

All Saints Sunday

November 3, 2024 A.D.

10:30 AM



GRACE

Evangelical Lutheran Church



NALC

North American Lutheran Church

Christ-Centered

Mission-Driven

Traditionally-Grounded

Congregationally-Focused

4536 Hickory Lincolnton Highway

Newton, North Carolina 28658

Church Office: 704-462-1035

email: gracenalcnewton@aol.com

www.gracelutheran-newton.org

All Saints Sunday



Welcome and Announcements

Prelude..... Please Observe Silence For Meditation

* Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness page 56

PRAISE

* Gathering Hymn.....**Shall We Gather at the River?**..... **WOV 690**

* The Salutation and Prayer of the Day.....page 62

Litany of Remembrance and Thanksgiving for All Saints

As we light a candle, we give God thanksgiving and praise for the following saints who now rest from their labors and have joined the saints and hosts of heaven:

All Saints 2024

Dennis Yoder

Rachel Heavner

The congregation may come forward to remember the saints who have shined the love and light of Christ in their lives.

EQUIP

The First Lesson..... Revelation 7:[2-8]9-17

L: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm 149 Bulletin pg. 4

The Second Lesson 1 John 3:1-3

L: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

* The Holy Gospel.....Matthew 5:1-12

Children's Sermon.....Pastor Doug

The Message....."Blessed and Beloved Saints in Christ!".....Pastor Doug

Hymn of the Day.....**For All Your Saints, O Lord**.....**LBW 176**

* The Apostles' Creed.....page 65

* The Prayers and the Peace..... page 65

GIVE

The Offering The People of God

* The Offertory and Prayerpages 66, 67

RECEIVE

* The Great Thanksgiving..... page 68

* The Eucharistic Prayer & The Lord's Prayerpages 69, 71

* **The Distribution of the Holy Sacrament**

Hymn During Communion.....**I Know that My Redeemer Lives!**.....**LBW 352**

- * Post-Communion Canticle.....*Thank the Lord*.....page 72
- * Post-Communion Prayer
- * The Benediction

SEND

- * The Sending Hymn**Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng (verses 1-4)****LBW 553**
- * The Dismissal: P: Go in peace. Be the Church! **All: Thanks be to God!**
Postlude

* = Stand Hymnals in Pew Rack: LBW = Green WOV = Blue TCH = Burgundy

WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP at Grace Church this morning as we gather to worship the Father, + Son and Holy Spirit in truth. As you entered the sanctuary today, you received this bulletin containing the order for worship and announcements. Please also notice the Prayer List where you will find a listing of all the known prayer concerns. You are invited to use this as a guide for your personal prayers throughout the coming week. If you need information about our congregation or if you'd like to update your information, make sure to fill out the yellow Worship Today Form and place it in the offering plate at the time of the offering. If you have a prayer concern, indicate that on your Worship Today Form at the bottom or on the reverse side. If you are seeking a Church Home or would like more information about Grace, please contact Pastor Doug or the Church Office this week.

THIS WEEK'S THEME: "The seal of the living God" marks the 144,000, that countless multitude whom the Lamb has saved by washing in his blood. God gives these humble folk, the poor in spirit who have admitted their need of a Savior, the salvation they could never earn or deserve. Through baptism into the life of Christ our brother, God gives us new life and calls us his children. Even more, when we see him in his appearing, we shall become like him in glory. Blessed are the saints, for whom God has given his kingdom.

FIRST LESSON: Revelation 7:[2-8]9-17

[²I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, ³saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads." ⁴And I heard the number of the sealed, 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel: ⁵12,000 from the tribe of Judah were sealed, 12,000 from the tribe of Reuben, 12,000 from the tribe of Gad, ⁶12,000 from the tribe of Asher, 12,000 from the tribe of Naphtali, 12,000 from the tribe of Manasseh, ⁷12,000 from the tribe of Simeon, 12,000 from the tribe of Levi, 12,000 from the tribe of Issachar, ⁸12,000 from the tribe of Zebulun, 12,000 from the tribe of Joseph, 12,000 from the tribe of Benjamin were sealed.] ⁹After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and

languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" ¹¹And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." ¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" ¹⁴I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. ¹⁶They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. ¹⁷For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

PSALM 149

¹Hallelujah! Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing his praise in the congregation of the faithful.

