

Grace Notes



As our newsletter series on prayer begins to look at a variety of prayers that God gives to us in His Word, there is no better place to begin than the Lord's Prayer. When Jesus' disciples asked Him to teach them how to pray, this is the prayer that Jesus gave. As words given by the Son of God Himself, this prayer has rightly taken center stage in the prayers of individual Christians and the Church as a whole. With the Lord's Prayer, Jesus gives us actual words to use in our prayers to God and a form by which we can offer our own prayers before our heavenly Father. Given the enormous importance of the Lord's Prayer, we'll spend a few months digging into its riches. This month we'll consider the Introduction: "Our Father who art in heaven."

As we consider what this means, we can begin with the explanation given in the Small Catechism: "With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father." This explanation begins to unpack the depth of comfort that Jesus gives to us in the Introduction to the Lord's Prayer.

Think about just that first word: "*our*." Notice that this word is first person; God isn't simply *her* Father or *his* Father or *their* Father. God is *our* Father. I'm included in that, and so are you. Notice also that this word is plural—more than one person is included. First and foremost, Jesus is the One who calls God Father. Because Jesus has made Himself our Brother by His incarnation, because He has made Himself our Savior by His death and resurrection, and because He has adopted us as sons of God through faith (Galatians 3:26), we are now given boldness to approach God as *our* Father. That means that this prayer Jesus gives is one in which we pray with each other and for each other. There is great comfort for us in just that very first word.

There's more comfort still, of course. Think about the second word: "*Father*." Jesus does not teach us to address God as some far-off deity; He invites us to call upon God in the most personal of terms. To call God "Father" first reminds us that He is the One who has created us and given us life (Psalm 139:13). This also teaches us that He is the One who has made us members of His family, the Church, by placing His name upon us in Holy Baptism (Galatians 3:27-28). Finally, to call God "Father" is a powerful reminder that God loves us; when He hears and answers our prayers, He does so only for our great good (Luke 11:13; Hebrews 4:16).

Finally, consider the comfort found in the last part of the Introduction: "*who art in heaven*." When Jesus teaches us to pray to the God who is in heaven, He reminds us that this One we call upon as our Father is the One who has created all things. All things are under His powerful care, and He is our Helper (Psalm 124:8). As the One who dwells in heaven, there is nothing He is unable to do. In theological terms, we speak of this as God's omnipotence; He is all-powerful. When we cry out to Him in prayer, then, we have the confidence that whatever we need, He has the ability to give, and even more (Psalm 27:1).

All of that comfort is found in just the Introduction to the Lord's Prayer, "Our Father who art in heaven." The next time you pray the Lord's Prayer, I encourage you to slow down and ponder these things; perhaps you might even pause and pray based solely on the Introduction for a moment before continuing with the rest of the petitions. Rejoice, dear Christians! Jesus is your Savior, and so God is your Father who loves you, wants to hear from you, and is powerful to give you all that you need for this life and the next.

In Christ,
Pastor Appel

July 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6pm LWML 	2 Pastor Away- Family Day	3
4 8:45am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship/Communion 11am-Family Sunday School	5 5pm-Quilting	6	7	8	9 Pastor Away- Family Day	10
11 8:45am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship/Communion 11am-Family Sunday School	12 7pm- LLL	13	14	15	16 Pastor Away- Family Day	17
18 8:45am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship/Communion 11am-Voters Meeting	19 5pm-Quilting 6pm GLLC Mtg	20	21	22 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE/NOON 	23 Pastor Away- Family Day	24
25 8:45am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship/Communion 11am-Family Sunday School	26 8am Braille	27	28	29	30 Pastor Away- Family Day	31

Grace Lutheran Church

308 Byrne Street
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

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

Please feel free to put old or unused toys in our box located in the Narthex

Pastor Timothy Appel

If you need to contact him, his email address is: timothyappel@gmail.com and his home phone number is 512-237-9664, or contact our Office at 512-237-2108. If you are not able to reach either number and it is an emergency, contact your Elder. (Elders list on bulletin board by the Office)

CHURCH OFFICE

Normal hours are 9 to 2 Mon. – Fri. 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. We are there 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 we will get back with you as soon as possible. Please let us know if you have any questions or suggestions.



