

GraceNotes



A Monthly Publication of the Congregational Activities of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Newton, NC
email: gracenalcnorton@aol.com website: www.gracelutheran-newton.org Church Office: 704-462-1035
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OCTOBER 10, 2021

Pastor Appreciation Day is celebrated annually on the second Sunday in October. This nonofficial holiday occurs during Pastor Appreciation Month and celebrates the contributions of priests, pastors, reverends and ministers in the U.S. Continually lift up your Pastor and his family in prayer!



PINK SUNDAY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17TH

EVERYONE WEAR PINK!



REFORMATION SUNDAY

OCTOBER 31

EVERYONE WEAR RED!

From the Pastor's Perspective...



Dear Brothers and Sisters at Grace,

The Bible teaches that for Christians, God is our Father, other Christians are our brothers and sisters, and the church is like a family and we are to love one another. Like every family, the church is made up of imperfect people who need to ask for forgiveness, receive grace and grow in their love for the other members of the family. With that in mind, I would like to share with you several ways I have observed that we can overcome this pandemic that seems to have paralyzed the church so we can begin to move forward in faith.

Pray! One of the most loving things that we can do for each other as a church family is to pray for one another. Great love can be shown not by merely saying “I’ll pray for you” but by putting a hand on someone’s shoulder right then and there and lifting up the need in prayer. “Brothers, pray for us.” —1 Thessalonians 5:25

Gather! You do a great job of gathering for worship on Sunday mornings. But we are still missing some familiar faces and those we love who are staying away due to the pandemic. In this age of technology and digital “friendships,” one of the most loving things we can do is gather together in person to worship our King Jesus. When the church gathers together, I like to think of the analogy of the family sitting down for a meal together. The musician provides the soundtrack for the party, the pastor is like the cook who serves the meal, the volunteers help set the table, and all the adopted children of God gather around the table to spend time with their Father. “Not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some.” —Hebrews 10:25

Community! There are approximately 90 “one another” verses in the Bible: greet one another, comfort one another, seek good for one another. It is pretty hard to live out these commands when you don’t actually spend time together in community. At Grace Church, we want for our community to be a place where these “one another” verses can be lived out in love. “Live in harmony with one another.” —Romans 12:16

Serve together! Serving the church is both corporate and individual, both in large groups and small. We can serve by showing up early on Sunday and helping make the church building welcoming. We can serve by giving money to a friend in need. We can serve by leading a community group. This service is a practical, tangible way to show others the love that God has already shown us. “Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil.” —Ecclesiastes 4:9

Next month, I hope to have several more of these wonderful characteristics I see in the worshipers at Grace. Thank you for being the people of God in Christ.

God Love You,

Pr. Gil Gilbert

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR OCTOBER

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ❖ Greeter | Lynette Momier |
| ❖ Lector | Stormy Shull |
| ❖ Communion Assistants | Herb and Libby Travis |
| ❖ Ushers | Rick and Cindy Bivens |
| ❖ Altar Preparation | Herb and Libby Travis |
| ❖ Offering Tabulators | Todd Childers and Libby Travis |

*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 OCTOBER



- | | |
|-------|-----------------------|
| 10/3 | Cindy and Rick Bivens |
| 10/10 | Mike and Debi Pisko |
| 10/17 | OPEN |
| 10/24 | OPEN |
| 10/31 | Mike and Debi Pisko |

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 bulletin for that Sunday. Please notify the Church Office the Wednesday 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 memorial for this wonderful gift of beatification of the worship.

ATTENDANCE AND GIVING TO OUR LORD'S WORK FOR AUGUST/SEPTEMBER, 2021

	8/29/21	9/05/21	9/12/21	9/19/21	9/26/21
Learning Hour	n/a	n/a	15	15	15
Worship	43	46	51	44	43
General Fund Offerings	\$906.00	\$6,225.00	\$1,157.00	\$2,076.00	\$1,868.00

Needed Each Week = \$3,268.54

General Fund **Offerings, August, 2021** = \$12,928.28
 General Fund **Expenses, August, 2021** = \$12,737.32
 Difference = - \$190.96 (offerings exceeded expenses)

THE FRED T. FOARD SENIORS will meet at noon on Wednesday, October 6th, at Laurel Hill Methodist Church. There will be a covered dish meal, and all seniors are invited to these gatherings.

THE MEN OF GRACE will meet on Saturday, October 9th, at 9:00 AM at Four Peas in a Pod Restaurant on Highway 70 in Conover. Please come and bring a friend!