²**Let Israel rejoice in his Maker;
let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.**

³Let them praise his name in the dance;
let them sing praise to him with timbrel and harp.

⁴**For the LORD takes pleasure in his people
and adorns the poor with victory.**

⁵Let the faithful rejoice in triumph;
let them be joyful on their beds.

⁶**Let the praises of God be in their throat
and a two edged sword in their hand;**

⁷To wreak vengeance on the nations
and punishment on the peoples;

⁸**To bind their kings in chains
and their nobles with links of iron;**

⁹To inflict on them the judgment decreed;
this is glory for all his faithful people. Hallelujah!

SECOND LESSON: 1 John 3:1-3

¹See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

²Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we

know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

¹Seeing the crowds, {Jesus} went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: ³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. ⁵Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. ⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. ⁷Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. ⁸Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. ⁹Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. ¹⁰Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Next Sunday’s Readings: 1 Kings 17:8-16; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44. Readings are based on the recommended use of the English Standard Version (ESV) by the North American Lutheran Church and Lectionary of Sola Publishing. Used by Permission.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God
and in memory of his Dad, Randall Childers,
by Todd Childers.

GRACE PRAYER LIST

In the Grace Church Family: Jeffry Bivens, Rick & Cindy Bivens, Glenda Childers, Pat Dietz, Tim Eckard, Allen and Kay Hatchett, Irene Heavner, Larry Heavner, Lorene Heavner, Larry & Brenda Jarrett, Martha Johnson, Faye Lane, Harvey Leatherman, Phil & Malinda Leatherman, Betty Matheson, Joe Momier, Jane Moss, Christine Norman, Tricia and Dan Panek, Michael, Debi & Stephen Pisko, Helen Smith, Ethan Starnes, Richard & Sandi Tallant, Shirley Warlick, Scott & Carolyn Whisnant, Belinda Wilfong

Nursing Home: Juanita Haas (Trinity Village), Ted Whisnant (Trinity Village)

Friends and Relatives in our Prayers: Pray for Peace in Israel and the World, New Covenant Lutheran Mission Church, Bobby Aderholdt, Jimmy Aderholdt, LeAnn Buckwell, Caleb Bumgarner & Family, Jessica Cassels & Family, Evelyn Childers, Danny Cooper, Dee Dee Cooper, Dennis D’Alessio, Guy Franzen, Stormy Geter, Graybeal Family, Wendy Hannah, John Harwell, J.C., Michele Kirkland, Ray Porter, Lily Rose, Paul and Jenny Mulcahy, Sgt. Ryan McMullen and shift, Angela Sanford, Anita Sabino, Scott Speagle, Zachary Speagle and Amber, Nathan Starnes, Monica Thomas, United States of America; Faye White, and

especially the families of those who have given their lives in the service of our country and those who continue to protect our freedoms and for all members of our Armed Forces.

Family and Friends of: Rachel Heavner

(Names are left on the prayer list for 30 days unless the office is notified otherwise.)

PLEASE WELCOME PASTOR DOUG HEFNER! We are thrilled that Pastor Doug has been called to serve as our pastor at Grace. He is excited to be with us and is looking forward to getting to know everyone soon. It is his goal to visit everyone within the first couple months of being at Grace. If there is a need that arises and you need to reach him, you may call his cell phone (980)234-8848.

THE PEOPLE OF GOD AT GRACE extend our Christian sympathy, love and prayers to the family and friends of Rachel Lorene Smith Heavner, who entered the Church Triumphant on Sunday, October 27, 2024. Services to celebrate and remember Rachel were held on Thursday, October 31st at Grace. May God comfort all who mourn.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY is celebrated today. We remember those in the Grace Family who have entered the Church Triumphant this past year: Dennis Bruce Yoder and Rachel Lorene Smith Heavner. We also remember all of the saints gone before us who shined the love and light of Christ in our lives.

