

GraceNotes



A Monthly Publication of the Congregational Activities of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Newton, NC
Volume 219, Number 7 July 2016

A Prayer for America

Father in Heaven,
We, the people, in the
land of the free and
the home of the brave,
desperately need You.

Oh that we would leave our ways
of seeking to be blessed
and instead seek to bless others.
We beg for Your guidance and wisdom
for our leaders.

We ask You to protect our land
from enemies, both within and without.
And we praise you for the freedom
we have through the blood of Your Son.
May Your plan be the desire of our nation.
Amen

rachelwojz.com

Have a safe
and happy
July 4th!

Sunday Worship
all summer
Join us.

Remember the
Sabbath day,
to keep it Holy.
Exodus 20:8



"David: Hero of God"



Vacation Bible School
for ALL ages
July 31 - August 4
5:30 Meal
6:00 - 8:00 Classes

From the Pastor's Pen...



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Grace Church,

Summer is upon us and it seems the heat is increasing with each day! Please stay cool in your homes and if you have lost power or air conditioning, please contact us immediately. We don't want anyone to have health problems due to the heat! Remember that the sanctuary is air-conditioned and we want to see you in worship on Sundays where it is cool!

I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you in the congregation for your calls, meaningful comments of caring, and cards during the loss of Karen's mother last month. It has been a very difficult time for us and especially since Karen's mother lived in Fountain Valley, California where Karen and her sisters were raised.

I have also sent thanks and appreciation to Bishop John Bradosky for his words of support and care. I want to share with you the kind of Bishop we have in the NALC: During her last days, Bishop Bradosky called to offer his support and prayers and asked where Norma was being cared for. Bishop Bradosky served a Lutheran congregation in Huntington Beach just miles from Karen's childhood home prior to his work in the NALC. After giving Bishop Bradosky the details of the hospital and her condition, he informed me of an NALC pastor who was in Huntington Beach who is also the Dean of the NALC District there. He contacted Pastor Marvin Combs, who was so kind to make visits to Norma's bedside every day during the last week of her life. At our request, Pastor Combs conducted Norma's funeral and Karen and her sisters were so pleased with the sharing of his visits with Norma and how she clung so tightly to the palm cross that Pastor Marv had given to her. Words cannot express our gratitude and appreciation for the kindness shown to us by Pastor Combs and Bishop Bradosky during these past weeks.

And to each of you who held us up like wings of an eagle as we passed through the valley. You all are awesome and it is an honor to serve such a loving and caring congregation. Please remember those in our midst who have recently lost loved ones. Give them a call. Send them a card. Let them know they are loved!

Blessings!
+ Pastor Gil

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR JULY

- ❖ Communion Assistants - Doug Jarrett, Jimmy Jarrett
- ❖ Ushers - James Norman, Dan Panek, Wayne Powell, Alan Shull
- ❖ Greeter - Frankie Crouse
- ❖ Altar Preparation - Joy Heavner, Lorene Heavner
- ❖ Children's Church -
- ❖ Nursery -

FLOWER CHART FOR JULY



7/03 - OPEN	7/10 - OPEN
7/17 - Helen Smith	7/24 - Joe Momier
7/31 - Helen Leatherman	

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 MAY/JUNE 2016

	05/29/16	06/05/16	06/12/16	06/19/16
SCS	30	33	41	30
Worship	77	82	95	70
General Offering	2,245.00	6,584.00	1,646.00	1,826.00
Learning Hour	45.00	250.00	28.00	128.25
Building Fund	50.00	326.00	50.00	40.16
Memorial Fund - D.Leacherman	290.00	1,008.00	135.00	20.00
Memorial Fund - Danny Bolick	0.00	25.00	0.00	0.00
Via de Cristo Scholarship Fund	50.00	10.00	0.00	0.00

General Fund Checking Account Balance as of 5/31/16 is \$(30,326.87)
(Brackets indicate a negative balance).

NOTE: The financial report will be in the newsletter each month and will be not be published in the weekly worship bulletin. Because the newsletter is distributed the last Sunday of each month, the attendance and giving figures for the last Sunday will be carried over to the next month's newsletter.

