Important Dates for NCLC This Month

Sunday School each Sunday at 9:00 a.m.
Worship each Sunday at 9:45 a.m.
Each Monday morning beginning at 10:00 a.m. – Make a Chrismon
Each Tuesday beginning at 7:00 p.m. – Zoom Bible Study
Each Thursday beginning at 10:30 a.m. – Bible Study and Prayer
Tuesday, October 1 – Old Men's Breakfast 9:00 a.m.
Zoom Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 5 – Identity in Mission Workshop 10:00am-3:00pm
Sunday, October 6 – Identity in Mission Worship after worship
Food Donation Sunday
Sunday, October 13 – Pastor appreciation day
Wednesday, October 16 – Church & Community Life Commission meeting 5:00 p.m.
Council at 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 19 – Mission District Women's Convocation
Men's organizational meeting 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday, October 23 – New Covenant Ladies at 1:00 p.m.
Sunday, October 27 – Trick or Treat fellowship after worship

Birthdays

- Janet Tweedy – October 12
- Steve Short – October 14
- Twanna Cook – October 19
- Ed Williams – October 31

Please let us know if we have missed any birthdays.

"IDENTITY IN MISSION" WORKSHOP

CHURCH ON A MISSION

Join us for an important congregational workshop to review, pursue and discover opportunities for the future of New Covenant Lutheran Church. All members are strongly encouraged to join this important workshop for discussion about the future of New Covenant as we work together to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our midst. Saturday, October 5, we will meet from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The meeting will resume after worship on Sunday, October 6, and end around 2:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided both days.

Bible Study

A new opportunity for Bible study has begun. It is held each Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. through Zoom. A link is sent to the congregation so everyone can participate. This study continues on the Gospel of Mark. Check your email to join in each Tuesday evening.

New Covenant News

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New Covenant Lutheran Church in Morganton, NC

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

From the desk of Pastor Weisner…

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the "New Covenant" ...

Not long after the Reformation launched by Martin Luther began (in 1517, with the 95 Theses, and 1521, Luther's excommunication by Rome), controversies broke out among Luther's followers and other European Christians following other reformers (such as Ulrich Zwingli, John Calvin, and others) concerning the nature, the reality, of Jesus Christ's presence in the holy sacraments. Luther responded to the controversies by writing several essays. Here below is a passage from his treatise, "Admonition Concerning the Body and Blood of Our Lord," written in 1530.

<We can confidently trust that we have a gracious God who can help us. And this is not all, but we must also be sure that he undoubtedly wants to be gracious toward us and help us. How can we become sure of this if he does not give us an indubitable sign of his grace and love for us? Otherwise, who could guess what his feeling toward us is? This he has shown us with the sacrament, erecting for us a sure sign of his love and grace. For the sacrament is indeed not a sign of his wrath, and he would never have given it to us, if he were angry with us. Rather, it is a sign of his sublimest love and fathomless mercy. How can he demonstrate sublimer love and deeper mercy than that he should therein truly give us his own body and blood as food? This is not only a gracious sign but is also supposed to be a food with which all of us who are in his army and are engaged in combat should be refreshed and strengthened. It is in reality the pay and provisions with which he remunerates and feeds his army and men of war until they finally conquer and carry the day along with him. Oh, it is good coinage, costly red gold and pure white silver, elegant, attractive bread and good, sweet wine! And all this is provided in abundance and richly so that it is very delightful to be a part of this military expedition.

But if you say: "Yes, but St. Paul describes it in such frightening terms in I Corinthians 11 [:27] when he says: 'Whoever, therefore eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord.' With these words he makes us timid and reluctant about going to the sacrament, for who is there who could regard himself as worthy?" The

answer is: My dear fellow, do you see whom St. Paul is criticizing? Namely, those who burst in like pigs and made of it physical gluttony and treated it no differently from mere daily bread and wine; besides, they despised one another and everyone had his own meal. But we are talking about those who believe that it is not at all something for a pig but the true body and blood of Christ and who know that Christ has instituted it for his remembrance and for our consolation. Further, they would like to be Christians, and praise, thank, and honor their Lord; also, they would like to possess his grace and love. But they are afraid because of their personal unworthiness and stay away from it, hindered and frightened away by such a false fear. >

Luther, M. (1999, c1971). Vol. 38: Luther's works, vol. 38 : Word and Sacrament IV (J. J. Pelikan, H. C. Oswald & H. T. Lehmann, Ed.). Luther's Works (Vol. 38, Page 131-132). Philadelphia: Fortress Press.

