

Grace Notes



The month of April brings with it the celebration of our Lord's resurrection. What our Lord accomplished in His resurrection is foundational to the Christian faith. St. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15:17-20, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep." As we begin the fifty-day celebration of our Lord's resurrection during the season of Easter, let's spend some time in God's Word discovering the importance of what Jesus has done for us in His resurrection.

First, Jesus' resurrection provides us with the comforting testimony that Jesus is the Son of God. In Romans 1:4, St. Paul writes: "[He] was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ, our Lord." Here you have an excellent answer when someone asks you, "Why do you trust in Jesus for salvation?" Tell them very simply, "I believe in Jesus because He rose from the dead." Not only is Jesus' resurrection proof that God exists; it is proof that Jesus is God, just as He said.

That leads directly into the second point. Jesus' resurrection shows us that His Word is true. If He was correct in teaching us that He is the Son of God, then He is correct in all that He says to us. Recall what Jesus said when He gave the good confession to Pontius Pilate in John 18:37, "For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." You very well may have memorized the words that Jesus spoke to His disciples in John 14:6, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." These words are confirmed by Jesus' resurrection. Because He has been raised from the dead, we know without a doubt that His Word is true.

Third, Jesus' resurrection means that what Christ did on the cross accomplished our forgiveness and salvation. Think of it like this. Jesus spoke from the cross, "It is finished," and the Father said, "Amen," by raising Him from the dead on the third day. In Romans 4:25, St. Paul says that Jesus "was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification." He clarifies further in the very next chapter, when he writes in Romans 5:10, "For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life."

Finally, Jesus' resurrection means that all who trust in Him for salvation will also rise to the same eternal life. In the verses from 1 Corinthians 15 above, St. Paul says that Jesus' resurrection is the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For a farmer, the firstfruits are gathered in anticipation of the full harvest yet to come. In a similar way, Jesus' resurrection happens in anticipation of the final resurrection on the Last Day. On that Day, all who have trusted in Jesus alone for salvation will be raised from their graves with bodies made immortal and imperishable (1 Corinthians 15:51-57). Jesus says to His disciples in John 14:19, "Because I live, you also will live." Jesus promises Martha in John 11:25-26, in words that we read at every Christian funeral: "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die."

From these brief passages of Scripture, we've begun to explore the depths of comfort and peace that is ours in the resurrection of Jesus. As we join together as the Church during the season of Easter, God grant you this same comfort and peace to know that eternal life is yours in the crucified and risen Savior, Jesus Christ.

In Christ,
Pastor Appel

April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1  Maundy Thursday 7pm Worship	2  GOOD FRIDAY Service of Darkness 7:00p	3
4  10am Worship/Communion 11am-Family Bible Study	5 5pm-Quilting 7pm Elders  Elders Meeting	6	7 5:30pm- Youth Confirmation	8 6pm LWML  LWML	9 Pastor Away-Family Day	10
11 10am Worship/Communion 11am-Family Bible Study	12 5pm-Quilting	13 9am Pastor Circuit Mtg	14 5:30pm- Youth Confirmation	15	16 Pastor Away-Family Day	17
18 10am Worship/Communion 11am-Family Bible Study	19 5pm-Quilting 6pm GLLC Mtg	20	21 5:30pm- Youth Confirmation	22 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE/NOON  DEADLINE: Newsletter Articles	23 Pastor Away-Family Day	24
25 10am Worship/Communion 11am-Family Bible Study	26 5pm-Quilting	27	28 5:30pm- Youth Confirmation	29	30 Pastor Away-Family Day	

Grace Lutheran Church

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

Email address: gracelutheransmithville@gmail.com
Web Site: www.glcs.org

Sunday School 8:45 AM
Midweek Classes 8:45 AM
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

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 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.



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

Elders:

Brad Zimmerhazel
C. Johannessen

Organist(s):
June Parker
Esther Wolff
Kim Appel

Apr. Altar Guild:
June Parker
Libby Caldwell



As of, , 2021

Name	Balance
<u>Prosperity Checking Acct</u>	
<u>CEF-General</u>	
<u>CEF-Land/Youth</u>	
<u>CEF Scholarship</u>	
<u>Legacy Deo</u>	
<u>Total Dedicated Funds</u>	
<u>General Fund Balance</u>	

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



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

KFUO Bible Study Resources

During this time where there continues to be no in-person Bible study at Grace, please make use of



the fantastic resources for growth in your Christian faith produced by the LCMS radio station, KFUO (www.kfu.org). Their variety of programs will provide something of value to every person who listens. Of particular interest for Grace,

every weekday morning at 8 AM, you can hear Pastor Appel host the Bible study, *Sharper Iron*, with guest pastors from around the country. If you can't catch the show live, you can listen to archived episodes at www.kfu.org/category/sharper-iron/.



