

# Grace Notes



This month, we begin a new newsletter series called, “Ask the Pastor.” The goal of this series is to answer the questions that you have about the Christian faith. That means that I’m going to need **YOUR** help. Submit whatever questions you have had about what our belief and practice as Lutherans: “Why do we kneel for Communion? Is cremation OK for Christians? Who wrote the Apostles’ Creed?” As you think of a question, give it to me in some manner of writing so that I don’t forget: put it in my box at church, e-mail it to me, or text it to me. I’d also ask that you write your name on your question. That will simply allow me to follow up with you to clarify the question, if needed; I won’t publish your name in the newsletter.

To start the series, I’ll answer a question that often comes up in adult instruction classes, a question that you may have been asked by your non-Lutheran Protestant friends and family: “Why do you baptize infants?” That’s a good question!

The best place to start is the place where Jesus starts; that’s a good practice not only for answering questions about Baptism, but for all topics of the Christian faith. Jesus’ words of institution for Holy Baptism are found at the end of Matthew’s gospel. Jesus said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:18-20). When Jesus institutes Holy Baptism, He tells us precisely who we are to baptize: *all nations*. Who is excluded from those words? No one! Jesus tells His church that anyone and everyone is a candidate for Holy Baptism. It does not matter if a person is a man or a woman, a Gentile or a Jew, a 99-year-old or a 9-day old—*all nations* are to be baptized!

If that seems strange or impossible to us, just consider the rest of Jesus’ words. Before He institutes Holy Baptism, Jesus says that He has absolutely all authority. After He institutes Holy Baptism, Jesus says He will be with His disciples always. Therefore, when Jesus tells His church to go and make disciples by baptizing and teaching, there’s absolutely no doubt that He will accomplish that task through these means, even for infants, because He will be with His church with all authority in heaven and on earth.







The rest of Holy Scripture confirms the inclusion of infants in Holy Baptism. Jesus regularly welcomed infants and children when they were brought to them, even saying to His disciples: “Let the children come to me; do not hinder them for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it” (Mark 10:14-15). The Bible also teaches that even infants are sinners (Psalm 51:5); therefore, they need the forgiveness and salvation that Baptism gives (Acts 2:38-39; 1 Peter 3:21). Finally, infants can indeed be given saving faith that receives Holy Baptism. If an infant can have faith that trusts that he can nurse only when he is with his mother, then that same infant can also have faith that trusts in Jesus Christ as Savior. In fact, Holy Scripture reminds us that even unborn children can have faith—John the Baptist leapt in the womb at the presence of Jesus in Mary’s womb (Luke 1:39-45)!

For these reasons, Lutherans baptize infants. In fact, it’s really better to say that Lutherans baptize everyone—infants included! Anyone who has not received God’s gift of Baptism is welcome to receive it, for it works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe!

In Christ,  
**Pastor Appel**



# April 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>1</div>  <p>8am <b>EASTER</b> Worship/Communion 9am Easter Breakfast Easter Egg hunt</p>	<div>2</div> <p>7pm Elders</p>  <p><b>Elders Meeting</b></p>	<div>3</div>	<div>4</div> <p>10am GLLC Chapel 6pm Midweek Bible Classes</p>	<div>5</div> <p>11am Bible Study 6pm LWML</p> 	<div>6</div> <p>Pastor Away-Family Day</p>	<div>7</div>  <p><b>JAMBOREE PARADE</b></p>
<div>8</div> <p>8:45am Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion 6:30pm Youth Group</p>	<div>9</div> <p>7pm LLL</p>  <p><b>LLL</b></p>	<div>10</div> <p>9am Pastor Circuit Mtg-Serbin</p>	<div>11</div> <p>10am GLLC Chapel 6pm Midweek Bible Classes</p>	<div>12</div> <p>11am Bible Study</p>	<div>13</div> <p>Pastor Away-Family Day</p>	<div>14</div>
<div>15</div> <p>8:45am Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion 3pm Nursing Home Devotions</p>	<div>16</div> <p>6pm GLLC Mtg 7pm Evangelism</p>	<div>17</div>	<div>18</div> <p>10am GLLC Chapel 1pm Ministerial Alliance 6pm Midweek Bible Classes</p>	<div>19</div> <p>11am Bible Study</p>	<div>20</div> <p>Pastor Away-Family Day</p>	<div>21</div>
<div>22</div> <p>8:45am Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion Voters Meeting/Potluck after worship 6:30pm Youth Group</p>	<div>23</div> <p>8am Braille 5pm Piecemakers</p>	<div>24</div>	<div>25</div> <p>10am GLLC Chapel 6pm Midweek Bible Classes</p>	<div>26</div> <p>11am Bible Study</p>  <p><b>NOON</b></p>	<div>27</div> <p>Pastor Away-Family Day</p>	<div>28</div>
<div>29</div> <p>8:45am Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion</p>	<div>30</div>				<p><b>*MID WEEK SCHEDULE</b> 6:00p Mid Week Meal 6:30p Mid Week Bible Class – All ages</p>	



