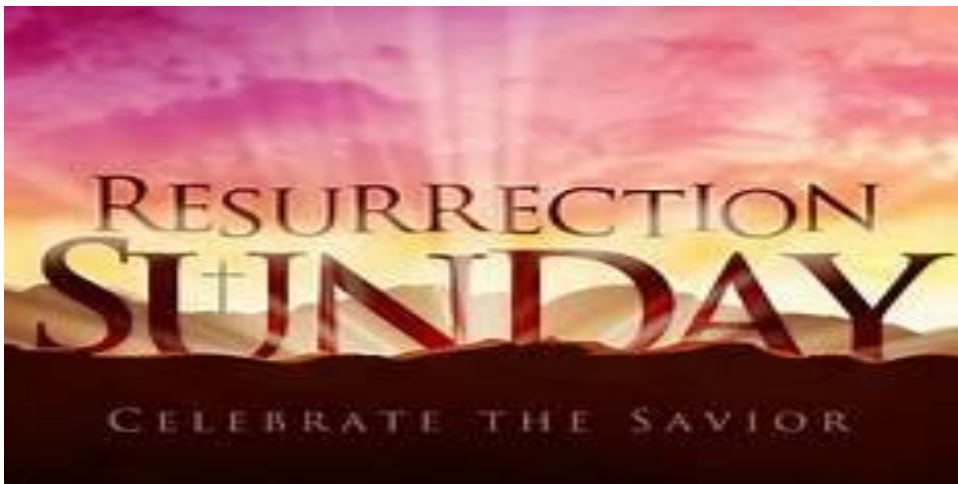


# GraceNotes



A Monthly Publication of the Congregational Activities of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Newton, NC  
email: [gracenalcnorton@aol.com](mailto:gracenalcnorton@aol.com) website: [www.gracelutheran-newton.org](http://www.gracelutheran-newton.org) Church Office: 704-462-1035  
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## MAUNDY THURSDAY

Service of Holy Communion  
April 14 at 7:00 PM

## GOOD FRIDAY OBSERVANCE

April 15 at 7:00 PM

## RESURRECTION SUNDAY

### EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

April 17 at 7:30 AM – Union Church

### EASTER BREAKFAST

April 17 at 8:30 AM – Fellowship Hall

### EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE

April 17 at 10:30 AM – Main Sanctuary

# From the Pastor's Perspective...



Dear Brothers and Sisters at Grace Church,

With so much going on it's hard to see Easter as anything more than just another holiday, another family dinner, or another harbinger of spring. But Easter was never meant to be just a spiritual bump on the road to self-fulfillment, it was meant to be a whole new road. Easter is the perfect time to rethink the road you're on, where it's leading, and whether it's where you want to go.

We're all natural born travelers, but since we're not homing pigeons, we don't have a natural sense of direction or internal GPS. We know we're moving through stages in our lives, we're not sure we know what tomorrow may bring. But Easter is a signpost inviting us to get our bearings and travel a new way to a new place to live a new kind of life.

Now I realize there's a lot that's "new" about Easter which may turn some travelers off and make some staunch religious folks angry. It always has and always will. But as I preached the series on prophecy during Lent, we know that the One who has travelled this way before gave us clues about what we might expect. His name is Jesus and his story is nothing less than miraculous. Easter is His story and His invitation to experience life as it was meant to be.

As a Church community we are committed to travel the road God has prepared for us, share the joys and burdens common to travelers, and marvel at the wonders and surprises that lie ahead. Easter is a defining moment in your life when you must choose to stay in the mundane routines of life going nowhere OR to trust God's plan. Movement without meaning leads to frustration. So, if this letter finds you travelling down a bumpy road filled with frustration and anxiety, Easter is your invitation to discover a whole new way of living.

I look forward to greeting each of you during Holy Week on Maundy Thursday (7:00 pm), Good Friday (7:00 pm), and then on Easter morning for the Sunrise Worship (7:30 am) in Union Church followed by a wonderful breakfast, and then the meaningful and joyous celebration of the Resurrection at 10:30 am as we can truly say "He Is Risen. He is Risen Indeed!"

Easter Blessings!  
Pastor Gil Gilbert, STS

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR APRIL

- ❖ Lector Tim Eckard
- ❖ Ushers Rick and Cindy Bivens
- ❖ Communion Assistants Herb and Libby Travis
- ❖ 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 APRIL



- 04/03 - Lent – No Flowers 04/17 – Herb & Libby Travis
- 04/10 - Lula Ingle 04/24 – Kay & Allen Hatchett

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 memorial for this wonderful gift of beatification of the worship.

