

Grace Notes



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

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9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service with Communion

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OCTOBER 2026

Two Important Reformation Mottos:

Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum (The Word of the Lord Endures Forever)

Post Tenebras Lux (After Darkness, Light)

Message by Pastor Doug Hefner

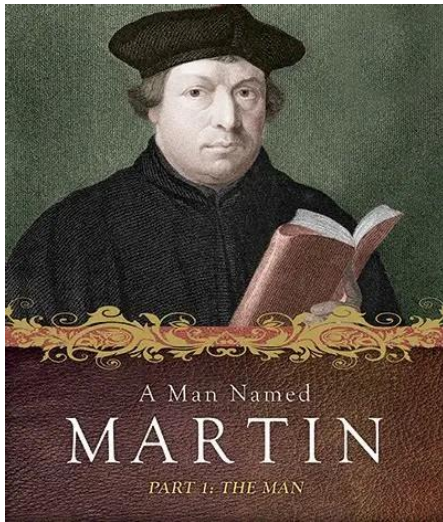
1 Peter 1:18-19,23-25 You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold,¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish... ²³ You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God. ²⁴ For "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls,²⁵ but the word of the Lord endures forever." That word is the good news that was announced to you.

In the passage above, St. Peter points to the good news that we have been "ransomed," or saved, not with perishable worldly treasures but with the precious blood of Christ. This good news comes to us through the living and enduring Word of God! He goes on to point out the perishable or changing nature of our flesh (and our world) – comparing our experience to grass and flowers – they fall, wither and fade. **But, the word of the Lord endures forever!** Our hope is in the unchanging love and grace of God in Jesus Christ, which is the heart of God's Word, the Bible.

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther pointed to the enduring, authoritative Word of God in his 95 Theses to begin a debate over the errors he saw being committed by the Roman Catholic Church. Luther spoke about the error of indulgences (among many things) and their false promise to provide forgiveness and salvation. Martin Luther then

pointed out the truth: our forgiveness and salvation come from Christ alone by His grace poured out to us in Christ's death and resurrection. We receive this gift through our faith alone in Christ as our Lord and Savior. Already you can see the major themes or Solas "alone" of the Reformation: **Christ Alone, Scripture Alone, Grace Alone, Faith Alone, to God alone be the glory!** As this movement grew, Luther would return over and over again to the enduring Word of God. Luther saw how the errors of the Medieval Church eclipsed the light of the Gospel. The Reformation movement relied upon God's Word to uncover the light of God's Gospel truth which had been eclipsed by the darkness of sin and error. One of the Reformation Mottos comes from the Latin phrase "**post tenebras lux**" which literally means "**after darkness, light**" or "**light after darkness**". In the Vulgate version of the Bible (Job 17:12), it appears as *Post tenebras spero lucem*, meaning "After darkness, I hope for light."

Proclaiming the truth of God's Word against the errors of the Medieval Church was dangerous. Reformers before Luther were martyred and Luther himself was labeled an outlaw and heretic and would have experienced the same if not for the protection of the German leaders. And yet through it all, God raised up people to proclaim the truth of the Word of God. Martin Luther inspired many to stand upon the enduring Word of God and that is exactly what he said when he was at trial and asked to recant his writings: "***Here I Stand (on Scripture), I can do no other, so help me God!***" In fact, the motto of the Lutheran Reformation, is Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum (***The Word of the Lord Endures Forever***) According to Lutheranreformation.org: "It (this motto VDMA) first appeared in the court of Frederick the Wise in 1522. He had it sewn onto the right sleeve of the court's official clothing, which was worn by prince and servant alike. It was used by Frederick's successors, his brother John the Steadfast, and his nephew John Frederick the Magnanimous. It became the official motto of the Smalcaldic League and was used on flags, banners, swords, and uniforms as a symbol of the unity of the Lutheran laity who struggled to defend their beliefs, communities, families, and lives against those who were intent on destroying them. It was found inscribed inside churches, over doorways, on foundation stones, even on horse's helmets! The VDMA logo and statement has appeared throughout Lutheran churches worldwide and remains an enduring motto of the Reformation to this day." Indeed, we should put these words on our door and around our church and in many places to remind ourselves that "**The Word of the Lord endures forever!**"



