



THE GRAPEVINE

Faith Lutheran Church
Website: flcms.org

4010 Williams Drive
Georgetown, Texas 78628

August 2017

FOR ALL GENERATIONS

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.
(Hebrews 13:8, NIV)

Spelling the word “August” with a capital “A” and accenting its first syllable renders the word as either the eighth month in the Western calendar or a man’s first name. (Beer-drinkers, think August “Augie” Busch.) Spelling the word with a lower case “a” and shifting the accent from the first syllable to the second makes it mean “something of great dignity or majesty; deserving of deference and respect.” Sometimes little things, like accentuation and capitalization, aren’t so little. Sometimes they matter a lot.

Take, for example, the word “son.” By gracious baptismal adoption I am a “son” of God; yet Jesus remains, uniquely, the only-begotten “Son” of God. The capitalization has some theological meaning in distinguishing believers from their Savior. Yet not all written languages employ capitals; some do not distinguish between upper-case and lower-case letters. Biblical Hebrew is one of those, which might have importance to our Lutheran understanding of Confession and Absolution.

Uriah the Hittite was a married soldier, deployed in battle when King David happened to see his beautiful wife, Bathsheba. What followed was grievous sin, born of covetous desire that grew into conspiracy, drunkenness, and murder, all of which “displeased the LORD.” (2 Samuel 11:27) To draw David to repentance God sent Nathan the prophet to tell the king a story that would reveal the depth of his guilt. Convicted, David confessed his sin. Nathan immediately spoke a word of divine reassurance to David, saying, “The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die.” The verb tense is important: God “has taken away” (past perfect, indicating an already completed action by God.) Nothing more needed to be said, the sin was gone, vanquished by the grace of God. Yet, still speaking for God, Nathan added a sentence that bears deep consideration: “But because by doing this you have made the enemies of the LORD show utter contempt, the son born to you will die.”

Since it is a thrice-repeated, God-given Old Testament law that no son shall be put to death for the guilt of a father, nor any father for the guilt of a son, this sentence must be probed. A holy God cannot violate a righteous command of His own authorship, not when His laws are given to reveal His very holiness. The son conceived by David’s adultery cannot be made to die for David’s crime. Something else must be going on here--something not penal, but perhaps prophetic. Spell “son” with a capital “S” and reconsider the sentence, “The Son born to you will die.” Rendered in this way, God’s declaration becomes a momentous announcement of grace. Another Son will die (and has already died!) for David’s sin, for our sin, and for all sin.

That Son is Jesus, descended from David and “born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law that we might receive the full rights of sins.” (Galatians 4:4-5) Confession and Absolution rests entirely on Jesus. By a sacrifice made real in time on Good Friday, He is the Lamb “slain from the creation of the world” for the sin of the world. (Revelation 13:8) By nature, sinners will always blame someone else for their crimes; it is only the converted, those who know Jesus by the power of His Spirit, who will dare to admit their guilt in repentance before God and receive by faith the gift of His forgiveness. An unbeliever may be contrite, that is, sorry for sin, but contrition without trust in the crucified and risen Son of David is not repentance and can never be certain of pardon. How blessed we are to know that though we are guilty of great crimes against God and one another, for Jesus’ sake our heavenly Father “has granted even [us] repentance unto life.” (Acts 11:18) What an august God!

With joy in Him,
Pastor Walt Pohland

The Poet of Heaven and Earth

In my early thirties, I made an interesting observation about myself: I like to talk (like, a lot). Technically, that wasn't the observation, I already knew that. All my friends had been telling me that as long as I can remember. The new observation was that even though I loved to talk, I actually craved the idea of getting away for a couple of days to be alone. Alone, as in just me and the Lord. I started dreaming of taking my Bible and pen and paper and retreating into some isolated place to focus on just one thing - the Lord God almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. Several years went by and I never seemed to find the time to get away. Work seemed to be all consuming. Then I went to seminary and thought I would have more time! That proved to be a non-sequitur. Then I came to Faith Lutheran Church and I promised myself that I would find a way to take a "sabbatical" every year and recharge. I didn't think I would ever really do it, and the truth is, left up to my own doings I probably never would have done it. God, on the other hand, is also the maker of time and opportunity!

Mid-July I exchanged a few unrelated emails with one of my favorite professors at the seminary, Dr. Timothy Saleska. He was the professor who taught me how to read the Psalms. At the end of the exchange, he mentioned that he had just submitted his commentary on the first fifty psalms to Concordia Publishing House, for his upcoming *Concordia Commentary Psalms 1-50*. He asked me if I would like to try them out and let him know if I found them useful. My response was predictable, "Are you kidding me??? I would love it!!!"