THE FRED T. FOARD SENIORS will meet at Noon on Wednesday, July 6th, at Sardis Lutheran Church. They will also be taking a bus trip to the Billy Graham Library on July 14th with lunch at Cracker Barrel. The buses will leave Sardis Lutheran parking lot at 9:00 AM. They have another trip scheduled for July 20th to Murphy, NC. Watch the bulletin for more details. (LH)

MEN OF GRACE PRAYER BREAKFAST will be held on Saturday, July 9th, at 9:00 AM at the Blue Moon.

AN INVITATION TO THE CONGREGATION of Grace to the 50th Wedding Anniversary celebration for Carl and Glennie Beam Sunday, June 26th, from 2:30 - 4:30 at Woodmill Winery on John Beam Road in Vale. Come and join the spirit of celebrating God's blessings upon their marriage! (PG)

YOU ARE INVITED to a Drop-In Reception to celebrate Lorene Heavner's 80th birthday. The reception will be held on Saturday, July 9th, from 2:00 - 4:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall at Grace Lutheran Church. Please NO GIFTS, but you may bring a card and drop it in the basket provided. (BM)

CAMPFIRMATION WEEK at Lutherock will be held July 17th through July 23rd. Pastor will be attending with 6 other pastors and 39 youth. If there are any emergencies during this time, please contact the Church Office (704-462-1035) or Tim Eckard (828-464-5645). (PG)

NO LAWN MAINTENANCE PERSON has been found yet. Thanks to Don and Nicky for continuing to serve until a replacement is found. If there is anyone in the Grace congregation who would like to apply for this position (lawn equipment is provided) and might need a some extra income, please see Don/Nicky Jarrett or Tim Eckard. If there is no hire from within the congregation, the Board will move to hire a lawn maintenance company to take care of the landscaping and mowing needs of the church which means more costs to the congregation. (KH)

DONATIONS FOR ECCCM should be placed in the plastic tub in the basement which has the yellow label, "ECCCM". Be sure you place your donations in the intended organization's receptacle. ECCCM needs your continuous help to keep the Food Pantry and Homeless Shelter supplied. They are asking for items for children (toys, blankets, and clothing), food, toiletry items (shampoo, tooth paste, tooth brushes, combs, brushes, etc.) and grocery bags. Any items brought to the church for this ministry will be delivered to ECCCM. *Be reminded that they can no longer accept used egg cartons.* (JB, KH)

REQUEST FROM CHURCH OFFICE: Because the Church Office is often used by other people, Kathy does not always know if things left in the office are items she needs to deal with. Please leave a note on items left for her use or information. If there is no note, Kathy will assume it was left behind by mistake and simply place the items on the table in the hallway for the person that left it. (KH)

THE FATHER'S DAY TREATS were much appreciated. Thank you to Ricky Bivens, Tricia Panek and Shelley Scronce for heading up and carrying out that project. (KH)

CONGRATULATIONS TO REV. RANDALL CAUBLE as he celebrates the 30th anniversary of his ordination into the ministry of Word and Sacrament and the 25th anniversary of his installation as Pastor of New Jerusalem. (KH)

HAVE YOU SEEN an antique auto harp around the building? If so, please contact Joy. We were hoping to have someone play it at the October Hymn Sing in the Union Church. (JH)

OCTOBER NOVEMBER HYMN SING is coming. The Hymn Sing has been moved to November 6th at 4:00 PM. We have received a few hymn requests but more would be much appreciated. List your favorites on the back of the Worship Today Form by title or hymnal with page number. They do not have to be found in one of our 3 hymnals. (JH)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Why do I plant flowers when I hate to water them so much? The reason is because I LOVE THEM. Now I know this is not a deep thought but it is funny how simple things can take your mind to some astonishing thoughts. When I was on the porch doing the dreaded watering to the beloved flowers, asking this question to, I don't know, the birds...I was struck with this thought, does God ever look at me and ask why did I create her when she takes so much work? The answer: He loves me. Unconditionally! (KH)

TO KEEP UP WITH THE LATEST NEWS around the Church there are several online resources. If you do not have access to the internet maybe a family member or friend could show you some of the resources. The following links are very informative.

