

GraceNotes



A Monthly Publication of the Congregational Activities of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Newton, NC
Volume 219, Number 11 **November 2016**



SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 6, 2016
4:00 PM in UNION CHURCH



Annual Thanksgiving Supper will be Wednesday, November 23rd, at 5:00 PM. The Thanksgiving Worship will follow in Union Church at 6:00 PM. Everyone is invited.

From the Pastor's Pen...



Dear Brothers and Sisters at Grace,

In Romans we read, “The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:23). Speaking of being saved from God’s eternal anger the Bible says, “By grace are you saved...it is the gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8,9). When one seeks to earn a gift - it ceases to be a gift and becomes a wage. When one seeks to deserve a gift - it ceases to be a gift and becomes a reward. What God offers to you through the death and resurrection for your sins is a gift. To seek to earn it or deserve it is an insult to God.

That God’s favor is a gift is revealed to us in Holy Scripture. Martin Luther discovered that around 1517 and built his whole theology upon it. Those who followed Luther built a new Protestant Church around it of which we are a part today. Every religion (other than salvation through faith in Jesus Christ) teaches that one must work for or deserve God’s favor. This is our nature: We think we must work for what we get. Even when churches neglect the Bible, the attention will be centered on what people must do. The Reformation beginning in the year 1517 turned the attention back to the finished work of Jesus Christ as revealed in Holy Scripture.

The Reformation of the Church is a wonderful, living example of how we must seek to bring reform into our own lives. Am I spending time in God’s Word each day? Am I giving sacrificially to God’s ministry at Grace? Do I look forward to worship every week? When in worship, do I devote my whole mind and attitude towards His glory and worship or am I busy with other things? Am I warm and welcoming towards all people? In my daily life, do I invite people to know Jesus Christ and invite them to Grace? Ponder these questions, my friends, and allow God’s Holy Spirit to reform your hearts and minds. See you in worship!

Blessings!

+ Pastor Gil Gilbert, STS

*Thank you to everyone
for the cards and
thoughtful comments
during Pastor
Appreciation Month.
+Pastor Gil*

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR NOVEMBER

- ❖ Communion Assistants - Harvey Leatherman, Eric Martin
- ❖ Ushers - Randy & Stephanie Fulbright, Michael & Wanda Hall
- ❖ Greeter - Jo Doris Frye
- ❖ Altar Preparation - Martha Johnson
- ❖ Children's Church and Nursery - Jodi Martin, Jill Matthews
- ❖ Offering Tabulators - Stephanie Fulbright, 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 NOVEMBER



11/6 - Pat Dietz

11/13 - Kim Parker

11/20 - Dan & Tricia Panek

11/27 - Bobbie Wright

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 SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2016

	9/25/16	10/2/16	10/9/16	10/16/16	10/23/16
SCS	40	38	45	34	43
Worship	87	97	91	71	87
General Offering	1,259.11	6,530.50	2,182.50	1,097.59	2,455.09
Learning Hour	33.90	30.00	29.00	33.00	224.00
Building Fund	40.00	415.00	90.00	42.00	25.00
Fellowship Hall Usage	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cemetery Fund	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.64	0.00
Memorial Fund - Donald Leatherman	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
Memorial Fund - Joanne Heavner	0.00	125.00	305.00	310.00	150.00
First Sunday Lunch	0.00	0.00	192.00	0.00	0.00
Local Outreach - Humane Society	0.00	55.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cookbooks	0.00	0.00	0.00	30.00	15.00

General Fund Checking Account Balance as of 9/30/16 is \$(24,007.16)

(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, November 2nd, at Laurel Methodist Church.

FIRST SUNDAY LUNCH will be held November 6th following the Congregational Meeting. The meal will be furnished by the Grace Chancel Choir. The menu will be soup, sandwiches, salad, and desserts. Plan now to stay for lunch to enjoy the great food and wonderful fellowship.

MEN OF GRACE PRAYER BREAKFAST will be held on Saturday, November 12th, at 9:00 AM at the Blue Moon. We invite all men of Grace to join us for discussion, prayer, and great food.

SECOND SUNDAY BREAKFAST will be held Sunday, November 13th, at 9:00 AM. Providing the breakfast are Pastor Gil & Karen Gilbert, Joy Heavner, Don & Nicky Jarrett, and Mike & Debi Pisko.

