

Grace Notes



Monthly Publication of the Congregational Activities of Grace Lutheran Church in Newton, NC

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9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service with Communion

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JUNE 2025

“Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stepping Out in Faith!”

from Pastor Doug Hefner

Joshua 1:9 “The Lord spoke to Joshua: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

The word “graduate” means “step.” So a graduate is a person who has completed another step or milestone in their journey in preparation to take the next step.

During this month many will be remembering and congratulating graduates. The word graduate literally means ***“Step.”*** So a graduate is a person who has completed another step or milestone in their journey in preparation to take the next step. May we congratulate and pray for the graduates in our lives as they complete this step and prepare in faith to take the next step. You may not be a graduate, but we are all ***taking steps of faith*** to follow our Lord Jesus. Like Joshua, remember that God is with you, to give you courage, strength and faith to step out in faith to live out your calling. Remember that Christ is with you through the power of the Holy Spirit who will guide you in the Word so that you will be blessed to be a blessing!

This month we transition from Easter to the Season of Pentecost which begins with the Day of Pentecost. The Day of Pentecost is when we celebrate God’s gift of the Holy Spirit that brought the Church to life and empowered the Church to ***step out in faith*** to become witnesses of Christ in word and deed. Now filled with the Holy Spirit, the Church took an important step of faith to answer God’s calling in Christ to be the Church (ecclesia in Greek which means “the called-out ones.”) The disciples and early Church could not have done this on their own apart from the power of God made available to them in the gift of the Holy Spirit. This month we celebrate fathers/Godly men who are taking important ***steps of faith*** as the Spirit leads and empowers them to be a blessing to their families!

In the Old Testament, God encouraged and empowered His people to make an important step of faith. In Joshua 1, the Lord speaks empowering words to Joshua as he is called to assume a very important and demanding role: filling the shoes of Moses as Joshua prepares to lead the people into the promised land. God calls Joshua to meditate on God's Word and to be obedient to it as God promises to never fail or forsake Joshua and God's people. Chapter one ends with Joshua assuming leadership and calling the people of God to ***step out in faith*** as they prepare to cross the Jordan and face the challenges and blessings ahead. God gave Joshua great courage for a great calling! You can read about the mighty acts that God did through Joshua in the book of Joshua. The book closes with Joshua's farewell address in chapter 24 as he prepares to die. He encourages the people to remain faithful to the Lord and serve Him with sincerity. He lifts up himself and his family as an example: ***"But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!"*** Like Joshua, I would like to encourage all fathers and Godly men to ***step out in faith*** and to live out their call to be a role model of Christ-like faith and love. ***God bless our fathers and Godly men, especially this month, as they are recognized on Father's Day, June 15! A Happy and Blessed Father's Day to you!***

In the *Acts of the Apostles* (some have said that the title ought to be *The Acts of the Holy Spirit*) we read how the disciples needed courage and confidence to step out in faith. The risen Lord Jesus appeared to them and gave them new life, hope and the assurance of salvation. However, Jesus would no longer be with them in His bodily form as He would ascend to the Father, but he did promise to send the Holy Spirit. **On the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit filled the disciples and believers and the Church was born.** The presence and power of God in the Holy Spirit gave the disciples and the Church new courage and confidence to step out in faith and be the Church as they proclaimed the gospel in word and deed. As we are filled with the power of the Holy Spirit at Grace, we too can be courageous and confident in our faith and in our calling to share the love of God in Christ Jesus. On June 8, the Day of Pentecost, we will celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit for all of God's people. In Holy Baptism we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the new life, forgiveness and salvation that God brings in the gift of the Spirit.

This month Grace will host the Community VBS "The Armor of God," Sunday, June 1 – Thursday, June 5 (see announcement for details). We will also host the NALC Solid Rock Day Camp Monday, June 16-Friday, June 21. (See announcement). As we step out in faith to disciple our young people, let us be in prayer for these ministries as we ask the Holy Spirit to empower and guide us as we proclaim the Gospel. As we all step out in faith, like Joshua and the early Church, God will guide us in the Holy Spirit and will give us His presence, strength and courage.

