

Grace Notes



2024

Holy Baptism – Large Catechism

In all his writings and especially his sermons, Martin Luther consistently viewed Baptism as God's work, a special form of the promise of forgiveness, life, and salvation won by Christ in His dying and rising. So, when we get to his teaching on Baptism in the Large Catechism, he describes it as how we are first received into the Christian Church (271).

Luther takes up the three "W's" to outline Baptism's nature, blessing, and use:

- 1) **WHAT** is Baptism? *Essence*
- 2) **WHY** was it instituted? *Benefits*
- 3) **WHO** receives what it gives? *Reception*

WHAT

The *essence* of Baptism is found in the command and institution of Christ:

Matthew 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Mark 16:16 "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."

God establishes and confirms that it is a divine institution, not a made-up invention by man. We do not baptize children in our name, but in God's name, which means *God* does the baptizing. Yes, the rite is performed by the pastor's human hands, but it's still God's own work. "What God commands cannot be an empty thing" (273). "Whoever rejects Baptism rejects God's Word, faith, and Christ, who directs us to Baptism and binds us to Baptism" (279). Notice that Baptism, faith, and God's Word are all connected! Baptism must not be despised. This is why Luther strongly asserts that Baptism is necessary. He writes, "Baptism is most solemnly and strictly commanded so that we must be baptized or we cannot be saved" (272). Luther wrote this against the Anabaptists, who saw faith without Baptism as sufficient. Luther is simply placing the emphasis on Baptism's divine origin, which is embraced in a divine command. He wrote in one of his sermons,

Anyone who becomes a Christian, or comes to faith, surely will gladly receive also this sign (Baptism) in order that he may have as his own the divine testimony and seal of his salvation, derive strength and consolation from them during his whole life, and make this his public profession before all the world.

God commands us to be baptized, and He has promised to deliver faith and grace to us through Holy Baptism. Jesus said in John 3:5, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." As Lutherans, we maintain that Baptism is necessary for salvation! Unfortunately, most opposition to this statement comes from a wrong desire to figure out what the "bare minimum" is for salvation. You might hear someone argue, "Doesn't the Bible say that we have been "saved by grace through faith" (Eph. 2:8)? If so, faith is all I need, and therefore baptism can't be "necessary" for salvation!" This separates "faith" which clings to God's Word and "baptism" which receives the Word of God in and with the water. The two are not opposed to each other. Baptism, faith, and God's Word are all connected!

God is extravagantly rich in his grace. Christ has *achieved* and won your salvation by His death on the cross, and He *delivers* that salvation to you in many ways through 1) the spoken Word, in which the forgiveness of sins is preached, 2) Holy Baptism, 3) the Lord's Supper, 4) the Power of the Keys, 5) and the conversation and consolation of other Christians.

Is Baptism necessary for salvation? Yes, but we make a distinction between what is necessary and what is absolutely necessary. Baptism is necessary, but not absolutely so. It is possible for someone to have faith without having been baptized. The thief on the cross received salvation by faith in the innocent Son of God



(Luke 23:42-43). We can take heart that stillborn children or children who die shortly after birth and who have come under the influence of the Word through their Christian parents and have been offered to God by the prayers of the congregation have heard the Gospel, believed, and now have eternal life. Someone may die a believer who, though he desired Baptism, died unexpectedly and without Baptism.

So, what is Baptism? "It's not mere ordinary water, but water comprehended in God's Word and command and sanctified by them" (274). It is a Sacrament because God's Word is added. It is divine, heavenly, holy, and blessed water because it has God's Word, command, and name. "His name is a treasure greater and nobler than heaven and earth" (275). Dear Christian, you have the precious name of God given to you in your Baptism! What a gift.

