

2023

## Holy, Holy, Holy

Pastor Roth

*“Blessed be the Holy Trinity and the undivided Unity. Let us give glory to Him because He has shown His mercy to us.”*

*X Antiphon for the Introit on Holy Trinity Sunday X*

The highest mystery of the Christian Faith is what Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Savior, has revealed to us about the One True God: that He is one God in three Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. How can this be? Don't ask me; I just work here! We can't wrap our minds around “the how” of the doctrine of the Trinity, but by faith we rejoice in “the what”: that God has revealed Himself as the Trinity and has shown His mercy to us by the Incarnation of God the Son, who would suffer and die for our sins and rise on the third day for our justification, and then place His name upon us in Baptism, claiming us as His own beloved, forgiven children!

Since The Feast of the Holy Trinity is celebrated on June 4 this year, this article reflects on the mystery of the Holy Trinity. I will present the scriptural teachings on the Trinity, and will explain some details of our worship on Trinity Sunday.

### **MATTHEW 28—JESUS REVEALS THE TRIUNE NAME OF GOD**

God teaches us that He is the Holy Trinity, three distinct Persons in one divine Being. Though you do not need a Bible on hand as you go through this column, you will benefit more from it if you do have a Bible handy. “Jesus came and said to [the eleven apostles], ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age’ ” (Matthew 28:18-20).

Jesus Christ, true God and true Man, once dead but now resurrected and immortal, is the One who reveals who God is to the world. You can't know God apart from Jesus (John 14:6). As one of my professors put it, “Talking about God without reference to Jesus is idolatry.” So Christ's words recorded in Matthew 28 must be the starting point for our discussion of the Holy Trinity. Without them, we would not know God as the Trinity, nor would we know what words to use at Baptisms.

The grammar of this passage is important. Note that verse 19 says the Church is to baptize into one name (singular, the one true God), not more than one name (plural, as if there were multiple gods). At the same time, that one name of God is identified as three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Here we have a case where 3=1. You can't work this out mathematically. It just doesn't compute. Logicians will tell you that such an equation is impossible. Based on human, finite wisdom, they are right. But Jesus teaches it, and He has the authority to reveal this because of His status as the Resurrected One (Matthew 28:18). Since He “was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead” (Romans 1:4), He is the only Person who has the final say on how things really are—both things in heaven and on earth. To Him, then, we listen.

### **THE TRINITY IN THE OLD TESTAMENT**

Since Jesus has revealed God as Triune (“tri” = three, “une” = one), we're now able to pick up lots of clues from the Old Testament that God has always been Triune and always will be. (By the way, there was never any question in the Old or New Testament that God is One; see, for example, Deuteronomy 6:4 and 1 Corinthians 8:4.)

We'll start at the beginning (literally): “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light” (Genesis 1:1-3).

Ancient Christian writers, the Lutheran reformers, and Christian theologians ever since have recognized that the Holy Trinity is referred to in Genesis 1. First we learn that God created the heaven and the earth. *Generally speaking*, in the Scriptures the title “God” refers to the Father, the First Person of the Trinity. This

general observation should not give the impression that the Son and the Holy Spirit are not God, or that the Persons of the Trinity work independently of each other. Their works in the world are always performed based on complete unity of will. All three Persons were active in creation and our salvation, with each performing distinct and necessary roles!

Next we learn that the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters (Genesis 1:2), the Third Person of the Trinity. So where is the Son of God, the Second Person of the Trinity, at the creation? We find the key clue in the Gospel of John. John 1:1 uses the same Greek words for “in the beginning” that the Greek translation of the Old Testament (the Septuagint) uses in Genesis 1:1. John does this intentionally to make his readers recall the Creation account. Yet instead of saying “In the beginning God created the Word,” John writes, “In the beginning was the Word.” This means the Word was already in existence at the time of the creation of the world. In fact, the Word was God and was the creator of all things (John 1:3). Who is this Word? He is clearly the eternal Son of God, begotten (not created!) of the Father from eternity, who later in time “became flesh and dwelled among us” (John 1:14).

