

GraceNotes



A Monthly Publication of the Congregational Activities of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Newton, NC
email: gracenalnewton@aol.com website: www.gracelutheran-newton.org Church Office: 704-462-1035
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NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER is an annual day of observance held on the first Thursday of May, designated by the United States Congress, when people are asked "to turn to God in prayer and meditation." The theme for this year is: "Exalt the Lord, who has established us." based on Colossians 2:6-7.



THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD, which occurred 40 days after Jesus Christ rose from the dead on Easter, is the final act of our redemption that Christ began on Good Friday. On this day, the risen Christ, in the sight of His apostles, ascended bodily into Heaven. Before His ascension, Christ promised to send the Holy Spirit to His apostles. Their prayer for the coming of the Holy Spirit, which began on Ascension Thursday, ended with the descent of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Sunday, ten days later.



SUNDAY, MAY 8



MONDAY, MAY 30

From the Pastor's Perspective...



Dear Brothers and Sisters at Grace Church,

As most of you know by now, I took a fall during the Easter Sunday worship while coming down the Chancel steps to read the Gospel Processional. While it was an embarrassing event, I was thankful that there were 7 or 8 faithful who instantly came to my aid and were standing over me when I looked up. The Lord humbled me and taught me that Easter flight school is out of the question!! Making sure nothing was broken except my pride, they helped me up and we went on to the center of the congregation to read the Easter Gospel. I remarked that "I bet none of you have ever seen a Gospel Processional like that!" It relieved the congregation from being shocked, to one of laughter and thanks that all was well...almost.

For the past 2 years, I have had trouble with my knees after falling from a chair in an attempt to change the time on the office clock as the time change had taken place the previous weekend. That fall, and the way in which I landed flat on my back evidently did something to my knees from which I have never recovered. I began experiencing a 'trick knee' which would suddenly go numb (hence, the Easter fall). Last week, my doctor took x-rays and an MRI and shared with me that my left knee is shot and that I would need a total knee replacement sometime in May.

This has been shared with the Grace Leadership and we are working together to make sure nothing hinders our Sunday worship while I am away. We may want to do a hymn sing as has been requested several times in the past. We will also be in consultation with our organist, Sandi Tallant, for her input. I will be in contact with our Secretary, Pam Tallent on a daily basis, during my healing to insure good communication from the Church Office. In our Region, retired pastors available for pulpit supply are scarce, if available at all. All retired pastors are serving as Interim Pastors to area congregations and most are not available to supply. We may use a Seminarian to lead worship although that will mean no celebration of the Lord's Table.

We will continue to work on planning for the several Sundays when I will be away. We know that we will be out for 3-4 weeks following surgery and then, as the doctor has instructed, I will need to preach from the pulpit while seated. Physical therapy will take another 4-6 weeks after that. So I ask for your understanding, your patience and your prayers, which I know I have, thanks be to God!

Easter blessings to you!

Pastor Gil Gilbert

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR MAY

- ❖ Lector Stormy Shull
- ❖ Ushers Jacob Jarrett and Sheila Drum
- ❖ Communion Assistants Herb and Libby Travis
- ❖ Altar Preparation Herb and Libby Travis
- ❖ Offering Tabulators Todd Childers and Tim Eckard

*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 MAY



- 05/01 - Open
- 05/15 - Open
- 05/08 - Open
- 05/22 - Todd Childers
- 05/29 - 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 memorial for this wonderful gift of beatification of the worship.

ATTENDANCE AND GIVING TO OUR LORD'S WORK FOR MARCH/APRIL, 2022

	3/27/22	4/03/22	4/10/22	4/14/22 Maundy Thur.
Learning Hour	15	13	14	n/a
Worship	47	39	32	25
General Fund Offerings	\$1,311.00	\$8,411.00	\$1,385.00	\$175.00

	4/15/22 Good Friday	4/17/22 Easter Sunrise	4/17/22 Easter 10:30	4/24/22
Learning Hour	n/a	n/a	17	12
Worship	21	36	49	41
General Fund Offerings	\$195.00	\$490.00	\$1991.00	\$1345.00

