

# GraceNotes



A Monthly Publication of the Congregational Activities of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Newton, NC  
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**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER**  
**THURSDAY, MAY 2**



**MOTHER'S DAY**  
**SUNDAY, MAY 12**



**ASCENSION OF OUR LORD**  
**THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2024**



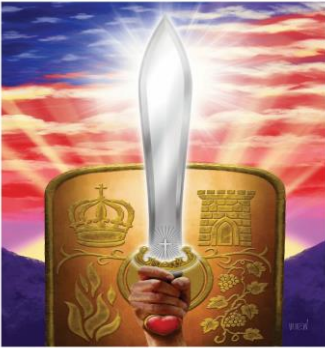
**DAY OF PENTECOST**  
**SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2024**



**MEMORIAL DAY**  
**MONDAY, MAY 27, 2024**

## NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

**Theme: Lift Up the Word - Light Up the World**  
**May 2, 2024**



### **LIFT UP THE WORD – LIGHT UP THE WORLD**

For you are my lamp, O Lord, and my God lightens my darkness. For by You I can run against a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall. This God – his way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; He is a shield for all those who take refuge in Him.

2 Samuel 22:29-31

Jesus, we profess our faith in You. You are the Light of the world, and in You there is no darkness. For You are our lamp, O LORD, and our God who lights our darkness. Forgive us for fearing and focusing on the darkness around us instead of being filled with faith and shining like the city on a hill You have called us to be. Forgive us for the times when we have been the absence of light, allowing darkness to dwell in America. Lead us forward to dispel the darkness and bring light throughout the Church, Family, Education, Business, Military, Government, and Arts, Entertainment, and Media.

We are saved by grace through faith, released from the darkness that once held us captive and now free to walk in the newness of life in You. Light dispels darkness and exposes what is hidden and wicked, so we commit to rise and shine! For by You, Lord, we can take courage to run against the enemy, and by our God we can fight the good fight and keep the faith as living lampstands in our communities and country. We fear no evil for You are with us.

Lord, Your way is perfect, You lead us on paths of righteousness for Your name's sake. Your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Your Word is Truth, instructing and inspiring us to live in the abundant life You gave when You saved us from the death and destruction of the enemy. Fill us with Truth as we read, study, and live Your Word.

God, You are a shield for all those who take refuge in You. As we abide in You and Your Word abides in us, we take up our shield of faith and the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God and run boldly into the darkness to **Lift Up the Word and Light Up the World!**

In the Mighty name of Jesus we pray, Amen!

*Written by National Day of Prayer Task Force President, Kathy Branzell*

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR MAY

- ❖ Lector Alan Shull
- ❖ Ushers Jack Wilfong and James Hall
- ❖ Communion Assistants Alan and Stormy Shull
- ❖ 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 MAY

5/05 - OPEN	5/19 - OPEN
5/12 - OPEN	5/26 – Todd Childers

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 memorial for this wonderful gift of beatification of the worship.

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

	3/28/24 Maundy Thurs.	3/29/24 Good Friday	3/31/24 Easter Sunrise	3/31/24 Easter 10:30
Sunday School	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Worship	22	22	36	36
General Fund Offerings	\$197.00	\$302.00	\$370.00	\$4,115.00

	4/7/24	4/14/24	4/21/24
Sunday School	11	9	4
Worship	39	41	32
General Fund Offerings	\$2,125.00	\$1,675.00	\$950.00

Needed Each Week = \$3,268.54

**General Fund Offerings, March, 2024 = \$10,880.00**

**General Fund Expenses, March, 2024 = \$9,989.47**

**Difference = +\$890.53 (offerings exceeded expenses)**

**THE GRACE PRAYER BREAKFAST** will be held on **Saturday, May 11th 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 SUPERVISION** will be held on **Monday, May 13th at 6:00 p.m.**

**THE GRACE PRAYER LUNCHEON** will be held on **Wednesday, May 15th at noon in the Fellowship Hall.** This is a time for any adults from Grace and the community to come together for good food and fellowship! Please give Betty Wilfong a call at (828) 461-6604 and let her know if you plan to attend.

