

Grace Notes

MAY
2017

As our newsletter series on the parts of the liturgy continues, this month we come to the Offertory and the Offering. The forgiveness that God has given us through the proclamation of His Word in the sermon calls forth a joyful response from us as His people. One of the ways we respond with joy is through the singing of the offertory. We lift up our voices in song to the Triune God who has so graciously bestowed upon us far more than we ever could have asked or imagined. The most commonly used offertory in our congregation is "Create in Me." The words of this canticle are taken from Psalm 51. In the first nine verses of Psalm 51, King David prays for forgiveness from the LORD for his sins against Him, specifically the sins of adultery and murder which he committed against Bathsheba and Uriah. David knows that only the LORD can blot out his iniquities and make him whiter than snow. In faith that the LORD's forgiveness is his, David then prays, in the verses we use for our offertory (Ps 51:10-12), that God would continue to uphold him in this joy, faith, and forgiveness by the power of His Holy Spirit.

We make David's prayer our own in a similar way. Having confessed our sins and received forgiveness from Christ Himself, we pray that He would uphold us in that faith. We ask Him not to take His Holy Spirit from us, but to keep us in His presence forever. We ask our Lord to renew our spirits and lives to conform to His will, keeping us in the joy of His salvation. This is the sacrifice of praise that we offer to God in the offertory.

The offering is also a sacrifice of praise to God—only in the offering, we praise God not with our voices, but with the gifts He has given. The offering is far more than making sure the congregation has enough money to pay the bills.

Instead, the offering is an act of worship on our parts out of thanksgiving for the overflowing blessings that God has given us. Truly, everything that we have comes from God alone (Psalm 24:1-2; Psalm 145:15-16). In giving back to God, we recognize that fact in thanksgiving and ask Him to use our gifts to accomplish His purposes and the mission of His Church in this world. That's why God in His Word over and over again invites us to give sacrificially, willingly, and cheerfully. St. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 16:2, "On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up as he may prosper." He writes again in 2 Corinthians 9:7-8, "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work."

The offertory and offering are both moments of joy during the Divine Service. Here, we have an opportunity to respond to the grace that our Heavenly Father has given. Here, we have an opportunity to show our thankfulness to what Jesus has done. Here, we have an opportunity to let the Holy Spirit bring forth the fruit of faith that He has given. As you sing the offertory and give back to God from what He has given in the offering, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever!

In Christ,
Pastor Appel

May 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		6pm Community Bunco	10am GLLC Chapel 6pm Midweek Bible Classes		Pastor Away-Family Day	10am LWML Christian Womens Brunch
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8:45am Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion Youth Confirmation	7pm  LLL	9am Pastor Circuit Mtg- Dime Box	10am GLLC Chapel		Pastor Away-Family Day	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<i>Mother's Day</i>  8:45am Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion 6:30pm Youth Group	6pm  GLLC Meeting 7pm Evangelism		10am GLLC Chapel 1pm Ministerial Alliance		Pastor Away-Family Day	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
8:45am Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion 3pm Nursing Home Devotions	8am Braille 5pm Piecemakers		10am GLLC Chapel	Newsletter deadline/NOON 6p Potluck  7p <i>Ascension</i> OF THE LORD Service	Pastor Away-Family Day	
28	29	30	31			
8:45am Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion RALLY DAY 11am Brd of Ed 6:30pm Youth Group	 memorial DAY		10am GLLC Chapel			

Grace Lutheran Church

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

Email address: gracelutheran_church@yahoo.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.



