

Grace Notes



2023

Ordinary Growth

The “ordinary time” of the church year that follows Pentecost and Trinity Sunday is characterized by growth, fruitfulness, and daily provision. Though the “ordinary green” of summer is seen week after week, it is far from mundane. What the world sees as mundane or simplistic, the Church sees as ordinary yet foundational and profoundly meaningful. This, in fact, is precisely how our Lord’s ministry is characterized. The “mundane” touch, spit, words, and breath of Jesus are life-giving. The ordinary tasks of walking, talking, fishing, and eating are sanctified by His presence. And above all, His healings of physical ailments are bound together with his Word of forgiveness, life, and salvation. This is the kingdom of God! Ordinary, yet characterized by growth, fruitfulness, and daily provision.

One “ordinary” task that Jesus gives to the Church is the constant and earnest offering up of *prayers* that He would send men into the Office of the Holy Ministry. In Matthew 9, Jesus says to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” Though the timing is insignificant, it’s fascinating to consider that the summer—the “ordinary time” of the church— is characterized by ordinations and installations. Amid the ordinary and seemingly mundane, the Church’s prayers are answered. Men who have been prepared, examined, and called to be Pastors are sent out into the harvest with the Lord’s blessing and promise of the Holy Spirit.

This indeed is the work of God in the Christian life, in the Church, and especially in Grace Lutheran Church. Thanks be to God! God richly and daily provides for all our needs of body and soul. Through ordinary means—through an ordinary man such as myself—God’s Word continues to be proclaimed and will bear a harvest hundredfold. Such fruitfulness is apparent in the green that we see all throughout the summer. The harvest is ripe and ready for picking. There are harassed and helpless sheep who will be shown our Lord’s compassion and brought into His kingdom. At all times—in season and out of season—the Word of God is preached by ordinary men into the mundane lives of sinners.

I look forward to serving as your Pastor in the years to come. God is continually working in our midst, and He will forever sustain us in His Word and faith until we die. Thank you for welcoming my family to Smithville and for going above and beyond to provide for us. We are humbled by your hospitality and grateful for the Lord’s fruitful and abundant gifts. Thank you!

Merciful God and Father, You have graciously promised that, through the preaching of the crucified Christ, those who believe in Him will be saved. By Your Holy Spirit grant grace to the Pastors whom You have given to serve Your Church. Grant them readiness and steadfastness in their ministry, patience, understanding, and great zeal. Support and strengthen them in Your service that by Your Word Your Church may be built and increased; through Your Son, our great High Priest, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Pastor Woelmer

“Meet” our new Pastor on page 4 of this newsletter

Pastor Woelmer’s Ordination and Installation service will be Sunday, July 9th at 3pm. A Potluck meal will be held after the service.

July 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion	3 4pm-Quilting 7pm  Elders Meeting	4	5	6 6pm LWML 	7	8
9 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion 3pm- Ordination/Installation Service of David Woelmer Potluck to follow	10 7pm-  LLL	11	12	13	14	15
16 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion	17 4pm-Quilting 6pm-GLLC Mtg 7pm-Evangelism	18	19	20	21	22
23 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion	24 8am-Braille	25	26	27 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE/NOON	28	29
VBS 5:30-8PM						
30 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion	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

Elders: Tommy Oates
Bert Bunte

Altar Guild: Rose Pietsch
Frances Mynar

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

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

Pastoral Care During Vacancy

Pastor Carl Roth of Grace Lutheran Church in Elgin is our vacancy pastor. If you are in need of pastoral care (hospital visit, etc.) please contact him at 512-229-8899.

CHURCH OFFICE

Normal hours are 9 to 2 Tues. – Thurs and 9 to 1 on 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.



As of June 21, 2023

Name	Balance
Prosperity Checking Acct	72,390.69
CEF-General	2,514.97
CEF-Land/Youth	12,656.72
CEF Scholarship	12,812.76
Legacy Deo	6,028.23
Total Dedicated Funds	49,344.14
General Fund Balance	23,046.55



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.



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



The remodel is complete!! Donations will be accepted on May 26 and 27. Hours are 9 to 2. The store reopens June 2 and 3. The store now has a website. Bornagain.com



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

Sunday School



Sunday school for all ages has returned to its regular time slot of 8:45 AM. The response from so many members of our congregation has been tremendous. 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!



- 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

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.

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.



