



HELLO.  
September

# Faith Matters

Becky's Billet-doux

## You Are Free To Serve

*"Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin."*

As Luther looked to Paul for understanding of who the Christian is as a freed being, he also began to recognize the mystery of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of all who came to serve, not to be served. (See Gal.4:4, Phil 2:5-8, Luke 22:27). Paul points to God's purposeful action in Christ in Galatians 4:4, **"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law."** At God's perfect time, the Son was born as human, a genuine human, to come to humankind both where and as humanity exists. Jesus was born as a Jew, therefore he was born under the Law of God as given through Moses. Continuing in verse five, **"in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children."** Sinners, in need of justification before God, are slaves to their sin as Jesus stated in John 8:34, ...**"Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin."** Jesus justifies the sinner by paying the wages of the sin (i.e. death, see Romans 6:23) himself at his crucifixion. This work of Christ, frees the sinner from their condemned plight.

As Luther continued his study of Paul's letters, he began to realize how Paul views himself in relation to others. In 1

Corinthians 9:19 Paul states, **"For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all so that I might win more of them."** Luther interpreted Paul's Christian identity in this way, **"A Christian is lord of all, completely free of everything [including greed, status, gluttony, etc]. A Christian is a servant, completely attentive to the needs of all."** He explains, that as a freed Christian, no works bring about salvation or credit with God, however, as a servant of the neighbor, all kinds of works are done. Furthermore, Philippians 2:3-4, **"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others."** All works are for the benefit of the neighbor, not the self. **"Given the abundance of our faith, our life and works become a surplus to be used freely in service of the neighbor."** Christians are freed from the requirement of works to secure salvation, this liberty, then, is to "empty" one's self to "serve and help" others in every way possible. The verdict of being declared "righteous," leads to performance of service.

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As an LCMC Congregation we subscribe to the LCMC Statement of Faith which includes: We believe, teach, and confess the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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Luther viewed freedom only in relationship with Jesus Christ, who is the one who frees from the powers of “sin, death, and the devil.” In this freedom, a person is no longer consumed with death and damnation, but now freed, in response to God’s grace, to serve the neighbor. Faith in Christ and his work is sufficient for redemption. Faith frees a soul from the weight of the law, honors God, and links the soul with Christ. On the cross, Christ freed the sinner from the wages of sin and freed the sinner for service to others. Happy Ministering!

Bibliography

Jungel, Eberhard, The Freedom of a Christian, Luther’s Significance for Contemporary Theology, Translated by Roy A. Harrisville, (Minneapolis, Augsburg Publishing House, 1988), 21 Keller, Timothy, The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness, The Path to True Christian Joy, (Leyland, 10Publishing, 2012) 39 Luther, Martin, The Freedom of a Christian, translated by Mark D. Tranvik. (Minneapolis, Fortress Press, 2008). Morris, Leon, Galatians, Paul’s Charter of Christian Freedom, (Downers Grove, InterVarsity Press, 1996). The Holy Bible, NRSV (Cambridge University Press, 1989).

### Food Pantry Ministry

We helped six families in August! Thank you Brian Fawcett for keeping the Pantry well stocked and to those that have donated.

If you have vegetables or fruits from your garden, please bring them to sell after worship. You can put them on our Harvest Table in the Narthex. The proceeds will go to our Food Pantry.



### Tailgate Party & Fellowship

Food, Music & Voting on Favorite Tailgate area. Money raised will go to our Outreach. Come Fellowship and help outreach to our neighbors!

September 18th  
5 -7 p.m.

Sign-up to bring food, by the Coffee Bar.



**Tailgate Party & Fellowship**



Would you be willing to serve? We need readers, ushers, and Altar Guild. Please sign up to work one Sunday a month, sign-up sheets are on the ‘Sign Up’ table in the foyer.

Fellowship Planning:

- ⌚ September Fellowship is Tailgate Party and planned by Terri Bomar.
- ⌚ October Fellowship is being planned by Pat Barrow.
- ⌚ November Fellowship: Need a planner.
- ⌚ December Fellowship is being planned by Sherry Shearer & Pearl Hennig.
- ⌚ If you would like to deliver our altar flowers to our homebound and our members

in the nursing home please let the office know. We have a box in the narthex available for containers/vases to gift back to Blooming Rose to thank them for the flowers.



Many thanks to Second Lieutenant Micah Johnson, Military Chaplaincy student at ILT, who delivered a great sermon for us on August 22nd. We appreciate his time and talent. The church board spent some time with him over lunch and got to know him a little better. He will spread the word to his classmates that we are looking for a seminary intern. Internship is usually a yearlong service and interns are paid a stipend. We have an ‘Intern Account’ already established and about \$13,000 in that fund. If you’d like to contribute, note “Intern Acct.” on your donation.



*Holy Lord, only in your love and grace are we truly free. In you is our entire identity. Strengthen us to be who and what you say we are, and spare us from trying to create our identity for ourselves. In you alone is our peace. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen*



Prayers For Our Military Service Men & Women - Jake Waddell (Shearers' grandson, US Army)

(Please let us know of any individuals who are currently serving in a combat area or other areas)

