

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

Rose Marie and Joe Starr, Sr. and Joe Starr, Jr., Donna Short,  
Beth Walborn, Shirley Beach, John Parker, Joyce Moeller, Clay Stephenson

### **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 November 9. 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)

### **Bible Study**

Pastor Marty teaches Adult Bible Studies on Thursday mornings at 10:30 AM at the church (except Nov. 10). All are invited to attend. Bring a friend!

### **Outreach Ministries- Operation Christmas Child**

Operation Christmas Child delivers great joy and the Good News of Jesus Christ to children in need around the world through gift-filled shoeboxes. For many, it is their first gift ever! Delivered by our local church partners, shoebox gifts provide an opportunity to present the Gospel to boys and girls in a clear, child-friendly way. Empty shoeboxes are available in the narthex and are due back by November 13<sup>th</sup>. Please consider filling a box and showing God's love to a child.

### **Opportunities to Get Involved!**

**Join A Women's Or Men's Fellowship Group:** If you are interested in joining the New Covenant Lutheran Women's group, please contact Angela Williams (828-4131-4985 or [3521awilliams@charter.net](mailto:3521awilliams@charter.net)). They meet monthly on the fourth Wednesday at 6 PM at the church. If you are interested in a men's group (it is called the Old Man's Breakfast), please contact John Parker ([tumbleweed7@msn.com](mailto:tumbleweed7@msn.com)). They meet monthly on the first Tuesday at 9:00 AM at Timberwoods Restaurant (Exit 106 off I-40).

### **Adult Sunday School – Lutheran Liturgy**

Where does our Lutheran Liturgy come from? We say and sing it each week but do you know what scripture it is based upon? Join Pastor Marty in the adult Sunday school class to learn more. Sunday school starts at 9 AM each Sunday.

### **Sharing Shepherds**

New Covenant will be adopting nine children for the Sharing Shepherds mission in West Virginia. Brochures are available in the narthex. Individuals or groups may "adopt" a child/children/a family to provide Christmas gifts. If interested, contact Pastor Marty.



# New Covenant News

**Volume 4, Number 4**

**November 2022**

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:**

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.* 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:16-18

Dear New Covenant Family,

November is the month in which we celebrate the holiday we know in the United States as Thanksgiving. The history of it is rooted in our past with the earliest settlers in this country.

*Pilgrims and Puritans who emigrated from England in the 1620s and 1630s carried the tradition of Days of Fasting and Days of Thanksgiving with them to New England. The modern Thanksgiving holiday tradition is traced to a well-recorded 1619 event in Virginia and a sparsely documented 1621 celebration at Plymouth in present-day Massachusetts. The 1619 arrival of 38 English settlers at Berkeley Hundred in Charles City County, Virginia, concluded with a religious celebration as dictated by the group's charter from the London Company, which specifically required "that the day of our ships arrival at the place assigned ... in the land of Virginia shall be yearly and perpetually kept holy as a day of thanksgiving to Almighty God." The 1621 Plymouth feast and thanksgiving was prompted by a good harvest, which the Pilgrims celebrated with Native Americans, who helped them get through the previous winter by giving them food in that time of scarcity.*

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thanksgiving>

Even though we may think of Thanksgiving as a secular holiday, we also realize that giving thanks is part of our lives as Christians, and we should give thanks every day, not just one day of the year. The words *thanks* and *thanksgiving* are

found in at least 133 instances in the Bible. As St. Paul writes in his letter to the church at Thessalonica, shown above, we are to “give thanks in all circumstances.”



In Psalm 136:1, we read, “Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.” We thank God for his goodness, his mercy, and his love. We often think of being thankful for all the good things we have or receive, but we are also to give thanks even in the midst of trials. That is especially important for us as we have experienced a dramatic change in our way of doing

things following the pandemic. Our way of life has changed, perhaps never to return to what it was before. Yet, we can still give thanks to God, knowing that he is with us through it all. He will never abandon or forsake us.

