

# Grace Notes



A Monthly Publication of the Congregational Activities of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Newton, NC  
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## Call Committee Update

The call committee recently presented a potential pastor to the Leadership Ministry Board. On Monday, September 23rd the Leadership Ministry Board held a special meeting to have a conversation with the pastor. After thoughtful discernment and prayer, the decision was made to recommend Pastor Doug Hefner to the congregation for a vote on extending him a call to be our next pastor at Grace. Tim Eckard and Stormy Shull addressed the congregation on Sunday, September 29th to announce this recommendation. Pastor Doug will be joining us on **Sunday, October 13th** for a Meet and Greet at 9am to allow church members the opportunity to meet him, as well as having an opportunity to ask any questions that you may have. Following the Meet and Greet, Pastor Hefner will preach and preside during worship. He will also be available after worship for anyone who would like to have a conversation with him. The following **Sunday, October 20th**, there will be a congregational meeting to vote on Pastor Doug.



## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR OCTOBER

- |                        |                             |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ❖ Lector               | Alan Shull                  |
| ❖ Ushers               | James Hall & Jack Wilfong   |
| ❖ Communion Assistants | Herb & Libby Travis         |
| ❖ Altar Preparation    | Herb & Libby Travis         |
| ❖ Offering Tabulators  | Todd Childers & Rick Bivens |

*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 OCTOBER



10/06	Belinda Wilfong	10/20
10/13		10/27

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 AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

	8/25/24	9/01/24	9/08/24	09/15/24	09/22/24
Sunday School	6	7	5	6	5
Worship	55	51	40	38	35
General Fund Offerings	\$1,510	\$4,950	\$2,515	\$1450.00	\$868

Needed Each Week = \$3,268.54  
**General Fund Offerings, August 2024 = \$10,538.44**  
**General Fund Expenses, August 2024 = \$7,606.31**  
**Difference = +\$2,932.13 (offerings exceeded expenses)**

# \*\*\* ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING \*\*\*

We ask that everyone please plan to attend worship on Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> for our annual Congregational Meeting prior to worship. This meeting is an important part of planning for the year ahead. We will be electing new Leadership Ministry Board members, approving the 2025 spending plan and conducting any other business of the church during this time. The meeting should be brief and will be held prior to worship. Please plan to arrive for the meeting to begin at 10:25 sharp.

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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 |

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. Hurricane season is here, 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 43724

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THE GRACE PRAYER LUNCHEON will be held on Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup> from 12-2pm in the Grace Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend! Please see Betty Wilfong with any questions.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE LEADERSHIP MINISTRY BOARD is scheduled for Monday, October 21st at 6:00 pm.

**THE GRACE PRAYER BREAKFAST** will be held on **Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> 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!

### **WOULD YOU LIKE TO REQUEST A VISIT?**

Our Stephen Ministers are trained and ready to make visits when requested. They can come to your home, hospital or a long-term facility to visit. Please contact Stephen Ministry Leader, Herb Travis (704-240-7359) to request a visit. We are thankful that these servants of Grace have taken this training to help care for our church family, especially during the transitional time between pastors.

### **THE ASHURE (FORMERLY ECCCM) FOOD ASK FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER** is hygiene items.

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

**Hygiene Items We Accept**

	Shampoo	Lotion	Sunscreen
	Conditioner	Facemasks	Shaving Care
	Deodorant	Hand Sanitizer	Body Wipes
	Soap	Socks	Lip Balm
	Toothbrush	Menstrual Care	Laundry Soap
	Toothpaste	Body Wash	and much more

 All ages, Travel size & Full size  
New, Unused, Unexpired Only 



### **OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH AND OCTOBER 6<sup>th</sup> IS DESIGNATED AS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS DAY!**

“PINK SUNDAY” is a day to help us honor those around us that have suffered from the effects of breast cancer. It is also a time to raise awareness to promote screening and prevention of the disease. Everyone is asked to wear **PINK** on Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup> in support of Breast Cancer Awareness.

