

Grace Notes



2024

4th – 7th Petitions of The Lord’s Prayer – Large Catechism

The Fourth Petition

Give us this day our daily bread.

What does this mean? God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

What is meant by daily bread? Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

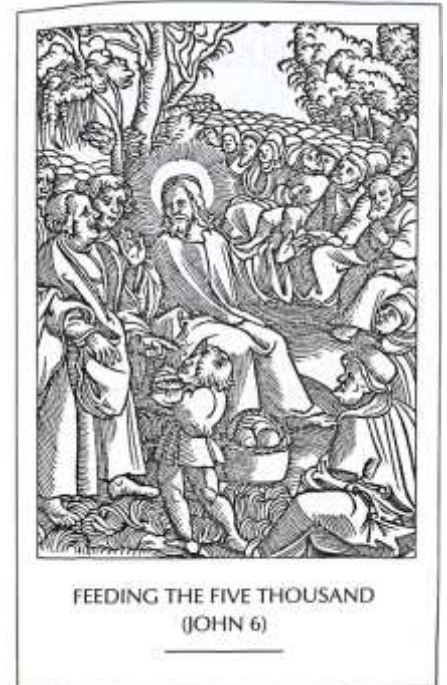
It’s a relief to know that in the Lord’s Prayer, Jesus *encourages* us to pray for the material, mundane, “daily necessities of life.”

Luther expands the “reach” of this petition beyond the simple attainment and enjoyment of daily bread by saying that you also “pray against everything that interferes with it” (255). We pray against the devil, who desires to 1) deprive us of all that we have from God, 2) destroy spiritual government by leading souls astray with his lies, and 3) hinder the stability of government and honorable, peaceable relations on earth.

Notice how Luther brings the government into this prayer! The earthly authorities must maintain and preserve the necessities of life, and this includes peacefulness and quietness. Luther wrote that instead of a lion or wreath of herbs, every coat of arms should display a *loaf of bread* so that the earthly authorities and their people would be reminded that by their office we have protection and peace. That’s why they rule and that’s why we honor them! Through them, God bestows on us more blessings and goods (257).

God richly cares for us in all our needs and faithfully provides also for our earthly support (259). We pray this petition that we may *recognize* this and *give thanks* for His fatherly goodness. If we fail to do this, here are the dangers that Luther describes will happen:

“For when He withdraws His hand, nothing can prosper or be maintained in the end. Indeed, we daily see this and experience it. How much trouble there is now in the world only on account of bad coins, daily oppression, the raising of prices in common trade, and bargaining and labor by those who greedily oppress the poor and deprive them of their daily bread! This we must suffer indeed. But let such people take care so that they do not lose the benefits of common intercession” (259-260).



The Fifth Petition

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

What does this mean? We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

The Sixth Petition applied to the “*poor bread-basket*,” but this petition applies to our “*poor miserable life*.” Our life is still not sinless. We stumble daily. The devil is at our back, attacking us from every side and fighting against all the petitions we pray. And so, we pray that our good Father would forgive our sins, not because he didn’t forgive our sins without and even before our prayer, but that we may recognize and receive such forgiveness.

It’s the same way with praying for our daily bread: God has already given it... He’s already forgiven our sins... but we pray that we may recognize and give thanks for these gifts.

“The flesh in which we daily live is of such a nature that it neither trusts nor believes God. It is ever active in evil lusts and devices, so that we sin daily in word and deed, by what we do and fail to do. By this the conscience is thrown into unrest, so that it is afraid of God’s wrath and displeasure. So it loses the comfort and confidence derived from the Gospel. Therefore, it is always necessary that we run here and receive consolation to comfort the conscience again” (261).

In short, if God doesn’t stop forgiving, we are lost. But thanks be to God, he doesn’t stop forgiving! He doesn’t regard our sins or hold us up to what we daily deserve. He deals graciously with us and forgives us. He gives us a joyful and confident conscience that stands before Him in prayer.

So, Jesus adds a necessary, yet comforting addition: “As we forgive.” We daily sin much against God, and yet He forgives everything through grace. So we also forgive our neighbors who do us injury, violence, and wrong.

On the one hand, it’s *necessary* because “if you don’t forgive, then do not think that God forgives you.” On the other hand, it’s *comforting* because “if you forgive, you have this assurance that you are forgiven in heaven, not because of your forgiving, but because God forgives freely and without condition, out of pure grace” (262).

The Sixth Petition

And lead us not into temptation.

What does this mean? God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.

“Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall (1 Corinthians 10:12).” Luther writes that “our life is such a nature that we stand today, and tomorrow we fall (Isaiah 50:6-8).” We must pray constantly that God would not allow us to fall and yield to trials and temptations.

Here are the three temptations we need to watch out for:

- 1) *The flesh*. We carry the old Adam about our neck who encourages us into all kinds of evil lusts, such as unchastity, laziness, gluttony, drunkenness, greed, and deception.
- 2) *The world*. It offends us and drives us to anger and impatience because of its hatred, envy, hostility, violence, wrong, unfaithfulness,



vengeance, cursing, railing, slander, pride, haughtiness, and with its useless finery, honor, fame, and power.

- 3) *The devil*. He pushes and provokes us in all directions, leads us to despise God's Word and works, and tears us away from faith, hope, and love. On the one hand, he'll lead us to false security and stubbornness, and on the other hand, he'll bring us to despair, denial of God, and blasphemy.

The temptations to sin are great, yet we must bear them. We are attacked on all sides, chased and hunted down, yet we must pray to God that he would not allow us to become weary, faint, and fall again into sin, shame, and unbelief. The temptations to sin will never go away, as long we live in this flesh and have the devil around us, so we must pray that we may not fall and be drowned in them.

Now, there is a difference between *feeling* temptations and *falling* into temptations. The temptations of the youth are felt especially from the flesh, but the temptations of the middle-aged and older are from the world. We will *feel* temptations our whole life long, but we *fall* into them when we "consent to them and when we give them the reins and do not resist or pray against them" (267). So we must take up the armor of God and fight against these temptations with prayer.

The Seventh Petition

But deliver us from evil.

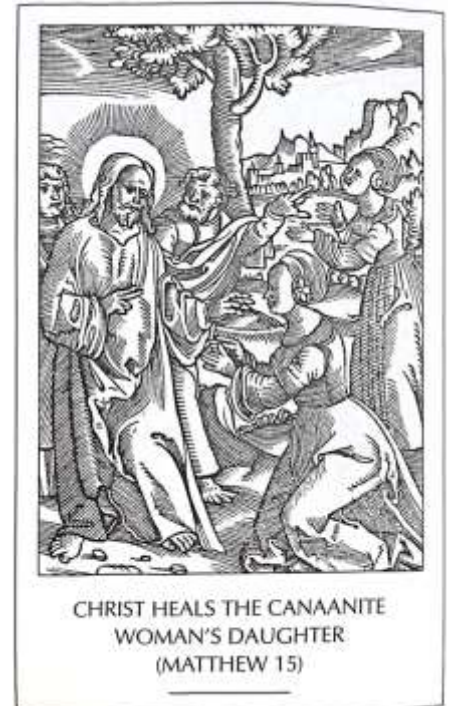
What does this mean? We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.

"The evil one" is the devil. As we saw in the Sixth Petition, the entire substance of all our prayer is directed against our chief enemy who hinders among us everything we pray for. "For unless God preserved us, we would not be safe from this enemy even for an hour" (269).





Through these petitions in the Lord's Prayer, God has "briefly placed before us all the distress that may ever come upon us, so that we might have no excuse whatever for not praying" (269).

This is why we say "Amen," the word of "undoubting faith" which knows that God does not lie. We do not pray in vain. God doesn't despise our prayer, so neither should we. God has promised to hear our prayers and grant us our petitions. Amen!

Pastor Woelmer



August 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6pm LWML 	2	3
4 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion 6:30-8pm Youth Group	5 4pm-Quilting 6pm  Elders Meeting	6	7 10am-GLLC Chapel	8	9	10
Pastor Continuing Education Class, Lubbock, TX						
11 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion Sunday School Rally Day!	12 7pm-  LLL	13	14 10am-GLLC Chapel	15	16	17
18 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion Faith Lutheran High School Opening Service (Warda)	19 4pm-Quilting 6pm-GLLC Mtg 7pm-Evangelism	20	21 10am-GLLC Chapel	22	23	24
Pastor PALS Mtg, Los Fresnos, TX						
25 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion	26 8am-Braille	27	28 10am-GLLC Chapel	29 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE/NOON 	30	31
"Texas Lutherans Free Conference" at Grace Lutheran Church, Brenham,						

Grace Lutheran Church

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Smithville, TX 78957
Office Phone: (512) 237-2108
Fax Line: (512) 237-2832