North American Lutheran Church - NALC <http://thenalc.org>

Carolinas Mission District <http://carolinasnalc.org>

Women of the NALC - WNALC <http://thenalc.org/congregationally-focused-womans-ministry>

Samaritan's Purse www.samaritanpurse.org

THOSE SERVING AS NURSERY ATTENDANTS AND CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS are asked to record those attending both of these events each Sunday morning. There is a clipboard with an attendance sheet attached. Please list first and last names if at all possible. At the end of worship the sheet can be placed in the Church Office mailbox or on the desk in the Church Office. Volunteers are greatly needed to serve in these areas. Please notify the Church Office if you would like to help. (JH)

CONGRATULATIONS TO ANOTHER GRADUATE: Rylee T. Smith will graduate from Fred T. Foard on June 11th. Rylee is the son of Terry Smith and grandson of Helen Smith. Rylee has been a member of the JROTC at FTF for 4 years. He has already joined the National Guard and will be leaving for his basic training at Fort Jackson in Columbia, SC at the end of July. (HS)

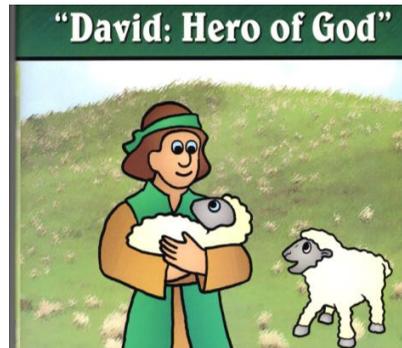
NALC NEWS FOR JUNE is available in the narthex. The article from Bishop Bradosky is entitled "Giving and Forgiving". This issue also includes more information about the Convocation to be held in August, the graduates from the North American Lutheran Seminary, NALC Disaster Response update, and other interesting articles. Of importance to all members is "Call of a Pastor vs. 'Hiring and Firing" by Pastor David Wendel. The newsletter can also be found at www.thenalc.org. (KH)

HEARTFELT THANKS to those that helped rearrange and paint the Church Office. I really appreciate the efforts of Pastor Gil and Karen Gilbert, Ricky Bivens, and Joe Momier in helping to make the work space a little more efficient and brighter for me. Stop by the Church Office some morning and take a look around. - Kathy Hefner

We are called to be witnesses, not lawyers or judges.

VBS IS COMING - ARE YOU READY??

It is never too early to plan for Vacation Bible School. We have set the date for Sunday, July 31st through Thursday, August 4th. We will be learning about "David: Hero of God". Come and see what happens to a young boy! The evenings will begin at 5:30 with a meal. Come one, come all. Classes for age 0 - 99. No one is ever without a class. Plan now to attend (and help with) this exciting event. There will be a meeting of all teachers and helpers on Thursday, July 14th at 7:00 PM. Please contact Nancy Leonard if you can help in any way. (NL)



The VBS Planning Team met on June 23rd and began laying plans for VBS 2016 at Grace. Teaching materials, t-shirts, meal plans, and craft ideas were presented and it looks to be even better than last year. 70 youth and 40 adults are expected to attend this year's VBS, including neighborhood children and adults from surrounding congregations, as well as unchurched folks. A special word of thanks to the following who are instrumental in this year's planning: Nancy Leonard, Pat Dietz, Tricia Panek, Lynette Momier, Herb and Libby Travis, Susan Setzer, Frankie Crouse, Shelly Scronce, Gil and Karen Gilbert. The meals for the five evenings of VBS were announced: Sunday: Hot Dogs/Hamburgers; Monday: Pizza Night; Tuesday: Taco Tuesday; Wednesday: Sub Sandwiches; Thursday: Chicken Tenders and Potato Wedges. A need for the week which is to be supplied by the congregational members are fresh fruit and homemade cookies. Please bring these items to worship on Sunday, July 31. It's going to be a great VBS Week at Grace – July 31 through August 4! Mark your calendars now! (PG)



FOOD FOR THE NEEDY

The children of Grace Lutheran Church are challenging the adult members to bring food each Sunday until Vacation Bible School (VBS) starts on July 31st.

