

Grace Notes



2019

The month of October provides multiple opportunities for Christians to give thanks to God for the lives of His people throughout the ages. Here are three important dates to highlight from the Church Year.

On October 18, the Church celebrates the feast day for St. Luke, Evangelist. Luke is best known among Christians as the author of two books in the New Testament: the third Gospel, which bears his name, and the Acts of the Apostles, the sequel to the Gospel that shows how Christ continued His work in the early Church. From Acts, we learn that Luke was a traveling companion of Paul during his second missionary journey, in which they brought the Gospel into Europe (Acts 16:10ff). Luke probably stayed behind in Philippi for some time before rejoining Paul again at the end of his third missionary journey (Acts 20:5ff). Luke also later accompanied Paul to Rome (Acts 27:1ff). During these travels, especially during his time in Jerusalem and Caesarea, Luke did detailed research for his Gospel, speaking to eyewitnesses of all that Jesus did and said in order to record it for Theophilus and for all Christians. (Luke 1:1-4) In Colossians 4:14, we learn that Luke worked as a physician. On October 18, read through Luke 15 and give thanks for St. Luke who proclaimed Jesus as the One who seeks and saves the lost.

On October 23, the Church celebrates the feast day of St. James, brother of Jesus and martyr. There are many men named James in the New Testament; this James is not one of the twelve apostles, but one of Jesus' half-brothers (Galatians 1:19) born after Jesus' virgin conception and birth. Along with the other relatives of Jesus, James did not believe in Jesus until after His resurrection (John 7:3-5; 1 Corinthians 15:7). After becoming a Christian, James became a leader in the early Christian church, serving as a prominent pastor and bishop in Jerusalem (Acts 15:12ff). This James is the likely author of the epistle bearing his name in

the New Testament. According to the Jewish historian Josephus, James was martyred in AD 62 by stoning. On October 23, read James 1 and give thanks for God's gift of faith in Jesus that is active in love toward others.

On October 28, the Church gives thanks for two men, as we celebrate the feast day of St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles. In the lists of the apostles in the New Testament, these two men are listed tenth and eleventh. Simon is known as the "Zealot" or the "Cananaean," and Jude was also called "Judas son of James" and "Thaddaeus." Jude is mentioned in John 14:22 as asking Jesus how He will show Himself to the disciples and not the world. Although these two apostles do not figure prominently in the narrative of the Gospels, they are remembered among the apostles as those who witnessed the ministry, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Simon and Jude are remembered together because early Christian tradition suggests that they traveled together as missionaries to Persia, where they were martyred. On October 28, read John 14 and give thanks for Jesus who welcomes apostles and saints together in the place He has prepared for all those who trust in Him.

This month also includes the notable celebration of the Reformation (October 31), which we will celebrate on the Sunday immediately prior (October 27). Please also remember to take a look at pp.x-xiii in *Lutheran Service Book* to find more saints to remember during the Church Year. As you do so, spend time reading God's Word concerning these faithful Christians. I pray that the Lord richly blesses you through the accounts and examples of these faithful men and women, saints whom He has forgiven by His blood.

In Christ,
Pastor Appel

October 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 10am GLLC Chapel MIDWEEK SCHEDULE (see below)	3 6pm LWML 	4 Pastor Away-Family Day	5
6 8:45am Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion	7 7pm Elders	8 9am Pastor Circuit Mtg-Serbin	9 10am GLLC Chapel MIDWEEK SCHEDULE (see below)	10 11am-Bible Study	11 Pastor Away-Family Day	12
13 8:45am Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion Potluck/Voters Meeting after service 6:30pm Youth Group	14 5pm-Piecemakers 7pm-LLL 	15	16 10am GLLC Chapel MIDWEEK SCHEDULE (see below)	17 11am-Bible Study	18 Pastor Away-Family Day	19
20 8:45am Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion 3pm Nursing Home Devotions	21 6pm GLLC Mtg 7pm-Evangelism	22	23 10am GLLC Chape MIDWEEK SCHEDULE (see below)	24 11am-Bible Study NEWSLETTER DEADLINE/NOON 	25 Pastor Away-Family Day	26
27 8:45am Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion 11am Brd of Ed 6:30pm Youth Group	28 8am Braille 7pm-Altar Guild	29	30 10am GLLC Chapel MIDWEEK SCHEDULE (see below)	31 11am-Bible Study 6pm-Trunk or Treat	*MID WEEK SCHEDULE 6:00p Mid Week Meal 6:30p Mid Week Bible Class – All ages	

