



# Koinonia *focus*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FAITH FELLOWSHIP | JUNE 2022— VOLUME 20

## Becky's Billet Doux

*Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray.*

Proverbs 22:6

*Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.* Ephesians 6:17

The class I'm taking this semester is called "Catechesis" which simply means teaching or instruction, especially Christian instruction. I've learned a great deal in the course and one of the things that repeatedly comes up during class is the importance of catechesis or teaching in the church.

As my instructor, Dr. Steven Hein, says, "You have a death problem." We all have this problem. Once you are baptized, you belong to God and the devil wants you back. He is sneaky and tricky, and he'll do what he can to snatch you out of life in Christ and return you to the land of the dead. You either die and live with Christ, or you just die. This sounds pretty grim, but it is true.

An additional truth, however, is that our Lord does

NOT leave us alone to fight this battle. He is with us, he guides us, battles for us, and prepares us. He prepares us through his word, his promise. Remember how Jesus defeated Satan in the wilderness? He quoted scripture. The Word defeats the devil. Therefore, we need to be constantly filling our spirits with the Word. We need to feed on the goodness of the promise so that we are strengthened for the battles. We need nourishment of the Word just as we require nourishment for our physical bodies. We don't eat lunch one time and think, "Shew, I'll never have to do that again!" No, we need to refill our physical tank often. Likewise, our spiritual tank requires feasting on the Gospel. Knowing who we are because of *Whose* we are takes some constant reminding.

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## Church Events

- **June 1—Grover Charsha's 100th Birthday**
- **June 5—Pentecost Sunday, please wear red.**
- **June 7—Special Called Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m.**
- **June 12—Trinity Sunday.**
- **June 14—Flag Day.**
- **June 14-17—Pastor out for ILT Board Meeting in S. Dakota.**
- **June 19—Father's Day, Juneteenth.**
- **June 20-24—20th VBS Registration at 9:30a.m., VBS 10:00a.m.—Noon.**
- **June 23—Pastor's Birthday!**
- **June 26—Bryce Formalt will be here and we will have Fellowship Lunch too.**

### Weekly Activities:

**Tuesdays:** Ladies Bible Study 10:00 a.m.

**Wednesdays:** 5:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal ;  
6:00 p.m. Galatians Bible Study

**Sundays:** Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. and  
Worship Service at 11:00 a.m. Children's Lunch  
& Lesson at 12:15 p.m. Small Catechism Class at  
12:15 p.m.



Christian education is important for our children to give them a solid foundation of *Whose* they are and to prepare them for the spiritual battles ahead of them (that children face starting in elementary school.). Older children need to feed on the word and continue learning so they can attach meaning to the words of Christ they memorized when younger. Adults need continued education to be able to synthesize scripture with itself and with our daily lives. In addition, adults need to teach their children and grandchildren. We are never too young to start learning God's word and promise, nor are we ever too old to learn at the feet of our Lord.

I encourage you to look at the educational opportunities we have at FF (see on this **page** of this newsletter), and beyond, then belly up to the table and dig in! The feast is set and the nourishment is life-giving!

*Pastor Becky*

### FF Welcomes Bee Loved

We all know the importance of support when going through a difficult illness. Odessa now has a cancer support group called Bee Loved which will be meeting at FF. The organization held their first meeting on Thursday, May 12th in our fellowship hall. We have offered some space for this important group. One of the things that Bee Loved offers is wigs to women losing their hair. A wig drop box will located on the south side of the building.

Please lift this fledgling support group in prayer as they serve a vital need in our community. And if you see any of the Bee Loved folks around welcome them to the building!

## Educational Opportunities

Why Bible Study and continued learning for Christians? If you've survived confirmation class in your teens aren't you done with Christian education? The short answer is, "No, you are not." Why is Christian learning a life-long endeavor? To keep you alive! Since your baptism the evil one has been out to get you. When this one tempted our Lord in the desert, Jesus defeated him with the words of Scripture. If you are to be armed for this spiritual warfare, you need constant practice wielding the sword which is the word of truth. Don't be fooled, Satan has not left you alone. He is after you at all times. 1 Peter 5:8 says, "Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour." We need to study on our own and gather for instruction frequently for our own growth and maturity in the Spirit, to be armed for spiritual warfare and to be primed to serve our neighbors in our vocations.

