

# Grace Notes



*NOTE: Thanks to everyone who has submitted "Ask the Pastor" questions so far. I'm starting to run low on questions, so please submit more!*

In this month's "Ask the Pastor," we'll take a look at the question, "Why should I go to church?" This is a question that is asked by many people in today's world, a question that is well-worth our time to give a thoughtful Biblical answer. For that reason, we'll spend a couple of months answering the question from the various angles that God's Word approaches it.

For this month, we'll answer the question this way: "I should go to church in order to find rest in the Lord and His Word." To flesh out this answer, start by thinking about the 3<sup>rd</sup> Commandment: "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. *What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it." The word "Sabbath" means, quite literally, "rest." The Lord Himself established it when He rested from His work of creation on the seventh day (Genesis 2:1-3). The Lord did not do this because He was tired and in need of a break. Instead, He established the Sabbath day for us so that we might find our rest in Him and His Word.

That comes out as we see the Lord give the 3<sup>rd</sup> Commandment in both Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5. In both places, the Lord teaches His people that the Sabbath day is not only about having physical rest; it is ultimately about remembering who He is and what He has done. The Sabbath day is there so that God's people might find their rest in Him and His Word as they hear and rejoice that He is their Creator (Exodus 20:11) and Savior (Deuteronomy 5:15).

This rest that is found in the Lord and His Word has been brought to fulfillment in Jesus Christ. He says in Matthew 11:28, "Come to *Me*, all who labor and are heavy laden, and *I* will give you *rest*." He then immediately shows that keeping the Sabbath isn't about what a person does or doesn't do on a particular day (Matthew 12:1-8). The Sabbath is about finding true rest only in Jesus, for as true God He is the true giver of the Sabbath. That's how Jesus can say, "The Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath" (Matthew 12:8). This is the reason Christians no longer have to worship on the seventh day of the week. Instead, most Christians choose to gather for worship on the first day of the week, the Lord's day (Revelation 1:10), to remember that we are there to find rest in our risen and living Lord Jesus Christ.

Why go to church? Go to church because you need rest in the Lord and His Word. At church in the Divine Service, you will hear Jesus Himself speak to you. In that Word, Jesus comes to you not to make you work and earn what He has; He comes to you to freely give you the life, forgiveness, and salvation that He has already earned. He comes to you to give you His true Body and Blood in Holy Communion. In coming to you, Jesus gives you rest, because you don't earn or deserve these things by your labor. He gives them to you, and so you have rest.

Certainly, this is a Scriptural answer to the question, but I also find that this is a compelling answer to the question in today's society. Who doesn't need rest? If you have a job, you know the deadlines you face. If you have kids, you know how easily your schedules fill with things to do and places to be. If you are retired, you know how new demands often leave you with a longer to-do list than before. Who doesn't need rest? People search for this rest in various ways. Some long for the beach. Others count the days till Friday. Many turn their brains off in front of a screen. But does this rest actually satisfy the need?

The rest that Jesus gives *does* satisfy this need. Physical rest is part of it. God has designed physical rest as a part of His creation. We need physical rest and time for recreation. But the rest that Jesus gives is so much more than that, rest that satisfies during life's slow and hectic days. The rest that Jesus gives is eternal, and it is found in His Word. When we gather for worship, He comes to us with His Word to give us this rest. What better place could we be? That's why we should come to church!

In Christ,  
**Pastor Appel**

# September 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8:45am Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion	3 7pm Elders	4	5 10am GLLC Chapel <b>MIDWEEK SCHEDULE</b> (see below)	6 6pm LWML 	7 Pastor Away-Family Day	8
9 8:45am Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion 6:30pm Youth Group	10 7pm LLL 	11 7pm-Germany Trip Info Meeting	12 10am GLLC Chapel <b>MIDWEEK SCHEDULE</b> (see below)	13	14 Pastor Away-Family Day	15
16 8:30am Worship/ Communion 	17 6pm GLLC Mtg 7pm Evangelism	18 9am Pastor Circuit Mtg-Warda	19 10am GLLC Chapel 1pm Ministerial Alliance <b>MIDWEEK SCHEDULE</b> (see below)	20	21 Pastor Away-Family Day	22
23 8:45am Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion 11am Brd of Ed 6:30pm Youth Group	24 8am Braille 5pm Piecemakers	25	26 10am GLLC Chapel <b>MIDWEEK SCHEDULE</b> (see below)	27 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE/NOON 	28 Pastor Away-Family Day	29
30 8:45am Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion					*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](mailto:gracelutheransmithville@gmail.com)  
Web Site: [www.glcs.org](http://www.glcs.org)

