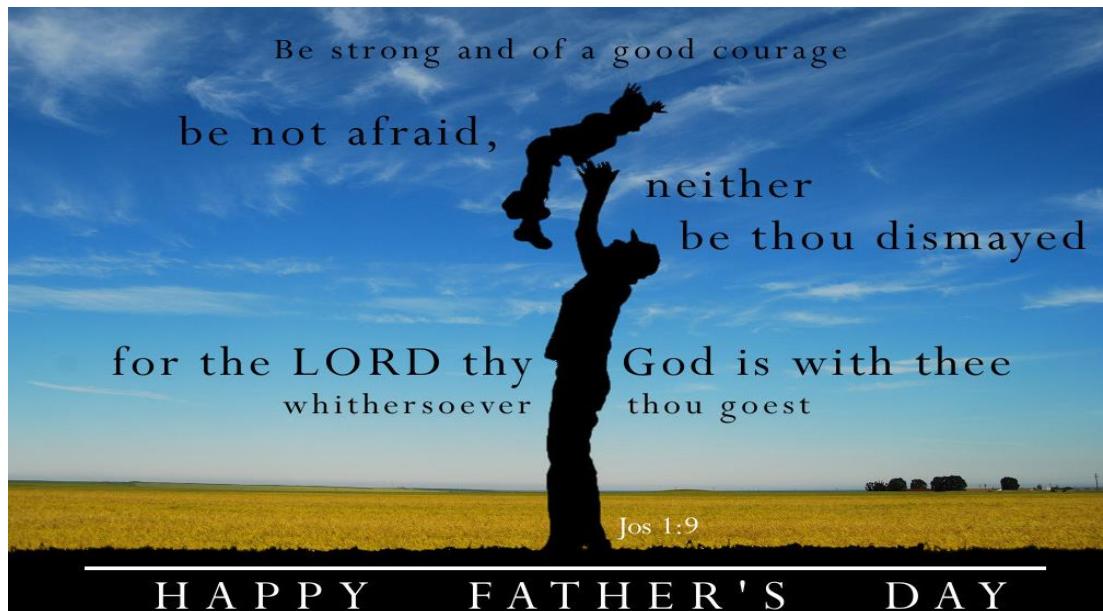


Holy Trinity Sunday

June 15, 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: Triune God, 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: In the presence of God, who sees our hearts and our minds, who forgives all our sins, whose mercy endures forever, let us confess our sin. *Silence is kept for reflection and confession of our sins before God and one another.*

P: God our strength, **C: we confess that we are captive to the power of sin that dwells within us. We put ourselves first and others last. What we think will make us happy leaves us longing for more. Even when we want to do what is good, we find ourselves doing the opposite. Rescue us from death's grip on our lives, and raise us up day by day, that we may be alive to God in Christ Jesus. Amen.**

P: Sisters and brothers in Christ, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us. In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us while we still were sinners and through Christ, God has granted us the entire forgiveness of all your 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

P: Almighty and everlasting God, you have given us grace to make the confession of true faith. We acknowledge your glorious eternal Trinity, and we adore the unity of your majestic work. Defend us by this faith from all adversity and opposition to your way; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

FIRST READING: Joshua 24: 14 -18

¹⁴ “Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. ¹⁵ And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” ¹⁶ Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods, ¹⁷ for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our fathers up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight and preserved us in all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed. ¹⁸ And the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

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

PSALM 8

¹O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

²**Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger.**

³When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,

⁴**what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?**

⁵Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.

