

### Members in Need of Prayer

Rose Marie and Joe Starr, Sr. and Joe Starr, Jr., Donna Short,  
Beth Walborn, Shirley Beach, John Parker, Clay Stephenson,  
Mary Dawn Stuenkel, Kamara Reade

**Prayer Concerns:** If you have an urgent prayer concern, please contact Kamara Reade at 828-430-0760 or [kay.29@netzero.net](mailto:kay.29@netzero.net). She will send it out on our New Covenant Prayer Circle.

### Souper Bowl Of Caring

New Covenant will collect food and monetary donations for BUCM on February 12 to help feed those who are hungry in Burke County. Please bring non-perishable food and/or money to donate. You may write checks to New Covenant Lutheran Church and put

“BUCM” on the memo line. Some non-perishable food items include beans, rice, pasta, peanut butter, canned fruits and vegetables, canned meats (including tuna and salmon), canned stews and chili, spaghetti-O’s, and other box prepared meals.

NOTE: We will serve soup after church on this Sunday. Join in the fellowship and help to feed those who are hungry!



### New Covenant Lutheran Opportunities For Serving

Lectors, ushers, flowers, and altar preparers are needed. Signup sheets are in the narthex.

### Volunteer For Commissions:

Want to share your gifts from God? Then consider joining a commission. Three Commissions (committees) have been created: Spiritual Development Commission (includes Worship & Music and Christian Education), Church and Community Life Commission (includes Outreach, Congregational Life, and Social Ministry), and Parish Management Commission (includes Property and Stewardship). If you are interested in becoming a member of a Commission and helping to increase the kingdom of God, please see Pastor Ramey, Eric Stuenkel, or Angela Williams.

### Bible Study

Pastor Ramey is leading Bible study on the book of Revelation on Thursdays at 10:30 AM at the church. Come, bring your Bible, and invite a friend!

### NALC “Devoted to Prayer” 2023-2024 Daily Prayer & Reading Calendar

This guide is to provide the average layperson and pastor with the simple tools for sorting through the busyness of their lives and reclaiming an act of daily discipleship with their Lord. The daily readings follow the *Lutheran Book of Worship* two-year daily lectionary, which reflect the church calendar closely. You can download the [guide and calendar](https://thenalc.org/worship-resources/devoted-to-prayer-introduction/) at <https://thenalc.org/worship-resources/devoted-to-prayer-introduction/> and learn more about strengthening your prayer life.



# 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 Pastor:

*And as (Jesus) was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Luke 9:29-31*

### **THE TRANSFIGURATION**

The season of Epiphany began with the account of the arrival of the Magi to offer homage to the newborn king, Jesus. During Epiphany, the Christ, the promised one of prophecy, is revealed to us as our Lord, the King of Kings, the very Son of God himself. His humanity is made clear in his baptism in the River Jordan, a tradition of the Jewish community of his time for repentance and confession of sin. Jesus, of course, had no sin; as he came up out of the water, God declared from heaven that Jesus is his son, the beloved. Thus, his humanity is revealed in observing the human ritual of baptism, and his divinity is revealed through God’s declaration of him as his son.

Throughout Epiphany, we have seen the revelation of Christ in scripture. On the second Sunday in Epiphany, John the Baptist declared, “I have seen and have borne witness that (Jesus) is the Son of God.” God’s declaration at Jesus’ baptism is attested to by John, who came to prepare the way for the Savior. The next few Sundays will show us how Jesus calls us, even in our uncertainty, to bring others to him; how he brings hope to the poor and oppressed; and how he has come to fulfill all law and prophecy.



The final Sunday in Epiphany is Transfiguration Sunday. Jesus is revealed to Peter, James, and John on the mountain with Moses and Elijah, representing the Law and the Prophets, who appear with him in his glory and foretell of his impending departure from earth. And the voice of God from heaven, as he did at Jesus' baptism, declared him as his Son, his Chosen One. Thus Epiphany, this season of revelation, is bracketed by God's declaration of Jesus as his Son at his baptism and as he stands with the two men of Hebrew scripture who epitomize God's presence with his people.