Sunday School 8:45 AM  
Worship Service 10:00 AM  
Midweek Classes 6:00 PM

### 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**

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](mailto: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):** Ed Randle  
Galen Bunte

**Ushers:** Cliff Burns  
Jack Page

**Trustees**  
: Ivan Fritsche  
Ronnie Pietsch

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

**Altar Guild:** Linda Read  
Frances Mynar

**Readers:**

Sept 2 John Stelling  
Sept 9 Debbie Higgins  
Sept 16 Philip Appel  
Sept 23 Rose Caldwell  
Sept 30 Mark Peres

**Acolytes:**

Sept 2 Thomas Brown & Mackenzie Peres  
Sept 9 Joshua Zimmerhanzel & Adrian Wolff  
Sept 16 BAZAAR  
Sept 23 David Wolff & Marianna Peres  
Sept 30 Baylor Watson & Juniper Smith



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

### STILL IN NEED OF SUBSTITUTE 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	Alex & Amanda Vanegas
4th - 6th grade	Kristin Appel (June Parker-sub)
7th - 8th grade	Pastor Appel
Adult Class	Ed Randle



<b>Sep. 3</b>	Jane & Galen Bunte
<b>Sep. 11</b>	Marilyn & Cliff Burns



As of August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018

<u>Name</u>	<u>Balance</u>
<b>Prosperity Checking Acct</b>	<b>30,880.99</b>
<b>CEF-General</b>	<b>2,378.00</b>
<b>CEF-Land/Youth</b>	<b>11,966.00</b>
<b>CEF Scholarship</b>	<b>12,113.00</b>
<b>CEF Property Loan</b>	<b>142,627.00</b>
<b>CEF Annex Loan</b>	<b>36,420.00</b>
<b>Total Dedicated Funds</b>	<b>11,712.00</b>
<b>General Fund Balance</b>	<b>19,168.99</b>



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



**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**

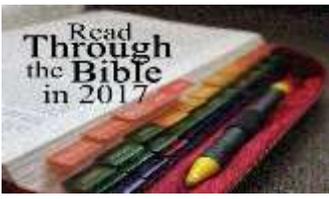


<b>Sep. 1</b>	Bonnie Kaiser
<b>Sep. 3</b>	Clarence Hannusch
<b>Sep. 4</b>	Jean Miller
	Heidi Poppe
<b>Sep. 7</b>	Baylor Watson
<b>Sep. 8</b>	Daucie Davis
	Chloe Deapen
	Leslie Rice
<b>Sep. 9</b>	Jacob Stinson
<b>Sep. 10</b>	Roy Flora
	Anthony Hurst
	Presley Wallace
	Liam Leon
<b>Sep. 11</b>	Benny Hajdik
<b>Sep. 12</b>	Dorine Hoskins
<b>Sep. 13</b>	Chrissy Becker
	Trenton Vinklarek
<b>Sep. 16</b>	Gene Brown III
	Donna Zimmerhanel
<b>Sep. 17</b>	Charlie Johannessen
<b>Sep. 23</b>	Millie Fritz
	Edward Randle
<b>Sep. 24</b>	Esther Wolff
	Caysen Swartz
<b>Sep. 26</b>	Collin Kasper
<b>Sep. 27</b>	Ivan Fritsche
	Patricia Satterwhite
	Robert Wolff
<b>Sep. 29</b>	Courtney Pietsch
	Kylee Wallace
<b>Sep. 30</b>	Laurie Rector Hancock

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**



Even though the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation has passed, the importance of daily Scripture reading in our lives has not changed! In order to encourage you to

read from God's Word daily, the reading plan that will guide you through the entire Bible in a year will continue to be published in the newsletter each month during 2018. We pray that being in God's Word daily will be the blessing to you that our God has promised!



PIECEMAKERS

We meet each month to tie quilts for Lutheran World Relief. We meet the 4th Monday in the Sunday School building alley entrance. We usually work until about 7. All are welcome. Join us as you are able

Our next session is September 24<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.



