

Holy Trinity Sunday

May 31, 2026 10:30 AM



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church



NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

4536 Hickory Lincolnton Highway, Newton, North Carolina 28658

Church Office: (704) 462-1035 email: gracenalcnwton@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

The congregation is invited to stand.

*** 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 the true faith. We acknowledge your glorious eternal Trinity, and we adore the unity of your majestic work. Strengthen us in our faith, defend us from all evil and temptation, and bring us into the everlasting presence of your love; 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: Isaiah 6: 1-8

¹In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the LORD sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ²Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!” ⁴And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!” ⁶Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.” ⁸And I heard the voice of the LORD saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.”

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.

⁶You 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: Acts 2: 14a, 22-36

^{14a}Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them:

²²“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know — ²³this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. ²⁴God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. ²⁵For David says concerning him, ‘I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; ²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. ²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. ²⁸You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’ ²⁹Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, ³¹he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. ³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. ³³Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. ³⁴For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, ‘The LORD said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, ³⁵until I make your enemies your footstool.”’ ³⁶Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

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: Matthew 28: 16-20**

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

¹⁶The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

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

The congregation may be seated.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON



*“Invited into the Loving Embrace, Dance, and Mission of
the Holy Trinity”
Pastor Doug*

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Holy God, We Praise Your Name”

LBW 535

***THE NICENE CREED**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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** Let the Vineyards



* **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

P: The Lord be with you. C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. C: We lift them to the Lord our God.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is good and right to give God our thanks and praise.

* WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LBW p. 70

* LORD'S PRAYER

LBW p. 71

* 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

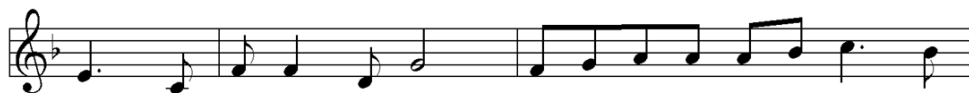
COMMUNION SONG Lamb of God



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.

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

* SENDING HYMN

“Father Most Holy”

LBW 169

* 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 honor of all the Biggerstaff grandchildren by Allen and Sherry Biggerstaff.



In the Grace Church Family:

Jeffry Bivens, Rick & Cindy Bivens, Glenda Childers, Pat Dietz, Allen and Kay Hatchett, Lorene Heavner, Larry & Brenda Jarrett, Martha Johnson, Faye Lane, Phil & Malinda Leatherman, Betty Matheson, Joe Momier, Jane Moss, Christine Norman, Michael Norman, Tricia and Dan Panek, Mike, Debi & Stephen Pisko, Alice Parris, 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, Room 100)

Friends and Relatives in our Prayers: Pray for Peace in Israel and the World, New Covenant Lutheran Mission Church, Ashlee Bumgardner, Braylon's sister, Pastor Randall Cauble, Clinton Childers, Evelyn Childers, Gray Childers, Luca's Hope, Peggy Klutz, Amy Martin, Anne Poovey, Randy & Rita Neill, David Sigmon, the family of Donald Smith, Scott Speagle, and the family of Martha Young. 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 MAY BIRTHDAY TO:

May 11 – Tim Eckard

May 22 – Tawanna Jarrett

May 27 – Jane Robertson

COMING UP AT GRACE THIS WEEK

Today: Holy Trinity Sunday

9:15am – Sunday School 10:30am - Worship Celebration

5:30 to 8:30pm – Vacation Bible School at Zion Lutheran Church

Monday: 5:30 to 8:30pm – Vacation Bible School at Zion Lutheran Church

Tuesday: 5:30 to 8:30pm – Vacation Bible School at Zion Lutheran Church

Wednesday: 12:00pm – Fred T. Foard Seniors Luncheon at Grace

5:30 to 8:30pm – Vacation Bible School at Zion Lutheran Church

Thursday: 5:30 to 8:30pm – Vacation Bible School at Zion Lutheran Church

SAVE THE DATES

Grace is part of a community VBS with 5 other churches. This year's VBS is *Illumination Station: Shining a Light On Who Jesus Really Is!* The date is Sunday, 5/31 to Thursday 6/4 from 5:30-8pm. Dinner is served each night followed by Bible stories, music, crafts, and games! Children, youth and adults may register at <https://www.zionhickory.org/vbs-2026>. Volunteers are needed.