WHY

The *power* and *benefits* of Baptism are found in the words of Jesus from Mark 16:16, "Whoever believes and is baptized **will be saved.**" We have St. Peter's testimony that the power, work, profit, fruit, and purpose of Baptism is to save (1 Peter 3:21), as well as St. Paul's description that Baptism is a washing of new birth (Titus 3:5)

What does it mean to be saved? It means to be delivered from sin, death, and the devil. It means to enter into Christ's kingdom and to live with Him forever (277). It promises and brings victory over death and the devil (Romans 6:3-6), forgiveness of sin (Acts 2:38), God's grace (Titus 3:5-6), the entire Christ, and the Holy Spirit with His gifts (1 Corinthians 6:11) (282).

WHO

If anyone says, "*Only faith saves,*" respond by saying: "Yes! But faith must have something that it believes, takes hold of, and upon which it stands and rests. Faith clings to the water and believes that in Baptism, there is pure salvation and life. Wherever God speaks, faith looks there. If God speaks and works through Baptism, we hold onto Baptism for salvation" (278).

If anyone says, "*Baptism is itself a work, and works are of no use for salvation,*" respond by saying, "Yes, our works do nothing for salvation. But Baptism is not our work but God's, and God's works are saving and necessary for salvation. Baptism is a treasure that God gives us and faith grasps (281).

Who receives what Baptism gives and profits? The one who **believes**. We uphold that it is possible that some may receive Baptism who do not truly believe. Luther writes,

That is, faith alone makes the person worthy to receive profitably the saving, divine water. Without faith it profits nothing, even though baptism is in itself a divine overwhelming treasure. Therefore, this single phrase, 'Whoever believes,' does so much. It excludes and repels all the works that we can do, when we suppose that we gain and merit salvation by our works. Whatever is not of faith does nothing or receives nothing (280).

Conclusion

Luther concludes with a quippy theoretical scenario. He writes,




Imagine there was a doctor somewhere who understood the art of saving people from death or, even though they died, could restore them quickly to life so that they would afterward live forever. Oh, how the world would pour in money like snow and rain. No one could find access to him because of the throng of the rich! But here in Baptism there is freely brought to everyone's door such a treasure and medicine that it utterly destroys death and preserves all people alive (282-283).

That's how Luther encourages us to look at Holy Baptism. If we are baptized, we have God's certain promise that we are saved and have eternal life. We have no greater jewel in body and soul than Baptism. Thanks be to God!

Pastor Woelmer



September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion 11:30am-Adult Instruction Class	2	3	4 10am-GLLC Chapel 5:30pm-Youth Confirmation Class	5 6pm-Choir	6	7
8 8am-Worship/Communion 11:30-3:30 Church Picnic	9 7pm- 	10 Bi-Circuit Mtg- Lexington	11 10am-GLLC Chapel 5:30pm-Youth Confirmation Class	12 6pm-Choir 6pm LWML 	13	14
15 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion 11:30am-Adult Instruction Class	16 4pm-Quilting 6pm-GLLC Mtg 7pm-Evangelism	17	18 10am-GLLC Chapel 5:30pm-Youth Confirmation Class	19 6pm-Choir	20	21
22 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion 11:30am-Adult Instruction Class	23 8am-Braille 11am-Tower's Nursing Home Devotion	24	25 10am-GLLC Chapel 5:30pm-Youth Confirmation Class	26 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE/NOON  6pm-Choir	27	28 8am-Board of Ed Mtg
29 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion 11:30am-Adult Instruction Class	30 4pm-Quilting					

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



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

Elders: Colby Zimmerhanel
Jason Swartz

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

Altar Guild: Toni Ann Kadlecek
Donna Kadlecek



As of August 30, 2024

Name	Balance
Monthly Budget	20,833
Budget needed through Aug	166,664
Actual through Aug	144,619
Short	-22,045
General Fund Balance	3,768



Born Again Emporium Celebrates Ten Years.

It may surprise you to know that on a typical week-end, the Born Again Emporium will serve in excess of 600 - customers on Fridays and Saturdays - 9 o'clock to 2 pm. It may also surprise you that during a 10 year ending in 2024 more than 1 million dollars will have been funneled back into the community to serve vital needs of non profit organizations as well as individuals in need.