FF offers a variety of Bible studies and learning opportunities. The 10:00 a.m. **Sunday school hour** has moved to the conference room (the room off of the sanctuary) and will be reviewing the book of Malachi before the worship service. From 12:15-1:15 on Sundays the **Catechism Class** meets in the Conference room. Also, from 12:15-1:00, **Lunch and Lesson** is offered to children of all ages. This mixed aged class offers children's music at 12:15, Lunch at 12:30 followed by a lesson and craft or activity. Tuesdays at 10:00 is the **Ladies Bible Study** hour and Wednesday evening 6-7:00 p.m. is the **Galatians study**. And, just a reminder, all who enjoy singing or just hanging out with those who do like to sing (an exceptionally fun group, by the way), are invited to choir practice on Wed. evenings at 5:15.

New Bible Studies are on the horizon. Please prayerfully consider leading a **Home Bible Study** group. This would be a group of people that you gather in your home, in a coffee shop, in the park, or anywhere else you'd like to meet. Round up family, friends and neighbors and pick a time to meet each week to work through Paul's letter to the Galatians. The Home Leaders will meet for class prior to teaching their own groups. Each week the leaders will gather to go over the study and so will be prepared to lead their own gathered group. Ask Pastor Becky if you have any questions and watch for more information about this exciting opportunity.

Another program of learning and training is the **Pastoral Care Class**. This class is open to all people who are interested learning some do's and don'ts of pastoral care. Those in the class interested in serving on the Pastoral Care Team will be sent out to visit and/or take communion to our home-bound and sick. Watch for more information about this

### Texas District Service Coordinator to Visit June 26<sup>th</sup>

Luther Congregations in Mission for Christ has several districts. FF belongs to two of those districts. We are members of Augustana District (because they attend to theology and more tightly define Lutheran beliefs than LCMC does, though LCMC is currently addressing this), and we belong to the Texas District because we are in Texas. Last March Pastor Randy Freund came to bring us greetings from the Augustana District and, as chair of the LCMC Board of Trustees, from LCMC.

This month Pastor Bryce Formwalt will visit us on behalf of the Texas District to bring greetings and give us an update about what is happening in this district. We'll have lunch with him after church and hear about the happenings with our brothers and sisters in Texas. Pat will be planning the lunch, ask her how you can help!

# Prayer Requests

**Ard**, Farrell (treatments, healing)

**Baker**, Rusty

**Bennington**, Diane & family (Sherry Shearer's sister)

**Bowman**, Michael

**Brown**, Perry & Bonnie (severe health issues, healing)

**Brown**, Donna (healing)

**Burditt**, Larry (Angie Gullett's brother-in-law, Parkinson's is worse)

**Byerly**, Evelyn (healing)

**Carr**, Billie (Betty Lively's sister, healing)

**Collerd**, Tyler

**Cox**, Wanda (Angie's sis-in-law, health)

**Dudley**, Phyllis (health)

**Duff**, Norma

**Eilers**, Melvin (healing)

**Ervin**, Gerald (health)

**Estrada**, Mary & Bobby

**Fowler**, Ginnie

**Fowler**, Jerry

**Fuentes**, Isaac (RayRay, Lisa's son) (healing)

**Garcia**, Jasmine, Gabby & Jordyn (well-being)

**Gonzales**, Lisa (health)

**Graves**, Steve (rec. from surgery & infection)

**Gullett**, Angie (right eye, handling of Dad's house & estate)

**Hand**, Marilou (Robert's mom, pneumonia)

**Pr. Kaskela**, Jerry (healing)

**Kurek**, Darrell (recovery from surgery)

**McCarter**, Sarah (healing)

**McGee**, Helen (healing)

**Mullins**, Ellie (6 yr old, transplanted kidney; health)

**Nance**, Bodhi (Watson's grandson)

**Nunnelee**, Charlie (broken leg)

**Otwell**, Joyce (health)

**Scott**, Abe (Hospice Care, & for Nelda)

**Silhan**, Charlie

**Simendinger**, Bonnie (cancer)

**Southard**, John (CHF)

**Strickland**, Gary (salvation)

**Vencil**, Daniel (Naylan's grandson)

**Vencil**, Naylan (health)

**Wadley**, Linda (loss of son to suicide)

**Weaver**, Sharlene (health)

**West**, Kim (healing)

**White**, Richard (Bill & Betty's nephew, cancer)

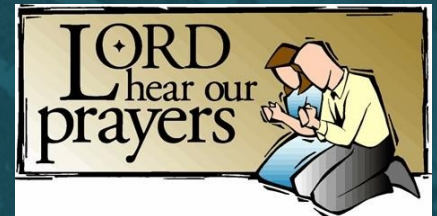
**Willis**, Carter Wayne (infant, needs healing)

