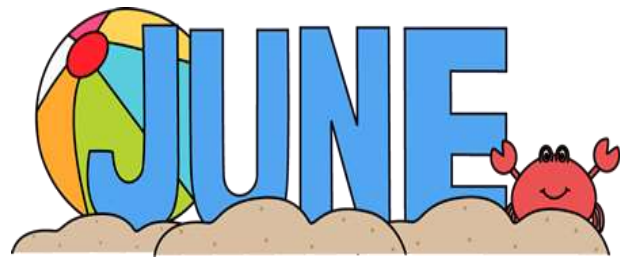


Grace Notes



2024

The Lord's Prayer – Large Catechism

“We have now heard what we must do (10 Commandments) and believe (Apostle's Creed), in what things the best and happiest life consists. Now follows the third part, how we ought to pray... Nothing is more necessary than that we should continually turn towards God's ear, call upon Him, and pray to Him. We must pray that He would give, preserve, and increase faith in us and the fulfillment of the Ten Commandments. We pray that He would remove everything that is in our way and that opposes us in these matters. So that we might know what and how to pray, our Lord Christ has Himself taught us both the way and the words, as we shall see” (232).

The Introduction

Our Father who art in heaven.

What does this mean? With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.

Encouragement to Prayer

Before Martin Luther begins explaining the Lord's Prayer, he wants to encourage and stir people to prayer with three different reasons.

1) God's commandment and our obedience

The Second Commandment, “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain,” includes *calling* upon God's name in every need, and this is nothing other than *praying*. God has commanded us to pray. Luther writes, “prayer is not left to my will to do it or leave it undone, but it shall and must be offered at the risk of God's wrath and displeasure” (234).

Yet what stands between us and God's commandment is our sinful, human heart that flees from God and imagines that He doesn't wish or desire to hear our prayer because we are sinners deserving his wrath. Against such thoughts Luther reminds us that even though we are sinners, God 1) will not cast us away from Him or chase us away, but that He will 2) draw us to Himself that we might humble ourselves before Him, bewail our sin, and pray for grace and help.

Therefore, we can count on prayer. It doesn't depend on our holiness or worthiness, but on God's commandment. “God does not consider prayer because of the person, but because of His Word and obedience to it” (237). He will not allow our prayers to be in vain or lost, for “if He did not intend to answer your prayer, He would not ask you to pray and add such a severe commandment to it” (238).



Christ Teaches His Disciples to Pray;
from 1530 Large Catechism

2) *God's promise and our delight*

God adds His promise that it shall be done for us as we pray and "He testifies with His own Word that our prayer is heartily pleasing to Him" (238).

Psalm 50:15, "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you."

Matthew 7:7-8, "Ask, and it will be given to you; ... for everyone who asks receives."

3) *God's arrangement and our assurance*

God has arranged the words and form of prayer for us in the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6). "He places them on our lips for how and what we should pray, so that we may see how heartily He pities us in our distress, and we may never doubt that such prayer is pleasing to Him and shall certainly be answered" (239). It's a noble prayer that God loves to hear. It helps us see and consider the distress that should compel us to pray without ceasing. "We all have enough things that we lack. The great problem is that we do not feel or recognize this. Therefore, God also requires that you weep and ask for such needs and wants, not because He does not know about them, but so that you may kindle your heart to stronger and greater desires and make wide and open your cloak to receive much" (241).

The Content of Prayer



Now that Luther has set stirred up people to prayer, he sets forth what the content of our prayers should be. "He should pray whenever he notices anything affecting his interests or that of other people among whom he may live" (241). This includes preachers, the government, neighbors, and household servants. The indifference that makes men unfit for prayer is overcome by attention to God's commandment and promise.

The Protection of Prayer

We are too weak on our own to deal with the devil, his power, and those who set themselves against us. But God has given us the spiritual weapons of God's Word and prayer with which we can defend ourselves. "All our shelter and protection rest in prayer alone" (241). So let us value prayer as something great and precious with the 1) assurance that He loves to hear us, the 2) delight that He promises to answer us, and the 3) encouragement that He has commanded us to pray!