During the most recent meeting, requests totaling \$53,000 were granted to various non-profit charities in Smithville. Criteria for granting request being that the funds must serve a human need. The Smithville Police Department received funds for officers vest and cameras. Meals on Wheels, Smithville Workforce Training Center, Childrens Advocacy Center, Smithville Community Clinic were among the 14 charities receiving funds for the quarter. There is also a voucher program coordinated by the Ministerial Alliance where home goods and clothing are provided for families with special needs and circumstances. The BAE has only 2 paid employees – 2 men to help with the heavy lifting. The Emporium relies strictly on volunteers from the participating churches and the community. Thirteen churches are currently serving this ministry – providing volunteers for 4 days every 6 to 7 weeks. If you are interested in participating in this ministry, contact Brenda Sanders, Rose Pietsch, David and Toni Ann Kadlecek, Esther, Tim and Kayleigh Wolff for information.

Grace Lutheran will be volunteering
September 23 – 28, 2024
November 4 – 9, 2024

Trunk or Treat 2024



The Board of Evangelism invites you to participate in the upcoming Trunk or Treat on Thursday, October 31, 2024! ...

This year we are exploring a new format. Our goal is to get 12 families who will decorate their table and dress up to teach a

specific Bible story, person, or event. As trick-or-treaters progress through the 12 (or more?) tables in the Parish Hall, they will receive candy or treats, possibly specific to the Bible story, and will *quickly* learn about the Biblical History and story of salvation.

Please consider signing up to participate in decorating your table and sharing with our community the significant Bible Stories for their salvation! On the sign-up sheet, you'll find the 12 stories and their Biblical reference(s).

Bonus: This is also a good opportunity for our congregation to learn more about those key stories, people, and events that have shaped our lives as Christians. Dig into the details of the Bible and get creative!

Table Themes will be:

1. Creation & the Fall into Sin (Genesis 1-3)
2. The Flood & Holy Baptism (Genesis 6-9)
3. The Covenant with Abraham, Issac and his son (Genesis 12, 15, 17, 22)
4. Crossing the Red Sea, the Wilderness Journey, the Bronze Serpent (Exodus 14-15; Numbers 21, 23)
5. Crossing the Jordan River (Promised Land) (Joshua 3-4)
6. David & Goliath (1 Samuel 17)
7. Christmas (Luke 1-2; Matthew 1-2)
8. John the Baptist & the Baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3; Luke 3)
9. Miracles of Jesus: Pick one! (Wedding at Cana?) (See Mark 1-2, 4, 5; Luke 7, Matt. 14; John 2, 9)
10. Holy Week: Palm Sunday, the Lord's Supper, Garden in Gethsemane, Peter's Denial, Passion of the Christ (Matthew 21, 26-27 and parallels)
11. Easter (Matthew 28 and parallels)
12. Ascension & Pentecost & the Church (Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1-2)

New Podcast!

Check out our new podcast, called "The Faithful Word." On this podcast, you'll find devotions, miscellaneous episodes, and sermons so you can spend time in God's Word wherever you are. Each daily "Congregation at Prayer" devotion is 12 minutes long! Play it in the car or while you've got some free time at home.



The main motivation and purpose for this podcast is to help our shut-in and homebound members hear and receive God's Word, so I would greatly appreciate it if you like, subscribe, comment, and share the podcast! That will help tremendously to get the Word out.

The podcast can be found through:

- 1) Our website (glcs.org). Click "Our Ministries" then scroll down to the "GLC Podcast."
- 2) Our Facebook page.
- 3) Our Podbean website at <https://gracelutheransmithville.podbean.com/>. There you'll find the links to access the podcast through Apple Podcasts, YouTube, and iHeart Radio.

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.

Though Billows Tower

Starting in September, Pastor Woelmer will have a devotion with hymns and prayers for the residents at Towers Nursing Home on every fourth Monday of the month from 11-11:30 AM. It will be held in the Activity Room, but if space is limited, it will be held in the Dining Room. Though billows tower in our life, God remains our refuge and strong tower against the enemy (Psalm 61:3).



