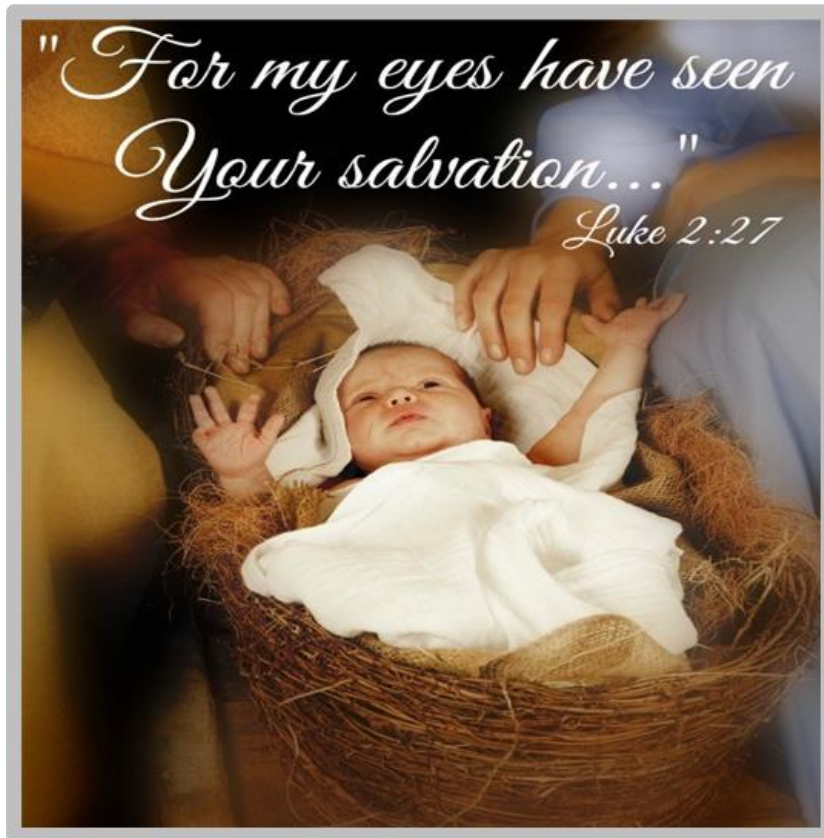


First Sunday of Christmas

December 29, 2024 A.D.

10:30 AM



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church



NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

4536 Hickory Lincolnton Highway, Newton, North Carolina 28658

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Rev. Doug Hefner - cell: (980)234-8848 email: pastorhefner@aol.com

First Sunday of Christmas



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 (980)234-8848.

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

PRELUDE *Please observe silence for meditation.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The congregation is invited to stand.

* **BRIEF ORDER OF CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS**

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, Father, Son + and Holy Spirit,
the Maker of heaven and earth, the Word made flesh,
the Lord and giver of life. **C: Amen**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another trusting in
God's gift of grace and forgiveness through His Son our Lord Jesus.

Silence is kept for reflection and confession.

God of glory, God of peace,

**C: we confess that we have shunned the light
that reveals the truth about us.**

We cling to worldly things rather than sharing the gifts of this earth.

**Instead of putting our trust in You we have put our trust
in ourselves and wordly things. Save your people, O God;
renew us and Your whole creation and free us to live boldly
in the light and truth of Jesus, our Savior.**

Amen.

P: The grace of God shines upon us, bringing salvation to the whole world.

We are saved, our sins are washed away, not because of anything we have done, but according to God's mercy in Jesus Christ. Renewed by the Holy Spirit, let us live in hope, love, peace and joy as our sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, + Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

* **GATHERING HYMN:** **Once in Royal David's City** **WOV 643**

* **GREETING:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

* **PRAYER OF THE DAY:** Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature and be born of the Virgin Mary. Grant that we, having been redeemed and made your children by grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The congregation may be seated.

First Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." ⁸The voice of your watchmen — they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the Lord to Zion. ⁹Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

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

Psalm 111

¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

²Great are the deeds of the Lord!
they are studied by all who delight in them.

³His work is full of majesty and splendor,
and his righteousness endures forever.

⁴He makes his marvelous works to be remembered;
the Lord is gracious and full of compassion.