Therefore, when God said, “Let there be light,” the Word was there, the eternal Son of God. Not only is He the Word, but He is the true “light of the world” who came to give His followers the “light of life” (John 8:12), that is, eternal life through faith in Him. It is also worth noting that the Hebrew word for spirit means “wind” or “breath.” Words are formed from breath, therefore creating a unity between God the speaker (the Father), the Word by which He created the world (the Son), and the (Holy) Spirit.

In summary, we see the Persons of the Trinity already at work at the beginning of creation. Numerous other passages in the Old Testament speak of the work of the Persons of the Trinity while constantly maintaining the Unity of God—that is, God is One.

#### **THE TRINITY REVEALED IN THE MINISTRY OF JESUS**

“Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased’ ” (Luke 3:21-22).





In this scene we have a revelation of two great mysteries: the Trinity and the Incarnation. God reveals Himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and Jesus is revealed as both true God and true Man. This flesh and blood man in the river Jordan is identified by the voice of His Father: “You are My beloved Son” and the Holy Spirit lights on the Son in the form of a dove.

Throughout the Gospels, we see the ongoing significance of the Trinitarian revelation at Jesus’ Baptism. In Luke 4:18, Jesus quotes a Messianic prophecy from Isaiah 61: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed Me to proclaim good news to the poor.” As Jesus proclaims Isaiah 61, He identifies the Holy Trinity: “the (Holy) Spirit of the Lord (Father) is upon Me (the Son).” This statement points back to His Baptism by John in the Jordan, when the Spirit came upon Jesus, sent from the Father. Jesus’ anointing with the Spirit also is mentioned in Acts 10:38, which says that “God (the Father) anointed Jesus of Nazareth (the Son) with the Holy Spirit and with power.”

A passage that brings together the work of the Persons of the Trinity in saving us is Hebrews 9:13-14: “For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.” The Holy Spirit, whom Jesus had received in His Baptism, assisted Him in His sacrificial death on the cross, which appeased the wrath of God the Father against our sin. Now through the cleansing blood of Christ (God the Son), which is distributed by God the Holy Spirit in the Word, Absolution, Baptism, and the Lord’s Supper, our consciences are purified of our sins (dead works) so that we may now serve the living God (the Holy Trinity) through prayer, praise, and thanksgiving in the Divine Service of the Church and through works of service to one another in our daily callings.

*Prayer: Almighty and Everlasting God, You have given us grace to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity by the confession of a true faith and to worship the Unity in the power of the Divine Majesty. Keep us steadfast in this faith and defend us from all adversities; for You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, live and reign, one God, now and forever. (Collect for Holy Trinity Sunday)*

# June 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6pm LWML 	2	3
4 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion	5 4pm-Quilting 7pm  <b>Elders Meeting</b>	6	7	8	9	10
11 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion	12 7pm-  LLL	13	14	15	16	17
18 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion	19 4pm-Quilting 6pm-GLLC Mtg 7pm-Evangelism	20	21	22 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE/NOON 	23	24
25 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion	26 8am-Braille	27	28	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](mailto:gracelutheransmithville@gmail.com)  
Web Site: [www.glcs.org](http://www.glcs.org)

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

Elders: Davey Kadlecek  
Jack Page

Altar Guild: Tammy Campion  
Becky Watson

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](mailto: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 May 25, 2023

Name	Balance
<b>Prosperity Checking Acct</b>	<b>65,578.62</b>
<b>CEF-General</b>	<b>2,509.72</b>
<b>CEF-Land/Youth</b>	<b>12,630.32</b>
<b>CEF Scholarship</b>	<b>12,789.03</b>
<b>Legacy Deo</b>	<b>6,028.23</b>
<b>Total Dedicated Funds</b>	<b>43,989.14</b>
<b>General Fund Balance</b>	<b>21,589.48</b>

### 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](http://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](http://Bornagain.com)



June 3 Roy & Betty Flora  
 June 5 Jack & Brenda Page  
 June 10 Kerry & Chrissy Becker  
 June 14 Bert & Dana Bunte  
 June 16 Ivan & Nancy Fritsche  
 June 20 Darrell & Tammy Campion  
 June 29 Joe Ray & Natalie Bennight  
 David & Nelda Rohde