In the Hospital

If you are admitted to the hospital, I would like to visit you in order to share God's Word and share a prayer with you in that difficult time. As you are able please let the church office know or ask the hospital to call the church office so that I can best minister to you.
Pastor Appel

Elders: Galen Bunte
Bert Bunte

July Altar: Toni Ann Kadlecsek
Guild: Sharon Reinberg

Organist(s):
June Parker
Esther Wolff
Kim Appel
Ruth Eaton



As of, June 24th, 2021

Name	Balance
Prosperity Checking Acct	80,432.60
CEF-General	2,460.06
CEF-Land/Youth	12,380.33
CEF Scholarship	12,532.95
Legacy Deo	12,872.25
Total Dedicated Funds	23,479.63
General Fund Balance	56,952.97

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



There is a plastic container in the Narthex for collection of **used bulletins & white printed papers** to be recycled at the Smithville Recycling facility. If there are any questions please ask Katie or John Stelling for info

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. Of

particular interest for Grace, every weekday morning at 8 AM, you can hear Pastor Appel host the Bible study, *Sharper Iron*, with guest pastors from around the country. If you can't catch the show live, you can listen to archived episodes at www.kfu.org/category/sharper-iron/.



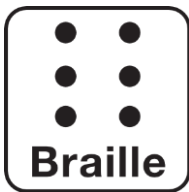
- Jul 8** Rod & Patt Langer
- Jul 10** Davey & Sandra Kadlecek
- Jul 28** Bernie & Pat Satterwhite

Wishing these Friends a Happy Birthday! 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.



Thanks to all our generous donors and shoppers. We were able to give back to the community with our quarterly grants. Grace and First Presbyterian will staff the store the week of July 5 to 10th. Work days are Monday and Wednesday and sale days Friday and Saturday. All COVID protocols are lifted. Masks are encouraged but not mandatory. There are no limits on customers, the restrooms are open and all ages are welcome. We are again open on both Friday and Saturday. Donations are accepted **ONLY ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY FROM 9 TO 2**. Thank you for supporting this ministry. Join us as you are able.



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

Adult Bible Study

Adult Bible study at 8:45 AM has resumed! (Please note that Family Sunday School will continue each week after worship.) We are studying God's



Sunday Morning Adult Study

Word in the Psalms that He invites us to speak back to Him in prayer. Each week has included a fantastic study and conversation so far; please join us!



- Jul 2** Michelle Randle
- Jul 3** Darrell Becker
Vicki Vinklarek
- Jul 4** Bronson Macks
Jennifer Randle
- Jul 6** John Moore
- Jul 11** Haley Macks
- Jul 13** Reese Kasper
- Jul 15** Aaron Riddle
- Jul 16** Brenda Page
- Jul 20** Jim Duty
Kyzer Macks
- Jul 29** Amanda Vanegas
- Jul 31** Doug Teague
Sharon Reinberg

Family Sunday School

Family Sunday School continues at Grace! Please join us after the 11:00AM service each Sunday to learn and rejoice in the Word of God together as the family of Jesus here at Grace! This class is intended for anyone and everyone; whether you are single or married or have lots of kids or have no kids, you are welcome to join us to learn God's



Word together. Tables are spaced appropriately throughout the parish hall, with one family per table. Pastor introduces a new Bible story each week, and our learning includes both activities done as individual families and as a large group. We also include a hymn and a craft each week. We finish about 11:45 am. Please join us to learn God's Word together as families and as a congregation!

Ongoing Worship Services at Grace

At the June meeting of the Board of Elders, the following updates were approved concerning our ongoing worship services at Grace:

- Pastor and the assisting elders will continue to wear masks during the distribution of the Sacrament of the Altar. Please use your own best judgment concerning the matter of wearing a mask or face-covering to worship. We especially encourage you to take into your consideration the recommendations of the CDC and other public health authorities. Please strive to continue to treat each other with Christian love and concern as we make such decisions and consider the decisions of others.
- Hymnals will once again be placed in the pews later during the month of June. The service will continue to be printed in its entirety in every bulletin for a few weeks, but we will gradually work toward using the hymnal for singing hymns as the summer progresses. The large print bulletin will continue to have the entire service printed; please reserve these bulletins for those who truly need them as we begin to make use once again of the wonderful resource our church has in its hymnal.
- As we continue to monitor the ongoing status of the pandemic, the month of August has been set as the target to discontinue roping off certain pews and to begin communing at the altar rail once again. At the same time, we respect those who may continue to desire preventative measures such as social distancing, and will provide ways for you to do so.
- As passing the offering plate involves every person gathered touching one object, we will continue to receive our offerings in the plate in the narthex and bring them forward for blessing during the service.

