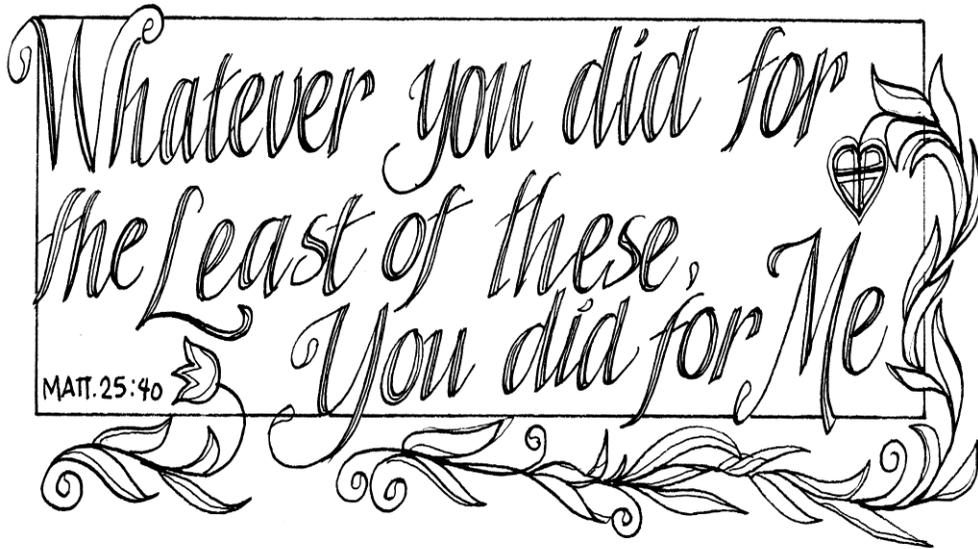


**November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020**  
**Last Sunday of the Church Year**



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
MISSOURI ~ SYNOD  
308 Byrne Street  
Smithville, TX 78957  
512-237-2108

**Pastor Timothy Appel**



**Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church! We give thanks that our gracious Lord Jesus Christ has gathered us together here for his Divine Service. Today again our Lord comes to serve us and lavish us with his gifts of life, forgiveness, and salvation. Rejoicing in those wonderful gifts, we sing with David in Psalm 84: “How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! A day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.”**

**In our readings today:** *When the crucified and risen Lord Jesus comes to judge the living and the dead, “he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats” (Matt. 25:32). “To those on his right,” who have been crucified and raised with Him through repentance and faith in His Gospel, He will grant the blessed kingdom of His Father (Matt. 25:34). Having been justified by His grace, they live unto righteousness in Him (Matt. 25:35–40). But “those on his left,” who trust in themselves and despise their neighbor, will depart “into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matt. 25:41). Until that day, the Lord searches for His sheep “as a shepherd seeks out his flock” (Ezek. 34:11–12). Through His preaching of repentance, He disciplines the proud sheep and goats, “the fat and the strong,” but through the preaching of forgiveness He rescues the lost, binds up the injured, strengthens the weak and feeds “the lean sheep” (Ezek. 34:16, 20). In this way, He destroys the power of death in the children of Adam by His cross, so that “in Christ shall all be made alive” by His resurrection (1 Cor. 15:20–26).*

**Requests,** please give written requests to be included during our “Prayers of the Church” to an usher or an elder before worship service.

**Hearing,** Ask an usher for one of the wireless hearing assistance units.

**Holy Communion** is a sacred gift from Christ to His Church. In this meal, He gives His true body and blood under bread and wine into our mouths in order to forgive our sins and strengthen our union with Him and with one another (Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17). Christians receive this Sacrament trusting Jesus’ own words, repenting of all their sin, and confessing the faith taught in Holy Scripture together in unity (Matthew 5:23-24; Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 11:17-26). For this reason, and because those who eat and drink our Lord’s body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm (1 Corinthians 11:27-34), we ask that those who have not yet been instructed and those who are not members of a congregation in fellowship with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to speak with the pastor before receiving Holy Communion.