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE LEADERSHIP MINISTRY BOARD** is scheduled for **Monday, May 20th at 6:00 pm.**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS! VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** will be held on **Sunday, June 9 through Thursday, June 13** at Plateau United Methodist in Plateau. We will be partnering with Zion, Sardis and Plateau. The theme this year is “Campfire Light.” Please contact Stormy Shull for details if you are available to volunteer. Everyone is welcome! Come and join the fun!

**THE ASHURE (FORMERLY ECCCM) FOOD ASK FOR THE MONTH OF MAY** is pet food (National Pet Month). The food pantry will accept any food donations; however, the monthly food ask is a way to help make sure that certain items are stocked. Another way to help is to donate unwanted items in good condition to the Thrifty Threads & Treasures Store. You can drop off donations Monday – Friday from 8:30am – 4:30 pm at 245 East N Street in Newton. It’s a real way to make a difference right here in Catawba County!

**JOB OPENING** – Grace is currently accepting applications for the part-time secretary/administrative assistant position. For details, see a Board Member.

**SPECIAL OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX SHIPPING FEES!** There is now a supply of special envelopes specifically for Christmas Shoebox Shipping Fees located in the Narthex, and another supply is located with the supply of shoeboxes in the children’s choir section. These envelopes can be used any Sunday.

## **THE CALL COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

The Call Committee has completed the profile for a new pastor and is currently attempting to update the church website. We need recent pictures of Grace showing the church, the fellowship hall or any others that you may have. Other suggestions are pictures at a reunion, birthday party, VBS, or a play in the sanctuary. We will let you know if there is anything else that is needed to update the site.

## **40 DAYS OF PRAYERS**

The Congregation is being asked by the Call Committee for 40 days of prayers that began on Easter Sunday in our search for a new pastor. The prayers need to be from the heart, but if you are struggling, prayers are in the hymnals. This is part of the Call Process. The input from the Congregation thus far has been instrumental. May God Bless You...Your Grace Call Committee

## **THE GRACE CONGREGATION IS INVITED TO JOIN MT. OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY TO ENJOY AN AFTERNOON OF FAITH, FUN, FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP ON SUNDAY, MAY 5<sup>TH</sup> FROM 2:00 – 5:00 P.M.**

Included in the event will be a free concert, children's activities, food vendors and giveaways. Those bringing canned food for the Salvation Army Food Pantry will have a chance to win door prizes. The proceeds from drink sales will benefit the Kindness Project Hickory.

Following performances by local soloists and musical groups, award winning inspirational/country artist, Shellem Cline, will perform. Along with his musical performance, Shellem includes humor, encouragement, inspiration and the message of the Gospel. Bring a yard chair or blanket to enjoy the music.

**This event will be at Mt. Olive on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.** and was designed to bring everyone together in the spirit of love and friendship.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO LANDON MOSS!** He is graduating from Maiden High School this month! Landon is the son of Aaron Moss and the grandson of Jane Moss.

**THE PEOPLE OF GOD AT GRACE** extend our Christian sympathy, love and prayers to the family of Coble Hartman, grandson of Pastor Gary and Hope, who entered the Church Triumphant on April 13, 2024. May God comfort all who mourn.

**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!** Mother's Day is on **Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>**! Let's remember to lift up our beloved Mothers on that day (and every day) in honor and remembrance and thank them for their sacrifices!

**MEMORIAL DAY** is celebrated on Monday, **May 27<sup>th</sup>**! Let's remember to take a moment to honor the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. Military.

