

Grace Notes



Hebrews 12:1-2 states: “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” In this spirit of being encouraged to remain steadfast in faith by the lives of the saints who have gone before us, I offer to you three opportunities to do just that during the month of August.

On August 15, the Church remembers St. Mary, the mother of our Lord. Mary is a key figure in the Gospels, and she is also mentioned in the book of Acts. She was present for most of the important events in her Son’s life. She received the annunciation by Gabriel that she would give birth to the Son of God. She was there for His birth in Bethlehem and the visits of the shepherds and the Magi. She was there at Jesus’ presentation in the temple, hearing the proclamation of Simeon and Anna. She was there at Jesus’ first miracle of turning water to wine at the wedding in Cana. Mary was there at the foot of the cross when Jesus was crucified. Through it all, Mary was a sinner who struggled with doubts, just as is true of all the saints in the Bible. Yet at the same time, we remember and give thanks especially for Mary’s faithfulness in words that all Christians would do well to speak with her: “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38) and “Do whatever He tells you” (John 2:4). On August 15, I encourage you to read texts like Luke 1:39-55 and Galatians 4:4-7, giving thanks for Mary and especially for her Son to whom she not only gave birth, but especially in whom she believed.

On August 24, the Church gives thanks for St. Bartholomew, one of Jesus’ twelve apostles. In John’s Gospel, we learn that Bartholomew also went by the name Nathanael. He was one of Jesus’

first disciples, being invited to come to Jesus by Philip. Though initially he was hesitant, he made the spectacular confession concerning Jesus: “You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” (John 1:49) Many of the early Church Fathers state that Bartholomew was martyred for his Christian faith by being flayed alive. On August 24, I encourage you to read Bartholomew’s call to faith from John 1:43-51 and to join him in that same confession yourselves, telling your friends and neighbors that Jesus is the Son of God.

On August 29, the Church remembers the martyrdom of St. John the Baptizer. Perhaps it seems odd to remember what seems to be such a gruesome event: John’s beheading at the hands of a fickle and weak king who made a senseless vow. Yet the Church does so rightly, for even in his death, John did what Isaiah 40:3 and Malachi 3:1 foretold. He went before Christ, preparing His way. In the footsteps of the prophets who came before him, and in anticipation of Christ whose death was soon to come, John preached the cross by the witness of his own death. Because of Christ’s death and resurrection, we know that John, this faithful servant, will be raised victorious on the Last Day. On August 29, I encourage you to read Mark 6:14-29 and Romans 6:1-5, giving thanks for the testimony of John’s martyrdom that nothing, not even death, can separate Jesus’ Christians from His love.

There are other commemorations during the month of August that you can find in *Lutheran Service Book*, pp. x-xiii. Once again, I pray that the Lord richly blesses you through the accounts and examples of these faithful men and women, saints whom He has forgiven by His blood.

In Christ,
Pastor Appel

August 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
					Pastor Away- Family Day	
4 8:45am Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion	5	6	7 10am GLLC Chapel	8 6pm LWML 	9 Pastor Away- Family Day	10
11 8:45am Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion	12 5pm Piecemakers 7pm LLL 	13	14 10am GLLC Chapel	15	16 Pastor Away- Family Day	17
18 8:45am Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion 3pm-FLHS Opening Service, Warda	19 6pm GLLC Mtg 7pm Evangelism	20	21 10am GLLC Chapel 1pm Ministerial Alliance	22 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE/NOON 	23 Pastor Away- Family Day	24
25 8:45am Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion 11am Brd of Ed 6:30pm Youth Group	26 8am Braille	27	28 10am GLLC Chapel 6pm-Midweek Kickoff	29	30 Pastor Away- Family Day	31

Grace Lutheran Church

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

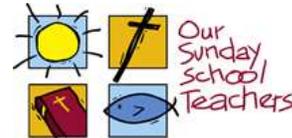
Email address: gracelutheransmithville@gmail.com
Web Site: www.glcs.org

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

Elder(s): Kerry Becker
Davey Kadlecek
Ushers: Vince Kaiser
Galen Bunte
Trustees: Allan Hancock
Johnnie Kalina
Organist(s): June Parker
Esther Wolff (Sub)
Kim Appel (Sub)
Aug. Altar Guild:
Linda Read
Frances Mynar

Acolytes:

Aug. 4 Thomas Brown & Baylor Watson
Aug. 11 Joshua Zimmerhanel & Juniper Smith
Aug. 18 Marianna Peres & David Wolff
Aug. 25 Storm Gorton & Thomas Brown



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

STILL IN NEED OF SUBTITUTE 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	Tim & Esther Wolff
4th - 6th grade	Kristin Appel (June Parker-sub)
7th - 8th grade	Pastor Appel
Adult Class	Ed Randle

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



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

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.



