

Grace Notes



A Monthly Publication of the Congregational Activities of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Newton, NC
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Volume 227, Number 9 **SEPTEMBER 2024**



Sunday, September 22
FIRST DAY OF FALL

On Labor Day, Christians Can Experience Deeper Rest

Theology of Work / August 20, 2022 / Biblical truths and principles

Rest is important for everyone, but it's a biblical command for God's people. This Labor Day, remember that even God took a day to rest from all his labors. The rhythms of work and rest are critical for the care of our souls and our relationship with the one who calls us to rest.

God loves people so much that he was willing to leave his place of perfect rest in order to enter into the unrest of this world. Christ, the Lord of the Sabbath, became incarnate, as a man who had "no place to lay his head" (Matthew 8:20), so that his followers could find real rest.

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. – Matthew 11:28-30

Believers can give Jesus their burdens and experience deeper rest. However, it takes a full surrendering of minds, hearts, and wills.

Many barriers to rest start in the mind. Angry, fearful, or anxious thoughts prevent rest. It is particularly difficult to rest when life circumstances create resentments against others, fears of the myriad things that can go wrong, or anxiety about others' expectations. Hebrews reminds believers to let go of the obstacles of the mind and look instead to Christ, with trust in him for the future.

Christ himself, as he faces the agony and shame of death, focuses upon the joy of the future.

Let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. – Hebrews 12:1-2

This freedom to fix active thoughts on Christ, and in particular a future hope of glory, can be found throughout the letters of the New Testament.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. – Philippians 4:8

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. – Colossians 3:1-4

For this light momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. – 2 Corinthians 4:17-18

A critical part of experiencing deep rest is being proactive about what thoughts fill the mind.

Philippians exhorts people to think about things that are good and true and beautiful. Colossians encourages Christians to imagine the glorious future that awaits all those who look to Christ. Second Corinthians asks believers to recognize current problems and difficulties as momentary afflictions compared to the eternal rest that awaits. Christians can choose to follow this advice or be overwhelmed by trials and difficulties. To rest fully is to anchor the mind upon Jesus and the perfect future that awaits all who follow him.

Secondly, entering into a faithful rest involves examining existing desires. Jesus invites “all who are weary” to come to him for rest (Matthew 11:28), but each individual must first respond in his or her heart to that invitation. Coming to Christ is not a trivial or passive decision. Jesus makes clear that being a disciple is a life-consuming reality that requires a self-denial that doesn’t come naturally.

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?” – Matthew 16:24-26

As we approach Labor Day let us be mindful of our call as God’s children to be in a life rhythm that includes rest and faithfulness to God’s call for sabbath. God bless you in your life, in your work and in your rest.

THE GRACE PRAYER BREAKFAST will be held on **Saturday, September 14th at 9am** 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 on Monday, September 9th at 6pm. If you need more details please reach out to Herb Travis.

THE GRACE PRAYER LUNCHEON Will resume on Wednesday, September 18th from 12-2pm in the Grace Fellowship Hall. Betty Wilfong would like to let you know that she looks forward to seeing you all again soon! If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Betty.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE LEADERSHIP MINISTRY BOARD is scheduled for **Monday, September 16th at 6pm.**

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR SEPTEMBER

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ❖ Lector | Stormy Shull |
| ❖ Ushers | Jeff Scronce & Jack Wilfong |
| ❖ Communion Assistants | Herb & Libby Travis |
| ❖ Altar Preparation | Herb & Libby Travis |
| ❖ Offering Tabulators | Todd Childers & Jason Yoder |

*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 SEPTEMBER



9/1	Todd Childers	9/22	OPEN
9/8	OPEN	9/29	OPEN
9/15	Frankie Crouse		

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 JULY/AUGUST 2024

	7/28/24	8/4/24	8/11/24	8/18/24
Sunday School	6	6	7	6
Worship	38	38	36	42
General Fund Offerings	\$1,170	\$5,765	\$1,630	\$1340

Needed Each Week = \$3,268.54
General Fund Offerings, July 2024 = \$6,346.00
General Fund Expenses, July 2024 = \$8,122.85
Difference = - 1.776.85 (expenses exceeded offerings)

Church Office Closed

**HAPPY
LABOR
DAY!**

Monday, September 2nd



Sunday, September 8th

Lord God almighty,
 Bless our Grandparents with long life,
 happiness and health. May they remain
 constant in your love and be living
 signs of your presence to their children
 and grandchildren. We ask this through
 Christ our Lord.
 Amen.