Needed Each Week = \$3,268.54

General Fund **Offerings, March, 2022** = \$12,125.57
General Fund **Expenses, March, 2022** = \$12,655.99
Difference = \$-530.42 (**expenses exceeded offerings**)

CAROLINAS MISSION REGION CONVOCATION REGISTRATION - The 2022 Convocation for the Carolinas Mission Region will be **Fri/Sat, May 13-14 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Landis, NC**. Please get your registration form from Pam in the Church Office. Each congregation may have one clergy and one lay delegate. Since Pastor Gil will be recovering from knee replacement surgery and will not be able to attend, we will need additional members, preferably from the Board, to attend this convocation.

THE FRED T. FOARD SENIORS will meet for lunch at noon on **Wednesday, May 4, 2022**, at Sardis Lutheran Church. All senior citizens and young at heart are invited and welcome to these gatherings. Please join us!

FOSTER CARE SUNDAY IS ON MAY 15TH - Catawba County Social Services is sponsoring the 7th Annual Foster Care Sunday on May 15th. The purpose of this event is to get as many churches in the area as possible to talk about the need for foster parents and that families are needed to care for our own community children. There are now over 230 children in foster care in Catawba County. There are only 73 licensed foster and adoptive families in the county, with more than 30 children waiting to be adopted. If one family in each church agreed to become a foster family, there would be no shortage of foster families. On Foster Care Sunday, it is asked that each church help spread the word about this need!

THE GRACE PRAYER BREAKFAST will meet on **Saturday, May 14th, 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!

SENIOR CITIZENS LUNCH is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 18th**, in the Fellowship Hall. The delicious menu will include a full salad bar, dessert and drinks. All young-at-heart are welcome! Be sure to come enjoy the food, fellowship, and Bingo fun!

CAROLINAS MISSION REGION – SPRING MISSION FELLOWSHIP EVENT will be held on Saturday, May 21, 2022 from noon until 3:00 p.m. at Advent Lutheran Church (230 Oak Grove Road) in Kings Mountain, NC. At the last Carolinas Mission Region Convocation, it was made known that our congregations need more opportunities to come together for mission and fellowship. This will be an afternoon of fun, food and fellowship with fellow Christians from all over the Carolinas. This will be an outdoor event, so bring lawn chairs, picnic blankets, bug spray and sunblock. Each congregation will bring certain items to include in health/hygiene kits for NALC Disaster Response. Activities include assembling health/hygiene kits, hearing from Disaster Response Coordinator Mary Bates, dedicating the assembled kits, enjoying lunch, live music and lively fellowship! This is where we need your help! We would love to have every congregation in North and South Carolina participate in this event in some way. You can:

- Pray for this event to give glory to God.
- Encourage people to come to the event! Many hands make light work. (We will ask for a head count as we get closer to the event in order to prepare enough food.)
- WE NEED TO KNOW WHO'S BRINGING WHAT so we can make the whole kits. We will all work together and each take a part. That's what makes it so much fun!
- We will have the truck at the Convocation in Landis the weekend before if you would like to drop off your items there, so more people can ride up on the 21st.

A NOTE FROM REV. DR. ERIC RISEN, NALS PRESIDENT

The North American Lutheran Seminary is the epicenter for training high quality pastoral candidates to serve in the N.A.L.C. As the only seminary in North America committed to forming Christ-Centered, Mission-Driven, Traditionally Grounded and Congregationally Focused pastors and leaders, we recognize the need for the proclamation of the Gospel and the advancement of our Lord's Kingdom is greater than ever.

This means the greatest need is the recruitment of men and women who will answer the Lord's call to pastoral ministry, and the NALS is stepping forward to meet the challenge. With your faithful gifts and fervent prayers, the seminary is making a commitment to add two full time staff members by the end of 2022.

Join us in prayer as we move forward. There is no more important time than right now for the NALC to raise up pastors who will lead our church into the future. Your prayers are integral to the mission of the church and seminary.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Eric M. Riesen, President

North American Lutheran Seminary

Make your checks payable to Grace Lutheran Church For: NALS

LEADERSHIP BOARD NOTES

Regular Meeting held on Sunday, April 24, 2022

Call to Order Called to order by Alan Shull, President, at 4:00 p.m.