Upcoming Dates:

Sunday, May 31 – Thursday, June 4 Illumination Station VBS (see announcement)

Wednesday, June 3 – Fred T. Foard Seniors Luncheon hosted by Grace

Sunday, June 7 - 2nd Sunday after Pentecost (special music and service at Grace Union)

Sunday, June 14 - 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, June 21 - 4th Sunday after Pentecost, Father's Day, Gifts for Fathers

SPECIAL SERVICE ON JUNE 7

Please join us for a very special service on June 7 as we welcome "Willow Creek" Blue Grass band to lead worship. Willow Creek has played at over 200 venues (many churches) over the years and have brought joy to many who love to hear their music. The band members are friends and family of Grace - notably Alan and Joe Biggerstaff. The rest of the band includes Tiffany Waters Philbeck, Charlie Pumpry, and Danny Sexton. Please note that the service will be held in Grace Union. Please invite family, friends, and neighbors to this special worship service!

GIVING AND ATTENDANCE FOR LAST SUNDAY

Date	Offering		Attendance	
	Total Receipts	General Fund	Worship	Sunday School
5/24/2026	\$ 1,153	\$ 1,120	34	7

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

We would like to create a new updated pictorial directory for our congregation. Rather than going to the expense of hiring an outside company to do this we would like to complete this project in-house. But we will need your help. Please email to us a digital photo of your choosing of you and your family members who worship at Grace. It does not have to be a

formal portrait but should clearly show everyone's faces. If you do not have one we can help you take one. We would like to put this together as soon as possible so please start sending in your photos now.

Ministers of Grace – All the People of Grace
Pastor – Reverend Doug Hefner Board President – Tim Eckard
Lector – Kim Parker Youth Leader – Stormy Shull
Altar Preparation – Cindy Bivens
Communion Assistants – Cindy Bivens & Lula Ingle
Ushers – Jacob Jarrett & Jeff Scronce
Offering Counters – Todd Childers & Sheila Drum



SHINING A LIGHT ON
WHO JESUS REALLY IS

ILLUMINATION STATION

JOHN 8:12

Vacation Bible School 2026

Join us for the brightest week of the summer! At Illumination Station, you will explore how light brightens, illuminates, reflects, and reveals while discovering that Jesus is the Light of the World. Through Bible study, music, crafts, and recreation, you will learn that Jesus is the perfect, proven, and powerful Son of God.

Light up your summer and shine a light on Jesus!

For All Ages: Preschoolers, Kids, Teenagers & Adults!

Place:
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
1911 Zion Church Rd, Hickory, NC

Date & Time:
Sunday, 5/31 – Thursday, 6/4
5:30pm – 8:30pm
(Dinner from 5:30-6:00pm)

Register Here:



zionhickory.org/vbs-2026

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Holy Trinity Sunday – May 31, 2026

“¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, ‘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,*
²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

– Matthew 28:17-20 –

On Holy Trinity Sunday, we acknowledge God’s holiness by celebrating the Trinity: God, the Father of all creation; God, the Son of our salvation; and God, the Holy Spirit our Advocate and Guide. The Holy Trinity is at the very foundation of our doctrine as Christians.

We can also acknowledge and celebrate being made holy as well. Yes! We are made holy through Jesus Christ. To be “holy” means to be set apart for the service of God; we have been called to share the Good News with all those whom we meet. The difference between God and us is that he is inherently holy, but we are made holy in relationship through Jesus Christ, which is given to us through the power of the Holy Spirit.

In Acts 2:28 we are assured of the presence of the Holy Spirit as we read, “You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.” Imagine the kind of joy of knowing his presence is with us as we journey throughout our life serving him. There is no place we can go that he is not with us — guiding us, protecting us, assisting us to do his holy will for the sake of the world he loves.

We have also been given all authority through Christ to “Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples.” This is The Great Commission given to us as Christians. The moment we believe in him, a transformation process begins and we are commissioned as disciples in Christ. It is our role to spread God’s Word, whether it be to a next-door neighbor or to people in a faraway country.

As we celebrate the Holy Trinity and spread God’s Word, let us remember the words found in the Nicene Creed which remind us of the gift of unity we have in God: “We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.” Amen.

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