

Grace Notes



This summer, we've resumed our practice of having a hymn of the month. I pray that this has been helpful to you in several ways: First, we have more exposure to the rich hymnody of the Church; think of all the hymns that we can learn! Second, we gain confidence in singing corporately; when everyone is learning a new tune together, there's no need for anyone to be shy! Finally, we get to have the Word of God on our lips and in our hearts in memorable form. I know it's been such a joy to hear my own children humming and singing these hymns at home, and I start to hum and sing right along with them!

For September, our hymn of the month will be *LSB #597*, "Water, Blood, and Spirit Crying." This hymn is very new to the life of the Church. *Lutheran Service Book* lists the copyright dates for text and tune as 1999 and 2003, respectively. The text was written by Pastor Stephen Starke, a recently retired pastor in the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The tune was written in 2003 by Dr. Jeffrey Blesch, a professor of music at Concordia University in Nebraska. Together, the text and tune of this hymn form a powerful combination that help us to rejoice in the gifts that God grants to us in Holy Baptism. In this article, I'll lay out some of the Biblical background for each of the stanzas.

In the first stanza of the hymn, we sing: "Water, blood, and Spirit crying, By their witness testifying To the One whose death defying Life has come, with life for all." These words are drawn from the Word of God from 1 John 5:6-8, "This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only, but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three who testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood, and these three agree." The testimony of Jesus' Baptism (water) and crucifixion (blood) reveal the love of God for us. In the Word, the Spirit declares this same truth to us as He reveals that Jesus is the Son of God who has overcome the world and forgiven our sins.

In the second stanza, we sing: "In a watery grave are buried All our sins that Jesus carried; Christ, the Ark of Life, has ferried Us across death's raging flood." Burial with Christ in Baptism connects to the way St. Paul speaks of Baptism in Romans 6, and the language that connects Christ with Noah's ark comes from 1 Peter 3:20-21, "God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were

brought safely through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you."

In the third stanza, we sing: "Dark the way, yet Christ precedes us, Past the scowl of death He leads us; Spreads a table where He feeds us With His body and His blood." The language of this stanza reminds us of the comforting words of Psalm 23: "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before in the presence of my enemies."

In the fourth stanza, we sing: "Though around us death is seething, God, His two-edged sword unsheathing, By His Spirit life is breathing Through the living, active Word." This image of God's Word as a sword is found in Hebrews 4:12, and St. Paul writes concerning the life given by the Spirit in the Word of God in 2 Timothy 3:16, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness."

In the fifth stanza, we sing: "Spirit, water, blood entreating, Working faith and its completing In the One whose death-defeating Life has come, with life for all." This first part of this stanza echoes St. Paul's language in Philippians 1:6, "He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." The final phrase of this stanza (as well as the first) is drawn from Jesus' own words in John 10:10, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

As you sing and pray this hymn during the month of September (and hopefully beyond!), I pray that its words place God's Word into your heart and onto your lips. God grant you His peace and joy!

In Christ,
Pastor Appel

September 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6pm LWML 	2 Pastor Away- Family Day	3
4 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion	5 7pm-Elders	6	7 10am GLLC Chapel 5:30pm-Youth ConfirmationI	8	9 Pastor Away- Family Day	10
11 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion	12 4pm-Quilting 7pm LLL 	13 9am-Pastor Circuit Mtg	14 10am GLLC Chapel 5:30pm-Youth Confirmation	15	16 Pastor Away- Family Day	17
18 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion	19 6pm GLLC Mtg 7pm-Evangelism	20	21 10am GLLC Chapel 5:30pm-Youth Confirmation	22 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE/NOON 	23 Pastor Away- Family Day	24
25 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion	26 8am Braille 4pm-Quilting	27	28 10am GLLC Chapel 5:30pm-Youth Confirmation	29	30	

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 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.