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH PICNIC

Our annual church picnic will be held September 8, 2024, from 11:30-3:30 here at our own church grounds. The goal for 2024 is to raise at least \$5,000 and this money will go to the support of Grace Lutheran Church.

Food:

We will be serving BBQ Chicken, Sausage, Coleslaw, Beans, Noodles, Slice of Cake, Tea & Water. Meal tickets will be \$15.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children.

Activities:

Bouncy House, Cake Wheel, Face Painting, Live Auction, and Corn Hole Tournament.

Volunteers needed:

We need volunteers of all kinds.

- Bakers (cakes/cupcakes/brownies/desserts of all kinds needed for cake wheel and meal - plan on bringing 2-3 desserts per family)
- Kitchen-food prep, setup, cleanup, servers
- Grounds- setup and cleanup
- Running games/activities
- Donations: auction items, other monetary donations for needed supplies, and eggs for homemade noodles
- Auction-taggers, spotters, runners, registration/checkout, totalers/recorders, merchandise handlers

We are excited to be hosting this event here at our own church grounds. This is something new for all of us and to make this successful we need ALL of you!

Please sign up today!



Sep. 1	Bonnie Kaiser
Sep. 3	Mandi Conforti
Sep. 4	Heidi Poppe
Sep. 7	Baylor Watson
Sep. 8	Daucie Davis
Sep. 9	Jacob Stinson
Sep. 10	Roy Flora
	Anthony Hurst
Sep. 11	Benny Hajdik
Sep. 12	Dorine Hoskins
Sep. 13	Chrissy Becker
	Trenton Vinklarek
Sep. 16	Gene Brown III
	Donna Zimmerhanel
Sep. 17	Charlie Johannessen
Sep. 23	Edward Randle
Sep. 24	Esther Wolff
	Caysen Swartz
	Harper Dumbeck
Sep. 26	Collin Kasper
	Mclayne Reinhardt
Sep. 27	Patricia Satterwhite
	Robert Wolff
	Wesley Kaiser
Sep. 29	Courtney O'Rear
Sep. 30	Laurie Rector Hancock

Wishing these Friends a Happy Birthday and Anniversary from your "Grace" family
 If your birthday or anniversary does not appear correctly, please contact the church office so we can correct our files. Thank you.



Dear Member of Grace Lutheran Church,

COME JOIN US ON SUNDAY MORNINGS!!

We are excited to start our new classes September 1st. It is a perfect time for your children to get involved in a great program and meet their new teacher. We are excited to have Cheryl Moore join us in teaching Sunday School and we believe you children will enjoy what Cheryl has to offer. We still have Esther Wolff and Kim Appel teaching 3 years up to 1st grade for us, Cheryl will teach 2nd grade up to 5th grade and we will have a class for 6th grade and up. There is always a lot of fun filled activities for your children as they grow and learn the word of our Lord and Savior.

There is a sign up in the bulletin Board for anyone interested in bringing donuts to share between Sunday School and Church, WHAT GREAT FELLOWSHIP!

The Board would like to thank David Kadlecek and Charlie Johannessen for cooking all the hamburgers and hot dogs for our Sunday School Rally and for everyone else who helped put it together.

We are working a few new gatherings for our youth please watch for fun filled events.

Board members are: June Parker, Melissa Brown, Mary Lou Oliver, Margie Hicks, Toni Ann Kadlecek, Charlie Johannessen, Barb Johannessen. If you have questions any time please feel free to contact a board member.


May God Bless all of you.

Respectfully,

Barb Johannessen

Board of Education

Sunday School



Sunday school for all ages continues during its regular time slot of 8:45 AM. The parish hall has been filled with great joy each Sunday morning as so many children and adults are eager to learn God's Word—and there's always room for more! Please join us each week in the Parish Hall for a short opening with everyone together before we go to our separate classes. You won't regret making time to read, learn, and rejoice in God's Word!

Adult Bible Study

Adult Bible study at 8:45 AM continues each week, led by Pastor Woelmer. Join us to spend time together in God's Word as we learn about the book of Romans.