**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



The Born Again Emporium continues to flourish. The Lord has blessed this ministry which

allows us to give back to the community. Since Memorial Day weekend we have been receiving bountiful donations each day. We had always received wonderful donations but the volume has increased.

We are all volunteer--no paid staff. Jan and Susan are often there and other volunteers come for assigned areas

Grace and First Presbyterian partner to staff the store. Our next assigned rotation is Monday September 17 through Saturday September 22. Hours are 10 to 2. Sale dates are Friday and Saturday. Hours are 9 to 2.

Join us as you are able. Friday's are very busy. People start lining up before the doors open. Saturday starts slower but picks up. Our last Saturday was busy almost the entire time.

Our last rotation will be November 5 to the 10th

The store is closed August 22 to September 3 for Labor Day. November 19 to 24th for Thanksgiving and December 24th to January 7. For Christmas.

Even though we are officially closed often people are working and donations continue to come in.

Be sure to follow us on FB. Bill posts pictures on Thursday afternoons of available offerings. He will often post other information.

I will post our new schedule dates when it is finalized. But early January dates are projected

Again we thank our generous donors and our cheerful shoppers



**ALL invited to lunch/game day THURSDAYS at NOON**  
In the Parish Hall

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



Here is another weekday opportunity for you to gather with fellow Christians here at Grace and study God's Word! Pastor Appel is leading a Bible study on the Small Catechism from 11 AM-Noon every Thursday morning in the parish hall. Come and refresh your memory on everything you learned as a youth during confirmation classes. Bring your Bible and your Small Catechism; if you don't have either one of those items, please let Pastor know and he'll be glad to get you one! If you have any questions, please see Pastor Appel.



The LWML will host our annual Birthday Celebration on Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at Bassano's Italian Restaurant in Bastrop.

All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend. Please let one of the officers know if you plan to attend so that we will have enough seating! We look forward to celebrating all birthdays at this gathering.



**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 is The Refuge Rescue Ranch in Bastrop, for young girls who have fallen victim to human trafficking of all types. Please remember to give generously the first Sunday of every month to help support this great cause.

**CHALLENGE**

As most of you heard the Board of Ed is challenging the adults against the youth to see who will read their Bible the most and who pays attention to the readings on Sundays. There will be a question in the bulletin every Sunday (relating to one of the readings from the previous Sunday). I know you take your bulletin home and study it faithfully. Please answer the questions and place the answer in the basket on the table designated for the answers. We would like to encourage everyone to study their bible and to have fun at the same time. Anyone can participate no matter your age!!! If you have any questions please feel free to ask a Board member. We will also be putting in the bulletin the answer to the previous question along with results of the competition. We look forward to having fun with this in the future. If you have and questions or suggestions please feel free to contact a board member.

Marylou Oliver is responsible for cleaning out the busy bags and getting them ready each week for the young children of our congregation to enjoy during Sunday Service. This is a job she takes seriously and gladly donates her time towards. We are missing about 5 busy bags if anyone knows the where they are hiding will you please ask them to come back to their basket so that there will be plenty for everyone on Sunday mornings. 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**



**Caring for Towers Residents**

The Evangelism Committee was recently made aware of a way that we can show Jesus' love to our neighbors at Towers Nursing Home. By providing a variety of toiletries for the residents there, they will be able to feel just a little more comfortable at home. The Evangelism Committee is asking the congregation to bring various toiletries to be given to the Towers residents. Such items include shampoo, body wash, lotion, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, and more. Products that make use of aerosol spray are prohibited, as they are flammable. A box will be placed in the narthex in order to collect these items, and they will be delivered monthly to Towers, which will let us know when such items are no longer needed. Thank you in advance for showing love to our neighbors at Towers!



**2020 Germany Trip Informational Meeting**

Have you ever wanted to travel to Germany and see the sites of Luther? Have you ever wanted to see the Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany which has been held since 1634? Pastor Obersat of Ebenezer Lutheran in Manheim and Pastor Jacobs of Grace Lutheran in Brenham are hosting a tour, an 11 – Day *Cradle of the Reformation Germany Tour*, visiting the footsteps of Luther and the Oberammergau Passion Play. The dates for the tour are May 20-30, 2020. Pastor Obersat will hold an informal meeting for those who may be interested in going or are just curious of the tour on Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm, here at Grace in Smithville.



