

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost



September 28, 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: Merciful Father,

C: we have sinned against You and one another. We do not fully live as Your beloved daughters and sons. We use Your gifts to our own ends and neglect your call to bear fruit in Your world. Look upon us in mercy and 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; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The minister stands and addresses the congregation.

P: We are reconciled to God through Christ; for His sake, God does not count our trespasses against us. Once dead in sin, we are now alive to God. Once lost, we now are found. God clothes us in the finest robe of all, the righteousness of Jesus Christ our Lord, so that we can celebrate the joy of our salvation. In the mercy of almighty God, Christ

died for us while we were sinners and through Christ, God has granted us the entire forgiveness of all our sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

* **GATHERING HYMN** **“My Life Flows On in Endless Song”** **WOV 781**

* **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

Almighty God, called to walk the path of life by following your Son, Jesus, we are likewise sent out into your world to be beacons of your love and grace. May our lives always bear witness to your redeeming grace made known in the cross; through Jesus Christ, 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: Numbers 11:16-17, 24-29

¹⁶ Then the Lord said to Moses, “Gather for me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them, and bring them to the tent of meeting, and let them take their stand there with you. ¹⁷ And I will come down and talk with you there. And I will take some of the Spirit that is on you and put it on them, and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, so that you may not bear it yourself alone.

²⁴ So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord. And he gathered seventy men of the elders of the people and placed them around the tent. ²⁵ Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. And as soon as the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied. But they did not continue doing it. ²⁶ Now two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the Spirit rested on them. They were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. ²⁷ And a young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” ²⁸ And Joshua the son of Nun, the assistant of Moses from his youth, said, “My lord Moses, stop them.” ²⁹ But Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, that the Lord would put his Spirit on them!”

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

PSALM 66: 1-7

¹Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

²**sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise!**

³Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you.

⁴**All the earth worships you and sings praises to you; they sing praises to your name.”**

⁵Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man.

⁶**He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot. There did we rejoice in him,**

⁷who rules by his might forever, whose eyes keep watch on the nations — let not the rebellious exalt themselves.

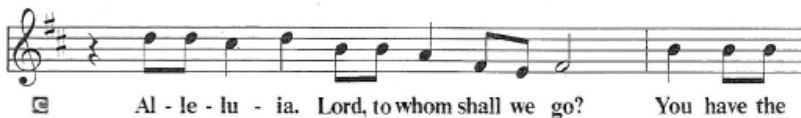
SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5: 17-21

¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling^[d] the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore, ***we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us.*** We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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 10: 1-11, 16-24**

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

¹After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. ²And he said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. ³Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. ⁴Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. ⁵Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace be to this house!’ ⁶And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. ⁷And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. ⁸Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. ⁹Heal the sick in it and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ ¹⁰But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, ¹¹‘Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.’ ¹⁶The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me.” ¹⁷The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!” ¹⁸And he said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. ²⁰Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.” ²¹In that same hour Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²²All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.” ²³Then turning to the disciples he said privately, “Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! ²⁴For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.”

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

The congregation may be seated.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

God has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

- 2 Corinthians 5:19-20 -



SERMON

“Anointed, Appointed, and Never Disappointed in the Life Transforming Power of Christ and the Gospel”

Pastor Doug

***HYMN OF THE DAY** “We All Are One in Mission”

WOV 755

***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.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Response at the end of each petition. P: Lord in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