Calling All Men

Just a reminder that Saturday Oct. 19th is the date set for an information/discussion on forming a men's group for our church. We will meet at the church at 9:00 a.m. to organize and make plans if there is interest in forming this type of organization. Once again this is a chance for the men of our church to get together and do pretty much whatever we want. There will be a brief devotion at the beginning and then it is up to us what we want to do. I look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible. If you have any questions, please call me at 856-430-3671 or talk to me at church.

Yours in Christ
Allan Hermanson

Call Committee Update

We continue to wait on the Lord to bring us together with the pastor he has chosen to join us in growing New Covenant in our worship and mission. We will not be moving forward with the candidate mentioned in last month's newsletter. Let us continue to lift the call process up in prayer, knowing that the Lord's timing is perfect and he will provide his candidate at the right time in this process. Let us wait in hopeful expectation.

Trick or Treat Family Event

On Sunday, October 27, there will be a fun event for the entire family. Children can change into costumes after worship. Then Debbie Little will lead them to knock on church doors to gather treats for their buckets. Everyone is welcome and children are encouraged to bring their friends. Trick or Treating will be followed by a finger-food lunch to include sandwiches, chips, cookies, cupcakes and more! There will be plenty to giggle about and have fun with friends and family at this gathering. A group photo will be taken of the children before eating.

Carolinas Lutheran Women Convocation

As sisters in Christ, led by the Holy Spirit, we dedicate ourselves to serve God by using the gifts we have received to reach out to others. The Carolinas Lutheran Women (CLW) Council invites you to our Fourteenth Annual Convocation on Saturday, October 19, 2024, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 805 S York St, Gastonia, NC 28052. (Our own Debbie Little is on the Council.) Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. and the convocation will begin at 10:00 am. Registration is $10. Forms are available in the Narthex or on the website (CLW Events | Carolinas Lutheran Women). Our theme this year is *God's Unfailing Love*

Donations for **In-Kind Gifts for Displaced Roses** is the designated mission. This agency serves the entire Gaston County homeless population and works with other community organizations to meet their needs, including meal distribution, crisis response, furnishing "Forever" homes, dignity in death and street outreach. Each of these services requires donated supplies. Here are some suggestions:

• Batteries (AAA, AA) • Deodorant, especially men's • Men's or Sensitive Body Wash • Men's Belts
• Laundry Detergent • Canned Soda • Single-serve Snacks (salty & sweet) • Paper Towels
• Disposable razors • Fingernail/toe clippers • Low cut ankle socks

Let's Make Some Chrismons

Chrismons are Christmas decorations with Christian symbols. They are traditionally white and gold designs made from symbols such as stars, crosses, fish, crowns, and the alpha and omega, signifying Christ and the Holy Trinity. Each Monday in October at 10:00 a.m. there will be an opportunity to make your own Chrismon to use as a decoration on your tree or to give as a gift. These will be made using gold, pearl and crystal beads. No experience necessary. Join us on any Monday at the church at 10:00 a.m.

Food Pantry Donations

The first Sunday of each month we collect nonperishable food for donating to one of the local charities that distributes food to those in need. Last month it was suggested that we include paper products as they cannot be purchased with food stamps; however, our local charities do not have the space to collect, store and distribute them. The pantries are overloaded with canned vegetables. Other needed items include peanut butter, jelly, cereal, and kid-friendly snacks. Let's continue to feed our community!

Food for Thought

Our needs will never exhaust God's supply.