

# Grace Notes



## The Triduum

The Triduum (lit. three days) is the celebration of the Lord's Passover. On the days from Maundy Thursday through Easter Sunday our Lord passes over from death to life. Jesus Himself teaches us of the three days when He says, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days. But the temple he had spoken of was his body....After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken" (John 2:9, 21-22). Based on these words of the Lord about the three days, the apostolic church had a high sense of connectedness in the celebration of the life, death and resurrection of Christ and the Passover. Christ himself is our Passover Lamb. The apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthian congregation about living the Festival of the Passover Lamb: "Don't you know that a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough? Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth" (1 Cor 5:6-8). The Passover of the Christ, the spotless Lamb was accomplished over three days.

Originally, the church celebrated the feast of the resurrection on a single day. The church still does this in its weekly celebration of the Lord's Day as the day of resurrection. Every Sunday is Easter Day. The Triduum focuses on the unity of the atoning work of the Savior, uniting the Sacramental celebration of Maundy Thursday with the crucifixion event of Good Friday, the baptismal anticipation of Holy Saturday and the unrestrained joy of Easter Sunday. The Triduum consisting of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and the feast of Easter itself are considered a single unending service. That's why the only benediction given to the congregation in those days is on Easter Sunday.








How do these days hang together? There are such radical highs and lows! Suffering and death is the necessary preparation to enter into the joy of the resurrection. Even the Son of God cannot (would not!) short-circuit that pattern, He is "the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross scorning its shame and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Heb 12:2). We are easily deluded into thinking that Easter's joy, or perhaps a counterfeit of it, becomes our due, when we do not follow the crucified Lord to Golgotha. We think that happiness is ours to claim. We demand to be happy and never to be burdened by sorrow. God owes us joy and he had better never send us sorrow.

In contrast to this fast transition, we must live in the death of Christ through baptism. The whole Passover is suffering, death and resurrection, just as baptism is participation in the whole suffering, death and resurrection of Christ. Those who demand joy from God will never be happy, only disappointed and bitter. They will never believe the Psalmist's confident assertion: "Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy. He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him" (Ps 126:5-6). Christ, the author and perfecter of our faith, was the One who experienced this most fully, in his death and resurrection. Why should we expect anything different?

The Easter feast only has its full savor if we have died with Christ every day in repentance. The sweetness of the resurrected life will only be enjoyed where the bitterness of the wrath of God is understood. Death and life belong together. That's why there's no benediction until Easter Sunday. The whole life and death of Christ has not yet been played out. There is no leapfrogging over Holy Week. The three days give us the mighty duel between life and death [LW 123:2]. There is nothing else.

The people redeemed by the bloodied Lamb can only follow the whole way from Gethsemane to empty tomb. We can do this because by faith we are certain of the outcome. With the Lord we pass from death to life. We can follow to the cross because we know that He makes all things new through His death and resurrection (Rev 21:5). We Christians know the outcome, because God has assured us that Satan's head has been crushed. The three days encapsulate that quiet joy of the Christian who trusts in the God who died for us to live for us. **Pastor Roth**

# April 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion 6:30pm- Youth Group	3 7pm  <b>Elders Meeting</b>	4	5	6  Maundy Thursday 7pm Worship	7  <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> 7pm Service of Darkness	8
9  8am <b>EASTER</b> Worship/Communion 9am Easter Breakfast Easter Egg hunt	10 7pm-  LLL	11	12	13 6pm LWML  LWML	14	15
16 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion 6:30pm- Youth Group VOTERS MTG AFTER SERVICE	17 4pm-Quilting 6pm-GLLC Mtg 7pm-Evangelism	18	19	20	21	22
23 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion 6:30pm- Youth Group	24 8am-Braille	25	26	27 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE/NOON  <b>DEADLINE:</b> Newsletter Articles	28	29
30 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion 6:30pm- Youth Group						

### 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 8:45 AM  
Worship Service 10:00 AM

Elders: Brad Zimmerhanzel  
Corey Macks

Organist(s):  
June Parker  
Esther Wolff  
Kim Appel  
Ruth Eaton

Altar Guild: June Parker  
Libby Caldwell



As of March 22, 2023

Name	Balance
<b>Prosperity Checking Acct</b>	<b>64,806.25</b>
<b>CEF-General</b>	<b>2,507.30</b>
<b>CEF-Land/Youth</b>	<b>12,631.47</b>
<b>CEF Scholarship</b>	<b>12,773.66</b>
<b>Legacy Deo</b>	<b>12,978.63</b>
<b>Total Dedicated Funds</b>	<b>30,595.99</b>
<b>General Fund Balance</b>	<b>34,210.26</b>

### 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**

### Pastoral Care During Vacancy

Pastor Carl Roth of Grace Lutheran Church in Elgin is our vacancy pastor. If you are in need of pastoral care (hospital visit, etc.) please contact him at 512-229-8899.