- † Adams, Calvin (Angie Gullett's dad, prayer for salvation; health; eye issues)
- † Ard, Farrell & Kellie (healing)
- † Brown, Donna (healing)
- † Brown, George (Health)
- † Boring, Carma (Jo's step-daughter, healing)
- † Boring, Jo (healing)
- † Bryant, Sue Ellis (loss of husband, Jim)
- † Burditt, Larry (Angie Gullett's brother-in-law, Parkinson's & his dad and brother, for healing)
- † Candace (mom), Avyn (son) in NYC- PRAISE (Avyn has been healed of cancer!)
- † Carr, Billie (Betty Lively's sister, healing)
- † Collerd, Tyler
- † Cox, Wanda (Angie's sis-in-law, heart issues, health)
- † Donovan family in the loss of Nancy
- † Eilers, Melvin (healing)
- † Estrada, Mary
- † Pr. Fisks, Paul (healing)
- † Garrison, Marilee (lung cancer)
- † Gonzales, Lisa (very ill, infection)
- † Gray family (Covid)
- † Fowler, Ginnie (treatments)
- † Fowler, Jerry
- † Gullett, Angie (eye injections)
- † Hennig, Pearl (PRAISE—came to church 8-22)
- † Hughes, Brian & Virginia (loss of his grandmother, and grandfather is in hospital with Covid)
- † Inzer family (Covid)
- † Johnson, Dana (PRAISE—2nd diagnosis no cancer!)
- † Pr. Kaskela, Jerry (healing)
- † Keating, Karis & family (healing, peace, assistance)
- † Maddox, Dub (rec. leg amputation)
- † Marlee—prayer request from lady that came to Back to School Coffee & Donuts (young girl, needs healing from cancer)
- † McCarter, Sarah (healing)
- † McGee, Helen (healing)
- † McIntosh, Karla & T & family (loss of her sister, Kathy Stokes)
- † Mitchell, Nancy & family (loss of her husband, Bruce)
- † Mullins, Ellie (6 yr old, received kidney, has autoimmune disease (FSGS) PRAISE finally got to go home from hospital!)
- † Nance, Bodhi (Watson's grandson)
- † Otwell, Joyce (health)
- † Perez, Marsha (health)
- † Pointer, Irene (loss of husband, David)
- † Scott, Abe (cancer, for healing)
- † Scott, Becca (for son and grandson, Dillon and Lincoln, moved)
- † Silhan, Charlie
- † Southard, John (healing)
- † Stanley, Kelly & Raymond & family (loss of family member)
- † Stokes, Bobby (loss of wife, Kathy)
- † Strickland, Gary (salvation)
- † Vencil, Naylan (home, recovery)
- † Watson, Marlene (health)
- † West, Kim (healing)
- † Worthen Family (Ty, Shelbie and baby boy Worthen)

**Special Prayers:** For those affected by Covid variants and healing from it, continued prayers for the city of Odessa, Midland and it's people; for the people in Haiti devastated by the earthquake; for the Afghani people, our missionaries, pastors, Christians, and for our troops; for all people everywhere that are hurting, sick, suffering and dealing with different issues. Faculty, staff, students and families of Reagan Elementary and Bonham Middle School; all our schools, teachers and administrators; U.S. government officials, President Biden, Vice President Harris and our nation.

**Pray for our Homebound:** Jo Boring, Larry Minor, Phyllis Dudley, Helen McGee, Charles & Charlene Miller, Barbara Ridge, Dan Womochel, Jo Hafer, Evelyn Byerly, Grover Charsha, Jack Tarter. Marsha Perez, Bobby & Marlene Watson, Frieda Theesfield, Merry Gay Mesker, Marilyn Batson, Rosemary Browning, Charles & Shirley Garrett, M'Liss Schneider, Billie Carr, Ronda Scott, Freddie Wheeler.

# Schedule of Events

- ④ Ladies Bible Study - Tuesdays - 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
- ④ Theology Study - Starts Sep 22 - Luther for the Armchair Theologian
- ④ Sunday School for all ages - Sundays - 10:00 AM
- ④ Worship Service at 11 AM



- ④ September 1 - Choir Rehearsal 5:15PM
- ④ September 6 - Labor Day, Office closed
- ④ September 11 - Augustana District Council Mtg | Patriot Day
- ④ September 15 - 17 - Pastor at ILT Board Meeting
- ④ September 18 - 5 - 7 PM Tailgate Party & Fellowship
- ④ September 21 - FF Board Mtg
- ④ September 22 - Theology Study resumes | First day of fall
- ④ September 23 - Angie on Vacation

Thank you to  
Blooming Rose  
Florist for providing  
us with altar flowers  
for Sundays.



Blooming Rose Florist  
302 E University Blvd  
Odessa, TX 79762 (432) 337-7673

Business Hours:  
Monday - Friday 8am - 6pm  
Saturday - 8am - 5pm

# Church Directory

Office Email ..... [office@faithfellowshipodessa.org](mailto:office@faithfellowshipodessa.org)  
Office Tel ..... (432) 362-2549  
Office Fax: ..... (432) 362-0573  
Website ..... <https://faithfellowshipodessa.org>

Address:  
1603 North Grandview Avenue  
Odessa, TX 79761

## Pastor's Hours

Sunday 8:00-noon  
Monday 1-4:00 office, 5-9:00 Doctoral class  
Tuesday 8:45-5:00  
Wednesday 9:30-7:00 (  
Thursday - Midland for Hope  
Friday Flex hours for Work and Study

Best times to catch her in the office are Tuesday mornings (9 to noon) and Wednesdays (9:30 to 6:00). Home visits are made, typically, on Tuesday afternoon.



# September Campaign

Find out ways God can make a difference through you everywhere you are!

Booklets are available and can be picked up in the office or on Sunday Mornings.

# Classifieds

We are offering ad space for \$5 donations in our Newsletter. If you have:

- a business you want to promote;
- have something you want to sell;
- someone you need to hire;
- or are looking for recommendations



Please fill out a form, or email the office and we'll put it in our next Newsletter.



Our Mission is to Gather God's people, and to Grow in faith and Service to Christ