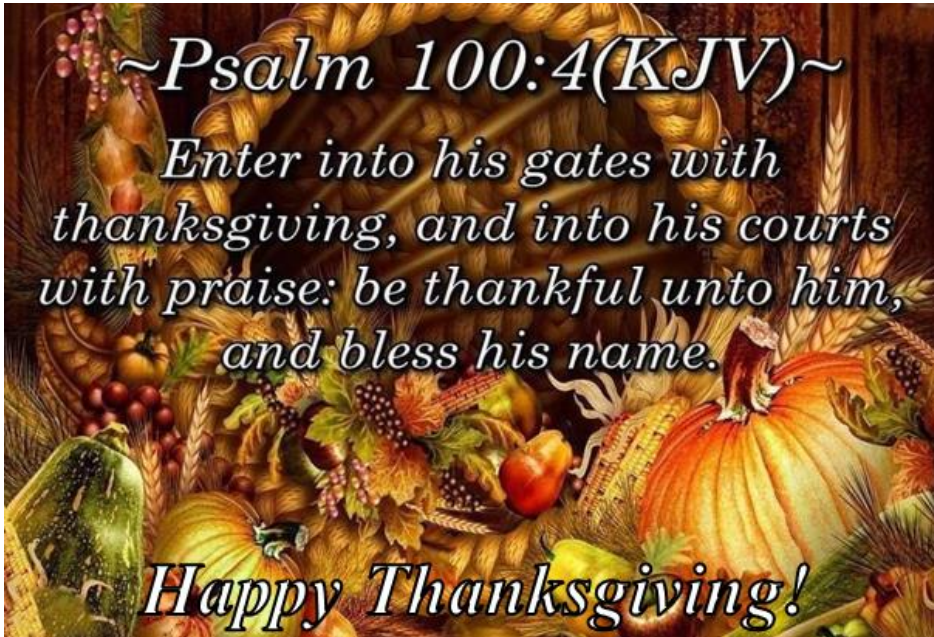


Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost

November 16, 2025 10:30 AM



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church



4536 Hickory Lincolnton Highway, Newton, North Carolina 28658

Church Office: (704) 462-1035 email: gracenalcnewton@aol.com

www.gracelutheran-newton.org

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

Sandi Tallant – Organist Todd Childers – Administrative Assistant

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 9am to 1pm

Tuesday and Thursday 12pm to 4pm

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 and prayer.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** BRIEF ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

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

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

P: Trusting in God's steadfast love, grace and forgiveness in Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection and confession of our sins before God and one another.

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy upon us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The minister stands and addresses the congregation.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God 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 our sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

* **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

Let us pray. Almighty God, our heavenly Father, whose mercies are new to us every morning, and who, though we have in no way deserved your goodness, has abundantly provided all our needs of body and soul: Give us, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we may wholly acknowledge your merciful goodness toward us, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

FIRST READING PSALM 34

Of David, when he changed his behavior before Abimelech, so that he drove him out, and he went away. (An Individual Thanksgiving Psalm)

I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. ² My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad. ³ Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together! ⁴ I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. ⁵ Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed. ⁶ This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him and saved him out of all his troubles. ⁷ The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them. ⁸ Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him! ⁹ Oh, fear the Lord, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack! ¹⁰ The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing. ¹¹ Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. ¹² What man is there who desires life and loves many days, that he may see good? ¹³ Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. ¹⁴ Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. ¹⁵ The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry. ¹⁶ The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth. ¹⁷ When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. ¹⁸ The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. ¹⁹ Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all. ²⁰ He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken. ²¹ Affliction will slay the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be condemned. ²² The Lord redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

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

PSALM 136: 1-16, 26 (*Communal Thanksgiving Psalm*)

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, **for his steadfast love endures forever.**

² Give thanks to the God of gods, **for his steadfast love endures forever.**

³ Give thanks to the Lord of lords, **for his steadfast love endures forever;**

⁴ to him who alone does great wonders, **for his steadfast love endures forever;**

