

# Grace Notes



*NOTE: Thanks to everyone who has submitted "Ask the Pastor" questions so far! Please keep them coming, and I'll get to them in the coming months.*

In this month's "Ask the Pastor," we're going to be looking at Christmas. Here's the question: "At the birth of Jesus, who provided the cloths in which He was wrapped?" To help us answer this question, Luke 2:1-7 is important to read. Here is the text:

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Verse 7 of the text is where St. Luke tells us about Jesus' clothing as a newborn. Notice that the text does not specify the source of the cloths. That means that we won't be able to give a, "Thus says the Lord," answer to the question. However, when we look at the text, there are some plausible things that we can and should say.

First, the words, "wrapped in swaddling cloths," are all one word in Greek: ἐσπαργάνωσεν (*esparganosen*). St. Luke is actually the only New Testament writer who uses this Greek word. He uses it twice: here and again in 2:12 where he records the angel's words to the shepherds. The Greek word means "to wrap something or someone in cloths." As another example, the Greek translation of the Old Testament uses this word in Job 38:9, as the LORD speaks of how He wrapped the sea in thick darkness.

This verb allows us to see that St. Luke doesn't say anything in particular about the cloths themselves. He doesn't tell us the material or the color or the length. He simply tells us that once Jesus was born, He was

wrapped in cloths, as any other baby would have been. When the swaddling cloths are given as part of the sign to the shepherds, the angel is telling them to look for *Baby* who is the Savior, even if He doesn't look like it.

That's the point we should see. Jesus' birth shows His humanity and humility among us. Jesus is true God who is also true man. Even though He was born of a Virgin, as true man, Jesus' birth looked just like any other birth. In fact, His birth was under worse circumstances than most. Mary and Joseph didn't have a place inside for Jesus to be born. Mary wasn't under a doctor's care. Scratchy straw in a manger was Jesus' first pillow. Already as a newborn, Jesus is living as a true human being, suffering everything for our sakes.

The cloths in which Jesus was wrapped are a part of that. Therefore, although we can't say with exact certainty the source of Jesus' swaddling cloths, the overall picture that St. Luke gives us should prevent us from thinking that there was something outstanding or extraordinary about these cloths. Perhaps Joseph ripped off a part of the clothes he was wearing. Maybe he grabbed a cloak from among their possessions. Perhaps he went to a nearby room and asked for some fabric a kind person might provide. Any of these situations are plausible and fit with the picture that St. Luke gives us that Jesus is the Savior who has come to be the Substitute for us sinners.

Luke 2 shows us that God has become a human being to live without sin, suffer in our place, and be our Savior. There's never a time when we can say to Jesus, "You don't know what it's like to be me!" He does know, because He is a human being. "We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:15-16). Even in June, this Christmas good news brings us joy!

In Christ,  
**Pastor Appel**

# June 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Pastor Away- Family Day	2
3 8:45am Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion	4 7pm Elders  Elders Meeting	5	6 10am GLLC Chapel	7 11am-Bible Study	8 Pastor Away- Family Day	9
VBS 5:30p – 8:00p						
10 8:45am Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion Rally Sunday BAZAAR meeting after service	11 7pm LLL  LLL	12	13 10am GLLC Chapel	14 11am-Bible Study 6pm LWML  LWML	15 Pastor Away- Family Day	16
17 Father's Day 8:45am Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion 3pm Nursing Home Devotions	18 6pm GLLC Mtg 7pm Evangelism	19	20 10am GLLC Chapel 1pm Ministerial Alliance	21	22 Pastor Away- Family Day	23
24 8:45am Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion 11am Brd of Ed	25 8am Braille 5pm Piecemakers	26	27 10am GLLC Chapel	28 11am-Bible Study  NOON	29 Pastor Away- Family Day	30

### Grace Lutheran Church

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

Email address: [gracelutheransmithville@gmail.com](mailto:gracelutheransmithville@gmail.com)  
Web Site: [www.glcs.org](http://www.glcs.org)

Sunday School 8:45 AM  
Midweek Classes 6:00 PM  
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](mailto: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](mailto: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.



Passengers for Church Van

**Benny Hajdik** - 979-540-8437 is driving the Church Van for Sunday School and Church Services. If you need transportation, please call by 5:00 pm on Saturday. You may leave a message if no one answers.

