

Grace Notes

As we continue to learn to pray from the Psalms, this month we turn to Psalm 100. This Psalm is short enough for us to consider here together one verse at a time. I'll put each verse in italics, followed by brief comments afterward.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Psalm 100 begins with a call to praise. Notice two things. First, God invites us to make a joyful noise. God is not as interested in our ability to carry a tune as much as He is interested in our joy. All that He has done for our salvation fills us with joy, and that joy overflows from our lips with a song and a shout and a noise. To put it simply: sing, dear Christians, sing! Second, our praises join the praises of all creation. Our joyful noise is joined to the joyful noises of the rustling trees, breaking waves, chirping birds, roaring lions, and more.

Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! The joyful noise we make to the LORD happens throughout the week in our prayers and devotions, but it especially happens when we come together for the Divine Service. There, God serves us with His gift of forgiveness; we respond with glad service to Him in worship as we sing songs of thanksgiving in His saving presence.

Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Our joyful noise and worship of the LORD stems from the fact that He is the only true God; no one else is worthy of our praises. Yet the joyful truth is not only that He is God. Even more, the joyful truth is that He is *my* God; He is *your* God; He is *our* God. He is our God because He is our Creator. He has given us life and sustains our lives. He is our God because He is our Redeemer. Though we had rebelled against Him in every kind of sin and evil, Christ has bought us back by His holy, precious blood so that we are His own people. This is no impersonal relationship; instead, Jesus is our Good Shepherd, and we are His flock. He cares for us with tender compassion and leads us with diligence our whole life long.



Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! Yet again the theme of joy in God's presence sounds forth from Psalm 100. Because Christ has covered us with His righteousness in Holy Baptism, we no longer need to fear approaching God. Instead, we delight to draw near to Him with our prayers, petitions, thanksgivings, and praises. Because our heavenly Father has blessed us in Christ, we bless His name by proclaiming to all people what He has done.

For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations. Psalm 100 closes with a familiar refrain; part of this verse is often used as prayer to return thanks to the LORD after a meal. The prayer is simple yet profound: "The LORD is good." All that He does is for our benefit; all that He does comes out of His love for us that never ends. Whatever God sends into our lives, we have the confidence that He does it out of His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy. We have that confidence because of God's faithfulness. When He makes a promise, He keeps it. This is the faith of every Christian in every generation past, this is the faith of every Christian now, and this will be the faith of every Christian in every generation to come.

As the superscription of Psalm 100 reminds us, truly this is a psalm for giving thanks. Our hearts and mouths are filled with joy for what God has done through Jesus. He brings us into His presence with singing, and He sends us from His presence with the Gospel on our lips to tell the world. God be praised!

In Christ,
Pastor Appel

July 2022

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

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.glbs.org

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

Elders:

Bert Bunte
Charlie Johannessen

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

July Altar
Guild:

Wendy Rohde
Nelda Rohde

DOLLARS & SENSE

As of June 21, 2022

Name	Balance
Prosperity Checking Acct	59,485.77
CEF-General	2,486.87
CEF-Land/Youth	12,515.32
CEF Scholarship	12,669.61
Legacy Deo	12,978.63
Total Dedicated Funds	27,597.69
General Fund Balance	31,888.08

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 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**



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

Elders:

Bert Bunte
Charlie Johannessen

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Opportunities to Receive God's Gifts

When you are not able to make it to the weekly Divine Service on a regular basis, please know that opportunities to receive the gifts of God at other times are available. I encourage you to be in touch with me to let me know how I can deliver these gifts of God to you, because no Christian should go without God's gifts in Word and Sacrament. When circumstances do not allow you to join the congregation for a time, I certainly encourage you to make use of the Facebook livestream to hear the Scriptures and the sermon; I also would welcome the opportunity to set an appointment with you to study God's Word with you and bring you the Body and Blood of Jesus on an individual basis. ***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! —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! 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.



- | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| Jul 8 | Rod & Patt Langer |
| Jul 10 | Davey & Sandra Kadlecik |
| Jul 28 | Bernie & Pat Satterwhite |



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



The you to all our group and customers. The BAE completed their quarterly funds discernment. Donations continue to be accepted Friday and Saturday from 9 to 2. Our next rotation will be the week of July 4 to 9. Since July 4 falls on Monday, our work schedule begins on Tuesday. We will work Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday. Hours are 10 to 2. Join us as you are able.



Gifts for Organ Repair

On June 12, the voters approved organ repairs that will cost approximately \$11,800. Fischer Pipe Organ Tuning and Service will be putting us on their schedule so that these repairs can be made this fall. If you'd like to make a special gift to help with the cost of these repairs, you can make use of the "Organ Fund" envelopes in your offering envelope box. Thanks for your generosity in providing for music that glorifies God in our worship services at Grace!



- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Jul 2 | Michelle Randle |
| Jul 3 | Darrell Becker |
| | Vicki Vinklarek |
| Jul 4 | Sherry Goertz |
| | 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 |

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.

