

Grace Notes

December



2018

Happy New Year! You might be thinking that I'm a month too early with that greeting, but I'm not. We are starting a new year on the calendar of the Church Year. In 2018, Sunday, November 25 marks the Last Sunday in the Church Year, and the following week, Sunday, December 2 is the First Sunday in Advent. That's the start of the new Church Year. My initial greeting still rings out: Happy New Year!

As we enter into this new Church Year and this preparatory season anew, a few thoughts on the season of Advent are appropriate. First, the word "Advent" means "coming." As the season immediately before Christmas, this means that the season of Advent turns our attention to the central promise of the Old Testament: the Savior is coming! We join in the faithful anticipation of the Old Testament Christians, trusting that God will indeed fulfill His promise. At the same time, because we live on the other side of Christmas, Advent also reminds us as New Testament Christians of Jesus' other two comings—His coming to us now in Word and Sacrament and His final coming on the Last Day to raise us from the dead. As you hear the Advent Scripture readings and sing the Advent hymns this year, rejoice in the way that the season of Advent focuses you on Jesus' coming in this multifaceted way.

Second, the season of Advent is a time of waiting. The world around us doesn't wait well. How early did you see Christmas decorations go up this year? It's getting earlier and earlier every year. Our world wants to rush into Christmas and then out of Christmas as little more than a day to rest from work, gather with family, and exchange gifts. Advent is a helpful remedy for us as Christians. Advent invites us to wait. Advent teaches us to trust with patience that God will fulfill His promises at His appointed time (Galatians 4:4-7). You'll see this happen in our congregation as the candles are lit one by one on the Advent wreath and as the Christmas adornments for the sanctuary don't go up right away or all at once. The color blue, which our congregation uses for the paraments during Advent, is a color of hope and anticipation for God to fulfill His promises. Though it goes against the grain of our culture, let Advent do this work on you, helping you to wait.

Third, the season of Advent is a time of repentance. Why did Christ come the first time, at Christmas? He came to pay the price for my sin and your sin and all sin. Think too about Christ's second coming. He warns us to be prepared and ready for that Day, as we heard at the end of the Church Year and as we hear again in Advent. Are we ready for that Day? Do we live in Christ's light, or do we engage in works of darkness? These are the penitential questions Advent invites us to ask. The penitential nature of the season is reflected in our worship during Advent by omitting the Hymn of Praise on Sunday mornings and by gathering on Wednesday evenings for extra time in God's Word.

I pray that this Advent season at Grace increases your trust in Christ, giving you a time to repent of your sin and focus on the ways Christ comes to you to save you from your sin—at Christmas, in His Word and Sacrament, and on the Last Day. These words from Titus 2:11-14 tie all these Advent themes together: "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works." God bless your Advent repentance and waiting so that you may rejoice all the more at His coming to save you!

In Christ,
Pastor Appel

December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 9am Christmas Program Practice
2 8:45am Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion	3 7pm Elders  Elders Meeting	4	5 10am GLLC Chapel ADVENT SCHEDULE (see below)	6 6pm LWML/LLL Christmas Party	7 Pastor Away- Family Day	8 9am Christmas Program Practice
9 8:45am Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion 6:30pm Youth Group	10 5pm Piecemakers	11 9am Pastor Circuit Mtg-Elgin	12 10am GLLC Chapel ADVENT SCHEDULE (see below)	13 11am-Bible Study	14 Pastor Away- Family Day	15 9am Christmas Program Practice
16 8:45am Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion 3pm Christmas Caroling	17 6pm GLLC Mtg	18	19 10am GLLC Chapel 1pm Ministerial Alliance ADVENT SCHEDULE (see below)	20 11am-Bible Study	21 Pastor Away- Family Day	22
23 8:45am Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion 11am Brd of Ed	24 8am Braille 7pm- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 9am- Christmas Day Worship	26	27 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE/NOON	28 Pastor Away- Family Day	29
30 8:45am Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion	31 New Year's Eve			ADVENT MIDWEEK SCHEDULE Classes 5:30-6:15 Soup Supper 6:00-6:45 Advent Worship 7:00 pm		

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.