### **Grace Lutheran Church**

308 Byrne Street  
Smithville, TX 78957  
Office Phone: (512) 237-2108  
Fax Line: (512) 237-2832

Email address: [gracelutheransmithville@gmail.com](mailto:gracelutheransmithville@gmail.com)  
Web Site: [www.glcs.org](http://www.glcs.org)

Sunday School 8:45 AM  
Midweek Classes 6:00 PM  
Worship Service 10:00 AM

### **Grace Lutheran Learning Center**

401 Wilkes Street  
Smithville, TX 78957  
Office Phone: 512-360-2800  
Fax Number: 512-237-5990

Email address: [gracelutheranlearn@att.net](mailto:gracelutheranlearn@att.net)

**We now accept CCMS enrollment**

Please feel free to put old or unused toys in our box  
located in the Narthex

### **Pastor Timothy Appel**

If you need to contact him, his email address is:  
[timothyappel@gmail.com](mailto:timothyappel@gmail.com) and his home phone  
number is 512-237-9664, or contact our Office at  
512-237-2108. If you are not able to reach either  
number and it is an emergency, contact your Elder.  
(Elders list on bulletin board by the Office)

### **CHURCH OFFICE**

Normal hours are 9 to 2 Mon. – Fri. If you need any help  
from the office i.e., copying documents, record information,  
info to be put in the bulletin and/or newsletter, etc., please  
feel free to stop by, call, etc. We are there to provide  
you with whatever you need from the church office. You may  
also leave a note in the Secretary's box in the Narthex, and  
we will get back with you as soon as possible. Please let us  
know if you have any questions or suggestions.



**Passengers for Church Van**

**Benny Hajdik** - 979-540-8437 is driving the Church Van  
for Sunday School and Church Services. If you need  
transportation, please call by 5:00 pm on Saturday. You  
may leave a message if no one answers.

<b>Elder(s):</b>	<b>Jack Page</b> <b>Cliff Burns</b>	<b>Organist(s):</b> <b>June Parker</b> <b>Esther Wolff (Sub)</b> <b>Kim Appel (Sub)</b>
<b>Ushers:</b>	<b>Galen Bunte</b> <b>C. Johannessen</b>	<b>Apr. Altar Guild:</b> <b>Linda Read</b> <b>Frances Pool</b>
<b>Trustees</b> <b>:</b>	<b>Gary Smith</b> <b>Kerry Becker</b>	

#### **Readers:**

<b>Apr. 1</b>	<b>Rose Caldwell</b>
<b>Apr. 8</b>	<b>Mark Peres</b>
<b>Apr. 15</b>	<b>John Stelling</b>
<b>Apr. 22</b>	<b>Jean Miller</b>
<b>Apr. 29</b>	<b>Bernie Satterwhite</b>