**Elder(s):** Vince kaiser  
Davey Kadlecek

**Ushers:** Cliff Burns  
Bert Bunte

**Trustees**  
: Ronnie Pietsch  
Tommy Oates

**Organist(s):**  
June Parker  
Esther Wolff (Sub)  
Kim Appel (Sub)

**June. Altar Guild:**  
Wendy Rohde  
Nelda Rohde

**Readers:**

June 3 Philip Appel  
June 10 Rose Caldwell  
June 17 Mark Peres  
June 24 Huntis Dittmar

**Acolytes:**

June 3 Adrian Wolff & Baylor Watson  
June 10 Mackenzie Peres & Thomas Brown  
June 17 David Wolff & Juniper Smith  
June 24 Joshua Zimmerhanel & Marianna Peres



Pre-School/ Mary Lou Oliver/  
Kindergarten Wendy Rohde  
1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Grades Charles Johannessen  
3<sup>rd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Grades Gene Brown  
6<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grades June Parker  
Adult Classes Pastor Appel

### STILL IN NEED OF SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS



Please contact Barb Johannessen at 512-284-0199 if you are interested in this position

### MIDWEEK AND CONFIRMATION TEACHERS

Pre-school - K Kim Appel  
1st – 3rd grade Alex & Amanda Vanegas  
4th - 6th grade Kristin Appel (June Parker-sub)  
7th - 8th grade Pastor Appel  
Adult Class Ed Randle



June 3 Roy & Betty Flora  
 June 5 Timothy & Kristin Appel  
 Jack & Brenda Page  
 June 7 Stanley & Darcy Long  
 June 10 Kerry & Chrissy Becker  
 June 14 Bert & Dana Bunte  
 June 16 Ivan & Nancy Fritsche  
 June 20 Darrell & Tammy Campion  
 June 25 Robert & Alice Miller  
 Blackie & Laverne Wallace  
 June 29 Joe Ray & Natalie Bennight  
 David & Nelda Rohde

June 1 Kimberly Appel  
 Brooke Deapen  
 Luke Oates  
 June 2 Mildred Mutschink  
 Steven Phillips  
 June 6 Kristina Pietsch  
 June 8 Edward Noack  
 June 9 Allan Riddle  
 Carolyn Smith  
 June 10 Gary Smith  
 June 13 Margie Peres  
 June 18 Regan Kunz  
 Jacob Moore  
 June 24 Stephanie Dittmar  
 June 25 June Parker  
 June 26 Chad Catron  
 June 28 Alvin Tinberg  
 June 30 Paisyn Smiley



As of May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Name	Balance
<b>Prosperity Checking Acct</b>	<b>31,747</b>
<b>CEF-General</b>	<b>2,370</b>
<b>CEF-Land/Youth</b>	<b>11,928</b>
<b>CEF Scholarship</b>	<b>12,774</b>
<b>Legacy Deo</b>	<b>9,686</b>
<b>CEF Property Loan</b>	<b>144,477</b>
<b>CEF Annex Loan</b>	<b>41,249</b>
<b>Total Dedicated Funds</b>	<b>13,093</b>
<b>General Fund Balance</b>	<b>18,654</b>

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

Wishing these Friends a Happy Birthday! from your "Grace" family

May God bless you and keep you always in His tender, loving care

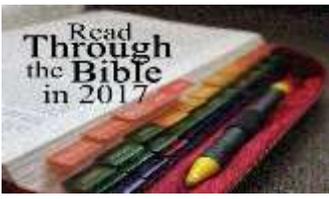


There is a plastic container in the Narthex for collection of **used bulletins & white printed papers** to be recycled at the Smithville Recycling facility. If there are any questions please ask Katie or John Stelling for info



**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**



Even though the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation has passed, the importance of daily Scripture reading in our lives has not changed! In order to encourage you to

read from God's Word daily, the reading plan that will guide you through the entire Bible in a year will continue to be published in the newsletter each month during 2018. We pray that being in God's Word daily will be the blessing to you that our God has promised!



