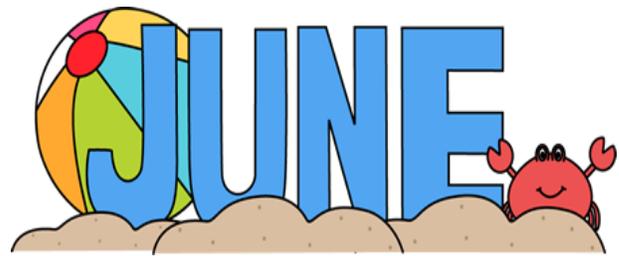


Grace Notes



2021

“Lord, teach us to pray.” The disciples made that request of the Lord Jesus in Luke 11:1, and we ought to make the request of Him still. We need God Himself to teach us to pray. We can only speak to God if He speaks to us first; we can only approach Him in prayer if He teaches us. Thankfully, that is precisely what He has done. This newsletter article will serve as an introduction to a series on prayer. This month, we’ll take a look at the basics that God teaches us in His Word concerning prayer; in subsequent months, we’ll take a look at a variety of prayers that God’s Word gives to us and how we can make use of them in our Christian faith and life.

Let’s consider prayer one question at a time. What is prayer? Simply put, prayer is speaking to God with our words or thoughts. Psalm 19:14 states, “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.”

To whom do we pray? The LORD says in Isaiah 44:6, “Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: ‘I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.’” Our prayers are only directed to the true God, the Triune God. To offer prayers to anyone or anything else is not only idolatry, it is useless (see 1 Kings 18:20-40 for a dramatic example).

Why do we pray? Psalm 50:15 is a key text, not only for this question, but for all our teaching concerning prayer. The LORD says: “Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.” Christians pray for two reasons. First, God has commanded us to do so. Whenever God tells us to do something, the appropriate response is to do it. Second, God has promised to hear and answer us. When God makes a promise, the appropriate response is to believe it and receive the blessing that He gives.

When should we pray? God’s Word directs us to regular times of prayer throughout the day: evening (Psalm 4:8), morning (Psalm 5:3), noon (Psalm 55:17), and mealtime. Having regular times of prayer encourages us to use God’s gift often. Yet no time is off limits. In 1 Thessalonians 5:17, St. Paul writes succinctly: “Pray without ceasing.”

Where should we pray? Again, no place is off limits, but having regular places of prayer encourages us to make use of God’s gift often. God’s Word directs us to pray alone (Matthew 6:6), with our households (Joshua 24:15), and when gathered together with the Christian congregation (Acts 2:42).

What is the content of our prayers? This question will be considered in greater detail throughout this series as we look at the prayers that God’s Word places before us to use, but a summary can be found in Philippians 4:6, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” God invites us to bring before everyone and everything in every need; He directs us to give Him all thanks and praise for all He has done.

How should we pray? God’s Word teaches us to pray in Jesus’ name, that is, with faith in Jesus as our Savior, for our prayers are only heard because of Him (John 14:13). God’s Word teaches us to pray confidently (1 John 5:14), because Jesus is our Brother who tells us to call on God as our Father. God’s Word teaches us to pray according to God’s will and promises found in Holy Scripture (Luke 11:13).

Finally, does God hear and answer all of our prayers? Yes, He does; absolutely, yes, He does! This is our confidence because of what God has done in Jesus, and so we speak our Amen in Him: “All the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory” (2 Corinthians 1:20). God grant us to utter our Amen confidently in Christ as we learn to pray from His Word!

In Christ,
Pastor Appel

June 2021

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

Davey Kadlecek
Jack Page

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

June Altar
Guild:
Wendy Rohde
Nelda Rohde



As of, May 27th, 2021

| Name | Balance |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Prosperity Checking Acct | 62,377.32 |
| CEF-General | 2,460.06 |
| CEF-Land/Youth | 12,380.33 |
| CEF Scholarship | 12,532.95 |
| Legacy Deo | 12,872.25 |
| Total Dedicated Funds | 20,251.63 |
| General Fund Balance | 42,125.69 |

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, KFUA (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/.



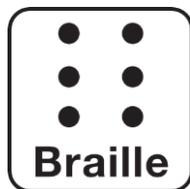
- June 3 Roy & Betty Flora
- June 5 Timothy & Kristin Appel
Jack & Brenda Page
- June 7 Stanley & Darcy Long
- June 10 Kerry & Chrissy Becker
- June 14 Bert & Dana Bunte
- June 16 Ivan & Nancy Fritsche
- June 20 Darrell & Tammy Campion
- June 25 Blackie & Laverne Wallace
- June 29 Joe Ray & Natalie Bennight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

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 continue to do very well in our mission to serve. At this time, we are still under Covid restrictions. Limiting number of patrons, no one under 16 and no restrooms. Donation days remain Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 to 2. Please follow us on FB. Pictures are posted on Wednesday of store items. Grace is scheduled for the week of July 5th. Please 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.