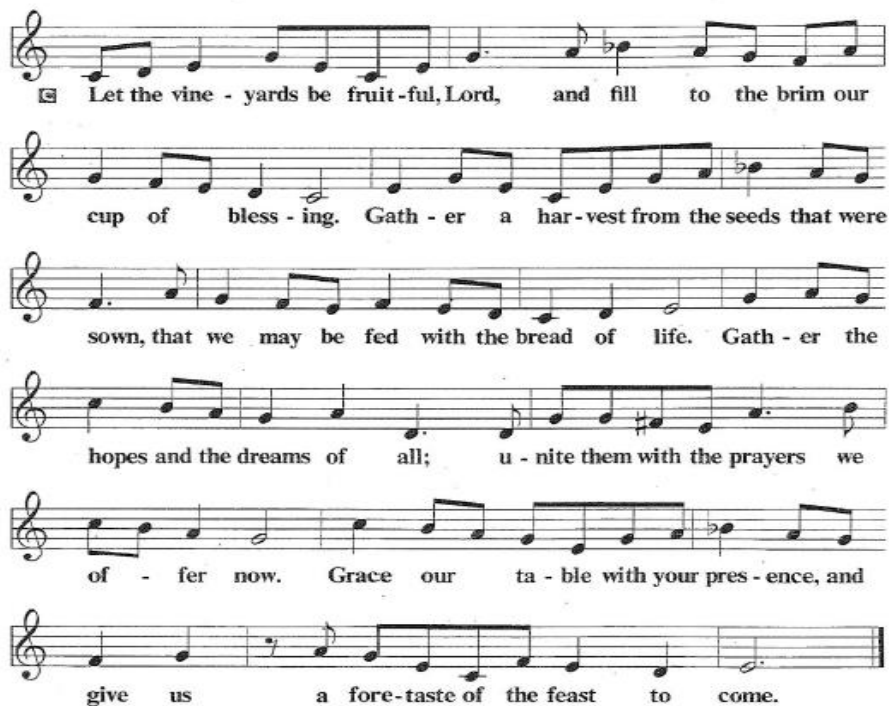
***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

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

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

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 PRAYER**

P: God of abundance, C: we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. As we come to be nourished at Your table of grace, empower our faithfulness as we sow the seed of your love in the world today that it may bring forth a great harvest to the honor and glory of your Son, 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

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.

* 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: God of abundance, **C: we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. As we come to be nourished at Your table of grace, empower our faithfulness as we sow the seed of your love in the world today that it may bring forth a great harvest to the honor and glory of your Son, our Savior and 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 “The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve”**

WOV 723

***DISMISSAL**

P: We are sent out to share the Good News of God’s love in Christ. Let us rejoice in the transforming power of the Gospel and that our names are written in heaven! Go in peace and joy to love Jesus and our neighbor! **C: Thanks be to God!**

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God by Pastor Doug, Gabby, and Matthew Hefner in loving memory of Lori Hefner (Mom, Nana) birthday August 31 and Elizabeth Hefner (daughter, mom, sister) birthday on September 27.



In the Grace Church Family:

Jeffry 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, 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), Harvey Leatherman (Trinity Ridge)

Friends and Relatives in our Prayers: Pray for Peace in Israel and the World, New Covenant Lutheran Mission Church, Daniel Baucom, Ashlee Bumgardner, Jessica Cassels & Family, Clinton Childers, Evelyn Childers, family of Barbara Jarrett, Thurman

McCaslin, Ryan McMullen, Randy & Rita Neill, Anita Sabino, Karlee Speagle, 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. Pray for Charlie Kirk and his family and for peace in our country.

COMING UP AT GRACE THIS WEEK

Today: Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

9:30am – Sunday School

10:30am - Worship Celebration

Wednesday

12:00pm – Fred T. Foard Seniors Luncheon at Grace – Need Volunteers!

6:30pm – Vespers with Bible Study on the Five Solas – Sola Scriptura “Scripture Alone”

HAPPY SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER BIRTHDAY TO:

September 25 – Joe Momier

September 27 – Kandra Johnson

October 1 – Pastor Doug Hefner

October 3 – Juanita Haas

October 7 – Debra Hefner

October 7 – Stephen Pisko

October 9 – Don Jarrett

October 9 – Jason Yoder

October 9 – Emilee Bumgardner

October 10 – Joy Heavner

October 10 – Cooper Johnson

October 13 – Todd Childers

October 13 – Allen Hatchett

October 19 – Riley Leatherman

October 25 – Matt Speagle

October 28 – Todd Setzer

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 5 Catawba County Hunger Walk in downtown Newton at 3:00pm

October 12 at 5pm Blessing of the Pets Service (Shelter weather permitting) We will have a short service and a blessing for all the pets. Catawba Humane Society representative will be invited and we will receive an offering to benefit the care they provide pets in our area.