THE GRACE SENIOR/ADULT GROUP will meet in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, November 16th, from noon until 2:00 PM. Please invite a friend and come join the fun and fellowship! (PB)

THE ANNUAL UNION CHURCH HYMN SING will be November 6th at 4:00 PM. We will sing many of your favorite hymns as well as enjoy special music by the Chancel Choir and Joe Biggerstaff and his group. Refreshments will be served. Invite your friends and family to join us for this fun time of worship through music. (JH)

DIRECTORY UPDATES:

- o New phone number for *Bobbie Brendle* is 704-240-4591.
- o *Michael, Wanda, & Makayla Hall*
5478 Cedarbrook Court, Conover, NC 28613
828-256-5609 email: whall189@gmail.com

CORRECTION: Joshua Fulbright's email was listed incorrectly in the October newsletter. The correct email is jrf4989@gmail.com.

THE NALC NEWS for October is available in the Narthex. Articles include information on relief efforts for those affected by Hurricane Matthew, an evangelism project in New York City, NALC internship sites needed, a message from Bishop Bradosky on "Formation and Re-formation", and several other interesting articles. This is a great opportunity to learn about what all the church is doing around the world. Please take, read and share with others. It is also available online at www.thenalc.org.

FELLOWSHIP HALL CLOSET project of cleaning out and waterproofing has been completed. Thanks to those that helped. Everything was sorted through and organized. There is even some space available for the Girl Scouts to store some of their items. It was a big undertaking and the work of the few that accomplished it is greatly appreciated.

THANK YOU to Nell Leatherman for the donation of a small chest freezer for use in Fellowship Hall. The other freezer was not closing properly and food was being lost. This replacement will be a great help.

THE PRAISE AND WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM is looking for donations of any type of artificial flowers, preferably individual stems rather than large bunches. Spring, Fall and Winter flowers would be most appreciated. Red 6 inch pillar candles are also on the "wish list" for the Hanging of the Greens event this month. (JH)

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE is just around the corner. There will be a sign up sheet posted on the lower level of the Main Church. Practice will begin on Sunday, November 13th, at 5:00 PM. A few volunteers to assist and to help with costumes and set decorations would be most welcome. The Christmas Program will be presented Sunday, December 11th, at 5:00 PM. The program will be presented in Fellowship Hall, followed by pizza and cake for the Baby Jesus Birthday Celebration. (JH)

ECCCM IS HOSTING a "Share the Harvest Banquet". This fund raising banquet will be held on November 12th at 6:00 PM at the Rock Barn Golf and Spa. The cost is \$75.00 and tickets are available at <http://www.ecccm.org/share-the-harvest-banquet/> or by contacting ECCCM. The evening will include a catered meal, silent auction, raffle, photo booth, and live music. One in five families in eastern Catawba County struggle with food insecurity. Your support of the Share the Harvest Banquet will help the ECCCM feed the hungry in our community. (PG)

A VIA DE CRISTO SCHOLARSHIP FUND has been established at Grace. The Fund is to help people who want to attend a Via de Cristo weekend, but cannot afford it. If you wish to donate to this fund, please make checks payable to Grace Lutheran Church and put "Via de Cristo Scholarship Fund" in the memo section. (HT)

CONGRATULATIONS to Sheila Drum and Nicky Jarrett as they have been called to serve on the Women's Via de Cristo weekend #75 in November.

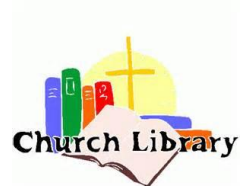
MORE UPDATES ON OUR YOUNG PEOPLE living away from home have been received. Please remember them in your prayers and possibly with a kind note or care package.

Emily Crouse
c/o Mars Hill College
PO Box 5191
Mars Hill NC 28754

Andrew Crouse is at Virginia Tech
850 Plantation Road, Apt. 101
Blacksburg VA 24060-3866

New Items for November **IT OUT!!!!**

1. The Tales Hunters Tell by Steve Chapman
Stories of adventure and inspiration.
2. Another Look at Life from a Deer Stand by Steve Chapman
Going deeper into the woods.
3. A Look at Life from a Riverbank by Steve Chapman
4. Winning on the Inside by Charles Stanley
Understand the trials of life and how to triumph over temptation.





ULTREYA



See below for Ultreya information

This is the perfect opportunity to meet new friends and renew old friendships while praising our Lord Jesus together. We will have a Worship Service with communion and sharing from the Lay community. Childcare will be provided.