#### **Acolytes:**

<b>Apr. 1</b>	<b>Barrett Watson &amp; Alex Caldwell</b>
<b>Apr. 8</b>	<b>Baylor Watson &amp; Juniper Smith</b>
<b>Apr. 15</b>	<b>Makenzie Peres &amp; Sterling Brown</b>
<b>Apr. 22</b>	<b>Thomas Brown &amp; David Wolff</b>
<b>Apr. 29</b>	<b>Marianna Peres &amp; Joshua Zimmerhanel</b>



Pre-School/	Mary Lou Oliver/
Kindergarten	Wendy Rohde
1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> Grades	Charles Johannessen
3 <sup>rd</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup> Grades	Gene Brown
6 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Grades	June Parker
Adult Classes	Pastor Appel

### **STILL IN NEED OF SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS**



Please contact Barb Johannessen at 512-284-0199 if  
you are interested in this position

### **MIDWEEK AND CONFIRMATION TEACHERS**

Pre-school - K	Kim Appel
1st – 3rd grade	Alex & Amanda Vanegas
4th - 6th grade	Kristin Appel (June Parker-sub)
7th - 8th grade	Pastor Appel
Adult Class	Ed Randle





Apr. 2	Michelle & Mitchell Randle
Apr. 17	Ann & Johnny Schroeder
Apr. 18	Angel & Allan Hurst
Apr. 30	Karla & Jeffery Burns



As of , 2018

Name	Balance
<b>Prosperity Checking Acct</b>	<b>22,725</b>
<b>CEF-General</b>	<b>2,368</b>
<b>CEF-Land/Youth</b>	<b>11,915</b>
<b>CEF Scholarship</b>	<b>12,760</b>
<b>Legacy Deo</b>	<b>9,666</b>
<b>CEF Property Loan</b>	<b>145,091</b>
<b>CEF Annex Loan</b>	<b>41,596</b>
<b>Total Dedicated Funds</b>	<b>13,139</b>
<b>General Fund Balance</b>	<b>9,586</b>



There is a plastic container in the Narthex for collection of **used bulletins & white printed papers** to be recycled at the Smithville Recycling facility. If there are any questions please ask Katie or John Stelling for info



**In the Hospital**

If you are admitted to the hospital, I would like to visit you in order to share God's Word and share a prayer with you in that difficult time. As you are able please let the church office know or ask the hospital to call the church office so that I can best minister to you. **Pastor Appel**



Apr. 6	Bert Bunte
	Mary Lou Oliver
Apr. 9	Shannon Monecke
Apr. 14	Nora James
Apr. 15	Mark Peres
Apr. 17	Marybeth Claiborne
Apr. 18	Addisyn McNeil
Apr. 21	Vincent Kaiser
Apr. 22	Natalie Bennight
	Matthew Appel
Apr. 23	Timothy Appel
Apr. 24	Brandon Dyal
	Julie Rice
Apr. 27	Addison Oates
Apr. 29	Samantha Psencik
	Tracy Hancock
Apr. 30	Sterling Brown

If your birthday or anniversary does not appear correctly, please contact the church office so we can correct our files. Thank you.

**Wishing these Friends a Happy Birthday! from your "Grace" family**

**May God bless you and keep you always in His tender, loving care**





Even though the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation has passed, the importance of daily Scripture reading in our lives has not changed! In order to encourage you to

read from God's Word daily, the reading plan that will guide you through the entire Bible in a year will continue to be published in the newsletter each month during 2018. We pray that being in God's Word daily will be the blessing to you that our God has promised!



### PIECEMAKERS

Palm Sunday the quilts and school bags were blessed. They will begin the next step of the process as we pack them and they make the first shipment stop.

We will meet the fourth Monday at 5:00 to tie quilts for next year. All are welcome.

Thank everyone for your donations is fabric and sheets. Donations are always welcome



### GLLC Learning Center

#### WORK AT GLLC

Grace Lutheran Learning Center is hiring part-time workers for the afternoon shift. Applicants should be available to work between 12:30-6:00 PM, must have a high school diploma or equivalent, and be willing to submit to a background check. If you love working with kids and sharing the love of Jesus, this is the job for you! Please contact our director, **Angel Hurst**, at [512-360-2800](tel:512-360-2800) to receive an application



### ALL invited to lunch/game day THURSDAYS at NOON In the Parish Hall

We meet at noon in the Parish hall. We have a lite meal. All our welcome to join us for a spirited game of train. If you don't know how to play--not a problem. We will help. We play for the fellowship and don't play for points



The Born Again Emporium thanks you for your contributions and donations. We gladly accept your donations any time we have people on site. This now includes Friday and Saturday.