Pastor Woelmer

June 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion Confirmation Sunday 11:30am-Adult Instruction Class	3	4 6pm-Choir	5 10am-GLLC Chapel	6	7	8
Vacation Bible School 5:30-8pm						
9 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion 11:30am-Adult Instruction Class	10 7pm-  LLL	11 6pm-Choir	12 10am-GLLC Chapel	13	14	15
16 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion 11:30am-Adult Instruction Class	17 6pm-GLLC Mtg 7pm-Evangelism	18 Pastor out for PALS meeting 6pm-Choir	19 10am-GLLC Chapel	20	21	22 9am-Board of Education Mtg
23 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion 11:30am-Adult Instruction Class	24 8am Braille	25 6pm-Choir	26 10am-GLLC Chapel	27 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE/NOON 	28	29
30 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion 11:30am-Adult Instruction Class						

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: Colby Zimmerhanzel
Brad Zimmerhanzel

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

Altar Guild: Mary Lou Oliver
Marilyn Burns



As of May 23, 2024

Name	Balance
Monthly Budget	20,833
Budget needed through May	104,165
Actual through May	87,220
Short	-16,945
General Fund Balance	1,974

Grace Lutheran Learning Center

401 Wilkes Street
Smithville, TX 78957
Office Phone: 512-360-2800
Fax Number: 512-237-5990

Email address: gracelutheranlearn@att.net

We now accept CCMS enrollment

Pastor David Woelmer

If you need to contact Pastor Woelmer, you can do so via e-mail (rev.davidwoelmer@gmail.com) or phone (214-218-8354). Pastor Woelmer is normally in the office Monday through Thursday. He is available in the afternoons, but often uses that time to make nursing home, hospital or home visits.



Thanks to the support of churches and citizens of Smithville the Born Again Emporium has started 2024 with record sales. And record sales equals supporting various charities

In the past 10 years the Born Again Emporium has given a total of \$930,000 to Smithville charities. The BAE has only 2 paid employees – 2 men to help with the heavy lifting. The Emporium relies strictly on volunteers from the participating churches and the community. Thirteen churches are currently serving this ministry – providing volunteers for 4 days every 6 to 7 weeks. During their most recent board meeting grants totaling \$48,000 was distributed to the following organizations. Smithville Police Association received funds to purchase 2 body cameras with quarterly grants approved for purchasing more equipment. Smithville Community Clinic, Meals on Wheels. Smithville Education Foundation also received grants. Project Graduation also received a grant to assure a safe environment for our 2024 graduates celebration. If you are interested in participating in this ministry, contact Brenda Sanders, Rose Pietsch, David and Toni Ann Kadlecek, Esther, Tim and Kayleigh Wolff for information. Grace Lutheran will be volunteering:

- July 1-6, 2024
- August 12 – 17, 2024
- September 23 – 28, 2024
- November 4 – 9, 2024

CHURCH OFFICE

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS: For the months of June, July and August, I will not be in the office in the mornings but will instead be here in the afternoons of Tuesday through 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.



June 3	Roy & Betty Flora
June 5	Jack & Brenda Page
June 10	Kerry & Chrissy Becker
June 14	Bert & Dana Bunte
June 20	Darrell & Tammy Campion
June 29	David & Nelda Rohde

Trunk or Treat 2024

The Board of Evangelism invites you to participate in the upcoming Trunk or Treat on Thursday, October 31, 2024! Yes, we know, October is five months away...

The reason that we're announcing this way ahead of time is because this year we are exploring a new format. Our goal is to get 12 families who will decorate their table and dress up to teach a specific Bible story, person, or event. As trick-or-treaters progress through the 12 (or more?) tables in the Parish Hall, they will receive candy or treats, possibly specific to the Bible story, and will *quickly* learn about the Biblical History and story of salvation.

Please consider signing up to participate in decorating your table and sharing with our community the significant Bible Stories for their salvation! On the sign-up sheet, you'll find the 12 stories and their Biblical reference(s).

Bonus: This is also a good opportunity for our congregation to learn more about those key stories, people, and events that have shaped our lives as Christians. Dig into the details of the Bible and get creative!

Table Themes will be:

1. Creation & the Fall into Sin (Genesis 1-3)
2. The Flood & Holy Baptism (Genesis 6-9)
3. The Covenant with Abraham, Issac and his son (Genesis 12, 15, 17, 22)
4. Crossing the Red Sea, the Wilderness Journey, the Bronze Serpent (Exodus 14-15; Numbers 21, 23)
5. Crossing the Jordan River (Promised Land) (Joshua 3-4)
6. David & Goliath (1 Samuel 17)
7. Christmas (Luke 1-2; Matthew 1-2)
8. John the Baptist & the Baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3; Luke 3)
9. Miracles of Jesus: Pick one! (Wedding at Cana?) (See Mark 1-2, 4, 5; Luke 7, Matt. 14; John 2, 9)
10. Holy Week: Palm Sunday, the Lord's Supper, Garden in Gethsemane, Peter's Denial, Passion of the Christ (Matthew 21, 26-27 and parallels)
11. Easter (Matthew 28 and parallels)
12. Ascension & Pentecost & the Church (Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1-2)



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

Wishing these Friends a Happy Birthday and Anniversary from your "Grace" family

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

KFUO Bible Study Resources

Looking for Bible study opportunities during the week?



