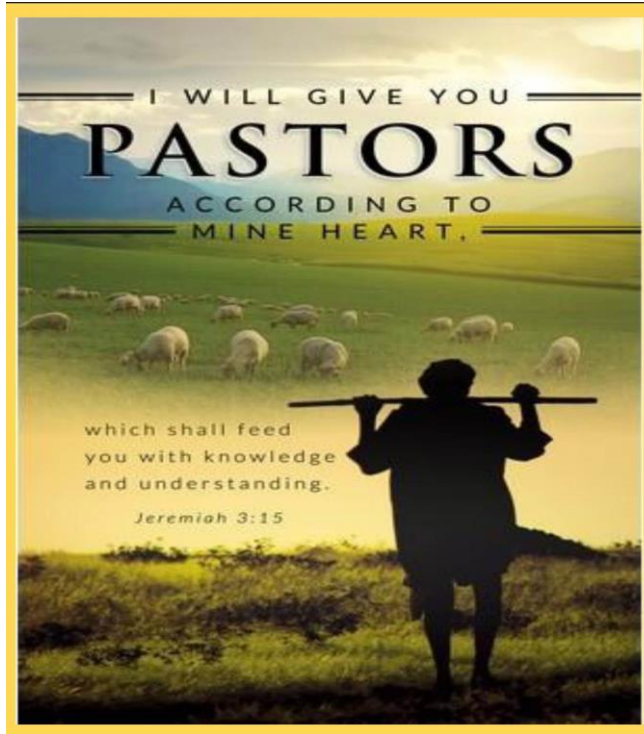


Installation of Reverend Doug Hefner

December 7, 2024 A.D.

2:00 PM



GRACE

Evangelical Lutheran Church



NALC

North American Lutheran Church

*Christ-Centered
Traditionally-Grounded*

*Mission-Driven
Congregationally-Focused*

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Installation Service for Reverend Doug Hefner



(D: Dean

P: Pastor

L: Lector

C: Congregation)

* = Stand

Hymnals in Pew Rack: LBW = Green

WOV = Blue

Prelude Please Observe Silence For Meditation

Welcome and Announcements

* Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness

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

P: Blessed be the name of the Holy Trinity: the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: Heavenly Father, merciful and holy, in you we live and move and have our being. Look upon us, your children, the work of your hands. Forgive us all our offenses and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires. By your grace draw us near to you, our refuge and our strength and renew us in the power of your Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

P: Sisters and brothers, bear with one another in love, maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, and take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them in the light of Christ.(2 Corinthians 13:11) Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another trusting in the grace, mercy and forgiveness of Christ our Lord.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Holy and gracious God,

C: We confess that we have not led a life worthy of the calling to which we have been called. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not acted according to Your will. We have grieved your Holy Spirit. Have mercy on us and forgive us according to the riches of Your grace. In Christ make us holy and blameless before You in love, so that we might live to the praise of Your glory. Amen

P: Almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son to die for us and, for His sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen**

* **Gathering Hymn..... Joy to the World LBW 39**

* **Greeting**

P: 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**

P: Almighty God, through your Son Jesus Christ you gave the holy apostles many gifts and commanded them to feed your flock. Inspire all pastors to proclaim your Word diligently and your people to receive it willingly, that finally we may receive, by Your grace, the crown of eternal glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The Word of God

First Lesson: Isaiah 43:1-7

¹But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you. ⁴Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you, I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life. ⁵Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you. ⁶I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, ⁷everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 91

"You Who Dwell in the Shelter of the Lord (On Eagle's Wings)" WOV 779

Verses Sung by Reverend Doug Hefner and Refrain Sung by the congregation.

Second Lesson: Romans 10:5-17

For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them.⁶ But the righteousness based on faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down)⁷ "or 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).⁸ But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim);⁹ because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.¹¹ For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame."¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him.¹³ For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."¹⁴ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard?¹⁵ And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?"¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

* **Gospel Acclamation.....Listen God is Calling.....WOV 712**

Leader: Pastor Hefner

All: Congregation

* **The Holy Gospel: John 20:19-31**

D: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁹ On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you.

As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.”²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came.²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.”²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

D: The Gospel of our Lord

C: Praise to You, O Christ

Sermon

The Rev. Steve Johnson, Dean of the Catawba Valley Mission District, Subdistrict of the Carolinas’ Mission Region, NALC.

* **Hymn of the DayI, the Lord of Sea and Sky WOV 752**

* **The Apostles’ Creed.....page 65**

* **The Order of Installation for Reverend Douglas Hefner**

The Rev. Steve Johnson, Dean of Catawba Valley Mission District

D: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

D: Having been authorized by the North American Lutheran Church to install the Reverend Douglas Hefner, our co-worker in the Gospel, as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, I now ask for certification of this call.

(Grace Board President, Tim Eckard, and Pastor Doug come forward)

T: We, of Grace Lutheran Church, after prayerful deliberation, have called Reverend Doug Hefner to be our pastor. I present him and this letter certifying the call.

Congregation may be seated

Scripture Readings:

D: Our Lord Jesus Christ says: "Peace be to you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you. Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." (*John 20:21-23*)

And again, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age." (*Matthew 28:18-20*)

In the Book of Ephesians, Scripture tells us that God: "gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love." (*Ephesians 4:11-16*)

Hear the words addressed to Timothy: "Set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Till I come, attend to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. Take heed to yourself and to your teaching; hold to that, for by doing so you will save both yourself and your hearers." (*1 Timothy 4:12-16*)

(At the font: Call Committee Chairperson, Stormy Shull)

S: You have been called to be among us to baptize, to teach, and to forgive sins.

