

# GraceNotes



A Monthly Publication of the Congregational Activities of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Newton, NC  
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**NOVEMBER 7, 2021**



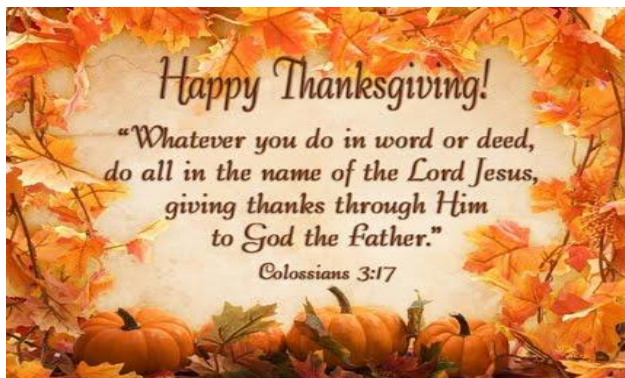
**SATURDAY NIGHT  
NOVEMBER 6TH**



**NOVEMBER 11TH**



**RETURN FILLED SHOEBOXES  
BY NOVEMBER 14TH**



# From the Pastor's Perspective...



Dear Brothers and Sisters at Grace Church,

*“Thanksgiving is inseparable from true prayer; it is almost essentially connected with it. One who always prays is ever giving praise, whether in ease or pain, both for prosperity and for the greatest adversity. He blesses God for all things, looks on them as coming from Him, and receives them for His sake - not choosing nor refusing, liking or disliking, anything, but only as it is agreeable or disagreeable to His perfect will.” --John Wesley*

This Thanksgiving take the time to pray. Pray with a grateful heart. Pray to offer praise to God for life and for loved ones. Pray for God to lead you in the path of God's choosing.

People have been so deeply affected this year by the pandemic, natural disasters and violence in our world. Pray for healing and work that must be done to restore lives and property. Pray to help people who are hurting. Pray so that the prayers are not words only, but turned into action.

God provides us with true blessings in abundance. We have joy and laughter; we have courage in the face of fear, hope where there is doubt, comfort when we have tears and sadness. God is with us in all things. Martin Luther believed in the love and blessings of God. Even on his death bed, he said, “God is with us.”

Pray for our community as we seek to strengthen and grow in Christ. Pray for the staff and leaders who work to make ministry meaningful. Pray for all the people who serve and provide the financial resources for ministry to take place. Pray for our congregation as we continue to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Pray for those who have lost loved ones this past year and this Thanksgiving they will have that empty chair at the table.

Thanksgiving is inseparable from true prayer. Give thanks to the Lord always with a grateful heart. I am thankful for you and our church. I am thankful for all that God is doing among us as we pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to lead us into the future. God love you!

Grace and Peace,  
Pr. Gil Gilbert

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR NOVEMBER

- ❖ Acolyte Herb Travis
- ❖ Lector Todd Childers
- ❖ Communion Assistants Libby Travis and Sheila Drum
- ❖ Ushers Joe and Lynette Momier
- ❖ Altar Preparation Herb and Libby Travis
- ❖ Offering Tabulators Todd Childers and Sheila Drum

*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



11/7	Todd Childers	11/21	Open
11/14	Open	11/28	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 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 OCTOBER, 2021

	10/03/21	10/10/21	10/17/21	10/24/21
Learning Hour	14	20	13	19
Worship	43	46	44	56
General Fund Offerings	\$12,691.00	\$2404.00	\$2,031.00	\$1,206.00

Needed Each Week = \$3,268.54

General Fund **Offerings, September, 2021** = \$11,506.61  
 General Fund **Expenses, September, 2021** = \$11,649.14  
 Difference = - \$-142.53 (expenses exceeded offerings)

**THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** will be held on Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, at 10:15 a.m. Please make note of the time as we will begin at 10:15 sharp! The purpose of the meeting is to approve the Spending Plan for 2022, to consider a change in the NALC Constitution replacing “districts” with “regions”, to vote on the sale of the church bus due to safety issues, costs of upkeep, liability and lack of use, and to elect Ministry Team Board Members. Sheep Meetings were held on Wednesday, Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss these issues.