Please bring your musical instruments, voices,

And food to share during fellowship time!

Won't you join us for a joy filled time of great worship, fellowship, and food? We can't wait to see your smiling faces and dancing feet as we praise our Lord together. Just prior to the Ultreya, you will see times below for a Sponsorship/Leadership workshop.

St. Matthew's Lutheran

9275 Bringle Ferry Rd.

Salisbury, NC 28146

www.smknc.org

Saturday, November 19, 2016

12:00-2:00 pm

(Worship First)

Sponsorship/Leadership Training

10:00-12:00

Questions or more information, please contact: Tim Herman, Past Via de Cristo

timkherman12@gmail.com

See the web site for additional details as the Ultreyas draw near...

<http://www.wncvdc.org>

CEMETERY CLEAN-UP DAY will be held Saturday, November 19th, beginning at 10:00 AM. Plans are to fill in some of the sunken graves, remove grass and weeds growing over tombstones, and other general clean-up. All are encouraged to help with the project. Please bring your yard tools (rakes, shovels, edgers, etc.).

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES are ready to be filled. How many have you filled? There are some empty boxes for your taking on the back pew, as well as Boy/Girl labels and rubber bands. *Each box should include your \$7.00 donation for shipping in the form of a check (do NOT put in cash) made payable to "Samaritan's Purse" (note "OCC" on the memo line) and place it in an envelope on top of the items inside your shoebox.* If you donate online, you can use a special "Follow Your Box" label and discover the destination of your shoebox gift. Review the article in the October newsletter for items to include in your shoebox.

PACKED SHOEBOXES ARE DUE AT GRACE BY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH!

THEOLOGICAL THEMES IN FILM BIBLE STUDY are off to a great start. Participants met at the home of Joe and Lynette Momier to watch the movie "War Room". It was a powerful presentation of the means of grace and the power of prayer in the life of one struggling family and an elderly woman who God had become their prayer warrior and mentor. The discussion following the movie was enlightening and theological. Thanks to Joe and Lynette for the refreshments which were served at "intermission" and during the film. Overall, it was a delightful evening with great fellowship and a great movie that witnessed to all who attended. The next Bible study will be at 6:30 p.m. on November 17 at the Gilberts'. Movie: TBA. This Bible study meets on the third Thursday of each month in the home of a Grace member. If you would like to host a movie night, please contact Pastor Gilbert so we can place you on the schedule.

THE DAISY/BROWNIE GIRL SCOUT TROOP that meets in Fellowship Hall is asking for Sponsors for girls that need financial help. You may choose to sponsor an individual girl's activity fee for the year (or any portion of a year), or just certain activities. The activity fees range from \$5.00 to \$20.00 for a total of \$98.00 per girl for the basic activities. In addition, the troop also welcomes anyone who would like to come teach a lesson or share something with them. Any donation of craft materials and party supplies are welcome as well! For more information contact the Church Office or Theresa Beevers (828-455-3412).

FLOWER VASE donations have been greatly appreciated. However, storage is now becoming a challenge. If you find more vases, please hold on to them until Iris or Joy request more donations. Your help is greatly appreciated.

CONGRATULATIONS to Spencer and Harley (Isenhour) Bowles on the birth of a daughter, Nevaeh Jean, on September 12, 2016. She was 6 pounds, 9 ounces and 19 ½ inches long. She has been having breathing problems so remember her in your prayers. Proud big sister, Alisa; grandma, Angela Isenhour; and great grandparents, Tony & Thelma Isenhour are excited to have her in their lives.

SAINT JAMES, NEWTON has called Pastor Mike Warfell.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH in Faith, NC has called Randy Drafts as their Pastor. His Service of Ordination will be at St. Peter's Lutheran in Chapin, SC, on Saturday, November 12, at 4:00 PM with reception to follow.