**Winkler**, Tammy (grief & healing for her cancer)

**Worthen** Family (Terri's great-nephew, Canyon, for upcoming health procedures)

## Prayer of the Month

Holy Lord, the defender of the helpless and strength for the weak, bolster us in battle against the attacks of the evil one and open our eyes so that we are aware of his fiery arrows. Let us not be led astray but hold us close that we may stand in the faith that you have given to us. In Jesus' name, Amen.



**Homebound**—Larry Minor, Phyllis Dudley, Helen McGee, Charles & Charlene Miller, Barbara Ridge, Dan Womochel, Jo Hafer

**Nursing Homes Parks:** Grover Charsha Rm. 406, Billie Carr (Betty Lively's sister) Rm. 616, Norma Duff, **Lincoln Tower:** Bobby & Marlene Watson Rm. 604; **Brookdale:** Naylan Vencil Rm. 201 **Sienna:** Ronda Scott (Angie's cousin) Rm. 303; **Manor Park, Midland:** Freddie Wheeler—Cowden Cottage Rm. 11A ;

Merry Gay Mesker (Granbury); Rosemary Browning; Charles & Shirley Garrett (Asst. Living) (Dallas); M'Liss Schneider (Knopp in Fredericksburg);

**Prayers for the parents & families of children and adults killed in Uvalde, for God's comfort and peace to be poured out on them, for those that survived and witnessed this horrific tragedy.**



# ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

**Ladies Bible Study**  
**Tuesdays 10:00 AM—11:00 AM**  
**at Faith Fellowship**  
**Led by Pastor Becky**

June 5—Pentecost  
Sunday, please wear red!

***Wednesdays***  
***Choir Practice at 5:15 p.m.***  
***Galatians Bible Study at***  
***6:00 p.m.***

## ***Sundays***

Children's Lunch & Lesson  
**at 12:15 p.m.—1:15 p.m.**

Small Catechism Class  
**at 12:15 p.m.—1:15 p.m.**



We helped  
31 families in  
May

## **Phoebe Fellowship & Outreach**

Phoebe is one who serves or ministers in any way. A group of ladies decided to start a Phoebe Outreach. Helping others as the need arises. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex. If interested in participating please sign up. We will keep everyone informed and updated on our progress. Thanks for being a Phoebe, a Trustworthy Servant. God Bless!!

**Looking Ahead:**  
**June 9 & June 15—Angie is out of the office.**

**June 14-17 Pastor at ILT Meetings**

**June 19—Father's Day, Laura Preaches.**

**June 20-24—VBS 10:00am—Noon**  
**Preschool—5th**

**June 21—Board Meeting**

**Sanctuary Repair Capital Campaign ~ Goal is \$10,000.00** we want to reach our goal by end of this year! **\$5,000.00** has been collected so far.

## **Vacation Bible School**

**June 20th –24th 10:00 a.m.—noon**

**Registration: June 20th at 9:30 a.m.**

We need volunteers to help us and we need lots of children to attend! Preschool—5th Grade  
Please contact Sherry or Laura to help!

## **Pastor Mike Bradley to Visit in August**

The Service Coordinator for LCMC (if we had a pope, he would be it), Mike Bradley will be at Faith Fellowship August 6-7<sup>th</sup>. Last time we had a visitor from the association we played a game of trivia about Augustana District and LCMC.

This time we're going to play trivia from the Small Catechism over the 10 Commandments, the Apostle's Creed, the Lord's Prayer, Baptism and the Lord's Supper. It worked well the first time, so let's repeat the process. Plan to bring a door prize or two (like from the grocery or Dollar Store) and we'll play trivia. The losing side will be asked sit close to the front during worship the following day.



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**providing us with**  
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**Sundays.**

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