Email address: gracelutheransmithville@gmail.com
Web Site: www.glcs.org

Sunday School 8:45 AM
Midweek Classes 8:45 AM
Worship Service 10:00 AM

Elders: Charlie Johannessen
Bert Bunte
Organist(s): June Parker
Esther Wolff
Kim Appel
Ruth Eaton
Altar Guild: June Parker
Libby Caldwell



As of July 25, 2024

Name	Balance
Monthly Budget	20,833
Budget needed through June	145,831
Actual through June	127,167
Short	-18,664
General Fund Balance	3,055

Grace Lutheran Learning Center

401 Wilkes Street
Smithville, TX 78957
Office Phone: 512-360-2800
Fax Number: 512-237-5990

Email address: gracelutheranlearn@att.net
We now accept CCMS enrollment

Pastor David Woelmer

If you need to contact Pastor Woelmer, you can do so via e-mail (rev.davidwoelmer@gmail.com) or phone (214-218-8354). Pastor Woelmer is normally in the office Monday through Thursday. He is available in the afternoons, but often uses that time to make nursing home, hospital or home visits.



Born Again Emporium Celebrates Ten Years.

It may surprise you to know that on a typical week-end, the Born Again Emporium will serve in excess of 600 - customers on Fridays and Saturdays - 9 o'clock to 2 pm. It may also surprise you that during a 10 year ending in 2024 more than 1 million dollars will have been funneled back into the community to serve vital needs of non profit organizations as well as individuals in need. August 1 st the Emporium will celebrate 10 years with a volunteer appreciation event as well as a 'tax free' weekend (August 2 - 3) for customers.

During the most recent meeting, requests totaling \$53,000 were granted to various non-profit charities in Smithville. Criteria for granting request being that the funds must serve a human need. The Smithville Police Department received funds for officers vest and cameras. Meals on Wheels, Smithville Workforce Training Center, Childrens Advocacy Center, Smithville Community Clinic were among the 14 charities receiving funds for the quarter. There is also a voucher program coordinated by the Ministerial Alliance where home goods and clothing are provided for families with special needs and circumstances. The BAE has only 2 paid employees - 2 men to help with the heavy lifting. The Emporium relies strictly on volunteers from the participating churches and the community. Thirteen churches are currently serving this ministry - providing volunteers for 4 days every 6 to 7 weeks. If you are interested in participating in this ministry, contact Brenda Sanders, Rose Pietch, David and Toni Ann Kadlecek, Esther, Tim and Kayleigh Wolff for information.

Grace Lutheran will be volunteering
August 12 - 17, 2024
September 23 - 28, 2024
November 4 - 9, 2024

CHURCH OFFICE

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS: For the months of June, July and August, I will not be in the office in the mornings but will instead be here in the afternoons of Tuesday through Friday. If you need any help from the office i.e., copying documents, record information, info to be put in the bulletin and/or newsletter, etc., please feel free to stop by, call, etc. I am here to provide you with whatever you need from the church office. You may also leave a note in the Secretary's box in the Narthex, and I will get back with you as soon as possible. Please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions. Lisa Stem



Braille volunteers meet the 4th Monday of each month @ 8am.
We carpool to Immanuel Lutheran Church in Giddings to assemble braille bible study books.

Trunk or Treat 2024



The Board of Evangelism invites you to participate in the upcoming Trunk or Treat on Thursday, October 31, 2024! Yes, we know, October is five months away...

The reason that we're announcing this way ahead of time is because this year we are exploring a new

format. Our goal is to get 12 families who will decorate their table and dress up to teach a specific Bible story, person, or event. As trick-or-treaters progress through the 12 (or more?) tables in the Parish Hall, they will receive candy or treats, possibly specific to the Bible story, and will *quickly* learn about the Biblical History and story of salvation.

Please consider signing up to participate in decorating your table and sharing with our community the significant Bible Stories for their salvation! On the sign-up sheet, you'll find the 12 stories and their Biblical reference(s).

Bonus: This is also a good opportunity for our congregation to learn more about those key stories, people, and events that have shaped our lives as Christians. Dig into the details of the Bible and get creative!