- June 1 Kimberly Appel
Luke Oates
- June 2 Mildred Mutschink
Steven Phillips
- June 6 Kristina Pietsch
- June 9 Allan Riddle
- June 13 Margie Peres
- June 18 Jacob Moore
- June 25 June Parker

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!

Adult Bible Study

Adult Bible study at 8:45 AM will resume on Sunday, June 6 (please note that Family Sunday School will continue each week after worship). We will be studying God's Word in the Psalms that He invites us to speak back to Him in prayer. Please join us!



Sunday Morning Adult Study

Ongoing Worship Services at Grace

As of Sunday, March 7, we have transitioned back to one worship service at 10:00 AM on Sunday mornings. Here are some important details:

- Appropriate distancing will be maintained by making use of our entire facility. In addition to continuing the practice of roping off pews in the sanctuary, the balcony and parish hall will both be available. Some chairs will be set up ahead of time in the parish hall in those places that allow for the best view of the sanctuary, but you may also choose to use the rest of the parish hall to sit farther away, according to your preference. You will still be able to hear, receive the Lord's Body and Blood, and be together with your brothers and sisters, even at a distance.
- When you arrive at church, please go in an expedient manner to your seat and remain there, as much as you are able. Similarly, when you leave, please avoid lingering in the narthex and other common areas as much as possible.
- Please continue to wear a mask or face-covering to worship and throughout as much of your time at worship as possible, both in accordance with recommendations from health authorities and especially out of our love for each other as fellow Christians, knowing that others may have greater risk or concern.
- For the time being, family Sunday school will continue to be offered after worship in order to continue to allow for appropriate distancing, both in Sunday school and as people are coming and going to and from worship.

Please note that this plan is subject to change based on the continuing conditions of the pandemic and feedback from you. We welcome your questions, comments, and concerns as we return to one worship service; please be in touch with any member of the Board of Elders or with Pastor Appel. We ask for your patience and prayers as we move once again to worshipping all together as a congregation.

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

Supplies for Increased Gatherings



As you are able, please consider donating supplies that will continue to help us provide a clean environment here at Grace. The items we need most are disinfecting wipes, disinfecting spray, and hand sanitizer. Thank you for supporting our congregation in this way!

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!

June 2021

Youth Camps

Summer camps are back! We are excited to offer a variety of camps for youth this spring and summer. Ages are for grades NEXT school year.

June 7-9 - Volleyball - Grade 3 to 8 - \$15

June 14-16 - Basketball - Grades K to 8 - \$15

June 21-23 - Art Camp - Grades K to 6 - \$ 30

June 28-30 - STEM Camp - GradesK to 6 - \$30

Please visit our website or Facebook page for more information! Don't wait --- Sign up today!! Space is limited!

Thank you, Thank you!

We are thankful for each of you who faithfully pray and support the ministry God has created at FLHS. Thank you on behalf of the students, who are being instilled with wisdom as they become faithful leaders for tomorrow. We are forever grateful and your gifts make a bigger impact than you know! THANK YOU!

New Student Registration

Registration for the 2021-2022 school year is underway.

Nine new students have already enrolled. We would love to welcome you into our Falcon family as well.

Call us at (979) 242-2889 to schedule a visit or visit our website at www.faithlutheranhighschool.com 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. 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!**

Staff Positions Available

Faith Lutheran High School will have part time openings on its faculty for the 2021-2022 academic year!

Interested individuals who teach science, social studies, English, Spanish, or electives, or would like to supervise dual credit or study hall students 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. If you have the time and talents, please consider applying and sharing your gifts with our students. Thank you!

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!

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.





LWML

Lutheran Women in Mission

UPCOMING:

June 3rd
6pm- Business
Meeting

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:
Confirmation and Graduation Gifts

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

LWML TEXAS DISTRICT GRANT BULLETIN BYTES:

*-Reaching Immigrants and
Refugees –Multi-Ethnic Ministry of
North Texas*

Our Lord Jesus proclaimed for us to go and make disciples of all nations by baptizing them and teaching them to obey everything He has commanded. We pray that the Multi Ethnic Ministry of North Texas will be able to reach out to the immigrants and new Americans in the North Texas area with the Gospel and meet their spiritual, physical, social and emotional needs. We pray that the love of Christ, which impacts human life and transforms hearts, will continue to be shared through all the services provided to the people. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen

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

National Mission Grant Bulletin Bytes:

The 2021 LWML convention "Running the Race...Looking to Jesus" will be held in Lexington, Kentucky on June 24-27 will select new grants for the next 2 years. Please pray for all going to this convention especially those traveling from our Post Oak Zone.



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 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 |