PIECEMAKERS

Thank you for your donations of sheets and fabric. We meet again on Monday June 25th at 5:00 pm. We meet in the Sunday School building. Join us to tie quilts for Lutheran World Relief



## GLLC Learning Center

### WORK AT GLLC

Grace Lutheran Learning Center is hiring part-time workers for the afternoon shift. Applicants should be available to work between 12:30-6:00 PM, must have a high school diploma or equivalent, and be willing to submit to a background check. If you love working with kids and sharing the love of Jesus, this is the job for you! Please contact our director, **Angel Hurst**, at [512-360-2800](tel:512-360-2800) to receive an application



### ALL invited to lunch/game day THURSDAYS at NOON In the Parish Hall

We meet at noon in the Parish hall. We have a lite meal. All our welcome to join us for a spirited game of train. If you don't know how to play--not a problem. We will help. We play for the fellowship and don't play for points



Thank you to all the generous shoppers and donations.

Grace and First Presbyterian staff the store May 28 to June 2.

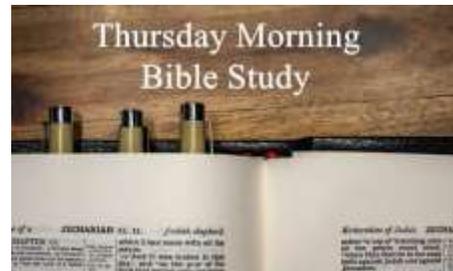
There will be a brown bag seasonal sale on June 8 and 9. Lots of all seasons to choose from. We do have a lot of Christmas and Halloween items

The store is closed the week of July 2 to 7 for the holiday

Grace and First Presbyterian will again staff the store the week of July 23 to 28th



Due to vacation Bible School our meeting date will be Thursday June 14. We begin at 6 with a light meal. Join us for bible study and fellowship. All ladies are welcome.



Here is another weekday opportunity for you to gather with fellow Christians here at Grace and study God's Word! Pastor Appel is leading a Bible study on the Small Catechism from 11 AM-Noon every Thursday morning in the parish hall. Come and refresh your memory on everything you learned as a youth during confirmation classes. Bring your Bible and your Small Catechism; if you don't have either one of those items, please let Pastor know and he'll be glad to get you one! If you have any questions, please see Pastor Appel.



# DADS are a BLESSING

Surprise your dad or another special man with this Father's Day gift.



### What you need:

- Photos of you and your loved one (together, if possible)
- Scissors
- 8.5" x 11" paper
- Glue stick
- Marker
- 8.5" x 11" photo frame



### What you do:

1. Cut photos into shapes (hearts, circles, etc.).
2. Arrange photos on the paper, leaving room for a message, and glue them down.
3. Write: "I'm blessed as can be. My heavenly Father has given me the best \_\_\_\_\_ [dad, uncle, friend] in the world, and he belongs to me!"
4. Place your picture message in the frame.
5. Give your gift to show love and appreciation.



## Beloved children

God our heavenly Father loves us so much that he calls us his.

*Directions: Follow the instructions below. Then read the remaining words, going across the rows from left to right, to complete 2 Corinthians 6:18, NIV.*

- Cross out the opposite of blessings.
- Cross out the opposite of found.
- Cross out the disciple who betrayed Jesus.
- Cross out a word for disobeying God.
- Cross out the opposite of love.
- Cross out an animal.
- Cross out a word for jail.
- Cross out a place.
- Cross out what happened to Jesus.
- Cross out a book of the Bible.
- Cross out the opposite of friends.

I	enemies	will	be	Judas
hate	a	Father	to	serpent
you	and	you	will	crucified
cursings	be	my	sons	and
sin	Golgotha	daughters	says	the
Lamentations	prison	Lord	Almighty	lost

Answer: "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." 2 Corinthians 6:18, NIV



# 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!**

## Registration

We are excited to announce that we have **two new students enrolled** for next year already! Registration for the 2018-2019 school year is open. We are looking to add more students to our family. You can receive registration materials by calling (979) 242-2889 or on our website, at [www.faithlutheranhighschool.com](http://www.faithlutheranhighschool.com).

## 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. Give us a call (979-242-2889) to learn more about FLHS and how you can become a part of our family! **In today's increasingly hostile, non-Christian society, you can't afford to NOT send your child to FLHS!**

## Youth Camp

We are excited to offer a variety of camps for youth this spring and summer. Cost for each camp is \$10 and each will be held at FLHS.

June 11-13 - STEAM Camp - Grades 1 to 4

June 18-21 - Basketball Camp - Grades 1 to 10

July 23-26 - Volleyball Camp - Grades 4 to 10

Please visit our website for more information! Don't wait --- Sign up today!!

