

August 2020



Welcome to Holly Grove Lutheran Church!

Hello
August!



LOVE GROW SERVE

The Holly Leaf

Mission Statement of Holly Grove Lutheran Church

“As united people of God under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, our purpose is to provide worship and Christian education, and respond in a loving action to a needy world.”

• Daily Prayers, links, to ELCA , sermons, The Holly Leaf, events & more on our website:
www.hollygrovelutheranchurch.org

Find us on Facebook!



Love. Grow. Serve.

***Holly Grove Lutheran Church, Lexington, NC – Initial Regathering Guidelines for Worship
These are based on CDC & NC Synod guidance, and the experience of other congregations.***

These guidelines are subject to change but are based on the best guidance we now have.

If you are sick or have been exposed to Covid-19 you are asked not to attend until you have recovered or received a negative test result. Please join us by watching the live stream; or, you may request an audio copy on a thumb drive.

Enter and exit only by the front Red Doors **or** Handicapped Entrance doors (*to use the ramp*).

Doors will be propped open at beginning and end of service to minimize touching.

Stacks of Bulletins will be available at both entrances.

There will be Social Distancing marks in front of and through both entrances.

Hand sanitizer stations will be available inside both entrances.

Temperatures will be taken with a non-contact thermometer. Masks will be required to comply with state regulations; disposable masks will be provided if you don't have one.

They must be worn while traveling in or out, and to the bathrooms.

They may be taken off while you are in your place during the service.

Please remember to cover your mouth if you sneeze or cough.

Since we plan to continue live streaming the services please be aware that you may appear in that video stream. If you do not wish to have your image broadcast, please check with the ushers who can direct you to seats not covered by the camera.

Seating will be limited to alternating pews, others will be marked off. The first pew on the choir side will be kept empty and then alternated. *We may be limited to 50 people initially.*

Full length pews may hold 3 singles or couples if 6 feet of distance is kept.

Full length pews may hold 2 family groups (or other) if 6 feet distance is kept.

Shorter pews will hold fewer and 6 feet social distance must be kept.

Inside doors will be kept open during the service to improve air circulation.

The building beyond the ramp will be closed off as will the Library and Sunday School rooms even though doors are open. This simplifies sanitizing the occupied areas.

The Men's and Women's bathrooms will be open but the water fountain will be off limits.

The offering plates will not be passed but will be placed at both entrances to the Nave.

The Choir will not participate but one to three volunteers may social distance in the choir area and provide vocal music.

We will not have congregational singing at this time.

The Exchange of Peace will be only verbal or symbolic from your seat and not involve physical contact other than within family groups.

Initially we do not expect to be able to offer Holy Communion. When we are able to offer it we will probably use either pre-filled glasses or a pouring chalice with individual glasses. Wafers may be distributed using tongs. Whatever the specifics those distributing will be wearing masks and gloves.

Following the Benediction, Mission Statement, and Dismissal, you will depart by the doors you entered, dismissed by pew, and maintaining social distance.

The pastor will not be greeting people in a reception line.

Outside the building you may of course talk in small groups as you are comfortable but please be respectful of other people's comfort level. *Remember that some people may not participate because of health concerns or risk factors about which others do not know.*





ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ⇒ If you are scheduled to do Assisting Minister, Altar Guild or Altar Flowers we encourage all to continue to fulfill those duties. If you are unable, please reach out to Andy.
- ⇒ You can listen to Sunday services via Facebook! Just go to Holly Grove Lutheran Church Facebook home page; like us and listen to a live service.
- ⇒ Don't forget that all Sunday services are recorded and posted on the church web site. They are generally posted the afternoon of the service.
- ⇒ **August 10th**: Council Meeting @ 7:00 pm.
- ⇒ **August 16th**: Back to School Blessing (Virtual unless Synod reopens church).

Members and Friends:

You may notice that the thermostats for all of the air conditioner units have been changed to a lower temperature.