### **A Prayer Before Worship**

*O Lord, our creator, redeemer, and comforter, as we come together to worship You in spirit and in truth, we humbly pray that You would open our hearts to the preaching of Your Word so that we may repent of our sins, believe in Jesus Christ as our only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear us for His sake. Amen*

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP BELL**

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

**WELCOME**

# Have No Fear, Little Flock

LSB 735



1 Have no fear, lit - tle flock; Have no fear, lit - tle  
2 Have good cheer, lit - tle flock; Have good cheer, lit - tle  
3 Praise the Lord high a - bove; Praise the Lord high a -  
4 Thank - ful hearts raise to God; Thank - ful hearts raise to



flock, For the Fa - ther has cho - sen To  
flock, For the Fa - ther will keep you In  
bove, For He stoops down to heal you, Up -  
God, For He stays close be - side you, In



give you the King - dom; Have no fear, lit - tle flock!  
His love for - ev - er; Have good cheer, lit - tle flock!  
lift and re - store you; Praise the Lord high a - bove!  
all things works with you; Thank - ful hearts raise to God!

*Stand*

**Invocation** (*God has given us our beginning in Baptism, so the Divine Service begins in His Name.*)

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**Confession:** (*We cannot come into the presence of our holy God on our own. We recognize our sinfulness and plead for mercy on account of Christ.*)

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**Absolution:** (*God speaks His words of forgiveness to us through His servant, the pastor.*)

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

# Service of the Word

**Introit:** *(Forgiven by God, He invites us into his presence as we speak words from the Psalms.)*

*Ps. 39:4–5, 7–8, 12a; antiphon: 2 Peter 3:13 NIV*

In keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth,  
the home of righteousness.

**O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days;  
let me know how fleeting I am!**

Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths,  
and my lifetime is as nothing before you.

**And now, O Lord, for what do I wait?**

**My hope is in you.**

Deliver me from all my transgressions.

Do not make me the scorn of the fool!

**Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear to my cry; hold not your peace at my tears!**

**For I am a sojourner with you, a guest, like all my fathers.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son**

**and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning,**

**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

In keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth,  
the home of righteousness.

**Salutation:** *(The pastor and congregation greet each other in the Lord's presence.)*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**Collect:** *(Many of these prayers have been used in the church for over 1,500 years. They "collect" the Gospel theme for the day.)*

**P** Let us pray.

Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for Your own from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

**Scripture Readings:** *(Jesus speaks to us in His Word as our crucified and risen Savior.)*

**Old Testament Reading**

*Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24*

**P** Today's Old Testament reading is from Ezekiel, the thirty-fourth chapter.

<sup>11</sup>For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup>As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup>And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. <sup>14</sup>I will feed them with good pasture, and on the

mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup>I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD.

<sup>16</sup>I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.”

<sup>20</sup>“Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup>Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, <sup>22</sup>I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. <sup>23</sup>And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup>And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle

*1 Corinthians 15:20–28*

**P** Today’s Epistle reading is from 1 Corinthians, the fifteenth chapter.

<sup>20</sup>But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup>For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup>For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. <sup>23</sup>But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup>Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. <sup>25</sup>For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup>The last enemy to be destroyed is death. <sup>27</sup>For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. <sup>28</sup>When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Holy Gospel

*Matthew 25:31–46*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

**G** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>31</sup>[Jesus said:] “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne.

<sup>32</sup>Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup>And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. <sup>34</sup>Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. <sup>35</sup>For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ <sup>37</sup>Then the

righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?' <sup>38</sup>And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? <sup>39</sup>And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' <sup>40</sup>And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

<sup>41</sup>"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. <sup>42</sup>For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, <sup>43</sup>I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' <sup>44</sup>Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' <sup>45</sup>Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' <sup>46</sup>And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**G** Praise to You, O Christ.

**Creed:** *(God works faith in us by His Word that we hear in Scripture. We confess that faith using one of three creeds that the church has used throughout the years and across the world.)*

### **Apostles' Creed**

**G** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life † everlasting. Amen.

*Sit*

# The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

LSB 348



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light tri - um-phant breaks,  
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, To bear and fight and die,  
3 Oh, bright-er than the ris - ing morn When Christ, vic - to-rious, rose  
4 Oh, bright-er than that glo - rious morn Shall dawn up - on our race  
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light and beau - ty brings.



When beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills And life to joy a-wakes.  
But crowned with glo - ry like the sun That lights the morn-ing sky.  
And left the lone-some place of death De - spite the rage of foes.  
The day when Christ in splen-dor comes And we shall see His face.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: Come quick-ly, King of kings!

## Sermon "The Glorious Return of Christ"

Matthew 25:31-46

*(Based on one of the Scripture readings, the pastor proclaims God's Word of Law and Gospel for our lives today.)*

### Votum

- P** The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
- C** Amen.

*Stand*

**Offertory:** *(The congregation responds to God's forgiveness with a sacrifice of praise.)*

### Create in Me

LSB 956



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new



a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way



from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;



and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

**Prayer of the Church:** *(The congregation joins together to pray for ourselves, for the Church, and for people throughout the world.)*

**P** let us pray to the Lord

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

*Close of the Prayers*

**P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

## Service of the Sacrament

**Preface:** *(The Service of the Sacrament begins with praise and thanksgiving for what God has done and is about to do for us in the Lord's Supper.)* LSB 160

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

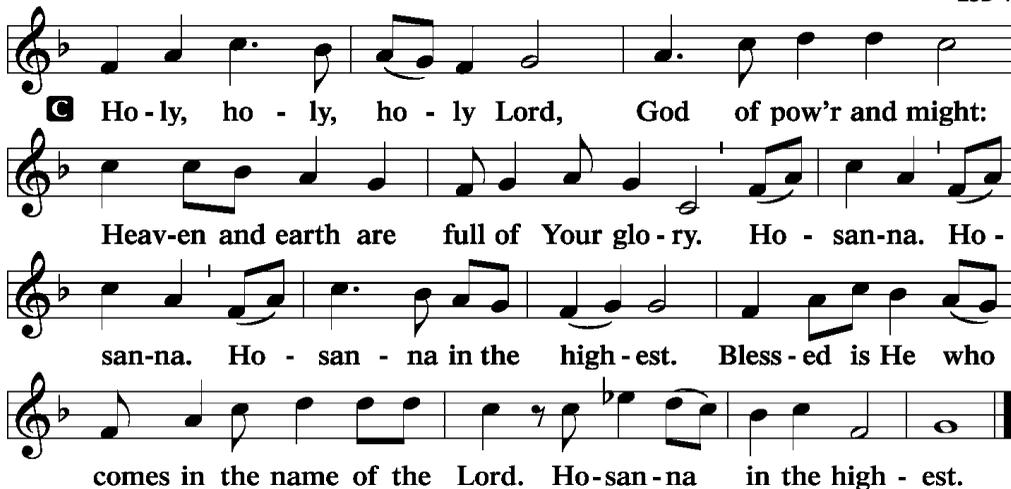
**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**Sanctus:** *(Latin for "holy." The division between heaven and earth is gone, and we cry out to God with the heavenly host, "Holy, Holy, Holy!" to welcome our Savior Jesus (Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9).)* LSB 161



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

**Lord's Prayer:** (*We pray the words that Jesus gave us to pray, trusting that our Father will hear and answer us.*) LSB 162

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:  
**C** **Our Father who art in heaven,**  
**hallowed be Thy name,**  
**Thy kingdom come,**  
**Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;**  
**give us this day our daily bread;**  
**and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;**  
**and lead us not into temptation,**  
**but deliver us from evil.**

**For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**Words of Our Lord:** (*We hear Jesus' words that in the Sacrament He gives us His very body and blood in, with, and under the bread and the wine.*) LSB 162

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**Pax Domini:** (*Latin for "The peace of the Lord." The pastor holds the body and blood of Jesus before the congregation and speaks the Lord's peace as the very Gospel.*) LSB 163

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** **Amen.**

**Agnus Dei:** (*Latin for "Lamb of God." As John the Baptist cried (John 1:29), so we sing to Christ, our Lamb who was sacrificed for our sins.*) LSB 163

**C** Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

## Distribution

*In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:*

- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart † in peace.
- C** Amen.