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

Elder(s): Kerry Becker
MW Kasper

Ushers: Bert Bunte
Jack Pafe

Trustees Gary Smith
Tommy Oates

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

Oct. Altar Guild:
Nelda Rhode
Wendy Rhode

Acolytes:

Oct. 6 Thomas Brown & Juniper Smith
Oct. 13 Storm Gorton & Baylor Watson
Oct. 20 Joshua Zimmerhanel & Adrian Wolff
Oct. 27 David Wolff & Jacob Moore



Pre-School/ Kindergarten	Mary Lou Oliver/ Wendy Rohde
1 st /2 nd Grades	Charles Johannessen
3 rd /5 th Grades	Gene Brown
6 th /8 th 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	Kim Appel
1st - 3rd grade	Tim & Esther Wolff
4th - 6th grade	Kristin Appel (June Parker-sub)
7th - 8th grade	Pastor Appel
Adult Class	Ed Randle

May God bless you and keep you always in His tender, loving care



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

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.



Oct. 15	Tammy & Doug Teague
Oct. 20	Barbara & Steve Pauley
Oct. 22	Rose & Ronnie Pietsch



As of Sept. 26th, 2019

Name	Balance
Prosperity Checking Acct	57,945.53
CEF-General	2,412.69
CEF-Land/Youth	12,141.98
CEF Scholarship	12,291.67
CEF Property Loan	133,807.39
CEF Annex Loan	1,433.98
Legacy Deo	11,449.34
Total Dedicated Funds	31,997.41
General Fund Balance	25,948.12

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



We meet at noon in the Parish hall. We have a lite meal. All our welcome to join us for a spirited game of train. If you don't know how to play--not a problem. We will help. We play for the fellowship and don't play for points



Oct. 2	Keatyn Becker
Oct. 3	Kaylee Claiborne
	Alice Percy
Oct. 4	Frances Pool
	Heath Seaton II
Oct. 7	Brenda Anderson
	Kristin Appel
	Corbin Davis
	Kolten Langer
Oct. 8	Milly Cheak
	Nickolas Claiborne
	Sherri McCullough
	Abigail Vanegas
Oct. 9	Juanita Bertsch
	Kathy Kasper
	Alex Vanegas
Oct. 11	Linda Read
	Marlene Wallace
Oct. 12	Jimmy Davis
Oct. 13	Madeline Moore
	Andrea Oates
Oct. 16	Joshua Phillips
Oct. 19	CathySmith
Oct. 20	George Helmcamp
	Davey Kadlecek, Jr
	Keegan Langer
	Barbara Pauley
Oct. 21	Don Young
Oct. 22	Nancy Young
Oct. 23	Daniel Robinson
Oct. 26	Marilyn Randle
	Rowan James
Oct. 31	Melissa Brown
	Michael Langer
	Zoey Wendland

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.



PIECEMAKERS

We will be meeting again on Monday, October 14th at 5pm. We meet in the Sunday School building--alley entrance. All are welcome to help us tie quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Thank you for donations. We are always looking for gently used sheets and cotton fabric.



Braille volunteers meet the 4th Monday of each month @ 8am. We carpool to Immanuel Lutheran Church in Giddings to assemble braille bible study books.
Toni Ann Kadlecsek



If you follow the BAE on FB you saw the post listing the agencies who have received funding. We have now given back \$341,850 to the community. All with donated goods and volunteers who devote many hours of their time and talents.