Devotions by Alan Shull followed by Prayer by Pastor Gil.

Roll Call Present: Alan Shull, Pastor Gil, Michael Hall, Libby Travis, Sheila Drum, Jeff Scronce, Jason Yoder, Tim Eckard, Rick Bivens
Absent: Gary Leatherman, Todd Childers

Minutes March minutes were read and approved with 1 correction: Wreaths Across America coming in 2022.

Old Business

- A. Wreaths Across America at Grace Saturday December 17, 2022 at 11:00 am.
- B. Rick Bivens and Mike Pisko completed the Fire Marshall's list and called him. David Pruitt will not come back to re-inspect; said he trusts us.
- C. Painting of windows complete, Jamie Walker will discount his original quote.
- D. Glass Works to start installing clear glass to cover stained glass on Monday, April 25.
- E. Carolina Arc. Will repair iron steps, platform, and other areas if needed. Should start the week of April 25th. Then Custom Coatings can start sandblasting and painting all iron railings and steps.
- F. Parsonage storm door and storage doors replaced by Jorge Garcia. Pastor Gil remarked that he did an excellent job. Karen & Pastor Gil paid for the work as a donation to the Church.

New Business

- A. Video doorbell for office does not work, Rick will repair or replace.
- B. Insurance policy up for renewal (every 3 years) this year. Rick met with the rep from Southern Mutual Church Insurance on Wednesday, walked the property and took pictures. With bus coverage gone and new rates, the total should be about the same.
- C. Jason Yoder is updating and improving the Church website. Will meet with Pastor Gil for input.

Ministry Team Reports

- A. Christian Education / Learning – Shull – no report
- B. Property / Facilities –
 1. Since Ernie Bowman has already started mowing, the Board approves him continuing this year. Motion to raise his weekly rate to \$160.00 made and seconded. MOTION CARRIED. His work is better and he has a helper now.
 2. Parsonage screen door needs repair. Jeff will look at it today after meeting.

3. Organ speakers rattle at low notes. Rick said organ has separate speakers and do not go through PA system. Alan and Rick: speakers are upstairs and will look at them later.
- C. Praise and Worship – Eckard – no report.
- D. Community Outreach – no report.
- E. Evangelism / Witness – no report.
- F. Stephen Ministry – Pastor Gilbert – next meeting Monday, April 25.
- G. Fellowship / Hospitality – no report.
- H. Cemetery – Travis –
 1. Rick is working on a new receipt book.
 2. Jeff mentioned that Herb is trying to find a sonar depth finding device to look underground to see if caskets are in empty spaces in the old cemetery. Rick talked to Tim Leatherman – the company he works for has two but will not let them be used in cemeteries. He will keep looking.
 3. Rick is getting info on Columbarium; Foothills Monument installed ours. We need more info on engraving plates for niches.
- I. Ministry Resource Team – Gilbert – no report.
- J. Finance / Stewardship – Bivens –
 1. Offerings are holding steady but everyday expenses are going up.
 2. General fund for March in the red \$530.42, YTD in black.
 3. Rick will transfer cash from savings to building fund to pay for upcoming work.
- K. Youth Ministry – Shull – There was a second meeting at Zion for VBS.
- L. **Other:** Following fall during worship on Easter, Pastor Gil will undergo total knee replacement sometime in May. Will be meeting with surgeon next week. Will be absent 2-3 Sundays with recovery and physical therapy lasting 6-8 weeks. Seeking supply pastors or worship w/o Communion, Hymn Sing Sunday during that time.

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

Joys and Concerns: Joys and concerns were shared.

There being no further business *a motion to adjourn was made and seconded.* MOTION CARRIED.

Closing prayer by Pastor Gil.

Next meeting: Sunday, May 15 at 4:00 PM. Devotions: Tim Eckard

Offering Tabulator – Todd Childers and Tim Eckard

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