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**



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

Elders: Brad Zimmerhanzel
Tommy Oates

Sept. Altar Rose Pietsch
Guild: Frances Mynar

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



As of August 26, 2022

Name	Balance
Prosperity Checking Acct	64,032.01
CEF-General	2,491.02
CEF-Land/Youth	12,536.25
CEF Scholarship	12,690.79
Legacy Deo	12,978.63
Total Dedicated Funds	35,484.69
General Fund Balance	28,547.32

Opportunities to Receive God's Gifts

When you are not able to make it to the weekly Divine Service on a regular basis, please know that opportunities to receive the gifts of God at other times are available. I encourage you to be in touch with me to let me know how I can deliver these gifts of God to you, because no Christian should go without God's gifts in Word and Sacrament. When circumstances do not allow you to join the congregation for a time, I certainly encourage you to make use of the Facebook livestream to hear the Scriptures and the sermon; I also would welcome the opportunity to set an appointment with you to study God's Word with you and bring you the Body and Blood of Jesus on an individual basis. ***This offer is made in earnest. You are not imposing on my time by requesting this of me; this is precisely why God has given time to me.*** Please let me know how I can best serve you in Christ's name! –Pastor Appel



Pastoral Check-Up

Many go to their doctor regularly to check on their physical health; why not do the same with your pastor concerning your spiritual health? I know that the previous year was difficult in many respects. How has your Christian faith been challenged? How has your Christian faith grown? Let's visit! Let's find some time to talk so that I can minister to you with the Word of God so that your faith in Christ will grow even in the midst of this life's troubles and trials..



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). Their variety of programs



will provide something of value to every person who listens. Of particular interest for Grace, every weekday morning at 8 AM, you can hear Pastor Appel host the Bible study, *Sharper Iron*, with guest pastors from around the country. If you can't catch the show live, you can listen to archived episodes at www.kfu.org/category/sharper-iron/.



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



Grace and First Presbyterian will partner to staff the BAE September 26 to October 1. Work dates are Monday and Wednesday from 10 to 2 and Friday and Saturday from 9 to 2. Donations are accepted on Friday and Saturday from 9 to 2. Help available to unload donations. The board will be meeting in September to make their quarterly disbursements. We would not be able to do this without our faithful volunteers, generous donations, and our shoppers who support our efforts.

Gifts for Organ Repair



On June 12, the voters approved organ repairs that will cost approximately \$11,800. Fischer Pipe Organ Tuning and Service will be putting us on their schedule so that these repairs can be made this fall. If you'd like to make a special gift to help with the cost of these repairs, you can make use of the "Organ Fund" envelopes in your offering

envelope box. Thanks for your generosity in providing for music that glorifies God in our worship services at Grace!



SAVE THIS DATE!
MONDAY, October 31, 2022 BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M.
TRUNK OR TREAT

EVENING IN THE PARISH HALL.
 Thanks, John Stelling



Sep. 1	Bonnie Kaiser
Sep. 3	Clarence Hannusch
Sep. 4	Jean Miller
	Heidi Poppe
Sep. 7	Baylor Watson
Sep. 8	Daucie Davis
Sep. 9	Jacob Stinson
	Chandler Zimmerhanel
Sep. 10	Roy Flora
	Anthony Hurst
Sep. 11	Benny Hajdik
Sep. 12	Dorine Hoskins
Sep. 13	Chrissy Becker
	Trenton Vinklerek
Sep. 16	Gene Brown III
	Donna Zimmerhanel
Sep. 17	Charlie Johannessen
Sep. 23	Edward Randle
Sep. 24	Esther Wolff
	Caysen Swartz
Sep. 26	Collin Kasper
Sep. 27	Ivan Fritsche
	Patricia Satterwhite
	Robert Wolff
	Wesley Kaiser
Sep. 29	Courtney Pietsch
Sep. 30	Laurie Rector Hancock

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 will be Kim Appel and Ester Wolff, 1st grade through 4th grade will be Kayla Herschap and Kristin Appel, 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 will have a rally day Sunday August 28 and I would like to thank all of those who help cook and prepare for this fun filled day.