Your fellow servant and witness in Christ, Pastor Doug

Season of Pentecost Worship Scripture and Themes

9:15am Sunday School for all ages; 10:30am Worship Service with Communion

June 1, 2025, 7th Sun of Easter (We will also recognize the Ascension of our Lord)

Acts 1, and John 17. In John 17, Jesus prays for the Church as he prepares to go to the cross for us. In Acts, Jesus blessed the faithful as He ascended into heaven calling the Church to be God's blessing to the world!

June 8, 2025 The Day of Pentecost Acts 2:1-21 John 14:25-31 Pentecost is the birthday of the Church, the day that God sent the promised Holy Spirit upon the faithful. Peter boldly preached the good news and in the Spirit's power, 3,000 came to faith and were baptized.

June 15, 2025, Holy Trinity Sunday, Happy Father's Day Romans 5:1-5, John 16:12-15. We begin our worship in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit as well as baptize and pray in the Triune name of God. This Sunday is set aside to praise and give thanks to the Holy Trinity who creates us, redeems us and sustains us with gifts of grace and love. On this Father's Day let us give thanks for Godly men who put their faith and hope in the one true God and through their life of faith teach their family and others about the love, grace and blessing of our Triune God!

June 22, 2025 2nd Sun after Pentecost: Luke 8:26-39

In the Gospel Jesus and the disciples encounter a demon-possessed man who had been bound by chains and was living in torment in a cemetery. Jesus delivered the man from the demons and sent them into a herd of pigs nearby. The man having experienced new life wanted to follow Jesus however Jesus said, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you."

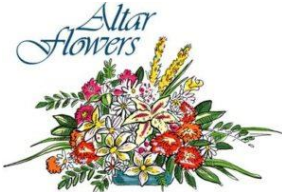
June 29, 2025, 3rd Sun aft Pentecost, Special Independence Day Service. We will give thanks to God for our country and the freedoms and blessings we enjoy as Americans but more importantly as God's people in Christ. We will sing traditional national hymns as well as honor our service men and women. Galatians 5:1,13-22, John 8:31-36.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR JUNE

❖ Lector	Todd Childers
❖ Ushers	Jeff Scronce & James Hall
❖ Communion Assistants	Sheila Drum & Cindy Bivens
❖ Altar Preparation	Tricia Panek
❖ Offering Tabulators	Todd Childers & Sheila Drum

*Please be mindful of your commitment to serve. If you are unable to fulfill that commitment, be reminded that it is **your** responsibility to find someone to serve in your place.*

FLOWER CHART FOR JUNE



6/1	OPEN	6/8	OPEN
6/15	Lisa Childers Fox	6/22	OPEN
6/29	Glenda Childers		

If you wish to place flowers on a given Sunday, please list your name on the chart in the narthex. *You are responsible for ordering the flowers from a florist of your choice.* The liturgical color of the day is listed to assist you in selecting flowers appropriate for that Sunday. Please notify the Church Office by the Tuesday prior to your selected Sunday to ensure correct information is printed in the bulletin.

ATTENDANCE AND GIVING TO OUR LORD'S WORK FOR MAY

	4/27/25	5/4/25	5/11/25	5/18/25
Sunday School	7	9	16	6
Worship	41	44	55	37
General Fund Offerings	\$1,750	\$4,725	\$1,388	\$2,670

ASHURE MINISTRY FOOD ASK for the month of June is cereal. We are doing great things at Grace in helping feed the hungry in our own community. Let's try to donate 2,000 in 2025! That would be around 170 pounds per month. We can do it! Let's come together to help reach this goal! Year-to-date the disciples at Grace have donated 535 pounds of food.

MESSAGE FROM ASHURE MINISTRY

Food Pantry - Our Charlie Bunn Food Pantry is facing a serious challenge. Due to federal budget cuts, our supply of food through USDA programs like TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program) will be reduced. This means fewer essential items—like dairy, produce, and frozen goods—for the families we serve. Last year, thanks to your support, we distributed 3.2 million pounds of food to 9,130 individuals in need. To keep up this level of impact, we need your help: •Donate to help us purchase food and fill the gap left by the cuts. •Contact your elected officials and let them know how important food programs like TEFAP are for our community. You can find your representative at www.congress.gov. Email us at contact@ashureministry for a sample letter to your representative in Word format. We believe God will continue to provide through His people. Thank you for standing with us and showing Christ's love in action. Thrift Store – Volunteers Needed! Our thrift store is a vital part of our ministry, providing funding to assist those in crisis.