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): Galen Bunte Trustees: Ivan Fritsche
Ed Randle Allan Hancock

Ushers: Cliff Burns
M. W. Kasper

Altar Guild: Marilyn Burn
Mary Lou Oliver

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

Readers:

May 7 Bernie Satterwhite
May 14 Nancy Fritsche
May 21 John Stelling
May 28 Chad Catron

Acolytes:

May 7 Ramon Wolff & Baylor Watson
May 14 Thomas Brown & David Wolff
May 21 Barrett Watson & Sterling Brown
May 28 Juniper Smith & Alex Caldwell



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

STILL IN NEED OF SUBTITUTE TEACHERS



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

MIDWEEK AND CONFIRMATION TEACHERS

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



Anniversaries

May 18 Rebekah & Jason Watson
 May 19 Brooke & Micah Deapen
 May 30 Elizabeth & Michael Caldwell



Name	Balance
<u>Prosperity Checking Acct</u>	53,040.27
<u>CEF-General</u>	2,345.24
<u>CEF-Land/Youth</u>	11,802.67
<u>CEF Property Loan</u>	151,741.31
<u>CEF Annex Loan</u>	85,032.48
<u>GLLC Playground Equip</u>	100.00
<u>Van Repairs</u>	860.00
<u>SS Missions</u>	383.00
<u>Memorial</u>	1,350.23
<u>Special Missions</u>	895.02
<u>Annex Bldg.</u>	1,342.00
<u>Door Offerings</u>	382.05
<u>GLLC Donations</u>	2,265.01
<u>Thrivent</u>	917.00
<u>Dedicated Misc</u>	12,885.32
<u>Youth Group</u>	10.00
<u>Faith Lutheran HS</u>	
<u>Endowment</u>	770.13
<u>Rental Income</u>	8,980.26
<u>Bazaar</u>	12,287.61
Total Dedicated Funds	43,427.63
General Fund Balance	9,612.64



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



May 4 Rod Langer
 May 7 James Rice
 May 8 Brody Bennight
 Shena Kadlecek
 Ryan Teague
 Adrien Wolff
 May 9 John Stelling
 May 11 Lyla Vinklarek
 May 13 Alice Miller
 Jarrett Randle
 May 14 Murrelyn Rice
 Autumn Smiley
 May 15 Kayla Herschap
 May 17 Asher Vanegas
 May 18 Nelda Rohde
 May 20 Mary Ann Dierker
 May 21 Daniel Davis
 May 23 Eugene Dierker
 May 24 Bayleigh Seaton
 May 25 Cason Herschap
 May 29 Rebekah Watson
 May 30 Madison Hannusch
 May 31 JoAnn Copeland

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



Save the Date for VBS 2017
 June 4-8
 More info will be out soon!



Save the Date!
Saturday, May 6, 2017
 Lutheran Christian
 Women's Brunch
 10:00 A. M. Parish Hall
 Grace LWML is hosting a

Christian Women's Brunch. **All Ladies**, young ladies and guests are invited to join us. Refreshments will be served.



The Young Women's Representative program is designed to introduce young women to LWML.



Join us for fellowship and food and hopefully some inspiration. We would love to have new members. This is a wonderful opportunity to see what we are about. Join us as you are able.

We will have a love offering to benefit the Learning Center

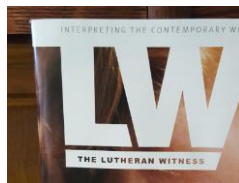
Billie Courtemanche

Braille Workers

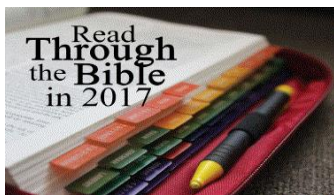


"The mission of Lutheran Braille Workers is to bring the message of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ to individuals who are blind or visually impaired throughout the world." On the fourth

Monday morning of each month, several ladies from Grace travel to Giddings for Braille workshop. We are currently in need of substitutes. ALL who are interested or need more information, please contact **Billie Courtemanche**



Lutheran Witness Magazine price for 2017 is **\$13.65**



Our congregation continues to celebrate 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in 2017 by reading through the Bible during the year. A reading plan for the month of May is

included in this newsletter; these readings will also be included in the daily devotion suggestions given on the back of the bulletin each week. We pray that being in God's Word daily has been a blessing to each and every one who is on this journey. Even if you struggled last month or didn't read at all, don't be afraid to start this month! God's Word is full of blessings for you and for me!