GRACE and First Presbyterian partner to staff the store April 9 to the 14th. Come and join us as you are able. Hours are 10 to 12 Monday through Thursday and 9 to 2 on Friday and Saturday. Your donations and support are greatly appreciated. **Linda Read**



Thanks to all the ladies who attended the meeting where we revealed our Secret Pals from the previous year. We enjoy the message from Pastor Appel concerning the Lunar calendar and why we don't celebrate Easter on the same date each year.

We have tentatively set Saturday May 5<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. for our Christian Women's brunch and program. Stay tuned for more information on this event.

Come join the LWML for Christ-Centered Women of ALL ages. Our next meeting is Thursday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. You don't need to bring anything...just come. A light meal will be served and the devotion will be given by Sharon Reinberg.



Here is another weekday opportunity for you to gather with fellow Christians here at Grace and study God's Word! Pastor Appel is leading a Bible study on the Small Catechism from 11 AM-Noon every Thursday morning in the parish hall. Come and refresh your memory on everything you learned as a youth during confirmation classes. Bring your Bible and your Small Catechism; if you don't have either one of those items, please let Pastor know and he'll be glad to get you one! If you have any questions, please see Pastor Appel.





Dear Members of Grace Lutheran Church,

**REMEMBER!!!! The FIRST Sunday of every month is the Sunday School Mission Sunday.**

The Board of Education would like to remind every member of Grace Lutheran Church that we can add to the **Endowment Fund** at any time in any amount. Remember the Fund will be used for the Education of our Youth at Grace Lutheran. It will be used for scholarships to Christian Camps as well as to help off set the tuition, for any qualifying member, to a Lutheran based school this includes higher education levels. This is a **tax-deductible contribution**. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any Board member.

#### CHALLENGE

As most of you heard the Board of Ed is challenging the adults against the youth to see who will read their Bible the most and who pays attention to the readings on Sundays. There will be a question in the bulletin every Sunday (relating to one of the readings from the previous Sunday). I know you take your bulletin home and study it faithfully. Please answer the questions and place the answer in the basket on the table designated for the answers. We would like to encourage everyone to study their bible and the have fun at the same time. Anyone can participate no matter your age!!! If you have any questions please feel free to ask a Board member.

Easter is approaching and we are planning for the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Please help us by donating individually wrapped candy (preferably not chocolate) and or plastic eggs for the children to hunt. Thank you for your participation and celebrating this wonderful time of year with us.

If anyone has any interest in teaching or substitute teaching for any Sunday School Class, please contact myself or any Board of Ed Member.

May God Bless all of you.

Respectfully,

**Barb Johannessen**



#### Jamboree Parade Float

The Evangelism committee is sponsoring a float in the Smithville Jamboree Parade once again this year, on **Saturday, April 7**. They will need help decorating the float that morning beginning at 8:00 AM. There is also a need for 6-8 people to ride on the float for the parade which begins at 1:30 PM. If you are interested in helping decorate the float or riding on it, please speak with Brenda Anderson or Pastor Appel.



#### **Ascension Service**

#### The Ascension of Our Lord – Potluck and Service

Forty days after Jesus rose from the dead, He ascended visibly into heaven. This is an important event in the story of our salvation, so much so that we confess it each week in the Creed. This year, Ascension Day falls on **Thursday, May 10**. To celebrate Jesus' reign as our good and gracious King, the elders are hosting a **potluck at 6 PM** in the Parish Hall, followed by the **Divine Service with Holy Communion at 7 PM** in the Sanctuary. The offering for that evening will be designated to help the work of **Lutherans for Life**. Please join us on May 10 as we give thanks for our ascended and reigning Lord!