SHOEBOX COLLECTION IS OFF TO A GREAT START! Boys and girls around the world desperately need to know that God loves them and has not forgotten them. Shoeboxes can be found on the back pew, along with labels and a listing of the items that can and cannot be included. There is a \$9 postage fee for each box submitted. Please make your check payable to Grace Lutheran Church and place it in the offering plate. Please note "For: Shoebox" on the memo line. Remember the deadline is Sunday, November 14th. We are well on our way to the goal of 150 boxes!

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT will be held on November 12-14, 2021 at the Honey Creek Retreat Center in Waverly, GA. The keynote speaker will be Pastor Heidi Punt. This event encompasses "the usual awesome fellowship, in-depth Bible study and reflections, devotion worship, mission moments, lots of singing, craft making opportunities, free time and great food." At this time, standard covid precautions will be observed. The registration fee is \$220. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Melinda Jones at 843-270-3675 or adventlutheran@comcast.net. Registration forms should be completed as soon as possible.

LET'S GIVE A SHOUT OUT AND A GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO...

- ***Cindy Bivens** for refilling the hand sanitizers in the Sanctuary!
- ***Karen Gilbert** for providing coffee on Sunday mornings!
- ***Stormy Shull** for teaching the adult Sunday School Class!
- ***Jeff Scronce** for erecting directional signs for Grace!
- ***People at Grace** for donating school supplies for Blackburn Elementary!
- ***Stormy Shull's Women's Group** for serving a family meal to the grieving Moss Family after the funeral for Johnny Moss (Stormy Shull, Martha Johnson, Lorene Heavner, Shelly Scronce, Frankie Crouse, Cindy Bivens, Malinda Leatherman, Karen Gilbert, Libby Travis) and others who provided dishes.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be **Sunday, November 7, immediately after Worship**, as prescribed by the Constitution. The purpose of the meeting is to elect members to the Leadership Ministry Board and approve the 2020 Spending Plan. Those going off the Board are Gary Leatherman, Johnny Moss, and Alan Shull. If you would like to serve, or if you would like to nominate a fellow member, please submit the name to Alan Shull, Board President, so the names can appear on the ballot. Make sure to get the permission of the person you are nominating to place their name in nomination. All nominees should review the job description for being a member of the Leadership Ministry Board:

The Members of the Leadership Ministry Board of this congregation shall give a good example to the other members of the congregation by regular participation in worship services, by hearing and doing God's Word, and by frequently partaking of the Lord's Supper. The Board shall have general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation, and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God, the Lutheran Confessions and the faith and practice of the NALC.

In addition, ALL Board members are expected and required to attend the Leadership Ministry Board Training Retreat which will be held in January.

SHEEP MEETINGS SCHEDULED

There are two congregational Sheep Meetings scheduled in the month of October. The first is Wednesday, October 13th at 6:00 p.m. and the second is on Saturday, October 16th at 10:00 a.m. Both meetings are being held in the Fellowship Hall. It is important that you attend one of these informational meetings regarding church matters prior to the congregational meeting scheduled for November 7th.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17TH IS "PINK SUNDAY"

October 17th is designated as "Pink Sunday" and is in honor of women in our congregation who have been diagnosed, had surgery, and have fought breast cancer. Every 12 minutes, a woman in the United States dies from breast cancer, and 1 in 8 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer at some point in her lifetime. Everyone is asked to wear pink in recognition of the women who have fought and are currently fighting the disease.

PASTOR GARY COBLE TO COME TO GRACE

As Pastor Gil, Karen and Sybastian are taking a much-deserved vacation beginning October 31 through November 6, the Rev, Gary Coble will serve as our Supply Pastor in Pastor Gil's absence.

Pastor Coble graduated from Lenoir-Rhyne College with a BS in Physics in 1973. Also, in 1973 he married his wife, Hope, and they have enjoyed 48 years of marriage. They both would tell you that this past year has been the best of their lives with Pastor Coble being retired and being able to spend a lot more time together.