*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!**

### **Great Start to the School Year**

We have had a great start to the school year! We love having our students back on campus and pray that their education and faith may grow abundantly this year! 3 new freshman joined our family this year and we welcomed back 3 sophomores. Registration remains on-going. Come and visit! Call us today - (979) 242-2889!

### **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.

### **Junior High Game Night**

FLHS will be hosting a game night for 7th to 10th grade students on Friday, September 7th from 7:00 pm until 10:00 pm at Faith Lutheran High School. We will have lots of food, fun, and fellowship! Please join us!

### **Thank you!**

There have been so many people, organizations, groups and churches who have contributed to the success and growth of FLHS over the summer - through donations of books, wish list items, monetary donations and so much more. We are so incredibly thankful, and your gifts make a bigger impact than you know! THANK YOU!!

### **Wish List**

FLHS created a wish list on Amazon. It can be found by clicking "Find a List or Registry" under the Accounts and Lists tab and then searching "Faith Lutheran High School."

### **Yard Signs Available**

Show your support of FLHS by placing a sign in your yard. New single sided signs are now available. There is no cost to you to obtain one! Come by and pick one up today! (\*Donations are accepted to offset cost.)

### **Germanfest**

FLHS will be hosting a family friendly event on Saturday, October 27th. Lots of games, activities and food will be available. Stay tuned for more details!

### **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, [kueckn@faithlutheranhighschool.com](mailto:kueckn@faithlutheranhighschool.com) or call (979)242-2889. The online application only takes 10 to 15 minutes to complete. Every Thrivent member over the age of 16 is eligible to make two applications during 2017. Help us to be able to take advantage of these funds for the good of our school.

### **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](http://www.faithlutheranhighschool.com)!

### **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 Nikki Kueck to learn more.

## **2018-2019 MIDWEEK DATES**

The following Wednesdays are the dates for our midweek classes this year. Our regular midweek schedule consists of a light meal at 6:00 PM, followed by classes for all ages from 6:30-7:30. Dates marked with an asterisk (\*) occur during Advent and Lent, when we have midweek worship services at 7 PM. During these two seasons of the Church Year, midweek classes will begin at 5:30 PM and end at 6:15 PM so that parents and children still have the opportunity to eat at the soup suppers before services. Please note that there will also be an adjusted midweek schedule on October 31 in coordination with our congregation's Trunk-or-Treat; please watch for further announcements in bulletins and newsletters.

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.



### **2018**

September 5, 2018	October 3, 2018	*October 31, 2018	*December 5, 2018
September 12, 2018	October 10, 2018	November 7, 2018	*December 12, 2018
September 19, 2018	October 17, 2018	November 14, 2018	*December 19, 2018
September 26, 2018	October 24, 2018	November 28, 2018	

### **2019**

January 9, 2019	February 6, 2019	*March 6, 2019	*April 10, 2019
January 16, 2019	February 13, 2019	*March 13, 2019	April 24, 2019
January 23, 2019	February 20, 2019	*March 27, 2019	May 1, 2019
January 30, 2019	February 27, 2019	*April 3, 2019	



All Praise & Glory be to God, our Father, and to His Son, Jesus Christ, for another successful Vacation Bible School at Grace Lutheran Church! I am so grateful that we can conduct VBS in an effort to bring folks, especially children, to know how very much Jesus loves them!

First, I thank **God** for giving us a reason to conduct VBS and that He inspires the people who prepare the curriculum that we follow!

Next, I would like to thank all of the members at Grace who donated to our program. Without you, we simply could not conduct VBS! We averaged **37 kids** and **35 teachers/helpers** this year. The numbers were lower than in the past however we were competing with Little League All-Stars. Thanks so much to all who are so willing to help!

Thanks to all the folks who showed up Sunday afternoon to decorate the church & parish hall. I truly appreciate the help of **Pastor Appel, Marilyn Burns, Eleanor Mutschink, Julie Rice, The Brown Family, June Parker, Philip & Kim Appel, Margie Hicks, Darlene Becker, John Anderson, Wendy Rohde and Mary Lou Oliver**. A HUGE thanks goes to **Ronnie Pietsch** and **John & Brenda Anderson** for our *Splash Canyon* decorations as taken from the Jamboree float! It looked WONDERFUL!!