## Summer Office Hours

Monday - Thursday from 8:30am to 3:30 pm.

Friday and holidays by appointment only.

Please call the office before visiting to ensure we are here, as various events may pull us from the office.

## Staff Positions Available

Faith Lutheran High School will have part time openings on its faculty for the 2018-2019 academic year! Interested individuals who teach in the areas of science (Biology and Chemistry) or fine arts (vocal, instrumental or introduction to art) may submit resumes to Faith Lutheran High School, PO Box 138, Warda, TX 78960, call (979) 242-2889, or email them to [kueckn@faithlutheranhighschool.com](mailto:kueckn@faithlutheranhighschool.com). If you have the time and talents, please consider applying and sharing your gifts with our students. Thank you in advance!

## Library Happenings

We would like to expand our library and in order to do that, **we need more books**. YOU can help! If you have any gently used books, whether they are novels, children's stories, textbooks, Time-Life Series, paperbacks, etc. . . , we would encourage you to donate them to Faith Lutheran High School. Even if we can't use them in our library, we can take them to a used book store and exchange for books that we can use. It's a win-win situation. You can get rid some old books and help the school at the same time. Donations boxes will be placed in area congregations and will be periodically picked up. If you have a lot of books to donate, you can either bring them by Faith Lutheran High School or contact Jane at 979-716-7717. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at [obersatj@faithlutheranhighschool.com](mailto:obersatj@faithlutheranhighschool.com).

## Wish List

FLHS created a wish list on Amazon. It can be found by clicking "Find a List or Registry" under the Accounts and Lists tab and then searching "Faith Lutheran High School" or at the following link:

[https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/ref=cm\\_wl\\_search\\_1?ie=UTF8&cid=A3VG9TF2RO4008](https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/ref=cm_wl_search_1?ie=UTF8&cid=A3VG9TF2RO4008)

## Thank You!

Thank you for all the prayers and support you have offered during the first academic year of FLHS. It's hard to believe school will be out for summer very soon. 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!

### 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, [kueckn@faithlutheranhighschool.com](mailto:kueckn@faithlutheranhighschool.com) or call (979)242-2889. The online application only takes 10 to 15 minutes to complete. Every Thrivent member over the age of 16 is eligible to make two applications during 2017. Help us to be able to take advantage of these funds for the good of our school.

### 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, or volunteer your time and talents, please contact Nikki Kueck to learn more.

### 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.faithlutheranhighschool.com](http://www.faithlutheranhighschool.com)!

### Contact us

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 138 Warda, TX 78960

Physical Address:

600 FM 1482, Giddings, TX 78942

[kueckn@faithlutheranhighschool.com](mailto:kueckn@faithlutheranhighschool.com)

(979) 242-2889



## Board of Education Sunday School Midweek News

Dear Members of Grace Lutheran Church,

**REMEMBER!!!! The FIRST Sunday of every month is the Sunday School Mission Sunday.** Our Mission this quarter will be the Smithville Food Pantry.

The Board of Education would like to remind every member of Grace Lutheran Church that we can add to the **Endowment Fund** at any time in any amount. Remember the Fund will be used for the Education of our Youth at Grace Lutheran. It will be used for scholarships to Christian Camps as well as to help off set the tuition, for any qualifying member, to a Lutheran based school this includes higher education levels. This is a **tax-deductible contribution**. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any Board member. We are pleased to announce that we have a member at Grace that is interested in the help of our Endowment Fund to help offset the cost of their education. We are excited to be able to assist our members.

### CHALLENGE

As most of you heard the Board of Ed is challenging the adults against the youth to see who will read their Bible the most and who pays attention to the readings on Sundays. There will be a question in the bulletin every Sunday (relating to one of the readings from the previous Sunday). I know you take your bulletin home and study it faithfully. Please answer the questions and place the answer in the basket on the table designated for the answers. We would like to encourage everyone to study their bible and to have fun at the same time. Anyone can participate no matter your age!!! If you have any questions please feel free to ask a Board member.

It appears that our **YOUTH** are the Champs so far in our Congregational challenge!! Please watch the board posted with the answers to the questions and the count for the number of answered received each week.

We have set a date for the Spring Rally 2018. It will be June 10<sup>th</sup> so be sure to mark your calendars. There will be good food and fun for everyone. We will provide hamburgers and hot dogs we ask that you bring chips and or a desert to share. Please watch the bulletin for further information.