⁵ to him who by understanding made the heavens, **for his steadfast love endures forever;**

⁶ to him who spread out the earth above the waters, **for his steadfast love endures forever;**

⁷ to him who made the great lights, **for his steadfast love endures forever;**

⁸ the sun to rule over the day, **for his steadfast love endures forever;**

⁹ the moon and stars to rule over the night, **for his steadfast love endures forever;**

¹⁰ to him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt, **for his steadfast love endures forever;**

¹¹ and brought Israel out from among them, **for his steadfast love endures forever;**

¹² with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, **for his steadfast love endures forever;**

¹³ to him who divided the Red Sea in two, **for his steadfast love endures forever;**

¹⁴ and made Israel pass through the midst of it, **for his steadfast love endures forever;**

¹⁵ but overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red Sea, **for his steadfast love endures forever;**

¹⁶ to him who led his people through the wilderness, **for his steadfast love endures forever;**

²⁶ Give thanks to the God of heaven, **for his steadfast love endures forever.**

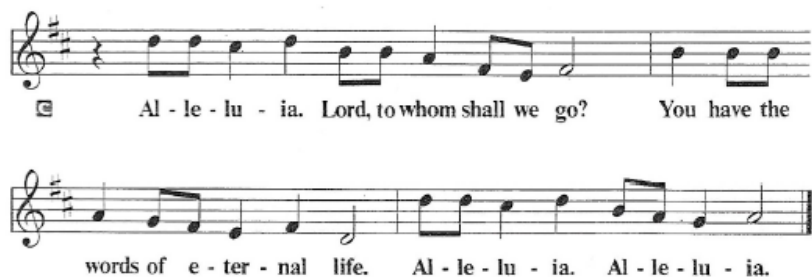
SECOND READING: Colossians 3: 12-17

¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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

The congregation is invited to stand.

*** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** “Alleluia, Lord to Whom Shall We Go”



***GOSPEL: Luke 17: 11-19**

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

¹¹On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. ¹²As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, ¹³they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" ¹⁴When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. ¹⁵Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. ¹⁶He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they?" ¹⁸Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

L: The Gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to You O Christ!**

The congregation may be seated.

Thanksgiving Psalms (Community Thanksgiving Psalms - 65*, 67*, 75, 107, 124, 136; Individual Thanksgiving Hymns - 18, 21, 30, 32*, 34, 40:1-11, 66:13-20, 92, 108*, 116, 118, 138; Specialized Thanksgiving Psalms – Salvation History - 8*, 105-106, 135, 136, and Songs of Trust - 11, 16, 23, 27*, 62, 63, 91, 121, 125, 131) These psalms convey gratitude for God's deliverance, blessings, and answered prayers. They declare the psalmist's devotion in response to divine intervention and invite the community to join in giving thanks. Example Psalm 107 *Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!*. Thanksgiving psalms commemorate specific acts of salvation or provision while glorifying God's ongoing faithfulness.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON



Giving Thanks in All Circumstances, At All Times, and For Everything in the Name of Jesus!

Pastor Doug Hefner

1 Thessalonians 5:18 “give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you”, Ephesians 5:20 “giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

***HYMN OF THE DAY** “We Gather Together”

TCH 790

***THE APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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.

WELCOME OF NEW AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Jeff and Tina Hefner

Sandi Tallant

***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.**

Worshipers may greet one another with "the Peace of Christ."

The assembly may be seated.

