

Grace Notes



2023

What is Catechesis?

In September's newsletter article, I discussed the simple truth that since children always model their parents, it's important to consider, at the very least, 1) what kind of behavior they model and 2) what kind of discipline and education they receive. In this newsletter, I want to dive deeper into looking at the *Christian* education ("catechesis") our children ought to receive, and then highlight the dangers or roadblocks that often hinder that education.

When we talk about catechesis, I think it's best to simply think of it as the Christian life. The Church's term for "teaching," Catechesis is the life-giving teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ which accompanies all who are baptized. Since Holy Baptism is described as "new birth" in the Bible, it's appropriate to see Baptism as the beginning of your *life* as a Christian, and catechesis as that which feeds that new life. If your infant doesn't receive milk after birth, they will starve to death. If you don't feed your children God's Word as they grow up, they will starve to death. If you don't eat the life-giving body and blood of Jesus, you will starve to death. Jesus said to the apostles, **"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 things I have commanded you..." (Matthew 28:19-20).**

You can already see how Catechesis is for the young and old alike. The Church continues this saving work today as her ministers baptize and catechize young and old alike in the Christian faith. Baptism, confession and absolution, the Lord's Supper, the Divine Service, ongoing instruction in the Word, daily prayer, and the fruit of loving service to family and neighbor are all part of the Christian, baptismal life. This life is lived by faith in Christ as we go about our daily tasks in our vocations at home, in society, and in the Church. Living the Christian faith is not merely an "internal thing;" it has very "external things" by which it is confessed and known and sustained. It is about a real faith which is fed and nourished where there is real sin and real sorrow, but real forgiveness and consolation through the Gospel of our dear Lord Jesus Christ. This is what catechesis is all about. All this and more is meant by the word of Jesus: **"Make disciples of all nations; baptizing them...teaching them...; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."**

So, what are the dangers or roadblocks that hinder catechesis? One of the more prevalent perspectives about catechesis is that it primarily only happens during a 2-3 year period when your child is in 6-8th grade. We call it "Confirmation Class." Don't get me wrong: it's a blessing that we have retained and upheld this intensive instruction class as an important (and even necessary!) step in your child's walk with God where they have the opportunity to confess their faith publicly before the Church.

However, having a "Confirmation Class" can unintentionally teach the church that catechesis primarily involves classroom instruction for a certain duration of time. But this is far from the case. Catechesis is much more comprehensive than this. It involves *living* the new life given in Baptism. It involves the actual *doing* of things that Christians will continue to do for the rest of their lives: attend Divine Service, listen to preaching, receive the Lord's Supper, confess their sins, receive absolution, pray, confess their faith, forgive one another, live as husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, children, workers of every kind, etc.

Our Confirmation classes are off to a good start! I ask that you continue to support our future confirmands (young and old alike!) as they grow in the faith and are welcomed into the life of the congregation. I ask that you pray that they may boldly *confess* the faith and *live* as baptized children of God in Christ.

Pastor Woelmer

P.S If you're wondering where to start, I recommend using the *Congregation at Prayer* insert in your bulletin as a weekly devotional and catechetical guide for use in your home. The *Congregation at Prayer* unites the congregation around the same sections of the Word of God and Catechism and gives a common language for prayer and meditation on the Scriptures. It centers on the themes established on each Sunday of the church year and reflects on the past Sunday. It helps families and individual Christians in prayer, reading the Scriptures, and learning the catechism by heart. It teaches the congregation to use the Bible, the Catechism, and the Hymnal as daily devotional companions for the Christian faith and life.

October 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion 11:30am-Adult Instruction Class LWML Spring Rally in Dime Box 6:30pm-Youth Group	2 6 pm  Elders Meeting	3	4 10am-GLLC Chapel 5:30pm-Youth Confirmation Class	5 6pm LWML Mtg 	6	7
8 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion 11:30am-Adult Instruction Class	9 4pm-Quilting 7pm-  LLL	10 Bi-Circuit Mtg-Schulenberg	11 10am-GLLC Chapel 5:30pm-Youth Confirmation Class	12	13	14 Lutheran Young Adults Conference in Austin
15 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion Voters Meeting following service	16 6pm-GLLC Mtg 7pm-Evangelism	17	18 10am-GLLC Chapel 5:30pm-Youth Confirmation Class	19	20	21
22 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion 11:30am-Adult Instruction Class	23 4pm-Quilting Pastor Away for Conference	24	25 10am-GLLC Chapel 5:30pm-Youth Confirmation Class	26 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE/NOON	27	28
29 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion 11:30am-Adult Instruction Class	30 8am-Braille	31				

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

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.

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

Elders: Brad Zimmerhanel
Jaysen Swartz

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

Altar Guild: Wendy Rohde
Nelda Rohde



As of September 22, 2023

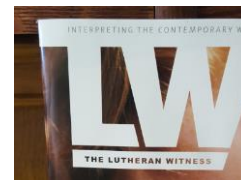
Name	Balance
Prosperity Checking Acct	53,756.22
CEF-General	2,520.22
CEF-Land/Youth	12,683.17
CEF Scholarship	12,839.54
Legacy Deo	6,028.23
Total Dedicated Funds	34,201.23
General Fund Balance	19,554.99

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, KFUE (www.kfuo.org). Their variety of



programs will provide something of value to every person who listens.