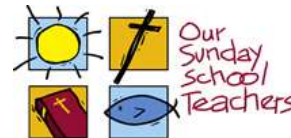
Passengers for Church Van

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.

Elder(s): Ed Randle
C. Johannessen
Organist(s): June Parker
Esther Wolff (Sub)
Kim Appel (Sub)
Ushers: Davey Kadlecek
MW Kasper
Trustees: Allan Hancock
Ivan Fritsche
Dec. Altar Guild: June Parker
Libby Caldwell

Readers:
Dec 2 Jean Miller
Dec 9 Bernie Satterwhite
Dec 16 Rowan James
Dec 23 Huntis Dittmar
Dec 30 Debbie Higgins

Acolytes:
Dec. 2 David Wolff & Marianna Peres
Dec.9 Mackenzie Peres & Thomas Brown
Dec.16 Adrian Wolff & Juniper Smith
Dec. 23 Joshua Zimmerhanzel & Baylor Watson
Dec. 25 David Wolff & Thomas Brown
Dec. 30 Marianna Peres & Juniper Smith



Pre-School/	Mary Lou Oliver/
Kindergarten	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 & Ester Wolff
4th - 6th grade	Kristin Appel (June Parker-sub)
7th - 8th grade	Pastor Appel
Adult Class	Ed Randle



Dec. 2	Brad & Donna Zimmerhanzel
Dec. 11	Daniel & Shelly Robinson
Dec. 18	June & Dennis Parker
	Rowan & Nora James
Dec. 30	John & Cheryl Moore
Dec. 31	Gene & Melissa Brown
	Vince & Jeanie Kaiser

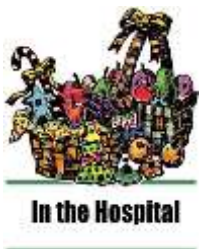


As of, 2018

<u>Name</u>	<u>Balance</u>
<u>Prosperity Checking Acct</u>	30,255.02
<u>CEF-General</u>	2,387.70
<u>CEF-Land/Youth</u>	12,016.28
<u>CEF Scholarship</u>	12,164.43
<u>CEF Property Loan</u>	140,138.72
<u>CEF Annex Loan</u>	34,977.18
<u>Legacy Deo</u>	11,259.60
<u>Total Dedicated Funds</u>	14,290.59
<u>General Fund Balance</u>	15,964.43

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

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



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**



- Dec. 1** Joe Ray (Bubba) Bennight
Chad Catron
- Dec. 3** Caren Hannusch
Dorwin (Blackie) Wallace
- Dec. 5** Wyatt Deapen
Robert Vinklerek
- Dec. 6** Annie Mae Rohde
John Anderson
- Dec. 7** Amber Hurst
- Dec. 8** Lisa Stem
- Dec. 12** Joshua Zimmerhanzel
- Dec. 15** Betty Flora
- Dec. 17** Robert Nitsche
- Dec. 18** Allan Hurst
Stephanie Kadlecek
- Dec. 19** Sharon Hancock
Gracie Harmon
- Dec. 20** Juniper Smith
- Dec. 21** Nicole Claiborne
- Dec. 23** Charles Knippa
- Dec. 24** Noah Appel
Gertrude Davis
Heath Seaton
- Dec. 25** Corey Macks
Brody Taylor
- Dec. 26** Heather McNeil
- Dec. 27** Cliff Burns
- Dec. 28** Jack Page
Kyle Pietsch

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



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



PIECEMAKERS

We meet each month to tie quilts for Lutheran World Relief. We meet the 4th Monday in the Sunday School building alley entrance. We usually work until about 7. All are welcome. Tying a knot is the only skill you need.

Our next session is November 10th at 5pm.



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



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.



Festival of Lights Parade

This year's Festival of Lights in Smithville is **Saturday, December 1**. This year's theme is "Christmas in the Movies," so the Evangelism Committee is putting together a parade float with the Peanuts Christmas characters. We are looking for participants willing to dress up as their favorite Peanuts character and sing Christmas hymns while riding the float. If you are interested, contact Pastor Appel or John and Brenda Anderson.