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.



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Aug. 1	Philip & Kimberly Appel
Aug. 18	Don & Nancy Young
Aug. 20	Mark & Margie Peres
Aug. 23	Daniel & Donna Kadlecek
	James & Murrelyn Rice
Aug. 24	Jim & Mary Ann Duty
	John & Katie Stelling
Aug. 26	Mackie Wayne & Kathy Kasper
Aug. 29	Bill & Jean Miller



DOLLARS & SENSE

As of July 26th, 2019

<u>Name</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Prosperity Checking Acct	52,942.88
CEF-General	2,407.57
CEF-Land/Youth	12,116.24
CEF Scholarship	12,265.61
CEF Property Loan	135,086.33
CEF Annex Loan	5,179.03
Legacy Deo	11,101.48
Total Dedicated Funds	23,748.57
General Fund Balance	29,194.31

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



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Aug. 2	Kellie Rice
Aug. 4	Bobby Hoskins
Aug. 6	Jacob Hannusch
	Vance Kaiser
Aug. 7	Bradley Campion
Aug. 8	Peyton Bennight
	Emileigh Seaton
Aug. 9	Mike Davis, Jr.
	Bernie Satterwhite
Aug. 10	Devin Deapen
	Donna Kadlecek
Aug. 14	Stanley Long
Aug. 15	Wendy Rohde
Aug. 16	Kaleb Barho
	Clint Zimmerhanzel
Aug. 17	Ashlyn Zimmerhanzel
Aug. 19	Eleanor Mutschink
	Kennedy Pietsch
Aug. 20	Nancy Fritsche
	Hannah Stem
Aug. 21	Angel Hurst
Aug. 23	Linda Noack
Aug. 25	Patricia Kaiser
	Julia Lorenz
Aug. 27	Debbie Higgins
	Patt Langer
Aug. 29	Troy Kasper
	David Rohde
	Stefanie Monecke
Aug. 30	Cindy Davis
	Katie Stelling
	Kira Kaiser
Aug. 31	Hallye Bonorden
	Gene Brown, Jr.

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.



PIECEMAKERS

We have been busy doing quilt for World Relief. We have gotten wonderful fabric donations but we can always use more. We need cotton fabrics and also gently used sheets. We use these for backing. We will meet on Monday, August 12th at 5:00 PM.

We meet in the Sunday School building--alley entrance. All are welcome to help us tie quilts for Lutheran World Relief.



Braille volunteers meet the 4th Monday of each month @ 8am.

We carpool to Immanuel Lutheran Church in Giddings to assemble braille bible study books.

Toni Ann Kadlecek



The BAE continues to be blessed in our efforts. We began in 2015 with a huge garage sale at Central School. We were able to move into rental space and then to purchase land and erect our own building. We continue to be all volunteer. We appreciate all our donors and shoppers who support us

Last quarter we were able to give Grant's totally \$47,800. Our total Grant's is now \$315,400. All done with volunteers and donations. We have a number of "permanent volunteers" these volunteers commit to coming in each week to work assigned areas. We need help with linens and some other areas if interested in doing more.

Grace will work:

-August 19 to 24th

Store closed August 26 to September 2 for Labor day

-October 14 to October 19

Store closed November 25 to 30 for Thanksgiving

-December 9 to 14th

Closed for Christmas December 23 to January 6

Open weeks will be

-September 9 to 14

-October 28 to November 2

Join us as you are able. Hours are 10 to 2 Monday to Thursday. 8:30 to 2:00 on Friday and Saturday

Fridays have been very busy. We appreciate everyone who comes to help.



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



Two Germany Trip Opportunities in 2020

In 2020, the city of Oberammergau, Germany, will be holding its world-renowned Passion Play that happens only every ten years. Two central Texas pastors are leading tours in 2020 that will include not only this Passion Play, but also a variety of Luther sites. Pastor Obersat of Ebenezer, Manheim, is leading a tour in May 2020, and Pastor Barz of Crown of Life, San Antonio, is leading a tour in July 2020. Information concerning both of these tours is available in the narthex for anyone who is interested.



