

Grace Notes



A Monthly Publication of the Congregational Activities of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Newton, NC
email: gracencnewton@aol.com website: www.gracelutheran-newton.org Church Office: 704-462-1035
Volume 227, Number 8 **AUGUST 2024**

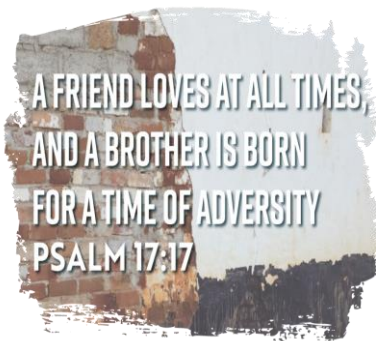
HOMECOMING SUNDAY

Sunday, August 25, 2024

Worship at
10:30

Covered
Dish Lunch

*Guest Pastor
Nathan Yoder*



“THE PLEASANTNESS OF A FRIEND”

BY DR. RICH RUDOWSKE

From The Concordian, August 2023 edition

“Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart and the pleasantness of a friend springs from their heartfelt advice.” Proverbs 27:9

The Proverbs are interesting. Some of them are advice for life and call for us to change. Others, like this one, are just observations of how life works and what is good or not good.

The Lord is so good to place human beings in community with each other. What a gift to share life together, to reflect on the wisdom God gives us to share, to sharpen one another, and to spur each other on to doing what is right!

The Surgeon General of the United States recently issued a statement that the biggest epidemic growing right now in our nation is loneliness and its impact is more devastating than a 15 cigarette per day habit on life expectancy.

The Lord created us to be in relationships. Our pandemic influenced culture of self-pick up at restaurants, pay at the pump, abundant zoom meetings and screen time distractions has set us up to reap the results we are now seeing. Deep loneliness.

How could you take a first step to invite friendship and show real, personal hospitality? Who can you lean it with to grow closer and share life together?

Lord, give us wisdom to be a pleasant and true friend May we invest in and receive heartfelt advice and grow deeper connected to you and to the people you place in our lives. Amen.

By: Jessica Albers | [Scripture Engagement](#) | Lutheran Bible Translators

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU FROM PAM TALLENT - Thursday, June 27th - my last day as administrative assistant at Grace - was a bittersweet day for me. I was sad to leave my job at Grace, but at this point in my life, I felt like it was the right move. I am very excited about the future! I was absolutely speechless when I received the monetary gift, which is very much appreciated! I thank all of you for your kind words. Enjoy your summer!



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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR AUGUST

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| ❖ Lector | Todd Childers |
| ❖ Ushers | Jeff Scronce & James Hall |
| ❖ Communion Assistants | Rick & Cindy Bivens |
| ❖ Altar Preparation | Herb & Libby Travis |
| ❖ Offering Tabulators | Todd Childers & 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 AUGUST



8/04	Kim Parker	8/18	OPEN
8/11	OPEN	8/25	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 9:00 AM and 1:00 PM 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 JUNE/JULY

	6/30/24	7/07/24	7/14/24	7/21/24
Sunday School	7	4	5	4
Worship	37	43	48	30
General Fund Offerings	\$4,275	\$2,500	\$1,520	\$1,040

Needed Each Week = \$3,268.54
General Fund Offerings, June 2024 = \$13,048.00
General Fund Expenses, June 2024 = \$9,367.21
Difference = +\$3,680.79 (offerings exceeded expenses)



Wilfong Family Reunion

Sunday, August 4th

Grace Church Fellowship Hall

Leonard Family Reunion

Sunday, August 18th

Grace Church Fellowship Hall

Conrad Yoder Family Reunion

Honoring the heritage of their ancestors, the family of Conrad Yoder will gather together in Maiden, NC on the traditional second Sunday in August. There will be a covered-dish lunch at 1:00PM in the fellowship hall of **St. Martin's Lutheran Church**, the former parish of Rev. Robert Anderson Yoder (pastor 1898-1900; 1901-1905). Following the meal, there will be a business meeting and planning session for hosting the 2025 National Yoder Reunion in recognition of the 300th birthday of Conrad Yoder – so please come with some ideas to share.