Dear Members of Grace Lutheran Church,

Rally Day this year will be May 28th immediately after Church. This fun filled day will bring **FOOD, GAMES and FELLOWSHIP!!** This is a time that we as members of Grace Lutheran Church celebrate the youth in our congregation, as many of them will advance to the next level of Christian Education each Sunday Morning. Please watch your bulletin for more information on this great day.

Vacation Bible School will be the **first week in June!!** Rose Pietsch is once again heading up this fun filled event!! Be sure to mark it on your calendars.

We would like to thank everyone who donated plastic eggs and candy for the Easter Egg Hunt. I believe that everyone had a great time!! I would like to thank the rest of the Board for helping stuff the eggs and being sure all went smooth on Sunday! God has blessed all of us in fellowship and mercy.

REMEMBER!!!! The FIRST Sunday of every month is the Sunday School Mission Sunday. Our Mission for this quarter is Pastor Askins and his family. Please help us to support him. This means that all the offerings generously given, the **FIRST** Sunday of every month, in Sunday School will be given to this Mission. Please remember to bring your offerings to Sunday School each Sunday. (This does include the Adult Sunday School Class). Any child 3 years old and older are welcome to attend Sunday School every Sunday. We start at 8:45AM. **COME JOIN US!!!!**



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 offset 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.

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.

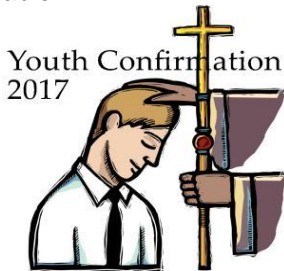
Respectfully,
Barb Johannessen



On Palm Sunday we had a prayer and groundbreaking at the new site.

The BAE is closed May 22 through May 29. We will reopen on Tuesday May 30. **Grace will be staffing the store May 30 through June 3.** Your generous donations enable us to continue to serve the community.

We will be moving in this summer. We will have a metal building and once it arrives work will begin we will need volunteers to help staff. Please consider joining us. I have working ladies who come in on Saturday---we really appreciate them. We have others who come in as they are able. Several of us are there each day. If you have friends who would like to help, bring them. They don't have to be members of Grace. Join us as you are able



Youth Confirmation 2017

On **Sunday, May 7,** five young men will confess the truth of God's Word in front of God and this congregation and be confirmed in the Christian faith. **Please plan to be here that day to be strengthened in your own faith and remember the solemn**

vows you once made concerning the importance of the Christian faith for you. Your presence will be a great encouragement to these youth and their families!



PIECEMAKERS

Palm Sunday we blessed the quilts and school bags for World Relief. These items have been shipped for distribution. We have started to quilt for next year. We welcome donations of material and gently used sheets. Everyone is welcome to join us. Our next gathering will **be Monday, May 22.** We meet in the Sunday School building alley entrance. We meet at 5 and don't work longer than 7. **All are welcome**



Ascension Service

ASCENSION POTLUCK AND SERVICE

Forty days after Jesus rose from the dead, He ascended visibly into heaven. This is an important event in the story of our salvation, so much so that we confess it each week in the Creed. This year, Ascension Day falls on **Thursday, May 25th.** To

celebrate Jesus' reign as our good and gracious King, the elders are hosting a **potluck at 6 PM** in the Parish

Hall, followed by the ***Divine Service with Holy Communion at 7 PM*** in the Sanctuary. Please join us as we give thanks for our ascended and reigning Lord!



Hymn of the Season

Our hymn for the season of Easter is *LSB 467, "Awake, My Heart, with Gladness."* The second stanza brings out the thought that although the cross may have appeared to be a victory for hell and its demons, Christ truly was triumphant on the

cross (Genesis 3:15). Death, Satan, and sin could not hold Christ in the grave. Because we are baptized into Jesus, who lives and will never die again, we have new life now and forever (Romans 6:1-11)!



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.

-Angel Hurst
GLLC DIRECTOR

**VOTER'S MEETING
FEBRUARY 5, 2017**

The Voter's Meeting was called to order by President Gene Brown.

