

GraceNotes



A Monthly Publication of the Congregational Activities of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Newton, NC
Volume 221, Number 3 March 2018

Holy Week Worship

Palm Sunday



March 25th

Learning Hour at 9:30 AM

Worship Celebration at 10:30 AM beginning on Front Lawn

March 29th

Sedar Meal

in Fellowship Hall at 7:00 PM



March 30th

Good Friday Observance

at 7:00 PM

To Be

Announced



Easter Egg Hunt

**RESURRECTION
DAY**



April 1st

Son Rise Worship at 7:30 AM in Union Church

Easter Breakfast at 8:30 AM in Fellowship Hall

Learning Hour at 9:30 AM

Worship Celebration at 10:30 AM

From the Pastor's Pen.....



As I write this letter to you this morning, we have learned that one of the greatest evangelists of our time and in the world, Billy Graham, has entered the Church Triumphant. Many thoughts come to mind: Going over to my Grandma's house to watch the Billy Graham Crusades on television (we never missed one!); my birthday and Dr. Graham's birthday were in the same week in November (I always sent him a birthday card and even got a thank you!); my first home after I graduated from Lenoir Rhyne College was right across the street on Park Road where the old Graham dairy farm was located; one of the families in my pastorate at Redeemer Lutheran in Charlotte had a son who lives in Boone and is best friends with Franklin Graham.

So many thoughts about how I was influenced by this great evangelist and what bearing, if any, it played in my answering God's call to enter the ordained ministry.

I always had on my bucket list the ten top things to do before I die. One was to meet and shake hands with Billy Graham. I guess that one will have to wait!

But as we remember this wonderful man and all that he gave to the world, we are proud that he was such a great Christian witness to the faith and to our Lord Jesus Christ. He was once asked if he had to do it all over again, would he do it the same way. Dr. Graham answered that he would pray more and study the scriptures more. He would not take as many trips as he did. He would be home with family. What an awesome witness he was!

And as we reflect on his life, what is God saying to each of us as we remember "Billy Frank"? We need to pray more. We need to study the scriptures more. I have always had a difficult time as your pastor in a congregation of 200 good folks at Grace, why no more than 12-15 people attend Adult Learning Hour classes and weekly Bible study. It is a haunting and serious phenomenon. May be you can help improve those numbers, not just for the sake of numbers, but for your own education of the scriptures. This season of Lent is a good time to begin such a habit. I pray that you will.

In the Lenten Journey with you.

+ Pastor Gil Gilbert



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR MARCH

- ❖ Communion Assistants - Don & Nicky Jarrett
- ❖ Ushers - Jacob Jarrett, Ted Whisnant
- ❖ Greeter -
- ❖ Altar Preparation - Malinda Leatherman
- ❖ Children's Church and Nursery - Sheila Drum, Helen Leatherman
- ❖ Offering Tabulators - Martha Johnson, Mike Pisko

Please be mindful of your commitment to serve. If you are unable to fulfill that commitment, be reminded that it is your responsibility to find someone to serve in your place.

FLOWER CHART FOR MARCH



3/04 - OPEN	3/11 - Lula Ingle
3/18 - Dan & Tricia Panek	3/25 - OPEN

If you wish to give the flowers for a given Sunday, please list your name on the chart in the narthex. *You are responsible for ordering the flowers from a florist of your choice; we do not have a standing order with any florist.* The liturgical color of the day is listed to assist you in selecting flowers appropriate for that Sunday. You should contact the Church Office so that the correct information is placed in the bulleting for that Sunday. Please notify the Church Office the Thursday prior to your selected Sunday. You can call the Church Office between 9 AM and Noon each weekday, leave a note on the desk, or send an email to let us know the occasion or memoriam for this wonderful gift of beatification of the worship.

ATTENDANCE AND GIVING TO OUR LORD'S WORK FOR JANUARY 2018/FEBRUARY 2018

	1/28/18	2/04/18	2/11/18	2/14/18	2/18/18
Learning Hour	37	14	35	n/a	32
Worship	73	32 <small>(freezing rain)</small>	66	42	93
General Fund Offerings	2,006.45	3,575.00	2,436.00	305.00	3,096.00

General Fund **Offerings, January** 2018 = \$ 7,659.59
 General Fund **Expenses, January** 2018 = \$12,345.98
 Difference = - \$ 4,686.39 (expenses exceeded offerings)

Needed Each Week = \$3,340.73

THE FRED T. FOARD SENIORS will meet at Noon on Wednesday, March 7th, at Grace. Everyone is invited to these gatherings. (LH)

FIRST SUNDAY BREAKFAST will be held March 4th at 9:00 AM in Fellowship Hall. The Jo Doris Frye family will provide the breakfast. Suggested freewill offering is \$3.00.