Thank you, **Pastor Appel**, for leading the Openings & Closings each night. It is a joy and a pleasure for me to have such a dedicated Pastor take on such a major role with our VBS. Your guidance, leadership and prayers are greatly appreciated. Thank you for leading our Staff meeting and for commissioning all the workers in church. I thank God that you stuck it out the first night even though you felt bad!

Thank you, **Kristin Appel**, for leading the music and sign language for VBS. Your music and sign language skills are awesome & I so enjoy watching your love for our Lord shine through your actions! I love how you bring so much life to the songs!

Thank you, **Julie Rice**, for leading the Crafts site again this year. Thanks to your helpers **Darrell Becker & Sheryl Pollard** for assisting with all those kiddos!! We couldn't do this site without all of you helping to make it happen! The crafts looked amazing.

Thanks to **June Parker and Sterling Brown** for the terrific job you all did in the Storytelling/Bible Challenge site. Your hands-on approach with the kids at this site really makes an impact and I am so impressed with how you all make it fun to learn about the lesson! We missed **Rose & Alex Caldwell** this year but Sterling certainly took the ball and ran with it in their absence!! Awesome job, June & Sterling.

Thank you, **Mary Ann Duty**, for being the leader of the Snack site. I also truly appreciate **Eleanor Mutschink** assisting at this site and teaching with the help of **Sheryl Pollard & Milly Cheak** on the nights Mary Ann couldn't be there. Special thanks to **Cathy Smith, Toni Ann Kadlecsek and Frances Mynar** for preparing all the snacks for the classes! You all are a great asset to VBS!! Special thanks to my wonderful mother, **Milly Cheak** for filling in when needed in the kitchen.

This year **Donna Zimmerhanzel**, was not able to lead the games site due to some health concerns. Guess who picked up the leadership position and did a great job with Games: **Courtney Pietsch** and **Victoria Seaton**!! They were assisted by **Matthew Taylor** who was a great asset out in the heat! Special thanks to **Sandy Kadlecsek** for providing a lot of the props needed for the Games site!

Thank you, **Kim Appel** for teaching a Pre-K class again this year. Those helping in this class were **Philip Appel, Wendy Rohde, David Wolff and McKenzie Peres**. This class averaged 9 students per night.

Thank you, **Darlene Becker**, for answering my SOS call for a second Pre-K teacher. Helpers in this class were **Chrissy Becker, Vicky Vinklarek & Marianna Peres** and they averaged 6 students per night.

I can't thank these Pre-K teachers and helpers enough for all they do for the youngest kiddos who attend!!

Special thanks to the Leaders of the 4 rotating groups: **Gene Brown III, Mary Lou Oliver, Thomas Brown & Juniper Smith** for keeping the groups on time in the rotation schedule.

That leads me to my next HUGE thank you: **Marilyn Burns and Margie Hicks** did a fantastic job of keeping up with the attendance records and assigning kids to a class the first night (and every night after that). **Gene Brown** was instrumental with this as well & this year we promoted him to Superintendent of VBS!! Thank you, **Melissa Brown**, for taking some awesome photos of the kiddos. Thanks to **Becky Watson & Eleanor Mutschink** for helping on Sunday night as well. **Marilyn, Margie & Gene** could also be found in the kitchen helping with snacks when needed!!

Thanks to **Mary Lou Oliver** for doing all the last-minute shopping for me! I truly appreciate all that you do to assist me in this department (and everything else you do to make the week run smoothly).

A special thank you to everyone who helped watch **Caleb Appel** all week so that his parents could lead us in VBS!! It was good to have **Libby Caldwell** back on Thursday night!

I cannot thank **Philip & Kim Appel** enough for applying for a scholarship from Thrivent and getting \$250 to offset the costs of VBS! This was a wonderful help, especially in purchasing the food for VBS!

Our VBS program is so fortunate to have great people supply us with meals each night! Thanks so much to the **LLL, Evangelism Committee, LWML, Board of Education and Dale Marquette & Frances Mynar at 7-11** for making all those pizzas.