Marylou Oliver is responsible for cleaning out the busy bags and getting them ready each week for the young children of our congregation to enjoy during Sunday Service. This is a job she takes seriously and gladly donates her time towards. We are missing about 5 busy bags if anyone knows the where they are hiding will you please ask them to come back to their basket so that there will be plenty for everyone on Sunday mornings.

If anyone has any interest in teaching or substitute teaching for any Sunday School Class, please contact myself or any Board of Ed Member.

May God Bless all of you.

Respectfully,

**Barb Johannessen**

# Read Through the Bible in 2018

Grace Lutheran Church, Smithville, TX

“God’s Word is our great heritage and shall be ours forever!” Continue your daily Bible reading during 2018. 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 June

June 1	Acts 10:23-48	Judges 18-19
June 2	Proverbs 11:1-9	Psalms 72-73
June 3	OFF	
June 4	Acts 11	Judges 20-21
June 5	Acts 12	Ruth 1-4
June 6	Acts 13	1 Samuel 1-3
June 7	Acts 14	1 Samuel 4-7
June 8	Acts 15:1-21	1 Samuel 8-10
June 9	Proverbs 11:10-23	Psalms 74-77
June 10	OFF	
June 11	Acts 15:22-41	1 Samuel 11-14
June 12	Acts 16	1 Samuel 15
June 13	Acts 17	1 Samuel 16-17
June 14	Acts 18	1 Samuel 18-20
June 15	Acts 19	1 Samuel 21-23
June 16	Proverbs 11:24-31	Psalms 78
June 17	OFF	
June 18	Acts 20:1-12	1 Samuel 24-25
June 19	Acts 20:13-38	1 Samuel 26-29
June 20	Acts 21:1-36	1 Samuel 30-31
June 21	Acts 21:37-22:29	2 Samuel 1-4
June 22	Acts 22:30-23:35	2 Samuel 5-7
June 23	Proverbs 12:1-18	Psalms 79-80
June 24	OFF	
June 25	Acts 24	2 Samuel 8-11
June 26	Acts 25:1-22	2 Samuel 12-13
June 27	Acts 25:23-26:32	2 Samuel 14-15
June 28	Acts 27	2 Samuel 16:1-19:8
June 29	Acts 28	2 Samuel 19:9-20:26
June 30	Proverbs 12:19-28	Psalms 81-83

# The Askins in Asia



## Voices Gladly Blending

The last few Sundays have been quite an experience for us. We have attended Salvation Lutheran Church in Chiayi, Taiwan. Salvation Lutheran Church belongs to the China Evangelical Lutheran Church (CELC), our partner church in Taiwan.

Why has our worship been special? Salvation Lutheran serves two different language groups. A number of LCMS teachers who serve at Concordia Middle School in Chiayi, attend the worship service alongside the local Taiwanese Lutherans. Salvation has a bilingual service that occurs simultaneously in English and Mandarin.

We together confess the Creed: we speak in English and our fellow Taiwan Lutherans speak in Mandarin. We together sing hymns translated from many different in languages in both Chinese and English. A volunteer translates Pr. Wu's sermon through a series of headsets so we can hear the Law and the Gospel proclaimed to us as we learn Mandarin.

We will of course learn the Chinese liturgy and hymnody during our time here in Chiayi, Taiwan. In the meantime, it's a delight to be able to worship along with our Taiwanese brothers and sisters. Our voices gladly blend in pitches, tones, and sounds.

The faith we confess does not belong to one historical time period or one language group. Our confession does not just confess the faith of a bunch of Germans from the 16th century.

Rather, this confession transcends culture and time, language and tongue; it is the faith once delivered to the saints, and handed on to you and your Lutheran siblings around the world. We delight to witness this unity as we listen, confess, and praise our God.

### A Special Note

This coming October, I (Roy) will return to the United States to do an abbreviated Home Service. I will reconnect with supporting congregations and make new connections.

Since I am traveling alone, I will travel to areas that would be more difficult to visit with the entire family. Then, in the Spring of 2019, the entire family will return for a more robust Home Service when we will have opportunity to connect with more of you.

At this point, I'm tentatively planning on traveling to Massachusetts, North and South Carolina, and California. Please let me know if you would like a visit.