THE MEN OF GRACE will meet on Saturday, March 10th, at 9:00 AM at Four Peas in a Pod Restaurant on Hwy. 70 in Conover (in the shopping strip beside Walgreen's and Cook Out).. Bring a friend! (PG)

SECOND SUNDAY LUNCH will be served March 11th in Fellowship Hall following Worship. This will be served by the Chancel Choir. The menu is chicken pie, green beans, corn, rolls, dessert, tea, and coffee. Suggested freewill offering is \$3.00.

THE GRACE SENIOR LUNCHEON GROUP will meet on Wednesday, March 21st, from noon until 2:00 PM. Come join the fun and fellowship. All are welcome!

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME begins early Sunday morning, March 11th. Don't forget to turn your clocks *ahead* one hour before going to bed Saturday, March 10th.

LILY ORDERS are being taken for Resurrection Sunday. Please complete the form that will be in the bulletin beginning March 4th and place it, along with your money, in the offering plate, or call the Church Office. The cost is \$10.00. The deadline for orders is Sunday, March 18th.

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATES:

Scott & Deanie Houser - 1864 Jarrett Farm Road, Newton, NC 28658 828-381-1877

Nikki Houser - 4166 Hickory Lincolnton Highway, Newton, NC 28658

THE WOMEN OF THE NALC NEWSLETTER, 2018 Issue 1, is now available online at www.wnalc.org and on the bulletin board across the hall from the Pastor's Office. This issue includes a plea for help with NALC Disaster Response and other interesting articles. Please share the copies posted on the bulletin board, taking time to read about some of the things happening throughout the NALC.

OUTDOOR SIGN BEING RENEWED. As the season of Lent is the season for reflection and renewal, so our outdoor sign is getting renewed. The electrician worked to replace the ballast and all bulbs in the sign. There was difficulty in finding another ballast as they no longer make ballasts that old!! But now the sign is very bright and clear...a great witness to the community by Grace! Further improvements will be made in the future months, so keep your eyes open and thank God for this improvement.

THANK YOU to Ricky & Cindy Bivens, Don & Nicky Jarrett, Doug & Jackie Jarrett, Jodi Martin, Dan & Tricia Panek, and Betty Wilfong for preparing the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Great attendance, great food, and great fellowship.

THE HISTORICAL MARKER at the intersection of Highway 10 and Hickory Lincolnton Highway is bent and in need of restoration. We have reported this and the Highway Department has notified us that they will be removing the sign for restoration. So if you notice it is missing, you will know the reason why. Hopefully it will be returned quickly after it is refurbished.

THANK YOU'S WERE RECEIVED from Samaritan's Purse for our gift to their Disaster Relief Efforts and from The Corner Table for our monetary gift to help nourish men, women, and children in our community and from The Salvation Army for our gift to meet human needs in the community.

THE PASSOVER MEAL OF JESUS TO BE DEPICTED AT GRACE

On Maundy Thursday of Holy Week, the Church observes the Passover Meal (The Last Supper) that Jesus offered to his disciples prior to his passion and crucifixion. We are pleased that Chosen People Ministries (formerly Jews for Jesus) will be coming to Grace on Maundy Thursday to celebrate the Passover Meal of the Messiah, exactly as it was celebrated by Jesus and the disciples.

Instructor Stephen Arnold of Chosen People Ministries will walk us through each step of the meal with explanation and theological implications from the Table. The Meal, in its totality, will be the Maundy Thursday worship at Grace. The Passover Meal will be held in Fellowship Hall beginning at 7:00 PM. All participants will be at table with the main Table being reserved for Mr. Arnold and the items of the meal. A Love Offering will be taken to offset the travel expenses for the Instructor and the Passover food items. Come and experience the same meal that the disciples experienced with Jesus over 2,000 years ago and how it evolved into the Christian Holy Communion we celebrate today.

SEE "TORTURED FOR CHRIST - THE MOVIE". The Voice of the Martyrs has released this movie and it will be shown in many theaters across the country. This movie gives the dramatic testimony of Pastor Richard Wurmbrand, a Lutheran Minister, and the founder of "Voice of the Martyrs". Fourteen years in communist prison could not break his faith. The movie was filmed on location in Romania, Pastor Wurmbrand's homeland. It will be at AMC Hickory 15 on Monday, March 5th at 7:30 PM. Tickets are \$12.50. Go to **torturedforchrist.com**. to order your tickets. If you do not have access to a computer, the Church Office can order the tickets on your behalf. And, as a **SPECIAL BONUS**, each person who preorders one or more tickets online will receive a free copy of the 50th anniversary edition of the international bestselling book *Tortured for Christ*.

