

Carolinas Mission Region Convocation

The Convocation will be held May 3-4, 2024, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Little Mountain, SC. Kamara Reade will serve as New Covenant's delegate and Dianne Hermanson will go as a lay visitor. Thank you ladies for your willingness to attend the Convocation and represent New Covenant. They will take an offering and donations of diapers, wipes, and gift cards for the NALC Disaster Response. Please keep these ladies in your prayers.

Chrismon Workshop



Julie Copenhaver and Beverly Watts attended a Chrismon workshop April 19 and 20 at St. John's Lutheran in Salisbury. They made a total of four ornaments for New Covenant's Christmas tree. They enjoyed the workshop so much that they will show how to make Chrismons at the next Women's Meeting on May 22. All women are invited to attend!



Easter Brunch Coffee Cake Recipe

Many of you asked for Dianne Hermanson's recipe for her delicious coffee cake. Here it is!

Yummy Coffee Cake

Ingredients

1 cup oil	1 cup sugar	1 ½ cups brown sugar
2 eggs beaten	3 cups flour	2 tsp cinnamon
1 tsp vanilla	3 tsp baking powder	½ cup butter (melted)
1 cup milk		

Instructions

1. In large mixing bowl, combine oil, eggs, vanilla and milk together.
2. In medium bowl, blend together sugar, flour, baking powder and salt.
3. Combine egg mixture with flour mixture. Pour half the batter into lightly greased 9x13 pan.
4. In medium bowl, prepare streusel by combining brown sugar and cinnamon.
5. Sprinkle half of streusel on top of batter. Top with remaining batter and then sprinkle remaining streusel on top. (NOTE: I use only ¾ of the streusel in total.)
6. Drizzle with melted butter.
7. Bake, uncovered at 350° for 25-30 minutes.



New Covenant News

Volume 6, Number 1

May 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

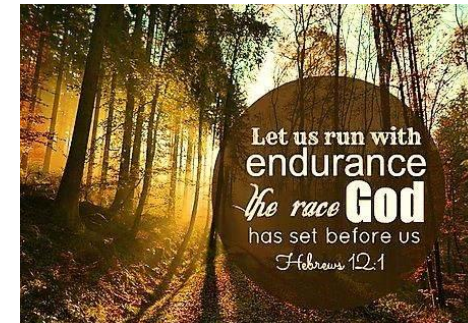
From Pastor Bob's Desk...

In 2nd Timothy 4:7, Paul writes "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith". It would be a grand conclusion for any of us to be able to make that statement about ourselves at the end of our lives and ministry. But as the poet Robert Frost stated in his popular poem *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening*, you and I likely have "miles to go before we sleep". We never know when that "sleep" may come or the fight and race might be over. All we can hang onto is the promise of a crown of righteousness that may be ours through our persevering lives of faith in Jesus Christ.

As I conclude my service here on May 5th, I have much to be grateful for. I have been a part of your fellowship and have been blessed to stand with wonderfully faithful individuals in the midst of a difficult transition. I appreciate all of you who took an active role in stepping forward, claiming, and upholding the faith into which you were baptized. I am comforted through this wonderful faith we share and I look forward to a glorious reunion of this fellowship with each of you - in the presence of our Lord.

In my heart, I believe your transition into the North American Lutheran Church was, and continues to be, an expression of your determination to fight the good fight - for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and for the Word upon which this Church was established. As I move on to other horizons of mysteries, that only God can anticipate with certainty, I hope that you and I can continue the race with the same confidence as demonstrated by those faith-filled Christians who have gone before.

Much of our nation, and the world around us, remain in bondage to sin. This reality is exemplified day after day by the news media and embedded within many of the things we call entertainment today. You and I need to instill in others that God has a better path and outcome for those around us to take hold of and celebrate. I have heard Christians bemoan our times together in fellowship - eating. I



call upon each of you to peruse the Gospel story. Fellowship with Jesus Christ was often centered about eating – and being fed by our Lord.

As we eat together, we naturally find opportunities to converse and know each other at deeper levels. Through such fellowship, we become better acquainted with the gifts and needs of those around us – and we become more aware of who we need to minister to and what sort of gifts and talents we can bring together to better serve God’s purposes in the community around us. As we eat and meet together, our young ones can realize how important this fellowship is for their lives. In this regard, we can better secure the hope we share in Jesus Christ – with the generations to come. I encourage you to broaden those opportunities for such fellowshiping and nurture your faith in the lives of those around you – especially in those who will need to persevere running the race in difficult times yet to come.

I wish each of you God’s abundant blessings of joy and peace – as you continue in your good fight for the sake of, and in the name of, Jesus Christ.

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, Ed Williams

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.

Church Council Meeting

New Covenant’s Church Council will meet on Wednesday, May 8th at 6 PM this month. If you have an item that you want the Church Council to discuss or consider, please contact Eric Stuenkel (westuenkel@bellsouth.net) or Angela Williams (3521awilliams@charter.net).

New Covenant’s 5th Anniversary



New Covenant Lutheran Church celebrated its 5th Anniversary on April 21st! Pastor Gil Gilbert was with us to commemorate this event; he preached our first sermon on April 21, 2019. A reception was held after the service and everyone enjoyed the celebration.

Spend Time in the Word

New Covenant offers many opportunities for you to spend time with the Lord in scripture. We invite you to join a Sunday school class at 9 AM on Sundays. Join the Bible study on Thursday mornings at 10:30 AM at the church. Scripture for the upcoming Sunday is studied each week. We have a free quarterly devotional book, *Our Daily Bread*, that you can use each day to enhance your time with God. In addition, you can receive the daily scripture readings from the NALC on your phone or via email. If you need help signing up for this, please see Beverly Watts. We also have a time of prayer immediately after the Bible study each week.



Food Collection

Starting this month, we will begin collecting non-perishable food items for local food pantries on the first Sunday of each month. Please bring donated food items on May 5th this month. If you forget to bring it on the first Sunday, go ahead and bring it when you remember. Thank you for your generosity.



Pastoral Coverage



New Covenant has been blessed to have the Reverend Bob Alle lead us in worship for the past four months. He led us through our Lenten journey and has celebrated Easter with us. Pastor Alle has written messages for your newsletters, has attended multiple congregational meetings, and has delivered powerful Bible-based sermons. His last Sunday with New Covenant will be on May 5th. Thank you for your faithful service to New Covenant, Pastor Alle! We will be forever grateful.

The Church Council has made a covenant with the Reverend Dr. Andrew Weisner to be our new interim pastor. Pastor Weisner’s first Sunday with us will be on May 12th. Many of you may remember Pastor Weisner when he was the chaplain at Lenoir-Rhyne University before he joined the NALC. We are very pleased that he has agreed to serve New Covenant as interim pastor. Pastor Weisner also teaches for the North American Lutheran Seminary (NALS) and this will provide an opportunity for New Covenant to engage in outreach ministry to the NALS.