Please note that these matters are subject to change based on the continuing conditions of the pandemic and feedback from you. Our goal is to ease back into these practices in ways that allow for all of us to worship the Savior together at Grace. We encourage you to bring your questions, comments, and concerns regarding these matters; please be in touch with Pastor Appel or any member of the Board of Elders. We ask that you join us in giving thanks to God for the ways in which He has protected us during this pandemic and the ways He has given us and our world relief from this pandemic, particularly from advancements in vaccines and medical treatments the last several months. We also ask that you join us in prayer for our congregation as we make these transitions in the coming months, that God would grant us good health according to His mercy, that God would fill us with love and patience in our interactions with each other, that God would strengthen our faith through the Word and Sacraments He graciously gives us here, and that God would use our proclamation of His Word to bring more of our friends, family, and neighbors to faith in His Son, Jesus Christ.

Opportunities to Receive God's Gifts Individually

For those who are not yet attending in-person worship, opportunities to receive the gifts of God through other means continue to be available. Please be in touch with me to let me know how I can deliver these gifts of God to you. Even in the midst of a pandemic, no Christian should go without God's gifts in Word and Sacrament. Options include, but are not limited to:



- Live stream the 10:00 AM service on our Facebook page
- Individual appointment to receive Jesus' Body and Blood at Grace
- Socially distant outdoor home visit to receive Jesus' Body and Blood

This offer is made in earnest. ***You are not imposing on my time by requesting this of me; this is precisely why God has given time to me.*** Please let me know how I can best serve you in Christ's name during this time! –Pastor Appel

Pastoral Check-Up



Many go to their doctor regularly to check on their physical health; why not do the same with your pastor concerning your spiritual health? I know that the previous year was difficult in many respects. How has your Christian faith been challenged? How has your Christian faith grown? Let's visit! The precautions of a pandemic aren't so great that a pastoral visit is impossible. Let's find some time to talk so that I can minister to you with the Word of God so that your faith in Christ will grow even in the midst of this life's troubles and trials.



Dear Members of Grace Lutheran Church,

The Board of Education would like to congratulate the three Seniors we have in our congregation, **Gene Brown, III, Brendan Kadlecek** and **Nicholas Claiborne**. We pray that your future will always include God and the lessons he has for us all to learn as we grow. We are all proud of the young men you have become. God's Blessings to all of you.

We would like to invite everyone to attend and learn God's word with all age groups from infant on up. Sunday school starts as close to 11:00am as possible. Directly after the Church Service. We will be collecting an offering each Sunday at Sunday School that will go to a missionary. Family Sunday School is going well for those that are attending, there is ALWAYS ROOM FOR MORE. Please join us in learning together and in supporting our fellow Christians in need. We look forward to what the summer will bring and welcome any comments or suggestions you may have regarding Sunday School. Please contact any board member.

We will make decisions in the near future regarding the Sunday School Rally and will keep you informed.

Our Board members for this year are: Charlie Johannessen, Toni Ann Kadlecek, Kathy Kasper, Mary Lou Oliver, Melissa Brown, June Parker, Barb Johannessen and the Sunday School Superintendent is Donna Zimmerhanzel. Please feel free to contact any of us at any time if you have questions.

May God Bless all of you.

Respectfully,
Barb Johannessen



The Bazaar Committee has not formally met to discuss the future of the Grace Lutheran Bazaar, held annually on the third Sunday in September, however I believe the general feeling is that we should NOT hold a bazaar this year due to the unknowns of Covid-19.

We will do an extensive survey beginning soon to decide as a congregation as to the future of the bazaar.

We certainly appreciate your prayers as we move forward on this issue.



FAITH LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL OF CENTRAL TEXAS

Faith Lutheran High School of Central Texas seeks to engage young adults in a Christ-centered environment where faith and knowledge grow as one.

HOME OF THE FALCONS!

July 2021

Thank You! Thank You!

Thank you for all the prayers and support you have offered on behalf of FLHS. We ask that you continue to remember us in your prayers and gifts, as we make preparations for next year and the following. God continues to bless our ministry and YOU do as well. Thank you!

New Student Registration

Registration for the 2021-2022 school year is underway. We are looking to add more students to our family. Are you looking for a Christ-centered education, a rigorous college prep curriculum, small class sizes? Call for a tour and check out FLHS!! Call (979) 242-2889 today!