Youth Confirmation

Youth confirmation classes resume on **Wednesday, September 4** and continue each Wednesday evening this fall in the parish hall from **5:30 to 7 PM**. Please keep our confirmation students and their families in your prayers as they grow in the knowledge and grace of God's Holy Word.



LWML

Lutheran Women *in Mission*

UPCOMING:

Sept. 12
6pm-Business Meeting

Sept. 16
Quilting

Sept. 23
Braille

Sept. 30
Quilting

We welcome you to join us in “Serving the Lord with Gladness.” Please contact any LWML member or June Parker at 512-581-1168 to learn more or go to www.lwml.org or www.lwmltxdist.org to read about the mission and great history of LWML.

Altar Guild for September – Toni Ann Kadlecek and Donna Kadlecek

The LWML Fall Rally will be held on LWML Sunday, October 6th. The Rally is hosted by the La Grange Group but will be held in Warda. The Bluebonnet Zone will also be meeting with us that day. See flyers for exact information.

The October Grace LWML group will meet on October 10th at 6pm.

LWML TEXAS DISTRICT GRANT BULLETIN BYTES:

Seminarian Scholarships for Texas Students - \$60,000

O Lord, Grant, we pray, that men would faithfully answer Your call to labor in Your field. Use these mites to provide for the needs of future pastor who will proclaim Your Word, administer Your sacraments for the strengthening of faith, and call all people to trust in Christ Jesus for salvation. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

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

National Mission Grant Bulletin Bytes:

Zoe’s Home Support – Zoe’s Home, Trinity Lutheran Church, Clinton, MO -- \$75,000

Zoe’s Home, a ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church in Clinton, Missouri, helps homeless and at-risk pregnant and parenting women in need. The home enables women at risk of abortion or losing parental custody to overcome their current life situations and obstacles.

Residents of Zoe’s Home engage in spiritual care through church activities and required Bible studies. The women participate in activities and classes to grow life skills in parenting, finances, cooking, and hygiene.

After a one-year stay in Zoe’s Home, the residents’ goals are to complete their education, find steady employment, procure reliable transportation, attain financial independence, find independent housing, and actively engage in church and community support services.

This grant will provide funds to meet the costs to ensure housing, food, transportation, life skills education, case management, and staffing for Zoe’s Home.



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!

September 2024

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! Registration remains on-going. Call us today - (979) 242-2889!

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!!

Transportation Fund Update

We have met our goal!! THANK YOU for your generous contributions to help us raise the funds necessary to begin moving forward with this project. We pray that the Lord will bless us with a wonderful vehicle in the near future, and that it would be a blessing for our ministry.

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.

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.

Volleyball Season Underway

Faith Lutheran has their first ever volleyball team this season. The girls already participated in the Faith Academy Tournament on August 16 and 17, and got the program's first WIN! Visit our website to see the current schedule and come cheer on the Lady Falcons this year!

Visit Day Opportunities

FLHS will be hosting Visit Day for 7th and 8th Grade students. This annual visit day is a great opportunity for future students to see what FLHS is all about and what high school might look like. Our area Lutheran schools will join us for this event and you are welcome to join us too! This event will begin with lunch and last through approximately 3pm. Dates will be coming soon, so watch our social media posts. Please RSVP if you plan to attend!!

Save the Date!

FLHS's annual Oktoberfest will be Saturday, October 26th. 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, music, kids games, bounce house, and lots of fun!

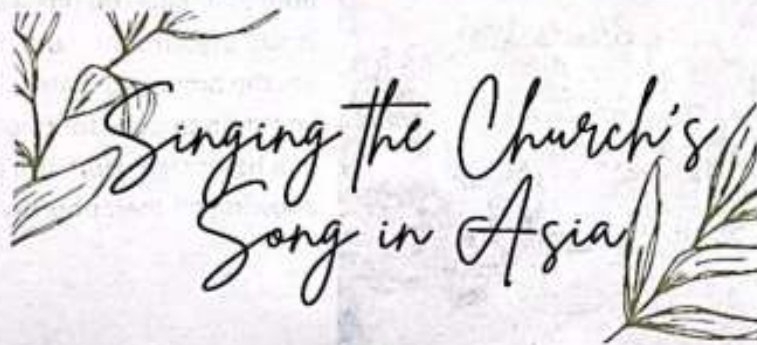
Free Wednesday mornings?

