

# Grace Notes



2024

## The Apostle's Creed – Large Catechism

After learning about the Second Article of the Creed, we were left with an unanswered question: “How is it possible to gain access to the reality described in this article?” This Third Article answers that question. We gain access to Jesus Christ and all his works *through the Holy Spirit*.

### The Third Article: Sanctification

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*What does this mean?* I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

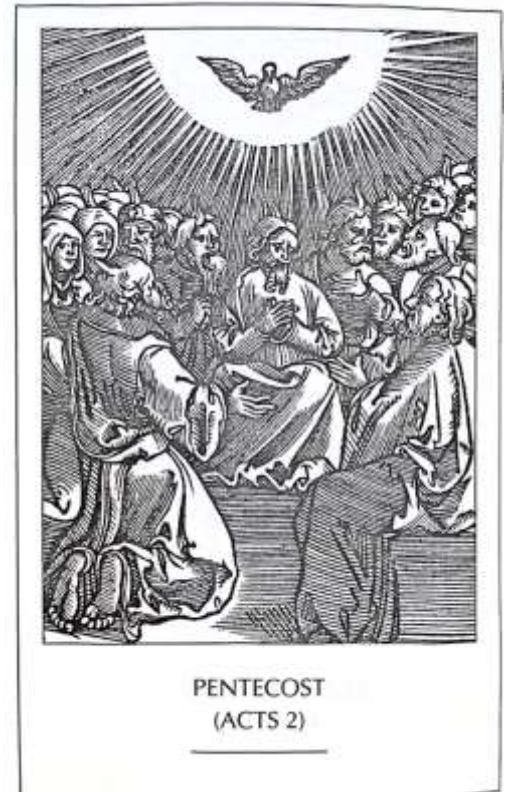
Christ and the Holy Spirit belong together. Where Christ is, there is the Holy Spirit; where the Holy Spirit is; there is Christ. There can be no faith in Christ and no confession that He is Lord unless it is mediated through the Holy Spirit.

Luther writes, “Neither you or I could ever know anything about Christ, or believe on Him, and have Him for our Lord, unless it were offered to us and granted to our hearts by the Holy Spirit through the preaching of the Gospel... in the Word He has the Holy Spirit bring this treasure home and make it our own. Therefore, sanctifying is just bringing us to Christ so we receive this good, which we could not get ourselves” (220).

Just as the Father is called “Creator” and the Son is called “Redeemer,” so the Holy Spirit, from His work, must be called “Sanctifier,” or “One who makes holy” (219). And how does he sanctify us? Through the Church. That is where He preaches to us and brings us to Christ. What a beautiful picture of the work of the Holy Spirit!

Luther spoke about the Christian Church as God’s “own congregation” and “the mother that conceives and bears every Christian through God’s Word” (221). If you want to know and receive the Holy Spirit, then look to the Word that is spoken in the Church! It is there that “He reveals and preaches, He illumines and enkindles hearts, so that they understand, accept, cling to, and persevere in the Word” (221).

The Church is a “little holy group” and “congregation of pure holy saints.” We use the words “*ecclesia*/gathering” and “*communio*/congregation/fellowship” to confess that the Holy Spirit gathers a group of people under one head (Christ), in one faith, into one mind and understanding, and with many different gifts (222-224). In this “congregation of saints” we have the forgiveness of sins through the Gospel and Sacraments



PENTECOST  
(ACTS 2)




to comfort and encourage our consciences as long we live. “But outside of this Christian Church, where the Gospel is not found, there is no forgiveness, as also there is no holiness” (226).

Holiness is begun and increased in us (it’s “growing daily”) through the Holy Spirit who destroys and buries our unclean flesh and imparts a new, eternal life of entire and perfect holiness. Since we will never be perfectly holy on this side of glory, it’s necessary that the Holy Spirit continue His work in us through the Word. We look forward to the “resurrection of the body” when we will be full of godliness and righteousness, removed and free from sin, death, and evil, in a new, immortal, and glorified body (226). Thus, the Holy Spirit carries out His work without ceasing to the Last Day.

*Lord Jesus, we cannot believe in You by our own reason or strength or come to You, but Your Holy Spirit has called us by the Gospel, enlightened us with His gifts, and sanctified and kept us in the true faith. For all this we praise You and implore You according to Your promise to send us the Comforter that we might continue firm in this confession. For You live and reign with Him and the Father, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

**Pastor Woelmer**

# May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10am-GLLC Chapel 5:30pm-Youth Confirmation Class	2 6pm LWML 	3	4 LWML Meet And Greet
5 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion Confirmation Sunday 11:30am-Adult Instruction Class 6-8pm Youth Group (Bowling)	6 6pm Elders	7 Bi-Circiut Mtg 6pm-Choir	8 10am-GLLC Chapel	9 7pm-Ascension Day Service	10	11
12 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion 11:30am-Adult Instruction Class	13 4pm-Quilting 6pm-Evangelism 7pm- 	14 6pm-Choir	15 10am-GLLC Chapel  6pm-GLLC Graduation	16 Pastor out of the office	17	18
19 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion 11:30am-Adult Instruction Class	20 6pm GLLC Mtg	21 6pm-Choir	22	23 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE/NOON 	24	25 9am-Board of Education Mtg
<b>Pastor Out of Town 5/20-5/30</b>						
26 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion 11:30am-Adult Instruction Class	27 8am Braille	28 6pm-Choir	29	30	31	
<b>Pastor Out of Town 5/20-5/30</b>						

### 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

### 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**

### Pastor David Woelmer

If you need to contact Pastor Woelmer, you can do so via e-mail ([rev.davidwoelmer@gmail.com](mailto: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.