Furthermore, please watch the website ([askinsinasia.com](http://askinsinasia.com)) for more details on Home Service and how you can help.

## March Madness and Memories

— by Eliza

March Madness is a time of cheering for your favorite basketball team. It's excitement, suspense, heartbreak. One team's victory is another team's loss. It's a time of both thrilling and disappointing memories.

We had our own March Madness with memories as we closed the season of our missionary life in Hong Kong and prepared for the next season in Taiwan. During our last month in Hong Kong we tried to connect with as many friends as we could and say good bye. We squeezed in as many park days as possible. And even in those last weeks, we made new friends.

Then the final week came. It was time to pack the suitcases and prepare the flat for the packers and shipping container. It was like a full court press as the stress mounted. Children were fearful of items not making it to Taiwan. They were not ready to say goodbye to what was familiar. Parents had so many todos running through their heads that it was hard to know what to do next. And yet, we too wanted to enjoy the last moments and make the last memories.

But eventually, the realization that it was time to focus on the purging and packing gave way to planning the first Hong Kong vacation. Those memories we weren't able to make before leaving will have to be made another time when we can return and visit for fun and not at the buzzer.

And in all the craziness, there was calm and comfort. It came from family and friends near and far. It was the simple text or Facebook message asking how we were doing. It was the popover to say goodbye. It was the extra hand accompanying us to the airport. It was God's reminder that He is ever with us. He is our strength, assurance, and peace. He calmed the storms and prepared the way. He allowed for the memories in the madness and brought the season to a close. And, in the end, He has won the victory already, for us.

✠ *Soli Deo Gloria* ✠

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To support the LCMS through the work of Rev. Roy S. Askins, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
P.O. Box 66861  
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod or LCMS. Include "Askins-Hong Kong" in the memo line. Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website at [www.lcms.org/givenow/askins](http://www.lcms.org/givenow/askins). To give a gift over the phone, please call 1-888-930-4438.

Contact us at [roy.askins@lcmsintl.org](mailto:roy.askins@lcmsintl.org).

## For Your Prayers

In your prayers, please keep these things in mind:

- For us in this time of transition
- For the Askins in Asia support network, that it would continue to strengthen
- For the Ferry family as they prepare to move to Taiwan
- For missionaries throughout Asia as they proclaim the Gospel to a world deeply in need of Christ's forgiving Word

## Thank You

To all of you who are supporting us in so many and various ways, thank you.

For your prayers, thank you. For your financial support, thank you. For your notes and thoughts, thank you.

— The Askins

## A Page of Pictures

Enjoy these pictures from the last month. For more, visit our website: [askinsinasia.com](http://askinsinasia.com).



For a short time, Mom and Dad's bedroom was moved to the living room while everything was packed.



The children say goodbye to one of our dear Hong Kong friends, Ollie the Labradoodle.



Above: We ate on the floor together until our table arrived. Below: The same time we arrived, Prof. Pless visited Taiwan to teach on Law and Gospel.



Above: The Buddhist monastery in front of the Catholic hospital behind our house. Below: It's all fun and games until Cornelia chips a tooth.



# Bazaar Notes

The Bazaar Committee has chosen **June 10<sup>th</sup>** as the date for our first meeting. Please join us so that we can have the entire congregation help with this year's Bazaar! We need each one of you to make it successful!!

At the June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting we will decide:

- Price of meal plates
- What to serve
- Key dates to put up posters

This will be a short meeting so that we can participate in the Rally Day that the Board of Education has planned. Please join us!



At Splash Canyon VBS your children will look into the Bible, God's Holy Word, and learn God's promises are Yes in Jesus! Kids confidently celebrate that our faithful God is with us on life's wild ride. God saves us through Jesus and gives us life and hope every day and forever.

Registration is open for ages 3 years old thru those going into the 6<sup>th</sup> grade who will attend VBS from **SUNDAY, June 3rd** thru **THURSDAY, June 7th.** A light meal will be served at 5:30 p.m., thanks to our wonderful organizations at Grace Lutheran. There will be an opening each evening beginning at 6:00 p.m. and we will dismiss the children at 8:00 p.m.

We will have River Run Storytelling, White Water Games, Fireside Snacks and Sandbar Crafts and will learn a new Take-Home Point each day!!

Make plans now to join us for this fun-filled week!!!