**THE MONTH OF MAY IS NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH!** Each year, Catawba County Social Services asks churches in the community to help spread awareness by participating in Foster Care Sunday which is on **May 19, 2024**. There are now over 180 children in foster care in Catawba County, and there are only 63 licensed foster, adoptive, and kinship families in the county. There are more than 15 children who are waiting to be adopted. Over 100 local children have had to leave our county due to a lack of foster homes in our area. If one family in each church agreed to become a foster family, there would be no shortage of foster homes. If you would like to get involved, please contact Trista Newton, Catawba County Social Services at 828-695-4553 or [tnewton@catawbacountync.gov](mailto:tnewton@catawbacountync.gov).

**ASHURE (FORMERLY ECCCM) 24<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT - THURSDAY, MAY 9<sup>TH</sup> AT GLEN OAKS GOLF CLUB** - You are invited to participate in the Ashure Annual Golf Tournament at Glen Oaks Golf Club on May 9<sup>th</sup>. This is a key event for Ashure Ministry, and it's going to be a great day for a great cause. The cost is \$110 for one player and \$440 for a foursome. Registration begins at 11:00 a.m. Register online at [ASHUREMINISTRY.ORG/GOLF](http://ASHUREMINISTRY.ORG/GOLF).

**THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD, (May 9, 2024)** 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.

**WE BEGIN THE SEASON OF PENTECOST (Day of Pentecost - May 19, 2024)** - Easter is the central feast of the Christian year. The Day of Pentecost is the culmination of the Easter celebration. The risen Christ, having shown himself to his disciples and having ascended, sends the promised gift of the Holy Spirit to the expectant church.

**THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LEADERSHIP MINISTRY BOARD** scheduled for Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, was cancelled.

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**MINUTES**  
**Of Leadership Ministry Board Special Meeting**  
**Monday, March 22, 2024**

**Call to Order** Called to order at 5:59 PM by Tim Eckard.

**Devotions** By Libby Travis and prayer by Tim Eckard.

**Minutes** Approved as written for the February and March meetings.

**Roll Call** **Present:** Tim Eckard, Jason Yoder, Rick Bivens, Todd Childers, Libby Travis, Jeff Scronce, Alan Shull  
**Absent:** Sheila Drum

**New Business**

- A. The Memorial Garden area needs some landscaping attention. Jason Yoder will reach out to the landscaping contractor for a quote on mulching the area.
- B. A love offering will be collected for the next 2 Sundays for Pastor Gary and Hope Coble.

**Old Business**

- A. Jason Yoder provided an update on the call committee.
  - 1. The profile is nearly complete and will be uploaded soon.
  - 2. Jason Yoder is working on an update to the church website.
- B. There have been no applications received for the administrative assistant position.
- C. Sandi Tallant will be away for 3 Sundays in June and a supply organist is needed for those dates.
- D. Jason Yoder provided an update on some recent repairs:
  - 1. The gutters have been reinforced with gutter screws and the roof was patched in a few places.
  - 2. Thresholds have been repaired at Union Church.
  - 3. The basement door for Union Church needs repair. Arrangements will be made for the repair to be made.

**Ministry Team Reports:**

- A. Praise and Worship – Tim Eckard
  - 1. Pastor Coble is scheduled for May 5<sup>th</sup> and May 12<sup>th</sup>.
  - 2. Pastor East is scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup> and May 26<sup>th</sup>.

- B. Youth Ministry/Christian Education – Alan Shull
  - 1. Shelly Scronce attended a VBS planning meeting at Plateau Methodist Church.
- C. Call Committee – Jason Yoder – Update provided under old business above.
- D. Stephen Ministry – Rick Bivens
  - 1. Stephen Ministers will distribute communion to our homebound members.
- E. Fellowship/Hospitality – Rick Bivens
  - 1. Homecoming planning is underway.
- F. Finance/Stewardship – Rick Bivens
- G. Treasurer’s Report – Rick Bivens

**Adjournment:**

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

*Next meeting: Monday, May 20 at 6:00 PM.*

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

# Grace Notes

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