Pastor David Woelmer is a life-long LCMS member and a third-generation pastor. Originally born and baptized in Madison, NE, he grew up and was confirmed at Faith Lutheran Church in Plano, TX, where his father serves as pastor. He met his wife, Elizabeth (from Topeka, KS), at an LCMS Higher Things Conference, and they were married the summer after graduating from Concordia University Nebraska in 2019. David graduated with a B.A in Psychology in the Pre-Seminary program, while Elizabeth graduated with a B.S in Exercise Science. While attending Concordia Theological Seminary in the Master of Divinity program, David worked as a student director of the Christ Academy program in the Admissions Department, while Elizabeth attended Huntington University in the Doctorate in Occupational Therapy program in Fort Wayne. During these four years, they welcomed their two children into the world. Elizabeth (Ellie) Jane was born on February 26, 2021, and Ruth Olivia was born on April 1, 2022. They look forward to welcoming their third child into this world this December!



Dear Member of Grace Lutheran Church,

We are excited to have Sunday School back at 8:45 am every Sunday. Our classes will be in the fellowship hall for all ages. 3yrs old through kindergarten teachers are Kim Appel and Ester Wolff, 1st grade through 4th grade is Kayla Herschap, 5th grade through 8th grade will be Donna Zimmerhanzel and Gene Brown,III and High School will be Gene Brown. 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.

We are considering having Rally Day but feel like we want to wait until our new Pastor is here so he can have input in the great event. Please watch for up dates in the near future.

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 Missionary Becky Bartelt, 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, Kathy Kasper, Mary Lou Oliver, Margie Hicks, 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



LWML

Lutheran Women in Mission

UPCOMING:

July 6th
6pm-Business Mtg

No Quilting in July

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.

Mission Project for June -- LINC/Austin – to support homeless young people on the streets of Austin

Grace LWML will be in charge of setting up parish hall for meal/decorations for new pastor installation/ordination

New to Grace LWML: Live video of the birthday song to our June members
Circle devotion and Lord's Prayer at end of each meeting

LWML TEXAS DISTRICT GRANT BULLETIN BYTES:

The cancelled stamp program will close at the end of the year. The person in charge for the last 30 years will go on to new projects. We thank her for the work and dedication to this project.

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

National Mission Grant Bulletin Bytes:

Christ-Centered Materials for Hmong Language School and Outreach - \$70,208

St. Paul Hmong Outreach Ministries in Merced, California, has been actively involved in outreach to Hmong communities in their native tongue for 15 years. In 2015 and 2018, Hmong language schools were founded. They are connected with host churches, St. Paul Lutheran in Merced and Redeemer Lutheran in Fresno, California. Through the schools and outreach at New Year's festivals, the Gospel is being heard and families are being baptized and confirmed. Funds will be used to continue mission programs, develop new training modules, and support training implementation of Christ-centered educational materials in the Hmong language to be used in the schools, for festival outreach, and to share with other LCMS churches and districts.



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



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 2023

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 2023-2024 school year is underway. We already have new students enrolled and 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 www.flhstx.org for registration information.

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, and EVERY family who applies (through TADS) will receive some assistance.

* Additionally, there are other scholarship programs for students to apply for to receive financial assistance prior to enrollment and even throughout their time as a student at Faith.

Save the Date!

FLHS's annual Oktoberfest will be Saturday, October 28th. New this year will be **The Battle of the Vines**, in addition to **The Battle of the Brew** - both are home brew competitions, so start planning your brews now. Returning will be our traditional German meal, domino tournament, cornhole tournament, music, kids games, and lots of fun!

First Day of School

The first day of school is Wednesday, August 16th. We are excited to welcome our in-coming freshmen students and look forward to a wonderful school year.

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 for some summer projects!

Share the Gift of Love

Faith Lutheran High School has a unique role in combining knowledge and God's love in a student's high school experience. We are partnering with families at the intersection of education and faith development. If you would like to support our ministry through a one-time or enduring gift, Thrivent Action Grant, Thrivent Choice Dollars, or volunteer your time and talents, please contact Mrs. Nikki Kueck at (979) 242-2889.

New Association Congregations

Faith Lutheran High School is excited to announce that Epiphany Lutheran Church in Bastrop and Zion Lutheran Church in Schulenberg have recently joined the association of congregations that support FLHS. Welcome and thank you for your support!

Amazon Wish List

FLHS has 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 website or Facebook page. Thank you for your generous support!

Keep in Touch

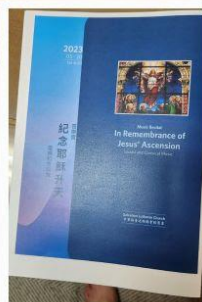
Find and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube or Twitter - like and share our posts so others can learn about FLHS. Also, visit our website at www.flhstx.org!



