

# GraceNotes



A Monthly Publication of the Congregational Activities of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Newton, NC

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## SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 13, 2022

PLEASE BRING CANS OF  
SOUP FOR ECCCM!



**TRANSFIGURATION OF JESUS CHRIST** was an important moment in the life of Jesus and evidence of His divinity. Jesus performed a series of miracles and foretells His own death. Afterwards, Jesus led just three of His disciples, Peter, James and John to a high mountain, which is where the Transfiguration took place, and his appearance was radiantly transformed.

# From the Pastor's Perspective...



Dear Brothers and Sisters at Grace Church,

Peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus, the Christ!

The month of February continues with the celebration of Epiphany and prepares us for the beginning of Lent which begins on Ash Wednesday (March 2). It will be upon us before you know it. So how will you spend your time during the month as you prepare for Lent?

I am looking forward to the season of Lent for several reasons. First, it will be a time of daily confession and repentance. As you have heard me say, 'we Lutherans do a great job at confession, but we do a lousy job of repenting!' And oh, how I need to be practicing repentance. There is so much that needs to be done at Grace and there are few volunteers. Look at the flower chart in the narthex. Examine the disciples who volunteer to serve as ushers, communion assistants, lectors (lay readers) and what do you see? It is always the same people doing the same tasks every month. I need to repent of my critical thinking and type A personality and allow God to move people to serve. I hope you will take the opportunity to serve in worship during the season of Lent.

Secondly, I find Lent a wonderful time to be in prayer. We have a Prayer Ministry of disciples who meet every Wednesday evening at Grace for the sole purpose of being in prayer. (Please feel free to join us!) They pray for each of you, for the sick, for the needy, for those who are experiencing the trials on life, and for many other reasons. I truly treasure this time, but I will personally expand and focus on my prayer life during Lent. I will take the opportunity to get away for a few days on a personal retreat just to be with God in prayer and discern a few sermons while I am away from the parish. This is such a great time of renewal and recharging my body, mind and spirit.

As your Pastor, I join with the Board in asking three things of you in the upcoming season of Lent: to fast, to give of your time and finances, and to pray. Daily prayer is always an essential element of the Christian spiritual life, but perhaps never so important as during Lent. Lent is the season in which we walk with Jesus in his forty-day sojourn in the desert. We stubbornly stay with him, doing what he did there, facing what he faced there. I hope you will join me as you prepare. The journey is hard, but the reward is great. So pick up your cross and let's follow him as we prepare.

In Him,  
+ Pastor Gil Gilbert

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR FEBRUARY

- ❖ Lector Todd Childers
- ❖ Ushers Joe and Lynette Momier
- ❖ Communion Assistants Herb and Libby Travis
- ❖ 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 FEBRUARY



02/06	Open	02/20	Rick & Cindy Bivens
02/13	David & Belinda Wilfong	02/27	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 Tuesday prior to your selected Sunday. You can call the Church Office between 8:30 AM and Noon on Monday - Thursday, leave a note on the desk, or send an email to let us know the occasion or memoriam for this wonderful gift of beatification of the worship.

## ATTENDANCE AND GIVING TO OUR LORD'S WORK FOR JANUARY, 2022

	1/02/22	1/09/22	1/16/22	1/23/22
Learning Hour	9	18	<b>CANCELLED</b>	14
Worship	42	51	<b>SNOW</b>	40
General Fund Offerings	\$4,426.00	\$4,546.00		\$2,418.36

Needed Each Week = \$3,268.54

General Fund **Offerings, December, 2021** = \$13,086.66  
 General Fund **Expenses, December, 2021** = \$12,183.22  
 Difference = \$903.44 (offerings exceeded expenses)

**THE FRED T. FOARD SENIORS** will meet for lunch at noon on Wednesday, February 2, 2022, at Ebenezer Methodist. All senior citizens and young at heart are invited and welcome to these gatherings.

**THE MEN OF GRACE** will meet on Saturday, February 12th, at 9:00 AM at Four Peas in a Pod Restaurant on Highway 70 in Conover. Great food and great fellowship! Please come and bring a friend!

**GET READY FOR SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY!** Super Bowl Sunday is on February 13th. All worshipers at Grace are asked to bring a couple of cans of soup to worship as we celebrate SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY! These will be delivered to the ECCCM Food Pantry to feed the hungry.