HIGHLIGHTS OF OCTOBER BOARD MEETING (held October 16, 2016)

- ▶ 2017 Spending Plan was reviewed and Board accepted and approved the proposed Spending Plan for 2017 to be presented to the congregation for approval at the Annual Congregation Meeting on November 6.
- ▶ Names of possible nominees for Board were received and approved. Names received to be on the ballot are: Alan Shull, Joe Momier, Frankie Crouse. Additional names are being vetted at this time. The Board approved that Tim Eckard remain on the Board for one year in order that the election of 3 seats would be filled each year beginning in 2018.
- ▶ Fall Festival will be held Saturday, October 29 at 4 p.m.
- ▶ All AC and Heating units have been serviced and filters changed. Fellowship Hall closet has been cleaned and painted with sealant.
- ▶ Ownership of property tracts owned by Grace Church were discussed and are under review with a report to be taken up by the Board in 2017.
- ▶ Pony Express Stewardship Program has ended. Commitment Forms will be presented by the congregation on Consecration Sunday, October 30.
- ▶ Treasurer Ricky Bivens has reported that property taxes have been paid.
- ▶ NALC is seeking for Pastor Gilbert and Grace Church to be an Internship Site in 2017. Further study is required. Bishop Bradosky is encouraging all pastors to attend the Pastors' Conference in February 2017 in Orlando, Florida. Board approved funds for Pastor Gilbert to attend.
- ▶ Next Board Meeting is November 13 at 4 p.m.

DINNER BELL

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Walters

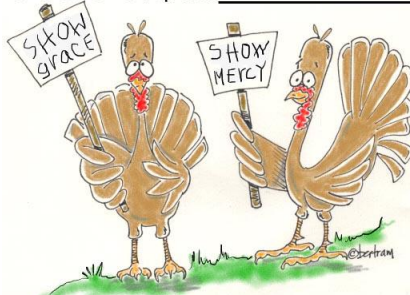


At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.' - LUKE 14:17 NIV



GOD's Graffiti by Tim Bertram

www.christiancartoons.com



Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16

HELP FOR THE NORTH CAROLINA FLOOD VICTIMS is still needed. Your recent response was fabulous and those items are on their way to those in need. There will be more distributions made in the near future so we will continue to gather items for those in need. Please place your contributions for Flood Relief in the Narthex or by the water fountains downstairs. The list of items needed is:

- Water, non-perishable foods (canned foods-meat & veggies, cereal, long-life milk etc.).
- Gift Cards: Lowes, Home Depot, Walmart, etc.
- Towels
- Wash cloths
- Men's / women's undergarments
- Reading glasses (Dollar Store brand, variety of strengths)
- Bags (reusable) plastic, or brown paper - this will help with the packing of supplies for individuals as they receive their goods
- Compact hygiene products
- Baby bottles
- Formula
- Distilled water for formula
- Magazines, cross word puzzles, coloring books
- **Health Kits consisting of:**
 - One (1) bath towel (dark color)
 - One (1) wash cloth (dark color)
 - Two (2) bars of soap, in original wrapping
 - One (1) toothbrush
 - One (1) pack of dental floss
 - One (1) tube of toothpaste (2 if sample size)
 - One (1) comb
 - Deodorant
- **Flood Buckets consisting of:**
 - One (1) 5-gallon or 3-gallon bucket
 - Two (2) large trash bags
 - One (1) gallon of bleach
 - Comet or scouring cleanser
 - Pine-Sol or liquid floor cleaner,
 - Scrub brush
 - Rubber gloves
 - Dust Mask (N-95 recommended)
- **School Kits consisting of:**
 - Four (4) notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper (no loose-leaf paper)
 - One (1) blunt scissors
 - One (1) ruler with inch and centimeter/millimeter markings
 - Six (6) new pencils
 - One (1) pencil sharpener
 - One (1) eraser
 - 12 sheets of assorted construction paper
 - One (1) box of 16 or 24 crayons
 - One (1) cloth bag or backpack
 - Calculators for high school age — mark kit as “high school” if it contains a calculator

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY, love and prayers are extended by the People of God at Grace to the family and loved ones of Joanne Heavner in their hour of bereavement. May God comfort all who mourn.

WORD HAS BEEN RECEIVED that Florence Anthony Gallimore entered the Church Triumphant on October 4, 2016. She was the widow of Harry Gallimore, Jr. who is buried in Grace Cemetery. The family will have a private committal service in Grace Cemetery on November 20th at 2:00 PM. A memorial service will be held at Beth Eden Lutheran Church, Newton on November 20th at 3:00 PM.