***You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet,**
⁷all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,
⁸the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
⁹O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

SECOND READING: Romans 5: 1- 8

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. ⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

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”**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

***GOSPEL: Luke 11: 1 -13**

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

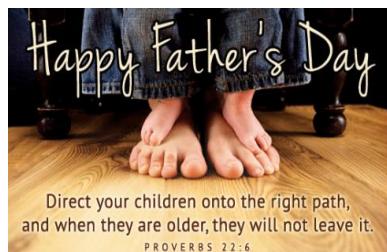
Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” ²And he said to them, “When you pray, say: “Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come.³ Give us each day our daily bread, ⁴and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves

forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.⁵ And he said to them, “Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves,⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’;⁷ and he will answer from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything’?⁸ I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs.⁹ And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.¹¹ What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent;¹² or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?¹³ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

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

The congregation may be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



SERMON

“Come Join the Dance of Trinity – Love in Action – The Holy Trinity and Fatherhood”

Pastor Doug

***HYMN OF THE DAY “Faith of Our Fathers”**

LBW 500

***THE NICENE CREED**

LBW p. 64

***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.

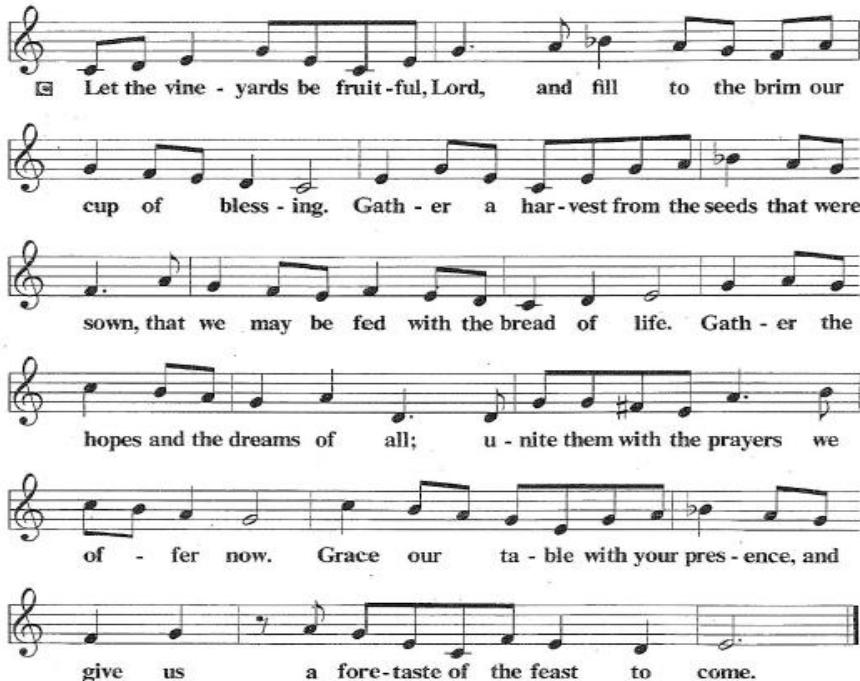
Worshipers may greet one another with “the Peace of Christ.”

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

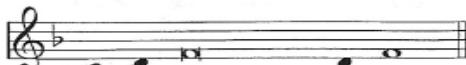


Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the
hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence, and
give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

* **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P: Holy and loving God, Three in One, Blessed Trinity, C: Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us and all of your good gifts to bless the world with Your love, as you nourish us with your presence in this meal of grace through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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**



C 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: Eternal and majestic Trinity, you are our eternal hope, our companion in life, our liberating power. Thank you for feeding us with the True Bread from Heaven, Jesus Christ our Lord. May Christ's presence nourish our faith and lead us in your mission, baptizing and teaching in your blessed name, so that all may worship you to the end of the age through Jesus Christ our Lord. C: **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.

C: Amen

* **SENDING HYMN** “This is My Father’s World”

LBW 554

* **DISMISSAL**

P: As God’s holy and beloved people, created, redeemed, sanctified and sent in the Triune Name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, let us go in peace and serve the

Lord. **C: Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Randall Childers by Lisa Childers Fox and Bruce Fox.



