May 14th, 2023 Sixth Sunday of Easter



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI ~ SYNOD 308 Byrne Street Smithville, TX 78957 512-237-2108 Divine Service 10 AM

Guest Pastor Lee Kunkel



Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church! We give thanks that our gracious Lord Jesus Christ has gathered us together here for his Divine Service. Today again our Lord comes to serve us and lavish us with his gifts of life, forgiveness, and salvation. Rejoicing in those wonderful gifts, we sing with David in Psalm 84: "How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! A day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere."

In our readings today: "The God who ... gives to all mankind life and breath and everything" (Acts 17:24–25) wants all people to seek Him that they might "feel their way toward him and find him" (Acts 17:27). But in our sinful ignorance, we humans turn instead to idols "formed by the art and imagination of man" (Acts 17:29). Therefore, God appointed the Man of Righteousness, Jesus Christ, and "has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead" (Acts 17:31). Because He lives, we also live (John 14:19) in His forgiveness, and thus we love Him and keep His commandments (John 14:15). While the risen Lord prepares us for His ascension, He will not leave us "as orphans" (John 14:18), but He gives "another Helper," the Holy Spirit, to be with us forever (John 14:16) through the preaching of "Jesus and the resurrection" (Acts 17:18). Because He "suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous" (1 Peter 3:18), we "honor Christ the Lord as holy" and are always "prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks" for the reason for our hope (1 Peter 3:15). Our Baptism "now saves" us "as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 3:21).

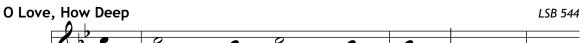
Hearing, Ask an usher for one of the wireless hearing assistance units.

<u>Holy Communion</u> is a sacred gift from Christ to His Church. In this meal, He gives His true body and blood under bread and wine into our mouths in order to forgive our sins and strengthen our union with Him and with one another (Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17). Christians receive this Sacrament trusting Jesus' own words, repenting of all their sin, and confessing the faith taught in Holy Scripture together in unity (Matthew 5:23-24; Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 11:17-26). For this reason, and because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm (1 Corinthians 11:27-34), we ask that those who have not yet been instructed and those who are not members of a congregation in fellowship with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to speak with the pastor before receiving Holy Communion.

A Prayer Before Worship

O Lord, our creator, redeemer, and comforter, as we come together to worship You in spirit and in truth, we humbly pray that You would open our hearts to the preaching of Your Word so that we may repent of our sins, believe in Jesus Christ as our only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear us for His sake. Amen

PRELUDE
CALL TO WORSHIP BELL
LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES





- 5 For us by wickedness betrayed, For us, in crown of thorns arrayed, He bore the shameful cross and death; For us He gave His dying breath.
- 6 For us He rose from death again; For us He went on high to reign: For us He sent His Spirit here To guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.
- \triangle 7 All glory to our Lord and God For love so deep, so high, so broad; The Trinity whom we adore Forever and forevermore.

Stand

Invocation (God has given us our beginning in Baptism, so the Divine Service begins in His Name.) The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- \mathbf{C} Amen.

Confession: (We cannot come into the presence of our holy God on our own. We recognize our sinfulness and plead for mercy on account of Christ.)

- P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- who made heaven and earth.
- P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P O almighty God, merciful Father,
- I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Absolution: (God speaks His words of forgiveness to us through His servant, the pastor.)

- P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit: (Forgiven by God, He invites us into his presence as we speak words from the Psalms.)

Psalm 119:89-93; antiphon: v. 105

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.

Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast.

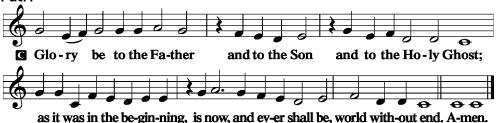
By your appointment they stand this day, for all things are your servants.

If your law had not been my delight,
I would have perished in my affliction.

I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have given me life.

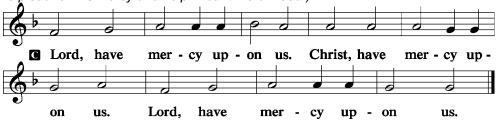
Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.