The following folks were here to help prepare the meals & drinks and pass it all out: **Mary Lou, Wendy, Milly, Marilyn, Cathy Smith, Gene, Melissa, Gene III, Sterling & Thomas Brown, Kathy & M.W. Kasper, Toni & David Kadlecek, Barb & Charlie Johannessen, Becky Watson, Ed Randle, Eugene Randle, David Rohde, Jim Duty, John & Brenda Anderson, Steve Pauley, Chrissy Becker, Billie Courtemanche, June Parker, Margie Hicks, Kim and Philip Appel, Steve Pauley, Jon & Sheryl Pollard, Eleanor Mutschink, Julie Rice, Vicky Vinklerek & Mark and Margie Peres. Mark & Margie** cleaned up the Parish Hall after each meal EVERY NIGHT and were assisted by **Jon Pollard** on Sunday night. Thank you all SO MUCH, we simply could not do this without you!

Thanks to all those who helped take down the decorations on Thursday night. They certainly come down a lot faster than they go up! Folks from St. Paul, Serbin were instrumental in loading up the huge centerpiece that was in the church and other items to use with their VBS.

Our VBS Mission Project was in support of the continued work in the Rockport area due to Hurricane Harvey damage last year and I am so excited to report that we collected **\$1077** for that mission project!! Thank you all for your donations!

It was a joy and an honor to be the VBS Director again this year. This project requires the help of so many people and I am truly blessed to be among some of the **BEST** people in the world. I thank God for all of you—whether your name is listed here or not—I really **COULD NOT** do this without your support.

May God richly bless each of you for participating in the 2018 VBS program at Grace and I look forward to your continued support as we prepare for **VBS 2019—Miraculous Mission**, in which our very own Pastor Appel contributed to!!

In Christian love,  
Rose Pietsch



September 16, 2018

Planning for the 2018 Grace Lutheran Church Bazaar is underway and we are looking forward to a successful Bazaar this year. With **YOUR** help, we can make this happen and have a fun time along the way!! Find the bulletin board to sign up!

### Raffle Tickets

- A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex for RAFFLE TICKET PRIZE donations. Please sign up if you would like to donate to that. Raffle tickets will be printed very soon.
- We need someone to sell Raffle tickets from noon to 4:00 pm Monday Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> (Labor day) If you can help, please SIGN UP on poster board in Narthex or let one of the committee members know. Raffle tickets are available, after August 1<sup>st</sup>, see Chrissy Becker for more tickets. 512-981-9621

**Profit Donations** - This year we decided beforehand what charities we would donate to so that those names can be printed on the flyers. The Voters decided to donate a portion of the proceeds to *Faith Lutheran High School* and *The Refuge Ranch in Bastrop County*. We will decide on another charity after the Bazaar. The plan is to have at least 30% of the profits be donated and the rest paid on the principal of the parish hall. By doing this, we should have all payments made in 2 years!!

**Country Store** – We will have a country store this year and invite everyone to make handcrafted items to sell or homemade jams, jellies, veggies, etc. Homemade items sell quickly and are a great way to support the Bazaar if you are a “handicraft” type person.

### Auction Items

- Again, we ask for each family to donate 2 items to the **LIVE AUCTION** and **PLEASE** put the value of your items on the item so that we have a good starting point for the auctioneers!!
- Please leave auction items in the Parish Hall and list fair market value AND donor for each item. Call one of the Bazaar Committee members by Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> if you want to save an auction numbered sale slot or if you need pick up of auction items.
- Items will be tagged at church on Friday, Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>, starting at 7:00 pm. A second tagging will be Saturday, Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm, and loading auction items will start at 4:00 pm. Please sign up for these and all other activities you hope to help with.

**Auction Merchant Lists** - Merchant lists are posted for Bastrop and Smithville areas. Please pick favorite businesses or banks that you patronize and wish to request items for the auction. Write your name on the list to ensure that you will be the only one making the request for that location. Thank you so much for assisting with this.

**Desserts** - Look for a sign-up sheet for **CAKES** this year as well. We need cakes or desserts to serve with the meal, desserts such as cakes, pies, cookies, cupcakes for the CAKE WHEEL and 10 **homemade** items for the live auction.