**THANK YOU FROM NEW COVENANT LUTHERAN CHURCH NALC, MORGANTON, NC**

“Dear friends at Grace Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous Mission Benevolence gift to New Covenant Lutheran Church. It is a true blessing to us. All your support and encouragement has meant so much to us as we try to grow our little church, particularly in this difficult COVID environment. You have been a wonderful example of what a NALC church should be. We have put up our first Chrismon tree this year, and please know you are all very welcome to visit us anytime. We look forward to a year of growth and service to our community and wish you all many continued blessings in your services. - Merry Christmas - Your friends at New Covenant”

**FYI: HOW TO KNOW IF IT IS COVID, A COLD OR THE FLU**

Common cold symptoms: With a cold, symptoms tend to build up over a few days... runny or stuffy nose, sore throat, cough, congestion. Common flu symptoms: Unlike with the common cold or COVID-19, flu symptoms tend to come on suddenly and can feel severe. The flu hits you right away. If you’ve ever had the flu, you know you get to a point where you can’t get out of bed. Here is what to look out for: fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches and headaches.

General COVID-19 symptoms: With the previous COVID variants, including Delta, the main sign was loss of taste or smell. In addition to that telltale sign, people experienced other cold and flu-like symptoms: headache, sore throat, runny nose, fever, body aches, and loss of taste and smell. Omicron COVID-19 symptoms: So far, the signs of omicron tend to be similar to previous COVID-19 strains and they might include mild cold-like symptoms. But there are some slight differences emerging. People aren’t reporting a loss of taste or smell as much with omicron as they were with previous variants, but people are reporting night sweats, which is a very strange symptom that they say they’re having – cough, fatigue, runny nose, congestion and night sweats - less likely to have a loss of taste or smell.

When should you get tested? One of the biggest things is you want to avoid self-diagnosing. That means if you're displaying any symptoms, you want to go ahead and get tested. And, again, you should assume you have COVID-19 until your test says otherwise. When you get tested, depending on your symptoms and what your COVID-19 test results are, you might also get tested for the flu or strep throat.

Best cold, flu and COVID-19 home remedies: The best home treatments for any of these illnesses depend on the exact symptoms you're experiencing. Fatigue: Make sure you stay hydrated, get enough electrolytes and rest up. Sleep is one of your biggest aids you can use right now that lets your body recuperate and regenerate itself so it can protect you, and it keeps your immune system strong. Difficulty breathing: If you experience any difficulty breathing or shortness of breath or if your symptoms get worse rather than improving, you should speak with a doctor.

### **SMALL THINGS MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE AT ECCCM**

Dave was helping a client named Lynda load her food into her car. Lynda said, "I forgot to ask, do you have any cat food?" Dave checked and replied, "No, but we do have cat litter. Would you like some?" Lynda excitedly said, "Yes! Oh, my gosh! I've had such a hard time finding any that I can afford since the pandemic started." Dave got her a box, and she was so happy as she watched the box of litter being lifted into her car.

Pets are a huge part of many of our client's families. While pet supplies are not something we routinely have to give out, our food pantry does get some from time to time. The elation on our clients' faces when they can get things for their four-legged family members is priceless. The happiness a pet brings helps many of our clients through tough times, and we understand that. It always makes us smile when we see the joy reflected in our client's eyes as they receive that little unexpected extra.

Thanks to your donations, we find daily that even the small things make a big difference. **Super Bowl Sunday is February 13. All worshipers at Grace are asked to bring a couple of cans of soup to worship as we will celebrate SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY. These will be delivered to the food pantry to feed the hungry.** Food Pantry Needs: Our pantry relies heavily on the donations from congregations and the help of volunteers. Currently we need grocery van drivers to pick up from local stores, and deliver food back to the pantry. Additionally, we need volunteers to work our pantry's client door. This involves filling a cart with groceries and delivering the cart to the clients. We particularly can use more volunteers in the afternoons. Volunteer monthly, weekly, or daily. We will work with your schedule. Lastly, we need your recycled grocery bags. Please drop any donations by the pantry during our regular pantry hours, Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Thank you. Together we can make the greatest difference!

**BOARD NOTES (from the January Meeting)  
Saturday, January 15, 2022 during Board Retreat**

Called to order at 1:22 PM by Alan Shull, President.