The Cobles are blessed with two wonderful daughters, Carol Anne and Vicki. Carol Anne is married to Jeff Hartman and they have three great boys: Timmy, Coble and Kellen. Carol Anne is music director of First Presbyterian Church in Hickory. She also is manager of sales with a company doing training of fire systems. Jeff runs Hickory Arts in Hickory. They live in the Bethlehem Community in Alexander County. Carol Anne and Jeff are both active in Community Theater doing many shows at Hickory Community Theater and The Green Room. Vicki is married to Brandon Castagna. Vicki and Brandon live in Charlotte. Vicki owns and operates her own CPA firm. Brandon is a computer programmer with Bank of America. Pastor Coble and Hope recently moved to the Bethlehem Community after Carol Anne found them a house less than a mile from her. They have loved being closer to family and the grandsons.

Pastor Coble has served three congregations. Holy Trinity, Reidsville from 1977-1981; Mt. Hebron, Hildebran from 1981 – 2003; St. Matthew's in Salisbury from 2003 - 2020. He retired on December 31, 2020. Pastor Coble has served as the Spiritual Director for Via de Cristo weekends in Western North Carolina. The Grace Congregation will be blessed to have Pastor Coble bring us the Good News of Jesus Christ as he leads worship on October 31, Reformation Sunday! All are reminded to wear RED that Sunday.

THANK YOU FROM NALC

A letter of thanks was received from Bishop Dan Selbo of the North American Lutheran Church for Grace's generous gift through the month of August of \$1,289.00 (\$500 – General, \$289.00 – Disaster Response, \$500.00 – Seminarian Scholarship). As the church plans for the coming year, the Bishop asks that we prayerfully consider how to continue to provide financial support. The NALC is now in its twelfth year as a denomination, and Grace's support is "enabling a ministry that is literally touching the lives of millions of people throughout North America and around the world."

ELCA INSTALLS FIRST TRANSGENDER BISHOP

The installation of a transgender bishop signifies liberal Protestantism's ongoing rejection of, not just traditional Christian teachings, but also of physical reality, as part of God's created order, to be replaced with the primacy of self-created identity. The Rev. Dr. Megan Marie Rohrer was installed on September 11 as the fifth bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's (ELCA) San Francisco-based Sierra Pacific Synod. The ELCA remains the largest Lutheran body in North America at 3.26 million members, despite shedding more than 1 million members — or 25% of membership — across the last reporting decade, down from 5,288,048 members at the denomination's founding in 1987.

ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton served as the lead consecrator and preacher at the service hosted by the Episcopal Church's Grace Cathedral, of which the ELCA is in full communion. Ordained as a minister in 2006 as "the first openly transgender/non-binary person to be ordained by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America" the new bishop has now been touted by the synod as the first transgender person to be elected to that position. Rohrer, a biological female, neither identifies as a woman, nor as a transgender man and has urged the church members in the Synod to refer the Bishop as a pronoun - the singular "they". "You, oh God: Parent, Child, and Holy Breath. You are the water we crave," Eaton pronounced. "You, oh God: Rain, Estuary, and Sea. You are life for us all, now and forever. Amen."

A theme of eunuchs began with a scripture reading of Acts Chapter 8 in which Philip meets the Ethiopian eunuch. Rohrer earlier this year criticized the Council of Nicaea, tweeting in May about the fourth century Council that set parameters of Christian doctrine. "The first Council of Nicaea's first action was to try to limit the leadership roles of trans-pastors and bishops," Rohrer wrote, an apparent reference to Canon 1 from the Council declaring eunuchs cannot be priests unless they castrate themselves. "I'm grateful the Lutherans of the ELCA are beginning to dismantle this and some of the other hurdles that LGBTQ pastors encounter." In her sermon message, Bishop Eaton noted that Jesus Christ's identity as both fully human and fully divine were not an "either/or" but a "both/and". The question remains: How much farther will the ELCA move away from Scripture as they transition and re-write the scriptures?

WHAT? ME WORRY?

Are you a worrier? Do you know someone who is a worrier? Are you married to someone who is a worrier? I know that for me most of the things I worry about never happen, and the bad things that do happen, usually are things that I never thought of to worry about. But still, I keep worrying. Whenever my wife says to me, "Now don't panic but," I always start to panic.

In the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 24, Jesus asked His disciples, after He appeared to them on Easter Sunday evening, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?" (Verse 38) Those are good questions for us as well.

Many people are worried about and are afraid of the future. For many the pandemic has made their fears only worse. The disciples also were afraid of the future. Things were looking pretty bleak, and they were having to face some pretty tough enemies. It would have been very easy for them to wonder, 'What will the future hold? Will we even have a future?' So Jesus said, "Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see." (Verse 39) Jesus wanted His disciples to know that He was alive. It was all real. Death has been defeated. God has won. The Gospel is true.