Please refrain from adjusting the temperature settings up or down as it could be very costly to repair the Air Conditioner units and Organ. If you have any questions or concerns about this change, please contact Andy Ferguson.



Birthday & Anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 <i>Everett Feeney</i>	3	4	5	6 <i>Scott/Judy Black</i>	7	8
9	10 <i>Robert Fritts</i>	11	12 <i>Johnny/Tammy Turner</i> <i>Robbie/Randi Hileman</i> <i>Matt/April Bunton</i>	13 <i>Minnie Conrad</i> <i>Sandra Vaughn</i> <i>Ashton Chapman</i>	14	15 <i>Andrew Curry</i>
16	17 <i>Carey/Bobbie Fritts</i>	18 <i>Toni Chapman</i> <i>Chodd Hedrick</i> <i>Abi Hearn</i>	19	20 <i>Kyle Murphy</i> <i>Ariel Everhart</i>	21	22 <i>Travis Rose</i>
23 <i>Wanda Black</i>	24	25 <i>Joe Hedrick</i> <i>Olivia Turner</i> <i>Boyd/Janice Queen</i>	26	27 <i>Gary McLain</i>	28	29 <i>Gracie Ferguson</i>
30	31					

Back to School Word Search

Find the hidden words associated with getting an education.

C S C D T N E D U T S R D Y K I F K
J P R T L M C W J B N W M O G Y M J
T A A E E A M Y Z G Q U I Z Z E S C
O N Y W C B S E S S A L C S B L R L
M I O B R N A Z X G A B L O O H C S
E S N L E I E H I F L M T U D Z O C
J H S A B O T I P R A M M A R G R E
V U A C R X V I C L K J E W S E N S
M F F K E T S S N S A X F P P G C T
R N W B H Y W A L G E B R A L F Q I
E O C O C C H B Z X X Y P I Y S Y H
A T P A A L W P A Y S C S R R M Q G
D E K R E I E M A H J H B O O H T W
I B L D T C S B H R E Y S Y T T S R
N O A D O N F I T W G S J A S V U L
G O H C N E R F A T I O S G I M W T
L K C V E P U M M C P N E U H A K V
F W S B A T G S S U H J M G D M Z M
U R E R A S E R L Q J D F Y S T A K

ALGEBRA
ALPHABET
ART
BLACKBOARD
CHALK
CLASSES
CRAYONS
ENGLISH
ERASER
EXAMS
FRENCH
GEOGRAPHY
GRAMMAR
GYM
HISTORY
MATH
NOTEBOOK
PAPER
PENCIL
QUIZZES
READING
SCHOOLBAG
SCIENCE
SCISSORS
STUDENT
SPANISH
TEACHER
TUTOR
WRITING