Table Themes will be:

1. Creation & the Fall into Sin (Genesis 1-3)
2. The Flood & Holy Baptism (Genesis 6-9)
3. The Covenant with Abraham, Issac and his son (Genesis 12, 15, 17, 22)
4. Crossing the Red Sea, the Wilderness Journey, the Bronze Serpent (Exodus 14-15; Numbers 21, 23)
5. Crossing the Jordan River (Promised Land) (Joshua 3-4)
6. David & Goliath (1 Samuel 17)
7. Christmas (Luke 1-2; Matthew 1-2)
8. John the Baptist & the Baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3; Luke 3)
9. Miracles of Jesus: Pick one! (Wedding at Cana?) (See Mark 1-2, 4, 5; Luke 7, Matt. 14; John 2, 9)
10. Holy Week: Palm Sunday, the Lord's Supper, Garden in Gethsemane, Peter's Denial, Passion of the Christ (Matthew 21, 26-27 and parallels)
11. Easter (Matthew 28 and parallels)
12. Ascension & Pentecost & the Church (Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1-2)

New Podcast!

Check out our new podcast, called "The Faithful Word." On this podcast, you'll find devotions, miscellaneous episodes, and sermons so you can spend time in God's Word wherever you are. Each daily "Congregation at Prayer" devotion is 12 minutes long! Play it in the car or while you've got some free time at home.



The main motivation and purpose for this podcast is to help our shut-in and homebound members hear and receive God's Word, so I would greatly appreciate it if you like, subscribe, comment, and share the podcast! That will help tremendously to get the Word out.

The podcast can be found through:

- 1) Our website (glcs.org). Click "Our Ministries" then scroll down to the "GLC Podcast."
- 2) Our Facebook page.
- 3) Our Podbean website at <https://gracelutheransmithville.podbean.com/>. There you'll find the links to access the podcast through Apple Podcasts, YouTube, and iHeart Radio.

KFUO Bible Study Resources

Looking for Bible study opportunities during the week?



Make use of the fantastic resources for growth in your Christian faith produced by our very own LCMS radio station, KFUO (www.kfu.org). Their variety of programs will provide something of value to every person who listens.

Adult Instruction Class

In August, we will begin a new adult instruction class. This class will teach the Christian faith and dive deep into the doctrine of the Lutheran church through Martin Luther's Small Catechism. This class is intended for those who seek to become communicant members of our congregation, but if this doesn't apply to you, you're certainly welcome to attend and learn more about the Lutheran church! Join us on Sundays after church from 11:30-12:30.



Aug. 1	Philip & Kimberly Appel
Aug. 15	Jerry & Helen Fleck
Aug. 18	Don & Nancy Young
Aug. 23	Daniel & Donna Kadlecek
	James & Murrelyn Rice
Aug. 24	Jim & Mary Ann Duty
Aug. 26	Mackie Wayne & Kathy Kasper



Aug. 2	Kellie Rice
Aug. 4	Bobby Hoskins
Aug. 6	Jacob Hannusch
	Vance Kaiser
Aug. 7	Bradley Champion
	Kolson Zimmerhanel
Aug. 8	Peyton Bennight
Aug. 9	Mike Davis, Jr.
	Bernie Satterwhite
Aug. 10	Donna Kadlecek
Aug. 14	Connor Swartz
Aug. 15	Wendy Rohde
Aug. 16	Clint Zimmerhanel
Aug. 17	Ashlyn Zimmerhanel
Aug. 19	Eleanor Mutschink
	Kennedy Pietsch
Aug. 20	Hannah Stem
Aug. 21	Angel Hurst
Aug. 23	Linda Noack
Aug. 25	Patricia Kaiser
Aug. 27	Debbie Higgins
	Patt Langer
Aug. 29	Troy Kasper
	David Rohde
	Stefanie Monecke
Aug. 30	Cindy Davis
	Kira Kaiser
Aug. 31	Hallye Bonorden
	Gene Brown, Jr.



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH PICNIC

Our annual church picnic will be held September 8, 2024, from 11:30-3:30 here at our own church grounds. The goal for 2024 is to raise at least \$5,000 and this money will go to the support of Grace Lutheran Church.

Food:

We will be serving BBQ Chicken, Sausage, Coleslaw, Beans, Noodles, Slice of Cake, Tea & Water. Meal tickets will be \$15.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children.

Activities:

Bouncy House, Cake Wheel, Face Painting, Live Auction, and Corn Hole Tournament.

Volunteers needed:

We need volunteers of all kinds.

- Bakers (cakes/cupcakes/brownies/desserts of all kinds needed for cake wheel and meal - plan on bringing 2-3 desserts per family)
- Kitchen-food prep, setup, cleanup, servers
- Grounds- setup and cleanup
- Running games/activities
- Donations: auction items, other monetary donations for needed supplies, and eggs for homemade noodles
- Auction-taggers, spotters, runners, registration/checkout, totalers/recorders, merchandise handlers

We are excited to be hosting this event here at our own church grounds. This is something new for all of us and to make this successful we need ALL of you!