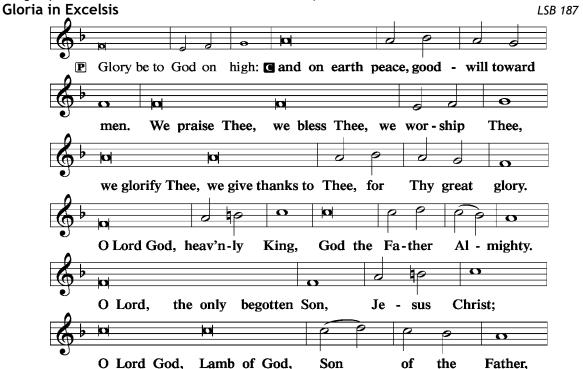


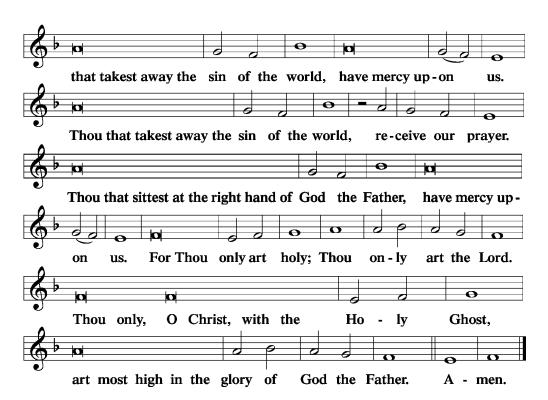
Kyrie: (Shortened form of the Greek "Kyrie eleison," meaning "Lord, have mercy." In the presence of Jesus, we plead for His mercy and help in our time of need.)

LSB 186

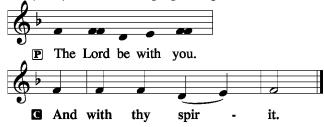


Hymn of Praise: (Trusting God's promise of mercy, we join the church in heaven and on earth in a song of praise to our Creator, Savior, and Comforter.)

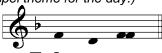




Salutation: (The pastor and congregation greet each other in the Lord's presence.)



Collect: (Many of these prayers have been used in the church for over 1,500 years. They "collect" the Gospel theme for the day.)



P Let us pray.

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Scripture Readings: (Jesus speaks to us in His Word as our crucified and risen Savior.)

First Reading

Acts 17:16-31

P Today's First reading is from Acts, the seventeenth chapter

¹⁶While Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "What does this babbler wish to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities"—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹And they took hold of him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? ²⁰For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean." ²¹Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

²²So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, ²⁸for

"In him we live and move and have our being';

as even some of your own poets have said,

"For we are indeed his offspring."

²⁹Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

PThis is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual: (The Gradual is a portion of a psalm or other Scripture passage that responds to the Old Testament reading and transitions us toward the words of Jesus in the Gospel.)

adapt. From Matthew. 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6

Christ has risen from the dead.

[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and honor.

He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;

he has put all things under his feet.

Epistle 1 Peter 3:13-22

P Today's Epistle reading is from 1 Peter, the third chapter.

¹³Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those

who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

¹⁸For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

PThis is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand



Holy Gospel

John 14:15-21

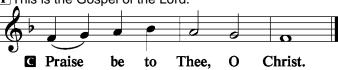
P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.



¹⁵[Jesus said:] "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

¹⁸"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



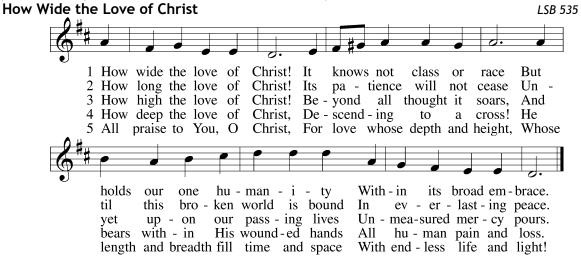
Creed: (God works faith in us by His Word that we hear in Scripture. We confess that faith using one of three creeds that the church has used throughout the years and across the world.)

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life + everlasting. Amen.

Sit

Hymn of the Day: (This hymn especially relates to the Gospel theme for the day. Each hymn provides a way for us to hear God's Word set to music.)



Sermon "Love Made Manifest"

John 14:15-21

(Based on one of the Scripture readings, the pastor proclaims God's Word of Law and Gospel for our lives today.)

Votum

- P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
- C Amen.

Stand

Offertory: (The congregation responds to God's forgiveness with a sacrifice of praise.) LSB 192



Prayer of the Church: (The congregation joins together to pray for ourselves, for the Church, and for people throughout the world.)

- **P** Lord, in your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.