Second, many people are worried about and are afraid because of the past. Once again, Jesus speaks to our greatest needs. He said to His disciples, "Repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in (My) name to all nations." (Verse 47) As followers of Jesus, we have a way for dealing with sin and guilt that will work in a way in which nothing else will work. And it is God's way. Repentance and forgiveness of sins. Are you worried about and afraid because of the past? Believe in the Gospel. Jesus has the answer. Jesus is the answer. His blood can blot out and cover over your past.

Third, many people are worried and afraid because they feel powerless to deal with the present. They feel overwhelmed with the here and now. What did Jesus say to His disciples? He told them, "Stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." (Verse 49) That's what we need – power from on high. And that's what the disciples received on the day of Pentecost. Human power is so

limited when we compare it with the circumstances in which we find ourselves. But even the worst of situations has no real power when compared with God's power. And God's power is available to you.

So, to get back to Jesus' question, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?" Is it because of the future? God has the future under His control. Is it because of your past? Your sins can be thrown into the deepest sea and because of Jesus need never be retrieved again. Is it because of the present? There is power available to all who call upon His name.

12 TRAITS OF CONGREGATIONS DOING WELL DURING THE PANDEMIC

by Thom Rainer, Church Consultant

We just completed an exercise of looking at the data of churches that are doing well during the pandemic. While these churches still have an attendance below pre-COVID days, they are beginning to grow, gain a new momentum, and see possibilities other church leaders perhaps have not seen. So, what are these churches doing? As we examined the data and traits of healthy churches, we saw several recurring themes. To be clear, many churches are doing some of these items, but the churches we examined are doing the following items well. Here they are in no particular order:

1. They are faithfully preaching and teaching the Bible. Okay, this item sounds like a no-brainer. I get that. But these healthy churches are making certain Bible preaching and teaching is a high priority. One pastor from Illinois shared with me: "It seems like we need to hear from God more than ever these days."

2. They are increasing their evangelistic efforts. Two important realities: First, before the pandemic most (almost all) churches lost their evangelistic focus and priority. Second, these healthy churches decided in God's power to renew their commitment to evangelism.

3. They are providing hope and encouragement during the pandemic. The leaders of these churches repeatedly witness that God has not abandoned them, that He is working for their good amid trying times.

4. They are keeping the focus on Christ and His work. Their church leaders and members are taking seriously to keep their eyes on Jesus and the scriptures.

5. They are re-evaluating their staffing and church office structures. The healthy churches have leaders who understand a movement is underway. They want to grasp it fully so they make the right changes.

6. They are seeking to adopt or foster churches. These churches are actively seeking to help other churches. Sometimes the type of help is providing resources and people for a season. We call that church sponsoring. At Grace, we have been supporting through prayers and finances our sister congregation, New Covenant Lutheran Mission in Morganton NC.

7. They are redoubling their efforts on welcome ministries. The church leaders recognize that many members and guests are returning to in-person church services with some trepidation and uncertainty. They understand that Greeters are more important than ever.

8. They are giving focused attention to their groups and small group structure. A church with healthy groups is more likely to be healthier in evangelism, ministry, prayer, and stewardship. The importance of groups in the health of the church has only grown during the pandemic.

9. They are raising the bar of expectations. This move seems counterintuitive. If people are becoming less committed to the church, why not accommodate their low commitment? To the contrary, the healthy churches see the pandemic as an opportunity to raise the bar of expectations in a low-expectation culture.

10. They are being friends to their communities. While the communities in which they live may not be friendly to Christian values, these churches see a great opportunity to show the love of Christ anyway. Grace Church does so by donating food to the homeless, school supplies to Blackburn Elementary, and Children's Christmas Shoeboxes to Samaritan's Purse.

11. They are creating mini-prayer groups. The leaders of these churches are not overly concerned about creating large prayer gatherings. The leaders celebrate even when a few members gather to pray corporately. At Grace, we have prayer groups that meet weekly as the result of the Via de Cristo Ministry. They understand that mighty power of prayer.

12. They are persistent. Frustration and confusion are real to these church leaders just like any other leaders during these trying times. But the leaders of these churches simply don't give up. They really sense that God will see them through the uncertainty and confusion. They may not understand what is taking place, but they know that God has it under control.