July 16th, I received his introduction to the psalms along with the first six. I read the first paragraph and I was hooked. Moreover, I could see the writing on the wall. Here's the paragraph:

Why Is There Poetry? (And Why is it in the Bible?)

I begin with the first verse of the Bible, with God himself, "In the beginning, God created בָּרָא (bara) the heavens and the earth." The Septuagint translates bara with the Greek word ποιειν (poiein), "to make", and taking their cue from Genesis, the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds call God, the Father, the ποιητης (poietes), the "Maker" of heaven and earth. By coincidence, the Greek word poietes, "Maker" or "Creator", is also the Greek word for "poet." In other words, the same word is used for someone who makes things and someone who makes poems. So, if I play with these two meanings, the Apostles' Creed can be made to say, "I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Poet of heaven and earth."

He goes on to make the case that Creation is God's poem, "a work made by speaking. So, Yahweh is appropriately called the *author* of all Creation." And the Psalms are these beautiful works of poetry that have been written in response to the very author of Creation. Beautiful poems that cause us to draw conclusions, get angry, become confused, agree, disagree, and ultimately poems that cause us to reflect upon our inner life in a way that raises our eyes to the Savior Himself. The Psalms, then, become a lens through which we see Jesus at work in the world; Jesus at work in our own personal lives.

With that in mind, I knew exactly what I was going to do. I was going to turn my upcoming vacation in August (a couple of days of it anyway) into a true sabbatical. God had already provided the perfect little isolated cabin just an hour or so up the road. And on July 16 He just provided me with everything I needed to go: my Bible and pen and paper and time to meditate with the Poet of heaven and earth.

May the Poet of heaven and earth also bless you with time to meditate on His Word this month!

Pastor Bill

How You Might Help a Friend

It is often said that a true friend is one of the greatest gifts a person can receive. Each of us might find it very difficult to imagine a world “without friends”. ‘Lonely’ is a word which comes to mind. Of course, we have acquaintances, but acquaintances often are not the same as “friends”. A friend is someone with whom we often share our deepest and most heartfelt feelings someone we can ‘count on’ in a difficult moment.

Then too, we should consider our ‘personal’ role when we are viewed as a friend by someone. That is perhaps a ‘mirror opposite’ perspective than what we usually have in mind when we hear the word “friend”. Being a good friend to someone can be an especially important role. Yet do we ask ourselves often enough, “*how good of a friend am I, to others?*” Perhaps you have received a sense of warmth when someone tells you that you are one of their best friends. That, is a special honor!

Often, our good friends find themselves in a difficult spot with one or more personal challenges which can seem insurmountable. If you are a close friend to someone in a similar situation, perhaps your close friendship can help ease the pain, and your friend is able to emerge from their challenge with the grace and mercy of God. That is a wonderful outcome.

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor. If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Yet, sometimes and for various reasons, a third-party may be helpful. It is perhaps at these moments when you may be able to help your friend by suggesting they visit with a Stephen Minister. If you have served as a Stephen Minister at Faith Lutheran or other congregation, you know these lay ministers are congregation members trained by Stephen Leaders to

offer high-quality, one-to-one Christian care to people going through tough times.

It may be helpful that we are approaching National Friendship Day, established by the United Nations, and most commonly celebrated on the first Sunday in August. Take this time to reflect on your friends who may appreciate the benefits of a Stephen Minister relationship. Perhaps you might just be able to help your friend by suggesting they consider visiting with a Stephen Minister. That could be a recommendation from a true-friend.

By David Fischer, Stephen Minister Faith Lutheran Church

The next Stephen Ministry Training will be held at First United Methodist Church in Georgetown on Mondays, September 11-February 19. If you would like to take the training, need more information, or you are already a trained Stephen Minister and would like a refresher,



The Blessings of Serving as a Stephen Minister



Helping Hands Lutheran Women's Missionary League

We will be meeting on August 8th at 9:15 for fellowship, followed at 9:30 by our Bible Study found on Page 20 of the Lutheran Woman's Quarterly for Summer 2017. The lesson is "Be Still and Know That I Am God". We will be having our regular meeting after the Bible Study. Quilting will continue upstairs in the Activity Center the other Tuesdays of the month at 9:30.

We will plan for the delivery of the New Life Treatment Center "Pointe Store" Collection. We appreciate, very much, all the items collected as well as checks for purchase of some items. It is a privilege to collect and deliver these items to place in the "shop" for the girls using their "points". Thank you very much for your generosity.

Helping Hands will be providing lunch for the August Ladies Retreat and Joy Circle will be providing rolls and coffee in the morning.

We will be ordering greeting card samples and we will once again be selling the greeting cards in the fall. Our mission for the month will be Brainstorm Missions for 2018.

New members are always welcomed.

Ladies...RETREAT FROM THE HEAT!

Come be refreshed by Fellowship, Food, Fun and God's Word!

