

GraceNotes



A Monthly Publication of the Congregational Activities of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Newton, NC
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**TRANSFIGURATION OF
JESUS CHRIST
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2024**



**SHROVE TUESDAY
PANCAKE SUPPER
FEBRUARY 13, 2024
6:00 PM
FELLOWSHIP HALL**



**ASH WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 14, 2024
7:00 PM
WITH IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

TRANSFIGURATION OF JESUS CHRIST
FEBRUARY 11, 2024

TRANSFIGURATION OF JESUS CHRIST was an important moment in the life of Jesus and the 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.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH AT 6:00 PM
FELLOWSHIP HALL

The expression “Shrove Tuesday” comes from the word, “shrive,” which means to confess and receive absolution. Historically, it was the custom to confess sins before Lent. The day gets its name from the tradition of Christians trying to be “shriven” before Lent. In other parts of the world such as the US and Australia, Shrove Tuesday is known as Mardi Gras, which is French for “Fat Tuesday.”

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP WITH IMPOSITION OF ASHES
FEBRUARY 14TH AT 7:00 PM

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a 40-day season of fasting, reflection and remembrance before the Holy Week and resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday. The Bible does not mention Ash Wednesday or the custom of Lent; however, the practice of repentance and mourning in ashes is found in 2 Samuel 13:19, Esther 4:1, Job 2:8, Daniel 9:3 and Matthew 11:21. The ashes to be used at this service are from the burned palms from last year’s Palm Sunday Service. The palms were burned by Rick, Cindy and River.

THE LENTEN SEASON

Lent is the 40 days before Easter. During this time, the people of God are called to commemorate and reflect on the Lord’s passion through spiritual preparation, conversion and penance. This Holy Season is an invitation to renew our baptismal call...to live as sons and daughters of God and disciples of Christ, our Lord and Savior. It is a time for self-examination and reflection.



**GET READY FOR SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY
ON FEBRUARY 11TH!**

All worshipers at Grace are asked to bring a couple of cans of soup to worship as we celebrate **SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY!** The cans of soup (and other food items) will be delivered to the ECCCM Food Pantry to feed the hungry. All donations are genuinely appreciated! **NOTE:** The medicine pill bottle drive is over.

THE SAMARITAN'S PURSE CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX MINISTRY is a yearlong event. We have empty boxes (located in the children's choir section) that are ready to be filled. When finished, please place them on an empty pew there.

THANK YOU TO GARY LEATHERMAN! His second 3-year term on the Leadership Ministry Board ended in 2023. Gary has been on the board making decisions and helping Grace Church for as long as I can remember. Gary, enjoy your year off! The Board will miss you at our meetings because 2024 is going to be a challenge for all of us. We can meet and beat these challenges by working together, like we have always done. I can feel the Holy Spirit stirring among us every day. So, hold on tight to your faith and pray, pray, pray. – Rick Bivens

A BIG THANK YOU!...to those that came out to "unhang the greens" and help put away the Christmas decorations. Your help is very much appreciated!

CONGRATULATIONS to Kristina, daughter of Wayne and Sandra Powell, who was married last weekend!

THANK YOU FROM CAROL PRESTON, LOCATION COORDINATOR, WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA, JOHN HOYLE NATIONAL SOCIETY D.A.R.! "To the Congregation of Grace Lutheran Church: Thank you so much for hosting us again this year for the 2023 *Wreaths Across America* event. We were part of over 4,000 cemeteries that participated in this meaningful event! Your generosity and friendship make this one of the most prestigious events we do!"

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR FEBRUARY

- ❖ Lector Herb Travis
- ❖ Ushers Jack Wilfong and James Hall
- ❖ Communion Assistants Sheila Drum, Cindy Bivens, Libby Travis
- ❖ Altar Preparation Herb and Libby Travis
- ❖ Offering Tabulators Todd Childers and Alan Shull

*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

- 2/4 OPEN
- 2/11 David and Belinda Wilfong
- 2/18 LENT – NO FLOWERS ON ALTAR
- 2/25 LENT – NO FLOWERS ON ALTAR

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 8:00 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 DECEMBER/JANUARY

	12/31/23	1/7/24	1/14/24	1/21/24
Sunday School	4	6	6	6
Worship	42	45	39	37
General Fund Offerings	\$1,378.00	\$5,373.00	\$1,422.00	\$1,104.00

Needed Each Week = \$3,268.54

General Fund Offerings, December, 2023 = \$12,347.75

General Fund Expenses, December, 2023 = \$9,088.32

Difference = \$3,259.43 (offerings exceeded expenses)

THE GRACE PRAYER BREAKFAST will be held on **Saturday, February 10 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!