Please sign up today!

Wishing these Friends a Happy Birthday and Anniversary from your "Grace" family

If your birthday or anniversary does not appear correctly, please contact the church office so we can correct our files. Thank you.



Dear Member of Grace Lutheran Church,

We are excited to have Sunday School back at 8:45 am every Sunday. Come join us and listen to the word of our Lord Jesus Christ as taught by Pastor Woelmer for the Adults, 3yrs old through kindergarten teachers are Kim Appel and Esther Wolff, 1st grade through 4th grade is Kayla Herschap, 5th grade through 8th grade will be Donna Zimmerhanel and for the High School, we will be making some changes for their class so for now they are participating with the Adult class. We are always in need of volunteers to help teach or to sub when one of the teachers is out, so please feel free to contact a board member and we will gladly assist you in getting set up to volunteer.

DONUTS!!

There is a sign-up sheet on the Board of Education Bulletin Board for anyone who wants to furnish snacks between Sunday School and Church. There is also a donation can in the kitchen by the donuts if you would rather just donate to the cause.

Our current mission project is Grace Lutheran Learning Center there are envelopes on the Board of Ed Bulletin Board for anyone who would like to **contribute to our Mission**.

Our Board members for this year are: Charlie Johannessen, Toni Ann Kadlecek, Melissa Brown, Mary Lou Oliver, Margie Hicks, June Parker, Barb Johannessen. Please feel free to contact any of us at any time if you have questions.

May God Bless all of you.

Respectfully,

Barb Johannessen

Board of Education

Sunday School

Sunday school for all ages continues during its regular time slot of 8:45 AM. The parish hall has been filled with great joy each Sunday morning as so many children and adults are eager to learn God's Word—and there's always room for more! Please join us each week in the Parish Hall for a short opening with everyone together before we go to our separate classes. You won't regret making time to read, learn, and rejoice in God's Word!



Adult Bible Study

Adult Bible study at 8:45 AM continues each week, led by Pastor Woelmer. Join us to spend time together in God's Word as we learn about the book of Romans.



Sunday School Rally Day

Join the Board of Education on Sunday, August 11th for their annual Sunday School Rally Day! Following the service, we will eat lunch together and will give thanks for the work of our Sunday School teachers and recognize the children who will be moving up in their classes. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided, but the congregation is asked to bring chips and desserts.



LWML

Lutheran Women *in Mission*

UPCOMING:

Aug. 1st
6pm-Business Meeting

Aug 5th
Quilting

Aug 19th
Quilting

Aug 26th
Braille

We welcome you to join us in “Serving the Lord with Gladness.” Please contact any LWML member or June Parker at 512-581-1168 to learn more or go to www.lwml.org or www.lwmltxdist.org to read about the mission and great history of LWML.

Altar Guild for August – June Parker and Libby Caldwell

Grace LWML met on July 11th and a report of the Texas District Convention in June was given. Our mission project for the month of July is to help defray the cost of the beans for the 2023 Camp Lone Star Fund Raiser.

LWML TEXAS DISTRICT GRANT BULLETIN BYTES:

Our first mission grant in \$60,000 for Texas Seminary Students. We pray that these monies will help defray the cost of schooling new pastors.

From the Winchester church, Curtis Hankemeier has just moved with his family to St. Louis to begin his studies to become a pastor. Please keep him and his family in your prayers as they begin a new adventure.

National Mission Grant Bulletin Bytes:

Enhancement of Deaf Ministry and Outreach, Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society, U.S. -- \$47,000

There are an estimated 500,000 deaf users of American Sign Language (ASL) in the United States, 95% of whom are unchurched. There are 124 local or congregational deaf ministries in the LCMS; however, there is a severe shortage of Lutheran resources and interpreters. Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society (ELMS) is dedicated to serving and supporting the deaf and hard of hearing community with the Gospel.

This grant will help provide interpreters and resources to spread the Gospel message to deaf people in the United States by allowing ELMS to expand its Church Interpreter Training Academy to several satellite locations, potentially training more than 100 new interpreters. It will also allow them to continue ASL translation work of the *Lutheran Service Book* settings 1, 2, 4, and Matins for the benefit of all those who are deaf.



The Widow's Mite --- And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. And he called his disciples to him and said to them, “Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.” Mark 12:42-44 ESV

