

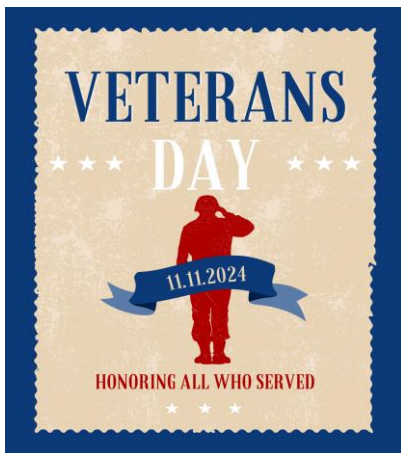
Grace Notes



A Monthly Publication of the Congregational Activities of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Newton, NC
email: gracenalcnewton@aol.com website: www.gracelutheran-newton.org Church Office: 704-462-1035
Volume 227, Number 11 **NOVEMBER 2024**



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2024
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS
10:25 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



Thanks Be to God!

Message from Pastor Doug Hefner

Psalm 107:1 O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.

The last thing we say in worship before going into the mission field to share the Gospel is ***"Thanks be to God!"*** What an appropriate response for us as we receive in worship the many gifts of God's grace and love in Christ Jesus! November is a month full of great reasons to say, ***"Thanks be to God!"*** But it's not just November; every day is a day to ***"thank the Lord for His steadfast love and wonderful works."*** Of course God's Word reminds us that we can be thankful ***"in all circumstances", "at all times", and "for everything"*** as St. Paul reminds us in ***1 Thessalonians 5:18 to "give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" and Ephesians 5:20 to give "thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."***

On **All Saints Sunday on November 3**, we will celebrate God's gift of love in Christ that sets us apart and welcomes us as God's family. In Christ we are made **saints of God** (saint means "holy one" or "set apart one"). We are welcomed into the communion of saints, the Church, which includes those in heaven and on earth. We will remember with thanksgiving the precious saints in our lives who now rest from their labors and have entered the Church Triumphant. We will light a candle and ring a bell to remember ***these saints who have blessed us and fill heaven now with thanksgiving.*** I am thankful for each of you and for the ways we have been blessed at Grace Lutheran Church to be the saints of God. I thank God for the blessing of serving as your pastor as we begin our journey of grace together.

On **Sunday, November 10**, we will remember and give thanks for our veterans who have served and sacrificed so much on our behalf. Veterans' Day is Nov 11. We will have a special **Thanksgiving Service on Nov. 17** as we sing the great Thanksgiving Hymns. On **Sun., November 24, Christ the King Sunday**, we gather to give God thanks and praise as we celebrate Christ as King and Sovereign over all. And then there is **Thanksgiving Day on Nov 28!** It is a time that our nation has set aside to thank God for all our many blessings. Thanksgiving is about Giving Thanks to God who is the giver of all good gifts. So let us give thanks for the saints, for those who serve and sacrifice, for the reign of God's love in Christ, and our many blessings.

As I reflect on the good things that God has brought to us, I am thankful for you, the body of Christ here at Grace! In Ephesians 1 Paul wrote a beautiful prayer of thanksgiving and blessing for the Church. This too is my prayer for you as we begin our journey together: ***Ephesians 1:15 "I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers."*** Saints of God at Grace, let us sing praise and give thanks for all of God's wondrous love, works and gifts in Christ! As we share in the beautiful worship services of this month, I pray that you will know God's love and lift a grateful song of praise and thanksgiving for God's many blessings.

Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving To Everyone, Pastor Doug Hefner

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR NOVEMBER

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| ❖ Lector | Herb Travis |
| ❖ Ushers | Jack Wilfong & David Wilfong |
| ❖ Communion Assistants | Sheila Drum & Cindy Bivens |
| ❖ Altar Preparation | Herb & Libby Travis |
| ❖ Offering Tabulators | Todd Childers & Libby Travis |

*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 NOVEMBER

11/3	Todd Childers	11/17
11/10	Kim Parker	11/24

If you wish to place flowers on 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. Please notify the Church Office by the Tuesday prior to your selected Sunday to ensure correct information is printed in the bulletin.

ATTENDANCE AND GIVING TO OUR LORD'S WORK FOR SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

	9/29/24	10/6/24	10/13/24	10/20/24
Sunday School	5	7	No SS	6
Worship	32	42	55	44
General Fund Offerings	\$1,310	\$4,950	\$2,130	\$1,375

Needed Each Week = \$3,268.54

General Fund Offerings, September 2024 = \$11,035.00

General Fund Expenses, September 2024 = \$9,706.46

Difference = +\$1,328.54 (offerings exceeded expenses)

***** ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING *****

We ask that everyone please plan to attend worship on Sunday, November 3rd 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 10:25am sharp!

THE ASHURE FOOD ASK FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER is flour, cornmeal and sugar. 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.



New Jerusalem Lutheran Church would like to invite you to their Senior-Friends Bake & Craft Sale on Saturday, November 23rd from 9am-1pm. Hot Dogs will be available for purchase at 10:30am. All proceeds will go to a worthy cause.

THE GRACE PRAYER BREAKFAST will be held on **Saturday, November 9th at 9:00am** at Four Peas in a Pod Restaurant on Highway 70 in Conover. Great food and great fellowship! Please come and bring a friend!