The Board has chosen our next Sunday School Mission to be the Bastrop County Pregnancy Resource Center. We would like to invite everyone to contribute to the Sunday School offering for this very worthy mission. 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, Melissa Brown, 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.

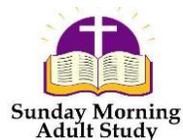
Respectfully,

Barb Johannessen
Board of Education



Sunday School

On Sunday, September 4, Sunday school for all ages returns to its regular time slot of 8:45 AM. 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! On Sunday, September 4, we are starting **a new study of 1 and 2 Samuel**. These books provide the historical background for the Psalms of King David, and many moments may leave you saying, "I can't believe that's in the Bible!" Yet all of it is recorded for our instruction to point us toward our Savior, Jesus Christ. Please join us!



Youth Confirmation

Youth confirmation classes resume on **Wednesday, September 7** and continue each Wednesday evening this fall in the parish hall from **5:30-6:30 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! Because of Labor Day weekend, we'll have our September meeting on a different day. Keep an eye on the weekly bulletin for updates!



LWML

Lutheran Women in Mission

UPCOMING:

Sept. 1st
6pm- Regular Meeting

Sept. 12th
4pm-Quilting

Sept. 26th
4pm-Quilting

Oct. 2nd
LWML Rally-Warda

Oct. 6th
Speaker Missionary
Becky Bartlet

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.

Mission offering for August was Bastrop Pregnancy Outreach Center.

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

LWML TEXAS DISTRICT GRANT BULLETIN BYTES:

Offering Women Hope: Blue Blossom Pregnancy Centers - \$10,000

Gracious and living God, You are the One who gives the breath of life and sustains our hopes. When young women learn that they are to be Your instruments to bring new life into this world, they may be troubled, worried, and overwhelmed. You have provided Blue Blossom Pregnancy Centers to give courage and comfort, hope and trust to troubled hearts. We pray Your blessing on Blue Blossom Pregnancy Centers through these mission mites as they are given opportunities to guide these young women in ways that respect the lives of their unborn children. Merciful Father, strengthen them in love and faith toward You as they hear of Your mercy and grace in Jesus Christ their Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen

National Mission Grant Bulletin Bytes:

Gospel Outreach to Women and Children in Mongolia — \$100,000

Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) has an opportunity to expand its mission outreach of the Gospel to the Kazakh women and children in Mongolia, a non-Christian country. The Kazakh people are nominally Muslim and the country of Mongolia is largely Buddhist with a less than one percent Christian population. Through widely-accepted Women's Listener groups, religious broadcasts, and Christian resources in the Kazakh language, family members and relatives will be impacted by the Gospel in their homes. LHM has the media expertise to ensure the Gospel message is brought to a region where the populations have not heard the Gospel. Christian resources are being distributed, including Bible studies and booklets translated into the Kazakh language, as well as into Mongolian, the main language of the region.



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

Read Through the Bible in 2022

Grace Lutheran Church, Smithville, TX

“God’s Word is our great heritage and shall be ours forever!” Continue your daily Bible reading during 2022. 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	

Voter's Meeting
April 3, 2022

The meeting was called to order by President Bernie Satterwhite.

Pastor John Stelling opened the meeting with a prayer as Pastor Appel was preaching at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Bastrop today.

Roll was taken with 26 members, 2 guests and a quorum present.

President's Comments: Bernie Satterwhite stated that he is now a back-up to Tim Wolff on signing checks. He intends to attend various Board meetings from time to time.

No new members or transfers.

New Voting Members: Johnnie Kalina announced his intent to become a Voting member. He will read the Constitution and be accepted at the next meeting he attends. Gene Brown, Jr. made a motion to accept Tommy Oates as a Voting member. Brad Zimmerhanel seconded, motion carried.

There were no deletions, corrections or additions to the minutes from the January 28, 2022 regular meeting or the Special Meeting held on February 13, 2022. The meetings were approved as submitted.

Tim Wolff presented and went over the Treasurer and Financial Secretary reports and answered a few questions.

Trustee Report: none

Elders Report: Charlie Johannessen reported that the Elders will be in charge of the Easter breakfast. They granted a transfer to Marilyn King to St. John's in Topeka, KS.