In the Grace Church Family:

Jeffry Bivens, Rick & Cindy Bivens, Glenda Childers, Pat Dietz, Allen and Kay Hatchett, Larry Heavner, Lorene Heavner, Larry & Brenda Jarrett, Martha Johnson, Faye Lane, Phil & Malinda Leatherman, Tim Leatherman, Betty Matheson, Alexis McCrary, Joe

Momier, Jane Moss, Christine Norman, Michael Norman, Tricia and Dan Panek, Debi & Stephen Pisko, Helen Smith, Ethan Starnes, Sandi Tallant, Libby Travis, Shirley Warlick, Ken & Tirzah Welch, Scott & Carolyn Whisnant, Nancy Willis, and Jack 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, Clinton Childers, Evelyn Childers, the family of Katie Crawley, Betty Cansler D’Amico, Reggie Harvell, Lisa Honeycutt, Randy & Rita Neill, Anita Sabino, Karlee Speagle, Christian Thomas, the family of Kelly Wesson, 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.

COMING UP AT GRACE THIS WEEK

Today: Holy Trinity Sunday

9:30am – Sunday School

10:30am - Worship Celebration

7:00pm – Ice Cream Social – Campers meet Counselors and Parents

Monday through Thursday

9:00am to 4:00pm – Solid Rock Day Camp

Friday 9:00am to 12 Noon – Solid Rock Day Camp

HAPPY JUNE BIRTHDAY TO:

June 11 – Cindy Bivens, Alicia Wilfong

June 14 – Emiley Robertson, Penny Miller

June 19 – Allen Biggerstaff

SOLID ROCK NALC DAY CAMP HOSTED BY GRACE JUNE 16-20 As of Wednesday, we have 27 campers registered! We do anticipate additional registrations. So we may well exceed 30. If you have or know of a child who is 4K- 5th grade, please consider this opportunity. The cost is \$100. Grace members have scholarships available. The week includes Bible study, singing, games, crafts, skits, and lots of fun! Friends welcome! The theme of the week is **People of Promise**. Day 1: Abraham, Genesis 15:1-6. Day 2: Jacob Genesis 28:10-22. Day 3: David 1 Samuel 16:1-13, 2 Samuel 7. Day 4: Mary and Joseph, Luke 1:26-38, Matthew 1:16- 17. Day 5: Jesus, promised Messiah. Matthew 3:13-17.

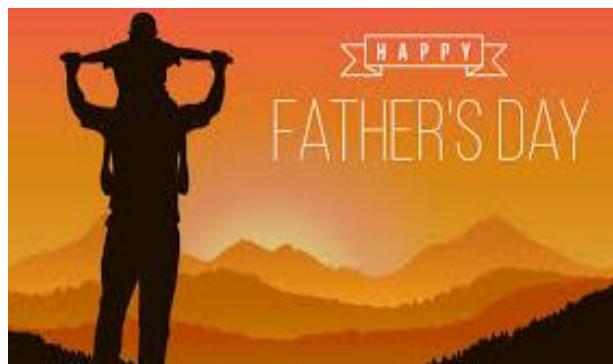
WELCOME SOLID ROCK CAMP COUNSELORS *Cody Cooper, Isabel Wenzel, Micah Ngyuen, Luke Cauble, William Stewart, and Kendall Parsons.* Thank you for joining us in worship today and for the amazing week ahead at the Solid Rock Day Camp! **Grace will host an ice cream social so that parents and campers can meet and greet the counselors Sunday Evening at 7pm.** On Monday through Thursday the camp runs from 9 am - 4 pm; on Friday camp is only a half day 9am-12noon. **On Thursday night at 6:30pm Grace will host all of the parents and campers at a covered dish dinner that will include a program presented by campers and counselors.** Needs this week: Volunteers to help with lunch for the counselors each day, Volunteers to give a gift card or provide an evening meal for counselors, Volunteers to help with snacks/drinks or donate snacks/drinks, Volunteers to help with outing on Wednesday afternoon, Volunteers to help in the morning or afternoon to help assist counselors.

The Story Bible Study: Finding Your Story in God's Love Story!