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

**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!



**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.

**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.



Sunday Morning  
 Adult Study



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, 1<sup>st</sup> grade through 4<sup>th</sup> grade is Kayla Herschap, 5<sup>th</sup> grade through 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Please note this correction!!!! Last month I said we had 1 Graduating Senior this year. Actually, we have 4 Graduating Seniors, they are as follows: Sterling Brown, Amber Hurst, Nicole Claiborne and Makenzie Perez who actually graduated last year but we will celebrate her great accomplishment this year. Congratulations to all 4 on their accomplishment.**

**With God's blessing we would like to wish everyone a relaxing and joyful Summer. We are excited to start a new adventure with a new Pastor and new things to come.**

**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

**Upcoming Schedule for Visiting Pastors:**

(a copy of this will also be posted above the water fountain in the narthex)

Sunday, June 4, 2023	Keistman	Holy Trinity
Sunday, June 11, 2023	Kunkel	Pentecost 2
Sunday, June 18, 2023	Mittwede	Pentecost 3
Sunday, June 25, 2023	Austin	Pentecost 4
Sunday, July 2, 2023	Keistman	Pentecost 5



# LWML

Lutheran Women in Mission

## UPCOMING:

June 1<sup>st</sup>  
6pm-Business Mtg

June 5<sup>th</sup>  
4pm-Quilting

June 19<sup>th</sup>  
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](http://www.lwml.org) or [www.lwmltxdist.org](http://www.lwmltxdist.org) to read about the mission and great history of LWML.

Mission Project for May -- Alaska Mission for Christ & Graduation gifts for graduates of GLC



## LWML TEXAS DISTRICT GRANT BULLETIN BYTES:

Each Child Complete in Christ, Faith Lutheran School, Plano-  
\$14,129

*O Father of all people, who would have all come the saving knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we pray for Faith Lutheran School, Plano, as they reach and teach students and their families. This school strives to follow Your words, "Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ." Please equip this school with understanding and leadership as they meet the needs of these students. Open the hearts of these students to hear Your true Word and through the Holy Spirit come to a saving faith in You. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

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

## National Mission Grant Bulletin Bytes:

Please pray for the participants for the 40<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin from June 22-25, 2023. The theme is Celebrate the Lord of the Nations, Psalm 33:12-13. Members from all the US districts will send a delegate to vote on work programs which includes mission funds for 2023-2025. From our Texas District, we will send from the Post Oak Zone, our Zone President, Amanda Hankemeier to be the delegate.



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!**

**June 2023**

### **Thank You!**

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

### **Camp Donations Needed**

FLHS camp leaders are seeking donations of recyclable items for Art and STEM camp. You may drop off items at FLHS or call (979) 242-2889 to have them picked up. Items needed include:

- Toilet paper/Paper Towel Rolls
- Cardboard - big boxes and cereal boxes - thick and thin cardboard
- Newspaper
- Plastic bags
- Soda bottles AND the bottle caps
- Yarn

### **Thrivent Action Team Grants**

If you are a Thrivent member willing to submit an application for a \$250 grant to be used on projects at Faith, please contact Nikki Kueck by calling (979) 242-2889. Help us to be able to take advantage of these funds for the good of our school. \*We are currently looking to utilize Action Grants to offset expenses associated with our summer camps!

### **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 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](http://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. Please speak with Mrs. Kueck to learn more about these opportunities.

### **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!







Vacation Bible School  
July 23 – 27, 2023  
5:30p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

The Key Theme is: God's Living Water. Children aged 3 thru those going into the 6<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to join us.

Those of you who do not fall into that age category are welcome to join us to assist the teachers in each department! We would love to have you attend!! It is such a joy to see these kids learning about Jesus!!

Each evening will start with a light meal then we will have an opening devotion and learn the songs associated with this VBS program. We will 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 a separate classroom 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](mailto:rmpietsch@yahoo.com) or call or text me at (512) 304-5866. Your help is greatly appreciated!