Devotions given by Todd Childers on Hebrews 11

>>Present: Pastor Gilbert, Alan Shull, Michael Hall, Tim Eckard, Jeff Scronce, Rick Bivens, Todd Childers, Gary Leatherman, Jason Scronce. Absent: Libby Travis, Matt Speagle

>>The November and December minutes were read and approved.

**Old Business**

>> Pending sale of the church bus. We currently have two bids both of which are above the minimum bid.

>> Jason Yoder reported on the defibrillator. He found one through the Red Cross. It is fully automatic and tells the user what steps to take. The cost is approximately \$1500.00.

Motion made and seconded to accept the recommendation. MOTION CARRIED.

**New Business:**

>>New Shepherding Groups were assigned to the Board members.

>>Due to the stance The Salvation Army has taken on political issues Grace Lutheran Church will focus our benevolence efforts on other charities such as ECCCM, Corner Table, Samaritan's Purse, etc.

Ministry Team Leaders were updated for 2023:

Praise & Worship	Tim Eckard
Property	Gary Leatherman & Jeff Scronce
Christian Education	Alan Shull
Community Outreach	Pastor Gilbert
Evangelism / Witness	Libby Travis
Stephen Ministry	Rick Bivens
Fellowship / Hospitality	Todd Childers
Youth Ministry	Alan Shull
Cemetery	Michael Hall
Ministry Resource	Jason Yoder

A. The devotions / offerings tabulator schedule for this year has been updated:

	<b>Devotions</b>	<b>Offering Tabulator</b>
February	Alan Shull	Libby Travis / Todd Childers
March	Todd Childers	Jason Yoder / Todd Childers
April	Alan Shull	OPEN / Todd Childers
May	Tim Eckard	Tim Eckard / Todd Childers
June	Pastor Gilbert	Alan Shull / Todd Childers
July	Jason Yoder	Jason Yoder / Todd Childers
August	Gary Leatherman	Gary Leatherman / Todd Childers
September	Jeff Scronce	Jeff Scronce / Todd Childers
October	OPEN	Michael Hall / Todd Childers
November	Michael Hall	Alan Shull / Todd Childers
December	Todd Childers	Libby Travis / Todd Childers
January 2023	OPEN	OPEN / Todd Childers

## **BOARD NOTES (from the January Meeting) - CONTINUED**

### **Ministry Team Reports**

>> Christian Education / Learning – Shull – Learning Hour Classes needing better attendance.

>>Property / Facilities – Leatherman / Scronce –

1. The doors on the outside storage area at the Parsonage are rotting/need replacing.
2. Jeff Scronce has replaced 21 light bulbs in the Sanctuary fixtures.
3. Obtained bids for repairing and painting the outside stairs. Carolina Coatings will be contacted to ask for costs to include the handrails outside Fellowship Hall. Upgrading to an epoxy coating to extend the life will cost an additional \$1300.00. Motion made and seconded to accept preliminary bid for approximately \$8300.00. MOTION CARRIED.
4. Team has obtained a bid for painting/repairing window frames around the stained glass windows in preparation for installing new glass over the stained glass. Motion made and seconded to hire Jamie Walker to complete the painting of the windows for \$150.00 per window not including the cost of repairing any rot that may be found. MOTION CARRIED.
5. Union Church lighting – electrician (Dale Boger) will examine and repair if needed. New bulbs will be installed.

>>Praise and Worship – Shull – Ushers need to turn off the heater in the Narthex on Sunday.

>>Community Outreach – No report.

>>Evangelism / Witness – Childers – No report.

>>Stephen Ministry – Supervision meeting will be Monday 1/17/22. SM has cancelled all Leadership Training Events in Orlando. All training will be done by registering for virtual training course.

>>Fellowship / Hospitality - Childers – All extra events are on hold for 2022.

>>Cemetery – Travis – No report.

>>Ministry Resource Team – Gilbert – Pam Tallent has been at Grace for one year this month. Her work is exemplary.

>>Finance / Stewardship – Bivens – Financial reports were reviewed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Motion made and seconded to accept reports as information. MOTION CARRIED.

There being no further business a motion to adjourn was made and seconded. MOTION CARRIED. Closing prayer by Pastor Gil.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Childers, Board Secretary

*Next meeting: Sunday, February 20 at 4:00 PM.*

*Devotions – Alan Shull    Offering Tabulator – Todd Childers and Libby Travis*

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**WHEN CANNIBALS ATE A MISSIONARY, THEY GOT A TASTE OF RELIGION.**



# Grace Notes

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