**Post-Communion Collect:** *(We thank God for all He has done in the Sacrament and ask that it would show forth in our lives.)*

- P** Let us pray.  
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

**Benediction:** *(Just as the Divine Service began, so it ends. We go forth with our Lord's blessing and His name upon us (Numbers 6:22-27).)* LSB 166

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.
- C** Amen.

*Sit*

## Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise

*LSB 680*

1 Thine the a - men Thine the praise Al - le -  
2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly Thine the  
3 Thine the tru - ly Thine the yes Thine the  
4 Thine the king - dom Thine the prize Thine the  
5 Thine the glo - ry in the night No more

lu - ias an - gels raise Thine the ev - er - last - ing head  
prom - ise let there be Thine the vi - sion Thine the tree  
ta - ble we the guest Thine the mer - cy all from Thee  
won - der full sur - prise Thine the ban - quet then the praise  
dy - ing on - ly light Thine the riv - er Thine the tree



Thine the break - ing of the bread Thine the glo - ry Thine the  
 All the earth on bend - ed knee Gone the nail - ing gone the  
 Thine the glo - ry yet to be Then the ring - ing and the  
 Then the jus - tice of Thy ways Thine the glo - ry Thine the  
 Then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly Then the ho - ly ho - ly



sto - ry Thine the har - vest then the cup Thine the  
 rail - ing Gone the plead - ing gone the cry Gone the  
 sing - ing Then the end of all the war Thine the  
 sto - ry Then the wel - come to the least Then the  
 ho - ly Cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee Thine the



vine-yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.  
 sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.  
 liv - ing Thine the lov - ing ev - er - more ev - er - more.  
 won - der all in - creas - ing at Thy feast at Thy feast.  
 splen - dor Thine the bright - ness on - ly Thee on - ly Thee.

**Silent Prayer After Worship**

*Almighty and merciful God, we have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for our many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. We thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep us in faith until we inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**DISMISSAL**

**POSTLUDE**

November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

**The Mission of Grace Lutheran Church is to joyfully and enthusiastically  
Model and share the gospel with the lost.**

Grace Lutheran Church  
308 Byrne, Smithville, Tex. 78957  
Office Phone: 512-237-2108  
Fax Number: 512 237-2832  
Email: [gracelutheransmithville@gmail.com](mailto:gracelutheransmithville@gmail.com)  
Web Site: [www.glcs.org](http://www.glcs.org)

Learning Center Director, Angel Hurst  
401 Wilkes Street, Smithville, TX 78957  
Office Phone: 512-360-2800  
Fax Number: 512-237-5990  
Email: [gracelutheranlearningcenter@gmail.com](mailto:gracelutheranlearningcenter@gmail.com)

**Serving the Lord During Today's Worship Service**

<b>8:30am</b>	<b>Tommy Oates</b>	<b>Organist(s):</b>	<b>June Parker</b>
<b>Elders:</b>	<b>Brad Zimmerhanel</b>		<b>Esther Wolff</b>
<b>10am Elders:</b>	<b>Bert Bunte</b>		<b>Kim Appel</b>
	<b>Jack Page</b>		<b>Ruth Eaton</b>
<b>Trustees:</b>	<b>Allan Hancock</b>	<b>Altar</b>	<b>June Parker</b>
	<b>Johnnie Kalina</b>	<b>Guild:</b>	<b>Libby Caldwell</b>

**Ongoing Worship Services at Grace**

In order to continue to receive the gifts of God in the Divine Service together at Grace, all the while protecting the physical health of our neighbors during this time of pandemic, the following plan has been put in place by our elders for the coming weeks:

- Two worship services will be offered each Sunday, one at 8:30 AM and one at 10:00 AM. Each week, you will need to sign up for your desired service ahead of time, either by using the online tool sent by e-mail and posted on Facebook or by calling the church office.
- We will practice social distancing throughout the sanctuary. We will skip every other pew in the first service, and then switch the pews for the second. Households will sit together, leaving at least 6 feet of space between other households.
- Families will be ushered forward one at a time for the distribution of the Sacrament. Rather than kneeling at the rail, this will take place immediately in front of the chancel, in a method similar to what we use during our service before the bazaar. Individual cups and the chalice will both continue to be offered; the purificator, used to wipe the chalice, will be soaked in neutral spirit with extremely high alcohol content in order to sanitize the chalice between communicants
- Commonly touched surfaces will be sanitized between services.
- The assisting elder and I will wear masks during the distribution of the Sacrament. In accordance with current city and state ordinances, those who come to in-person worship should wear a mask or other face covering.
- Previously implemented health-conscious practices will be continued. The service will be printed fully in bulletin so you will not need to use the hymnal. We will forgo the passing of offering plates, the sharing of the peace, and handshakes during greeting. Please enter the church through the doors that open to the parking lot (these will be held open for you), and avoid going into the parish hall. We will also avoid congregating in the narthex.
- Additional services may be added to accommodate more worshippers.