St. Martin's Lutheran Church

214 West Main Street

Maiden, NC 28650

RSVP: Text, call or e-mail Rachael Kennedy

Cell: 704-467-2272

rachaelkennedy466@gmail.com

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE - The Call Committee met Wednesday, July 17th at 6:00 at Sunny Side restaurant in Mt. View. Present were: Tim Eckard, Jason Yoder, David and Belinda Wilfong, Jacob and Twanna Jarrett, Rick and Cindy Bivens, Joe and Lynette Momier, Michael and Shelly Scronce, and Alan and Stormy Shull. Joining us last night was our new secretary, Kristi and her two beautiful children. Joe led us in prayer and fellowship and we discussed the news that there is no news on receiving a pastor at this time. Kristi was very helpful to discuss some options she knew of, due to being a Pastor's wife, and going through the process. It was decided that we would edit our profile to update some of the information and to upload it to an additional Pastoral site that provides us with the Table Talk. All of the members agreed that this may further our chances of getting a pastor. Please continue to pray for the process and God's timing.

2024 NALC ONLINE MISSION COVOCATION - Join us online Friday, August 9, from 6-9 p.m. ET to hear from Bishop Dan Selbo, participate in elections and voting, and hear updates from across the NALC. It is easier than ever to attend the NALC Mission Convocation. With no need to travel, and minimal registration costs, we encourage all pastors and delegates to attend. Invite members of your congregation to join in on the livestream as well!

THE GRACE PRAYER BREAKFAST will be held on **Saturday, August 10th 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 resume September 9th. If you need more details please reach out to Herb Travis.

THIS IS A REMINDER THAT THE GRACE PRAYER LUNCHEON WILL NOT BE HELD DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS. Betty Wilfong would like to let you know that she looks forward to seeing you all again this fall!

MT. VIEW & HICKORY LOCATIONS

The Hospice Resale Shop
Supports Carolina Caregiving

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

All skills and abilities welcome for the following tasks. Pick up a volunteer application today!

- **Sorting & Hanging Clothing**
- **Customer Service**
- **E-Commerce**
- **Cleaning & Organizing**
- **Receiving**
- **Pricing**
- **Furniture Prep & Repair**
- **Vintage & Antique Appraisal**
- **Moving & Hauling**

THE HOSPICE RESALE SHOP

CAROLINACARING.ORG/HOSPICERESALESHP
(828) 267-9894

Family Builders of Catawba Valley

Family Builders of Catawba Valley, part of Catawba County Social Services, has a mission to create, build, strengthen and sustain all families through foster, adoption and kinship services. We affirm the philosophy that every child has the right to a safe, loving and permanent home.

In order to better meet the needs of our children, we maintain a fully stocked supply closet which is used to provide essential items to children when they first come into foster care.

Summer 2024 – Current Needs:

- New Summer Clothing
 - Childrens
 - Juniors
 - Adults (small – large)
- New Underwear and Bras
- Travel Size Shampoo & Conditioner
- Twin Size Sheets & Comforters
- Diaper Cream
- Baby Wash & Baby Care Kits

THE ASHURE (FORMERLY ECCCM) FOOD ASK FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST is canned foods with pop tops.

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. Ashure is also currently low on grocery bags. It's a real way to make a difference right here in Catawba County.



The Disaster Response Fund provides resources for:

- respond rapidly when domestic natural disasters occur
- alleviate human suffering
- provide transitional assistance
- enable those affected to begin the rebuilding process

NALC Disaster Response has resources and capabilities to assist in early response and longer-term recovery. We can open the gates to material resources, networking, counseling, training, and volunteers. Disaster Response is currently collecting Flood Buckets and Cleaning Supplies. Your support is greatly appreciated.