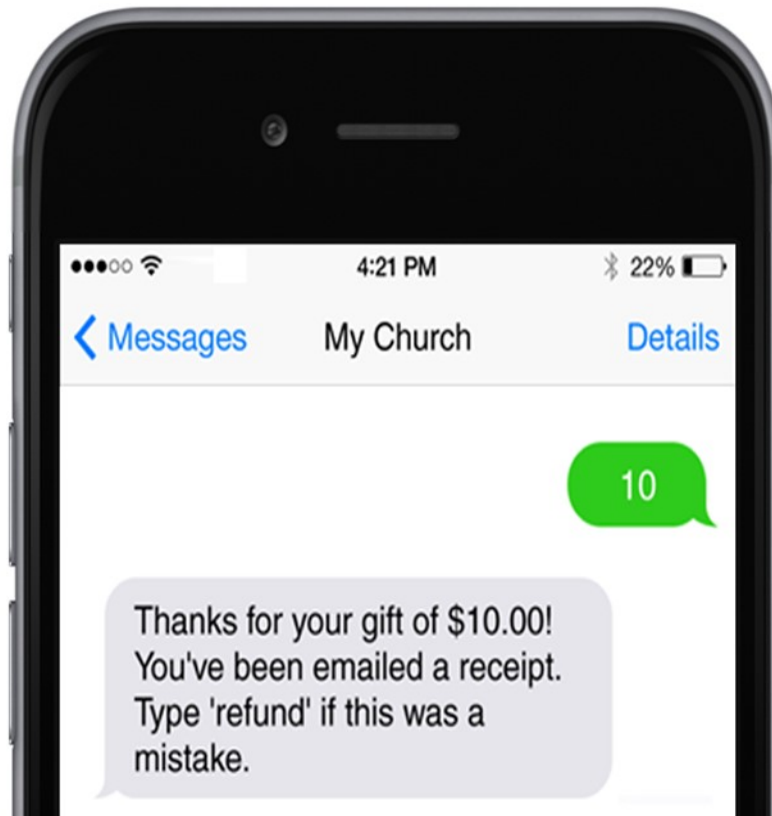
August 16th-Back to School Blessing

(Virtual unless Synod reopens church).

A PRAYER FOR OUR STUDENTS

DEAR GOD,
THANK YOU FOR THE GIFT OF
EDUCATION IN EVERY FORM.
AS OUR CHILDREN PREPARE TO START A NEW YEAR
MAY CONFIDENCE BE THEIR FOUNDATION,
MAY GRACE BE THEIR GUIDE AND
MAY HOPE BE THEIR COMPASS TOWARD A BRIGHT FUTURE.
I PRAY THEY WOULD HAVE EYES TO SEE
THE NEEDS OF THOSE AROUND THEM
AND A HEART TO LOVE WELL.
MAY THEY FACE EACH DAY WITH POSITIVITY
KNOWING THAT NO MATTER
WHAT COMES THEIR WAY,
THEY DO NOT HAVE TO FACE IT ALONE.
AMEN

Want to give to Holly Grove?
Text "give" to 336-331-5531



If you faithfully give regularly with checks or cash, God bless you, and please keep doing what you're doing. But if having to track down a checkbook means you sometimes give less often than you'd like, or if you never have any cash, online giving might be for you! Text the number above or visit our website, **hollygrovelutheranchurch.org** to give a one-time gift or set up a recurring donation.

Please pray for:

Our Members:

- **Burnette Monteith**
- **Gary Hedrick**
- **Walter Blower**
- **Aldean Conrad**
- **Teresa Fritts**
- **Gene Kepley**
- **The Family of Dwight Everhart**
- **Randi Rose Hileman**
- **Carey Fritts**
- **Libby Carrick**
- **Barbara Kepley**
- **Mary Malone**
- **Joe Davis**
- **Bryan Queen**
- **Bill Roberts**
- **Rex Everhart**
- **Paul Conrad**
- **Harold Beck**

Our Friends & Family:

- Robert (Buddy) Brown
- Gary Helms-cousin of Gaynell Davis
- The Family of Cleston Nester-friend of Lynn & Lateffa Dennis
- Kenneth Miller-Friend of Joe & Bonnie Hedrick
- Charlotte Cable-Aunt of Jay Proctor
- Lynn Helms-cousin of Gaynell Davis
- Kay Kepley
- Randy Wafford
- Eva Rae Clark-Neil Clark's Mother
- David Chappell-Friend of Kelly Carrick
- Pauline Young-Sister-In-Law of Dottie Curry
- Banks Dellinger-Brother of Janna Waitman
- Houston Roberts-Son of Bill Roberts
- Bobbie Lynn Bingham-Bonnie Hedrick's Cousin
- Jeff Shytle
- Curtis Yarborough
- Kathy Burkhart
- Joanne Conrad Koonts-Gaynell Davis' cousin
- Randy Lomax-Randall Lomax's Father
- Our service men and women all over the world
- Those unemployed, looking for work

****Names are generally rotated off after three weeks but we are happy to add them again if requested. Please send Prayer Requests to: hqloffice@gmail.com or leave a message at the church office complex (336-249-2708)



©Praym - IllustrationsOf.com/78788

“The White Birds” – a story to think about. PJ

There was once a man who had a waking dream. He dreamed he was in spacious church. He had come in to pray, and after his prayers were finished, he knelt on, his eyes open, gazing around at the beauty of the ancient building, and resting in the silence. Here and there in the great building were quiet kneeling figures across the dim darkness of the nave and aisles. Shafts of sunlight streamed into the church from upper windows. In the distance a side door was open, letting in scents of summer air, fragrant with the smell of hay and flowers. Trees waved in the breeze, and beyond, blue hills, dim and distant as an enchanted land.

