



### Halloween Trick or Treat

It's time for some fall fun for the kids! There will be trick or treating at the church on Sunday, October 29 after the church service. A sign-up sheet will be made available soon asking members to bring and hand out treats. This is a family activity! Make plans to attend and share some smiles!

### Sharing Shepherds

There is a sign-up sheet, brochure, and guidelines for participation in the Sharing Shepherds Mission in the narthex. Pastor Marty, along with others, will travel to West Virginia on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, to deliver the gifts, Bibles, grocery cards, and fuel vouchers to the families. If you would like to go, please let Pastor Marty know. This is an inspiring experience; all are welcome!

### Share the Warmth Drive

During the month of October, we will collect new or gently used and clean warm coats, gloves, mittens, blankets, scarves, and socks for men, women, and children in need. The items will be tagged from our church and taken to the BUCM. If you have unused tarps, tents, and sleeping bags, they would be great to keep people warm in our community! Share the Love of Christ to others!

### Disaster Relief Kitchen Kit Build



The Carolinas Mission Region Mission Team is happy to announce our next mission event! We will hold an NALC Disaster Response kitchen kit build on Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 225 Morgan Street, Troutman, NC. We hope that every congregation will participate in some way. If you cannot serve in person, we would appreciate your prayers.

The kitchen kits are a recently added item of response. When people lose their homes and move into extended stay facilities, often they do not have well-equipped kitchens. The Disaster Relief Response has developed a simple kitchen kit with several needed items to help. New Covenant has signed up to bring the following items: **measuring cups and measuring spoons**. Please bring donations to the church by October 8<sup>th</sup>. Tags from New Covenant will be put on these items with a Bible verse. Gift cards to Walmart are also helpful, and Disaster Relief is always in need of Bibles.



# 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 the Pastor:

#### **Food for Thought**

In Joel 2:22-24, we hear these words about autumn:

<sup>22</sup> Fear not, you beasts of the field,  
for the pastures of the wilderness are green;  
the tree bears its fruit;  
the fig tree and vine give their full yield.

<sup>23</sup> "Be glad, O children of Zion,  
and rejoice in the LORD your God,  
for he has given the early rain for your  
vindication;

he has poured down for you abundant rain,  
the early and the latter rain, as before.

<sup>24</sup> "The threshing floors shall be full of grain;  
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

This past summer we have had abundant rainfall here in the Carolinas, and the harvest reflects it. Yet in the midst of all this abundance, the supply chain has broken down over the past 2 years due to many and complicated factors, and once common items in grocery stores are now harder to find. As distressing as this is in our country where we are accustomed to having more than we need, imagine how it is affecting the people in less developed areas of the world.

#### WORLD HUNGER FACTS AND FIGURES FOR 2023

- ✿ 3.1 billion people cannot afford a healthy diet.
- ✿ 783 million people suffer from hunger around the world.
- ✿ 80 million more women than men were hungry in 2022.



- ✿ 85% of people facing hunger crises live in conflict-affected countries.
- ✿ 13.6 million children suffer from severe acute malnutrition.
- ✿ 2 million children die every year from malnutrition.
- ✿ 45% of all child deaths worldwide are from hunger and related causes.

<https://www.actionagainsthunger.org/the-hunger-crisis/world-hunger-facts/>

The numbers are staggering. The thought of anyone, especially children, going without anything to eat, much less proper nutrition, is heartbreaking. We may think, “I can’t feed everyone,” but the question is can I feed someone? If we were to set aside even 5% of the cost every time we ate out, we could send that money to one of the reputable world hunger organizations to feed those in drought-stricken areas. Here in our country, our community, there are people who need to be fed. If every time we went to the grocery store, we purchased canned goods and non-perishable food items equal to even 5% of our grocery bill, we could keep our local food pantries stocked.

In Matthew 25, Jesus said, “<sup>35</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me food,... Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you(?)...’<sup>40</sup> And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’”

As we approach Thanksgiving and Christmas and the abundance of food we will share, let us remember those in need and feed them as we are able, knowing that in feeding the least of them, we are in the presence of Christ himself.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Marty

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

Rose Marie and Joe Starr, Sr. and Joe Starr, Jr., Donna Short, Beth Walborn, John Parker, Mary Dawn Stuenkel, Kamara Reade

**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.

### **Prayer and Bible Study**

Pastor Marty will lead prayers for the spiritual growth, future direction, and current needs of NCLC at 10:00 AM every Friday. Join us for this time of spiritual renewal as we seek God's guidance in our personal and congregational commitment to following the Great Commission. Weekly Bible study follows the prayers on Fridays at approximately 10:30 AM at the church. Bring your Bible and a friend!

### **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 October 11. 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)

### **Pastoral Care and Transition (PCAT) - Workshop**

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM to 2 PM. Pastor David Hefner will lead New Covenant in the process of preparing an online profile of the congregation for calling a pastor. Come share your insight and hopes for pastoral leadership! Lunch (a Taco Bar) and snacks will be provided. Coffee will be served starting at 8:40 AM. This meeting is a very important meeting and everyone should make plans to attend.

### **Pastor Appreciation Sunday – October 8**

We want everyone to bring their family as we honor Pastor Marty Ramey after church on October 8. Stay after church for a fun time as we share with Pastor Marty how much she has meant to us at New Covenant. A simple lunch of sandwiches, salty snacks, and cake will be served. You are encouraged to bring a card for Pastor Marty! Come and help us say “Thank You” to Pastor Marty!

### **Carolinas Mission Region Women’s Retreat**

Women, do you want to attend a great Christian retreat? Consider attending “Count It All Joy” Women’s Retreat. The Carolinas Mission Region, NALC is hosting this event on Nov. 10-12, 2023 at New Ebenezer Retreat Center in Rincon, GA (near Savannah). \$250 Registration is due by October 22. More information at: <https://allevents.in/rincon/count-it-all-joy-13th-annual-womens-retreat/200025244865647>

### **Upcoming Events from the Church and Community Life Commission:**

#### **Lakeside Park Walk**



Come gather together October 14 at 10 AM at the Lakeside Park in Valdese (1149 Lake Rhodhiss Dr. NE). You can bring leashed friendly dogs to walk if you would like. Bring your own water for you and your animals. Walk at your own pace down this beautiful greenway beside the lake.

Come and go as you please. The trail is easy to turn around at any time to return to your car! This event is canceled if it rains.