For those who are unable or choose not to attend due to health concerns, opportunities will continue for you to stream services live on Facebook, and the Sacrament will continue to be offered on an individual basis by appointment. For those who are not leaving their homes at all, I will also begin to offer to visit you with the Sacrament in a way that will expose you to the least risk possible, all the while delivering the Body and Blood of Christ to you. Upon setting up a time to visit you, I'd arrive and set up the Sacrament on a table on your front porch and then sit in my lawn chair at least six feet away. At that point, you can come out; we'll visit and receive the Sacrament. Once you've gone back inside, I'll take care of clean up.

### **Supplies for Increased Gatherings**

As Grace gathers together for worship again, it is important that we are able to prepare our facilities properly with appropriate cleaning supplies. We do not want to hoard these materials; we only want to make sure we have what is needed. The items we need most are disinfecting wipes, disinfecting spray, and hand sanitizer. If you are able to donate one of these items, it is greatly appreciated. They can be left on one of the benches outside of the parish hall during normal office hours (9 AM-2 PM, Tuesday-Friday); call the office to let us know, and items will be brought inside. Although we know these items are hard to find right now, we hope that everyone in the congregation looking for them will help us have the items that we need. Thank you for supporting Grace in this way!

### **Visit with Pastor**

If you need to contact Pastor Appel, you can do so via e-mail ([timothyappel@gmail.com](mailto:timothyappel@gmail.com)) or phone (512-237-2108 at church or 512-237-9664 at home). Pastor Appel is normally in the office between 9:00am and 12:00 noon, Monday through Thursday. He is available in the afternoons as well, but often uses that time to make nursing home, hospital or home visits. If you are unable to reach Pastor, please contact your Elder (listed on bulletin board outside of Office).

### **Online Resources**

Each week, our congregation live streams the 10:00 AM Sunday morning on our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/gracelutheranchurchsmithville/](http://www.facebook.com/gracelutheranchurchsmithville/)). If you are unable to be in worship on a particular week, this is a great way that you can still hear the Word of God. It's also a great way to introduce someone to our congregation and the good news about Jesus. You can also go back and listen to sermons from previous weeks. Bulletins and newsletters are also available online at our website, [www.glcs.org](http://www.glcs.org).

### **KFUO Bible Study Resources**

Please make use of the fantastic resources for growth in your Christian faith produced by the LCMS radio station, KFUO, where Pastor Appel hosts the Bible study, *Sharper Iron*, every weekday morning at 8 AM. **This week on [kfuo.org](http://kfuo.org)**, begin studying 2 Corinthians on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT), finish Titus on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), and consider how our Lutheran Confessions tie into our practice and vocation as Lutherans on Concord Matters (11/24 at 2:00 p.m. CT). Find these programs on demand at [kfuo.org](http://kfuo.org) or wherever you get your podcasts.

### **Poinsettias for Christmas**

The LWML is selling poinsettias to adorn our sanctuary during the upcoming celebration of our God's birth on Christmas. Please indicate how many poinsettias you would like to purchase on the sign up sheet in the Narthex; each one is \$10. Payment can be placed in the envelope hanging by the sign up sheet; checks should be made out to "Grace Lutheran LWML." **Today is the last day to sign up!**



### LWML Christmas Card Sale

Are you in need of Christmas cards? Check out the selection provided by the LWML in the Narthex. The cost of cards is indicated on each box. Payment can be placed in the container on the table; checks should be made out to "Grace Lutheran LWML."