### 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.

### 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.

Elders: Charlie Johannessen  
Jason Swartz  
Organist(s): June Parker  
Esther Wolff  
Kim Appel  
Ruth Eaton  
Altar Guild: Rose Pietsch  
Frances Mynar



As of April 25, 2024

Name	Balance
<b>Prosperity Checking Acct</b>	<b>31,000.75</b>
<b>CEF-General</b>	<b>2,530.62</b>
<b>CEF-Land/Youth</b>	<b>12,790.32</b>
<b>CEF Scholarship</b>	<b>12,947.99</b>
<b>Legacy Deo</b>	<b>10,876.92</b>
<b>Total Dedicated Funds</b>	<b>32,639.94</b>
<b>General Fund Balance</b>	<b>(1,639.19)</b>
<b>CEF Property Loan</b>	<b>15,204.00</b>



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:

May 20 – 25, 2024

July 1-6, 2024

August 12 – 17, 2024

September 23 – 28, 2024

November 4 – 9, 2024



May 18 Jason & Rebekah Watson  
David & Elizabeth Woelmer  
May 25 Chuck & Lisa Stem  
May 30 Michael & Elizabeth Caldwell

**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.

**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)



May 4 Rod Langer  
May 7 James Rice  
May 8 Brody Bennight  
Shena Kadlecek  
Ryan Teague  
Adrian Wolff  
May 11 Korie Dumbeck  
May 12 David Woelmer  
May 13 Alice Miller  
Jarrett Randle  
May 14 Murrelyn Rice  
Kyleigh Psencik  
May 15 Kayla Herschap  
May 16 Mike Noak  
May 17 Asher Vanegas  
May 18 Nelda Rohde  
May 21 Daniel Davis  
May 25 Cason Herschap  
May 29 Rebekah Watson  
May 30 Madison Hannusch  
Brenda Sanders

## Young Adult Group

Stay tuned for future announcements regarding fellowship opportunities for young adults in our congregation! If you're 19-40 years of age and single, engaged, married, married with kids, etc., please consider being a part of our Young Adults Group here at Grace! We hope this will be a good opportunity to promote community and form long-term friendships within our congregation. If you want to help organize events or contribute ideas, contact Gabbi Pietsch (972-900-9492).



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, 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 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.



### **Youth Group**

Please join us on Sunday, May 5th for bowling in Bastrop!

6 PM Dinner at the church

6:30 - 7:30 PM Bowling

8 PM Return to church



# LWML

Lutheran Women *in Mission*

## UPCOMING:

**May 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
6pm-Business Meeting

**May 13<sup>th</sup>**  
Quilting

**May 27<sup>th</sup>**  
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.

Altar Guild for May – Rose Pietsch & Frances Mynar

Immanuel Giddings will host the Fall Rally on October 6<sup>th</sup>.

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

## LWML TEXAS DISTRICT GRANT BULLETIN BYTES:

Time to send in Delegate Report registration and room registration to the Corpus Christi convention.

Nominee for TX Dist President is Nancy Beckom from Serbin.

## National Mission Grant Bulletin Bytes:

### **Feeding Haitian Children Through Gospel and Meals -- \$58,082**

In Haiti, 4.4 million people suffer from acute hunger; the cycle of poverty is almost never broken. Haitian children attending school have trouble learning with empty stomachs. Trinity HOPE daily feeds and shares the Gospel with children, teachers, and cooks in Christian schools throughout the country.

This grant will be used to feed approximately 538 children, teachers, and cooks each school day for two academic years at Paul et Isabel Lutheran School in Hinche, Haiti.

Children are taught to pray before they eat and when not hungry, are better prepared to participate in classroom activities. They are fed physically and spiritually every day they are in school and become missionaries to their families, bringing them out of the darkness of voodoo, a national religion, and into the light of Jesus.



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!**

### The Spring Thing!

FLHS is proud to present The Spring Thing! This will be a showcase of our students' work in the fine art department, including vocal, instrumental, and handbell pieces. Please join us Wednesday, May 8th, at 7pm.

### TAPPS State Handbell Competition

The FLHS Handbell Choir competed in the TAPPS state music competition on Tuesday, March 26 in Waco. Students performed level two piece of music, and received a Superior (I) Rating. Great job students!

### Graduation

Graduation will be Saturday, May 25th at 1:30 pm at Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Please join us as we celebrate these seniors and celebrate this momentous event in their life.

### 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.

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

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

### 7th Annual Golf Tournament

Faith Lutheran High School will be holding their annual golf tournament fundraiser on Friday, May 31st at Frisch Auf Country Club in La Grange Texas. Shotgun start at 8:00 AM with the possibility of an afternoon flight also. For more information on entering a 4 person team or to sign up as a sponsor, please call (979) 242-2889 or visit our website at [www.flhstx.org](http://www.flhstx.org).

### New Student Registration

Registration for the 2024-2025 school year is underway. Five 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 shadow day or visit our website at [www.flhstx.org](http://www.flhstx.org) for registration information.

### Shadow Days

Shadow days are a great opportunity for prospective students to follow us for a day and experience what FLHS is all about. Parents, call us at (979) 242-2889 today to set up a shadow day for your child.

### 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.

### Thank you. Thank you!

Thank you for all the support you have showered upon Faith Lutheran HS! We are so blessed! Whether you remembered us in your prayers, time, talents, or gifts, we are forever grateful and your gifts make a bigger impact than you know! THANK YOU!







## **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 worshiping our Lord.

**STILL NEEDED: ONE PRE-K TEACHER, A MUSIC LEADER & 1 GROUP TEAM LEADER AND HELPERS FOR THE GAMES SITE!!**

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!