### KFUO Bible Study Resources



Looking for Bible study opportunities during the week? Make use of the fantastic resources for growth in your Christian faith produced by our very own LCMS radio station, KFUO ([www.kfu.org](http://www.kfu.org)). Their variety of

programs will provide something of value to every person who listens.

### CHURCH OFFICE

Normal hours are 9 to 2 Tues. – Thurs and 9 to 1 on Friday. 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. I am here 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 I will get back with you as soon as possible. Please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions. Lisa Stem



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



Braille volunteers meet the 4th Monday of each month @ 8am. We carpool to Immanuel Lutheran Church in Giddings to assemble braille bible study books.



The board met last week and voted to disperse quarterly funds. Thanks to our faithful donors and shoppers we are able to give back to the community. No estimated completion date has been given. Plans are to begin accepting donations prior to the store reopening. FB will have more information posted.



Apr. 2 Michelle & Mitchell Randle  
 Apr. 18 Angel & Allan Hurst  
 Apr. 30 Karla & Jeffery Burns



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
Apr. 24	Julie Rice
Apr. 27	Addison Oates
Apr. 29	Samantha Psencik
Apr. 30	Sterling Brown



## HOLY WEEK

### Holy Week Worship 2022

During our observance of Holy Week each year, our remembrance of Jesus' life happens in real time. Each of our worship services during Holy Week commemorates what Jesus did on that specific day. On Palm Sunday (April 2 at 10 AM), we remember how Jesus came as a humble King to die for our sins; this service includes the procession with palms. On Maundy Thursday (April 6 at 7 PM), we remember how Jesus instituted His precious Supper for us before He was betrayed into the hands of sinful men. On Good Friday (April 7 at 7 PM), we remember how Jesus died on the cross to earn our forgiveness. On Easter Sunday (April 9 at 8 AM), we rejoice to celebrate our Lord's resurrection to earn our eternal life. Our celebration continues beyond the worship service with an egg hunt for children and breakfast for everyone. Please plan to join with your fellow Christians on these days as we receive in Word and Sacrament the forgiveness that Jesus earned by these most important events of our Christian faith.



The Board of Education is once again preparing the the annual East Egg Hunt and is accepting donations of individually wrapped candy. Please Not Chocolate. We do not need any plastic egg donations this year. Cash donations to help with the cost of the candy are also being accepted. If you have any questions please contact a Board of Ed member.

### **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.



The Board of Elders is once again hosting our Easter breakfast this year. Various items are needed from the congregation to make it a success. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex to indicate what you are able to bring, and deliver it to the church kitchen sometime during the week before Easter, April 9. All members of the congregation are also encouraged to bring pastries, fruit, and other continental breakfast items to supplement the meal. Please plan to join us for this wonderful celebration!



Dear Member of Grace Lutheran Church,

We are excited to have Sunday School back at 8:45 am every Sunday. Our classes will be in the fellowship hall for all ages. 3yrs old through kindergarten teachers are Kim Appel and Ester Wolff, 1<sup>st</sup> grade through 4<sup>th</sup> grade is Kayla Herschap, 5<sup>th</sup> grade through 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be Donna Zimmerhanel and Gene Brown, III and High School will be Gene Brown. We are always in need of volunteers to help teach or to sub when one of the teachers is out, so please feel free to contact a board member and we will gladly assist you in getting set up to volunteer.

### DONUTS!!

There is a sign-up sheet on the Board of Education Bulletin Board for anyone who wants to furnish snacks between Sunday School and Church. There is also a donation can in the kitchen by the donuts if you would rather just donate to the cause.

Our current mission project is Missionary Becky Bartelt, There are envelopes on the Board of Ed Bulletin Board for anyone who would like to contribute to our Mission.

### EASTER

We are accepting DONATIONS for Easter in the form of individually wrapped candy, Large Easter Eggs or Cash. We have had a donation of around 1000 small Easter Eggs and appreciate all donations to fill these eggs with. Please leave your donations at the Church Narthex by April 1<sup>st</sup>

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 Zimmerhanel. Please feel free to contact any of us at any time if you have questions.

May God Bless all of you.

Respectfully,

Barb Johannessen

Board of Education

### Sunday School

Sunday school for all ages has returned to its regular time slot of 8:45 AM. The response from so many members of our congregation has been tremendous. The parish hall has been filled with great joy each Sunday morning as so many children and adults are eager to learn God's Word—and there's always room for more! Please join us each week in the Parish Hall for a short opening with everyone together before we go to our separate classes. You won't regret making time to read, learn, and rejoice in God's Word!



### Adult Bible Study

Adult Bible study at 8:45 AM continues each week, led by the guest pastor for that week. Join us to spend time together in God's Word.



