

## Call Committee Report

### The In-Between Time

What should we be doing now as we wait for the Lord to send us our new pastor?

- **Pray for Guidance of the Holy Spirit:** Pray for wisdom in selecting the right pastor who will lead, inspire, and guide New Covenant in our spiritual journey.
- **Evaluate our Ministries:** Identify our strengths and areas that need improvement. How can we use this waiting time to further develop our ministries?
- **Maintain Momentum:** It's essential for us to stay engaged and active during this in-between time. Attendance, volunteer participation, and community outreach can be difficult without a permanent pastor and we need to be sure to maintain our focus and commitment.
  - **Small Groups:** Have small group gatherings. These gatherings can foster deeper connections, provide support, and allow for meaningful discussions.
    - **Bible Studies:** Dive deeper into Scripture and encourage personal growth. There is a regular Bible Study each Thursday at 10:30 a.m. The Scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday are read and discussed. It's an interesting and fun time. Come join us!
    - **Prayer Emphasis:** We ask that each member of New Covenant pray for the Call Committee, the Council, and the new pastor that God has chosen for us. A prayer time is held each Thursday immediately after Bible Study, usually around noon. If you cannot join us for prayer, let us know if you have prayer concerns and we will include them.
  - **Social Events:** Gathering together as a community of faith for fun and games, like picnics or game nights, strengthen relationships and help us define ourselves. What would you like to do?
- **Prepare** for the pastor and the pastor's family. For instance, how will the new pastor come to know our community, the schools, and the housing opportunities? How will the pastor, spouse and family be welcomed by us into the congregation? What do we want the pastor to learn about us?

What ideas or suggestions do you have for this in-between time as we wait for God to act and wait on Him as we minister in our community? If you have suggestions, please share them with the Call Committee.

- Submitted by Dianne Hermanson, Call Committee Chair



# New Covenant News

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New Covenant Lutheran Church in Morganton, NC



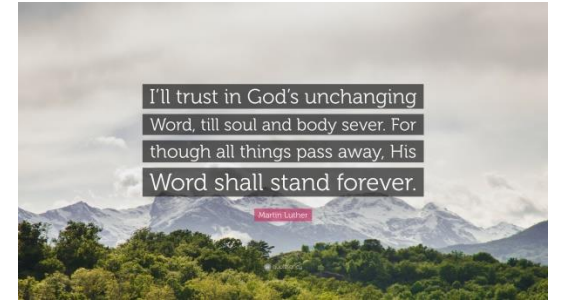
MISSION STATEMENT: New Covenant Welcomes God's People  
Founded in Faith, United by Love, and Gifted to Serve

### From the Pastor Bob's Desk...

If you think it's been a long winter for you, maybe you're right – I've become accustomed to the sort of winters we've had over the years since I've been here. I kind of like things to be predictable – like the average temperatures of January being in the mid-fifties. This past January and early February temperatures were a bit below the average although the snow fall was less than I have been used to. Given the averages over the past few years, this winter still was not a difficult surprise for me. [However, I do enjoy not needing a snow blower]

Things are not always as predictable as we'd like them to be. In fact, life is full of surprises and not all of them are good. Many of us look at what has happened recently with the stock market, the global economy, the up and down prices we have to pay for everything from food to gasoline, and then all the turmoil invading our world from warring to our ongoing battles with the coronavirus. Many of us wish we could just settle down and “get back to normal”.

As we look back over the years, we can appreciate some of the stability that has been in our lives. We can also see many sweeping changes that have moved along across our lives. There may still be some around us who can recall transportation with horse drawn wagons. Just a century ago, many of the things we enjoy and take advantage of today were not even imagined. Life moves along and the changes seem to come faster and faster as we race to change with them. The stability we seek can still be found in our faith. While debate goes on about contemporary interpretations of the Bible in some circles, you and I can look to God's Word for much of the stability and comforts we seek. God's unchanging Word has carried many generations through this changing and tumultuous world. Though we and the times



change, our Lord still holds out his offer of a love, joy, and peace that surpasses our understandings. It is ours to carry in our hearts through the good news of Jesus Christ.