CATAWBA COUNTY HUNGER WALK

The Catawba County Hunger Walk will be on Sunday, October 5th in beautiful downtown Newton! Why Join the Hunger Walk? ♥ It's a chance to live out our faith through action. 🤝 It's a family-friendly event where we come together as the body of Christ. 🪙 Every dollar raised will be divided equally between Ashure Ministry, The Corner Table, and Hickory Soup Kitchen to help them continue fighting food insecurity in Catawba County. *Please save the date!*

SAMARITAN'S PURSE UPDATE: Due to increased regulations in many countries, beginning this year all types of soap will no longer be allowed in Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts. Any soap received in shoebox gifts will have to be removed at our Samaritan's Purse Processing Centers to help ensure the safe delivery of every gift and to avoid any complications with customs.

FRED T. FOARD SENIOR LUNCHEON will be held at **on Wednesday, June 4th at 12:00 noon** at Ebenezer United Methodist. All are invited!

THE GRACE PRAYER BREAKFAST will be held on **Saturday, June 14th at 9:00am** at Four Peas in a Pod Restaurant on Highway 70 in Conover. Great food and great fellowship! Please come and bring a friend!

FATHERS'S DAY is Sunday, June 15. Be sure to remember Dad on this special day!

A Godly Father Is:

Faithful to God and family.

Able to discern God's will in trying times and good times.

Thankful for all the joys and trials of life.

Happy, no matter what life brings.

Enthusiastic about a life lived with purpose.

Righteous, rock-solid in heart and mind from a growing relationship with Jesus

For these things and so many more we praise God for our Fathers, this Father's Day and always.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE LEADERSHIP MINISTRY BOARD is scheduled for **Monday, June 16th at 6:00 pm.**



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School will take place at Grace from June 1st to June 5th. We meet at 5:30pm for dinner and the opening begins at 6:00pm and we conclude each evening at 8pm. Other participating churches are Sardis Lutheran, Zion Lutheran, Old St. Paul's Lutheran, Wesley Chapel Methodist, and Plateau Community Church. Please reach out to the VBS team if you would like to participate. Adults, please know that you are also invited to participate in VBS. The pastors of the churches involved will be leading Adult Bible Study each evening. Come out and meet these pastors and enjoy Bible Study with others from our community.

SOLID ROCK NALC DAY CAMP Calling all children grades K- 5th... Day Camp is coming your way! Hosted by: Grace Lutheran Church and the Carolinas Mission Region Day Camp Team and Counselors When: The week of Monday, June 16 – Friday, June 20. 9 am - 4 pm Monday-Thursday, 9 am- 12 noon Friday Bible study, singing, games, crafts, skits, and lots of fun! Friends welcome! Cost is only \$100 for a full week of growing in the faith, childcare and lots of fun! Ask your home church to help sponsor you! Don't let cost get in the way. We can find scholarships somewhere if you are interested! Contact Pastor Doug Hefner at Grace for more information and to register! We now have 9 campers signed up already! 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. Grace will join the other churches involved with providing meals for the counselors during the week. The counselors will be staying at the parsonage. As we get closer to the week we will seek volunteers for the needs of the camp.

RIGHTNOW MEDIA

Don't forget to activate your free membership to RightNow Media, the world's largest streaming library of video Bible study resources. You should have received an email invitation for FREE access – if you haven't received it yet, be sure to check your spam or promotions folder. To get started, simply click the link in the email, create your free account, and start browsing more than 20,000 inspiring videos. We pray that RightNow Media will be a blessing to you and your family! Visit <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/glnc> OR text the code GLCNC to 49775. Please share this information with family, friends, neighbors, or anybody that you want to share the Gospel with and invite to Grace. This is our gift to all we meet.

WORSHIP ASSISTANT VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! - Please offer your services as a Lector, Usher, or Communion Assistant for the upcoming months. Worship Assistants help to make our worship experience more meaningful. If you would like to serve during a particular month, please notify Todd Childers.

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