#### Youth Confirmation 2018

On Sunday, May 6, three young men will confess the truth of God's Word in front of God and this congregation and be confirmed in the Christian faith. Please plan to be here that day to be strengthened in your own faith and remember the solemn vows you once made concerning the importance of the Christian faith for you. Your presence will be a great encouragement to these young men and their families!





June 3-7, 2018  
5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**Be part of *Splash Canyon* VBS!** Life is full of thrills and spills! We don't know what's around the bend, but God does! At *Splash Canyon* VBS, God's children of all ages learn the good news is God is with us and keeps His promises to us on life's wild ride! As staff members for *Splash Canyon* VBS, you have fun and share the *Splash Canyon* message with the kids! If you can help full or part time, we have many ways to be involved to suit your schedule and interests. Call Rose Pietsch at (512) 304-5866 or email [rmpietsch@yahoo.com](mailto:rmpietsch@yahoo.com) for more information. Plunge in for VBS fun at *Splash Canyon*!



April 4, 2018
April 11, 2018
April 18, 2018
April 25, 2018
May 2, 2018



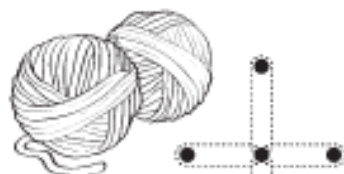
This semester's midweek meals are being planned and prepared by Sharon Reinberg. If you would like to assist in the cost of providing these meals, you can place your gift into the offering plate on Sunday morning and indicate "Midweek Meals" as its designation. Sharon also regularly needs help in the kitchen before, during, and after our midweek meals. Please prayerfully consider how you can give your labor of love toward this important aspect of our life together at Grace on Wednesday evenings. Thank you for your generous support of Christian education here at Grace!





# CROSS CRAFT

Make this special cross as a reminder of Jesus' death and resurrection.



## What you need:

- Adult help
- Piece of wood
- 5 nails
- Hammer
- 2 balls of yarn (blue and yellow)

## What you do:

1. Hammer the nails into the wood to form a cross shape (see example).
2. Tie the blue yarn to the bottom nail. Wrap it up and around the top nail and back down to the bottom nail. Then wrap it around the middle nail and around the side nails. Repeat until the yarn is wrapped about halfway up the exposed nails.
3. Repeat step two with the yellow yarn. Wrap it around the nails until only the heads are visible.



# RESURRECTION HOPE



Romans 6:5 reveals the hope we have because Jesus rose from the dead on Easter.



*Directions: First solve the math problems. Then put the corresponding words in the blanks; for example, the word next to the answer "1" goes in the first blank, the word next to the answer "2" goes in the second blank, and so on.*

$2+2 =$ ___	united	$2 \times 3 =$ ___	death	$7+6 =$ ___	resurrection
$3 \times 3 =$ ___	certainly	$18-16 =$ ___	have	$4-1 =$ ___	been
$0+1 =$ ___	if	$2 \times 4 =$ ___	we	$13-1 =$ ___	him
$2+3 =$ ___	in	$20-6 =$ ___	like	$2+5 =$ ___	his
$2 \times 5 =$ ___	be	$8+3 =$ ___	with		

"For 1 we 2 3 4  
 with him 5 a 6 like 7,  
8 will 9 also 10 united  
11 12 in a 13  
14 his." Romans 6:5, NIV

Answer: For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. Romans 6:5, NIV





***Faith Lutheran High School of Central Texas seeks to engage young adults in a Christ-centered environment where faith and knowledge grow as one.***  
**HOME OF THE FALCONS!**

### **Registration**

Registration for the 2018-2019 school year is underway. We are looking to add more students to our family. Are you looking for a Christ-centered education, a rigorous college prep curriculum, small class sizes? Check out FLHS!! Registration fees are waived through **April 3rd**. You can receive registration materials by calling (979) 242-2889 or on our website, at [www.faithlutheranhighschool.com](http://www.faithlutheranhighschool.com).