The Preteens & Teens are going to prepare meals and deliver them to Safe Harbor during the week of VBS. Please bring food so they can make the meals themselves! (SD)

THE 5TH OF MAY

Most people don't know that back in 1912, Hellmann's mayonnaise was manufactured in England. The Titanic was carrying 12,000 jars of the condiment scheduled for delivery on May 5th to Vera Cruz. That Mexican city was the next port of call for the great ship following its stop in New York. This would've been the largest single shipment of mayonnaise ever delivered to Mexico. But, as we know, the great ship did not make it to New York. The ship hit an iceberg, sank, and the cargo was forever lost.

The Mexican people, crazy about mayonnaise, were eagerly awaiting its delivery. They were disconsolate at the loss. Their anguish was so great that they declared a national day of mourning, which they still observe to this day. This national day of mourning occurs annually May 5th. Sinko de Mayo! (PG)

GOD'S PHARMACY! AMAZING!

It's been said that God first separated the salt water from the fresh, made dry land, planted a garden, made animals and fish... All before making a human. He made and provided what we'd need before we were born. These are best & more powerful when eaten raw. We're such slow learners... God left us a great clue as to what foods help what part of our body!

A sliced Carrot looks like the human eye. The pupil, iris and radiating lines look just like the human eye... And YES, science now shows carrots greatly enhance blood flow to and function of the eyes.

A Tomato has four chambers and is red. The heart has four chambers and is red. All of the research shows tomatoes are loaded with lycopine and are indeed pure heart and blood food.

Grapes hang in a cluster that has the shape of the heart. Each grape looks like a blood cell and all of the research today shows grapes are also profound heart and blood vitalizing food.

A Walnut looks like a little brain, a left and right hemisphere, upper cerebrums and lower cerebellums. Even the wrinkles or folds on the nut are just like the neo-cortex. We now know walnuts help develop more than three (3) dozen neuron-transmitters for brain function.

Kidney Beans actually heal and help maintain kidney function and yes, they look exactly like the human kidneys.

Celery, Bok, Choy, Rhubarb and many more look just like bones. These foods specifically target bone strength. Bones are 23% sodium and these foods are 23% sodium. If you don't have enough sodium in your diet, the body pulls it from the bones, thus making them weak. These foods replenish the skeletal needs of the body.

Avocados, Eggplant and Pears target the health and function of the womb and cervix of the female - they look just like these organs. Today's research shows that when a woman eats one avocado a week, it balances hormones, sheds unwanted birth weight, and prevents cervical cancers. And how profound is this? It takes exactly nine (9) months to grow an avocado from blossom to ripened fruit. There are over 14,000 photolytic chemical constituents of nutrition in each one of these foods (modern science has only studied and named about 141 of them).

Figs are full of seeds and hang in twos when they grow. Figs increase the mobility of male sperm and increase the numbers of sperm as well to overcome male sterility.

Sweet Potatoes look like the pancreas and actually balance the glycemic index of diabetics. Olives assist the health and function of the ovaries.

Oranges, grapefruits, and other citrus fruits look just like the mammary glands of the female and actually assist the health of the breasts and the movement of lymph in and out of the breasts.

Onions look like the body's cells. Today's research shows onions help clear waste materials from all of the body cells. They even produce tears which wash the epithelial layers of the eyes. A working companion, garlic, also helps eliminate waste materials and dangerous free radicals from the body.

Be healthy. Eat right!



CONGRATULATIONS TO Coach Larry Penley and his 2016 Clemson Golf Team on winning the ACC Championship and for their performance in the Regionals and National Tournament. Coach Penley is in his 34th season in 2016-17 as Clemson's Head Golf Coach. He has earned just about every honor possible in his tenure. That includes induction into the Collegiate Golf Hall of Fame at the age of 44, winning an NCAA Championship (2003), coaching two Ben Hogan Award winners (D.J. Trahan and Kyle Stanley), four PGA Champions, Kevin Johnson, DJ Trahan, Corbin Mills and Lucas Glover and leading the Tigers to 22 Top 20 seasons, more than any coach in any sport in Clemson history. Additionally, Penley was named the ACC Coach of the Year, the seventh time he has won the honor. The ACC Coach of the Year award is an example of Penley's long standing career of excellence. He has now been named ACC Coach of the Year in four different decades and is just the fourth different coach in any sport to do that. Coach Penley and wife, Heidi, and his extended family (parents and sisters and families) are members of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Dallas NC where they serve as leaders in the congregation. Congratulations, Larry! (PG)