FIRST SUNDAY LUNCH AND SECOND SUNDAY BREAKFAST

It is time to begin preparing for 2017. Those listed below are ones that served those months the past year. 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. If you will **NOT** be serving again, we need to know that as well so another group can be recruited. It has been requested that the menu for each meal be listed 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
January	Christian Education/ Learning Ministry Team	Frankie Crouse, Doug & Jackie Jarrett, Martha Johnson, Scott & Carolyn Whisnant
February	Chancel Choir	Harvey & Helen Leatherman & family, Dan & Tricia Panek
March	Leadership Ministry Board	Jo Doris Frye, Randy Frye, Dennis Leonard Family, Bobbie Wright
April	Christian Education/ Learning Ministry Team	Pastor Gil & Karen Gilbert Easter Breakfast 4/16/17 - Dennis & Nancy Leonard & Family
May	Mr. Biven's Learning Hour Class	Pastor Gil
June	No Lunch Served	No Breakfast Served
July	No Lunch Served	No Breakfast Served
August	No Lunch Served	No Breakfast Served
September	No lunch - Labor Day	Learning Hour Classes - Rally Day
October	Christian Education/ Learning Ministry Team	Carl & Glennie Beam, Lorene Heavner, Gary Leatherman, Dan & Tricia Panek
November	Chancel Choir	Pastor Gil & Karen, Joy Heavner, Don & Nicky Jarrett, Mike & Debi Pisko
December	Christina Education/ Learning Ministry Team	Biggerstaff's

NEWSLETTER & BULLETIN DEADLINE will be adjusted for the Thanksgiving Holiday. The Sunday bulletin for 11/27 will be printed on Tuesday, 11/22 and the December newsletter will be printed on Wednesday, 11/23. Please submit your information NO LATER THAN November 20th! Thank you.

A LETTER FROM AMY CARPENTER - OCTOBER 10, 2016

Please share my appreciation with the Grace Church Council and Congregation for your partnership with me on my seminary journey. Your \$500 gift came along at just the right time to enable me to meet my tuition obligations for the fall semester. This will enable me to complete my NALC-required Lutheran year of studies at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary in Charlotte, NC.

As you may know, I will be transferring these Lutheran courses to Gardner-Webb University where I expect to graduate with a Master of Divinity degree in December 2017.

Thank you again for your support and partnership. Please remember me in your prayers and I will be remembering all of you as well.

NOTES FROM BEN WITHERINGTON

“Elsewhere in this letter Paul says ‘all things are lawful for me; but I shall not let myself fall into the power of any of them.’ Here is the first clue. God has given us—most of us—a rich wealth of possibilities.

There is human love to enjoy, loving and being loved. There is the realm of things, things that can be bought and sold in the process of which we increase our wealth and multiply our resources. There is the world—so full (if I may quote another source) ‘of a number of things, I’m sure we should all be as happy as kings’: the exercise of the body, the exercise of the mind. God put human beings into the world and said ‘subdue and rule it, make it yours, enjoy your gifts.’

But the trouble comes when a human being becomes so devoted to the exercise of his gifts that he becomes their slave. He no longer rules his environment, his environment rules him. This is the real fault of a permissive society. How many a young man and a young woman thought that sex would be fun, and went on and on until they found themselves the slaves of it. Or how many a person thought a bit of drugs would be fun, and found himself the slave of a habit he could not control? How many a person, how many a church member, set out to get himself a comfortable life by buying and selling so as to make money, and in the end found himself the slave of the money he had made? The horror of permissiveness is that it ends in bondage.”

THOUGHTS FROM C.K. BARRETT

I never know quite what to say when I’m talking sometimes to people who have lost a loved one and they say ‘well it was God’s will’, when sometimes I know that to be an errant blasphemy on the love not to say the common sense of God. Much of the suffering of life is due to human sin and to say that it is God’s will is just a lie.

Of course it is not (to take just the most obvious example) God’s will that so many of the best young men should be dying in the wars of today. But—and this is the positive thing I have to say—Christianity is at home in those places. That is where it belongs.

Granted that human folly and sin have made this world a hell, it is into this hell that God comes. This is the meaning of Christmas—where sin abounded, grace abounded all the more.

THE SOCIETY OF THE HOLY TRINITY MEETS FOR ADVENT RETREAT

The Advent Retreat of the Society will be held November 28 and 29 at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory (Mtn. View). The teaching and discussion will be on the topic: ***Sola Scriptura***. The orders for worship will be observed during the retreat using the LBW. The Chaplain for this retreat will be Pr. David Mielke and Pr. John Yost will serve as the Confessor. All STS members and laity are invited to attend as well as any who are interested in membership in the Society of the Holy Trinity. The retreat will begin on Monday (28th) at 1:00 p.m. with worship.

Grace Notes

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