

Important Dates for NCLC This August

Sunday School each Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

Worship each Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Sunday, August 4 – Food Drive

Covered Dish Picnic at 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, August 14 – Council at 6:00 p.m.

Each Thursday beginning 10:30 a.m. – Bible Study and Prayer

August Birthdays

Angela Williams – August 11

Al Hermanson – August 12

David Lange – August 14

Please let us know of any birthdays we may have missed.

Monthly Food Collection

Over the past four months, NCLC has donated over 500 pounds of food to various food collection pantries here in Burke County. Let's continue to bring our non-perishable food items the first Sunday of each month. You may not be aware, but families on the Food Stamp Program may not use those food stamps to purchase other needed household items, such as paper towels, wet wipes, feminine products, or toilet paper. We will also collect those types of items during our monthly food collection. Let's continue to help where we can.

Location-Location-Location



Don't think we have stopped looking for a possible building or property to further our worship, mission and outreach opportunities. The task force assigned this effort is still working, still seeking, still wanting your input about possible sites to consider. If you know of a location that should be considered, let Howy Copenhaver or David Williams know. Suggestions are welcome and encouraged. This task is a congregational effort to

follow God's plan for us as we seek to do His will in concert with the Holy Spirit.

About that Thursday Morning Bible Fellowship

One participant shared that it is *a midweek opportunity to polish the whole armor of God, which will be put on during Sunday worship; Christian fellowship; a learning experience; a blessing to all who attend; and sometimes there are goodies!*

Please join us each Thursday morning at 10:30 a.m. as we delve into Sunday's scripture readings and discuss our thoughts about the passages. (The text study is available on the table in the Narthex.)

Fellowship continues after the study as we sit before the altar and offer up our praise, thanksgiving and requests to the Lord.

Food for Thought

Lots of exposure to the SON saves you from burning later!



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...

To the Saints of the New Covenant,

During the life and times of our theological grandfather, Martin Luther, the general rule and practice of church-goers was not to receive communion. Why? Because they were afraid. They heard through the preaching and teaching of the church that Jesus Christ is holy, righteous, and mighty, and they realized that they were sinners. They also read (for those who could read) or heard from preachers the teaching from St. Paul, "whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord" (1 Cor. 11:27), and most people thought themselves unworthy; so they would not go to receive the sacrament.

In his attempts at the reformation of the Church, Luther worked against this in his teaching and writing. Below I share with one an example from Luther's Large Catechism. Here you can see Luther's pastoral concern, theological depth, and a bit of his humor.

My thanks to you all for your faithfulness and ministry. "The peace of the Lord be with you..."

Pastor Weisner

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From Martin Luther (1483-1546)....

Here stand the gracious and lovely words, "This is my body, given for you," "This is my blood, poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins." These words, I have said, are not preached to wood or stone but to you and me; otherwise, Christ might just as well have kept quiet and not instituted a sacrament. Ponder, then, and include yourself personally in the "you" so that he may not speak to you in vain.

In this sacrament he offers us all the treasure he brought from heaven for us, to which he most graciously invites us in other places, as when he says in Matt. 11:28, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." Surely it is a sin and a shame that, when he so tenderly and faithfully summons and exhorts us to our highest and greatest good, we regard it with such disdain, neglecting it so long that we grow quite cold and callous and lose all desire and love for it. We must never regard the sacrament as a harmful thing from which we should

flee, but as a pure, wholesome, soothing medicine that aids you and gives life in both soul and body. For where the soul is healed, the body is helped as well. Why, then, do we act as if the sacrament were a poison that would kill us if we ate of it?

Of course, it is true that those who despise the sacrament and lead unchristian lives receive it to their harm and damnation. To such people nothing can be good or wholesome, just as when a sick person willfully eats and drinks what is forbidden him by the physician. But those who feel their weakness, who are anxious to be rid of it and desire help, should regard and use the sacrament as a precious antidote against the poison in their systems. For here in the sacrament you are to receive from Christ's lips the forgiveness of sins, which contains and brings with it God's grace and Spirit with all his gifts, protection, defense, and power against death and the devil and every trouble.

Thus, you have on God's part both the commandment and the promise of the Lord Christ. Meanwhile, on your part, you ought to be induced by your own need, which hangs around your neck and which is the very reason for this command, invitation, and promise. For he himself says [Matt. 9:12], "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick," that is, those who labor and are burdened with sin, fear of death, and the attacks of the flesh and the devil. If you are burdened and feel your weakness, go joyfully to the sacrament and let yourself be refreshed, comforted, and strengthened. For if you wait until you are rid of your burden in order to come to the sacrament purely and worthily, you will have to stay away from it forever. In such a case Christ pronounces the verdict, "If you are pure and upright, you have no need of me and I have also no need of you." Therefore the only ones who are unworthy are those who do not feel their burdens nor admit to being sinners.

Luther's *Large Catechism*, "The Sacrament of the Altar," V:64-74, in Robert Kolb and Timothy J. Wengert, *The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2000).

Contact Information for Pastor Weisner

Pastor will be at the church on Thursday afternoons and Sunday afternoons and other times (at church or at someone's home or elsewhere) upon request. Someone may always make contact by phone: 828.781.1110.

Outreach Ministry – Disaster Response



We continue to collect items for Flood Buckets for NALC Disaster Response this month. A sign-up sheet is on the counter to select which items you might want to give. You may want to hold your donations at home until the end of the month as our space is limited. Our goal is 30 buckets or more.

A fellowship time and ice cream social will be held on September 8 to assemble the buckets and enjoy some ice cream. Mark your calendars now for this fun event!



Worship and Fellowship...and Picnic

We have been invited to join in worship and fellowship with Christ's disciples at Union Anglican Church at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 4. Worship will start at 4:00 p.m. followed by a covered dish picnic. The address is 201 Shady Rest Road, Morganton, NC (at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church). Please bring your favorite picnic dish to share and join us in this wonderful time of worship and fellowship with fellow believers in Christ. (We will have our regular worship at 9:45 a.m. at NCLC.)



For Men Only

Have you ever thought about having an opportunity to get together as a group of men to just talk about those things that men discuss? I am wondering if there is any interest in such a group here at New Covenant. This could be a group of men who gather once a month for fellowship and discussion. We could have a short devotion led by a member of the group and go from there. We could talk about ways to serve our congregation, our community and any other subject. It would serve as a good opportunity for the men of the church to get to know and share with each other. If you have an interest in this, please let me know either at church or by calling me at **856-430-3671**. We could then pick a time to meet and discuss further what we want to achieve.



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Yours in Christ, Allan Hermanson

Church and Community Life Commission

At the July meeting of this Commission, ideas for community and congregation involvement were discussed. As noted above, we are supporting the NALC Disaster Response by collecting donations to assemble flood buckets. Food Pantry collections and Disaster Response are the main mission focus this year. NCLC is a busy congregation! Here are some of the upcoming planned events:

- August 4 – Worship & Picnic with Union Anglican Church
- September 8 – Fellowship, flood buckets, ice cream social
- Congregational Workshop – coming soon
- October 19 – Mission District Women's Convocation
- October 27 – Trick or Treat fellowship after worship
- November 10 – Veteran's Recognition
- December 14 – Hanging of the Greens

Other ideas and thoughts for fellowship and outreach were discussed. A Progressive Dinner, a Game Day, a Souper Bowl collection are just a few. What are yours? Let us know what type of events you would be interested in whether within the congregation or within the community. Angela Williams leads this Commission. Let her know your suggestions or join us at our next meeting which is scheduled for October 16.