THROUGH THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM on June 26th, we welcomed into the Family of God, Brigit Johnson and Cooper Johnson. They are the children of Ed and Kandra Johnson, and the grandchildren of Gary and Kathy Leatherman. At the same service Riley Leatherman and Brigit Johnson received their First Communion. They have completed their First Communion instruction and we give thanks to God for their coming to the Table.

ATTENTION THRIVENT MEMBERS! You can help provide funds for events held at the church, rather than using money from offerings. Any Thrivent member can now apply at Thrivent.com for a Thrivent Action Team along with other volunteer helpers to do a helping project for others or the church. Upon acceptance, they will receive a \$250 Visa gift card to use as seed money, tee shirts for up to 25 volunteers and a Thrivent Live Generously banner. These funds can be used for fellowship events, worship events, educational events, and service projects. If you have a Thrivent policy of any kind, please look into using this resource to help with events at Grace. (KH)

FIRST SUNDAY LUNCH AND SECOND SUNDAY BREAKFAST

In preparing for the upcoming months, the Church Office would like to verify those that will be preparing the meals on the first and second Sundays. Please look at the list below and contact the Church Office with an email, a phone call, or a note on the desk to verify that you will prepare the meals. We do like to publish the menu for each meal in the newsletter and bulletin. They are due in the office by the 22nd of the month prior to the event.

	FIRST SUNDAY LUNCH	SECOND SUNDAY BREAKFAST
September	None - Labor Day	Learning Hour Classes - Rally Day
October	Learning Hour Ministry Team	Carl & Glennie Beam, Lorene Heavner, Gary Leatherman, Dan & Tricia Panek
November	Grace Chancel Choir	Pastor Gil & Karen, Joy Heavner, Don & Nicky Jarrett, Mike & Debi Pisko
December	Learning Hour Ministry Team	Biggerstaff's

THE IMPORTANCE OF READING AND PROMOTING THE HOLY BIBLE

With over 5 billion copies sold, the Bible remains earth's most-read book. But the world in which we read and engage with the Bible is rapidly changing. The steady rise of skepticism is creating a cultural atmosphere that is becoming unfriendly to claims of faith; the adoption of self-fulfillment as our culture's ultimate measure of good is re-orienting moral authority; and the explosive growth of digital tools such as Bible apps, daily reading plans, study resources and online communities offer unprecedented access to the Scriptures.

In the last six years alone, we've seen unprecedented changes. Nearly a quarter of a century ago in 1991, 45 percent of American adults told Barna Research they read the Bible at least once a week. In 2009, 46 percent reported doing so. These percentages were remarkably consistent over the course of nearly two decades. But since 2009, Bible reading has become less widespread, especially among the youngest adults. As more and more Millennials join the ranks of adulthood, the national average continues to weaken. Today, about one-third of all American adults report reading the Bible once a week or more. The percentage is highest among Elders (49%) and lowest among Millennials (24%).

For more than 30 years, Barna Research has studied the Bible's role in and influence on American society, painstakingly collecting the pieces of data we need to understand the big picture. And for the past six years, we have partnered with American Bible Society to add depth and detail to the picture, and to identify changes over time. Since 2011, Barna has conducted more than 14,000 interviews with American adults and teens on behalf of American Bible Society to create annual *State of the Bible* reports. The Bible in America, released in May 2016 to commemorate American Bible Society's bicentennial, represents one of the largest sets of aggregate data Barna has ever collected on any single topic.

There are a number of hopeful signs for those who advocate for the Bible's continuing importance and influence:

- Most Americans (including a majority of young adults) believe the Bible has been more influential on humanity than any other text.
- A majority (also including young adults) believes the Bible contains everything a person needs to know in order to live a meaningful life.
- Two-thirds of all Americans hold an orthodox view of the Bible, that it is the actual or inspired word of God.
- Nearly half read the Scriptures at least once a month.
- Fidelity to the Bible is strong among practicing Christians of all ages.