How can we better understand Scripture and the confessions of faith that came out of the Reformation called the “Book of Concord”? How can we grow Christian disciples that follow Christ and make Christ known in word and deed? **It all starts with the Bible, the Word of God, which is our main focus here at Grace.** We gather in worship to encounter the Living Word, Christ, in the written Word of God and its proclamation, and in the Sacraments, the Visible Words of grace. We gather in Bible Studies to better understand God’s Word and to study, pray over and discuss it together, and apply it to our lives as we live it out. God’s Word is the sole norm and authority of the Christian life, so we turn to it daily for guidance, power, strength, hope and life. ***During Sunday***

School for October and November we will use the Teaching Series: A Man Called Martin. Pastor Doug will review the Reformation and the Book of Concord. He will also share resources so that you can grow in your understanding of God’s Word at home in your personal Bible Study.

As the seasons and the many parts of our life and world change, we can find comfort and hope in the unchanging love and grace of God in Christ and God’s enduring Word that guides and strengthens us. I am thankful for each of you as we live out our faith together and for your friendship and faith that encourages me and builds up our community of faith.

***May God bless you and keep you as we walk with Christ
and one another in faith and love, Pastor Doug Hefner***

WEDNESDAY EVENING VESPERS SERVICE 6:30pm SANCTUARY

Please join us for our Wednesday evening Vespers Service at 6:30pm. Our Scripture focus for October and November is the Gospel of John. During the month of December our focus will turn to the themes of Advent and Christmas. This service is about 40 minutes long.

Trunk or Treat on October 31 5-7pm

This is a Church-wide event; in other words, we need you to be a part of this. We need as many people as possible to open their car trunk or truck bed to decorate and hand out candy. Some decorate their trunks or have little games for the kids to play to get candy. After Trunk or Treat, we will have hot dogs, chips, and drink. We will also have the fire pit ready to do smores. We will see if we can get an inflatable to have fun with as well. If you would like to help with this event. We will have flyers made so that you can invite the community.

November 1, 2026, is All Saints' Sunday, Revelation 7:9-17; Psalm 149; Ephesians 1:13-23; Matthew 5:1-12. We will remember our loved ones who have entered the Church Triumphant, the saints who are in heaven as we praise our Lord for the gift of their lives and the promise of eternal life. We will light a candle for each one and ring the church bell in thanksgiving for their lives. We will also give thanks that we are the saints on earth because of God's love for us in Christ.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR OCTOBER

❖ Lector	Todd Childers
❖ Ushers	Gary Leatherman & Chris Jarrett
❖ Greeter	Sheila Drum
❖ Communion Assistants	Tim Eckard & Nicky Jarrett
❖ Altar Preparation	Cindy Bivens
❖ Offering Tabulators	Todd Childers & Alan Shull

*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 OCTOBER

OCT 4	David & Belinda Wilfong	OCT 11	Rick & Cindy Bivens
OCT 18	Don & Nicky Jarrett	OCT 25	Alan & Stormy Shull

If you wish to place flowers on a given Sunday, please list your name on the chart in the narthex. Please notify the Church Office by the Tuesday prior to your selected Sunday to ensure correct information is printed in the bulletin.

You are responsible for ordering the flowers from a florist of your choice. If you would like your flowers to be delivered, Kathy's Flowers & Gifts (704-462-1162) in Vale will deliver to our sanctuary at no extra cost.

Flowers do not have to be ordered from a florist. Live flowers from a garden center, grocery store, or from your own garden are beautiful also.

Please remember to pick up your flowers after worship. If you do not want them at home our shut-ins would love them or a donation to a nursing home would also be greatly appreciated.