Citywide garage sale is coming up. We will be staffed late that afternoon to accept donations

Grace will be staffing the week of October 14 to the 19th hours are 10 to 2 Monday to Thursday an 9 to 2 on Friday and Saturday. As many of you know we track folks and hanger counts. Friday we have the influx when we open the doors. Saturday is surprisingly very close on people count just spread out during the morning. Join us as you are able.

Our last open week will be October 29 to November 2. On Friday November 1 I will be the coordinator responsible. Any help on this day will be appreciated

We will be closed for Thanksgiving

We are scheduled for December 9 to 14

Closed December 23 to January 6

We are scheduled February 3 to the 8th and then March 16 to the 21st.

Mark your calendars.

Thank you to all who volunteer with us. Thank you to all who donate.

Trunk or Treat Sign Up



The Evangelism Committee is sponsoring our 4th annual Trunk-or-Treat, which will take place on **Thursday, October 31** beginning at **6 PM**. We're asking individuals and families to sign up on the bulletin board next to the office to decorate a table in

our parish hall and bring candy to hand out to the many children who will come (last year, about 600 people total came through). If you can't be there to help, we'd love for you to donate candy that can be used by those who are here; a box in the narthex has been provided for this purpose. Thanks for supporting this community outreach event!



Two Germany Trip Opportunities in 2020

In 2020, the city of Oberammergau, Germany, will be holding its world-renowned Passion Play that happens only every ten years. Two central Texas pastors are leading tours in 2020 that will include not only this Passion Play, but also a variety of Luther sites. Pastor Obersat of Ebenezer, Manheim, is leading a tour in May 2020, and Pastor Barz of Crown of Life, San Antonio, is leading a tour in July 2020. Information concerning both of these tours is available in the narthex for anyone who is interested.



Caring for Towers Residents

The staff at Towers Nursing Home was very appreciative of our congregation's recent donation of toiletries for their residents. The Evangelism Committee is continuing to encourage the members of our congregation to donate various toiletries (shampoo, body wash, lotion, toothpaste, etc.) to the residents at Towers. You can place them in the designated box in the narthex. Thank you for showing this love to our neighbors at Towers!

Pastor Appel Hosts Radio Bible Study

Pastor Appel is now the host of the radio Bible study, *Sharper Iron*. This program airs every weekday morning from 8:00-9:00 AM on KFUE, a Lutheran radio station out of St. Louis, MO. You can listen live on your computer or laptop by going to www.kfuo.org, or on your tablet or smartphone by downloading the KFUE app. If you miss the show in the morning, you can also listen to archived programs on the KFUE website. Please consider making use of this Bible study as a way to strengthen your Christian faith during the week!



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



LWML

Lutheran Women *in Mission*

UPCOMING:

Oct. 3rd:

6pm-LWML Business Meeting

Oct. 6th:

Post Oak Zone Fall Rally-Schulenberg

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.

Our Mission Projects:

-Bazaar – donated \$250 for meat

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

LWML TEXAS DISTRICT GRANT BULLETIN BYTES:

Expanding the Mission at Lutheran Student Center-Hope for the Nations Lutheran Church-Arlington (\$3,215)

The University of Texas, Arlington Lutheran Student Center is blessed to share God’s Word with Hindus, Muslims, and other students from all over the world. This mission grant will assist in expanding their ministry as they transition from a student center to planting Hope for the Nations Lutheran Church.

National Mission Grant Bulletin Bytes:

Mission Outreach for At-Risk Young Women in Africa (\$100,000)

Through its ministry centers, Lutheran Hour Ministries is offering programs that are a powerful force to physically and spiritually change the lives of young women to disrupt the cycle of poverty and prostitution by teaching income producing trades for economic independence and success, sharing the Gospel, and connecting them with the church. The purpose of this grant is to identify young women in prisons after they have been arrested for prostitution or small crimes and provide rehabilitation through counseling sessions and voluntary Bible studies for those young women expressing a desire to reform and connecting them with the church.