Make use of the fantastic resources for growth in your Christian faith produced by our very own LCMS radio station, KFUO (www.kfu.org). Their variety of programs will provide something of value to every person who listens.



Dear Member of Grace Lutheran Church,

We are excited to have Sunday School back at 8:45 am every Sunday. Come join us and listen to the word of our Lord Jesus Christ as taught by Pastor Woelmer for the Adults, 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 Zimmerhanel and for the High School, we will be making some changes for their class so for now they are participating with the Adult class. 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.

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 Grace Lutheran Learning Center 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, Melissa Brown, Mary Lou Oliver, Margie Hicks, June Parker, Barb Johannessen. 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

Sunday School

Sunday school for all ages continues during its regular time slot of 8:45 AM. 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!



Adult Bible Study

Adult Bible study at 8:45 AM continues each week, led by Pastor Woelmer. Join us to spend time together in God's Word as we learn about the book of Romans.





LWML

Lutheran Women *in Mission*

UPCOMING:

Since VBS is the same week as our regular business meeting, we will not be meeting in June.

No quilting this month.



LWML TEXAS DISTRICT GRANT BULLETIN BYTES:

Please remember all going to the Texas District Convention in Corpus Christi June 13 to 15 in your prayers as they tend to the business of the LWML for the coming 2 years. Our delegate is June Parker.

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.

Altar Guild for June – Mary Lou Oliver and Marilyn Burns

Our mission projects for May were confirmation and graduation gifts.

We sent to Seminary student Joseph Moore our April mission gift.

Our mission project in June will be VBS and in July we sent our donation to the city of Westmoreland, Kansas to help tornado victims.

This donation was sent to Pastor Woelmer's father (also Pastor Woelmer) to distribute as needed.

If you missed the Meet & Greet on Saturday May 4, you missed a joyfully day of getting to know each other.

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

National Mission Grant Bulletin Bytes:

Sharing Christ Crucified with High School Youth -- \$35,000

Lutheran High School of Greater New Orleans, the only high school in the LCMS Southern District, has been serving youth for over 50 years. It provides students with the opportunity to academically succeed in a safe environment, while educating them about their Lord and Savior through the teachings of the LCMS. Many of the students being served by the school are disadvantaged, culturally diverse, and unchurched.

Because the school was devastated by Hurricane Ida, funds which would have been used for computers, school supplies, Christian materials, and scholarship aid are now being used for construction costs to rebuild one of the buildings.

This grant will be matched by five generous donors and will be used to pay the tuition costs of ten students.



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 2024

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!

Youth Camps

Summer camps are back! We are excited to offer a variety of camps for youth this summer. Ages are for grades NEXT school year. LIMITED Availability remaining! Visit our website for more information.

May 28 to May 30 - Volleyball - Grade 3 to 8 - \$25

June 10-12 - Basketball - Grades K to 8 - \$25

June 17-19 - STEM Camp - Grades K to 6 - \$50

June 24-26 - Art Camp - Grades K to 6 - \$50

July 1-2 - Archery - Grade 4 to 8 - \$20

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:

- Paper Towel Roll Tubes
- Cardboard - big boxes and cereal boxes -both thick and thin cardboard
- Newspaper
- Plastic bags
- Soda bottles - all sizes
- Paper (cardstock, construction, printer, etc)

New Student Registration

Registration for the 2024-2025 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.

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. Faith is looking for individuals or families who share in our commitment to Lutheran Education and asking that you would support our ministry through a one-time gift, establish a monthly giving plan, or set up an enduring gift. To learn more about these options, please contact Mrs. Nikki Kueck.

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!

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.





Vacation Bible School 2024

Vacation Bible School will be held at Grace Lutheran Church, June 2-6, 2024 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The theme is Celebrate the Savior, Jesus Gives Us Joy.

Celebrate the Savior is an exciting VBS and includes the following Bible stories: Wise Men Worship Jesus, Jesus Heals a Man Lowered through a Roof, Jesus Feeds Five Thousand, Jesus Dies and Rises Again and Jesus on the Road to Emmaus.

It will teach us these truths: Jesus came for me, Jesus heals me, Jesus cares for me, Jesus saves me and Jesus' love fills me with joy.

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 or call or text me at (512) 304-5866. Your help is greatly appreciated!