Presently the man withdrew his eyes from the pleasant outdoor world and looked again at the church. Suddenly, close to the spot where he was kneeling, there was a gentle whir of wings and he saw a little white bird fluttering about in the dim nave; it flew uncertainly hither and thither, and once or twice he thought it would fall to the ground. But gradually it gathered strength, rose toward the roof; and finally, with a purposeful sweep of its wings, sped upward, and out through one of the open windows into the sunshine.

The stranger looked at the kneeling men and women, scattered throughout the building; and now he saw that by the side of each worshiper there hovered, close to the stone floor, a little white bird. Just then he saw another bird rise from the floor and try to reach the roof. But it, too, was in difficulties; it flew round and round in circles, occasionally beating its wings in a futile way against the great lower windows, rich with stained glass. Finally, it sank down exhausted, and lay still. A little later another bird rose from the ground, with a swift and easy flight; for a moment it seemed that it would reach the open window and the open air beyond; but suddenly, it whirled round, fell helplessly over and over, and came to the ground with a thud, as if it had been shot. The man rose from his knees and went over to see what had happened; the little bird was dead.

He went back to his place and sat down on one of the chairs; then he noticed an ugly bird, its white feathers dirty and bedraggled, rise from the ground. At first this bird labored heavily, but it soon gathered speed, for it was strong, and it soared up and out into the sunlit world beyond the walls of the great church. More and more the man wondered what all this might mean. He looked again at the persons at prayer near him, and he noticed one, kneeling very reverently, by whose side lay an exceptionally beautiful bird, snowy white and perfectly formed. But when he looked at it more closely, he saw that its eyes were glazed, its wings stiff; it was a lifeless shell. *“What a pity!”* he murmured under his breath. At that moment, a gentle whir of

wings a few feet away attracted his attention; another bird was rising from the ground, steadily and quietly, at first with some appearance of effort, but more and more easily and lightly as it gathered strength; this bird flew straight up, past the carved angels which seemed to be crying "Hallelujah!" to one another across the dim spaces of the church, and out through the open window into the blue sky.

Pondering on what he had seen, the man looked round again, and this time he saw standing close to him an angel, tall and strong, with a face of great kindness, wisdom, and compassion. It all seemed perfectly natural (as things do in dreams), and the man whispered to him, "Can you explain to me about these white birds?"

"Yes," said the angel, in a low voice, as he seated himself beside him, "for I am the guardian of this place of prayer. These white birds are the outward sign of the prayers of the people who come here to pray. The first bird, which found it difficult to rise, but then succeeded, is the prayer of a woman who has come here straight from a very busy life; she has very little time to herself; in fact she usually comes here in the midst of her busy day. She has a great many duties and claims, and her mind was full of distractions when she first knelt and tried to pray. But she persevered, for her heart is right with God, and He helped her; her prayer was real and her will good, so her prayer reached God."

"And what about the bird that flew around in circles?" asked the man. The angel smiled slightly, with a tinge of sadness. "That," he said slowly, "is the prayer of a man who thinks of no one but himself; even in his prayers he only asks for 'things'--success in his business and things like that; he tries to use God for his own ends -- people think he is a very religious man -- but his prayer does not reach God at all."

"But why did that other bird fall to the ground as if it had been shot?" The angel looked sad as he replied, "That man began his prayer well enough; but suddenly he remembered a grudge against someone he knew; he forgot his prayer and brooded in bitter resentment, and his bitterness killed his prayer. And the ugly bird is the prayer of a man who hasn't much idea of reverence; his prayer is bold, almost presumptuous, some people might call it; but God knows his heart, and He sees that his faith is real; he does really believe in God, so his prayer reaches Him."