## ATTENDANCE AND GIVING TO OUR LORD’S WORK FOR FEBRUARY/MARCH, 2022

	2/27/22	3/02/22 Ash Wed.	3/06/22	3/13/22	3/20/22
Learning Hour	15	N/A	15	14	15
Worship	38	31	46	40	45
General Fund Offerings	\$1065.00	\$270.00	\$6562.00	\$1305.00	1,921.00

Needed Each Week = \$3,268.54

General Fund **Offerings, February, 2022** = \$11,457.93  
 General Fund **Expenses, February, 2022** = \$16,725.12  
 Difference = \$-5,267.19 **(expenses exceeded offerings)**

**THE FRED T. FOARD SENIORS** will meet for lunch at noon on Wednesday, April 6, 2022, at Plateau Methodist Church. All senior citizens and young at heart are invited and welcome to these gatherings.

**ECCCM AND THE CORNER TABLE** would like to invite a representative from Grace Church to attend the Hunger Walk Informational Meeting on Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> from 11:45 am – 1:00 pm. The meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall at First United Methodist Church located at 300 N Main Avenue, Newton, NC 28658. Lunch will be provided. The 2022 Hunger Walk is scheduled for Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. The Informational Meeting will give us the opportunity to go over all things Hunger Walk and discuss the best way for groups to get involved. Churches are the largest support system of this annual event and we want to make sure that our event is on your calendar early! It is an excellent opportunity for youth groups to get involved. All proceeds are split between ECCCM and The Corner Table.

**THE MEN OF GRACE** will meet on Saturday, April 9, 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!

**SPRING CHURCH CLEANING** is scheduled for Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am until noon. Please come roll up your sleeves and help us beautify our Church for the celebration of Easter!

**SENIOR CITIZENS LUNCH** is scheduled for Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall. All young-at-heart are welcome! Be sure to come enjoy the food, fellowship, and fun!

**PASTOR TO TAKE SOME MUCH-NEEDED TIME AWAY**

Pastor Gil has been faithfully tending the flock at Grace non-stop since last November and now it is time to take a break. He will not be in the office the week following Easter Monday (19-22), but will still be leading worship on Sundays. He has some medical issues needing attention, as well as time to catch up on some reading and rest with Karen and Sybastian. Please pray for your Pastor while he is away doing some self-care.

**ALL CAROLINAS MISSION REGION YOUTH GRADES 6 AND UP** are invited to a Spring Lock-in, April 29-30, 8:00 pm – 8:00 am, at Holy Trinity in Gastonia, NC. There will be games, midnight worship and fellowship as we stay up most of the night. For more information, please contact Melanie Corn at 803-983-8667 ([mcorn@stplochapin.com](mailto:mcorn@stplochapin.com)). Other upcoming events are:

**Solid Rock Day Camp Week for the Catawba Valley** is July 10-15, hosted by New Jerusalem in Hickory. (The Solid Rock Day Camp Program is looking for faithful, college-aged students to work as summer camp counselors. The day camps will take place from June 19 – August 5 in NC, SC, PA and MD.)

**Carolinas Women’s Convocation – “Coffee Time with God”** at Faith Lutheran Church in Faith, NC on Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30 am.

**Convocation for the Carolinas Mission Region** at Trinity Lutheran in Landis, NC on Friday/Saturday, May 13-14. Registration materials are forthcoming. Each congregation may have one clergy and one lay delegate.

**Spring Mission Fellowship Event** at Advent Lutheran Church in Kings Mountain, NC on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, Noon – 3:00 pm.

### **ASSISTANCE FOR UKRAINE**

The NALC continues to work with the Lutheran Church of Ukraine (LCU), Samaritan’s Purse, the International Red Cross and UNICEF of Ukraine, to offer assistance in the wake of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Currently, pastors of the LCU are visiting their members and trying to aid anyone in trouble. Financial assistance has been used to buy helmets and body armor for pastors as they continue to minister to their people. In addition to helping provide protection for those delivering the life-giving Word and Sacraments, assistance has been distributed to Christians and other refugees fleeing to the West. Additional aid has assisted those remaining in Ukraine, including providing funds for:

- \*\* Food, accommodations, documents and clothes for Eastern Ukrainian refugees who have arrived in Lviv and Vinnytsia;
- \*\* A hospital in Lutsk for that cares for refugees and military personnel;
- \*\* Congregations of the Ukrainian Lutheran Church, including their members; and
- \*\* Food banks and medicine for the community.