The LWML has Christmas cards available for purchase in the narthex. The card cabinet also has a lot of new selections for purchase.

We thank you for your support



Braille

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



We continue to be blessed with bountiful donations. We will be making our next Grant's in December. We could not do this without the support of the community.

We partner with First Presbyterian and our next scheduled shift is January 14 through 19.

We are scheduled again on February 25 to March 1.

Hours are 10 to 2 Monday to Thursday. 9 to 2 on Friday and Saturday. Fridays are really busy. Our trends have changed. We have almost the same foot traffic on both days but spending is higher on Friday.

Join us as you are able.



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

POINSETTIAS

\$7.00 each



It's time to decorate our sanctuary with holiday color. The beautiful red poinsettia is also a reminder of the color of freedom we have from sin through our newborn Savior. Please

sign up for the number of plants you want until Sunday December 9th. Please make checks payable to Grace Lutheran Church and give to the Office.



Christmas Program Practice

Our Sunday school children's Christmas program is being held this year on Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24, at 7 PM. Practice will be held the first three Saturdays of December (December 1, 8, and 15)

from 9:00-10:30 AM. Cheryl Moore, our director, is reaching out to families now to encourage your participation. If you have any questions, please speak to her or to Pastor Appel.



Advent Midweek & Christmas Schedule

Wednesday Dec. 5, 2018	Classes 5:30-6:15 Soup Supper 6:00-6:45 A - Fo Advent Worship 7:00 pm	Host:
Wednesday Dec. 12, 2018	Classes 5:30-6:15 Soup Supper 6:00-6:45 Fr – P Advent Worship 7:00 pm GLLC Children’s Christmas Program	Host:
Wednesday Dec. 19, 2018	Classes 5:30-6:15 Soup Supper 6:00-6:45 R-Z Advent Worship 7:00 pm	Host:
Monday Dec. 24, 2018	7:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Sunday School Children’s Program	
Tuesday Dec. 25, 2018	9:00 am The Nativity of Our Lord Festival Worship with Holy Communion	

Advent Midweek Offerings

During our Advent midweek services, our offerings will go to support important ministries both close to home and all around the world. This year, the offerings from the services on December 5 and December 19 will be split between Faith Lutheran High School in Central Texas and Pastor Askins’ missionary service in Asia. The offering from the service on December 12, which includes our Learning Center’s Christmas program, will go to support ministry of GLLC. Please prayerfully consider how you can give to help the spread of the Gospel through these outreach opportunities.



2019

January 9, 2019	February 6, 2019	*March 6, 2019	*April 10, 2019
January 16, 2019	February 13, 2019	*March 13, 2019	April 24, 2019
January 23, 2019	February 20, 2019	*March 27, 2019	May 1, 2019
January 30, 2019	February 27, 2019	*April 3, 2019	

