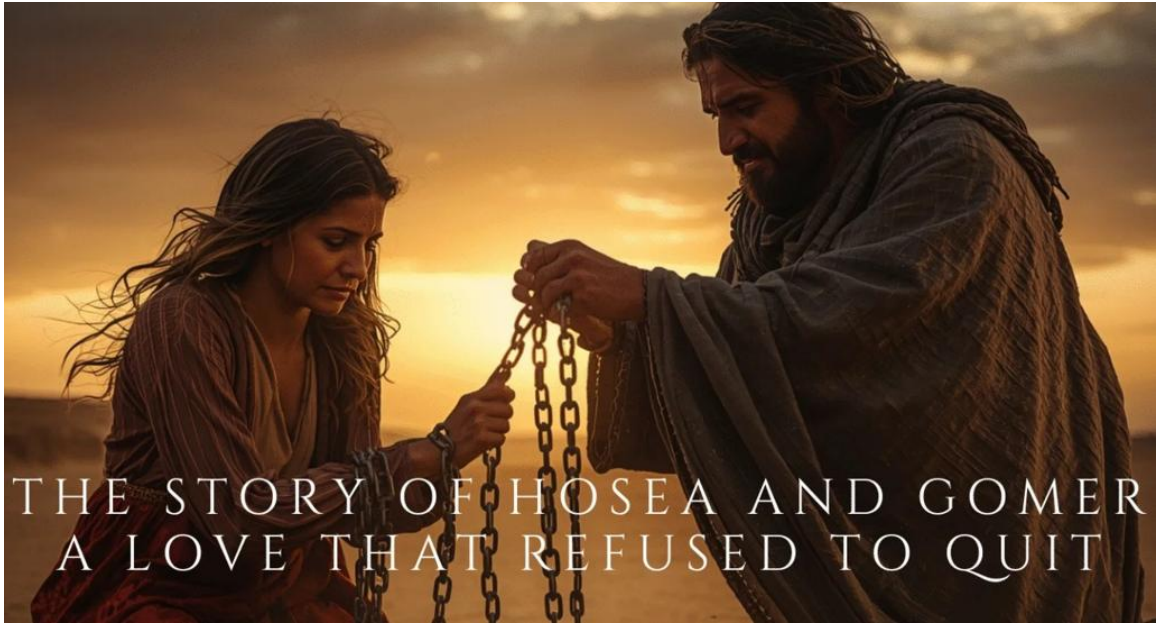


Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

August 2, 2026 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 - Thursday 8am to 12pm

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: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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 your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

*** GATHERING HYMN**

“O How I Love Jesus”

TCH 92

*** 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: Heavenly Father, thank You for Your immeasurable love in Jesus our Lord that redeems us from sin and death. Your grace transforms our hearts and renews our spirits. Help us to embrace this love fully, allowing it to guide our actions and thoughts. May we reflect Your love in our lives, sharing the hope and freedom found in Your redeeming love with others; 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: Hosea 1: 1-9

¹The word of the Lord that came to Hosea son of Beeri, in the days of Kings Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah of Judah and in the days of King Jeroboam son of Joash of Israel.² When the Lord first spoke through Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea, “Go, take for yourself a wife of prostitution and have children of prostitution, for the land commits great prostitution by forsaking the Lord.”³ So he went and took Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.⁴ And the Lord said to him, “Name him Jezreel, for in a little while I will punish the house of Jehu for the blood of Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel.”⁵ On that day I will break the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel.”⁶ She conceived again and bore a daughter. Then the Lord said to him, “Name her Lo-ruhamah, for I will no longer have pity on the house of Israel or forgive them.”⁷ But I will have pity on the house of Judah, and I will save them by the Lord their God; I will not save them by bow or by sword or by war or by horses or by horsemen.”⁸ When she had weaned Lo-ruhamah, she conceived and bore a son.⁹ Then the Lord said, “Name him Lo-ammi, for you are not my people, and I am not your God.”

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

PSALM 136: 1-9, 23-26

¹Give 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.**

³Give 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;**

⁵to 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;**

⁷to 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;**

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

²³It is he who remembered us in our low estate, for his steadfast love endures forever;

²⁴**and rescued us from our foes, for his steadfast love endures forever;**

²⁵he who gives food to all flesh, for his steadfast love endures forever.

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

SECOND READING: Romans 8: 28-39

²⁸We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died — more than that, who was raised — who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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: John 3: 14-21**

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

¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” ¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹ But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

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

The congregation may be seated.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON



“Hosea: God's Enduring, Redeeming, and Extravagant Love in Christ”
Pastor Doug

God says to us: "I will betroth you to Me forever; Yes, I will betroth you to Me In righteousness and justice, In loving kindness and mercy; I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness, And you shall know the Lord."
Hosea 2:19-20

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

How Deep The Father's Love For Us

Verse 1

How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory

Verse 2

Behold the Man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

Verse 3

I will not boast in anything
No gifts no pow'r no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

CCLI Song # 1558110

Stuart Townend

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***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**

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: God of love, we are not our own, we have been bought with a great price to be your beloved and betrothed people. You invite us to this meal of grace so that we may receive your redeeming and extravagant love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer with grateful hearts. In this meal open our eyes to see your presence and your abiding love with us; we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our risen 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.**

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

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

*** 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



The congregation is invited to stand.

*** COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER**

P: Lord Jesus, Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, You have refreshed us again with the heavenly food of your body and blood. As we go now, nourished in faith and love, be present with us today, tomorrow and forever so that we will tell and live out the story of your never-ending love in the precious and powerful name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. **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.

***SENDING HYMN**

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

TCH 90

***DISMISSAL**

P: Beloved and betrothed of God in Christ! Be assured that nothing that can separate you from the extravagant love of God in Christ! Let us go in peace and joy to share the Good News of Jesus' love with all the world.

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Harvey Leatherman and Gary Leatherman on their birthdays by the kids.



In the Grace Church Family:

Jeffry Bivens, Rick & Cindy Bivens, Pat Dietz, Allen and Kay Hatchett, Lorene Heavner, Larry & Brenda Jarrett, Martha Johnson, Faye Lane, Harvey Leatherman, Phil & Malinda Leatherman, Betty

Matheson, Joe Momier, Jane Moss, Christine Norman, Michael Norman, Tricia and Dan Panek, Mike, Debi & Stephen Pisko, Alice Parris, Todd Setzer, Helen Smith, Ethan Starnes, Sandi Tallant, Libby Travis, Shirley Warlick, Ken 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, Larry Buff, Ashlee Bumgardner, Clinton Childers, Evelyn Childers, Marilyn Childers, Randy & Rita Neill, Jolene Heavner Shuford, 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 AUGUST BIRTHDAY TO:

August 1 Gary Leatherman	August 1 James Hall	August 7 Martha Johnson
August 12 Jane Moss	August 23 Betty Wilfong	August 30 Pat Dietz

COMING UP AT GRACE THIS WEEK:

Today: Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

9:15am – Sunday School

10:30am - Worship Celebration

1:00pm - Wilfong Family Reunion in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday:

12:00pm - Fred T. Foard Seniors Luncheon at Laurel Hill UMC

Saturday:

9:00am - Grace Prayer Breakfast at Four Peas in a Pod - Conover

GIVING AND ATTENDANCE FOR LAST SUNDAY

	Offering		Attendance	
Date	Total Receipts	General Fund	Worship	Sunday School
7/26/2026	\$1,558	\$1,485	33	7

UPCOMING DATES:

Please review these dates and provide feedback or additional dates to Pastor Doug and the Board. Once the dates are finalized, we will share this information with the community in a postcard mailing.

- +Sun, Aug. 16: Leonard Family Reunion – Fellowship Hall – 1:00pm
- +Sun., Aug. 23: Back to School Service 10:30am, Birthday Luncheon for Betty Wilfong's 80th!
The Congregation is invited! Bring a dish to share!
- + Sun., Sept. 13: Grandparents Sunday, 10:30am – Gift/Prayers/Blessing for Grandparents
- +Wed., Sept. 16: Grace Senior Luncheon – 12:00pm
- + Sun, Sept 20: Homecoming Worship Service followed by Covered Dish Luncheon in Shelter
- + Sat., Oct. 3: Blessing of the Animals Service at Grace Outdoor Shelter 5:00pm
- +Sun., Oct. 4: Food for the Poor Sunday 10:30am; Catawba Co. Walk for Hunger 3:00pm
- +Wed., Oct. 21: Grace Senior Luncheon – 12:00pm
- + Sun, Oct. 25: Reformation Sunday Service at 10:30am
- + Sat., Oct. 31: Grace Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat 5pm:7pm
- + Sunday, Nov. 1: 10:30am All Saints' Day Service, Worshippers light a candle in remembrance of a loved one in heaven.
- +Sun, Nov. 15: Whisnant Family Reunion – Fellowship Hall – 1:00pm
- +Wed., Nov. 18: Grace Senior Luncheon – 12:00pm
- + Nov. 22: Christ the King Sunday 10:30am, Last Sunday in Church Year
- +Wed, Nov. 25: Community Thanksgiving Service 6pm Dinner, 7pm Worship
- +Sat., Nov. 28: Hanging of the Greens, 10:00 am
- + Nov. 29: Advent Season 11/29:12/24 begins with First Sunday of Advent.
- +Wed., Dec. 2: Fred T. Foard Seniors Luncheon – 12:00pm at Grace
- +Sat., Dec. 6: Breakfast with Santa, Pancakes with fixings, Crafts, Music, Storytime
- +Wed., Dec. 16: Grace Senior Luncheon – 12:00pm

+Thur., Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight and Holy Communion Service 5pm

+Sun., Jan. 3, 2027: New Year's Sunday Service - 10:30am

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. If you would like someone to take a picture for you please see Todd Childers immediately after worship.

MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN

Grace is in need of a skilled and reliable maintenance technician or handyman to call upon on an "as needed" basis. Many projects around our campus need attention so it would be very helpful to have such a person readily available. If you know someone who can complete these projects with a high degree of excellence in a reasonable timeframe at a reasonable cost, please have them contact the church office.

SAFETY UPDATE

In order to maintain a safe environment for all who worship at Grace, the Board has decided that beginning on Sunday, August 2nd, the ushers will lock the front doors at 10:45am. Please share any other ideas you have that might enhance the safety and security of our Congregation by jotting them down and placing them in the suggestion box found in the Narthex.

CONGREGATIONAL DISCUSSION

Starting on Sunday, August 9, at 9:30am in the Sanctuary, all of Grace Church is invited to an experience of **Visioneering**: Prayerfully Seeking God's Vision for Grace Through His Word and Conversation Together. Pastor Doug will lead this time together and will be providing surveys and other tools for us to discover God's glorious vision for His Church here at Grace! Let us pray that in these gatherings God will renew us and bring revival for the proclamation of the Gospel, the Good news of God's love for us in Christ!

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 – Frankie Crouse

Communion Assistants – Nicky Jarrett & Shelly Scronce

Ushers – Jacob Jarrett & Tim Leatherman

Offering Counters – Todd Childers & Gary Leatherman

Father's Love Letter...The Cry of a Father's Heart from Genesis to Revelation.

My Child.... You may not know me, but I know everything about you...Psalm 139:1 I know when you sit down and when you rise up...Psalm 139:2 I am familiar with all your ways ...Psalm 139:3 Even the very hairs on your head are numbered...Matthew 10:29-31 For you were made in my image...Genesis 1:27 In me you live and move and have your being...Acts 17:28 For you are my offspring...Acts 17:28 I knew you even before you were conceived...Jeremiah 1:4-5 I chose you when I planned creation...Ephesians 1:11-12 You were not a mistake...Psalm 139:15-16 For all your days are written in my book...Psalm 139:15-16 I determined the exact time of your birth and where you would live...Acts 17:26 You are fearfully and wonderfully made...Psalm 139:14 I knit you together in your mother's womb...Psalm 139:13 And brought you forth on the day you were born...Psalm 71:6 I have been misrepresented by those who don't know me...John 8:41-44 I am not distant and angry, but am the complete expression of love...1 John 4:16 And it is my desire to lavish my love on you..1 John 3:1 Simply because you are my child and I am your Father...1 John 3:1 I offer you more than your earthly father ever could...Matthew 7:11 For I am the perfect Father...Matthew 5:48 Every good gift that you receive comes from my hand...James 1:17 For I am your provider and I meet all your needs...Matthew 6:31-33 My plan for your future has always been filled with hope...Jeremiah 29:11 Because I love you with an everlasting love...Jeremiah 31:3 My thoughts toward you are countless as the sand on the seashore...Psalm 139:17-18 And I rejoice over you with singing...Zephaniah 3:17 I will never stop doing good to you...Jeremiah 32:40 For you are my treasured possession...Exodus 19:5 I desire to establish you with all my heart and all my soul...Jeremiah 32:41 And I want to show you great and marvelous things...Jeremiah 33:3 If you seek me with all your heart, you will find me...Deuteronomy 4:29 Delight in me and I will give you the desires of your heart ...Psalm 37:4 For it is I who gave you those desires...Philippians 2:13 I am able to do more for you than you could possibly imagine...Ephesians 3:20 For I am your greatest encourager...2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 I am also the Father who comforts you in all your troubles...2 Corinthians 1:3-4 When you are brokenhearted, I am close to you...Psalm 34:18 As a shepherd carries a lamb, I have carried you close to my heart...Isaiah 40:11 One day I will wipe away every tear from your eyes...Revelation 21:3-4 And I'll take away all the pain you have suffered on this earth...Revelation 21:4 I am your Father and I love you even as I love my son, Jesus...John 17:23 For in Jesus my love for you is revealed ...John 17:26 He is the exact representation of my being...Hebrews 1:3 And He came to demonstrate that I am for you, not against you...Romans 8:31 And to tell you that I am not counting your sins...2 Corinthians 5:18-19 Jesus died so that you and I could be reconciled...2 Corinthians 5:18-19 His death was the ultimate expression of my love for you...1 John 4:10 I gave up everything I loved that I might gain your love...Romans 8:32 If you receive the gift of my son Jesus, you receive me...1 John 2:23 And nothing will ever separate you from my love again...Romans 8:38-39 Come home and I'll throw the biggest party heaven has ever seen...Luke 15:7 I have always been Father and will always be Father...Ephesians 3:14-15 My question is...Will you be my child?...John 1:12-13 I am waiting for you...Luke 15:11-32 ...Love, Your Heavenly Father, Almighty God