As we gather with family and friends to share in the Thanksgiving holiday, let us remember that we have far more to be thankful for than just our material circumstances. We have a loving God who sent his son Jesus to dwell with us. As Christ, our Redeemer, he willingly went to the cross for us to suffer death so that we might know the depth of God’s love for us. He was raised from the dead to bring us the promise of resurrection in the life to come, to live with him forever in the glory of his presence. And we have that promise in the feast we share together in our church family, the bread and the wine that are his body and blood, broken and poured out for us for the forgiveness of sin. That is the true Thanksgiving feast.

May we enjoy our “turkey day” and all the fixings, and may we be safe and experience the love of God through our families and friends, never ceasing to give thanks in all circumstances!

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Marty

### All Saints’ Day



**All Saints’ Day**, also called **All Hallows’ Day**, **Hallowmas**, or **Feast of All Saints**, in the Christian church, a day commemorating all the saints of the church, both known and unknown, who have attained heaven. It is celebrated on November 1 in the Western churches and on the first Sunday after Pentecost in the Eastern churches. In Roman Catholicism, the feast is usually a holy day of obligation.

The origin of All Saints’ Day cannot be traced with certainty, and it has been observed on various days in different places. A feast of all martyrs was kept on May 13 in the Eastern church according to Ephraem Syrus (died c. 373), which may have determined the choice of May 13 by Pope Boniface IV when he dedicated the Pantheon in Rome as a church in honor of the Blessed Virgin and all martyrs in 609. The first evidence for the

November 1 date of celebration and of the broadening of the festival to include all saints as well as all martyrs occurred during the reign of Pope Gregory III (731–741), who dedicated a chapel in St. Peter’s, Rome, on November 1 in honor of all saints. In 800 All Saints’ Day was kept by Alcuin on November 1, and it also appeared in a 9th-century English calendar on that day. In 837 Pope Gregory IV ordered its general observance. In medieval England the festival was known as All Hallows, and its eve is still known as Halloween. The period from October 31 to November 2 (All Souls’ Day) is sometimes known as Allhallowtide.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/All-Saints-Day>

New Covenant will celebrate All Saints’ Day on November 6. We will read aloud the names of loved ones who have entered the Church Triumphant since November 1<sup>st</sup> last year. If you have names of loved ones that you would like to have read out loud and included in the bulletin, please let Beverly Watts know ([wattzoid@charter.net](mailto:wattzoid@charter.net)) by 5 PM on Friday, November 4.

### **Join a Commission Today!**

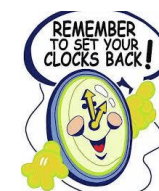
New Covenant has three Commissions (committees) that you can join in order to serve our Lord and spread the Gospel. You do not have to work in all the areas of the Commission; work in the part where you feel led, gifted, and/or talented. Please consider joining one or more today!

**Spiritual Development (Worship & Music, Christian Education) Commission:** This Commission plans for services and special worship experiences. Special music can be selected to make worship even more meaningful. Christian Education focuses on learning goals and curriculum for Sunday school, Bible study, and Vacation Bible School. Recruiting teachers and/or choir members may be part of this Commission. Contact Rick or Beverly Watts if you are interested.

**Mission Outreach (Spreading the Gospel, Congregational Life, Social Ministry):** This Commission plans events and activities that help spread the Gospel to those who do not know about Jesus Christ, help increase membership at New Covenant, and encourage fellowship among New Covenant members. If you are interested, please contact Debbie Little or Angela Williams.

**Parish Management (Property, Stewardship):** This Commission ensures that New Covenant has a worship place that fits the needs of the church and the funds required to fulfill its mission. If you are interested in joining this Commission, please contact David Lange.

### **Daylight Savings Time Ends Sunday, November 6**



Remember to turn your clocks **BACK** one hour early Sunday morning (or late Saturday night) on November 6. You get an extra hour of sleep before church on November 6!