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

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

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



Grace will partner with First Presbyterian to work April 12th-16th. Hours are 10am-2pm Monday and Wednesday and 9am-2pm on Friday. The store continues to be open only on Friday for sales. Donations accepted Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10-2. Due to the wonderful donations we receive and the shoppers who continue to support us, the Board was able to award \$44,000 to non profits this year. This is with our reduced hours and the extra days we were closed due to Covid concerns. Masks are required and no one under 16. We also limit the number of people in the store. Join us as you are able.



Youth Confirmation: Sunday May 2nd

Since last September, our 7th and 8th grade youth confirmation students and parents have been meeting each week for in-depth instruction concerning what Lutherans believe, teach, and confess according to God's Word. According to His promise, God has blessed our time in His Word. Youth confirmation is being planned for three students during worship on Sunday, May 2. ***Please keep these three youth and their families in your prayers as they receive continuing instruction and make final preparation to confess their faith before God and the world.***

Pastoral Check-Up

Many go to their doctor regularly to check on their physical health; why not do the same with your pastor concerning your spiritual health? I know that the previous year was difficult in many respects. How has your Christian faith been challenged? How has your Christian faith grown? Let's visit! The precautions of a pandemic aren't so great that a pastoral visit is impossible. Let's find some time to talk so that I can minister to you with the Word of God so that your faith in Christ will grow even in the midst of this life's troubles and trials.



Apr. 4	Caleb 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
Apr. 30	Sterling Brown

Family Sunday School

Family Sunday School continues at Grace! Please join us after the 11:00AM service each Sunday to learn and rejoice in the Word of God together as the family of Jesus here at Grace! 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. 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!



Ongoing Worship Services at Grace

As of Sunday, March 7, we have transitioned back to one worship service at 10:00 AM on Sunday mornings. Here are some important details:

- Appropriate distancing will be maintained by making use of our entire facility. In addition to continuing the practice of roping off pews in the sanctuary, the balcony and parish hall will both be available. Some chairs will be set up ahead of time in the parish hall in those places that allow for the best view of the sanctuary, but you may also choose to use the rest of the parish hall to sit farther away, according to your preference. You will still be able to hear, receive the Lord's Body and Blood, and be together with your brothers and sisters, even at a distance.
- When you arrive at church, please go in an expedient manner to your seat and remain there, as much as you are able. Similarly, when you leave, please avoid lingering in the narthex and other common areas as much as possible.
- Please continue to wear a mask or face-covering to worship and throughout as much of your time at worship as possible, both in accordance with recommendations from health authorities and especially out of our love for each other as fellow Christians, knowing that others may have greater risk or concern.
- For the time being, family Sunday school will continue to be offered after worship in order to continue to allow for appropriate distancing, both in Sunday school and as people are coming and going to and from worship.

Please note that this plan is subject to change based on the continuing conditions of the pandemic and feedback from you. We welcome your questions, comments, and concerns as we return to one worship service; please be in touch with any member of the Board of Elders or with Pastor Appel. We ask for your patience and prayers as we move once again to worshipping all together as a congregation.

Opportunities to Receive God's Gifts Individually

For those who are not yet attending in-person worship, opportunities to receive the gifts of God through other means continue to be available. Please be in touch with me to let me know how I can deliver these gifts of God to you. Even in the midst of a pandemic, no Christian should go without God's gifts in Word and Sacrament. Options include, but are not limited to:



- Live stream the 10:00 AM service on our Facebook page
- Individual appointment to receive Jesus' Body and Blood at Grace
- Socially distant outdoor home visit to receive Jesus' Body and Blood

This offer is made in earnest. ***You are not imposing on my time by requesting this of me; this is precisely why God has given time to me.*** Please let me know how I can best serve you in Christ's name during this time! –Pastor Appel

Supplies for Increased Gatherings



As you are able, please consider donating supplies that will continue to help us provide a clean environment here at Grace. The items we need most are disinfecting wipes, disinfecting spray, and hand sanitizer. Thank you for supporting our congregation in this way!



Board of Education
Sunday School
Midweek News

Dear Members of Grace Lutheran Church,

Our Family Sunday School is going well. We would like to invite everyone to attend and learn God's word with all age groups from infant on up. Sunday school starts as close to 11:00am as possible. Directly after the Church Service. We will be collecting an offering each Sunday at Sunday School that will go to a missionary. Please join us in supporting our fellow Christians in need. If you have any questions please feel free to contact a Board Member or Pastor.

We made it through a cold winter storm and we are working on COVID, as we approach the Lenten Season and prepare for Easter our Board is here if any one needs anything.

We will have Palm branches for Palm Sunday and will keep you informed whether or not they will be carried in by the children of our congregation or if they will just be on display. Please watch for more information.

We have made a decision that instead of an Easter Egg Hunt this year we will have prepared bags for each child that attends Church on Easter Sunday. We will be putting Easter candy and a few special little items in each bag. If you have any questions about this change please contact a Board of Education member.