Christians of the Ukraine and Samaritan’s Purse are working to distribute food and clothing. They are also providing housing to incoming refugees. As you continue to pray for Ukraine, please also pray for those who are receiving refugees. We join together with the whole church in praying for peace, for protection, and that all might be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth in Jesus Christ.

## **THE STEPHEN MINISTRY AT WORK**

We recently received a note from a Stephen Ministry care receiver about how a Stephen Minister touched this person's life. The words were so powerful that we got permission to share them with you:

*"I thank God every day for leading me to my Stephen Minister. When we began our caring relationship, I was slowly coming out of the numbness I felt after the shattering of my marriage. Her patience, her listening ear, and her willingness to serve have completely changed the trajectory of my life.*

*Without a doubt, accepting care from my church's Stephen Ministry has been the best decision of my life. Everyone should be able to have a Stephen Minister when they need one—it's an amazing model of how the body of Christ can work. God is truly being glorified through their service everywhere!"*

This is just one example of the much-needed ministry that Stephen Ministers are providing every day, all over the world, and more especially at Grace Church. Through their faithful service, people are experiencing life-transforming Christ-centered care during some of the most difficult times in life. I hope you're encouraged by these words. The need is great at Grace Church and many are in need of a Stephen Minister. If you feel like you need a Stephen Minister, or if you would simply like to inquire about the Stephen Ministry, please contact Pastor Gilbert at 704-462-1035.

### **FOR THOSE WHO LOVE TO READ....**

Here are some good choices for reading from the Pastor's Reading Shelf:

The Invisible War by Chip Ingram

The Great Reset by Glenn Beck

Where Do We Go From Here? By David Jeremiah

Understanding Spiritual Warfare by Sam Storms

When Godly People Do Ungodly Things by Beth Moore

Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World by Joanna Weaver

Jerusalem: A Biblical Case for the Jewish Capital by Jay Sekulow

## BOARD NOTES

**BOARD NOTES** (from the regular March meeting held 3/20/2022)

Called to Order by Alan Shull, President

February Minutes were read and approved

### OLD BUSINESS

\*\*\*Inspection by Fire Marshal reviewed. Mike Pisko and Rick Bivens are working on the directives from the Fire Marshal's inspection.

\*\*\*Matt Speagle has requested to be excused from the remainder of this term on the Board. Sheila Drum (alternate) will serve the remainder of this term which ends December 2022.

\*\*\*Jason Yoder contacted the Red Cross concerning the DeFib ordered. There is a chip shortage and approximate delivery date will be in 10 to 15 weeks.

### NEW BUSINESS

\*\*\*Wreaths Across America will return to Grace Cemetery in December of 2023.

### MINISTRY REPORTS

**Learning:** Adult Class is well attended. Would love to have more attend Sunday Learning Hour

**Property:** Exterior steps will be painted once welding repairs have been completed.

Lights in Union Church will be repaired in time for Easter.

Plexiglas has been removed from the stained-glass windows. Painting will begin followed by installation of glass panels.

Front doors project is in progress, Keystone has been reset, molding has been replaced and we are awaiting delivery of new steel doors.

Steel windows on lower level need to be replaced. Quote given was \$10,500. Final decision tabled to replace with clear or frosted glass.

Storm door on parsonage needs to be replaced.

Clean-Up Day scheduled for Holy Saturday, April 16 from 9 to 12 noon.

Jorge Garcia (front door contractor) will be asked to give quote on all replacing four doors (upper and lower levels) for the church.

**Praise and Worship:** Holy Week: Maundy Thursday April 14 at 7 pm; Good Friday April 15 at 7 pm; Easter Sunrise Worship in Union at 7:30 am; Easter Breakfast in Fellowship Hall at 8:30 am; (All donations given at the breakfast will support Ukraine Relief through Samaritan's Purse)

**Learning Hour** at 9:30 am; Easter Worship at 10:30 am.

**Witness:** Shelia Drum will be working the next Via de Cristo weekend.

**Stephen Ministry:** Stephen Ministers' Certificates will be framed and mounted in Narthex

**Cemetery:** A new receipt book for cemetery plot sales in needed.

**Youth:** VBS will be held this summer at Zion Lutheran Church. Grace will be one of four congregations participating.

**Treasurer's Report** given and motion made and seconded to receive as information.

**Next Meeting:** Sunday, April 24 at 4 pm. Devotions: Alan Shull

# Grace Notes

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church NALC  
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Newton, NC 28658