Caring for Towers Residents

The staff at Towers Nursing Home was very appreciative of our congregation's recent donation of toiletries for their residents. The Evangelism Committee is continuing to encourage the members of our congregation to donate various toiletries (shampoo, body wash, lotion, toothpaste, etc.) to the residents at Towers. You can place them in the designated box in the narthex. Thank you for showing this love to our neighbors at Towers!

Pastor Appel Hosts Radio Bible Study

Pastor Appel is now the host of the radio Bible study, *Sharper Iron*. This program airs every weekday morning from 8:00-9:00 AM on KFUE, a Lutheran radio station out of St. Louis, MO. You can listen live on your computer or laptop by going to www.kfuo.org, or on your tablet or smartphone by downloading the KFUE app. If you miss the show in the morning, you can also listen to archived programs on the KFUE website. Please consider making use of this Bible study as a way to strengthen your Christian faith during the week!



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



LWML

Lutheran Women *in Mission*

UPCOMING:

Aug. 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.

Aug. Meeting Agenda:

Host: Toni Ann Kadlecek & Cathy Smith

Topic: National Convention by Sharon Reinberg

Our Mission Projects:

-Camp Lone Star Beans

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

LWML TEXAS DISTRICT GRANT BULLETIN BYTES:

*Shepherd of the Hills Church
Plant Children’s Ministry-San Antonio (\$4,285)*

This mission grant will be used for much needed equipment, Gospel-centered children’s education material, and supplies to support and facilitate neighborhood outreach, especially geared toward families and children, and be used in ongoing children’s ministry as the new church becomes established.

National Mission Grant Bulletin Bytes:

Water and the Word for Rural Schools in Kenya (\$80,000)

In 2008, a man from Nebraska traveling in East Africa saw the need for clean water and sought a way to help. Through contact with a social worker and educator in Nakuru, Kenya, he devised a system of installing water harvesting equipment (rain gutters and tanks), filters, hand washing stations and clean water storage to be installed in schools in Kenya. In 2016, members of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod from Nebraska took over the management of the project. They visit Kenya every year, traveling to schools assessing their water needs. Teams from the United States install rain gutters and tanks for storage. Hand washing stations and clean water “buckets” are placed in every classroom. They teach personal hygiene, handwashing and the importance of drinking only clean water. WASH clubs, made up of students and staff, are formed to be responsible for the clean water program. The grant will help the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (ELCK) to extend their ministry of Word and Sacrament by expanding the clean water project for their schools and orphanages.



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 seeks to engage young adults in a Christ-centered environment where faith and knowledge grow as one.

HOME OF THE FALCONS!

Thank You!

Thank you for all the prayers and support you have offered on behalf of FLHS. We ask that you continue to remember us in your prayers and gifts, as we make preparations for next year and the following. God continues to bless our ministry and YOU do as well. Thank you!

New Student Registration

Registration for the 2019-2020 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!! You can receive registration materials by calling (979) 242-2889 or visiting our website, at www.faithlutheranhighschool.com!

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. Give us a call (979-242-2889) to learn more about FLHS and how you can become a part of our family! **In today's increasingly hostile, non-Christian society, you can't afford to NOT send your child to FLHS!**

Summer Office Hours

Monday - Thursday from 8:30am to 3:30 pm.
Friday and holidays by appointment only.
Please call the office before visiting to ensure we are here, as various events may pull us from the office.

Staff Positions Available

Faith Lutheran High School will have part time openings on its faculty for the 2019-2020 academic year! Interested individuals who teach in any subject areas 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!

Lend a Hand

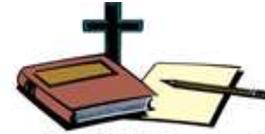
There are many opportunities to serve at Faith throughout the summer. Please contact Nikki Kueck with your interests. Thank you!

Wish List

FLHS created a wish list on [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com). It can be found by clicking "Find a List or Registry" under the Accounts and Lists tab and then searching "Faith Lutheran High School." Thank you for your generous support!

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 Mrs. Nikki Kueck.



**Board of Education
Sunday School
Midweek News**

Dear Members of Grace Lutheran Church,

REMEMBER!!!! The FIRST Sunday of every month is Sunday School Mission Sunday. Our Sunday School Mission for this quarter continues to be The Refuge Rescue Ranch in Bastrop, for young girls who have fallen victim to human trafficking of all types. Please remember to give generously the first Sunday of every month to help support this great cause. We will be electing a new Mission at our next meeting.

Our Annual Sunday School Rally on June 2nd was a great success!!