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

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.





Singing the Church's Song in Asia

Psalm 62:5-8 For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him. He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God. Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.

English Bible Camp #1

God richly blessed the English Bible Camp in Hsinchu! We spent 5 days from 8:30-5 with 21 children learning Bible stories and its related vocabulary, singing songs, playing games and making pop-up books—all learning about who Jesus is. The theme for the week was "Jesus, Who are You?" It focused on the "I am" statements from John, I am...the Light of the World, the Bread of Life, the Good Shepherd, the Door, the Vine and the Way, the Truth and the Life. I got to lead the singing, and I was so impressed by these children. They learned 18 songs and sang them well in one week! We were so blessed to work with Cynthia Han, head of children's ministry for the China Evangelical Lutheran Church (CELC). She is a master teacher, organizer and pop-up book creator. We were also blessed to have five volunteers from the US to teach games and English vocabulary to the children as well as to interact with them throughout the day. Thank you for your prayers and please continue to pray for the Gospel seed planted in these children's hearts that the Holy Spirit would cause it to grow!



If you're interested in a taste of the week, please check out this youtube link.

<https://youtu.be/pOAeOZGkT1I>



One interesting fact, the word for grape vine in Chinese is "grape tree". This led to a little confusion on day 4 as we talked about Jesus' statement: "I am the the Vine and you are the branches"! Also, in Taiwan it is very common to pose for photos with two fingers up or a heart sign. Here is a picture of children showing off their pop-up book!

Trust in Him at All Times

I have been reporting to you about the progress we were making on plans to remodel a space on the first floor for a church plant that would house a music conservatory outreach program. We have completed the plans but hit a snafu and have had to postpone the plans for a year. In the meantime, we will continue to plan concerts and to help promote and reach out to the CELC and the community with sacred music and programs to build up church musicians in Taiwan. We are in the process of trying to name our conservatory program. It is a challenge to find something that is meaningful and appropriate in two languages!

Institute on Liturgy, Preaching and Church Music

In July (right before the English Bible Camp in Hsinchu) I was able to attend the Institute on Liturgy, Preaching and Church Music hosted by Concordia—Nebraska this year. This event is held by the LCMS every three years. This year the theme was the Psalter. It was a very refreshing, learning and encouraging time. The singing at the worship services, attended by musicians and pastors, was so strong and vibrant. The speakers and presenters were excellent, and I got to meet many new people. Thank you for your prayers for this time and the travel!



Family



Before the Institute for Liturgy, Preaching and Church Music I was blessed to spend two weeks with my family in Omaha and a weekend at the Lake of the Ozarks. It was wonderful to see and spend time with them—and even spend some cuddle time with my dog Daisy! Here's a picture from the last night in Omaha.

Typhoon Gaemi

As I write this newsletter, we are in the middle of Typhoon Gaemi. This is my first experience with a typhoon in Taiwan. We have had high winds and torrential rains for several days. In Chiayi at our building, we have had a few leaks, but I am so thankful we have not had any power outages yet. This morning Hei Tang (my dog) and I snuck out to the park during a brief break from the rain and found an empty park full of tree



branches, limbs and a maze of downed trees. Usually, the park is full of groups exercising and selling vegetables in the morning, so it was strange to see no one at the park. We did end up getting soaked on the way home, but as my mother always says, "We didn't melt!"

Please pray for...

- continued perseverance in learning Chinese.
- that God would guide us as we prepare for the English-language Bible camp in Chiayi.
- preparations for the Reformation Hymn Festival on November 2nd.
- continued good health for my sister and healing/perseverance with neuropathy!
- safe travel and energy this summer for all missionaries.
- connections with and witness to local people in our everyday lives.

Please give thanks for...

- a successful English Bible Camp in Hsinchu.
- many upcoming opportunities for ministry.
- my sister's cancer remission.