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 seeks to engage young adults in a Christ-centered environment where faith and knowledge grow as one.

HOME OF THE FALCONS!

5th and 6th Grade Game Night

FLHS will be hosting a game night for 5th and 6th grade students on Friday, October 4th, from 6:00 pm until 9:00 pm at Faith Lutheran High School. We will have lots of food, fun and games, and fellowship! Please join us!

Oktoberfest

FLHS will be hosting a family friendly event on Saturday, October 19th at the Holy Cross Picnic grounds. **Everything is FREE**, except for the entry fee for the domino tournament or if you participate in the silent auction. Our schedule for the day is as follows:

- 11 AM - 1 PM - Meal served (including brats, noodles, kraut, green beans, potato salad, bread, desserts, and drinks)

- 11 AM - 2 PM - Silent Auction will be open

- 12:30 PM - Domino Tournament Begins - both 42 and Straight - \$5/person entry fee

- 12:30 PM - Kids activities, games, competitions, and prizes begin

- Bounce House, DJ music, snacks, and drinks will be available all day

* FLHS will be collecting a free will offering to support the mission and ministry at FLHS.

Wish List

FLHS has created a wish list on Amazon, containing ongoing needs. The easiest way to get to it is by clicking on the link on either the FLHS Facebook page or website. Thank you for your generous support!

Keep in Touch

Find and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube or Twitter - like and share our posts so others can learn about FLHS. Also, visit our website at www.faithlutheranhighschool.com!

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.

Free Wednesday mornings?

Join us for our weekly Chapel Worship Service every Wednesday, beginning at 10:30 am

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. Give us a call (979-242-2889) to learn more about FLHS and how you can become a part of our family! **In today's increasingly hostile, non-Christian society, you can't afford to NOT send your child to FLHS!**

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 or volunteer your time and talents, please contact Mrs. Nikki Kueck.



Board of Education
Sunday School
Midweek News

Dear Members of Grace Lutheran Church,

REMEMBER!!!! The FIRST Sunday of every month is Sunday School Mission Sunday. Our Sunday School Mission for this quarter will be UT Campus Ministry. Please remember to give generously the first Sunday of every month to help support this great cause.

A most of you already know the Board of Ed is preparing for the Christmas Play and are asking for you opinion. There is a letter in everyone's mail box about some ideas that have been presented to the Board. If you did not get a letter please contact either a Board member or the church and we will get a letter to you. We would like to have your opinion before October 6th so that we can start moving forward with this years Christmas Activities. Everyone's opinion is encouraged and welcome as we want this very important time of year to be enjoyable for everyone.

We have received new Sunday School material and are excited to try this new curriculum. We will be starting at the first of the bible and work our way through. There will not be weekly send home hand outs like we have always had material will be sent home about every 13 weeks which will be at the end of each set of material. If you have any questions regarding the new material please feel free to ask a Board Member or Sunday School Teacher and we will do our best to answer your questions.

CHALLENGE!!!!

We would like to Thank everyone who continues to participate in the weekly challenge and encourage each of you to continue to participate weekly by answering the question in the back of the bulletin. We as a board feel it is important to educate each other on what Christ did for us and continues to do for us. If there is anything you would like to see done differently, we are always open to suggestion.

May God Bless all of you.

Respectfully,

Barb Johannessen

GLC Families Helping Hurricane Victims

A note from our Sunday school superintendent: Tropical Storm Imelda victims need your help! How can GLC families help?

- donations
- volunteering

Here's what you can do: During the month of October, we will be taking CARE KIT donations. There will be a box labeled "Imelda" located in the Narthex. You can bring donations on Sunday mornings, Wednesday evenings, or any time the church office is open. Consider ways you can involve your children. For example, let them go to the store and pick out something from the list.