### **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 to set up a shadow day for your child. If you know of a student who would benefit from a Christian high school education, please contact Mrs. Nikki Kueck at (979) 242-2889.

### **Staff Positions Available**

Faith Lutheran High School will have part time openings on its faculty for the 2018-2019 academic year! Interested individuals who teach in the areas of science (Biology and Chemistry) or fine arts (vocal, instrumental or introduction to art) may submit resumes to Faith Lutheran High School, PO Box 138, Warda, TX 78960, call (979) 242-2889, or email them to [kueckn@faithlutheranhighschool.com](mailto:kueckn@faithlutheranhighschool.com). If you have the time and talents, please consider applying and sharing your gifts with our students. Thank you in advance!

### **Contact us**

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 138 Warda, TX 78960

Physical Address:

600 FM 1482, Giddings, TX 78942

[kueckn@faithlutheranhighschool.com](mailto:kueckn@faithlutheranhighschool.com)

(979) 242-2889

### **3rd Annual Golf Tournament**

Faith Lutheran High School will be holding their annual golf tournament fundraiser on May 12, 2018 at Pine Forest Golf Club in Bastrop, TX. Shotgun start at 8:30 AM. For more information on entering a 3 person team or to sign up as a sponsor, please call (979) 242-2889 or visit our website at [www.faithlutheranhighschool.com](http://www.faithlutheranhighschool.com).

### **Share the Gift of Love**

Faith Lutheran High School has a unique role in combining knowledge and God's love in a student's high school experience. We are partnering with families at the intersection of education and faith development. If you would like to support our ministry through a one-time or enduring gift, Thrivent Action Grant, or volunteer your time and talents, please contact Nikki Kueck to learn more.

### **Keep in Touch**

Find and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube or Twitter - like and share our posts so others can learn about FLHS. Also, visit our website at [www.faithlutheranhighschool.com](http://www.faithlutheranhighschool.com)!

### **Free Wednesday mornings?**

Join us for our weekly Chapel Worship Service every Wednesday beginning at 10:34 am. Our teachers and local association pastors will lead us in worship.

### **Upcoming Events**

There are a lot of new and exciting opportunities at Faith Lutheran High School in the next few months. Watch church newsletters, our website, Facebook and other social medias to stay up to date. Events include:

- Athletic Camps for volleyball, boys and girls basketball, and archery
- 7th Grade Visit Day
- And more!



# Read Through the Bible in 2018

Grace Lutheran Church, Smithville, TX

“God’s Word is our great heritage and shall be ours forever!” Continue your daily Bible reading during 2018. God’s blessings for you in His Word abound! *(Note: On days listed as “OFF,” consider re-reading something from earlier in the week or making up a day that you might have missed.)*

## Readings for the Month of April

April 1	OFF	
April 2	Luke 4	Numbers 2-3
April 3	Luke 5	Numbers 4
April 4	Luke 6:1-16	Numbers 5-6
April 5	Luke 6:17-49	Numbers 7-8
April 6	Luke 7:1-35	Numbers 9-11
April 7	Proverbs 7:1-13	Psalms 45-48
April 8	OFF	
April 9	Luke 7:36-50	Numbers 12-13
April 10	Luke 8	Numbers 14-15
April 11	Luke 9:1-17	Numbers 16-17
April 12	Luke 9:18-62	Numbers 18-20
April 13	Luke 10:1-24	Numbers 21-22
April 14	Proverbs 7:14-27	Psalms 49-51
April 15	OFF	
April 16	Luke 10:25-42	Numbers 23-25
April 17	Luke 11:1-36	Numbers 26
April 18	Luke 11:37-54	Numbers 27-29
April 19	Luke 12:1-48	Numbers 30-31
April 20	Luke 12:49-59	Numbers 32-33
April 21	Proverbs 8:1-11	Psalms 52-55
April 22	OFF	
April 23	Luke 13	Numbers 34-36
April 24	Luke 14	Deuteronomy 1
April 25	Luke 15	Deuteronomy 2-3
April 26	Luke 16	Deuteronomy 4-5
April 27	Luke 17	Deuteronomy 6-9
April 28	Proverbs 8:12-21	Psalms 56-59
April 29	OFF	
April 30	Luke 18:1-30	Deuteronomy 10-11





# The Askins in Asia



## Rebuilding in India

November 30, 2018, a cyclone (hurricane) struck southern India. It's name was Ockhi (Oh-kee). It left its mark on India so that it's simply known as the Ockhi disaster.

