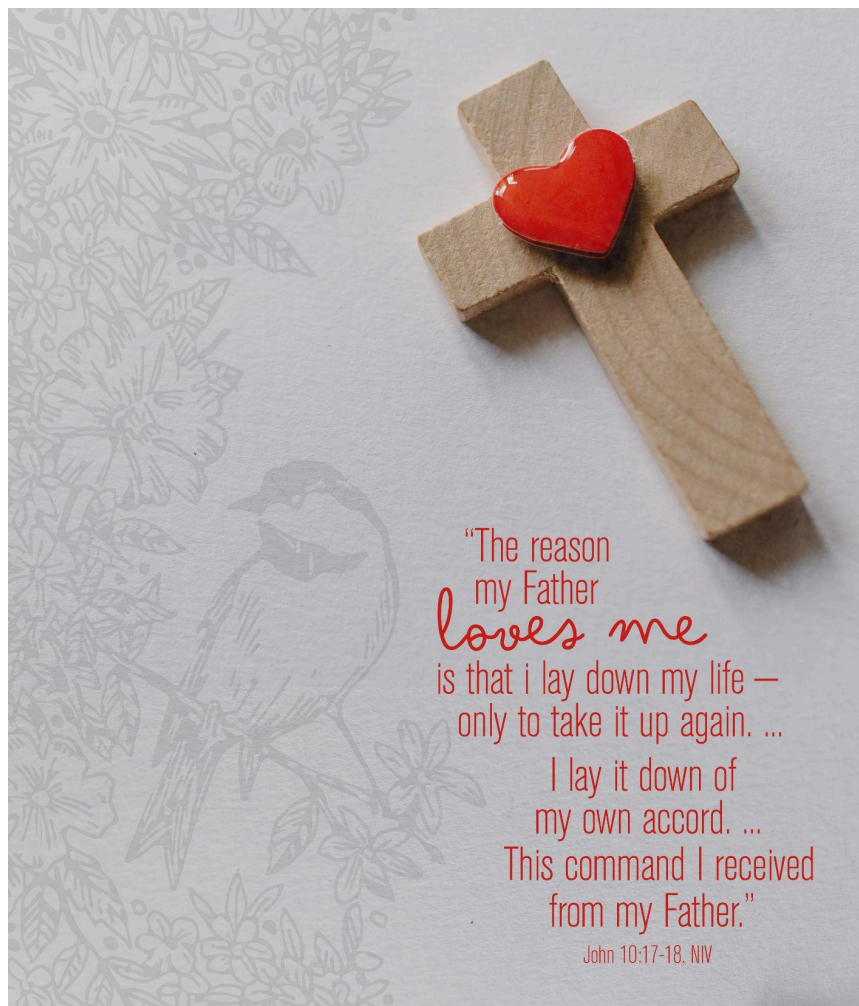


GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



"The reason
my Father
loves me
is that I lay down my life —
only to take it up again. ...
I lay it down of
my own accord. ...
This command I received
from my Father."

John 10:17-18, NIV

Today's Worship Theme

The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.

Welcome & Worship Notes

- We're glad you are here! Please know children can join us for worship too.
- Congregation responses are in **bold** print. "ELW" is the red hymnal. The Holy Bible is in the lower racks below the pews.
- Our ushers can provide devices for those with hearing impairment.
- Need the internet? *GraceGuests Network* Password: *GraceGuests1234*
- Please turn off all cell phones or place them in silent mode.
- Restrooms and water fountain are down the hall from the Sanctuary.
- A quiet, comfortable room is available to anyone needing it; it is located around the corner from the restrooms.
- **Got kids?** Children are welcome in worship. Grab an activity bag and children's bulletin located at the entrance. Children are invited to come forward for the Children's Message and may continue upstairs for Children's Church & Music (about 20 minutes), during the sermon. Children will return for Holy Communion and are welcome to receive the sacrament. Nursery is available for children 6 weeks–4 years old.

Grace Lutheran Church Affirmation of Welcome

In the name of Jesus, who invites us with reconciling love and grace to join in the kingdom of God, Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church welcomes all who profess, or seek to profess, Jesus Christ as their Savior. Believing that the Gospel is God's gift to all, we rejoice in the diversity of God's people and welcome all, regardless of age, cultural and economic background, ethnic and linguistic heritage, gender, marital status, physical and mental ability, race, sexual orientation, or any other distinction. We are all one in God's eyes, sharing in the free gifts of the Gospel and the Holy Spirit. Therefore, we encourage all to take part in the life of this congregation as we worship, witness and openly share the love of God through Christ our Lord.



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*Greeter: John Smyre
Altar Guild: Carolyn Witt*

*Usher: Bob & Joan Streightiff
Coffee Host: Dana Holden*

✠ GATHER ✠

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS/STEWARDSHIP MINUTE

Scan the QR code for our "Grace Happenings" weekly e-newsletter.



PRELUDE

"The Lord's My Shepherd"

Franklin D. Ashdown

Please stand as you are able.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy. **Amen.** Look, here is water! **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life. Look, here is water! **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection, you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.** Look, here is water! **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

GATHERING HYMN

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!"