As times get tough and scary and unpredictable in our lives – we can look to Jesus Christ who overcame all of those challenging moments to show us a reality and truth that awaits for all of us who believe in Him as our Lord and Savior. As we watch the unfolding events around the world that will touch most of us in a variety of ways, we can look to our Lord for the guidance and consolations and stability we seek.

In our “Narthex” [entrance lobby], we have daily devotional booklets for your reassurances and comforts – God’s enduring Word is contemplated and examined through the lens of our contemporary experiences. Pick one up and see what daily nuggets of God’s truth can add to your life as a faithful Christian.

We are in the Lenten season. Again, we have the opportunity to walk to the cross of Good Friday together. We’ll look at the Gospel text and the depth of our need for a Comforter and Redeemer in these troubled times. The world is a mess and so are many of our lives. We need the certainty and stability in our hearts and minds that only God can, and has provided – through his Son, Jesus Christ. We will celebrate that certainty and stabilizing reality on the last Sunday of this month – Easter Sunday. Let us rejoice in our hearts and voices – all that this month embraces as we walk once again to the cross of Christ and celebrate the glorious resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Please join us for our Lent, Holy Week, and Easter services. I wish you a blessed Lenten and Easter season.

In Christ’s service,  
Pastor Bob Alle

### **Members in Need of Prayer**

Rose Marie and Joe Starr, Sr. and Joe Starr, Jr., Donna Short, Beth Walborn, John Parker, Kamara Reade, Ed Williams

**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 to New Covenant members.

### **Bible Study & Prayer Time**



Weekly Bible Study and Prayer Time has returned! Come and join the Bible study on Thursday mornings at 10:30 AM at the church. Scripture for the upcoming Sunday will be studied each week. The sessions will be led by lay leaders Angela Williams and Kamara Reade. If you are interested in helping to lead the sessions, please contact Kamara Reade (at 828-430-0760 or [kay.29@netzero.net](mailto:kay.29@netzero.net)). Prayer time occurs immediately after the Bible study.

### **Holy Week Services**

We will celebrate Jesus’ triumphant entrance into Jerusalem with the waving of palms during the Sunday worship on Palm Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. The Maundy Thursday worship service, where we remember the Last Supper in Holy Communion, will be held on Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. The Good Friday Tenebrae service, where we remember Christ’s ultimate sacrifice for sinners, will be held on Friday, March 29 at 6:00 PM. Please join us for these special and meaningful services leading up to Easter where we celebrate the resurrection and our risen Lord who conquered death and the grave. Easter Sunday will be celebrated on March 31<sup>st</sup> during the 9:45 AM worship service.

### **Easter Brunch**

Enjoy an Easter brunch and some fellowship time on Easter morning, March 31<sup>st</sup>, during the Sunday school hour beginning at 9 AM. Fresh fruits, bakery items, and finger foods will be on the menu. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for food items. See you there!

### **Easter Lilies**



If you would like to purchase an Easter lily in honor or memory of a loved one, please contact Beverly Watts by Thursday, March 28. The lilies will be \$10 each and will be at the church on Easter Sunday.

### **Caring & Sharing Survey**

We all have gifts, talents, and interests. And we realize that not everyone can do everything – but we need everyone to participate – we need every hand on deck per se so we can continue to serve and grow. The Council is asking that every member complete a Caring and Sharing form - prayerfully consider how you can be the Church – how you can contribute to the **Mission of New Covenant: New Covenant Welcomes God’s people Founded in Faith, United by Love, and Gifted to Serve.** You will notice that the form says “Training will be arranged if needed” Don’t let the reason “I don’t know how” to keep you from checking an item on the form. And if you have any questions, please contact Angela Williams (her email and cell phone number are on the bottom of the form). If you need a form, please contact Beverly Watts at [wattzoid@charter.net](mailto:wattzoid@charter.net) or 828-442-5904. Please turn the forms in by Easter Sunday which is March 31<sup>st</sup>. There is a box on the counter near the bulletins for you to put the completed forms. Thank you!

### **Church Council Meeting**

New Covenant’s Church Council will meet on Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM this month. All are welcome to attend. 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). The Council will hold a Council Retreat on March 16<sup>th</sup>.