Lutheran Witness Magazine price for 2024 is **\$22.50**.



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



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



Thank you! Thank you! The Born Again Emporium continues to be blessed with wonderful volunteers, generous donations and sales – allowing us to make a difference in Smithville with our quarterly awards. We are so appreciative of our “Grace” volunteers – and have been particularly happy to see some new faces including high schoolers volunteering. The Emporium is entering its’ busy season with Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas quickly approaching. The seasonal room is decked out for Fall and Christmas. Grace Lutheran is scheduled to work again **November 6-11, 2023**; Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 9am to 2pm. Please join us for a day or a couple of hours – your help is always appreciated. Feel free to contact Brenda Sanders or Rose Pietsch for more information.



Oct. 2	Keatyn Becker
Oct. 3	Kaylee Claiborne
	Alice Percy
Oct. 4	Frances Pool
Oct. 7	Brenda Anderson
	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	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.



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, 1st grade through 4th grade is Kayla Herschap, 5th grade through 8th grade will be Donna Zimmerhanzel 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. We are working to strengthen our high school class and look forward to new ideas from Pastor Woelmer.

Rally Day went very well!! Thank you to Charlie Johannessen and David Kadlecek and all who helped them cook the hamburgers and hotdogs. Your assistance every year is greatly appreciated. And thank you to all who helped set up and clean up. It is always a joy to see the kids have a fun time and adults as well with a friendly game of dominos and Christian togetherness!! We look forward to another God Blessed Year!!

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

Sunday School

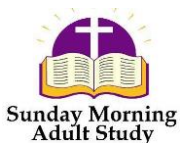


Sunday school for all ages has returned to its regular time slot of 8:45 AM. The response from so many members of our congregation has been tremendous.

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!

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.



Youth Confirmation

Youth confirmation classes resume on **Wednesday, September 6** and continue each Wednesday evening this fall in the parish hall at **5:30 PM**. Please keep our 7th and 8th graders and their families in your prayers as they grow in the knowledge and grace of God's Holy Word.

Youth Group

All middle school and high school students and their parents are invited to join us at Youth Group! We normally meet every first Sunday of the month from 6:30-8:00 PM. Each month, we have time for Bible study, games, and snacks!.



LWML

Lutheran Women *in Mission*

UPCOMING:

Oct. 1st

Spring Rally in Dime Box

Oct. 5th

6pm-Busn Mtg

Oct. 9th

4pm-Quilting

Oct. 23rd

4pm-Quilting (Boxing up quilts for LWR Drop Off)

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.

October Altar Guild - Nelda and Wendy Rohde

September Mission is going to the ingathering at the Spring Rally for University Lutheran Chapel at Texas A&M.

LWML TEXAS DISTRICT GRANT BULLETIN BYTES:



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

National Mission Grant Bulletin Bytes:

Orphan Grain Train Servant Center -- \$100,000

Orphan Grain Train (OGT) has carried out the mission of the Lord for thirty years by providing humanitarian service. They work through the church so the Gospel always accompanies their service. They have assisted orphans, carried out domestic disaster relief, gathered, sorted, packed, and distributed food, clothing, medical supplies, equipment, and educational materials for those experiencing poverty in the U.S. and internationally.



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!
Better Together - Romans 15:5-6
October 2023

Thank you!

There have been so many people, organizations, groups and churches who have contributed to the success and growth of FLHS - through donations of wish list items, monetary donations and so much more. Thank you, on behalf of the students who will be instilled with wisdom as they become faithful leaders tomorrow, for your generous support. THANK YOU!!

Oktoberfest Meal Tickets

Tickets for our annual Oktoberfest celebration are now available! Meal includes brats, noodles, green beans, potato salad, kraut, bread and coffee cake. Meals will be available on Saturday, October 28 from 11 am to 1 pm at the Holy Cross Picnic Grounds. Tickets are \$15 each and available for pre-sale only! Talk to a FLHS student, staff, board, or delegate today!!

Save the Date!

FLHS's annual Oktoberfest will be Saturday, October 28th. New this year will be **The Battle of the Vines**, in addition to **The Battle of the Brew** - both are home brew competitions, so start planning your brews now. Returning will be our traditional German meal, domino tournament, cornhole tournament, silent and live auction, music, kids games, bounce house, and lots of fun! Find our Facebook event, or see our flier for all the details about the day!

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, memorial contribution, or a Thrivent Action Grant, please contact us.

Free Wednesday mornings?

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

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.

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. We'll do everything in our power to make sure that money isn't the reason you don't choose FLHS.

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.

Follow Us On Facebook!

With a new school year underway, you may want to see the exciting things happening inside here on a daily basis! By "liking" our Facebook page and "sharing" our posts, you will be in the loop on all the great things happening and sharing Faith with your friends as well. If you're not on social media, head to our website (flstx.org) which is updated regularly as well.





Oh boy ... a little

MAN



Join us for a
Baby Shower
HONORING



Elizabeth Woelmer

October 29th, 2023
2-4pm
Parish Hall

Registry Information:
<https://www.babylist.com/list/elizabeth-woelmer>