Join us for a new Bible Study that we will be using during our Sunday School time (9:30-10:15). The Bible is central to our faith but many people are intimidated by its scope and size. The Story gives us a way to journey from Genesis to Revelation together in 31 Bible Studies so everyone understands God's story and how their story intersects with it. It is true that God's Word, the Bible, is "The Greatest Story Ever Told" and it is an amazing

story of God's love for us! Consisting of 31 chapters of carefully-selected Scriptures sequenced in chronological order, *The Story* presents the Word of God in an engaging format, reading like a novel. After all, it is the greatest story ever told! **Here are the 31 Chapters that help us to understand the overall story of God's Word: Old Testament:** 1 Creation: The Beginning of Life as We Know It; 2 God Builds a Nation 3 Joseph: From Slave to Deputy Pharaoh; 4 Deliverance; 5 New Commands and a New Covenant, 6 Wandering; 7 The Battle Begins; 8 A Few Good Men and Women; 9 The Faith of a Foreign Woman; 10 Standing Tall, Falling Hard; 11 From Shepherd to King; 12 The Trials of a King; 13 The King Who Had It All; 14 A Kingdom Torn in Two; 15 God's Messengers; 16 The Beginning of the End (of the Kingdom of Israel); 17 The Kingdoms' Fall; 18 Daniel in Exile; 19 The Return Home; 20 The Queen of Beauty and Courage; 21 Rebuilding the Walls; **New Testament:** 22 The Birth of the King; 23 Jesus' Ministry Begins; 24 No Ordinary Man 25 Jesus, the Son of God; 26 The Hour of Darkness; 27 The Resurrection; 28 New Beginnings 29 Paul's Mission; 30 Paul's Final Days; 31 The End of Time.

The participant's guide will be printed out each week for those attending. Pastor Doug will also send out the pdf of the whole guide to the congregation.



A Father's Day Blessing

*Blessed is the Father
Who lets the Lord
Be his guiding hand,
Whose faith brings his family
courage,
Whose wisdom comes from God,
And whose children
Still stand and honor him.*

Ministers of Grace – All the People of Grace

Pastor – Reverend Doug Hefner Board President – Tim Eckard

Lector – Todd Childers Youth Leader – Stormy Shull

Altar Preparation – Tricia Panek

Communion Assistants – Cindy Bivens & Sheila Drum

Ushers – Jeff Scronce & James Hall

Offering Counters – Todd Childers & Sheila Drum

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

The Holy Trinity – June 15, 2025

⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.”

⁵⁷ So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” ⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” ⁵⁹ So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.”

- John 8:56-59 -

Scripture does not give us a fully developed doctrine of the Trinity. Instead, Scripture gives us a Trinitarian problem, the solution to which is the doctrine of the Trinity developed three centuries later. The essence of the Trinitarian problem is a seeming conflict between two opposing claims. On the one hand, Israel had confessed for centuries that God is one (Deuteronomy 6:4). On the other hand, certain passages in the New Testament suggest that Jesus Christ is also God. So, if God is one and if God is identified with the Father, how is Jesus also divine? On the other hand, if Jesus is indeed divine, then how is God one and not two? The doctrine of the Trinity arose to harmonize these competing claims while also integrating additional data regarding the deity of the Holy Spirit.

In our passage we see the type of claim that generated the Trinitarian problem. Jesus is arguing with certain Jews. When they questioned whether he was old enough to see or know Abraham, Jesus responded, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” That this was a claim to divinity follows from the fact that Jesus used the divine name “I am” from Exodus 3:14. And it is clear that these Jews understood it as such because they then picked up stones to kill Jesus.

Digging a bit deeper, we may wonder what the name “I am” says about divinity that makes it such an excellent divine name for God in the first place. In this regard, a central aspect of divinity is to exist necessarily and to exist without limit or change. Our passage brings this out by contrasting “was” with “I am”, “before Abraham was, I am.” After all, to say, “Abraham was,” implies that he is not now. However, Jesus can say, “I am,” with regard to the past, present, or future since the fullness of his necessary existence never diminishes or changes.

Because God has created time, he is neither contained by time nor excluded from it. Rather, as an infinite and eternal being, God enters into all times with the fullness of his necessary existence. In other words, God’s eternal “I am” stands behind time, creates time for us, and then enters time to be with us in the fullness of his being. For this reason, God says, “I am,” yesterday, today, tomorrow, and forever.