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.kfuo.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.kfuo.org/category/sharper-iron/.





Dear Member of Grace Lutheran Church,

We value your opinion!!!! The Board of Education is in deliberation about when to have Sunday School. It is very difficult to meet the needs of every member of Grace, however we want to meet those needs for as many members as we possibly can. PLEASE let us know if you prefer Sunday School before or after church on Sundays. We understand there are advantages to both times and wish there would be a way to offer both times, but in this fast past world that we live in it is very difficult to have volunteers for both times every Sunday. Please contact a board member and tell us your opinion. We are also looking for volunteers for which ever time frame we utilize, so if you want to VOLUNTEER, please contact us. We look forward to your opinion or advise.

The Board has chosen our next Sunday School Mission to be the "Smithville Community Medical Clinic". We would like to invite everyone to contribute to the Sunday School offering for this very worthy mission. Our previous mission funds went to a missionary in need through LCMS.

Come join us for family Sunday School every Sunday at 11:00 or immediately after Church Service. This is for all ages even if you do not have children!! It is a lot of fun!!

Our Board members for this year are: Charlie Johannessen, Toni Ann Kadlecik, 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.

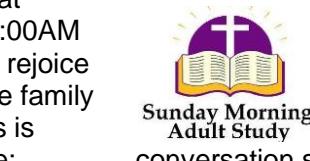
May God Bless all of you.

Respectfully,
Barb Johannessen
Board of Education



Family Sunday School

Family Sunday School continues at Grace! Please join us after the 10:00AM 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!



Adult Bible Study

Adult Bible study at 8:45 AM has resumed! We are studying God's 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!

Youth Group

All middle school and high school students and their parents are invited to join us at Youth Group! We normally meet every first Sunday of the month from 6:30-8:00 PM. Each month, we have time for Bible study, games, and snacks! In July, we're pushing our normal meeting time back one week due to the July 4th weekend; join us this month on Sunday, July 10, and invite your friends!



Lutheran Women *in Mission*

UPCOMING:

July 7th
6pm- Regular
Meeting

July 18th
4pm-Quilting

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.lwmldist.org to read about the mission and great history of LWML.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the "How's Your 80" Food Pantry Donation - 135 items of food were collected.
We will start a new donation soon - new socks. Watch for details
June ingathering - Texas District LWML Convention

LWML TEXAS DISTRICT GRANT BULLETIN BYTES:

The 42nd biennial Texas District Convention on June 16-18 was attended by 2 Grace members, Rose Pietsch and June Parker.

452 LWML members attended with a new mission goal of \$215,000 was adopted. One of them being Faith Lutheran High School-Warda for \$20,000. Offering during the convention to go to 3 groups totaled \$13,490.79. 3 new LWML groups were started in the last 2 years and our membership for Texas is 2513. Besides devotions, Bible studies, singing and many reports of the last two years there was much enjoyment meeting old friends and making new ones. It was a busy time but one that refreshed us in God's Word.

Looking forward to the Corpus Christi convention in two years.

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

National Mission Grant Bulletin Bytes:

Redeeming Life Maternity Home, Illinois Expansion — \$100,000

Redeeming Life currently operates maternity and transitional homes in Central Florida for single pregnant women who are homeless, abused, and/or at-risk of abortion. It is a proven model. This grant will help Redeeming Life support a called deaconess to serve in a new location in the Chicagoland area. Additionally, the funds will help offset the costs, during the first two years, of operating a safe and stable home (rent, utilities, food) and provide program services for the women to be served. Redeeming Life's goal is for their residents to learn to live independently and offers many opportunities for the women to understand that, in Christ, there is forgiveness, peace, and unconditional love.



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 2022

Grace Lutheran Church, Smithville, TX

"God's Word is our great heritage and shall be ours forever!" Continue your daily Bible reading during 2022. 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



All Praise & Glory be to God, our Father, and to His Son, Jesus Christ, for a successful Vacation Bible School at Grace Lutheran Church after missing two years due to Covid. I am so grateful that we can conduct VBS in an effort to bring folks to God!

First, I thank **God** for giving us a reason to conduct VBS and that He inspires the folks who prepare the curriculum that we follow. We purchased the starter kit in January 2020 for Rainforest Explorers and did not use it that year or in 2021 so we used it this year.

Next, I would like to thank all of the folks at Grace who donated to our program. Without you, we simply could not conduct VBS! We averaged **31 kids** and **35 teachers/helpers** this year. Thanks so much to all who are so willing to help!

A very special THANK YOU to **Kim & Philip Appel** for applying for TWO scholarships from Thrivent and getting \$500 to offset the costs of VBS! This was a wonderful help, especially in purchasing the food for VBS!

Thanks to all the folks who showed up Sunday afternoon to decorate the church & parish hall. I truly appreciate the help of **Margie Hicks, Marilyn Burns, June Parker, Rose Caldwell, Kim & Philip Appel, Wendy Rohde and Chris Juarez & Olivia.**

Thank you, **Pastor Appel**, for leading the Openings & Closings each night. It is a joy and a pleasure for me to have such a dedicated Pastor take on such a major role with our VBS. Your guidance, leadership and prayers are greatly appreciated. Thank you for leading our Staff meeting and for commissioning all the workers in church.