The Bible remains the top choice among American adults asked to identify sacred literature, and the number of people who choose the Bible, the Koran, the Torah and the Book of Mormon has remained relatively consistent through the years. However, the percentage of Americans who opt for "none of these" has doubled in six years, from 7 percent in 2011 to 14 percent in 2016. This increase is mostly thanks to Millennials (22%) and Gen-Xers (18%), who are significantly more likely than Boomers (8%) and Elders (7%) to say none of the options qualifies as a holy book. (PG)

HELP NEEDED: Rebecca Speagle-Rogers' grandmother (Stormy Shull's mother) had an accident where she fell and suffered minor injuries. They are in need of getting a ramp built for the porch so as to help avoid such accidents. If anyone could help with this project, please speak with Rebecca.

EVERY DAY IS CHRISTMAS

Every day is Christmas when you have the kind of mind,
That stores up all the goodness and the sweetness it can find.
When you don't need an occasion, to spread a bit of cheer,
But just keep on a-giving, of yourself throughout the year.
Every day is Christmas, with a gaily wrapped surprise,
When you've learned to see the friendship, in someone else's eyes.
When you try a little harder, and complain a little less,
Holding fast to all the fervor of the faith that you possess.
Every day is Christmas, when you've found that you can be
More concerned with words like "you" and less with "I" and "me."
When it's fun to do a favor, and to lend a helping hand,
When being understood means less, than when you understand.
Every day is Christmas, with a beauty deeply cast,
When you find it doesn't matter, if you're first or if you're last.
When you can face your conscience, and be glad of what you are,
Then every day is Christmas, with a stable and a star. -- Author Unknown

NEW COMMUNION PRACTICE COMING

During the last meeting of the Leadership Ministry Board, it was decided that there were so many favorable comments concerning the 'communion by table' in the Chancel on Pentecost Sunday, that we would begin that practice once a month, on the first Sunday of each month beginning in August. Ushers have been instructed of this change and will be there to assist those who need assistance stepping up to the Chancel area on those selected Sundays. If this is a communion practice that you like, -- or if you don't like it, please let a Board member or the Pastor know. It always helps to get feedback. It remains the policy that if, for whatever reason, you are unable to come to the Altar or walk down the aisle to receive the elements during the distribution, you should stand in your place immediately after the Pastor and Communion Assistants have communed at the Altar. This way, the Pastor and Assistant will know you are desiring to receive the elements before the Adult Choir communes.

THEOLOGIAN WITHOUT BORDERS

(Written by Tom Curry, Pastor of Living Faith Lutheran Church, an NALC mission church in Wabash, Indiana. He is also Eastern US Regional Representative for Awakening Lives to World Missions, a partner organization of the NALC.)

Formal training is urgently needed in developing nations where the growth of Christianity has far out-paced its ability to provide theological and Biblical education. In keeping with the spirit of the NALC *Theologians Without Borders* emphasis, **Pastors Tom Curry** of Wabash, Indiana, and **Ralph Easterhaus** of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, (both NALC pastors) recently provided 60 hours of training over a ten day period to some 130 village pastors in Malawi, Africa. These pastors had no previous formal training and lacked adequate education to qualify for typical Bible college or seminary admission.

Bishop Alexander Chambaro of **Pentecostal Evangelism Ministry** wrote in a follow-up letter, *"Phone calls are coming in from different pastors that they are no more the same after learning and they pray to learn more of the book they use and believe that it is God's Word. You have left many untold blessings behind . . ."*

Topics were addressed such as Old and New Testament survey, History of Christian Missions, Calling of a Pastor, Sermon Preparation and Delivery, Healing Ministry of the Church, Christian Marriage, Overview of the Four Gospels, Evangelism Strategies in Cultural Contexts, Apostles Creed, Servant Leadership, Confession and Repentance, and Spiritual Life of the Pastor. Four sessions of 90 minutes each were presented daily. All participants took copious notes up to the very last session. These notes will serve as the only commentary most of them will ever have. Completion certificates were presented to each pastor. The obvious pride of accomplishment on each face would make one think they were receiving a theological degree from a renowned theological seminary.