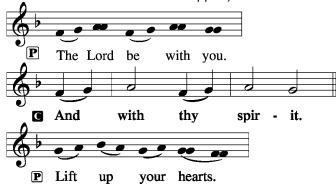
Close of the Prayers

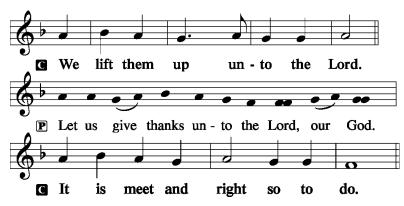
- Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface: (The Service of the Sacrament begins with praise and thanksgiving for what God has done and is about to do for us in the Lord's Supper.)

LSB 194





It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus: (Latin for "holy." The division between heaven and earth is gone, and we cry out to God with the heavenly host, "Holy, Holy, Holy!" to welcome our Savior Jesus (Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9).)



Lord's Prayer: (We pray the words that Jesus gave us to pray, trusting that our Father will hear and answer us.)

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

Words of Our Lord: (We hear Jesus' words that in the Sacrament He gives us His very body and blood in, with, and under the bread and the wine.)

LSB 197

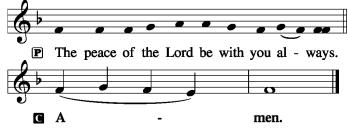
P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My

→ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

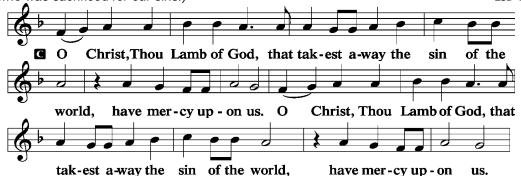
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My He blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

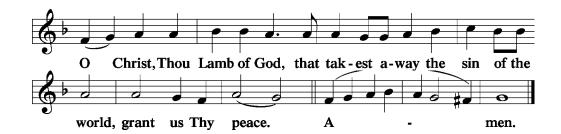
Pax Domini: (Latin for "The peace of the Lord." The pastor holds the body and blood of Jesus before the congregation and speaks the Lord's peace as the very Gospel.)

LSB 197



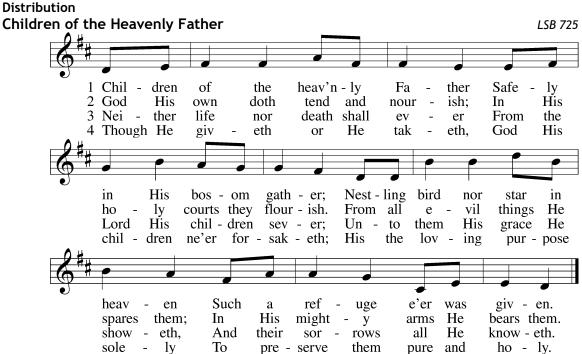
Agnus Dei: (Latin for "Lamb of God." As John the Baptist cried (John 1:29), so we sing to Christ, our Lamb who was sacrificed for our sins.)

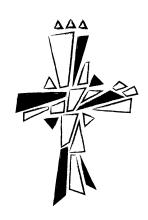




Sit









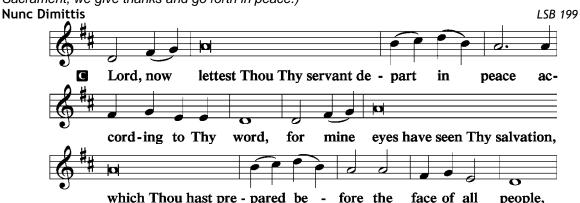
Stand

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

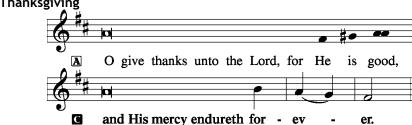
- The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart

 → in peace.
- C Amen.

Post-Communion Canticle: (Having received Christ in our mouths and into our lives in the Sacrament, we give thanks and go forth in peace.)







Post-Communion Collect: (We thank God for all He has done in the Sacrament and ask that it would show forth in our lives.)

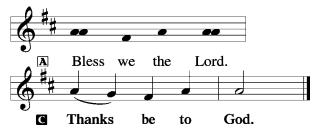
P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.