*** OFFERING** In response to God's blessings, we offer our tithes to the Lord **HOLY COMMUNION – MEAL OF GRACE**

*** OFFERTORY** Let the Vineyards



*** OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P: Merciful Father, **C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of Him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

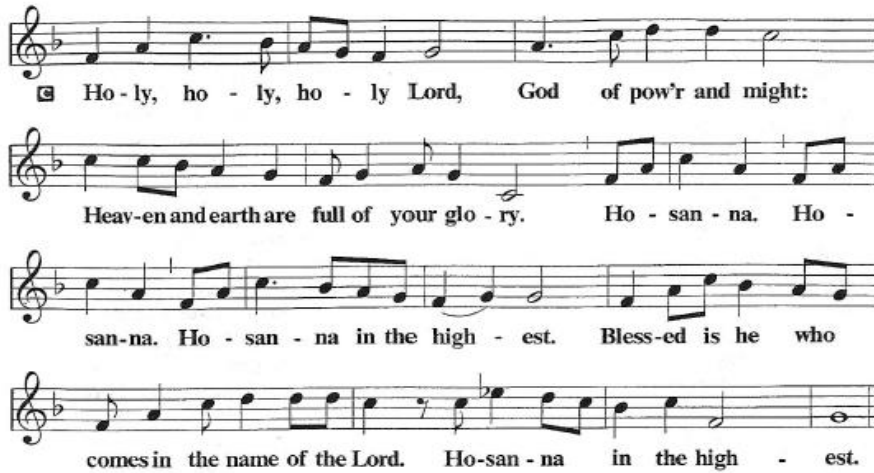
***DIALOGUE AND PREFACE**

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also 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 him thanks and praise.**

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na, Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

*** WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*** LORD'S PRAYER**

*** INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: The Gifts of God for the People of God. C: Thanks be to God!

The assembly may be seated.

All are invited to receive Holy Communion.

COMMUNION SONG Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

The congregation is invited to stand.

*** COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER**

P: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. Amen.

***SENDING HYMN “Now Thank We All Our God”**

LBW 534

***DISMISSAL**

P: With Joy and Thanksgiving let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord! **C: Thanks be to God!**



In the Grace Church Family:

Jeffrey Bivens, Rick & Cindy Bivens, Glenda Childers, Pat Dietz, Lisa Childers Fox, Allen and Kay Hatchett, Larry Heavner, Lorene Heavner, Larry & Brenda Jarrett, Martha Johnson, Faye Lane, Harvey Leatherman, Phil & Malinda Leatherman, Tim Leatherman, Betty Matheson,

Joe Momier, Jane Moss, Christine Norman, Michael Norman, Tricia and Dan Panek, Mike, Debi & Stephen Pisko, Helen Smith, Ethan Starnes, Sandi Tallant, Libby Travis, Shirley Warlick, Ken & Tirzah Welch, Scott & Carolyn Whisnant, and Nancy Willis.

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, Ashlee Bumgardner, Clinton Childers, Evelyn Childers, William Lynch, Dale Morrison, Randy & Rita Neill, Ray Porter, Anita Sabino, and Scott Speagle. Prayers for world peace and for our church, the 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

HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY TO:

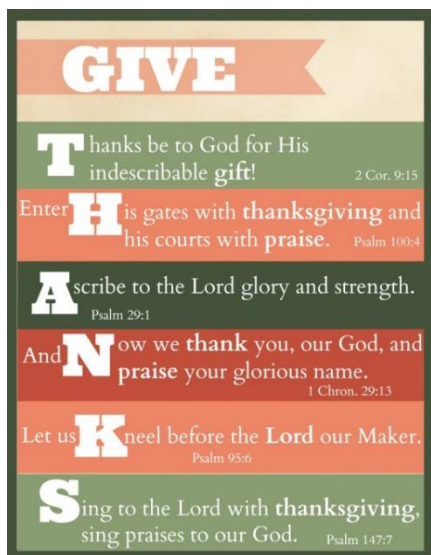
November 7 – Stephanie Ratts

November 9 – Betty Matheson

November 9 – Wayne Powell

November 9 – Steven Mullins

November 23 – Alan Shull



COMING UP AT GRACE THIS WEEK

Today: Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost

9:30am – Sunday School 10:30am -

Worship Celebration

Monday

6:00pm – Leadership Ministry Board Meeting

Wednesday

12:00 Noon – Grace Prayer Luncheon in Fellowship Hall

6:30pm – Vespers with Bible Study – Reflection on the Psalms

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 16 –Deadline for Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

November 23 Deadline to order Christmas Poinsettias.