### Before Bazaar

- **Firewood** - Call Jim Duty for the latest update at **512-581-2001**. Firewood will be gathered on Saturday, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>. Meet at the Duty's to leave at 1:00 pm with gloves and a chain saw if you have one. It takes a crew of 8 about two hours to cut the wood and stack it on the trailers. Please help. Sign up on the poster and remember to call Jim.
- **Grace Lutheran Learning Center** - The Learning Center will be making placemats. Business card ads are \$25.00, or \$45.00 for a double ad. A placemat will be made with congregational signatures also. The fee will be \$5.00 per family. Anyone on the GLLC board will help you.
- **Sell Meal Tickets** If you are interested and in need of some meal tickets, please see Nancy Fritsche and let's try to commit as many people as possible with early meal ticket sales.

**FRIDAY NIGHT** - Chips and Sandwiches – Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>. Snacks are needed so we can eat while we work on Friday night tagging auction items and bagging goodies for the games.

**SATURDAY**

- VFW Grounds - On Saturday, Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>, the VFW lawns will need work. The BBQ pits must be burned off. We need volunteers to get barrels from the park. If you are available to help, meet at the VFW at 1:00 pm.
- Transport Tables - Volunteers are needed to transport tables and game equipment to the VFW. Please sign up.

**SATURDAY NIGHT** - BBQ Cookers - Fire Starters will meet up at 10:00 pm and BBQ cooking will start shortly after midnight. Many workers are needed for the cooking, slicing, serving and cleaning. It is a long night. Shifts of workers would be nice. Please contact Kerry Becker to help out 512-825-6126

**Games & Entertainment**

Help is needed with the games. A Bounce House will be an attraction for the children. Please share this information with your friends. Invite the children to come have fun.

**Clean Up Committee**

Clean up after the Bazaar is a trying time because everyone is tired. The VFW hall and the grounds must be picked up. All the chairs, tables and equipment must be returned.

**All Members (new or long time)**

This is probably the largest social mixer for fun and fellowship all year. For a new member this is a great way to mix and mingle and get acquainted. Please be there, as we need you to work somewhere during this busy day.

**2018 Bazaar Committee**

**Rose Pietsch** Co-chair 512-304-5866 / **Chrissy Becker** Co-chair 512-981-9621  
Mary Lou Oliver, Marilyn Burns, Wendy Rohde, and Nancy Fritsche

Lets make this year the best one yet!

# Read Through the Bible in 2018

Grace Lutheran Church, Smithville, TX

"God's Word is our great heritage and shall be ours forever!" Continue your daily Bible reading during 2018. 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 September

September 1	Proverbs 17	Psalms 107
September 2	OFF	
September 3	1 Corinthians 14	Ezra 1-2
September 4	1 Corinthians 15:1-34	Ezra 3-6
September 5	1 Corinthians 15:35-58	Ezra 7-8
September 6	1 Corinthians 16	Ezra 9-10
September 7	2 Corinthians 1:1-2:11	Nehemiah 1-5
September 8	Proverbs 18	Psalms 108
September 9	OFF	
September 10	2 Corinthians 2:12-3:18	Nehemiah 6-7
September 11	2 Corinthians 4:1-6:2	Nehemiah 8
September 12	2 Corinthians 6:3-7:16	Nehemiah 9-11
September 13	2 Corinthians 8-9	Nehemiah 12-13
September 14	2 Corinthians 10	Job 1-3
September 15	Proverbs 19	Psalms 109
September 16	OFF	
September 17	2 Corinthians 11	Job 4-5
September 18	2 Corinthians 12-13	Job 6-8
September 19	Philippians 1	Job 9-11
September 20	Philippians 2	Job 12-15
September 21	Philippians 3-4	Job 16-18
September 22	Proverbs 20	Psalms 110-113
September 23	OFF	
September 24	Colossians 1:1-14	Job 19-21
September 25	Colossians 1:15-2:23	Job 22-24
September 26	Colossians 3-4	Job 25-28
September 27	1 Thessalonians 1	Job 29-31
September 28	1 Thessalonians 2-3	Job 32-33
September 29	Proverbs 21:1-22	Psalms 114-116
September 30	OFF	

# The Askins in Asia



Binghui attends a Bible Study at the Paul household.

## Binghui, the Gardener

First, my apologies for missing last month's newsletter. We have been busy learning Chinese and continuing to settle into our new home.

Second, I want to share one of the stories I collected over the past month. The story of Binghui originally came from Dr. Paul, but Jo Heidorn and I interviewed Binghui in June and found his story intriguing.