You are cordially invited to a free Ladies' Retreat hosted by Faith's LWML groups (**Helping Hands and Joy Mission Circle**).

Our theme this year is "Count Your Blessings".

When: August 19th 9am-2pm

Where: Right here at Faith! Room B116

What: There will be breakfast items to snack on, a wonderful lunch to share with friends (old and new), Bible Study to bless you, and a Quilt to make!

Who: All ladies (teens on up!). Faith members: please feel free to invite friends and neighbors!

RSVP: Yes, Please! By August 7th to Joanna Roche

AUGUST ALREADY?

Summer is almost over! That means that **Joy Mission Circle** will be meeting...Yeah! We would love to have you join us Tuesday, August 1st, at 6:30 pm in Room B116. We will have a short business meeting before our Bible Study.
Questions? Feel free to contact Joanna Roche

The Board of Parish Fellowship would like to say Thank You to everyone who participated in our Church Picnic Survey. Thank you for your positive feedback and ideas on how to improve the Picnic. We look forward to implementing a number of suggestions given to us at this year's picnic.



Wear your picnic clothes and Name tags to church that morning and head over to the park after worship service to enjoy:

Food, Fun, and Fellowship

Sunday, Sep. 24 11:00am-3:00pm Georgetown Community Center

BBQ meats and Drinks will be provided and we ask:

Last names starting with letters A-L, please bring a side dish to share at the picnic

Last names starting with letters M-Z, please bring a dessert to share at the picnic.

(You are most welcome to bring both a side dish and dessert)

THE PARACORD BRACELET GROUP

In April, the Paracord Bracelet group started making the bracelets for our military. The bracelet can be used as a tourniquet, a tripwire, a sling, a rope, etc. This summer, over 200 paracord bracelets were sent to Operation Gratitude. These bracelets will be included in the care packages Operation Gratitude sends to our military overseas. Hats made by The Heartfelt Stitchers were also included.

The costs for this project are the paracord and the postage charges. A thousand-foot roll of paracord makes 133 bracelets and costs \$48.97. Shipment of the box to OG located in California costs \$19. To help, write a check to "Helping Hands" and write "Military Care and Support" in the lower left line. Place it in an envelope and put in Box #404. Thank you for your support.

Mary Peck of the Military Care and Support Ministry

The Paracord Bracelet group will meet the fourth Tuesday in July, August, September and October from 9:30-11 a.m. in B-120 to make additional bracelets. Come join us.



*"Even to your old age and gray hairs I am He, I am He who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you."
Isaiah 46:4 (NIV)*

SENIOR SOCIAL GROUP is going to lunch at Cherry Creek Café in Leander on Monday, August 14 at 1 PM. This is a down-home seafood shack serving Southern-style coastal cooking with optional Cajun-Creole flair. It is rated 4 of 5 on TripAdvisor and ranked #3 of 49 restaurants in Leander. ALL SENIORS WELCOME. Sign-up in the Ministry Center on Sundays July 30 and August 6.

TESS TODD'S TIDBITS "A Very Moving Experience"

It should not have come as a surprise. We had been on The Wesleyan's waiting list for years, and after Frank died I applied for one their new Independent Living Apartments. They were scheduled for completion in early Spring 2016. I had hoped to be in and settled before I went to Africa in late Summer. Spring came and went, so did Summer! And Fall! And Winter! And Spring of 2017! Finally, I had a moving date! June 16th. And I wasn't ready! This was my first move solo. When Frank and I married, I moved from a dorm to our first apartment. One big box would have held my things. After that, for the next five-and-a-half decades, Frank was there to help with the planning, packing, carrying, loading and unloading. And to keep me calm during the stress of moving. Even the time I sprained my ankle running out in the garage to tell him to be careful with the legs of my sewing machine (my proudest possession at the time). We survived several moves. I remember once when we arrived before our furniture. We sat on paint cans and ate at Judy's little play table. No problem! Another time our house sold half an hour after the sign went up. It was in Twin Lakes, a golf course community between Tacoma and Seattle. A family from Texas wanted to move in immediately. Their moving van was on its way. It was Thanksgiving weekend. We found a beautiful rental on a nearby lake and moved the

next day! But moving got more complicated over the years. Especially after Frank took up woodworking and discovered there was a tool or piece of equipment for every purpose. And that there was a vast array of exotic hardwoods for planned or possible projects. But I shouldn't talk, I had that 25-year collection of National Geographic magazines that needed to be moved across the country at 60 cents a pound!