GOD IS STILL IN CHARGE

"Whereas fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, disrespecting or rejecting Him relegates (American) education to the forlorn category of "fools despising wisdom and instruction." [Proverbs 1:7]

Let there be no doubt that Biblical Christianity is superior in every way and that no amount of government, bureaucratic coercion, or dressing something up "can impart spiritual understanding to the intellect. For this reason, early American education accentuated Christ - "If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink." Contemporary secular education's thirst, on the other hand, "is for the things of the world: pleasure, money, fame, ease, self-indulgence; and over all these Christ has written in imperishable letters, 'Whosoever drinks of this water shall thirst again.'"

Present-day public education promotes self-indulgence, egomania, hedonism, animosity, division, and diversity of depravity. The once dominant Christian content of public-school programs has been gradually and cunningly removed by secularists over the last 100 years or so. As such, the National Education Association lobby, and their allied government bureaucrats, have implemented their own

agenda [enforced shift to sameness or conformity]“ to the media, culture and education.” All this in exaltation to their own religious, ethical, and political convictions ... and in opposition to God.

By controlling public education, the education lobby and government bureaucrats have secularized the views, values, politics, and laws of America. With their latest agenda, labelled “critical race theory,” they plan to beguile the youngest generation into hating America and each other. And yet, America remains the wonderful place people run to for freedom. (See www.youtube.com/watch?v=sk-T6cZ6sAI&t=14s)

God be praised! The decline of public education through the wildly exaggerated Covid pandemic, and the disengagement from cultural Marxism, is beginning to show divine involvement. In His unending order, God helps those who cannot help themselves: Charter Schools and Homeschooling have boomed during the Pandemic.

GOLDEN YEARS???

Now that I have reached age 68, am I in my golden years? I don't know why this time of my life is called that, except now that the house and my truck are paid for, I have more money, at least what the doctors let me keep. But what I don't understand is where did my energy go? Maybe it's been replaced or absorbed by all the aches and pains that I have every day. You would think that all the medicines I take for high cholesterol, blood thinner, hypertension, diabetes, arthritis; and then there's the multi-vitamins, B12, D-3, calcium, iron, super B complex, and magnesium would help. But noooooo..... Somedays I can't help but to feel like an old man. I do have more time to talk to God. Maybe that's it; because those moments are priceless! I'm not complaining though, thank you Jesus. I am still able to cut the grass and not having to push it up. Cindy and I now go to a gym (not like the one at Fred T Foard), but I can't find any silver sneakers to wear. Maybe I should just go out and wander around until I can find a store and buy some of that new energy drink. But wait a minute, Five Hours...when will I take my nap?

By: Ricky Bivens

SEVEN THINGS ABOUT CLERGY VESTMENTS YOU MAY NOT KNOW

Clergy vestments (clothing) came into being in the 3rd Century to help distinguish clergy from the citizenry. Back in those days many people wore black or dark clothing to help hide wear and stains as the result from working the fields or managing the farm. Clergy, as well as those high in academia, wore black clothing to signify their professional position. Clergy began distinguishing their position by the white tab in the front of the collar or wearing a full white band (Anglican) around the neck. Here are some other interesting facts about clergy wear:

THE COLOR BLACK: Black signifies death to the self and that we are mortal. The white tab or full white collar is a reminder that there is the promise of Christ (Light) at the end of life. In the present day, clergy also have the option of shirts that are not only white, but blue linen, gray, and white. Bishops may wear purple.

SACRISTY: The room where the pastor dresses and prepares for worship. The Sacristy is also the place for all vestments, altar paraments and communion supplies where the Holy Meal is prepared. The

Sacristy is a place for clergy to have quiet for mediation and prayers prior to worship. At Grace, we do not have a Sacristy as such.

ALB: the name for the robe worn by clergy and worship assistants, as well as choir members. White in color which represents the baptismal garment worn at baptism signifying a life into Christ's ministry. The color White is unstained as white cannot hide stains as Christ sees all and knows all. All is pure in Christ. "Cleanse me, O Lord, and keep me pure as I serve you."

CINCTURE: This is the rope or banding used around the waist to keep the Alb in place. Signifies being bound and belonging to Christ. "Guide me, O Lord with the cincture of purity."

STOLE: The band of cloth, usually embroidered, which is worn over the Alb and around the neck of the clergy. It will also match the liturgical color of the season of the church year. It represents being yoked to Christ as a symbol of ordination and the authority and office of pastoral ministry. It is used during times of anointing the sick, confession and forgiveness of sins, corporate worship, funerals, weddings, and the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion. "Return to me, O Lord, the stole (yoke) of your presence."