A-men,

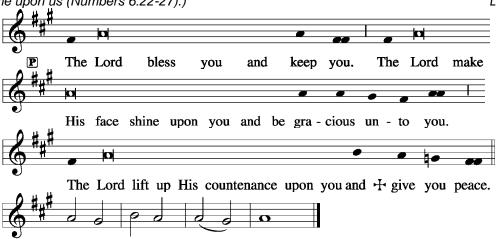
C

a-men,

a

Benediction: (Just as the Divine Service began, so it ends. We go forth with our Lord's blessing and His name upon us (Numbers 6:22-27).)

LSB 202



Sit

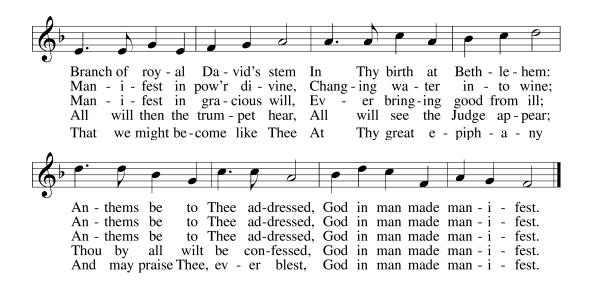


men.

- 1 Songs of thank ful ness and praise, Je sus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
- 2 Man i fest at Jor-dan's stream, Proph-et, Priest, and King su-preme;
- 3 Man i fest in mak-ing whole Pal sied limbs and faint ing soul;
- 4 Sun and moon shall dark-ened be, Stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee;
- 5 Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Pres ent in Thy ho ly Word—



And at Ca - na wed - ding guest in Thy God-head man - 1 - fest; Man - i - fest in val - iant fight, Quell-ing all the dev-il's might; Christ will then like light-ning shine, All will see His glo-rious sign; Grace to im - i - tate Thee now And be pure, as pure art Thou;



Silent Prayer After Worship

Almighty and merciful God, we have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for our many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. We thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep us in faith until we inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENTS DISMISSAL POSTLUDE



Altar flowers today were given to the Glory of God for Mother's Day in celebration of all mothers.

May 14th, 2023

The Mission of Grace Lutheran Church is to joyfully and enthusiastically Model and share the gospel with the lost.

Grace Lutheran Church

Learning Center Director, Angel Hurst
401 Wilkes Street, Smithville, TX 78957

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Email: gracelutheransmithville@gmail.com Email: gracelutheranlearningcenter@gmail.com

Web Site: www.glcs.org

Serving the Lord During Today's Worship Service

Elders: Tommy Oates Organist(s): June Parker

Bert Bunte Esther Wolff

Altar Wendy Rohde Kim Appel Ruth Eaton

Guild: Nelda Rohde

AT GRACE THIS WEEK

Sun. May 14	Mon May 15	Tue. May 16	Wed. May 17
8:45am-Sunday School and Bible Class	4pm-Quilting 6pm-GLLC Mtg		
10am- Worship/Communion	7pm-Evangelism		
Thurs. May 18	Fri. May 19	Sat. May 20	Sun. May 21
		<u> </u>	8:45am-Sunday School & Bible Class 10am- Worship/Communion

Attendance Sunday Worship (5/7) 76

Adult Bible Study

Adult Bible study at 8:45 AM continues each week, led by the guest pastor for that week. Join us to spend time together in God's Word.

Online Resources

Each week, our congregation live streams the 10:00 AM Sunday morning on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/gracelutheranchurchsmithville/). If you are unable to be in worship on a particular week, this is a great way that you can still hear the Word of God. It's also a great way to introduce someone to our congregation and the good news about Jesus. You can also go back and listen to sermons from previous weeks. Bulletins and newsletters are also available online at our website, www.glcs.org.

KFUO Bible Study Resources

CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUO.org: Study Revelation 2-3 on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), study 1 Samuel 13-16 on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT), and questions surrounding the Augsburg Confession's authority on Concord Matters (5/20 at 10:00 a.m. CT). Find your favorite programs on demand at kfuo.org or the KFUO Radio app!

Smithville's 10th Annual Diaper Drive May 15th thru May 28th



Donation boxes are placed in churches and businesses throughout Smithville. All sizes are needed from infant to adult.

This program supports The Smithville Diaper Bank

For questions, call Sharlene Scheler RN

Wesley Nurse 210-259-3373 or sscheler@mhm.org

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church Fundraiser

Come and support Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church of La Grange at their annual fundraiser Sunday, May 21st.