What items are needed for a CARE KIT?

- Towels
- Washcloth
- Soap
- Tissue
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Feminine products
- Shampoo
- Comb
- Blanket
- Pillow
- Wipes
- Baby bottles
- Diapers
- Baby food

On **Sunday, October 27, after worship**, we will prepare the CARE KITS together, which will then be delivered to a disaster relief network in Austin to be sent to families in need. This is an activity for the **entire congregation**, young and old together, as the faith we have in Christ becomes active for our neighbors in love. As adults, we want both to model this for the youth of our congregation and to help them begin to do it themselves from an early age. This activity, along with future service projects we are planning, is one way our congregation is trying to do just that, as St. Paul says in Philippians 2:4, "Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." If you have any questions, please speak to Donna Zimmerhanzel or Pastor Appel.

Midweek Meals

Sharon Reinberg will once again be coordinating and cooking midweek meals. Contributions are needed to assist with the cost; please designate your offering toward midweek meals and bring it to the office during the week or place it in the plate on Sunday morning. Please plan to participate in our midweek classes this year; it is an excellent opportunity for all of us to grow together in a deeper understanding and appreciation of our Christian faith.



THANK YOU

to all of you who helped make the Bazaar a success!!

We will release grand totals as soon as we have them, but please know how very much we appreciate all your hard work!

2019 Bazaar Committee

Read Through the Bible in 2019

Grace Lutheran Church, Smithville, TX

“God’s Word is our great heritage and shall be ours forever!” Continue your daily Bible reading during 2019. 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 October

October 1	1 Thessalonians 4-5	Job 34-37
October 2	2 Thessalonians 1	Job 38
October 3	2 Thessalonians 2-3	Job 39-42
October 4	1 Timothy 1-2	Ecclesiastes 1-3
October 5	1 Timothy 3-4	Ecclesiastes 4-7
October 6	Proverbs 21:23-22:16	Psalms 117-118
October 7	OFF	
October 8	1 Timothy 5:1-6:2	Ecclesiastes 8-12
October 9	1 Timothy 6:3-21	Song of Songs 1-4
October 10	2 Timothy 1-2	Song of Songs 5-8
October 11	2 Timothy 3-4	Jeremiah 1-4
October 12	Titus 1	Jeremiah 5-6
October 13	Proverbs 22:17-23:16	Psalms 119:1-40
October 14	OFF	
October 15	Titus 2-3	Jeremiah 7-9
October 16	Philemon	Jeremiah 10-12
October 17	Mark 1	Jeremiah 13-15
October 18	Mark 2:1-17	Jeremiah 16-19
October 19	Mark 2:18-3:19	Jeremiah 20-22
October 20	Proverbs 23:17-24:7	Psalms 119:41-80
October 21	OFF	
October 22	Mark 3:20-35	Jeremiah 23-25
October 23	Mark 4	Jeremiah 26-28
October 24	Mark 5	Jeremiah 29-31
October 25	Mark 6:1-29	Jeremiah 32-33
October 26	Mark 6:30-56	Jeremiah 34-36
October 27	Proverbs 24:8-34	Psalms 119:81-120
October 28	OFF	
October 29	Mark 7	Jeremiah 37-39
October 30	Mark 8:1-21	Jeremiah 40-44
October 31	Mark 8:22-9:13	Jeremiah 45-47

The Askins in Asia



Recovery in India Continues

In March 2018, I wrote about a cyclone (hurricane in India) that demolished the seminary of our partner church in India, the India Evangelical Lutheran Church (IELC).

Concordia Theological Seminary, Nagercoil, began recovery efforts immediately. They received a grant from LCMS Disaster Response and began rebuilding.

This month, I traveled to India with the Rev. Dr. Ross Johnson (director of LCMS Disaster Response), the Rev. Dr. Edward Naumann (theological educator to Southeast Asia), and the Rev. Dr. Detlev Schulz (professor at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana).