November 26 Community Thanksgiving Service at Plateau, Dinner at 6:00 pm; Worship at 7:00 pm. Grace will be providing desserts.

November 29 Hanging of the Greens 10:00 am

November 30 First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 10, 17 Midweek Advent Services 6:30 pm

December 6 Breakfast with Santa (Community Event) 9:00am at Fellowship Hall

December 13 Wreaths Across America at 11:00 am at Union Church

December 24 (Wed.) Christmas Eve – Candlelight & Holy Communion 7:00 pm

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS:



Order forms for Christmas poinsettias and a special offering envelope are available today. Please place your order form along with payment inside the special envelope and give it to the ushers. Use the special envelope for the date that you place your poinsettia order and designate how much of your offering is for poinsettias, the general fund, the building fund, etc. If you are not ordering poinsettias please just use your regular offering envelopes. The cost for each plant is \$12.00 and the deadline for ordering is Sunday, November 23.



THE HANGING OF THE GREENS is scheduled for Saturday, November 29th at 10:00 am. Please join us to decorate Grace Church for the celebration of the coming of our Lord.

**Sat. Dec 6 at 9am Pancakes,
Crafts, Santa Pictures**



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Grace is hosting a Breakfast with Santa celebration for the community on Saturday, Dec. 6 at 9am. We will have pancakes with the trimmings. We will share the Christmas story and enjoy a craft, Christmas music and games, and a picture with Santa. If you would like to help with this celebration, please sign up by calling/emailing the office or the sign-up sheet in worship.



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Please join us on Saturday, December 13th at 11:00am to honor our veterans in the Grace Cemetery where their bodies have been laid to rest. No matter where they served or how, Wreaths Across America strives to ensure that no one is forgotten.

Ministers of Grace – All the People of Grace
Pastor – Reverend Doug Hefner Board President – Tim Eckard
Lector – Stormy Shull Youth Leader – Stormy Shull
Altar Preparation – Cindy Bivens
Communion Assistants – Cindy Bivens & Shelly Scronce
Ushers – James Hall & Jack Wilfong
Offering Counters – Todd Childers & Sheila Drum

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Thanksgiving 2025

*“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!”*

Psalms 100:1-2

Thanksgiving Day includes a mad rush of preparation for family and friends to gather together to thank God for our blessings. We buy turkeys and all the fixings, cook for hours, and clean our homes for company. The grocery stores have been filled with people trying to prepare for the festive meal. There will be a moment during the gathering for prayer, but sometimes it seems like there is little sign of thanksgiving. People push through the aisles, grumbling about the crowds, worrying about the cost and work. It seems like a thankless task for those who do all the work, but I wonder if they are truly thankful for what God has done.

We can't avoid the usual celebration, the tradition of family gatherings around the table and lazy times watching parades and football. We love those aspects of the day. But this year, as we are buried in turkey, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie, let us not lose the purpose of the day. We gather to praise the One who has provided for all our needs. The pilgrims and native Americans who gathered for the first Thanksgiving may have been celebrating their friendship and the good things they had done for one another, but they were also praising God for His provision.

Rather than giving God just five minutes of half-hearted prayers, let us sing praises to God as we prepare for the feast. Instead of grumbling at the crowds, thank God for your neighbors. Rather than complain about the cost of the ingredients, thank God that you have food and buy a little extra to share. Take a walk and praise God for His creation. Enjoy the all people who cross your path. This Thanksgiving will be more joyful as we truly thank God for all things. Let us make a joyful noise for the One who deserves our praise because He has done great things for us.