CHASIBLE: Worn over the Alb and stole during times of Holy Communion symbolizing the charity and unconditional love of Christ. Usually, the same color as the season, but there are also universal Chasibles. At Grace, we have not invested in any Chasibles but would be a great addition to the worship. "O Lord, who has said your yoke is easy and your burden is light."

CASSOCK and SURPLICE: The cassock is a full black garment which is worn instead of the Alb on special occasions and for daily wear as well. The Surplice is an all-white garment worn over the cassock during worship

COLORS OF THE LITURGICAL YEAR: **Purple:** Lent – color representing His suffering; **Blue:** Advent, royalty of Christ's Birth; **Red:** Pentecost – color of the Holy Spirit/Fire; **Green:** Sundays after Pentecost signifying spiritual growth; **White:** Easter/Christmas – His birth and resurrection; **Black:** Good Friday and on occasion of death, trauma in the congregation/world, tragedy.

GRACE'S DESIGNATED DAY TO VOLUNTEER AT ECCCM IS TUESDAY, NOV. 30TH!

This is a reminder that the congregation of Grace has a designated day to volunteer at ECCCM, which is November 30th; however, ECCCM hopes that multiple members of Grace can work as many days as possible. Hours of operation are Monday – Thursday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and the volunteer opportunities include bagging food for distribution, stocking shelves, filling client orders at the drive-thru door and sorting donations. If you have questions, please call 828-465-1702.

OCTOBER IS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

October 10th is Pastor Appreciation Sunday. The best gift you can give your Pastor is prayer. Continually lift up your Pastor and his family in prayer asking God to give them strength and wisdom to always do everything according to God's will and timing.

BOARD NOTES

BOARD NOTES (from regular Board Meeting of 9/19/2021)

Meeting called to order by Alan Shull. Absent: Johnny Moss, Sheila Drum, Matt Speagle.

August Minutes were reviewed and approved as read.

OLD BUSINESS:

Agreed that ALL congregational activities (except Sunday Learning Hour and Worship) are to be cancelled until January 1, 2022 due to pandemic.

NEW BUSINESS:

* Ballot for the Board election was clarified. Three new candidates have agreed to be on the ballot. Two incumbents are eligible and have agreed to have their names on the ballot.

* Discussion of Ratification to the NALC Constitution was reviewed and motion made and passed to recommend to the Congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting on November 7.

* Discussion of the status of the Church Bus was presented. Motion made and seconded to put before the congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting.

* Proposed Spending Plan for 2022 was presented for review and discussion. Motion made and seconded to recommend to the Congregation for approval. Two Sheep hearings will be conducted in October open to all members of Grace to come and discuss the Proposed 2022 Spending Plan.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS:

Learning: Learning Hour Classes resumed on Rally Day after a year of no classes. Need to build attendance for all classes.

Property: Bids received for painting interior of sanctuary. Lincoln Paint & Glass have also examined the exterior stained glass windows and will propose new plexiglass/or glass coverings. Masonry contractor to evaluate keystone over the front doors. Discussion tabled until more information is offered.

Worship: Hanging of the Greens in the Sanctuary will take place, Saturday, November 27 at 9:00 AM. Biscuits and coffee will be served.

Outreach: Pastor Gil will deliver the collected school supplies to Blackburn Elementary this week.

Witness: Graveside service for Fuad Rihani to be held November 24 at 2:00 at Oakwood Cemetery, Hickory. Funeral for Pr. Richard Mazak will be held September 25 at Augustana Lutheran Church, LC-MS, Hickory with Committal to follow at Grace Cemetery.

Stephen Ministry: Classes continue with great enthusiasm.

Fellowship: All activities postponed until 2022.

Cemetery: Military Commemoration with full honors for Wreaths Across America, December 18.

Ministry Resource: New Church Office Hours: Monday -Thursday, 8:30 AM until 12 noon.

Finance: Financial report for August was reviewed and received as information

Youth: Youth Fall Bible School at New Jerusalem on October 2, 1:00 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. Meal included. No cost to attend. For all NALC Youth in Catawba area.

Motion to Adjourn made and seconded. Next Meeting: October 17 at 4:00 pm. Devotions: Todd Childers
Offering Tabulators: Libby Travis/Todd Childers.