THANK YOU to all who helped. We had a coloring contest this year for the first time. The winners were **Kailee Wolff** for the youth and **Kristen Appel** for Adults. Other participants were: for the youth: Angel Wolff, Faith, Skylar, and Benjamin Appel, Adult participants were: Sterling Brown, and Donna Zimmerhanzel. Congratulations and Thank You to everyone who participated. A special thank you to all the men that helped cook this year, David Kadlecek, Davie Kadleck, Brad Zimmerhanzel, Colby Zimmerhanzel, M.W. Kasper, Charlie Johannessen and all the rest that helped that I do not know about. The hamburgers and hotdogs were delicious.

We are also reviewing the Sunday School and Mid-Week Curriculums, in an effort to possibly be able to have our lessons compliment each other.

CHALLENGE!!!!

We would like to encourage each of you to participate in our weekly challenge by answering the question in the back of the bulletin. We as a board feel it is important to educate each other on what Christ did for us and continues to do for us. So far, the youth are doing very well with consistency in answering challenge questions. Thank you, ADULTS, for stepping up and proving to the youth that we do all pay attention!!! Keep it up!!

May God Bless all of you.

Respectfully,
Barb Johannessen

Midweek Kickoff Party

The Evangelism Committee is hosting the Midweek Fall Kickoff Party on Wednesday, August 28 at 6:00 PM with pizza and ice cream. Meet your teachers for the upcoming year of midweek, and enjoy pizza and ice cream with toppings along with your brothers and sisters here at Grace. We are asking the congregation to once again share their favorite ice cream; toppings will be provided by the evangelism committee. Bring a friend with you, and don't miss this night of fun!



2019-20 Midweek Dates

The following Wednesdays are the dates for our midweek classes this year. Our regular midweek schedule consists of a light meal at 6:00 PM, followed by classes for all ages from 6:30-7:30. Dates marked with an asterisk (*) occur during Advent and Lent, when we have midweek worship services at 7 PM. During these two seasons of the Church Year, midweek classes will begin at 5:30 PM and end at 6:15 PM so that parents and children still have the opportunity to eat at the soup suppers before services.

Sharon Reinberg will once again be coordinating and cooking midweek meals. Contributions are needed to assist with the cost; please designate your offering toward midweek meals and bring it to the office during the week or place it in the plate on Sunday morning. Please plan to participate in our midweek classes this year; it is an excellent opportunity for all of us to grow together in a deeper understanding and appreciation of our Christian faith.



CLASSES

September 4, 2019	October 2, 2019	October 30, 2019	*December 4, 2019
September 11, 2019	October 9, 2019	November 6, 2019	*December 11, 2019
September 18, 2019	October 16, 2019	November 13, 2019	*December 18, 2019
September 25, 2019	October 23, 2019	November 20, 2019	
January 8, 2020	February 5, 2020	*March 4, 2020	April 15, 2020
January 15, 2020	February 12, 2020	*March 11, 2020	April 22, 2020
January 22, 2020	February 19, 2020	*March 25, 2020	April 29, 2020
January 29, 2020	*February 26, 2020	*April 1, 2020	

Read Through the Bible in 2019

Grace Lutheran Church, Smithville, TX

"God's Word is our great heritage and shall be ours forever!" Continue your daily Bible reading during 2019. 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 August

August 1	Matthew 21:1-22	1 Chronicles 1
August 2	Matthew 21:23-46	1 Chronicles 2-4
August 3	Matthew 22	1 Chronicles 5
August 4	Proverbs 15:1-11	Psalms 96-100
August 5	OFF	
August 6	Matthew 23:1-12	1 Chronicles 6-7
August 7	Matthew 23:13-39	1 Chronicles 8
August 8	Matthew 24	1 Chronicles 9-11
August 9	Matthew 25:1-30	1 Chronicles 12-14
August 10	Matthew 25:31-46	1 Chronicles 15-16
August 11	Proverbs 15:12-24	Psalms 101-103
August 12	OFF	
August 13	Matthew 26:1-35	1 Chronicles 17-20
August 14	Matthew 26:36-75	1 Chronicles 21-23
August 15	Matthew 27:1-26	1 Chronicles 24-26
August 16	Matthew 27:27-66	1 Chronicles 27-29
August 17	Matthew 28	2 Chronicles 1-3
August 18	Proverbs 15:25-33	Psalms 104-105
August 19	OFF	
August 20	1 Corinthians 1-2	2 Chronicles 4-6
August 21	1 Corinthians 3	2 Chronicles 7-9
August 22	1 Corinthians 4-5	2 Chronicles 10-14
August 23	1 Corinthians 6	2 Chronicles 15-17
August 24	1 Corinthians 7	2 Chronicles 18-21
August 25	Proverbs 16	Psalms 106
August 26	OFF	
August 27	1 Corinthians 8-9	2 Chronicles 22-24
August 28	1 Corinthians 10:1-22	2 Chronicles 25-28
August 29	1 Corinthians 10:23-11:34	2 Chronicles 29-31
August 30	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	2 Chronicles 32-33
August 31	1 Corinthians 12:12-13:13	2 Chronicles 34-36