Scholarship Program

Have you ever had this thought? "Faith Lutheran High School sounds great, but my family can't afford it." We firmly believe that EVERY family desiring a Christ-centered education for their children should have the opportunity to attend FLHS. We have a Tuition Scholarship Program with funds available. We utilize TADS to disburse these scholarship funds, and EVERY family who applies receives some assistance. We'll do everything in our power to make sure that money isn't the reason you don't choose FLHS. **In today's increasingly hostile, non-Christian society, you can't afford to NOT send your child to FLHS!**

Amazon Smile and Wish List

Did you know Faith Lutheran High School is on Amazon Smile? After you select FLHS as the charity of your choice, everytime you purchase something from Amazon Smile, FLHS will receive a donation. FLHS has also created a wish list on Amazon, for needed materials for the upcoming school year. The easiest way to find it is by clicking on the link on the FLHS Facebook page or website. Thank you for your generous support!

That's a Wrap!

Summer camps at FLHS are officially over! What a fun time we had at each and every camp. It was a joy to see the participants grow in skill and knowledge, and use their gifts to glorify God! We were blessed to have over 150 students on campus throughout the athletic and academic camps. We can't wait to do it again next summer!!

August Items

The first day of school is Wednesday, August 18th. We are excited to welcome our in-coming freshmen students and look forward to a wonderful school year. The Opening Service for the 2021-2022 School Year will be Sunday, August 22nd at 3pm at Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Plans are still being finalized for this event. The annual student retreat to Camp Lone Star is scheduled for Thursday and Friday, August 26th and 27th. This annual retreat is a wonderful opportunity for our students to participate in challenge courses, learn about personality differences, approach conflict from a Biblical perspective, grow together as a family, and have loads of fun!

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 and student retreat!





LWML

Lutheran Women in Mission

UPCOMING:

July 1st
6pm- Business Meeting
Topic: Rose Pietsch

We welcome you to join us in “Serving the Lord with Gladness.” Please contact any LWML member or Sharon Reinberg at 512-923-8222 to learn more or go to www.lwml.org or www.lwmltxdist.org to read about the mission and great history of LWML.

Grace LWML Mission Project:
St. Louis Seminary Food Bank

Lutheran World Relief Ingathering 2021:
This year's ingathering will again be in November.
Saturday, November 6, 2021

LWML TEXAS DISTRICT GRANT BULLETIN BYTES:

- Translating LWML Bible Studies
- WORDrus -- \$11,000

Gracious Father, Our LWML has been richly blessed to have these Bible Studies and want others to have them as well. Bless the efforts of the WORDrus Mission Society whose goal is to get these studies translated in Russian and German, foster spiritual growth and provide sound Biblical doctrine for churches and communities throughout Eurasia. In Your loving name, we pray. Amen

Donations to the large Mite Box in the Narthex are joyfully accepted.

National Mission Grant Bulletin Bytes:

When the new grants for National are voted on at the convention June 24-27 we will start featuring in the August newsletter.

The grants from the last 2 years were all funded with a surplus that will be added to the new grants. Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!



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

Read Through the Bible in 2021

Grace Lutheran Church, Smithville, TX

“God’s Word is our great heritage and shall be ours forever!” Continue your daily Bible reading during 2021. God’s blessings for you in His Word abound! *(Note: On days listed as “OFF,” consider re-reading something from earlier in the week or making up a day that you might have missed.)*

Readings for the Month of July

July 1	OFF	
July 2	Matthew 1	2 Samuel 21-23
July 3	Matthew 2-3	2 Samuel 24
July 4	Matthew 4	1 Kings 1-2
July 5	Matthew 5:1-32	1 Kings 3-5
July 6	Matthew 5:33-48	1 Kings 6-7
July 7	Proverbs 13:1-17	Psalms 84-87
July 8	OFF	
July 9	Matthew 6	1 Kings 8
July 10	Matthew 7	1 Kings 9-10
July 11	Matthew 8	1 Kings 11-12
July 12	Matthew 9	1 Kings 13-14
July 13	Matthew 10	1 Kings 15-17
July 14	Proverbs 13:18-25	Psalms 88-89
July 15	OFF	
July 16	Matthew 11	1 Kings 18-19
July 17	Matthew 12:1-21	1 Kings 20-22
July 18	Matthew 12:22-50	2 Kings 1-2
July 19	Matthew 13:1-35	2 Kings 3-4
July 20	Matthew 13:36-58	2 Kings 5-7
July 21	Proverbs 14:1-19	Psalms 90-91
July 22	OFF	
July 23	Matthew 14	2 Kings 8-9
July 24	Matthew 15	2 Kings 10-13
July 25	Matthew 16	2 Kings 14-15
July 26	Matthew 17	2 Kings 16-17
July 27	Matthew 18	2 Kings 18-20
July 28	Proverbs 14:20-35	Psalms 92-95
July 29	OFF	
July 30	Matthew 19	2 Kings 21-22
July 31	Matthew 20	2 Kings 23-25