ELW 385

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Assisting Minister: Roger Bodo

Let us pray. O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children may come forward for the Children's Message, then are invited upstairs for Children's Church & Music, and will return before Communion.

A READING FROM Acts 4:5-12

Lector: Dana Holden

Salvation in the name of Jesus

⁵The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' ¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

A READING FROM 1 John 3:16-24

Love in truth and action

¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? ¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

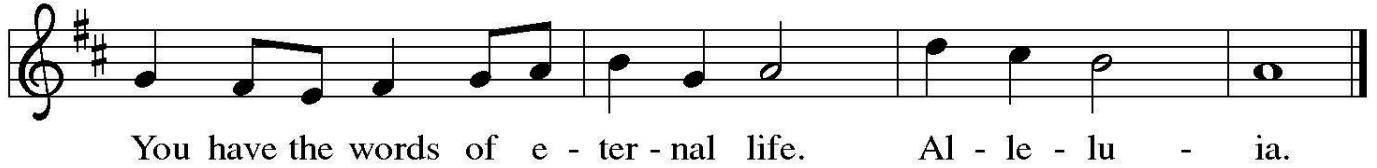
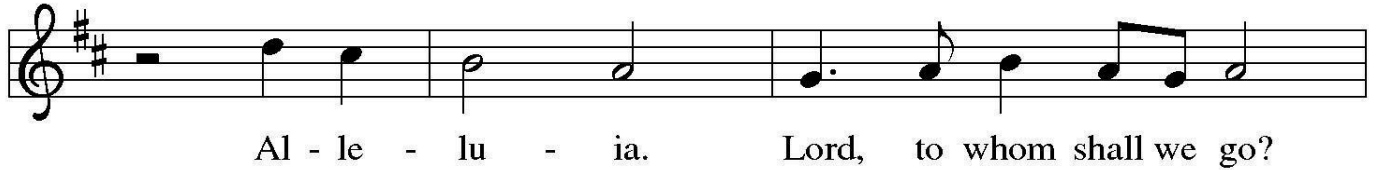
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand if you are able.

GOSPEL READING: John 10:11-18

Christ the shepherd

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON

Dr. Alan Hauser

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY “My Shepherd Will Supply My Need”

ELW 782

NICENE CREED

We profess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please kneel as you are able.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*Each portion of the prayer ends with these words:
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

Please stand as you are able.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**
Please share a sign of Christ's peace, then be seated.

✠ **MEAL** ✠

OFFERING SONG

*"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"
Ringers of Grace*

Karissa Davis

Thank you for partnering with Grace. Visit www.graceboone.org/donate, or place your gift in the Narthex offering plate or mail it to 115 E. King St, Boone, NC 28607.



Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, often beamed together in pairs or groups of four. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with some words in bold. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ... and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody is primarily composed of quarter notes, with some eighth notes and a final half note. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us: **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Communion Assistant: Amy Atkins

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table. **Thanks be to God!**

Please be seated. This is the Lord's Table; all who seek Christ's true presence promised through this bread and wine are welcome and invited to partake in communion. You'll receive bread first (it is gluten-, nut-, soy- & dairy-free) and then wine (grape juice is available). Please alert an usher if you require the sacrament to be brought to you.

*The first, **third** & fifth Sunday of the month, communion is served at the head of the aisle. On the second & fourth Sunday, it is served around the altar rail. Also note that on the **third** Sunday, healing prayers are offered in the Chapel after receiving communion.*



COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

"Have No Fear, Little Flock"

ELW 764

"You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"

ELW 484

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

✠ **SENDING** ✠

BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!** The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ☩ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

"I Know That My Redeemer Lives!"

ELW 619

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

“O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe”

Sam Eatherton

CHANCEL FLOWERS

Are given to the glory of God
and in honor of our three sons
by Alex & Liz Peter.

SANCTUARY LAMP

Is burning to the glory of God
by Ron & Gail Schuette.

READINGS FOR APRIL 28

Acts 8:26-40 | Psalm 22:25-31 | 1 John 4:7-21 | John 15:1-8

GIVING REPORT

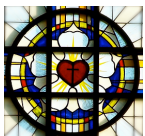
Giving September 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024

March Giving	March Budgeted Giving	Year to Date Giving	Year to Date Budgeted Giving
\$38,280.88	\$30,000.00	\$228,243.64	\$210,000.00

HERE’S A GLANCE OF THIS COMING WEEK AT GRACE!

21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Property Cleanup Day Sunday School (C) Worship (S) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AA Mtg.(LLFH) PIKA Mtg.(FH) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wood Lot work day LSA (on campus) Swingbillies Show (S) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff Mtg. Grace Quilters LSA (CH) Handbell Rehearsal Choir Rehearsal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult Bible Study (C) Susan recording 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carwash fundraiser (Theology on Tap (off 	

For the most up-to-date events & details, see the weekly “Grace Happenings” e-newsletter and our online monthly calendar:
<https://www.gracelutheranboone.org/calendar>



Grace Lutheran: Sharing God’s love
so that all are served and supported.





Thank
you for

Worshipping

WITH US