Our Board members for this year are: Charlie Johannessen, Toni Ann Kadlecek, Kathy Kasper, Mary Lou Oliver, Melissa Brown, June Parker, Barb Johannessen and the Sunday School Superintendent is Donna Zimmerhanzel. Please feel free to contact any of us at any time if you have questions.

May God Bless all of you.

Respectfully,
Barb Johannessen



Smithville's 8th Annual Diaper Drive
April 12th thru April 25th

Donation boxes are placed in churches and businesses throughout Smithville.

All sizes are needed from infant to adult.

This program supports
The Smithville Diaper Bank

For questions, call Sharlene Scheler RN
Wesley Nurse 210-259-3373 or
sscheler@mhm.org



FAITH LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL OF CENTRAL TEXAS

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!

April 2021

New Student Registration

Registration for the 2021-2022 school year is underway. Eight new students have already enrolled. We would love to welcome you into our Falcon family as well. Call us at (979) 242-2889 to schedule a visit or visit our website at www.faithlutheranhighschool.com for registration information.

Scholarship Program

Have you ever had this thought? "Faith Lutheran High School sounds great, but my family can't afford it." We firmly believe that EVERY family desiring a Christ-centered education for their children should have the opportunity to attend FLHS. We have a Tuition Scholarship Program with funds available. We utilize TADS to disburse these scholarship funds, and EVERY family who applies receives some assistance. We'll do everything in our power to make sure that money isn't the reason you don't choose FLHS. **In today's increasingly hostile, non-Christian society, you can't afford to NOT send your child to FLHS!**

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 at (979) 242-2889 today to set up a shadow day for your child.

Free Wednesday mornings?

Join us for our weekly Chapel Worship Service every Wednesday beginning at 10:30 am. Our teachers and local association pastors lead us in worship throughout the year.

Thank you, Thank you!

Thank you for all the support you have showered upon Faith Lutheran HS! We are so blessed! Whether you remembered us in your prayers, time, talents, or gifts, we are forever grateful and your gifts make a bigger impact than you know! THANK YOU!

FLHS Annual Good Friday Bake Sale

Faith Lutheran High School will be hosting its Annual Good Friday Bake Sale on April 2nd at the Classic Bank parking lot! Cookies, pies, cakes, kolaches, cinnamon rolls, homemade noodles, homemade bread, and more will be available from 8 AM till noon, or until we sell out.

***BAKERS ARE NEEDED!** We need your help! Donations of any type of baked goods or homemade treats are welcome! Thanks for your continued support of Faith Lutheran High School!

You may drop off donations on Wednesday and Thursday, March 31st and April 1st, at Faith Lutheran High School, at Medack and Oltmann in Giddings, at Schiavone and Bamsch in La Grange, or you can contact us at (979) 242-2889 to make other arrangements. Thanks for your continued support of Faith Lutheran High School!

Staff Positions Available

Faith Lutheran High School will have part time openings on its faculty for the 2021-2022 academic year! Interested individuals who teach science, social studies, English, Spanish, or electives, or would like to supervise dual credit or study hall students 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. If you have the time and talents, please consider applying and sharing your gifts with our students. Thank you!





LWML

Lutheran Women *in Mission*

UPCOMING:

April 8th
6pm- Business Meeting

We welcome you to join us in “Serving the Lord with Gladness.” Please contact any LWML member or Sharon Reinberg at 512-923-8222 to learn more or go to www.lwml.org or www.lwmltxdist.org to read about the mission and great history of LWML.

Grace LWML Mission Project: Lutheran Relief Fund for Pastor Martin Richardson’s church in Colleyville, TX

Lutheran World Relief Ingathering 2021:
This year's ingathering will again be in November.
Saturday, November 6, 2021

LWML TEXAS DISTRICT GRANT BULLETIN BYTES:

- E-Kids After School Program Expansion Ministries, Inc.-
\$20,000

Gracious Lord, use this ministry to bring Your grace to bear on these students as they grow in wisdom and sturure, and in favor with You and their friends. We pray this through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Donations to the large Mite Box in the Narthex are joyfully accepted.

National Mission Grant Bulletin Bytes:

-LCMS Deaconess Ministry-LCMS Office of International Mission (\$39,523)

LCMS Deaconesses are women who are full time professional church workers, trained to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through a ministry of works of mercy, spiritual care, and teaching the Christian faith. The LCMS Deaconess Ministry program will provide LCMS students the opportunity to become a church professional, learning and training to understand the diaconal leadership, the work of deaconesses as applied to body and soul ministry. This grant will provide educational and financial support to our partner churches who introduced deaconess training programs within their church bodies like the Philippines, Latvia, Liberia, Indonesia, Malaysia, and India.



The Widow’s Mite --- And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. And he called his disciples to him and said to them, “Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.” Mark 12:42-44 ESV

Read Through the Bible in 2021

Grace Lutheran Church, Smithville, TX

"God's Word is our great heritage and shall be ours forever!" Continue your daily Bible reading during 2021. 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