

Prayer Service Held on May 22

A special prayer service was held on Wednesday, May 22, to pray for God's direction for property and a place for worship. This service was well attended and it consisted of singing hymns, saying prayers, and reading psalms responsively. The service has been recorded and you can view it online at https://youtu.be/9Q0L7_Ar81s Please continue to pray for God's direction and guidance as we continue to search and make decisions about a new worship space.



The Psalms that were read were Psalm 107 and Psalm 24; you are encouraged to read them as you ask for God's direction. The hymns were from the Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW): LBW 369, LBW 487, LBW 358, and LBW 495. Sing out loud so that God will hear your joyful and prayerful hearts! The prayers that were said during the special service are included below to help you pray.

Prayer: O Lord God, you led your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, we pray, to be your faithful people, to proclaim your Word, to serve your children in need, and to find an appropriate place to worship you in beauty, sincerity, and truth; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in unity with the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Prayer: God of Blessing, we are searching for a new place to worship, for fellowship, and to serve, and we seek your wisdom. We believe that a new church home is your will for our congregation and that You have made a way for it to happen. We want to have faith like Abraham, Moses, and Elijah, and we thank you for the answer to our prayers even before we see what you have planned for us. We know that you will help us find a new church home that is ideal for all our current needs and those to come. We thank you in advance for all your grace and guidance; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer: Lord God our Father, you guided Abraham and Sarah throughout the days of their pilgrimage; you led the children of Israel through the midst of the sea, and by a star you led the Wise Men to the infant Jesus. Guide us as we search for a property and place to be our church home, that there we may serve you and your people and give glory to your name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

****Please see the Convocation Report from Kamara Reade on the back of the June calendar insert.**



New Covenant News

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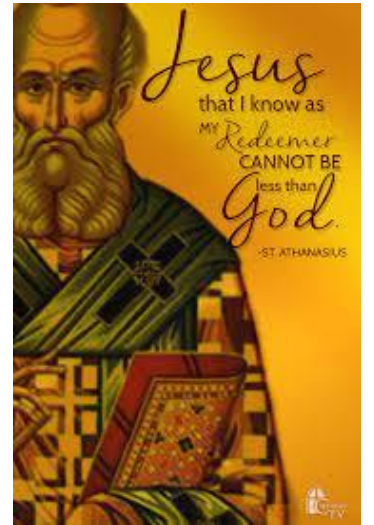
A Monthly Publication of the Congregational Activities of
New Covenant Lutheran Church in Morganton, NC



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

From Pastor Weisner's Desk...

One of my favorite teachers of the early Church is St. Athanasius of Alexandria, Egypt. He was born sometime between 296 and 298. Little is known of his early life, but he received a good education (so apparently his parents had sufficient wealth for that) and had a good command of Greek in a land where Coptic was the main language. Later in his youth he was selected by the Bishop/Patriarch of Alexandria, Alexander, to be his secretary, and later Athanasius was ordained as a deacon for the Alexandrian Church. Athanasius accompanied his bishop to the First Ecumenical Council, the Council of Nicaea in the year 325, from which we have, in our liturgy, the *Nicene Creed*. The topic of debate at this Council was whether Jesus is simply a holy prophet, or "of one being with [God] the Father." We know from our creed which view won. After Bishop Alexander died in 328, Athanasius was elected the new bishop and served in that role for 45 years until he died on May 2, 373. But during those years as bishop, 17 of them, on 5 different occasions, he was driven into exile in various places because the views of the Council of Nicaea, which he strongly upheld, were controversial, and sometimes fellow bishops and emperors disagreed with them. Amidst it all, Athanasius held firm to the orthodox faith.



Regarding a practice we celebrate every Sunday, the holy Eucharist, St. Athanasius wrote this in one of his letters to the churches of Alexandria:

It is no temporal feast that we come to, but an eternal, heavenly feast. We do not display it in shadows; we approach it in reality. The Jews had their fill of the flesh of a lamb,

and when their feast was finished [referring to the Passover Supper of Moses and the Hebrew slaves in Egypt,] they anointed their door-posts with the blood, to beg for aid against the destroyer. Bu the food that we partake of is the Father's Word [Christ]; we have the lintels of our hearts sealed with the blood of the new covenant; and we acknowledge the grace bestowed on us from our Savior.

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

Members in Need of Prayer

Rose Marie and Joe Starr, Sr. and Joe Starr, Jr., Donna Short, Beth Walborn, John Parker, Ed Williams, Rick Watts (*Joe Starr is now home!)

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.

Congregational Meeting on June 2nd

A Congregational Meeting has been called for the purpose of discussing the Family Dollar property in Glen Alpine. The meeting will be held on June 2 at 9 AM. Please make plans to attend.

Church Council Meeting

New Covenant's Church Council will meet on Wednesday, June 12 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).

Information For Church Records

We are working on completing our church records. If you did not complete an information sheet, please fill one out for us this month. The sheets can be found on the front counter at the church. If you need one mailed to you, please contact Angela Williams at 3521awilliams@charter.net.

Caring And Sharing Sheets

We all have God-given gifts, talents, and interests and we realize that not everyone can do everything – but everyone can do something. Please prayerfully consider the gifts you are willing/able to share with New Covenant and fill out the Caring and Sharing sheets that are available in the narthex. Please fill out the sheet and put it in the container on the counter in the narthex today. Thank you! If you need a sheet, email Angela at 3521awilliams@charter.net

Food Collection

Each month, we will collect non-perishable food items for local food pantries on the first Sunday of each month. Please bring donated food items on June 2nd 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.



We Have Cast Our Lots



One of our lessons on May 12 was Acts 1:12-26 where the disciples wanted to fill the vacancy left by Judas' betrayal and death. And so, they prayed and asked the Lord to choose. They then cast lots, as was the custom in those times, *and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the disciples.* Our Call Committee has spent a good deal of time preparing our Congregational Profile and submitting it through the NALC call process. We, too, have cast our lots.

Congregations can spend considerable time (weeks, months, years) waiting for the pastor God has chosen. We have been waiting only a few months. Let us continue to lift this call process up in prayer, trusting the Lord to provide just as he did for those disciples so long ago.

And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.... 1 John 5:14-15

Honoring Father's Day

The father of a righteous child has great joy; a man who fathers wise son rejoices in him – Proverbs 23:24

"When we hear "Father's Day," do we think about our Father in heaven? Father's Day is a special time for families to honor and celebrate the vital role of their dads in their lives. It's a day to show appreciation, gratitude, and love for the dads who have influenced, guided, and supported their children. Also, to give thanks to the most incredible Father – our heavenly Father."

www.raisingchristiankids.com

We will be honoring our earthly dads after worshiping our heavenly Father on Sunday, June 16th. Each father will receive some delicious cookies after the worship service! Thank you, dads!