(At the pulpit: Board Member, Rick Bivens)

J: You have been called to be among us to proclaim the Good News.

(At the altar: Board Member and Call Committee Member, Jason Yoder)

R: You have been called to be among us to lead worship and preside at the Holy Communion. We welcome you, as our new pastor, and express our thanks to God with acclamation of applause.

Address and Examination *(The Dean questions the pastor being installed)*

D: Pastor Doug, in the presence of this congregation, will you commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility, and promise to discharge your duties in harmony with the constitution of the church?

P: I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

D: Will you preach and teach in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Confessions of the Lutheran Church?

P: I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

D: Will you love, serve, and pray for God's people? Will you nourish them with the Word and Holy Sacraments, leading them by your own example in the use of the means of grace, in faithful service and holy living?

P: I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

D: Will you give faithful witness in the world, that God's love may be known in all that you do?

P: I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

D: Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

C: Amen.

(We stand. The Dean addresses the congregation)

D: And you, people of God, will you receive this messenger of Jesus Christ, sent by God to serve God's people with the Gospel of hope and salvation? Will you regard him as a servant of Christ and a steward of the mysteries of God?

C: We will, and we ask God to help and guide us.

D: Will you pray for him, help and honor him for his work's sake, and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

C: We will, and we ask God to help and guide us.

D: Pastor Doug, the office of pastor of Grace Lutheran Church is now committed to you in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

Blessing

D: Gracious God, you have called Doug to the ministry of Word and Sacrament in this place amongst these faithful disciples. Grant that he would diligently perform the duties of his office. We trust that You who began a good work in Doug will bring it to completion in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

* **Prayers of the Church**

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

P: Almighty and ever-living God, who by Your holy apostles taught us to make prayers and supplications, and to give thanks, we humbly ask You to inspire continually Your whole Church with Your Holy Spirit. Grant that all who confess Your holy name may agree in the truth of Your Word and live in unity and Godly love.

Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We beseech You, heavenly Father, to save and defend our country. Grant to those in civil authority wisdom, and strength to know and to do Your will. We implore You also to direct and dispose the hearts of all rulers, that they may be guided by Your holy discernment.

Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all servants of Christ, that they may both by their lives and doctrine proclaim Your true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer Your holy Sacraments. Give the priesthood of all believers Your heavenly grace, that with humble hearts and due reverence they may

hear and receive Your holy Word, serving You in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: O Lord, our great physician, we plead for all who suffer with trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any adversity, especially the unborn, those in imminent danger, those with mental anguish, our neighbors recovering from storms, and those who are homebound. We pray specifically for those on our hearts, either silently or aloud... We pray that by your healing grace, You would defend them from every evil to body and soul.

Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Merciful God, You have graciously promised that, through the preaching of the crucified and risen Christ, those who believe in Him will be saved. By Your Holy Spirit grant grace to Pastor Doug, whom You have given to be pastor of Christ's Church in this place. Grant him readiness and steadfastness in this ministry, endurance, understanding, and great zeal. Support and strengthen him in Your service that by Your Word Your Church may be built and increased. Be with this holy house. Send Your Spirit to this place, that You would be glorified in all that they say and do. Bless the ministry of the under-shepherd and flock together, for the sake of Your Son, Christ Jesus our Lord.

Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We commend to Your mercy, O Lord, all of Your servants who have departed with the sign of faith and now rest in You. Grant to them, we beseech You, Your mercy and everlasting peace, and that, on the day of the resurrection of all flesh, we and all Your servants of the mystical body of Your Son may be set together on His right hand and hear His joyful voice saying, "Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

D: Grant this, O Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

* **Sharing the Peace**

D: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you

D: Let us share Christ’s peace with one another.

* **The Offering**

Our offering this afternoon will be sent to the NALS-North American Lutheran Seminary to aid in the education of future pastors and to Disaster Relief for Western N.C. as it recovers from Hurricane Helene.

* **The Offertory Hymn**

What Feast of Love is Offered Here Tune: Greensleeves (What Child is This)

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!

What light of truth is offered here What covenant from heaven?

What hope of everlasting life; What wondrous word is given?

This, this is Christ the king The sun come down from heaven

Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is given!

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!

* **The Offertory Prayer** LBW 67

* **The Great Thanksgiving and Preface**..... LBW 68

* **Holy, Holy, Holy and Words of Institution** LBW 69

* **The Lord’s Prayer** LBW 71

D: The gifts of God, for the people of God.

C: Thanks be to God.

* **Lamb of God**..... LBW 72

Holy Communion

(Both sides enter center aisle to receive the bread and then right or left to receive the wine)

Communion Hymns....The King of Love My Shepherd Is....LBW 456

For the Bread Which You Have Broken.....LBW 200

*** Post-Communion Canticle.....*Thank the Lord*.....page 72**

*** Post-Communion Prayer**

P: Let us pray. God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Nourished in Christ's presence, send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim in word and deed Your redeeming love to the world, continuing forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

*** The Blessing**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen.

*** The Sending Hymn Go My Children with My Blessing...WOV 721**

*** Sending**

P: Prepare the way of the Lord! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

You are invited to continue the celebration with fellowship and refreshments in the Grace Fellowship Hall. Please join us!



THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Sunday Dec. 8:

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:30am – Advent Bible Study

10:30am - Worship Celebration

Friday:

Church Office Closed

Saturday:

11:00am – Wreaths Across America – Union Church

Next Sunday:

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:30am – Advent Bible Study

10:30am - Worship Celebration

Wednesday Dec. 18: 12:00pm - Grace Luncheon and Christmas Celebration

**Join us for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 24th at 4:00pm**

