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**July 2025**

The month of June has been busy, and we are barely half way through at this time. The Texas District—LCMS convention took place in Houston, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. Aside from the signs at the street and at the doors, you would be hard pressed to imagine that this was a Lutheran Church. The worship service was decent. Pastor Murray delivered an excellent sermon. One thing that was different, this is the first convention that I attended where Holy Communion was not celebrated in the opening service.

The committee hearings were interesting. A lot of debate was going on. The committee did listen and they edited poorly worded resolutions so that they were less confusing. Along with being about the work of the kingdom, there was fellowshipping with pastors and friends. In fact, I had a chance to meet a pastor from Livingston, TX who is the grandchild of one member from my vicarage congregation.

The next weekend, Deborah and I traveled to my mother’s (Heckmann) family reunion at Camp Lone Star. Deborah (Debbie) was thrown into the deep end of the pool, meeting numerous cousins and trying to understand to whom does this person belong (which uncle or aunt). We left the reunion early in order to attend the wedding of Deborah’s niece in Fort Worth.

Both of these weekends required quick work in order to prepare the services and the sermons for the coming Sunday. Unfortunately, due to a wedding, we were not able to attend the church–wide birthday party and ice cream social. From the sounds of it, it was a success.

This coming weekend, the Adult Fellowship Group (AFG) will be heading to Nocona for the Tails ‘n’ Trails Museum. I am fairly certain that the AFG will be going out for lunch afterwards.

The next weekend (the fifth Sunday) will feature a potluck dinner after church. Right after that, I will be heading to Vernon, TX for the installation of their pastor.

While all this activity has everyone going here and there, it also gives us reason to thank God for all His gifts. Family, friends, loved ones, and a country that allows us to gather together and worship God without fear of reprisal are all reasons to give thanks.

This month’s activities don’t seem to be slowing down. We have the Jim Bowie Days celebration and events coming at the end of the month. It is my plan to participate in the 42 tournament.

These activities will not be slowing down. Right after July 4th celebrations, we will be starting VBS. VBS will take place July 7th – 11th. All the lesson materials, advertisement items, and shirts are being designed in–house. The Youth will be heading to New Orleans for the National Youth Gathering. The AFG will be heading to metropolitan Archer City for the Texasville Opry on the 12th.

— Pastor De Young

During the Texas District—LCMS convention, there was a lot of discussion about defining the Lutheran “Identity”. The Lutheran Confessions are written in order to detail out what is the Lutheran identity. Our LCMS Constitution Article II Confession states:

**The Synod, and every member of the Synod, accepts without reservation:**

1. The Scriptures of the Old and the New Testament as the written Word of God and the only rule and norm of faith and of practice;
2. All the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as a true and unadulterated statement and exposition of the Word of God, to wit: the three Ecumenical Creeds (the Apostles’ Creed, the Nicene Creed, the Athanasian Creed), the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles, the Large Catechism of Luther, the Small Catechism of Luther, and the Formula of Concord.

**The Augsburg Confession states:**

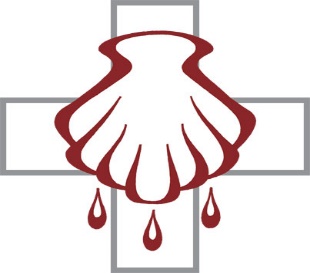
*Augsburg Confession*  VII [The Church] *Translated from German*

It is also taught among us that the one holy Christian church will be and remain forever. This is the assembly of all believers among whom the Gospel is preached in its purity and the holy sacraments are administered according to the Gospel. For it is sufficient for the true unity of the Christian church that the Gospel be preached in conformity with a pure understanding of it and that the sacraments be administered in accordance with the divine Word. It is not necessary for the true unity of the Christian church that ceremonies instituted by men, should be observed uniformly in all places. It is as Paul says in Eph. 4:4, 5, “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, One Lord, one faith, one baptism.”

*Augsburg Confession*  VII [The Church] *Translated from the Latin*

Our churches also teach that one holy church is to continue forever. The church is the assembly of saints in which the Gospel is taught purely and the sacraments are administered rightly. For the true unity of the church it is enough to agree concerning the teaching of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments. It is not necessary that human traditions or rites and ceremonies, instituted by men, should be alike anywhere. It is as Paul says, “One faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all,” etc. (Eph. 4:5, 6).

Each of these statements is a solid statement of what it means to be Lutheran. There should not be any debate regarding, or attempt to water down, what it means to be a Lutheran.



Celebrate July’s Baptism Birthdays

& their years as heirs of God’s kingdom!

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| **Date** | **Name** | **Years** |
| 1st | Sally Morgan | 87 |
|  | Steven Scheppmann | 85 |
|  | John Selsor | 64 |
| 10th | Carnan Anderson | 37 |
| 12th | Vonita Drager | 70 |
| 13th | Reegen Ferguson | 17 |
| 14th | Edwin Kleinhans | 90 |
| 17th | Monica Mayfield | 42 |

**Serving in God’s House this month**

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| --- | --- |
| **Elder of the Month** | Travis Dyson |
| **Counters** | Bryan Roth / Arn Anderson |
| **Altar Guild** | Lisa Lawson / Jeannine Yowell |
| **Altar Care** | Vonita Drager / Darlene Geis |
| **Guest Monitor** | Debbie De Young / Lisa Lawson |

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Week** | **Acolytes** | **Reader** |
| July 06 | Bella Caswell & Ailey Pickett | Bryan Roth |
| July 13 | Davin George & Max Gilmore | William Pickett |
| July 20 | Karlee Hughes & Emily Keyes | Lee Hughes |
| July 27 | Avery Henry & Parker Lawson | Arn Anderson |

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A collage of people cooking

AI-generated content may be incorrect.A collage of people posing for a picture

AI-generated content may be incorrect.A collage of a party

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

A collage of people sitting at a table

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

A group of people sitting at a table with chess board and playing cards

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

A collage of people in a store

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

A collage of people sitting at tables

AI-generated content may be incorrect.