Thank you, **Kristin Appel**, for leading the music and sign language for VBS. Your music and sign language skills are awesome & I so enjoy watching your love for Jesus shine through your actions! We are blessed to have you in this position.

Thanks to **June Parker & Rose Caldwell** for the terrific job you all do in the Storytelling/Bible Challenge site. Your hands on approach with the kids at this site really makes an impact and I am so impressed with how you all make it fun to learn about the lesson!

Thank you, **Mary Ann Duty**, for being the leader of the Snack site and not even hesitating when asked to do this job. I also truly appreciate **Eleanor Mutschink** assisting at this site. Special thanks to **Cathy Smith and Frances Mynar** for preparing all the snacks for the classes! You both are a great asset to VBS!! We missed **Toni Ann Kadlecik & Brenda Page** but look forward to having them back next year!

Thank you, **Donna Zimmerhanzel**, for doing the HOTTEST job in VBS....games...outside in 100+ degree weather! She was assisted by **Thomas Brown, Kyle Pietsch, Kaylee Wolff, Angel Wolff & Joshua Zimmerhanzel** and they all enjoyed the "water" games and even the wonderful rain shower we received on Tuesday evening. You all ROCK!!

Thank you, **Debbie Higgins**, for leading the Crafts site this year. I appreciate you accepting this position when asked! Thanks to your helpers **Darrell Becker, Esther Wolff, Chris Juarez & Wesley Hampton** for assisting with all those kiddos!! We couldn't do this site without all of you helping to make it happen! The crafts looked amazing. I especially appreciate all of you helping with the 3 & 4 years olds doing the sand art on Thursday night!

Thank you, **Kim Appel**, for teaching one of the Pre-K classes, which consisted of the 3- and 4-year-olds. Those helping in this class were **Philip Appel, Mary Lou Oliver, Wendy Rohde and Lisa & Chuck Stem**. You all did an outstanding job of sharing the Good News of Jesus with these kiddos.

Our second Pre-K class was taught by **Sterling Brown** with the excellent help of **Darlene Becker, Khloe Pietsch, Riley & Alana**. They did a wonderful job with this class and it was definitely a group effort. The kids thoroughly enjoyed all that you all did in the class.

Special thanks to the Leaders of the 4 rotating groups: **Robert Wolff, David Wolff, Treszer Anderson-Lovings and Amber Hurst & Kennedy Pietsch**. You all did a great job with the groups you had and your leadership is greatly appreciated! You all kept your groups engaged in each site.

I don't know how **Marilyn Burns and Margie Hicks** do it, but year after year they do a fantastic job of keeping up with attendance records and assigning kids to a class the first night (and every night after that). Next year we will look into online registration to reduce the craziness of the first night! Y'all are the BEST!!

A special thank you to **Libby Caldwell** who strolled around with **Mary Appel** all week so that her parents could lead us in VBS!!

Our VBS program is so fortunate to have great people assist us with preparing meals each night! Thanks so much to the **Board of Education, LLL, Evangelism Committee, LWML and Joe Marquette at 7-11** for making all those pizzas.

The following folks were here to help prepare the meals & drinks, pass it all out and clean up afterward: **Mary Lou, Wendy, Marilyn, Chris Juarez, Darlene & Darrell Becker, Chrissy Becker, Cathy Smith, Barb & Charlie Johannessen, Ed Randle, Jim Duty, Johnny Kalina, Brad, Donna & Josh Zimmerhanzel, June Parker, Kimberly Craig, Margie Hicks, Kim & Philip Appel, John Anderson, Eleanor Mutschink, Gene III, Sterling & Thomas Brown and Esther, David, Robert, Kaylee & Angel Wolff, and Lisa & Chuck Stem**. Thank you all SO MUCH, we simply could not do this without you!

I was so excited this year because we had more kiddos registered from GLLC than ever before but because of a quarantine of the 3-year-old class, we were not able to accept those kids or their siblings.

We did prepare bags with the lessons and crafts for those children who couldn't attend and look forward to having them next year. Thank you, **Angel Hurst**, for all you did for our program!

Our VBS Mission Project was to support Trinity Lutheran Church in Uvalde to assist those affected by the tragedy that occurred at Robb Elementary School and I am so excited to report that we collected **\$900.00** for that mission project!! Thank you all for your generous donations!

It was a joy and an honor to be the VBS Director again this year. This project requires the help of so many people and I am truly blessed to be among some of the **BEST** people in the world. I thank God for all of you—whether your name is listed here or not—I really COULD NOT do this without the support I receive. To God be the glory!

May God richly bless each of you for participating in the 2022 VBS program at Grace and I look forward to your continued support as we prepare for **VBS 2023—God's Living Water: Covered in Jesus' Grace!**

In Christian love,

Rose Pietsch