### Youth Confirmation

Youth confirmation classes are continuing each Wednesday evening this fall in the parish hall from 5:30-6:30 PM. Please keep our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders and their families in your prayers as they grow in the knowledge and grace of God's Holy Word. Pastor Nate Hill will be teaching our youth confirmation class.

### Youth Group

All middle school and high school students and their parents are invited to join us at Youth Group! We normally meet every first Sunday of the month from 6:30-8:00 PM. Each month, we have time for Bible study, games, and snacks! Please join us!



# LWML

Lutheran Women in Mission

## UPCOMING:

Apr. 2<sup>nd</sup>  
2pm-Post Oak Zone  
Spring Rally in  
Winchester

Apr. 13<sup>th</sup>  
6pm-Business Mtg

Apr. 17<sup>th</sup>  
4pm-Quilting

We welcome you to join us in "Serving the Lord with Gladness." Please contact any LWML member or June Parker at 512-581-1168 to learn more or go to [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org) or [www.lwmltxdist.org](http://www.lwmltxdist.org) to read about the mission and great history of LWML.

Mission Project for March -- Travel Assessment for officers going to National Convention in June

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

## LWML TEXAS DISTRICT GRANT BULLETIN BYTES:

Bible Brigade. Lutheran Disaster Care- \$16,000

*Dear Lord Jesus, You said, "So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith." Please use this mission grant to minister to people, who have been through a disaster, by meeting immediate physical needs and also their long-range spiritual need through the Bible they receive, thereby blessing them in body and soul. In the name of our merciful Savior. Amen..*

## National Mission Grant Bulletin Bytes:

Mission and Outreach to the Least of These- \$51,356

Christ has charged us in His Holy Word to share the Gospel and minister to the poor. Victory Lutheran Church is an inner-city church located in the unincorporated area of the K.I. Sawyer Community in Gwinn, Michigan. This inner-city church is a means of providing mercy ministries that spread His Word to all people, especially "the least of these." The purchase of a new and larger van will allow them to bring children to hear the love of Jesus and provide a safe place to learn. The church needs a safe haven for the congregation and the unchurched to attend worship and Bible study.



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



# 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!**

### **FLHS Annual Good Friday Bake Sale**

Faith Lutheran High School will be hosting its Annual Good Friday Bake Sale on April 7th at the Classic Bank parking lot in Giddings! 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 to make this event a success! Donations of any type of baked goods or homemade treats are welcome!

**\*DROP OFF LOCATIONS!\*** You may drop off donations on Wednesday and Thursday, April 5th and 6th, 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!

### **TAPPS State Music Competition**

3 FLHS students, Tim, Kaydee, and Mason, competed in the TAPPS state music competition on Friday, March 24, 2023 at CTX. Students performed vocal and instrumental solos from a selected piece of music. Scores will be announced soon.

### **New Student Registration**

Registration for the 2023-2024 school year is underway. Five 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 shadow day or visit our website at [www.flhstx.org](http://www.flhstx.org) for registration information.

### **New Association Congregations**

Faith Lutheran High School is excited to announce that Epiphany Lutheran Church in Bastrop and Zion Lutheran Church in Schulenberg have recently joined the association of congregations that support FLHS. Welcome and thank you for your support!

### **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, and EVERY family who applies (through TADS) will receive some assistance. We'll do everything in our power to make sure that money isn't the reason you don't choose FLHS.

### **Spring Raffle Success**

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Spring Raffle. Congratulations to this year's winners!! This year's raffle was able to raise over \$23,000 to support the growing ministry at FLHS!! Thank you!!

### **New Scholarship Opportunity**

Applications are now being accepted for an academic-based scholarship from the Amanda (Zoch) Knox Memorial Scholarship Fund. This fund will pay for the full tuition for an incoming 9th grade student of Faith Lutheran beginning in the Fall of 2023. Applications are available from Mrs. Kueck or from Cyndy Zoch ([cyndy.zoch@gmail.com](mailto:cyndy.zoch@gmail.com)) and are due May 1, 2023.

### **Follow Us On Facebook!**

Stay up to date with all the exciting things happening at FLHS on a daily basis! By "liking" our Facebook page and "sharing" our posts, you will be in the loop on all the great things happening and sharing Faith with your friends as well.





# Singing the Church's Song in Asia

NEWS FROM BECKY BARTELT  
Serving the Lord in Taiwan/Asia

*I Corinthians 15:52 "...in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall all be changed."*

## Trumpets, Trombones and School Bells!

When I left teaching in a school to come to Taiwan, I thought I would escape having my life dictated by school bells. However, right across from the Buddhist temple behind my apartment is a boys' school with



bells that ring all day and announcements that are made now and then. However, I do not have to respond to these bells. This made me think of another sound which I will joyfully respond to--the last sound. In the English translations of the Bible it says it will be a trumpet. My German friends (who read Luther's translation) insist it will be a trombone! At any rate, it will be unmistakable and Christians will be raised or gathered to be with Jesus forever. This reminds me how important it is for us to

share the Gospel--the good news that Jesus has defeated sin, death and the devil, so that we can be forgiven--before that last sound comes. This will be a sound no one can ignore, but only joyfully or tragically respond to. As I hear those bells, I pray God will grant me courage and words to share the Gospel with those around me. Is there something you usually ignore that could play a similar role your life?