The Askins in Asia



So Much Traveling

Over the last three months, we have spent an incredible amount of time traveling. At last count, we clocked over 200 hrs and 10,000 miles since April 11.

As a point of comparison, we could have traveled between New York and Los Angeles at least three times with that many miles!

When we embarked on our home service journey in April, one of the children immediately asked when we were going to go home. I told them that our van is our new home, but many times it feels that way.

And, for the last three months, it has provided a good home for us.

We have enjoyed the opportunities to visit with many of you. We have stopped at many congregations, met supporters, and thanked you all for walking alongside us during this journey.

The road has been exhausting. In the month of June, we suffered with various and sundry illnesses, the consequence of eating poorly and lacking sleep.

I think we might have reached our fill of American food too. When we left Taiwan, we didn't think this

would happen. However, this morning, I asked Ezekiel what he was looking forward to in Taiwan. His response: Taiwanese food. They miss their favorite treats from Taiwan including onion pizza (not my favorite) and pot stickers. Eva Maria wholeheartedly agreed with him.

Despite the struggles and the long hours spent in our large white van that currently serves as our house, we have enjoyed our time with family and supporters. We have enjoyed shaking the hands that have, for the last three years, been folded in prayer for us. We have delighted to look into the eyes that read our newsletters. We have relished the touch of fingers that stuck stamps to envelopes bearing support for this work.

We know that we were not able to visit everyone. We have learned a lot about how to prepare for our home service in the next two years. So, we're sorry if we couldn't make it to your part of the USA this time. However, we'll do our best to find you next time.

For everyone we were able to visit: Thank you. We look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Saying Hi and Goodbye So Many Times

— by Eliza

We have said hello and goodbye many times in the past 3 plus years. We crossed the ocean 3 times too. And it has been good to be “home” after being “away.” Despite being in different countries technology has allowed to talk with and see family and friends. However, being gathered together around tables, learning new, old games, reading stories on grandparent laps, reviving old friendships through play and make believe trump technology.

Three years seemed so long, but in a blink it passed. Three plus months seemed so long, but all that remains is 3 weeks. And still there are grandparents waiting to meet their youngest granddaughter for the first time. And the week we will have with them will by too quickly, but each moment will be a treasure from the Lord. We are so grateful for the time and the technology that shrinks the great expanse of the waters God created.

And the vastness of that expanse of water reminds us of how vast God’s kingdom stretches. We still have a few more church visits in these 3 weeks — a last few chances to share with God’s people here the story of God’s people there. And to remind each of us we are united in the waters of Holy baptism. To remind us that though our short time here is but a moment of time, heaven will remain for all eternity.

So as we say or final hellos and goodbyes, we thank God for the memories. We thank the people for the hospitality. We thank the churches and congregation members for the meals, prayers, and financial support. And we look back smiling and ahead smiling at the blessings of the Lord.

✠ *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
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod or LCMS. Include “Askins-Hong Kong” in the memo line. Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website at www.lcms.org/givenow/askins. To give a gift over the phone, please call 1-888-930-4438.

Contact us at roy.askins@lcmsintl.org.

For Your Prayers

In your prayers, please keep these things in mind:

- For the LCMS as she prepares to go to convention
- For us as we spend our last few weeks in the USA prior to returning home
- In thankfulness for all the congregations and families who have hosted and supported us over the last three months in the USA
- In thankfulness for all the financial support and prayer we have received during our time in the USA

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.



Left: Trinity Lutheran Church, Cole Camp, MO
 Center: Aunt D'Ann with her amazing, HUGE dogs.
 Right Top: The elevator up the bluff in Dubuque, IA.



Above: Pr. Anton Ben Gurion baptizing some of the Sanak people from the video in the presentations. Praise the Lord!



Above: Winning photo from the Where's Waldo search in Dubuque, IA.