Our purpose was twofold: to see the repairs and to gather for a Pastor's Refresher Course (PRC). The PRC is an annual conference held at the seminary for all the pastors of the IELC.

The IELC has not been able to gather for a PRC in over 12 years. This recent gathering showed the great unity these pastors had as they listened to teaching from Johnson, Naumann, and Schulz.

We also gathered to see the repairs performed at the seminary. The Rev. Dr. Christudas (principal of CTSN), the Rev. Dr. Sam Thompson (professor and project director), and the rest of the seminary faculty showed us the campus and the work they had done.

Naumann, Johnson, and Schulz dedicated a number of repaired or rebuilt rooms and buildings, and gave thanks for the Lord's work.

If you want to hear more about what's been done so far, please listen to the LCMS Asia podcast (lcmsasia.fireside.fm). On episode 28, I interviewed Dr. Thompson about the project and future directions for the seminary.

Please keep an eye on the international website for more information about this story. I've been working for the last week on a video about the project.

Also, on a different note, I posted over 10 new stories on the international website. Take a look and learn more about what's going on in Asia (international.lcms.org/asia/).

Your Hands Are Full

— by Eliza M. Askins

Yes, my hands are full along with those of my husband and older children. Even though I may at times look and feel tired, the days' joys are worth the lack of sleep and wear on the body. Chasing after little ones, piles of laundry to wash, hang, and fold, meals to prepare and cook, books to read, pages to correct, and lessons to teach are all worth the smiles. It's worth it when each children from oldest to youngest asks, "mom when will you have another baby?" Even though I might at times think we have enough bodies to feed, clean, care for, our children do not see us as a full house yet.

Well, the Lord agreed with these children. He has blessed us with another one. We expect this baby's arrival in early 2020. God has granted our children's long-time request; we are a family of 9.

I was content with six. I felt my hands were full. My heart was full. My head was full. My house was full. My husband and his father built triple-stacked bunk beds because the children's rooms are full. My vehicle options for Taiwan were full. We take up every seat in the taxi. And it requires a special license to drive a passenger vehicle over 9 seats.

I have visited with two doctors in Taiwan at two different hospitals. Birth in Taiwan will yet again be new. It will be different from Hong Kong even though both places have Chinese influence. This pregnancy and delivery will not be like those in Wisconsin, Indiana, or Texas. This will be its own, new experience.

Who would have guessed that we, whose hands are already full, would have to start fresh in welcoming another baby blessing? We look forward to seeing the Lord's continued hand in this because it is only through Him that our full hands can manage from day to day. Only by His grace, mercy and forgiveness do we find contentment and peace in our full hands becoming fuller. And it is His blessing that the six children we already have are excited to fill their full hands with another baby.

✠ *Soli Deo Gloria* ✠

To support the LCMS through the work of Rev. Roy S. Askins, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod or LCMS. Include "Askins-Hong Kong" in the memo line. Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website at www.lcms.org/givenow/askins. To give a gift over the phone, please call 1-888-930-4438.

Contact us at roy.askins@lcmsintl.org.

For Your Prayers

In your prayers, please keep these things in mind:

- For Eliza as she carries another child
- In thanksgiving for all the prayer and financial support we have received
- For Annie as she recovers from an accident (she's doing well)

Thank You

To all of you who are supporting us in so many and various ways, thank you.

For your prayers, thank you. For your financial support, thank you. For your notes and thoughts, thank you.

—The Askins

A Page of Pictures

Enjoy these pictures from the last month. For more, visit our website: askinsinasia.com.



Above center: A random church building we passed in India.
Above left: we prayed as each of the rooms/buildings were dedicated.
Below: Thompson preaches during the Divine Service.

Schulz is "shawled" as an honor for visiting and teaching during the PRC.
Below: Naumann and Johnson sing during the concluding service.