Pastor's Report/Youth Report: Pastor's report was distributed and read by the Voters in his absence, highlighting all the activities that he has been involved in from January 23, 2022 – April 2, 2022.

Board of Education: Barb Johannessen stated the Board is preparing for the Easter egg hunt, with the helpful donations from members of Grace. They will have a cake and punch reception for the graduating seniors from the congregation. The Sunday school Mission project is Smithville Community Clinic and they invited everyone to donate to this cause. They are discussion going back to children's Sunday school. Vacation Bible School will take place from June 19 – 23 and volunteers are asked to contact Director Rose Pietsch.

GLLC: Cheryl Moore prepared a written report. The Center is full and they have 22 infants on a waiting list. They are remaining in Budget. They are discussing options to expand. The playground has been updated with needed repairs.

LWML: June Parker read a written report stating what the LWML is currently planning, including the Post Oak Zone Rally hosted in Smithville on April 24 and the Texas District Convention in Houston June 16-18, to be attended by June and Rose Pietsch.

LLL: Jim Duty reported they are discussing meals to sell after church on certain Sundays.

Bazaar: There will be talk about brain-storming to scale back on the Bazaar.

Evangelism: Pastor Stelling reported they will have a float in the Jamboree Parade on April 23. They will distribute a flyer for Easter Sunday service and will prepare a meal for VBS.

Church Security Committee: Tommy Oates reported they are working on preparing fire drill information. A group of men sit in the back of the church to make sure we are covered in the event of a catastrophic event. They will begin working on CPR information.

Unfinished Business: President Satterwhite thanked Pastor for bringing the Organ Proposal to the last meeting and thanked the Voter's for addressing the situation. Two other organ companies have looked at the organ and presented their recommendations. There is a committee who is diligently meeting to deal with this issue. Bernie explained a few of the issues with the organ. The committee continues to discuss the musical needs of the congregation. The committee is comprised of Bernie, Pastor Appel, June Parker, Esther Wolff, Ruth Eaton and Kim Appel.

New Business: President Satterwhite appointed the following folks to the committee to review the Constitution and By-laws of Grace Lutheran Church: Tommy Oates, Chair, Rose Pietsch, Tim Wolff, Pat Satterwhite and Pastor Appel. Brad Zimmerhanel made a motion to appoint the above listed people to the committee to review the Constitution and By-laws. Barb Johannessen seconded, motion carried.

Jim Duty made a motion to approve the Charge to the By-laws Committee as presented. Gene Brown III seconded, motion carried.

Straw Poll # 1 was taken: Are you in favor of having a pot luck luncheon before the Voter's meeting? By a show of hands, the Voter's stated YES.

Straw Poll # 2 was taken: 1.) Would it be good to have a choir at Grace Lutheran? The response was mostly YES. 2.) Would you be willing to sing in said choir? Of those who stated YES, there was a very good response from folks who would sing in the choir.

Charlie Johannessen made a motion to adjourn. Bennie Hajdik seconded, motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Rose Pietsch

Special Voter's Assembly Meeting
February 13, 2022

The Special Meeting was called to order by President Bernie Satterwhite. Pastor Appel opened with a prayer. There were no deletions, corrections or additions to the Minutes from January 23, 2022. The Minutes were approved as submitted.

There were 19 members and 3 guests present.

Bernie Satterwhite explained the issues with the organ and went over the proposal that was submitted. Two more companies came out to inspect the organ. Repair is paramount. We need to figure out exactly what needs to be done. Bernie would like to form a committee to discuss needs both now and in the future. He appointed the following people to serve on this committee: Pastor Appel, June Parker, Esther Wolff, Kim Appel, Ruth Eaton and himself.

Ruth Eaton recommended contacting the Wicks Organ Company.

Gene Brown made a motion to approve the appointment of the committee. Gene Brown III seconded, motion carried.

Gene Brown made a motion to adjourn. Gene Brown III seconded, motion carried.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Pietsch