There were 25 members present.

Pastor Appel opened with a prayer.

The sole purpose of the meeting was to approve the minutes from January 22, 2017 so that Treasurer Tim Wolff could conduct banking business for the church.

Barbara Johannessen made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 22, 2017 Voter's meeting. Kristin Appel seconded, motion carried.

Mark Peres made a motion to adjourn. Charlie Johannessen seconded, motion carried.

The Voter's closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Rose Pietsch



Make this craft to display a bit of springtime year-round!

What you need:

- An old shirt
- Tempura paint (brown, dark pink, light pink and white)
- Paintbrush
- Light blue or white construction paper
- A paper plate
- Q-tips
- Paper towels



What you do:

1. Roll up one sleeve and paint your arm and the palm of your hand brown.
2. Lengthwise on the paper, carefully place your painted arm and hand, with fingers spread apart. (This is the tree trunk and branches.)
3. Place the other paint colors on the plate.
4. Using Q-tips, place dots of paint (blossoms!) all over the branches.
5. When dry, display your tree – or give it as a Mother’s Day gift.

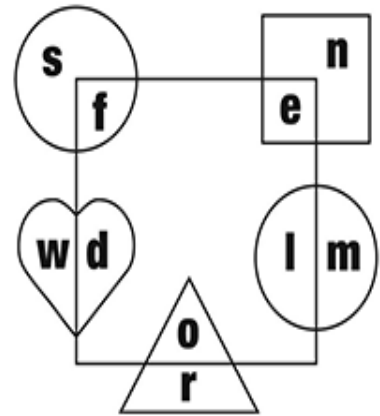


GOD CARES FOR YOU!

Jesus tells his followers not to worry about their daily needs. What example does he give of God’s care for his creation?

Directions:

To complete Luke 12:27 (NIV), match the shapes under each blank with the letter shapes shown to the right.



“Consider how the wild _____
grow. They do not labor or spin.

Yet I tell you, not even _____
in all his splendor was _____
like one of these.” Luke 12:27, NIV

Read Through the Bible in 2017

Grace Lutheran Church, Smithville, TX

“God’s Word is our great heritage and shall be ours forever!” Celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation by reading through the Bible in 2017. These same readings can be found on the back of your Sunday bulletin every week. (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 May

May 1	Luke 18:31-43	Deuteronomy 12-14
May 2	Luke 19	Deuteronomy 15-18
May 3	Luke 20:1-26	Deuteronomy 19-22
May 4	Luke 20:27-47	Deuteronomy 23-25
May 5	Proverbs 8:22-36	Psalms 60-63
May 6	OFF	
May 7	Luke 21	Deuteronomy 26-27
May 8	Luke 22:1-38	Deuteronomy 28-29
May 9	Luke 22:39-65	Deuteronomy 30-32
May 10	Luke 22:66-23:25	Deuteronomy 33-34
May 11	Luke 23:26-56	Joshua 1-4
May 12	Proverbs 9	Psalms 64-67
May 13	OFF	
May 14	Luke 24:1-35	Joshua 5-7
May 15	Luke 24:36-53	Joshua 8-9
May 16	Acts 1	Joshua 10-12
May 17	Acts 2:1-13	Joshua 13-15
May 18	Acts 2:14-47	Joshua 16-18
May 19	Proverbs 10:1-14	Psalms 68-69
May 20	OFF	
May 21	Acts 3	Joshua 19-20
May 22	Acts 4	Joshua 21-22
May 23	Acts 5	Joshua 23-24
May 24	Acts 6	Judges 1-4
May 25	Acts 7:1-53	Judges 5-6
May 26	Proverbs 10:15-32	Psalms 70-71
May 27	OFF	
May 28	Acts 7:54-60	Judges 7-8
May 29	Acts 8	Judges 9-11
May 30	Acts 9	Judges 12-13
May 31	Acts 10:1-22	Judges 14-17

This Reformation Reading Plan has been provided by the Michigan District, LCMS through their Here We Stand Campaign.