

Important Dates for NCLC This July

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

Worship each Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Sunday, July 7 – Food Drive

Wednesday, July 10 – Council at 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 17 – Church & Community Life Commission at 6:00 p.m.

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

July Birthdays

Beth Walborn – July 19

Ben Raymond – July 27

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

Schedule Changes for July

There will be no **Old Men's Breakfast** in July. All men are invited to join us for a great breakfast in August at Timberwoods.

New Covenant Lutheran Women will not meet in July or August. The next scheduled meeting is September 25. All women are invited to participate in this time of fellowship.

Outreach Ministry – Disaster Response

Donations for NALC Disaster Response will be collected during the months of July and August. Items to prepare Flood Buckets are needed. A sign-up sheet is on the counter to select which items you might want to give. Check your bulletin each week for updated information on what items are needed.



Property Update – Eric Stuenkel

On Sunday, June 23, a quorum was not reached for the called special congregational meeting. An informal discussion took place and mention was made that, at the last council meeting, a question arose: If the church is going to spend in the neighborhood of \$700,000 for a building prior to any adaptation of it, do we know whether that building will match Mission Goals and Needs? Your church council thinks we should know. Most present at that informal discussion seemed to agree that your council asked a valid question, and that we should know.

With that in mind, a workshop will take place to help us identify Mission Goals to assist us in determining a potential Building's Requirements. Plans are being made to offer a Strategic Planning Workshop later this month. Please see the recent email from Eric (sent 6.27.2024).

Due to the approaching deadline, a refund of our earnest money was requested which required termination of the offer to purchase the Glen Alpine property. The Parish Management Commission has been working diligently in a search for a viable property and will continue to do so.



New Covenant News

Volume 6, Number 3

July 2024

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 Desk of Pastor Weisner...

Dear Saints of the New Covenant Congregation,

You may have already heard me say in a sermon or other conversation, "there are realities around us that we cannot see!" (And if you haven't heard me say it yet, at some point, you will!)

Below is a story that I read recently by a journalist, Rod Dreher, a writer about politics and culture, who approaches his topics from an unabashedly bold Christian perspective. Here is his story....

The Ghost in The Hospital

Here's a story from Italy's *La Repubblica* newspaper, based on [an article in the New England Journal of Medicine](#), written by John Guzzi, a surgeon who recalls what happened after he performed a liver transplant on a patient. An Italian friend sent me this translated version:

Day two after the operation. The liver transplant went well. The patient is lucid and humming a Pink Floyd song that John Guzzi, the doctor who is examining him, recognizes. The two, in a room at Yale University Hospital in New Haven in the United States, begin chatting amicably.

"Can I ask you a question?" the sick man asks. "That woman there in the corner of the room, she's not real, is she?" The doctor freezes. There is no one in the room but the two of them. The patient points with his finger toward the window. "She's there, short, middle-aged, tanned, with brown hair. She doesn't speak, but she seems kind. She has never left since I woke up."

The man has already talked to everyone about it. Nurses, family members, and other doctors confirm, "The patient is recovering very well medically, but he has the visions." They rummage through possible causes: some rare side effect of medication, the stress of the operation, a postoperative delirium, but the patient has a more logical explanation -- at least for him: "It's the donor. She knows I have her liver, and she checks that I'm okay."

The next day Dr. Guzzi attends the patient's course meeting with the surgeons. They know nothing about the ghost who is taking care of the transplant recipient. Dr. Guzzi takes the opportunity to ask what the donor looked like. "A petite, middle-aged woman with dark skin."

Dr. Guzzi cannot explain why his patient just somehow managed to see a person, invisible to all others, who matches the description of his organ donor. He simply assumes it must have been an illusion created by the patient to make sense of his life. Dr. Guzzi is imposing a silly materialist explanation to this narrative in order to protect his own interpretive framework for living.

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My thanks to all of you for your prayers and commitment to our congregation. God blesses me to be among you.

"The peace of the Lord be with you...."

Pastor Andrew Weisner

Celebrating Freedom and Faith this Independence Day

As we gather with family and friends this year to celebrate the Fourth of July, we are reminded of the precious freedoms we enjoy in our nation. The fireworks that light up the night sky are a symbol of the joy and pride we share in our country's independence. But as we enjoy the festivities, let's also remember the freedom we have in Christ. Galatians 5:1 tells us, *"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free."* This Independence Day, let us celebrate not only our national freedom but also the spiritual liberty that allows us to live in His grace. May this Fourth of July be a time of reflection on the blessings of liberty and the joy of our salvation. May we be grateful for the freedom we have in our country and the ultimate freedom we have in Christ.



Don't judge me because I sin differently than you.

Bible Study Fellowship – Thoughts from participants

Why participate in the study of scripture on Thursday mornings? Here are a few comments from those who gather each week to *grow in faith, share our struggles, connect with our brothers and sisters in Christ and dig deeper into God's Word.*

- *We gain an enhanced understanding in worship.*
- *We are joined with others...getting to better know each other.*
- *We have great lay-led discussions!*
- *We "talk to God" as we gather around the altar in prayer.*
- *It is fun...we laugh, we share, we pray for each other...fellowship!*

Being a part of this Bible Study is an honor and a privilege. Our reflections refresh, renew and restore us and we leave in peace, lifted by the power of the Holy Spirit. *Everyone should give it a try! We gather each Thursday morning at 10:30. Won't you join us?*

Have You Seen God?

We see signs every day of our lives. Driving down the highway, we see many signs: speed limit, exit, billboards, etc. Each of these signs provides information we may need to reach our destination safely. We may see signs of changing seasons, such as a crocus poking up out of the snow to let us know that Spring is not far away. The colorful foliage of the trees in Fall let us know that winter is not far behind.



Each Sunday, after collecting our tithes and offerings, we offer a prayer thanking God for our selves, our time and our possessions, **signs** of his gracious love. Signs of the Lord are all around us. How often do we think about the signs that the Lord gives us every single day? We just need to open our eyes and take in His Presence. The sun rises and sets. The tides ebb and flow. Sowed seed sprouts and produces grain, fruit and vegetables. We select our choice from the bounty at the food market.

At worship each Sunday morning, an opportunity is given to share a sign of God that you have experienced during the week—a "God Moment." Sharing these signs reminds us all of the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives and helps others recognize those signs in their lives. Look for those signs and share with us.

