within the church of our Lord, the Body of Christ, can strongly affirm Biblical Sanctity of life from conception to natural death and point them to a place in Gaston County that ministers without manipulation;
- Now, those who have hidden the guilt of past abortions can have a place of healing, experiencing first hand, God's unconditional love,

Now, the pro-life constituency can prayerfully point to a place of refuge that will meet not only physical needs but will unashamedly present the gospel of Jesus Christ as the ultimate answer.

## **2017 SEPTEMBER MISSION EMPHASIS ~ CROP Walk**



For the next several months, the mission emphasis for one month will overlap into the next month. August Mission Emphasis will overlap into September with **WALK FOR LIFE being September 8 4-8 pm.** Last Sunday to contribute to Walk for Life is September 3. Thanks to those who have given to Crisis Pregnancy Center for the Walk for Life. Our September Mission Emphasis will overlap into October with the **CROP WALK usually being the third Sunday afternoon in October.** Note the October newsletter and upcoming bulletins. CROP Hunger Walks are community-wide events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by local congregations or groups to raise funds to end hunger at home and around the world.

CROP WALK is an organization held in our community in October. Pray for those who have little food or water that funds may be raised to support this organization. Also pray for those who are organizing our local walk, and those who will walk and those who will give. May we be faithful workers in God's kingdom.

### **CROP WALK Background**

With its inception in 1969, CROP Hunger Walks are "viewed by many as the granddaddy of charity walks," notes the Los Angeles Times (Oct. 26, 2009). On October 17, 1969, a thousand people in Bismarck, ND, walked in what may have been the start of the hunger walks related to CROP – and raised \$25,000 to help stop hunger. As far as we know, York County, Penn., was the first walk officially called the CROP Walk for the Hungry – and that event has been continuous since 1970. Several other CROP Hunger Walks occurred soon thereafter, and before long there were hundreds of Walks each year in communities nationwide. Currently, well over 2,000 communities across the U.S. join in more than 1,300 CROP Hunger Walks each year. More than five million CROP Hunger Walkers have participated in more than 36,000 CROP Hunger Walks in the last two decades alone.

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### **What does CROP stand for?**

When CROP began in 1947 (under the wing of Church World Service, which was founded in 1946), CROP was an acronym for the Christian Rural Overseas Program. Its primary mission was to help Midwest farm families to share their grain with hungry neighbors in post-World War II Europe and Asia. Today, we've outgrown the acronym but we retain it as the historic name of the program. CROP Hunger Walks are interfaith hunger education and fundraising events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by CWS local offices across the U.S.

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### **Where do CROP Hunger Walk funds go?**

CROP Hunger Walks help to support the overall ministry of Church World Service, especially grassroots, hunger-fighting development efforts around the world. In addition, each local CROP Hunger Walk can choose to return up to 25 percent of the funds it raises to hunger-fighting programs in its own community. CROP Hunger Walks help to provide food and water, as well as resources that empower people to meet their own needs. From seeds and tools, to wells and water systems, to technical training and micro-enterprise loans, the key is people working together to identify their own development priorities, their strengths and their needs something CWS has learned through some 68 years of working in partnership around the world.

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### **HISTORY OF CHURCH WORLD SERVICE (CROP WALK began here)**

Church World Service was born in 1946, in the aftermath of World War II. Seventeen denominations came together to form an agency "to do in partnership what none of us could hope to do as well alone." The mission: Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, heal the sick, comfort the aged, shelter the homeless

More than 68 years later the mission remains, though where and how we accomplish it has changed dramatically. In 1946-47, U.S. churches opened their hearts and provided more than 11 million pounds of food, clothing, and medical supplies to war-torn Europe and Asia. Protestants and Catholics pooled talent and resources to meet a staggering refugee crisis. Today the Immigration and Refugee Program of CWS is a vital, internationally-recognized operation, having resettled nearly half a million refugee since its inception. Also in 1947, CWS, Lutheran World Relief, and the National Catholic Welfare Program created a joint community hunger appeal, the Christian Rural Overseas Program, also known as CROP. The acronym is gone but the name and life-saving work remains as CROP Hunger Walks in some 1,500 communities across the United States.

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That early CROP initiative captured the imagination of America's heartland. Soon "Friendship Trains" roared across the country, picking up commodities such as corn, wheat, rice, and beans to be shared around the world. The experience of the trains led to "Friendship Food Ships." And, a multi-denominational program called One Great Hour of Sharing was formed to raise in-church gifts to help fill these ships. CWS continued to provide community-wide opportunities for sharing.

In the 1950s and 60s, CWS expanded its reach across Asia, Africa, and Latin America. As the '60s dawned, CWS began to augment its emergency assistance work with support for long-range, problem-solving efforts – what came to be known as development. Development begins at the grassroots. CWS recognized early on that to be successful projects and programs must come from the people themselves, not be imposed by others.

CWS sought out local agencies who share this vision of empowering self-help and long-standing partnerships were forged. Over the years the success stories have been many. One of the first was in Algeria, in North Africa. Over four years, using more than 5 million human-days of volunteer labor, some 20 million forest and fruit trees were planted to anchor the soil against nature's persistent erosion. In India, CWS helped countless villages construct reservoirs, dig wells, and lay irrigation systems. The result: "drought insurance" and improved food production. The same partnerships that enhanced our development efforts have enabled CWS to maximize our response to disasters.

In the 1970s CWS work evolved in significant ways. Our work in grassroots development inspired a deeper analysis of the root causes of hunger and poverty. As a result, in 1974 CWS - in collaboration with Lutheran World Relief - established the Development Policy Office in Washington, D.C. to represent CWS concerns about hunger to U.S. government bodies. The importance of this work was further ratified in 1978 by the findings of the Presidential Commission on World Hunger, which noted that the primary cause of hunger was poverty, i.e. human-made. Thus what was missing to end hunger was the political will to do so. The Report also called for a concerted effort to increase education on hunger and its causes. Staff from the CWS Development Policy office served on this Commission.

In 1976, in order to provide greater support to refugees and their sponsors in the USA, CWS established refugee resettlement offices in various parts of the U.S. They played a pivotal role in supporting the growing number of refugees from Southeast Asia who were resettled to the United States in the years after the Vietnam War. While the number of offices ebbs and flows with refugee admissions, they continue to form the foundation for CWS work in resettling refugees in the US. It was also in the 1970s that CWS first began responding to U.S. disasters at the request of its member churches.

CWS work in international emergency response and development through the 1970s and 1980s focused on working in partnership with other NGO's and with local groups. In some instances this led to the creation of new, independent organizations such as the Middle East Council of Churches, the Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh or CEPAD in Nicaragua. Working in partnership remains one of the hallmarks of CWS work. These groups remain valued partners to CWS.

More recently, CWS was one of the founding members of a global partnership of faith-based humanitarian agencies, ACT Alliance, with members in 140 countries. With 130 member organizations, ACT Alliance provides a dynamic environment for collaboration in responding to human needs around the world. By working together agencies can maximize their impact.



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (SHOE BOX) IS COMING!

### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Since 1993, more than 100 million boys and girls in over 130 countries have experienced God's love through the power of simple shoebox gifts from donations to Operation Christmas Child. Samaritan's Purse works with local churches and ministry partners to deliver the gifts and share the life-changing Good News of Jesus Christ.

#### HOW CAN I HELP?

In October, the boxes will be passed out at Our Saviour congregation for you to fill and bring back to be collected and turned over to Samaritan's Purse staff.





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**NALC**  
North American Lutheran Church

September 2017



Grandparents Day

**SEPTEMBER 10**