**THE FRED T. FOARD SENIORS** will meet at noon on Wednesday, November 3, 2021, at Plateau 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, November 13<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 AM at Four Peas in a Pod Restaurant on Highway 70 in Conover. Please come and bring a friend!

**CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX COLLECTION IS ALMOST COMPLETE!** Please return your completed shoeboxes by **Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup>**. Please grab an empty shoebox (or as many as you can) as you leave this morning and fill it with small gifts for children in need. Shoeboxes, labels, and a listing of the items that can and cannot be included can be found on the back pew. 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. Let's reach our goal of 150!

**HANGING OF THE GREENS!** On Saturday, November 27, at 10:00 AM, the faithful will gather to participate in the Hanging of the Greens as we prepare the sanctuary for the Advent/Christmas seasons. The tree will be placed, as well as all of the banners and decorations needed to get us into the spirit of the seasons. We will need some strong hands to put up the tree, so please plan to join us!

**CAN YOU VOLUNTEER AT ECCCM ON TUESDAY, NOV. 30<sup>TH</sup>?** This is a reminder that the congregation of Grace has a designated day to volunteer at ECCCM, which is November 30<sup>th</sup>; however, ECCCM hopes that members of Grace can work as many days as possible. Hours of operation are 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. There are volunteer opportunities for all ages and abilities. If you have questions, please call 828-465-1702.

**PLEASE ADORN THE CHANCEL ON CHRISTMAS** by giving the gift of a poinsettia. This is a great way to honor or make a memorial to someone or some event. The order form will soon appear in the Sunday bulletin. The cost is \$10.00 per plant. Please have all forms in by Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup>.

**IN MEMORIAM – FUAD AKIL RIHANI**

All disciples at Grace fondly remember Fuad Rihani. Fuad and wife, Kathy, worshiped at Grace regularly until they moved to Cary, NC. Even after their move, they would periodically worship at Grace and attend the Adult Learning Hour Class where they had close friends.

Fuad entered the Church Triumphant on June 26, 2020 after a lengthy battle with cancer. After a meeting in the Pastor’s Study, Pastor Gilbert and Kathy Rihani have planned a Graveside Committal Service for Fuad and would like for the Grace community to feel free to attend. The service will be on Wednesday, November 24 at 2:00 p.m. at the Oakwood Cemetery located at 522 4<sup>th</sup> Street in Hickory, NC. May we give Kathy and the Rihani Family our love and support as we celebrate Fuad’s life.

**THANK YOU FROM NEW COVENANT LUTHERAN CHURCH**

The Members of New Covenant sent a very nice thank you note which states:

“Grace Lutheran Members: Thank you so much for your \$500.00 gift to New Covenant Lutheran Church! We love you all and appreciate the blessings you send our way. We are looking for property/or a building now, and may have to rent something as real estate is slim in the Morganton Area now. Keep us in your prayers as we hope to grow more and more! You all are awesome and we’d love you to visit us as you can in the future.”

**THANK YOU!**

Pastor Gil and I want to thank those who were so kind and generous to share fresh fruit and vegetables over the last several months. Between the squash, corn, green peppers, peaches, zucchini, and loads of tomatoes, we ate more healthy and enjoyed the freshness of home-grown food. Your kindness and generosity are very much appreciated and we love each and every member at Grace. We are overjoyed at the love you all continue to show us. May God continue to bless you as we approach the holidays and a new year. - Karen Gilbert

## **JOIN THE GRACE PRAYER GROUP**

Prayer is one of the most important practices of the Christian life. It is also one of the most powerful forms of healing there is. It is an opportunity to join with God and your Highest Self for the purpose of seeing the world through God's eyes, receiving God's healing Love, Truth, and Grace, and restoring yourself to an experience of Wholeness and Perfection - and doing it with others who will support your prayer. When you join with God in prayer, you not only extend God's healing energy and vision to others, you receive it yourself in that moment. As you give, so shall you receive.

The Wednesday Evening Prayer Group at Grace receives numerous prayer requests each week. Through the sharing time and acknowledging we discover where God has been most evident in our lives each week. These prayer requests are a wonderful opportunity for both the giver and the receiver. Those who pray are opening the door to communication and healing from God. Those who receive the prayers are giving themselves the opportunity to join with God in the process of extending His Love, Peace, and Truth in reply. You are free to join us for prayer on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 in the Pastor's Study.