GRACE TO HOST TOUR TO GERMANY AND OBERAMMERGAU

In 1632 a terrible plague, had infested the small town of Oberammergau, Germany and by 1633 nearly every family had come to experience death. All the villagers were in absolute misery so they vowed to perform a Passion Play, depicting the suffering and dying of Christ, every ten years, in exchange for the plague to end. It is said that not a single person fell victim to the plague after the promise was made. Since 1634, the people have fulfilled their pledge, almost without any interruption, and continued the tradition for over 380 years.

Nestled in the foothills of the Bavarian Alps, 2 hours from Munich, the 42nd Passion Play will be held from May 16 through October 4, 2020. People from all corners of the world will travel to the Passion Theater Oberammergau to experience one the 102 performances. As an integral part of the culture of Oberammergau, all of the 2000 actors, singers and musicians of the world's largest amateur dramatic performance must have been born in the village or have lived there for at least 20 years.

This is your opportunity to join with other Lutherans from Catawba County to be a part of a rich tradition, surrounded by majestic mountains and picturesque meadows, and to witness Oberammergau's unique history. Even though they are expecting more than half a million visitors, tickets for the Oberammergau Passion Play are expected to sell out quickly. In addition to the play, the other days on this tour will be spent visiting the sites of the Reformation and Martin Luther. The cost is still being negotiated but it looks like there has been no increase from last year which was around \$4,000 per person. This includes the tour, tickets to the play in Oberammergau, lodging and breakfast and dinner each day. Details will be made available in the next 30 days.

As the play sells out very quickly, it is recommended that you get your name on the tour list if you are interested. Call the Church Office at Grace and give your name to Kathy Hefner. She will be glad to assist you with further details.

BOARD NOTES (for the month of January/February)

January was a big month for the Leadership Board as the Board took a one-day retreat at the Catholic Conference Center for the purpose of training and goal setting. Pastor Gilbert and Alan Shull facilitated the retreat with emphasis on Shepherding Groups, Robert's Rules of Order, assignment of Ministry Teams, code of conduct and job description for Board Member, and goals for 2018.

NOTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 11, 2018

Devotions were given by Joe Momier.

New Business:

*Policy for Memorial Fund: Task Force appointed and given 6 months to complete policy.

*Policy for Pastor: All funerals and weddings to be conducted by the Pastor of Grace.

*Discussed presentation to the congregation by Sheriff Jason Reid: Considered feasibility of push bars on all doors. Designated choir as persons to use cell phone in case of major emergency (plus any worshipers). In case of emergency all worshipers are to go to Union Church immediately.

Learning: Momier shared that 2nd Sunday Lunch was great success by Christian Ed. Team.

Property: G. Leatherman reported that Ernie Bowman was no longer cutting grass for Grace.

Light in Union Church was out and needed replacing.

Praise/Worship: Suther reported Lenten worship will be on Weds. At 7 PM.

P.A. System bids are being received for consideration.

Witness: New Grace brochure will be ready for Easter

Fellowship: Moss reported that the Choir is handling the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.

Pastor/Staff Support: Pastor reported that he will not be taking a sabbatical as first planned. Instead he will be taking Interim Pastor Training at Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem in April. Motion made for \$2,000 for the conference/training was designated to come out of the Pastor's Continuing Education Funds. Motion Passed.

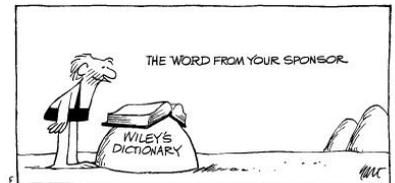
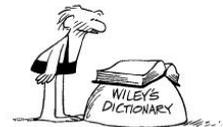
Other: Two box heaters are missing from Fellowship Hall closet. If anyone knows where they are, please return them.

Next Meeting: March 11 @ 4:00 pm. Devotions: Herb Travis

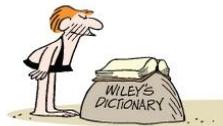
Father, help me to see this holy season of Lent as a time of spiritual renewal, rather than a time of deprivation. Motivate me to reach a new level of experiencing your grace.