Binghui spent twenty years in and out of prison, struggling with drug addiction and a life in Taiwanese gangs. Here's his story.

As a child, Binghui lived in an area of Taiwan controlled by the triads or gangs. "I grew up without a moral compass," he said. Before he turned 18, he had already spent time in prison, which elevates your status in the triads.

Little by little, the Lord worked through the Word to bring Binghui out of this life through the Gospel.

He was almost 50 years old when he finally listened to a social worker and entered rehab. It was a Christian rehab center that required occupants to raise funds at various churches on Sunday. During his time there, he attended church on Sundays but at different congregations and mostly to raise funds.

While at the rehab center, he also started learning horticulture so that he could support himself when he

left the rehab center. All the while, the Lord worked in Binghui's life.

Eventually, Binghui took a job as the gardener for China Lutheran Seminary. While there, he attended some classes at seminary and started going to a Lutheran church. Immediately, he noticed a difference from what he had heard in other places he had visited.

First, the Lutherans read the Bible just like others, but the Lutherans also taught. They taught the fundamentals of the faith and delighted to learn more about God's Word.

Secondly, he heard the Gospel. Other places he said defined faith in a law way, something you have to do to trust and depend on God more.

This was just more law. The Lutheran teaching, that faith is a gift from God, really hit home. Especially for drug addicts who often struggle with tremendous guilt and shame, the proclamation of grace as a free gift of God received by faith serves as an incredible balm to the soul.

Binghui told me much more about his story, and I'm going to try and turn it into a podcast. So, keep a watch on the I.C.M.S Asia podcast to hear the story in his own words. And finally, a huge thank you to Dr. Paul who took time to translate for us.

## Teaching the Faith while Learning the Language

— by Eliza

In Taiwan, we are part of a dual culture and language congregation. The majority of the service is in Chinese. There are portions translated. Thanks to the consistency of the liturgy, we can follow along even though it sounds different. We are fed by Word and the Lord's Supper regularly. We have witnessed several baptisms in our short time here, and we join with the whole family of Christ in encouraging these individuals in their faith.

It is not an easy road for them. They come from families that for generations have worshipped their ancestors. The families still worship the local gods at one of the many shrines and temples around the city. And yet these baptized children of Christ come to church regularly and seek community and fellowship with other Christians. We are blessed to open our home to them, join them for an outing or meal, or support their occupation while at the same time exchanging the love of Christ as He first loved us.

This morning as we woke, had breakfast, and did family devotions, we heard chatting and song from the Buddhist temple and monastery in our backyard. We could literally hit it with a broom stick from our window. So I asked my Chinese teacher why all the activity at the usually quiet place. It is Ghost Month, a month of offering sacrifices to ancestors and remembering them. And how timely that just this week we started learning scripture in Chinese. We have asked the teachers to help us learn the weekly verses from our congregation. The children previously have asked their teachers about church. The children are not certain of what faith their teachers are so they continue to ask, share, and pray. I, too, have had opportunity—in Chinese class—to discuss baptism, God's blessing of children, and faith that He will provide no matter how large family is, as well as the father's leadership in the family just as Christ is the head of the church.

Thank you for your prayers for our family, the church we attend, the community we live in, and the Christians here in Taiwan. Daily we see the need for the Lord and His grace. Day by day He gives us the strength, words (even in Chinese), and hope to share with others.

✠ *Soli Deo Gloria* ✠

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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](http://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](mailto:roy.askins@lcmsintl.org).

## For Your Prayers

In your prayers, please keep these things in mind:

- For those in the region suffering from illness
- For the Askins in Asia support network, that it would continue to strengthen
- For missionaries throughout Asia as they proclaim the Gospel to a world deeply in need of Christ's forgiving Word

## 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](http://askinsinasia.com).



The whole family helped prepare to host our first gathering in Chiayi this week. These pastors and vicars from the CELC studied preaching.



In June, I learned about work in S. Korea where Pr. Kim (pictured) serves a congregation new the new US base in S. Korea.



Grandma and Grandpa Askins are here visiting. Grandpa helped us build triple stack bunkbeds for the children.



The building pictured above will be the location of a second church plant near the new military base in S. Korea.



We enjoyed some time at the baseball park next door. We watched international collegiate baseball teams and had the opportunity to root for the USA team from Kansas University.