Congratulations

Emily Crouse and her fiancé
 Logan Sipe on their upcoming
 marriage.

May Jesus always be at the center
 of your marriage and the
 guidepost for your happy life
 together.

Carolina Caring Foundation
 presents
**THE 22ND ANNUAL
 FRIENDS FORE
 HOSPICE GOLF
 TOURNAMENT**
50/50 BALL DROP CONTEST

07 OCTOBER, 2024

**Winner Receives Half of the
 Prize Pot!**

You Do Not Need to be Present to Win

\$20
 Per Entry

**FRIENDS
 FORE
 HOSPICE**

**CAROLINA
 CARING
 FOUNDATION**

3975 ROBINSON ROAD, NEWTON, NC
 28658

WWW.CAROLINACARING.ORG/GOLF
 828.466.0466

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD is just around the corner with the annual November collection of shoeboxes. Take advantage of the end-of-summer and back-to-school sales to begin gathering items now to fill as many shoeboxes as we can. We have boxes and labels available in the Children's Choir area for your use.

THE ASHURE (FORMERLY ECCCM) FOOD ASK FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER peanut butter or jelly. 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. As a church family, we have donated 887 pounds of food to help those less fortunate and suffering from hunger in our community. Great Job!



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19TH

Share the Harvest

BENEFITING:

 **Ashure**
MINISTRY

FROM 5PM - 11PM

HICKORY METRO CONVENTION CENTER
1960 13TH AVE DR SE, HICKORY

EAT | FELLOWSHIP | DANCE | RAFFLES & MORE

Details

TICKETS

Individual Tickets - \$40 each
Table (8 top) - \$320

LIVE MUSIC BY

THE **EXTRAORDINAIRES**

DINNER PREPARED BY

liazzo's

Purchase by October 1, 2024

FOR MORE INFORMATION
www.ashureministry.org

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MINUTES
Leadership Ministry Board Meeting
Monday, August 19, 2024

Call to Order Called to order at 6:05 PM by Tim Eckard.

Devotions Tim Eckard

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

New Business:

- A. Minutes of the July meeting were read and approved as written.
- B. A cell phone company has reached out to us inquiring about the possibility of placing a cell phone tower on church land. Will inquire for more details about the proposal.
- C. The Board rejected a request from a local history buff who would like to metal detect around the old Union Church.
- D. On November 16, the John Hoyle Chapter of the DAR will be coming to Grace Cemetery to have a service to honor him and place a plaque on his grave. They have requested that Union Church be available to them in case the weather is bad. The request was approved.
- E. Frankie Crouse has donated new curtains for Fellowship Hall. A motion was made and seconded to install mini blinds in Fellowship Hall. MOTION CARRIED.
- F. Jason Yoder has completed a landscaping project around Fellowship Hall.

Old Business:

- A. Tim Eckard will reach out to Doug Brady concerning repairs to the organ.
- B. All the lights in Fellowship Hall have been converted to LED.

Ministry Team Reports:

- A. Praise and Worship – Tim Eckard
 - 1. Pastor Coble will lead worship 9/1, 9/8, and 9/15.
 - 2. Pastor East will lead worship 9/22.
 - 3. Pastor Carl Haynes will lead worship 9/29.
- 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
 - 1. Senior lunches will resume on September 18.

- H. Finance / Stewardship – Rick Bivens – no report.
- I. Treasurer’s Report – Rick Bivens – no report.
- J. Property / Facilities – Jeff Scronce – no report.
- 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, September 16 at 6:00 PM.

Devotions – Jeff Scronce

Offering Tabulator – Todd Childers and Jason Yoder

Grace Notes

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