CONGRATULATIONS to Andrew Crouse and his new bride, Julia on their marriage last Saturday, October 26th in Pawleys Island, SC! May your marriage always bring glory to God, joy to one another and blessings to your family for many generations to come.

GRACE PRAYER BREAKFAST will be held this Saturday, November 9 at 9:00 am at Four Peas in a Pod Restaurant in Conover. Come join us and bring a friend!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD - 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.**

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!**

ASHURE ask for the month of November is flour, cornmeal and sugar. Your donations make a real difference right here in Catawba County! Thank you for helping to keep the food pantry stocked! Servants of Grace have donated **1301 lbs.** of food during 2024 to ASHURE! Let's see if we can get that donation up to 1500 lbs. by the end of the year, only 199 pounds to go!

*"Hallelujah! Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing his praise in the congregation of the faithful."*
Psalm 149:1

HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY TO:

9 – Betty Matheson
Steven Mullins
Wayne Powell

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today: **ALL SAINTS SUNDAY**
9:30am - Sunday School
10:30am - Worship Celebration w/ Congregational Meeting

Friday: Church Office Closed

Saturday: 9:00am – Grace Prayer Breakfast at Four Peas in a Pod

Next Sunday: **TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**
9:30am – Sunday School
10:30am - Worship Celebration

The Ministers.....	The People of Grace Lutheran Church
Pastor	Reverend Doug Hefner
Organist.....	Sandi Tallant
Administrative Assistant	Kristi Tucker
Leadership Board President	Tim Eckard
Youth Leader	Stormy Shull
Lector	Herb Travis
Communion Assistants.....	Sheila Drum & Cindy Bivens
Ushers	David Wilfong & Jack Wilfong
Altar Preparation.....	Herb & Libby Travis
Offering Tabulators	Todd Childers & Libby Travis
Custodian	Chris Abernethy



Table Talk II

By Rev. Timothy J. Swenson • ILT Dean of Chapel

All Saints Sunday | November 3, 2024



MATTHEW 5:1-12

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." (Vs. 5)

To our ears, adjusted to 21st century hearing and understanding, this verse intimates that the weak and timid will inherit the earth. In our hearing, meek is associated with diminished and mousy. Not very pleasant qualities, to be sure; not for the 21st century, at least. The word "meek" comes into our English language through the Old Norse word "mjukr" and is used to translate the Greek word "praus." The Old Norse means "gentle," while the Greek means "strength under control." In the olden days of ancient Greece, "meek" was a standard for training war horses. The best war horses were meek—that is, trained to use their strength and power under the direction and control of the warrior riding them. Not the will of the war horse but the will of the rider controlled the animal.

You can appreciate this imagery for how "meek," as it was used in ancient Greece, anticipated Luther's imagery regarding the human bound will. Luther depicted the human as a beast of burden that had a rider. The animal did not fulfill its own will but only the will of the rider. The rider could be either God or Satan. Either way, whether God or Satan, the meek beast of burden endured the control exerted by the rider. When ridden by God, the beast

enjoyed freedom (cf. Jn. 8:36). If ridden by Satan, the beast suffered under bondage.

Here we must note that the biblical notion of freedom does not include the ideas of independence and autonomy... ideas readily apparent in our American notion of freedom. The biblical notion of freedom relates to purpose... the freedom to live according to God's purpose. Which is, as the Apostle Paul gives it, simply freedom for freedom's sake (Gal. 5:1). The human creature is truly free only when bound to God, its rider. When Satan rides that human beast, true bondage results... bondage to that trio of powers: sin, death, and the power of the devil. Only the free inherit the earth. Only those freed by their being bound to Christ receive such an inheritance. Only free and meek men and women enjoy that future.

Table Talk: Discuss the difficulties that you—as a beast of burden—have with knowing who is in the saddle without resorting to words of works righteousness.

Pray: Father, place your Word in my ears so that the Holy Spirit calls me into confidence that you are my rider. Amen