## The Post Office Adventure!



On February 7th I headed off to walk to the post office and mail some thank you notes. However, I got incredibly lost and wandered through all kinds of markets including naked chickens perched ready to sell with their heads and necks still attached. I tried to follow Google maps and ended up at a post office kiosk. I asked a woman who offered to take me to the post office on her scooter (via Google translate!) I passed as I hadn't been on a scooter yet at that time. I tried some more and finally met a couple, who said, "Follow us." and led me to

the post office. I managed to get some good exercise--almost 5 miles of walking, and I was successful in mailing my cards. I hope they will arrive at their destinations in good time. (My parents sent me a card on January 10th which arrived in my mailbox on February 14th, which was a wonderful blessing from God!)



### English Language Bible Study:

Three weeks ago Barb Rebentisch, who has served for decades in Taiwan, arrived back in Taiwan after completing a session of deaconess training at the seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. She hosts an English-language Bible study in her home Monday evenings and invited me to join. It has been a great way for all of us to learn some language, learn about Jesus and learn about each other. Barb will be away next week and I will get to lead for a week.



### Recital in Hsinchu:

On February 11th Deaconess Sandra Rhein and I got to help with and participate in a recital at the Lutheran church in Hsinchu. We traveled by high-speed rail and were picked up at the train station by Pastor Paul, and we had lunch with him and his wife Irene. We had a quick rehearsal followed by the



recital which included strings, flutes, recorders, piano and singing by people of all ages. Some were from the church, but some had come simply to have a chance to perform.

Regardless they were introduced to the church and got to spend some time with Christians. It was a lovely event. Sandra and I performed "If God Be For Us, Who Can Be Against Us?" from Handel's *Messiah*. On Sunday Sandra and I got to help with Sunday school and worship with the saints in Hsinchu. Irene is an amazing Sunday school teacher--so full of energy and prepared with hands-on activities!

### PLEASE GIVE THANKS FOR:

- my one month anniversary in Taiwan on February 18th.
- a successfully-received ARC card (residency card).
- new opportunities for prayer and witness including family members of the Christians I have met.

### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- health and safety.
- God to make a way for me to get a medication I need. It is in short supply and they can only prescribe it to people with a Taiwan national health card. I cannot get a national health card for six months. We are praying and trying several different options.
- the family members of the Christians I have met.
- Barb Rebentisch, whose father's dementia is getting worse.

## Upcoming Schedule for Visiting Pastors:

(a copy of this will also be posted above the water fountain in the narthex)

Sunday, April 2, 2023	Keistman	Palm Sunday
Thursday, April 6, 2023	Austin	Maundy Thursday
Friday, April 7, 2023	Tiner	Good Friday
Sunday, April 9, 2023	Austin	Easter Sunday
Sunday, April 16, 2023	Kunkel	Easter 2
Sunday, April 23, 2023	Mittwede	Easter 3
Sunday, April 30, 2023	Hill	Easter 4
Sunday, May 7, 2023	Mittwede	Easter 5
Sunday, May 14, 2023	Kunkel	Easter 6
Sunday, May 21, 2023	Mittwede	Easter 7 / Ascension
Sunday, May 28, 2023	Keistman	Pentecost
Sunday, June 4, 2023	Keistman	Holy Trinity
Sunday, June 11, 2023	Kunkel	Pentecost 2
Sunday, June 18, 2023	Mittwede	Pentecost 3
Sunday, June 25, 2023	Austin	Pentecost 4



Vacation Bible School

July 23 – 27, 2023

5:30p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

The Key Theme is: God's Living Water. Children aged 3 thru those going into the 6<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to join us.

Those of you who do not fall into that age category are welcome to join us to assist the teachers in each department! We would love to have you attend!! It is such a joy to see these kids learning about Jesus!!

Each evening will start with a light meal then we will have an opening devotion and learn the songs associated with this VBS program. We will then rotate in groups to the Bible Stories site, Crafts site, Games site and Snacks site. Our evening ends with another devotion and more singing. The Pre-K kiddos have a separate classroom to learn these lessons instead of rotating with the bigger kids. It really is a great week spent worshiping our Lord.

Reach out to me at [rmpietsch@yahoo.com](mailto:rmpietsch@yahoo.com) or call or text me at (512) 304-5866. Your help is greatly appreciated!