

Sharing Shepherds

There is a sign-up sheet, brochure, and guidelines for participation in the Sharing Shepherds Mission in the narthex. Pastor Marty, along with others, will travel to West Virginia on Saturday, December 9th, to deliver the gifts, Bibles, grocery cards, and fuel vouchers to the families. If you would like to go, please let Pastor Marty know. This is an inspiring experience; all are welcome!

Crafts and Conversations

Cynthia and Debbie will lead a Crafts and Conversation Class on Card Making on September 13 at 5 PM. Sign up with Debbie by September 10 if you plan to attend. If you are interested in attending, please bring small pointed scissors and a good glue stick. All other supplies will be provided. Come and join the fun! Bring a friend!

Disaster Relief Kitchen Kit Build



The Carolinas Mission Region Mission Team is happy to announce our next mission event! We will hold an NALC Disaster Response kitchen kit build on Saturday, October 28th, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 225 Morgan Street, Troutman, NC. We hope that every congregation will participate in some way. If you cannot serve in person, we would appreciate your prayers.

The kitchen kits are a recently added item of response. When people lose their homes and move into extended stay facilities, often they do not have well-equipped kitchens. The Disaster Relief Response has developed a simple kitchen kit with several needed items to help. New Covenant has signed up to bring the following items: **measuring cups and measuring spoons**. Please bring donations to the church by October 8th. Tags from New Covenant will be put on these items with a Bible verse. Gift cards to Walmart are also helpful, and Disaster Relief is always in need of Bibles.

Church Picnic

We are planning to worship and have a picnic at the Valdese Community Center (where we first started worshipping as New Covenant) located at 312 Massel Ave SE, Valdese, NC 28690 on October 1. We will have it there regardless of the weather. A microwave, refrigerator, and sink are available and there are outlets to plug in crockpots. There is a large space for worship and eating. It will start at 9:45 AM (no Sunday school that day) on October 1. More information to come!



New Covenant News

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A Monthly Publication of the Congregational Activities of
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:

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Hebrews 13:8

TRANSITIONS



The early leaves are beginning to change. The trees do not seem to be bothered by the fact that we still have temperatures in the mid to high 90's during the day, they are not waiting for the cooler weather of fall to begin to change. In the third chapter of Ecclesiastes, we read, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven..." Whether the temperature is high or low, the trees know that their season for shedding leaves is coming, and they are getting ready for it.

We also have our times and our seasons, and change will come whether we like it or not. Change will come to us individually and corporately, and we can dread it or resist it, or we can embrace it and rejoice in it. Without change, there will be no growth.

Over the next few weeks and months, New Covenant Lutheran Church will be in transition, learning new ways of outreach and personal commitment, based on the shared goals from the Fresh Eyes for Mission Summit. There is excitement in the congregation for the potential growth, but at the same time, some may feel anxiety over change. But we, as Christians, have no need to fear change, for there is for us one constant that we can rely on: Jesus is the same yesterday and today and forever, as the author of the Book of Hebrews tells us.

We have wonderful hymnody that reminds us of the constancy of God. In Hymn #771 in the blue hymnal, *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*, we sing:

*Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.*

In Hymn #778 in the blue hymnal, *O Christ the Same*, we sing:

*O Christ the same, through all our story's pages—
Our loves and hopes, our failures and our fears;
Eternal Lord, the king of all the ages,
Unchanging still amid the passing years.*

And in one of my very favorite hymns, #272 in the green LBW, *Abide with Me*, we sing:

*Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O thou who changest not, abide with me.*

No matter what changes we may experience day to day in our lives—changes in employment, empty nest, death of a loved one—our Father God does not change, Christ our Savior and Lord does not change, and the Holy Spirit that comes to us in our baptism does not change. The blessed Trinity abides with us through our loves and our hopes, our failures and our fears, unchanged and unchanging throughout eternity.

May New Covenant Lutheran Church continue to walk with God in faithful service to our living, unchanging Lord.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Marty

Members in Need of Prayer

Rose Marie and Joe Starr, Sr. and Joe Starr, Jr., Donna Short, Beth Walborn, John Parker, Mary Dawn Stuenkel, Kamara Reade, Cynthia and David Lange

Prayer Concerns: If you have an urgent prayer concern, please contact Kamara Reade at 828-430-0760 or kay.29@netzero.net. She will send it out to New Covenant members.

Memorial Service

There will be a memorial service for Clay Stephenson at 2:00 PM on Saturday, September 16th, 2023, at New Covenant. Members of his family, personal friends of his, and the congregation of New Covenant will come together to remember Clay and rejoice in his new home in heaven, with the God he loved and served. A fellowship meal will follow.

Prayer and Bible Study

Pastor Marty will lead prayers for the spiritual growth, future direction, and current needs of NCLC at 10:00 AM every Friday. Join us for this time of spiritual renewal as we seek God's guidance in our personal and congregational commitment to following the Great Commission. Weekly Bible study follows the prayers on Fridays at approximately 10:30 AM at the church. Bring your Bible and a friend!

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 September 13. If you have an item that you want the Church Council to discuss or consider, please contact Eric Stuenkel at westuenkel@bellsouth.net or Angela Williams at 3521awilliams@charter.net

NALC Fresh Eyes for Mission Summit

Thank you to everyone who attended this Summit on August 26! We had 24 participants and we gained a lot of information to give us a good mission focus and direction for the future. Please be sure to look at the back of the September calendar that is included with this newsletter to find the action steps that were developed. Howy Copenhaver and Pam Henderson were elected as our "Trail Bosses" to keep us on track with our action steps. Thank you, Howy and Pam!



Pastoral Care and Transition (PCAT)

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 7th. Pastor David Hefner will lead New Covenant in the process of preparing an online profile of the congregation for calling a pastor. Come share your insight and hopes for pastoral leadership! More information will be coming soon.

Upcoming Events from the Church and Community Life Commission

Blessing of the Animals

Everyone is invited to the Blessing of the Animals, even if you do not have a pet, on Saturday, September 30 at 11 AM. It will be held at Cynthia and David Lange's home located at 2894 Brookridge Drive, Valdese, NC 28690. Invite your friends to bring their animals (no snakes please). Snacks will be available after the service and treats will be available for all cats and dogs. Pastor Marty will do the blessings.



Love Offering For Mission Churches:

New Covenant has received monetary donations from other NALC churches and now it is our turn to help other mission churches that may be just starting out or needing monetary assistance. A "love offering" will be collected during church on Sunday, September 10 and will be equally divided among all new NALC Mission Churches in NC & SC.

NALC Carolinas Women's Convocation

The 13th Annual NALC Carolinas Region Women's Convocation will be held on September 23 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (225 Morgan Street, Troutman, NC 28155). The program will be on the Life to Life Discipleship program. Four ladies from New Covenant plan to attend but if you would like to join the group, please let Debbie Little know immediately so that you can attend.