The disciples close to Jesus did not always realize who he was and what his mission was to be. They certainly did not understand how the one who came to save the world would die a brutal death on the cruelest instrument of torture of that time. They also did not understand that he would be resurrected from the dead after three days in a tomb. Although Jesus revealed himself in many ways throughout his life here on earth, those closest to him had only glimpses of who he was and how he was to accomplish salvation for all.

Two thousand years later, we certainly "know" more about who Jesus was, but we still seek revelation that goes beyond knowing, the revelation that comes only through faith. Faith is instilled in us by the presence of the Holy Spirit that comes to us in our baptism. It is not our knowledge of Jesus that saves us, it is that faith that moves us into the mystery of God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We may think that if we had been present at the Transfiguration, we would have believed and understood, yet we most likely would have had the same difficulty grasping the enormity of the mystery before us as the disciples did. As we enter the season of Lent next month, we will be reminded of the suffering of Christ in fulfillment of prophecy, his sacrifice as the Lamb of God who takes away our sin, a mystery that does not lend itself to human comprehension but must be instilled in us through faith.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Marty

### **Ash Wednesday**



Ash Wednesday is a solemn reminder of human mortality and the need for reconciliation with God and marks the beginning of the penitential Lenten season. New Covenant will hold an Ash Wednesday service at 6:30 PM at the church on February 22 and will include the imposition of ashes. The ashes of Ash Wednesday remind us of our mortality. God created humankind from the dust of the earth, and it is to dust that we shall all return. "Remember you dust, and to dust you shall return" we are told. Our time on this earth is short – are we living the life to which God has called us? Pastors from the Carolinas Mission Region will rotate to offer Sunday or Wednesday evening Lenten services. Pastor Todd Cook will be at New Covenant either February 26 or March 1. More information to come!

### **Church Council Election Results**

Church Council elections were held during the Annual Meeting in December and the following New Covenant members were elected for the two openings: Kamara Reade and Ed Williams. Thank you to all members who were willing to serve on the Council. It shows that we have MANY dedicated members who want to work together to fulfill Christ's mission! Officers were selected during January's Church Council meeting and they are as follows: Eric Stuenkel – President; Angela Williams – Vice President; Beverly Watts – Secretary; Quez Little – Treasurer.

### **Church Council Meeting**

New Covenant's Church Council meets the second Wednesday of each month at 6 PM. All are welcome to attend. The next meeting is February 8. If you have an item that you want the Church Council to discuss or consider, please contact Eric Stuenkel at [westuenkel@bellsouth.net](mailto:westuenkel@bellsouth.net) or Angela Williams at [3521awilliams@charter.net](mailto:3521awilliams@charter.net)

### **Carolinas Mission Region Disaster Response – Hygiene Kits**

You're Invited!!

To the Carolinas Mission Region

#### **Winter Mission Event**

**Saturday, February 25, 2023**

**11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

St. Peter Lutheran Church

900 Dreher Island Rd. Chapin, SC 29036

Enjoy fun, food, & fellowship  
with folks from all over the Carolinas!

At this event we will:

- Assemble Hygiene Kits for NALC Disaster Response
  - Enjoy lunch provided by the folks of St. Peter (If you have dietary restrictions, please bring a bag lunch.)
  - Enjoy live music and lively fellowship
  - And have a great time serving the Lord!
- This will likely be an INDOOR event, unless the weather is especially nice. Plan accordingly.

### **Working Together**

**Each congregation will bring only certain items for the kits. \*\*Items due on February 19.**

New Covenant will bring

Travel size shampoo – 60 bottles

Combs – 50

Dental floss – 50

Toothbrushes (individually packaged) – 50

You may also bring:

- printed Bible verses and prayers to be placed inside the kits
- new or used Bibles
- gift cards to Home Depot, Lowe's, or Walmart
- new or used blankets
- baby diapers and wipes.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS & SUPPORT!