ATTENDANCE AND GIVING TO OUR LORD'S WORK FOR SEPTEMBER

	8/30/26	9/6/26	9/13/26	9/20/26
Sunday School	21	17	10	13
Worship	44	32	37	53
General Fund Offerings	\$1,590	\$2,790	\$1,650	\$2,495

Upcoming Dates:

- +Sun., Oct. 4: Food for the Poor Sunday 10:30am; Catawba Co. Walk for Hunger 3:00pm**
- +Sun., Oct. 11: Four Walls Bluegrass Band Concert 5:00pm - BBQ dinner to follow**
- +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. 25: *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*

We need each of you to help with these ministry / mission opportunities. Let us know how you want to lead and help with these events. Thank you!

FRED T. FOARD SENIOR LUNCHEON will be held on Wednesday, October 7th at 12:00 noon at Sardis Lutheran Church. All are invited!

GRACE HOSTS BLUEGRASS BAND



Grace will hosting "The Four Walls Bluegrass Gospel Band" on Sunday, Oct 11 at 5pm. If weather permitting, the concert will be in the outdoor shelter. We will have a BBQ Dinner afterwards. Please bring a side dish to share or a dessert. BBQ, Buns, Sauce, Slaw, Cups, Plates, Drinks and Ice will be provided. Please invite your friends and family!

THE GRACE PRAYER BREAKFAST will be held on Saturday, October 10th 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!

THE GRACE SENIOR LUNCHEON will be held on Wednesday, October 21st at 12:00 noon in Fellowship Hall.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE LEADERSHIP MINISTRY BOARD is scheduled for Monday, October 19th at 6:00 pm.

CAROLINAS LUTHERAN WOMEN

The Carolinas Lutheran Women (CLW) Council joyfully invites you to our Sixteenth Annual Convocation this October, hosted by Organ Lutheran Church at Faith Lutheran Church. We would be honored to have the women of your congregation join us for a day of faith, joy, and worship!

“The Oil of Gladness” by Pastor Marty Ramey
Saturday, October 17, 2026 - 8:30am Registration
9:00am - 2:30pm Program, Activities, & Worship
Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church
205 S Main Street Faith, NC 28041

CHECK IT OUT! New Titles in the Library!

- The Baxter Family Series by Karen Kingsbury
 1. Fame
 2. First Born
 3. Found
 4. Family
- Then Sings My Soul by Robert J. Morgan - 150 of the World's Greatest Hymn Stories

Also, with our warm and cold months staying inside can be a little boring. Along with checking out a library book, you will soon be able to check out a jigsaw puzzle. If you have a puzzle(s) that you have finished and think someone else would enjoy, please consider donating it to our library. Or stop by to see the puzzles we have available for your puzzling enjoyment!

THRIVENT MEMBERS

If you are a Thrivent member you are eligible to apply for \$250 two times per year to benefit a charity or community project such as Ashure Ministry or our very own Blessing Box. To apply, call 800-847-4836. You will answer a few basic questions about your project and it only takes a few minutes. This is a great way to fund special projects here at Grace!

ASHURE MINISTRY FOOD ASK for the month of October is hygiene items. We are doing great things at Grace in helping feed the hungry in our own community. Year-to-date the disciples of Grace have donated 647 pounds of food to Ashure in addition to the giving for our Blessing Box. Moving forward, the 2nd Sunday of each month will be designated as Ashure Sunday. We would like to collect any food donations to help us catch up with our giving at Ashure.



FOOD FOR THE POOR SUNDAY IS OCTOBER 4, 2026

Our purpose is to bring urgent relief to vulnerable families affected by poverty. We designed our assistance programs to empower our beneficiaries to become self-sufficient and ultimately inspire them to build strong communities so their members can help each other. We constantly seek simple, efficient strategies to fight hunger and poverty without adversely impacting our aid recipients or their country. While our charity organization was founded on the religious principle that it is our moral duty to clothe and feed the poor (Matthew 25:40), Food For The Poor is neutral, impartial, apolitical, and encompasses all religions and beliefs. FFTP holds preserving human dignity and caring for those in need as a universal value. Our short-term focus is to demonstrate that poverty is not inevitable and that people can break out of poverty with the proper assistance. We partner with subject matter experts, local and international NGOs, universities and colleges, churches, and service organizations to achieve our goal.

Please join us on Sunday, October 4, as we welcome Pastor Robert Lee Berger from Food For The Poor.