Singing the Church's Song in Asia

May 2023

NEWS FROM BECKY BARTELT
Serving the Lord in Taiwan/Asia
Ascension Day Music Recital



May was a busy month organizing and preparing for our Ascension Music Recital. Dr. Robert Rhein and his wife Deaconess Sandra Rhein were in town on their way to teach in India and Sri Lanka, so we organized a music recital to share music and introduce Ascension Day to the community. I had a lot of help. Julie (Jupei), the office administrator, translated and formatted a beautiful program which is pictured on the left. Ruth Wu, who has an MA in music from St. Catherine's in St. Paul, MN, is the local pastor's wife. She performed, helped me think through organizational questions, invited people and helped with proofreading the Chinese part of the program. Pastor Wu served as translator for the program and also welcomed the audience and introduced them to Ascension Day. Sam Borgwardt, the regional business manager, translated Pastor Wu's welcome from Chinese into English. Caleb Ferry, the regional director's son, sang two solos and a duet. Helen Wu, Ruth's daughter, performed a flute solo. Many friends from church participated in the children's choir and the adult choir. Rob and Sandra Rhein performed a piano solo, a flute sonata and accompanied several pieces. I got to sing two duets and a solo and conduct the choirs. It was very good to be able to work with choirs again, even for a short time. I was

pleased that my Chinese teacher and a student/friend of hers were able to attend and we went out for dinner afterwards. It was a fun event and a joy to share and introduce Ascension Day through music.

Chinese Lessons:

This month I was only able to get my Chinese teacher three days a week due to her schedule. So, I asked two friends to help me with other aspects of Chinese. Barb Rebenitsch serves as a liaison for missionaries who need help navigating daily life in the Chinese language. She also translates the services on Sunday mornings. Barb has been helping me to learn "church words". So far, we've worked on some of the words of the liturgy. Ruth Wu has been tutoring me in "music words" since one of the goals for Taiwan is to start a music conservatory teaching and educating about Western music and sacred music, both of which are of interest to many in Taiwan, as well as exploring sacred music with the local churches. Starting in June I will have lessons five days a week again. I am hoping also to find a way to study some kind of music (singing or an instrument) in Taiwan either this summer or in September. By the way, the picture on the right (a half note in English) is called an erfen yinfu. (二分音符)





A Prayer Request and Encouragement:

This May my sister, Sarah Lindau, had her first colonoscopy at age 46. (They recently changed the recommended age for the first colonoscopy from 50 to 45.) They discovered a large polyp/tumor which will have to be removed surgically along with a section of the large intestine. I am so thankful to God that as of now no cancer has been discovered. The doctor said that had she waited until 50, there is a very strong possibility it would have developed into cancer. Praise God for the earlier colonoscopy. While checking for cancer they discovered that she needs to have a hysterectomy at the same time as she has the colon surgery. Please keep her and her family in your prayers. She will have the surgery the end of June and will need several months to recover. For those of you who are wondering, yes, I have had a colonoscopy and I strongly encourage you to do the same if you are over 45. Thank you for your prayers and please let me know if there's anything you would like me to lift up in prayer.

PLEASE GIVE THANKS FOR...

- no sign of cancer in my sister's tests so far
- a successful Ascension Day recital

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

- my sister's surgery
- continued opportunities to grow in friendship and share the Gospel with my Chinese teacher.

My Address:

Becky Bartelt

5F-2 Gongyuan St.

East District

Chiayi City, Taiwan 600044

Rebecca.Bartelt@lcms.org

***BTW...I just learned that Gongyuan (my street name) means "park". There is a huge, beautiful park near my apartment building--Chiayi Gongyuan!



Vacation Bible School

July 23 – 27, 2023

5:30p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Grace's VBS is right around the corner!! Children aged 3 thru those going into the 6th grade are welcome to join us.

We welcome ALL of you to come! It is such a joy to see these kids learning about Jesus!! It always amazes me how quickly they learn the songs.

Each evening will start with a light meal provided by the following groups: Board of Education (Sloppy Joes & chips), LLL (chicken nuggets & tater tots), Evangelism Committee (Frito pie), LWML (hot dogs & chips) & we will finish out the week with pizza.

We will have an opening devotion and learn the songs associated with this VBS program then rotate in groups to the Bible Stories site, Crafts site, Games site and Snacks site. Our evening ends with another devotion and more singing. The Pre-K kiddos have separate classrooms to learn these lessons instead of rotating with the bigger kids. It really is a great week spent worshipping our Lord.

Reach out to me at rmpietsch@yahoo.com or call or text me at (512) 304-5866. Your help is greatly appreciated!