### Family Sunday School



Continuing at least through the end of 2020, Grace is having a family Sunday school class. This class is intended for anyone and everyone; whether you are single or married or have lots of kids or have no kids, you are welcome to join us to learn God's Word together. We start each week about 11:10 am, or as quickly as we are able after the 10:00 am service ends (if you attend the 8:30 am service, plan to come back and start gathering in the parish hall at 11:00 am). Tables are spaced appropriately throughout the parish hall, with one family per table. Pastor introduces a new Bible story each week, and our learning includes both activities done as individual families and as a large group. We also include a hymn and a craft each week. We finish about 11:45 am. Please join us to learn God's Word together as families and as a congregation!

### Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service

Our congregation gathers on **Wednesday, November 25 at 7 PM** to give thanks to God for all that He has done and continues to do through His Son Jesus Christ. As a part of our service that evening, it is our congregation's custom to receive donations for the Smithville Food Pantry (due to the ongoing pandemic, we will not share loaves of bread this year). Donations of non-perishable food items to the Smithville Food Pantry may be brought to church all month long through Thanksgiving Eve. Even though Thanksgiving may look different in our country this year, the blessings of our heavenly Father still abound far more than we could ever ask. Please make plans to join us for this special worship service.

### The Season of Advent

The season of Advent begins on Sunday, November 29. This season, which begins a new Church Year, is a season of repentance and preparation for the coming of our Savior, Jesus. Not only do we prepare ourselves to celebrate His birth on Christmas, but we also prepare ourselves to receive Him in faith as He comes to us now in Word and Sacrament and to receive Him in faith when He comes again in glory on the Last Day. To that end, **special Advent devotions** are available in the narthex for you to pick up and use at home. We will also have **special midweek services** during the season of Advent at **7 PM** on the following Wednesdays: **December 2, 9, and 16**. The offerings for these three services will go to support the mission work of the Lord in three places: our Learning Center, Faith Lutheran High School, and pastoral education costs at Zion Lutheran Church in Schulenburg. Due to the ongoing pandemic, we will not have soup suppers this year, but we will still gather each Wednesday to be fed by the Word of the Lord and sing His praises in preparation for His coming. Please join us!

**November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020.**

**First Sunday in Advent**

First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel Reading: Mark 13:24-37



### **Thanksgiving Break**

FLHS offices will be closed for Thanksgiving Break from November 23rd to November 27th. Have a safe, happy, and healthy holiday!

### **Accreditation Visit**

The FLHS had a very successful accreditation visit on November 8th - 10th. FLHS has been recommended for accreditation in good standing, with no major deficiencies. Praise the Lord for the wonderful blessings He continues to bestow on FLHS.

The visiting team was able to identify some major strengths of FLHS as noted below:

- The faculty of FLHS are intentional about creating and fostering a culture and climate that exemplifies the mission and ministry of the school.
- The variety of course offerings surpasses the expectation for a school of this size.
- The faculty of FLHS have genuine care and concern for the students and each other, which creates a positive, supportive family atmosphere.
- FLHS does an excellent job of offering struggling students opportunities for additional academic support through 1:1 instruction, homework support, and Power Hour.

### **“Faith at Christmas” Program**

FLHS students will present a Christmas concert, “Faith at Christmas,” on Tuesday, December 8th at 7:00 pm at FLHS. Program will include a collection of choir pieces, handbell pieces, hymns, scripture readings and more. Refreshments will be served following the program. Masks are required for those in attendance. Please join us!!!

\*This event will also be live streamed on Facebook, for those who would prefer to view the sounds of Christmas from home.

### **Shadow Days**

Shadow days are a great opportunity for prospective students to follow us for a day and experience what FLHS is all about. Parents, call us today at (979) 242-2889 to set up a shadow day for your child.

### **Raffle Items**

The Spring Raffle is just around the corner. The Board of Directors is currently looking for valuable items or monetary donations to be used in the raffle. Please contact Nikki Kueck if you have something to donate! Thank you!

### **Thank you!**

Everyone at FLHS is blessed by each gift that we receive from our supporters. It's not about the size of the gift, but the cheerful attitude that gives thanks to God (2 Corinthians 9:7). Whether your gift seems big or small, it is greatly appreciated and makes a bigger impact than you know!