

January 16, 2020

Dear New-Covenant Family,  
 Thank you for your continued thoughts and prayers as this long process continues. It has meant so much to me to know I am being prayed for by a wonderful group of people. And all of you are in my prayers during the challenges in your lives.

I just wanted you to know what my new church home means to me and how special you all are.

In Christ's love and peace,  
 Beth Walborn

Please see the thank you note from Beth Walborn who is in rehab following a car accident. Please continue to keep her and other members in your prayers.

**Members in Need of Prayer**

Rose Marie and Joe Starr  
 Cynthia Lange  
 Donna Short  
 Jacqueline Bianco  
 Beth Walborn



# New Covenant News

**Volume 2, Number 1**

**January 2020**

A Monthly Publication of the Congregational Activities of  
 New Covenant Lutheran Mission in Morganton, NC



**MISSION STATEMENT:** New Covenant Welcomes God's People  
 Founded in Faith, United by Love, and Gifted to Serve

**From the Pastor**

*“Lord God, thou hast made me a pastor and teacher in the Church.  
 Thou seest how unfit I am to administer rightly this great and responsible office;  
 And had I been without thy aid and counsel I would surely have ruined it all long ago.  
 Therefore do I invoke Thee.  
 How gladly do I desire to yield and consecrate my heart and mouth to this ministry!  
 I desire to teach the congregation. I, too desire ever to learn and keep thy Word  
 my constant companion and to meditate there upon earnestly.  
 Use me as Thy instrument in thy service. Only do not thou forsake me for if I am left to  
 myself, I will certainly bring it all to destruction.” Amen  
 +Martin Luther+*

This famous sacristy prayer of our teacher and reformer Martin Luther for pastors sums up my approach to my calling and dependence upon the Holy Spirit to help us accomplish the ministry that we share in Christ Jesus.

It is an honor to have the people of New Covenant Lutheran Mission call me, (unofficially) to serve as your pastor in building a new congregation of believers in the Morganton area. After over three months in your pulpit and at the altar of Christ, I have come to know many of you and rejoice in your dedication and faithfulness. Not only do I rely on the Holy Spirit, I also must rely on you to share our common task in growing a new and viable witness to Jesus and his holy kingdom.

As I preached last Sunday (Jan. 19) on John 1:29-42, we worship “the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world”. As Jesus invited the first followers who were with John the Baptist, by asking them “What are you looking for?”, he asks us or calls us with the same deep question. Are we looking for traditional, Lutheran, orthodox (confessional), and

**Outreach Ministries**



Members of New Covenant assembled 50 flood buckets with scrub brushes, bleach, gloves, masks, trash bags, cleanser, and all-purpose cleaner. The buckets were delivered to Advent

Lutheran Church in Kings Mountain, NC. They will be used by the NALC Disaster Response as needed.

37 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes were packed by members and delivered to Grace Lutheran Church in Newton, NC. These were delivered to Samaritan's Purse to be distributed to children in need around the world. Information about Christ was included in the boxes.



Biblical faith and life? I know I was when I retired out of the ELCA in 2009 and was received into the North American Lutheran Church in 2013.

Now we need to call others to join us as Andrew did after seeing and meeting Jesus and asking “Where are you staying?”. You can invite them to worship by saying as Jesus did, “Come and see!”. Those who see Jesus in us will also want to come and see when our faith and works reflect our Lord’s light in the world.

Our next step is to begin a weekday Bible Study at the Valdese Recreation Center beginning Feb.5th (also 12th and 19<sup>th</sup>) at 1:30 pm. Eventually I plan to add an evening study as well. The Word of God is the voice of Jesus calling us to come and see the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and gives us His peace.

See you there!

Keep the Faith!

Pastor Henry Pawluk

### **Get to Know Our Pastor**

Pastor Pawluk was born and raised in Connecticut where his parents settled in 1952 shortly after emigrating from Germany. His German mother and Ukrainian father spoke only German at home, so Pastor Pawluk (he does prefer to be called Pr. Pawluk) speaks fluent German. As one of six children, he understands the challenges and joys of family life.

After high school Pr. Pawluk attended Wagner College (a Lutheran affiliated school) in Staten Island, New York where he majored in chemistry. However, the Lord had other plans, and he enrolled at the former Lutheran Seminary at Philadelphia, now known as United Lutheran Seminary where he received a Master of Divinity degree. During his seminary years Pastor Pawluk did intern and supply parish work in urban areas of Philadelphia while his wife, Karen, worked as a classroom teacher.

Upon graduation in 1978, he was called as mission pastor to Resurrection Lutheran Church in Boston, MA. This was followed by successful pastorates in three other mid-sized New England cities: Waterbury, CT; Manchester, NH and New Haven, CT. After a first “early retirement” from ministry in 2009, Pr. Pawluk spent a few years living and working in a rural town in Vermont in a home which he nearly entirely built himself. During this time period he also completed a Master of Sacred Theology degree at the Philadelphia Lutheran Seminary specializing in the Theology of The Trinity.

In 2014 he was called back into the ministry and joined the North American Lutheran Church. He became pastor of a newly formed mission congregation in Irmo, South Carolina. After five years, New Hope Lutheran grew, prospered, and completed a lovely new building. Pastor Pawluk “re-retired,” and he and his wife, Karen, then decided to move a little closer to the mountains and relocated to Hickory.

He recently began serving as Mission Developer for New Covenant Lutheran Mission, (NALC), a devoted and enthusiastic group currently worshipping in the Sossoman Chapel at Sossoman’s Funeral Home in Morganton. Pr. Pawluk is delighted to be serving the Lord in this wonderful area of North Carolina, which he and his wife, Karen, are now calling home. He and Karen have two adult children. Their son, Justin, his wife and two children live in Roswell, GA, and their daughter, Joanna, lives and works in Burlington, Vermont.

### **Bible Study: Starting February 5**

Pastor Pawluk will be leading a Bible study on upcoming Sunday scripture lessons. The Bible study will be held at the Valdese Recreation Center located at 408 Hill Street SE, Valdese, NC. The first session will begin at 1:30 pm on February 5<sup>th</sup>. All are invited to join the study.

### **Opportunities to Get Involved!**

**Sing a New Song:** If you are interested in singing in the New Covenant choir, please contact Angela Williams (828-4131-4985 or [3521awilliams@charter.net](mailto:3521awilliams@charter.net))

**Join A Women’s Or Men’s Fellowship Group:** Fellowship groups are forming to give members a chance for Christian fellowship. They will meet monthly. If you are interested in a women’s group, please contact Angela Williams (828-4131-4985 or [3521awilliams@charter.net](mailto:3521awilliams@charter.net)). If you are interested in a men’s group (it is called Old Man’s Breakfast), please contact Charlie Moeller ([cfritzm@charter.net](mailto:cfritzm@charter.net)).

### **Worshipping and Studying God’s Word in a New Location**



Since the last newsletter, New Covenant members are worshipping in a new location: Sossoman’s Chapel at Sossoman’s Funeral Home. Thank you to Sossoman’s Funeral Home for allowing us to worship in such a beautiful environment! Worship begins at 9:45am each Sunday with Sunday school beginning at 9:00am. The adult Sunday school class is studying God’s Word with the use of the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary. The children’s Sunday school is studying lessons from the Bible and engaging in fun activities. We encourage you to join a class if you have not done so.