Coordinated and sponsored by ***Awakening Lives to World Missions*** (www.alwm.org), a partner organization of the NALC, the two-man pastoral team arrived in Lilongwe, Malawi, April 16th and departed on May 6th. Financially underwriting such a conference where 3 meals were served daily to about 150 people for 11 days was quite the challenge. Individuals and six Indiana churches partnered to make it possible: St. John's Lutheran Church of Lake Township, Ft. Wayne; Living Faith Lutheran Church, Wabash; St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Uniondale; Bethel Lutheran Church, Noblesville; Eden Church, Muncie; and Hanna's Creek Christian Church, Liberty.

Malawi is one of Africa's smallest and poorest nations with a total population of sixteen million. Presently it is facing a severe drought of which the ELCM has issued an emergency appeal for assistance. Landlocked by Zambia, Mozambique, and Tanzania, Malawi is a former British colony receiving its independence in 1964. It is about 81% Christian and 15% Muslim with the remainder being of African traditional religions. Just in the last three years, its currency has been devalued by 50%. Poverty, corruption and crime are its most serious problems.

In reflection, Pastor Easterhaus comments, "Our recent mission trip to Malawi opened my eyes to the incredible need for training pastors and leaders for the rapidly growing church in that country. Pastors and church leaders are often put in charge of congregations after receiving only minimal training, perhaps the equivalent of a typical New Member Class. It was amazing to see their hunger to learn more about the Word of God and about their work and responsibilities as pastors. It is my prayer that we can send numerous mission teams to places like Malawi to help provide the training their leaders desperately need. They know how to start village churches; they know how to worship Jesus with all their heart -- we can learn so much from them. But, they need training for their pastors, and that is something that we can provide."

Many pastors in America don't realize what they have to offer people seeking training for ministry in many developing nations. Multitudes in these nations have come to Christ on the appeal of prosperity theology with little or no knowledge of the historical Christian faith. Some missiologists have commented that unless American church leaders and pastors get out of their affluent, western, stained-glass bubble and get over to these parts of the world to give desperately needed theological training, much of Africa will need to be re-evangelized in 50 years. We hope that is not the case. We hear the call of God to come along side our brothers and sisters in these nations to be the body of Christ as one, sharing our gifts and talents for His glory.

Pastor Bill Moberly, Founder and Director of ALWM, states, "We are committed long term to sponsoring fruitful short term mission trips like this. We want to give Pastors from North America the opportunity to experience other cultures, catch a fresh vision for global missions, and teach the Word in places where the need is urgent. As we actively plan additional trips to Malawi & India, as well as other places we may go in the future, we hope that more congregations and pastors will prayerfully consider answering the call to "SEND" & "GO"! These trips are life-changing for everyone involved!"

Grace Notes

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church N.A.L.C.
4536 Hickory Lincolnton Highway
Newton, NC 28658

THE CHURCH VAN, ELIGIBLE DRIVERS AND INSURANCE

The Board has completed the annual renewal for the church property and van. Southern Mutual Church Insurance Company is a very reputable and well known insurance company among many congregations in the southeastern United States and as compared to other church insurance companies, is the most economical although the annual premium is increasing \$400.00 per year. This is the result of insurance costs increasing nationwide.

Please note that there is one area in which the insurance company is very strict. That is the names of person(s) who are covered by the insurance to drive the church van which must be on the policy on file. We have a list of persons who are eligible to drive that van and they are fully covered by the insurance. However, if you are not on this list, you cannot drive the van unless we re-file and place your name on the policy. It seems that we have an ample number of drivers on the policy for any need which may arise in the congregation. We are also needing to find missing keys to the church van. Please check and if you have forgotten that you had a key, please turn it in to the Church Office or to Ricky Bivens.

The Board wishes to thank Harvey Leatherman for his taking care of the maintenance on the van in years past. Unfortunately, he is now above the age limit to be a designated driver. Thank you, Harvey, for taking care of this important resource of the congregation!