⁵He gives food to those who fear him;
he is ever mindful of his covenant.

⁶He has shown his people the power of his works

in giving them the lands of the nations.

⁷The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice;

all his commandments are sure.

⁸They stand fast forever and ever,

because they are done in truth and equity.

⁹He sent redemption to his people; he commanded his covenant forever;

holy and awesome is his Name.

¹⁰The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;

those who act accordingly have a good understanding; his praise endures forever.

Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6

¹Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. ⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"? ⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

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

The congregation is invited to stand.

* **Gospel: Luke 2:22-40**

P: The holy gospel according to St. Luke. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

²²When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, {Joseph and Mary} brought {Jesus} up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, ²⁹"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,

was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

* **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Response at the end of each petition.

P: Lord in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

* **SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

Worshippers may greet one another with "the Peace of Christ" or similar words.

The assembly may be seated.

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN:

What Feast of Love (vs. 1 & 3)

WOV 701

1 What feast of love is offered here, what banquet come from heaven?

What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given?

This, this is Christ the King, the bread come down from heaven.

Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna given!

3 What wine of love is offered here, what crimson drink from heaven?

What stream of everlasting life, what precious blood is given?

This, this is Christ the King, the sweetest wine of heaven.

Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is given!

* **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

LBW PG. 68

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And, with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

* **PREFACE AND HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

LBW PG. 69

* **WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND LORD'S PRAYER**

LBW PG. 70-71

* **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: The gifts of God for the people of God! **C: Thanks be to God!**

COMMUNION SONG

Lamb of God

LBW PG. 72

The assembly may be seated.

COMMUNION HYMN

Silent Night, Holy Night

LBW 65

The congregation is invited to stand.

*** COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER**

P: God of mercy and grace, we thank you for feeding us with the sacrament of Christ’s body and blood —that which strengthens us in faith and assures us of new life now and in eternity. As we wait and watch for the return of the Messiah in these last days, continue to feed us with the life-giving bread and the cup of salvation, in the name of Jesus. **C: Amen.**

*** SENDING HYMN:**

Go Tell It on the Mountain

LBW 70

*** DISMISSAL:**

P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord **C: Amen.**

POSTLUDE

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GRACE PRAYER LIST

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

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, Patsy Bumgardner, Caleb Bumgarner & Family, Becky Cartee, Jessica Cassels & Family, Evelyn Childers, Dennis D’Alessio, Guy Franzen, Stormy Geter, Wendy Hannah, J.C., Rebecca Speagle Jackson, Ray Porter, Lily Rose, Alyssa McCary, Sgt. Ryan McMullen and shift, Angela Sanford, Anita Sabino, Marc Sigmon, Scott Speagle, Zachary Speagle and Amber, Nathan Starnes, Monica Thomas, Kelly Wesson, United States of America, 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: Elizabeth Grace Hefner

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

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THE PEOPLE OF GOD AT GRACE extend our Christian sympathy, love and prayers to the family and friends of Elizabeth Grace Hefner, who entered the Church Triumphant on Saturday, December 14, 2024. Elizabeth is the daughter of Pastor Doug and the mother of Gabby. Services to celebrate and remember Elizabeth were held on Saturday at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Statesville, NC. May God comfort all who mourn.

PASTOR DOUG AND HIS FAMILY would like to thank everyone for your love and support shown so beautifully in your prayers, hugs, kind words, calls, cards, encouragement, and gifts of food. Thank you for joining us to remember and give thanks to God for the life and eternal life of Elizabeth Grace Hefner, Pastor Doug's beloved daughter and Gabby's beautiful, loving mother; sister to Pastor Doug's son, Matthew Hefner; granddaughter to Jack Hefner, and niece to Jeff and Tina Hefner. It is a great comfort and source of strength to be a part of God's family at Grace and we appreciate you all! Thank you all for your continued prayers, love, and support as we heal and move forward in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, the Resurrection and the Life! Thank you, Pastor Doug and Family.

HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAY TO:

4 – Stormy Shull

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today:

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

9:30am – Sunday School

10:30am - Worship Celebration

Wednesday & Friday:

Church Office Closed

Next Sunday:

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

9:30am – Sunday School

10:30am - Worship Celebration

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