## **SATAN IS ALIVE AND WELL**

A 15-year-old girl was raped and sodomized in the girls' bathroom of a Loudoun County, Virginia high school by a "gender fluid" boy wearing a skirt. When her father brought it to the School Board, they had him arrested for "making a scene"... and deemed a "domestic terrorist" in their effort to get the FBI to crack down on concerned parents. The XL Pipeline was closed and no oil is flowing into our refineries any longer, and yet we are begging Saudi Arabia for oil. (To which they have refused our request). There is a segment of our nation whose goal is to bring America to her knees and move us all into Socialism. There are extremists in Washington who are determined to do this. They are attacking the very foundations of our Constitution and they are determined to destroy this nation. The family and the Church are under attack. Everything has been turned upside down. Satan is working his evil schemes. People are turning away from God and the Church. BUT...God is still in charge!!!

During this season when we celebrate Thanksgiving and move toward the seasons of Advent and Christmas, we ask ourselves, what is there to be thankful for? The prices of everything have gone sky high... gas, food, everyday items we all use either cost too much or the shelves of the stores are increasingly bare because no one will work the docks to unload the shipments. But we must remember that God is still in charge and he will remember his people. What are we to do in the meantime? Pray. Worship. Get into a Learning Hour Class on Sunday mornings. Keep in contact with one another and encourage each other. God is doing a great work. He will be victorious if we keep the faith.

## **BOARD NOTES**

### **BOARD NOTES (from the Regular October Meeting of 10/17/21)**

Called to Order by Alan Shull, President at 4:03 p.m.

Devotions were led by Todd Childers with a reading from Max Lucado

Absent and Excused were : Michael Hall, Gary Leatherman, Matt Seagle

September Minutes were read and approved.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Appointment by the Board of Jason Yoder to fill the term of Johnny Moss.

Quote of \$14,000 received from GlassWorks to replace outer covering of stained glass windows. MOTION APPROVED

Front Door Renovation is on-going. Professionals are so swamped and cannot commit to what we need. Board will see a construction contractor to complete the entire project incl. door frame, threshold, door hardware, keystone above the door, and interior above the door. MOTION APPROVED

Final Ballot approved for Annual Congregational Meeting on Nov. 7: Five candidates for four seats serving three-year terms. On the Ballot is: Todd Childers, Shelia Drum, Michael Hall, Jeff Scronce, and Tim Eckard. MOTION APPROVED

Report of Sheep Hearings: Held Weds. Oct. 13 and Sat. Oct. 16. Members shared a confidence in the Board. The 2022 Proposed Spending Plan, the NALC Ratification of Constitution was reviewed as well as the recommendation of the Board to sell the Church Bus due to liability and safety issues, insurance, upkeep and good stewardship. Also recommended was to rent a van/bus whenever a trip was planned seems to make better sense and is more economical. Annual Congregational Meeting on Nov. 7 will begin at 10:15 sharp prior to 10:30 Worship.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Pastor Gil will be on vacation October 31 – November 6.

#### **MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS**

Education: Learning Hour classes have resumed. Each class needs to grow and will with time.

Property: Motion made to accept bid from Custom Coatings to paint interior of Sanctuary (walls only) for \$7,400. MOTION APPROVED

Praise/Worship: Poinsettias will be available for order @\$10 each for the Christmas worship.

Outreach: New carts have been donated to collect food items and are placed downstairs and in the narthex.

Witness: Graveside for Fuad Ruhani on November 24 at Oakwood Cemetery in Hickory. U.S. Flag cases have been ordered for the surviving families of Veteran members of Grace.

Cemetery: Grace participating in The National Wreaths Across America commemoration on Dec. 18 in Grace Cemetery. Congregation invited.

Treasurer's Report: Reports distributed and motion made to approve as information.

Meeting closed with prayer by Pastor Gil

Next Meeting: November 21 at 4:00 Devotions Libby Travis

# Grace Notes

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



**Michael and Sybastian's Sunday School project!**  
**Jesus is Light!**  
**Teachers: Shelly Scronce and Ricky Bivens**