THE JOHN HOYLE CHAPTER, NSDAR AND THE CATAWBA COUNTY, SAR invite you to attend the rededication of the grave of Patriot Lieutenant John Hoyle on November 16th at 10:00am in the Grace Lutheran Church Cememtry. Light refreshments will be served. For your comfort during the ceremony, please bring your own portable chair.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE LEADERSHIP MINISTRY BOARD is scheduled for **Monday, November 18th at 6:00pm.**

THE GRACE PRAYER LUNCHEON will be held on **Wednesday, November 20th from 12-2pm** in the Grace Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend! The menu for November is Chicken n' Dumplings, Creamed Potatoes, Sugar Peas and a Surprise Dessert! Please plan on playing Betty's famous BINGO after lunch!

PLEASE ADORN THE CHANCEL ON CHRISTMAS by giving the gift of a poinsettia. This is a great way to honor or make a memorial to someone or some event. The order form and special envelope for poinsettia orders are in your bulletin each week. The cost is \$10.00 per plant. **Please have all forms in by Sunday, November 24th!**

HANGING OF THE GREENS! On Saturday, November 30th at 10:00am, the faithful will gather to participate in the Hanging of the Greens as we prepare the Sanctuary for the Advent/Christmas Seasons. The tree will be placed, as well as all of the banners and decorations needed to get us into the spirit of the season. We will need some strong hands to put up the tree, so please plan to join us!



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD
DEADLINE: SUNDAY, NOV. 17th

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. There are additional labels in the Children’s Choir Loft and the Narthex. **The deadline is Sunday, November 17th.**

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

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

A Note From Kristi – I have been given the opportunity to be the Administrative Associate for the Rector and Dean of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary at Lenoir Rhyne University. I will begin this full-time role on November 4th. I will still be working with Grace, to support you all with administrative tasks. I will primarily be working remotely, and will come by the office 1-2 days per week to check voicemails and work on tasks that can only be completed in the office. I will still be checking and responding to emails Monday through Thursday each week. This will be my last week in the office regularly. Feel free to reach out to me any time via email at gracencalnewton@aol.com or reach out to Pastor Doug with an urgent need (980)234-8848.

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MINUTES
Leadership Ministry Board - Called Meeting
Monday, September 23, 2024

<u>Call to Order</u>	Called to order at 6:00 PM by Tim Eckard.
<u>Opening Prayer</u>	by Pastor Hefner
<u>Roll Call</u>	Present: Tim Eckard, Jason Yoder, Rick Bivens, Libby Travis, Sheila Drum, Jeff Scronce, Alan Shull Absent: Todd Childers

Meeting with Pastor Douglas “Doug” Hefner

A. The Call Committee agreed to move forward in calling Pastor Hefner. This meeting is for the Board to meet with him and proceed accordingly.

Points of Conversation:

Originally from this area (Zion Lutheran); Strongly focused in music; Focusing on Evangelism; Finding ways to connect to the community; Doing one person monologs of those in the bible; Discussed his previous experience and ministries and personal issues; Discussed family; Pastor and congregation to work together to come to solutions, not authoritarian; Pre-School ministry possibilities, other community support group possibilities; Reaching out to prior or non-attending members; Financial compensation; Finding something for youths;

- Also, He will be preaching on 10/13/24 and All Saints Sunday 11/3/24;
- The Leadership Ministry Board voted to approve a recommendation to the congregation for Pastor Doug Hefner to be extended a call as our next pastor.
- Upon the end, Tim offered him the opportunity to be recommended to the congregation for a vote for him to be Pastor here at Grace Lutheran Church and he accepted.

Tim and Stormy will address the church this Sunday the 29th to announce the Call Committee’s and Boards recommendation to Call Pastor Doug Hefner as a Pastor for Grace Church. He will preach at Grace on October 13. At which time, Church Members will vote by ballots in their bulletins.

Adjournment:

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

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MINUTES
Leadership Ministry Board Meeting
Monday, October 21, 2024

Call to Order Called to order at 6:06 PM by Tim Eckard.

Devotions Rick Bivens

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 2 September meetings were read and approved as written.
- B. A motion was made and seconded to make 2 \$5,000 donations (1 to Samaritan’s Purse and 1 to the NALC Disaster Relief Fund). The donations will be made in honor of Pastor Coble and Pastor East in recognition of their service to this congregation. The funds will come from the payment from the City of Hickory for the utility easements. **MOTION CARRIED.**
- C. Kristi Tucker shared that she has accepted a new job at Lenoir-Rhyne University. It is a tremendous opportunity for her and her family. She has expressed a willingness to continue working at Grace in a remote capacity for the time being.
- D. There was a discussion regarding obtaining a new Christmas tree as the current one is in bad shape. A motion was made and seconded to purchase a new tree. **MOTION CARRIED.**
- E. The hanging of the greens will be done on Saturday, November 30th.
- F. Rick Bivens reviewed the proposed spending plan for 2025.
- G. A motion was made and seconded to accept the proposed spending plan. **MOTION CARRIED.** Time will be given on October 27 after worship for discussion / questions if anyone is interested. The plan will be put before the Congregation for a vote on Sunday, November 3.
- H. Elections for Board members will be held at the annual Congregational meeting. Tim Eckard and Jeff Scronce are eligible for re-election.

Old Business:

- A. The organ was evaluated by a technician and will perform needed service at a later date.
- B. Gene Crouse negotiated payment from the City of Hickory for utility easements across Church property along the highway. Each member of the Board signed the agreement.

Ministry Team Reports:

- A. Treasurer’s Report – Rick Bivens – Reviewed spending plan (see above).

Adjournment:

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

Next meeting: Monday, November 18, 2024 at 6:00 PM

Devotions – Libby Travis

Offering Tabulators – Todd Childers and Libby Travis

Grace Notes

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