ReligionQuotes.info

BIBLE



GOOD FRIDAY



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(See John 20:1-18)

03-29

I WANT YOU TO FOLD UP MY BURIAL CLOTHES, WAIT FOR MARY, AND REMEMBER THAT THIS IS SERIOUS ... NO HIDING AND YELLING "BOO"

THE MEMORIAL FUND AT GRACE

The Leadership Ministry Board has appointed a Task Force to study and develop a policy for the Memorial Fund at Grace. This began some years ago as the gifts received into the Memorial Fund needed to be better organized. It is understood that we welcome any and all gifts given to Grace Lutheran Church in care of the Memorial Fund. These gifts are given as a memorial to a loved one or family member who is deceased. Written acknowledgement of such a gift is sent to the contributor, as well as to the family, as to inform the family that a gift was given and by whom.

All gifts given to the Memorial Fund are managed by the Leadership Board and Memorial Fund Team. Gifts may be designated for certain purposes, under the advisement of the Memorial Fund Team, which will be considered by the Leadership Board after review and a determination whether it meets the needs of the congregation. There is a listing of all needs of the congregation and are suggestions for designated giving. Most of the gifts received into the Memorial Fund are undesignated and are used to meet the identified needs within the congregation. Any funds given to Grace Lutheran Church Memorial Fund are given to the glory of God and are NOT the property of the deceased's family, but are deposited in the Memorial Fund and are determined by IRS Code as contributions to the church. It is the decision of the Memorial Team and Leadership Board as to how these funds should be used.

The Board has also approved, as policy, any plaques, pictures, monuments, name plates or any other means of naming a person or memorial is prohibited at Grace Lutheran Church. It is determined that this practice glorifies a person/or persons and does not give honor and glory to Jesus Christ who is the head of the church. All gifts and memorials will be placed in the Memorial Book which is kept in the Church Office and is available to all disciples of Grace upon request. A notation of all gifts, the person(s) who gave it, and the memorial will be duly recorded in the Memorial Book.

We must all keep in mind that the church itself is a memorial to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are to strive to live our lives as he has taught us and to use our resources to honor him in creating peace and harmony between all peoples. That is the task of the Memorial Fund Team.

THE 2018 VIA DE CRISTO WEEKENDS HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED.

THE WEEKENDS ARE:

Men's #75 April 19 - 22

Mixed #46 April 26 - 29

Women's #77 - To Be Determined

Mixed #47 - To Be Determined

(A Mixed Weekend has both men and women pilgrims.)

SPRING 2018 WEEK-END COSTS

Women's #76 Cost: \$90

Men's #75 Cost: \$55

Mixed #46 Cost: \$90

(Prices are different due to the charge of the venue used for the weekend.)

Those desiring to attend a VdC Weekend should contact Pastor Gil for an application or speak to one of those who has already attended a weekend: Rick/Cindy Bivens, Sheila Drum, Don/Nicky Jarrett, Mike Pisko, David/Iris Sigmon Herb/Libby Travis. It will be a weekend you will treasure for the rest of your life.

A NEW FILM ABOUT C.S. LEWIS AND J.R.R. TOLKIEN TO BE RELEASED

A new documentary film series, "A Hobbit a Wardrobe and a Great War," about the transformative friendship between C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien forged amid the trauma of war, is in production, thanks to the generous support of the C.S. Lewis Foundation and others. With financial assistance from participants at the 2017 Oxbridge Conference who were inspired by the film's compelling Christian vision, we have completed nearly a third of the project. As Stan Mattson put it recently, "this film must be made!"

The film's release date is set for November 11, 2018, to coincide with the 100-year anniversary of the end of World War 1 - the great tragedy of the twentieth century. We intend to make the Christian vision of Lewis and Tolkien, both veterans of the Great War, part of the cultural conversation. More to come.

Grace Notes

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church NALC
4536 Hickory Lincolnton Highway
Newton, NC 28658

An atheist became incensed over the preparation for Easter and Passover holidays and decided to contact the local ACLU about the discrimination inflicted on atheists by the constant celebrations afforded to Christians and Jews with all their holidays while the atheists had no holiday to celebrate. The ACLU jumped on the opportunity to once again pick up the cause of the godless and assigned their sharpest attorneys to the case. The case was brought before a wise judge who after listening to the long, passionate presentation of the ACLU lawyers, promptly banged his gavel and declared, "Case dismissed!" The lead ACLU lawyer immediately stood and objected to the ruling and said, "Your honor, how can you possibly dismiss this case? Surely the Christians have Christmas, Easter and many other observances. And the Jews-- why in addition to Passover they have Yom Kippur and Hanukkah...and yet my client and all other atheists have no such holiday!" The judge leaned forward in his chair and simply said "Obviously your client is too confused to know about or for that matter even celebrate the atheists' holiday!" The ACLU lawyer pompously said "We are aware of no such holiday for atheists, just when might that be, your honor?" The judge said "Well it comes every year on exactly the same date---April 1st!

The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." - Psalm 14:1, Psalm 53:1