FLOOD BUCKETS/ CLEANING SUPPLIES

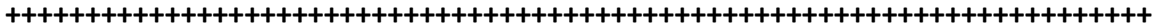
- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|----------------|
| -1 five-gallon bucket with lid | -Pine Sol or liquid floor cleaner | -Broom |
| -2 large trash bags | -Dust Mask (N-95 recommended) | -Scrub Brush |
| -Comet or scouring cleaner | -Rakes, shovels, hoes (for debris removal) | -Rubber Gloves |

Another cherished tradition of the NALC Mission Convocation is the Women of the NALC's sponsorship of a booth displaying a Tonka Truck to collect gift cards for NALC Disaster Response. These annual collections are vital for supporting those in crisis.

Even during an online convocation, it is crucial for our church body to continue collecting gift cards from places like Lowe's, Home Depot, and Walmart. This year, storms, tornadoes, and fires have been numerous. Mary Bates, NALC Disaster Response Coordinator, hopes to gather a substantial amount of gift cards during our 2024 Convocation. Let's set a goal of \$15,000 in gift cards this year.

Hurricane season is approaching, and we expect numerous storms. Please encourage your congregation to participate in collecting gift cards of any amount (\$10, \$20, \$50, \$100, \$500).

Please mail the gift cards to: NALC Disaster Response
16500 Noble Avenue
Caldwell, OH 4372



MINUTES
Leadership Ministry Board Meeting
Monday, July 15, 2024

Call to Order Called to order at 5:55 PM by Tim Eckard.

Devotions Jason Yoder

Roll Call Present: Tim Eckard, Jason Yoder, Rick Bivens, Todd Childers, Libby Travis, Sheila Drum (via telephone), Jeff Scronce, Alan Shull

New Business

- A. Minutes of the June meeting were read and approved as written.
- B. Nathan Yoder has provided 2 dates for Homecoming – August 25th or September 1st. The Board selected August 25th as the date.
- C. Recently several people have come to the church seeking money. A sign will be posted on the door advising that no cash is kept on the premises and referring them to Ashure Ministry and others for immediate assistance.
- D. Gene Crouse provided information about water line construction on Hickory Lincolnton Highway. A motion was made and seconded that the Board will delegate to Gene Crouse authority to negotiate with the City of Hickory on behalf of Grace Church.
MOTION CARRIED.

Old Business:

- A. Rick Bivens is working on getting the organ speakers repaired.
- B. Blue Ridge landscaping has completed mulching around the Parsonage and the Columbarium area in the cemetery.
- C. The AC unit that cools the upstairs hallway is not working. The cost of replacement is \$5200 with a 5-year warranty. A motion was made and seconded to replace the unit.
MOTION CARRIED.

Ministry Team Reports:

- A. Praise and Worship – Tim Eckard
 - 1. Pastor Coble will be here August 4th and August 18th.
- B. Outreach / Crisis Assistance – Sheila Drum – no report.
- C. Evangelism / Witness – Alan Shull – no report.
- D. Youth Ministry / Christian Education – Alan Shull – no report.
- E. Call Committee – Jason Yoder – no report.
- F. Stephen Ministry – Libby Travis – no report.
- G. Fellowship / Hospitality – Rick Bivens – no report.
- H. Finance / Stewardship – Rick Bivens- no report.

- I. Treasurer's Report – Rick Bivens – Financial reports were distributed.
- J. Property / Facilities – Jason Yoder
 - 1. The fluorescent lights in Fellowship Hall need replacement. Jason has replaced half the lights in the kitchen and will continue until all are done.
 - 2. To replace the lights in the dining room area with LED bulbs will cost approximately \$500. Motion was made and seconded to purchase the replacement bulbs.
MOTION CARRIED.
- K. Cemetery – Todd Childers – no report.

Adjournment:

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

Next meeting: Monday, August 19, 2024 at 6:00 PM

Devotions – Tim Eckard

Offering Tabulators – Todd Childers and Tim Eckard

Grace Notes

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