Drive-thru only meal: BBQ beef brisket, sausage, German potatoes, green beans, pickle, homemade bread, & Drive-thru only meal: BBQ beef brisket, sausage, German potatoes, green beans, pickle, homemade bread, & Drive-thru only meal: BBQ beef brisket, sausage, German potatoes, green beans, pickle, homemade bread, & Drive-thru only meal: BBQ beef brisket, sausage, German potatoes, green beans, pickle, homemade bread, & Drive-thru only meal: BBQ beef brisket, sausage, German potatoes, green beans, pickle, homemade bread, & Drive-thru only meal: BBQ beef brisket, sausage, German potatoes, green beans, pickle, homemade bread, & Drive-thru only meal: BBQ beef brisket, sausage, German potatoes, green beans, pickle, homemade bread, & Drive-thru only meal: BBQ beef brisket, sausage, German potatoes, green beans, pickle, homemade bread, & Drive-thru only meal: BBQ beef brisket, sausage, German potatoes, green beans, pickle, homemade bread, & Drive-thru only meal: BBQ beef brisket, bright brig

Raffle: Thirteen cash gift card prizes from \$2500 - \$100! Purchase tickets in advance at La Grange Chevron, Lukas Bakery, Weikel's Bakery, Mt. Calvary Preschool, church office. Raffle drawing will be held on Facebook Live at 1PM, Sunday, May 21st.

Auction: Check out our online auction, which will run from May 13 -21. Register to bid and support our church's mission at www.charityauction.bid/MtCalvaryLG

Epiphany Bastrop Ascension Service

Epiphany, Bastrop will have an Ascension Service on Thursday, May 18th at 7:00pm. We would love for you to join us! We are located at the Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) Church campus: 3300 TX-21, Bastrop, TX 78602. Please call (512)907-0717 if you have any questions.



Letters for Jean Miller

As many are aware, Jean Miller has been in Houston receiving medical care for multiple months now. We have received an updated address for her and we are asking members of the congregation to send her some cards and letters as we know it will cheer her up during these trying times.

Jean Miller c/o Houston Transitional Care 8550 Jason St, Room 127 Houston, TX 77074

May 21st, 2023
Seventh Sunday of Easter
Guest Pastor: Pastor Mittwede
First Reading: Acts 1:12-26
Epistle Reading: 1 Peter 4:12-19; 5:6-11

Gospel Reading: John 17:1-11



Graduation

Graduation for the third class of Faith Lutheran High School will be <u>Saturday</u>, <u>May 27th at 1:30 pm</u> at Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Please join us as we celebrate all our seniors and celebrate their accomplishments.

Busy Night? Dinner's On Us

FLHS Booster's Club is selling 9 X 13 Chicken Spaghetti casseroles, available for pick-up at Warda, Serbin, or Giddings on Monday, May 22nd. Pre-order by Monday, May 15th. Cost is \$35 each. Limited amounts available. Call FLHS to order yours today!

Youth Camps

Summer camps are back! We are excited to offer a variety of camps for youth this summer. Ages are for grades NEXT school year.

May 30 to June 1 - Volleyball - Grade 3 to 8 - \$20

June 12-14 - Basketball - Grades K to 8 - \$20 - Limited spots remaining!!

June 19-21 - STEM Camp - Grades K to 6 - \$40 - Limited spots remaining!!

June 26-28 - Art Camp - Grades K to 6 - \$40 - Limited spots remaining!!

July 31 to Aug 1- Archery - Grade 4 to 8 - \$20

Please visit our website or Facebook page for more information! Don't wait --- Sign up today!! Space is limited!

New Student Registration

Registration for the 2023-2024 school year is underway. Five <u>new students</u> have already enrolled. We would love to welcome you into our Falcon family as well. Call us at (979) 242-2889 to schedule a shadow day or visit our website at <u>www.flhstx.org</u> for registration information.

Staff Positions Available

Faith Lutheran High School will have part time openings on its faculty and staff for the 2023-2024 academic year! Interested individuals who have secretarial experience or teach **any** subject area are encouraged to apply, but science, social studies, English, or electives are sought after skills. Applicants may submit resumes to Faith Lutheran High School, PO Box 138, Warda, TX 78960, call (979) 242-2889, or email them to kueckn@flhstx.org. If you have the time and talents, please consider applying and sharing your gifts with our students. Thank you!

Thrivent Action Team Grants

If you are a Thrivent member willing to submit an application for a \$250 grant to be used on projects at Faith, please contact Nikki Kueck by calling (979) 242-2889. Help us to be able to take advantage of these funds for the good of our school. *We are currently looking to utilize Action Grants to offset expenses associated with our summer camps!