The house in Sun City is our first to be sold empty. Always before, we moved after the sale. But this time, after the family claimed what they wanted, movers came and moved nearly everything I planned to bring, and some things I hadn't planned to bring. An Estate Sale company came in and sold what was left, including those things I intended to bring and didn't, and everything else that wasn't nailed down. A couple of days after the sale, and after a charity had taken what they wanted of things that didn't sell, I went over to the house to meet my painter. There was still a lot of things piled in and around the garbage can and recycle bin. Things I thought too good to A Very Moving Experience throw away. Like my collection of baskets and my projector and screen. The estate sale operator arrived with my check and a receipt from the charity. He loaded his pickup full of things to take to Goodwill and, after I met with the painter, I loaded more in the back of my Murano. And then began what could have been a catastrophe! I boxed up the things and took them to Goodwill. As I pulled around back, a young man came out to help me unload. I released the hatch-back, jumped out, leaving my door open and ran around to show him what was his and what I wanted to keep. As I got to the back, the car started rolling down the slight incline. I ran to catch my car. I grabbed the steering wheel with my right hand and got my right foot in, but not on the brake. I hopped along on my left foot, but couldn't catch up and get in. I could never do the splits when I was a kid, but I tried it now! I knew I had to turn loose and fall. I prayed I would not break a hip. I landed hard on my cushion and palms. It jarred my hip and spine and wrists. But I knew nothing was broken or sprained. I also knew I would be terribly sore and bruised. I rolled over, skinning my toes (wearing sandals) and breaking some toenails, to get on my knees and push myself up. But I couldn't stand the hot asphalt on my palms. All the while the young man was concerned, saying we should call EMS or somebody. I assured him I would be alright. He helped me up, caught my car and put it in park and set the brake. I thanked God for my hard bones, maybe not as dense as my head, that kept me from breaking many bones, that my car had not run over me, and that I was able to get up and carry on. That someone did not have to call my children and tell them their mother was in the hospital. If I had not gone to the house, I would never have known what happened to the things left from the sale. If I had put the car in park. If I had just let it go. If! If! If! But the car is no worse for the experience. I was badly bruised, stiff and sore for a week. But the bruises have faded and I'm almost over my soreness. The crew did a good job of cleaning the house, the painters made the house look like new and the yard crew is mulching and weeding and making sure things look good till the house sells. I went over and put Bona on the hardwood floors. There were tiny spots of paint here and there, but they scraped right up with my thumbnail. But I did notice that my thumbnails are not as close to the floor as they used to be. But thanks be to God, with all the candles on my cake, I can still help get my house ready for the market. And thanks, too, that I love my new home, the food and the people. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Tess Todd



TEXAS TWISTED
WEATHER



Fall SAG Seminars Coming Soon

September marks a new series of **SAG (Senior Advocacy Group)** Seminars focused on bringing important information to our mature members and their guests. Look over the fall offerings below and mark your calendars now to save the dates.

SEPTEMBER 21, 2017

LEGAL SOLUTIONS FOR MATURE ADULTS & THEIR FAMILIES

Presenter: Charles Lance, Elder Law Attorney

OCTOBER 19, 2017

SEVERE WEATHER FORECASTING & HOW SENIORS CAN PREPARE

Presenter: Paul Yura, National Weather Service Severe Weather
Warning Meteorologist

NOVEMBER 16, 2017

A THEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE ON END-OF-LIFE ISSUES

Presenter: Rev. Dr. Carl Trovall, Dean - College of Arts and Sciences,
Concordia University Texas



HEARTFELT STITCHERS WILL NOT MEET IN AUGUST.

STICKERS: Do you receive unwanted stickers through the mail (Easter Seals, Christmas, etc,)? Joy Mission Circle can use them for Busy Bags if you would like to recycle them. Just put them in Dorothy Spencer's mailbox (#199). Thanks!

The Texas District Church Extension Fund

What is in the CEF savings tool box?

Flex Savings

Flex Savings investments are a great short-term investment. The minimum balance is only \$10. Investments and withdrawals can be made at any time without penalty.

Fixed-Rate Term Notes

One-year, three-year and five-year fixed rate notes are available with a minimum investment of \$500. Rates for these notes are fixed at the time the investment is opened.

Floating-Rate Term Notes

One-year, three-year and five-year floating-rate notes are available with a minimum investment of \$500. Rates for these notes float (change) during the term of the investment.

Individual Retirement Accounts

All individual Texas District CEF investments (FLEX, Fixed and Floating Rate Notes) may be included in a Texas District CEF IRA portfolio.

To learn more about investing in a CEF and make ministry happen, go to www.texascef.org, or call 1-888-951-1233.

The current CEF investment rates are:

Flex Savings	0.500%
Fixed-rate notes - 1 Year	1.500%
Fixed-rate notes - 3 Year	2.000%
Fixed-rate notes - 5 Year	2.250%
Floating-rate notes - 1 Year	1.125%
Floating-rate notes - 3 Year	1.500%
Floating-rate notes - 5 Year	1.875%