### **The Catawba County Hunger Walk will be on Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> in downtown Newton.**

The hunger walk is designed to raise awareness and much needed funding for hunger initiatives in Catawba County. The three non-profits that host the event and benefit from funds raised are Ashure Ministry, The Corner Table and Hickory Soup Kitchen. To register for the walk or donate money to these important ministries please visit [www.cchungerwalk.com](http://www.cchungerwalk.com)





**Pastor Appreciation Day is Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>!** We would like to take the time to honor both of our Supply Pastors during the month of October, just to let them know how much they are appreciated. Our church is blessed to have both Pastor Coble and Pastor East. Thank you both for all the ways that you make a difference in our church and in the community.

**Trunk or Treat will be on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>!** Mark your calendars and plan to attend our annual Trunk or Treat event on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. As always, costumes are welcome but not required. More information to come later in October.



**Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**Reformation Sunday**  
**Wear RED to Worship!**





**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**  
**DEADLINE: SUNDAY, NOV. 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Shoeboxes can be found in the Children’s Choir Loft.** Each box contains a “How to Pack a Shoebox” pamphlet and a “peel and stick” label. **The deadline is Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>.**

**The shipping cost is \$10 this year.** You do not need to include cash or check in your shoebox. Instead, **make your check out to Grace Lutheran Church and be sure to write: “For: Shoebox” on the memo line and place it in the offering plate on Sunday.** Once the shoeboxes start coming in, we will keep you updated with a total. Let’s work hard to meet the goal of 150 shoeboxes!

### SHOEBOX GIFT IDEAS

<b>“WOW” ITEM</b>	Soccer ball with pump, doll, stuffed animal, shoes
<b>TOYS</b>	Jump ropes, yo-yos, toys that light up and make noise, batteries
<b>PERSONAL CARE ITEMS</b>	Toothbrushes, washcloths, combs, hairbrushes
<b>SCHOOL SUPPLIES</b>	Pens, pencils, sharpeners, crayons, markers, notebooks, paper, coloring and picture books, solar calculators
<b>ACCESSORIES</b>	Socks, sunglasses, jewelry and watches, flashlights, batteries
<b>FOR ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS</b>	<a href="http://www.samaritanspurse.org/occ">www.samaritanspurse.org/occ</a>

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**MINUTES**  
**Leadership Ministry Board Meeting**  
**Monday, September 16, 2024**

**Call to Order**    Called to order at 6:02 PM by Tim Eckard.

**Devotions**        Alan Shull

**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 August meeting were read and approved as written.
- B. The annual Congregational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 3 immediately preceding worship. The annual budget will be presented for approval and elections will be held for the Leadership Ministry Board.
- C. A motion was made and seconded to send a \$150 donation to the Gordon Conwell Seminary in Charlotte. MOTION CARRIED.
- D. The Board received information from Jason Yoder concerning the Call Committee's work. A potential candidate has been identified and discussions are ongoing.

**Old Business:**

- A. Rick Bivens has found someone to service / repair the organ. They will be here on Thursday September 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Ministry Team Reports:**

- A. Praise and Worship – Tim Eckard
  - 1. October 6 – Pastor East; October 13 – TBA; October 20 – Pastor Coble; October 27 – Pastor East
- B. Youth Ministry / Christian Education – Alan Shull
  - 1. Trunk or Treat is tentatively planned for Saturday, October 26.
- C. Stephen Ministry – Libby Travis – no report.
  - 1. The Stephen Ministry will not meet again until a new Pastor is in place.
- D. Property / Facilities – Jason Yoder
  - 1. The AC unit in Union Church was serviced recently. It needs to be checked / run on a regular basis.

**Adjournment:**

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

*Next meeting: Monday, October 21, 2024 at 6:00 PM*

*Devotions – Rick Bivens*

*Offering Tabulators – Todd Childers and Rick Bivens*



# Grace Notes

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church NALC  
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