

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEEK OF AUGUST 15, 2021

IN OUR PRAYERS: Ashlyn; Jim Cleveland; Emily Slone; Ralph Hammel; Ralph & Brenda LeFever; Barb Myers; Carolyn Wilkins; Darlene Welsh; Ken Lahrman; Judie Spencer; Jack Vaught; Cyrus

YOUTH GROUP: next Sunday, Aug. 22, here at the church. Dinner @ 6:00!

NEW BIBLE STUDIES: we would like to offer more opportunities for Bible study during the week (e.g., a men's group, a women's group, a Book of Concord study, etc.). Interested? What days and times work best? What would you like to learn more about? Let Pastor or Vicar know!

PHOTOS FOR NEW DIRECTORY: we will have a photographer at church on Wednesday, Sept. 15; Sunday, Sept. 19; and Sunday, Oct. 3 to take photos after each service for a new church directory. No need to sign up!

GOLF OUTING: Saturday, Oct. 9, at Eagle Glen in CC. It's a fundraiser for Woodlands Senior Activity Center. Ask Pr. Mullet for more info!

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION: please fill out one of the half-sheets on the tables. Or, you can call/email the church office or Pr. Mullet.

PASTOR & MEGAN TO ATLANTA: our family will be in Atlanta, GA from Aug. 23 – Aug. 31 for Megan's surgery. I'll be reachable by phone. Please keep us in your prayers. If you need *immediate in-person pastoral care* call Vicar Woelmer (214-218-8354) or Pastor Burgland (260-417-6753).

CALENDAR

Sun. Aug. 15 (St. Mary)	8:00 & 10:00am Holy Communion 9:00am Bible Study
Wed. Aug. 18	7:00pm Holy Communion
Thu. Aug. 19	7:00pm Bible Study
Sun. Aug. 22 (Trinity 12)	8:00 & 10:00am Worship 9:00am Bible Study
Aug. 23 – 31	Pastor & Megan in Atlanta

THE BACK PAGE

Today is one of those days that might make you think I'm Roman Catholic. It's the festival of St. Mary, Mother of Our Lord. And it's understandable—the Roman Catholic Church has some teachings about St. Mary we certainly don't agree with! But, this doesn't have to mean we toss St. Mary altogether! I love the way this writing of Martin Luther emphasizes not Mary herself, but the work of God in the life of St. Mary:

“Mary confesses that the foremost work God did for her was that He regarded her, which is indeed the greatest of His works, on which all the rest depend and from which they all derive. For where it comes to pass that God turns His face toward one to regard him, there is nothing but grace and salvation, and all gifts and works must follow. Here is the origin of many prayers—that God would lift up His countenance upon us, that He would not hide His countenance from us, that He would make His face shine upon us, and the like. And that Mary herself regards this as the chief thing: ‘Behold, since He has regarded me, all generations will call me blessed.’ Note that she does not say men will speak all manner of good of her, praise her virtues, exalt her virginity or her humility, or sing of what she has done. But for this one thing alone, that God has regarded her, men will call her blessed. That is to give all the glory to God as completely as it can be done.

Therefore she points to God's regard and says: ‘For, behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. That is, beginning with the time when God regarded my low estate, I shall be called blessed.’ Not she is praised thereby, but God's grace toward her. In fact, she is despised, and she despises herself in that she says her low estate was regarded by God. Therefore she also mentions her blessedness before enumerating the works that God did to her, and ascribes it all to the fact that God regarded her low estate. For, of a truth, she did not lie when she herself acknowledged her unworthiness and nothingness, which God regarded, not because of any merit in her, but solely by reason of His grace.”

May we all be regarded by God as St. Mary—not that *we* should be praised, but that *God's grace toward us* might be praised in all the earth!