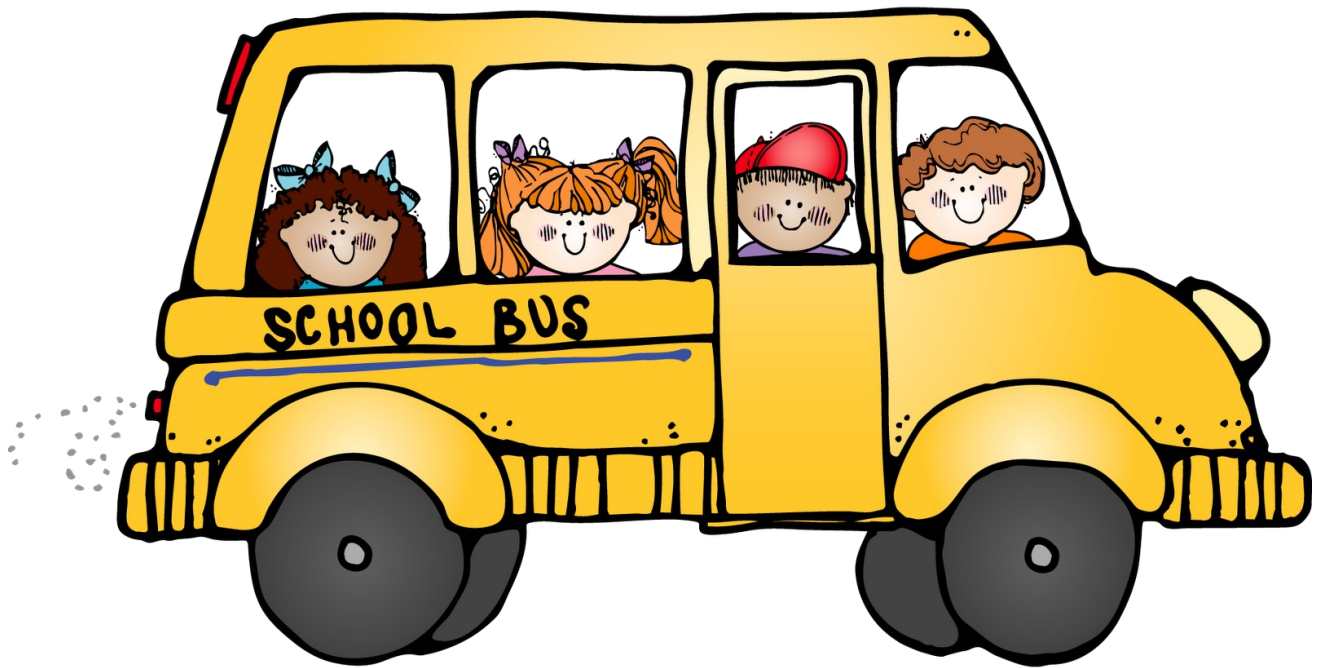
"And the beautiful lifeless bird that never stirred from the ground at all?" said the man.

"That," said the angel, "is a beautifully composed prayer; the language is perfect, the thought is doctrinally correct; the man offered it with the greatest solemnity and outward reverence. But he never meant a word of it; even as he said the words his thoughts were on his own affairs, so his prayer could not reach God."

"What about the last bird that flew upstairs so easily?"

The angel smiled. "I think you know," he said gently. "That is the prayer of a woman whose whole heart and will is set upon God. Her prayer went straight to God."

{From Olive Wyon, *The School of Prayer*, 1943}



Holly Grove Lutheran Church
212 Holly Grove Lutheran Church Rd
Lexington, NC 27292
336-249-2807

www.hollygrovelutheranchurch.org
office: hglcoffice@gmail.com

Sundays

915AM Sunday School
1030AM Worship



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.