October 26 Reformation Sunday

October 26 Trunk or Treat Outreach Event with Hot Dogs for Community 5-7pm

See Pastor Doug if you would like to help; everyone is encouraged to participate so that we can reach out to our community with the love of Jesus.

November 2 – All Saints Day Service – we will remember and give thanks for all the Saints, especially those members who have died in the past year and are now with the Lord.

November 23 – Sunday Thanksgiving Service at Grace

November 26 – Community Thanksgiving Service (Location TBA), Wednesday
November 30 – First Sunday of Advent
December 3, 10, 17 – Midweek Advent Services 6:30 pm
December 24 – (Wed.) **Christmas Eve** – Candlelight & Holy Communion 7:00 pm

CCHUNGERWALK.COM

SPONSOR START A TEAM
RAISE SUPPORT WALK
SPREAD THE WORD

CATAWBA COUNTY

HUNGER WALK

PRESENTED BY:

MOUNTAIN CREEK CONTRACTORS, INC.
THE GRACE OF GOD



REGISTER NOW

SUNDAY | 3PM
OCTOBER 5, 2025
DOWNTOWN NEWTON
(Frank & Sue Jones Amphitheatre)

BENEFITING





WHY WE WALK

To provide meals to the homes facing food insecurity in Catawba County!

INFORMATION

2:00PM - Registration
(Top Team Fundraiser, Largest Team, Top Individual Fundraiser and more)

2:45PM - Awards








QUESTIONS

Ashure Ministry
(828-465-1702 | ashureministry.org)


The Corner Table
(828-464-0355 | thecornertable.org)

Hickory Soup Kitchen
(828-327-4828 | hickorysoupkitchen.org)

Event Details

-  **Sunday, October 5, 2025**
-  **Downtown Newton – Frank & Sue Jones Amphitheater**
(across from the 1924 Courthouse)
- Schedule**
-  **2:00 PM** – Registration & Check-In
-  **2:45 PM** – Welcome, Warm-Up & Awards
(Largest Team • Top Team Fundraiser • Top Individual Fundraiser)
-  **3:00 PM** – Walk Begins (5K & 1-Mile Options)
-  Kids can enjoy inflatables during the festivities.
-  Ice cream and refreshments provided after the walk!

Register or Donate

It's not too late to participate:
 **Register online or at the event:** www.cchungerwalk.com

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 – Sherry Biggerstaff
Communion Assistants – Tina Hefner & Sherry Biggerstaff
Ushers – Jacob Jarrett & James Hall
Offering Counters – Todd Childers & Tim Eckard

Listening for the Promise
WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

¹⁷The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!” ¹⁸And he said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

¹⁹Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.

²⁰Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

- Luke 10:17-20 -

Jesus' followers return from their mission amazed that even the demons were subject to them in Jesus' name. Jesus responds that he has indeed given them such power, but in so doing, he adds two further points. He alludes to the basis of this power as well as the end for which it is given. The basis of this power is that Satan has been dislodged from the position of power that he had formerly usurped. Jesus indicates this by saying, “I saw Satan fall like lightening from heaven.” The end for which Jesus gave this power to his followers is to advance his kingdom in order that people might enjoy God's presence forever. Accordingly, Jesus tells his followers not to rejoice in the power itself but in the fact that their names are written in heaven. So, the power is a means to the greater end of advancing God's kingdom, and the basis of this power is the work of Christ on the cross that dislodges Satan from his usurped position of power.

The name *Satan* means *accuser* or *adversary*. In Job 1 we see this in action: Satan enters God's presence to accuse Job. And the basis of Satan's power to accuse is the guilt of our sin, both original and actual. However, this power was broken when Jesus died on the cross to remove the guilt of our sin. Moreover, it was further broken when Jesus ascended to heaven to intercede for us—on the basis of his sacrifice—in the very spot where Satan once accused. The result was that Satan was dislodged from his usurped position of power: “Satan fell like lightening from heaven.” It is precisely this dislodging of which Christ speaks in John 12: “Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself (John 12:31, 32).”

When Christ spoke to his followers on the way to Jerusalem, he had not yet been lifted up. But the result of his work was so certain in advance that Satan's fall from heaven was guaranteed. In the divine plan, it was already a done deal. This is why the demons were subject to Jesus' followers in his name.