Please forgive my tardy newsletter this month. I traveled to India with LCMS Disaster Response to record the damage done to the seminary of our partner church, the India Evangelical Lutheran Church (IELC).

Rev. Dr. Christu Das, principal of Concordia Theological Seminary in Nagercoil (CTSN) described the damage Ockhi left behind like a warzone.

Over forty trees on the thirteen acre campus were blown over. Roofs were destroyed. Because of the age of the buildings and extent of the damage, at least three buildings were irreparably damaged by the storm.

LCMS Disaster Response has helped the seminary rebuild after the storm. So far, the seminary has repaired many of the damaged roofs, started repairing the road, fixed power lines and street lights, and much more.

That said, they still have a long way to go. Many of the buildings are quite old. They were made with unbaked clay bricks that you can break apart with your bare hands.

The chapel needed more repair than originally anticipated as well. The entire building needed to be rewired and roofed.

Despite the disaster left behind, however, the seminary students and faculty have grown closer together. Rev. Dr. Sam Thompson, a professor from the seminary, noted that the disaster shows the reality of sin, and yet they continue to see our Lord's hand of mercy. Creation has been corrupted by sin.

Not only has LCMS Disaster Response assisted the community, but the students and faculty have grown together as they worked to restore the campus so that classes could resume.

Please keep the students and faculty in your prayers as they continue to rebuild from the Ockhi disaster.





## February: Short, Sweet, Full

— by Eliza

February may be the shortest month of the year, but it was very full here. Children continued with schoolwork daily as well as piano practice. We took breaks from work to play as they celebrated friends' birthdays, met friends at the park, had sleepovers, and more.

We paused a bit for Chinese New Year this year. We saw drummers, lion dancers, floats, and local food. We also used the time to take in



some of the surrounding nature and parks. We traveled by MTR to bus and then hiked to find a small waterfall. The children spent a good amount of time splashing and laughing in the natural pool.

We know change is coming, and so we are taking in

what we can here. We are spending time with those we've met. We are asking Christ to shine through us and guide us in these last days in this place. We are looking forward to the new people, places, and projects the Lord has waiting for us.

When there are challenges and hurdles in life, it is a great comfort to know that we are Jesus' little lambs. We are baptized into Him. He has washed us clean. He provides for our daily needs of mind, body, and soul. He places people in our paths to encourage and support us. He gives us people to share with daily as we work and play. For all this and all the opportunities He has given us we give thanks.

✠ *Soli Deo Gloria* ✠

To support the LCMS through the work of Rev. Roy S. Askins, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
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Contact us at [roy.askins@lcmsintl.org](mailto:roy.askins@lcmsintl.org).

## For Your Prayers

In your prayers, please keep these things in mind:

- For us in this time of transition
- For the students and faculty at Concordia Theological Seminary, Nagercoil, India as they continue to recover from the Ockhi cyclone.
- For others affected by the transition
- For the Askins in Asia support network, that it would continue to strengthen
- In thanksgiving for the deployment of Johanna Heidorn as she supports the Asia region in communications

## Thank You

To all of you who are supporting us in so many and various ways, thank you.

For your prayers, thank you. For your financial support, thank you. For your notes and thoughts, thank you.

—The Askins



## A Page of Pictures

Enjoy these pictures from the last month. For more, visit our website: [askinsinasia.com](http://askinsinasia.com).



The back of the missionary house at CTSN.



Dad brought back clothes from India for Eva Maria and Mom.



The seminary archives and library also need repair to prevent further damage to important historical documents.



Above: A picture from the final days of Chinese New Year. Below: the sunset from the most southern point of India.