STEPHEN MINISTRY TRAINING will be held on: February 6th at 6:00 p.m., February 16th at 6:00 p.m. (Parsonage), and February 17th at 8:00 a.m. (Parsonage). If you have any questions, please contact Herb Travis, Stephen Ministry Leader.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE LEADERSHIP MINISTRY BOARD is scheduled for **Monday, February 19 at 6:00 pm.**

THE GRACE PRAYER LUNCHEON will be held on **Wednesday, February 21 at noon in the Fellowship Hall.** This is a time for any adults from Grace and the community to come together for food and fellowship! Please give Betty Wilfong a call at (828) 461-6604 and let her know if you plan to attend.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS FOR 2023 were mailed on January 22, 2024. If you did not receive yours or have questions about the statement, please contact the church office.

PLEASE VOLUNTEER TO BE A WORSHIP ASSISTANT! Please offer your services as a Lector, Usher or Communion assistant for the upcoming months. If you would like to serve during a particular month, please contact Tim Eckard.

THE ECCCM FOOD ASK for the month of **February** is **macaroni/pasta/canned spaghetti sauce.** ECCCM thanks the disciples of Grace for helping to keep the food pantry stocked, and as always, all donations are welcome.

OFFICERS OF THE CONGREGATION FOR 2024 – At the Leadership Ministry Board Meeting held on January 15, 2024, officers were elected for the coming year as follows:

President	Tim Eckard
Vice President	Jason Yoder
Treasurer	Rick Bivens
Secretary	Todd Childers
Financial Secretary	Todd Childers

Old Business

- A. The lawn service was discussed. Research is ongoing into different companies and proposals.
- B. There are a few minor projects that need attending to around the property. Rick and Jason are reaching out to an individual about getting the work done.
- C. The outside railings have been repainted by Custom Coatings. This work was done free of charge as the previous work was not completed correctly.

New Business

- A. Officers were elected for the coming year. Results are shown below:

President	Tim Eckard
Vice President	Jason Yoder
Treasurer	Rick Bivens
Secretary	Todd Childers
Financial Secretary	Todd Childers

- B. Supply Pastors for the remainder of January and February are as follows:

January 21	Brack East
January 28	Gary Coble
February 4	Gary Coble
February 11	Brack East
February 18	Brack East
February 25	Gary Coble

- C. Ministry Team Leaders were identified below:
- D. Worship Assistants for the coming month have been identified.
- E. The Devotions and Offering Tabulator Schedule for the year was completed and distributed to all Board Members.
- F. The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be held on February 13th.
- G. The NALC Call Process Manual was reviewed.
 - 1. Tim Eckard will reach out to the NALC Call Process Coordinator for instructions.
 - 2. The Call Committee will be appointed by the Leadership Ministry Board in accordance with our Constitution. The Committee will consist of 6 members and will be accountable to the Board.
 - 3. There will be a special meeting of the Board on Monday, January 29th at 6:00 pm to further discuss next steps in the process.

Ministry Team Reports

A. Property/Facilities	Jeff Scronce	No report.
B. Praise and Worship	Tim Eckard	No report.
C. Property	Jeff Scronce	No report.
D. Outreach/Crisis Assistance	Sheila Drum	No report.
E. Evangelism/Witness	Alan Shull	No report.
F. Stephen Ministry	Libby Travis	No report.
G. Fellowship/Hospitality	Rick Bivens	No report.
H. Cemetery	Todd Childers	No report.
I. Finance/Stewardship	Rick Bivens	No report.
J. Youth Ministry (Christian Education)	Alan Shull	No report.
K. Treasurer’s Report	Rick Bivens	No report.

Adjournment

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

Next Meeting Monday, February 19, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Devotions – Alan Shull; Offering Tabulators – Todd Childers and Alan Shull

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Grace Notes

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church NALC
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