Read Through the Bible in 2018

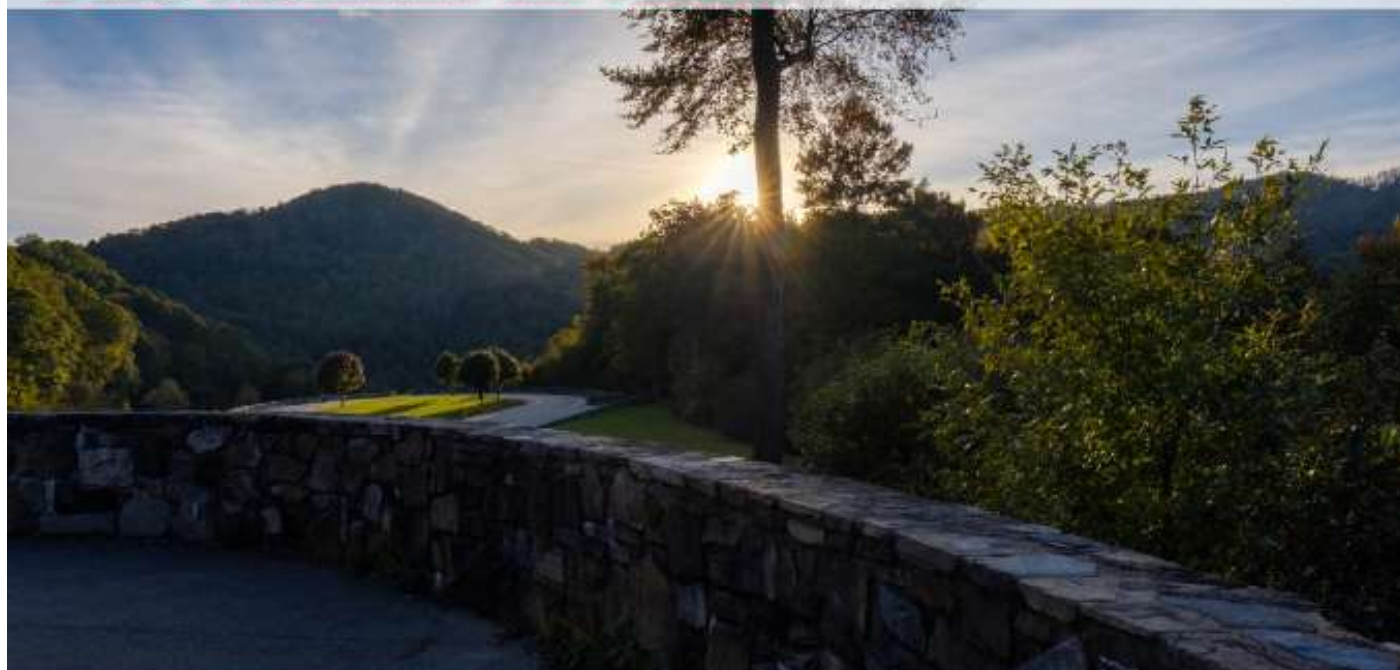
Grace Lutheran Church, Smithville, TX

“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 December

December 1	Proverbs 29	Psalms 133-136
December 2	OFF	
December 3	Hebrews 13	Daniel 10-12
December 4	II Peter 1	Hosea 1-4
December 5	II Peter 2-3	Hosea 5-10
December 6	Jude	Hosea 11-14
December 7	Revelation 1-2	Joel 1-3
December 8	Proverbs 30:1-10	Psalms 137-139
December 9	OFF	
December 10	Revelation 3	Amos 1-4
December 11	Revelation 4-5	Amos 5-9
December 12	Revelation 6-7	Obadiah
December 13	Revelation 8-9	Micah 1-3
December 14	Revelation 10-11	Micah 4-7
December 15	Proverbs 30:11-23	Psalms 140-143
December 16	OFF	
December 17	Revelation 12	Nahum 1-3
December 18	Revelation 13-14	Habakkuk 1-3
December 19	Revelation 15-16	Zephaniah 1-3
December 20	Revelation 17-18	Haggai 1-2
December 21	Revelation 19	Zechariah 1-8
December 22	Proverbs 30:24-33	Psalms 144-147
December 23	OFF	
December 24	Revelation 20-21	Zechariah 9-14
December 25	Revelation 22	Malachi 1-4
December 26	James 1-2	Jonah 1-4
December 27	James 3	Esther 1-4
December 28	James 4-5	Esther 5-10
December 29	Proverbs 31	Psalms 148-150
December 30	OFF	
December 31	Re-read Galatians	

The Askins in Asia



From Sea to Shining Sea . . . Thank You.

The last month gave me a unique opportunity to travel the United States from sea to shining sea. I met many new people for the first time; I reconnected with supporters and donors I had not see for the last three years.

Last month, I traveled the US raising support.

To the new members on the Askins in Asia newsletter list, welcome. Thank you for taking the time to come to my presentation; thank you for signing up; thank you for reading this newsletter; thank you for your support. For our long time readers: thank you for your continued encouragement as I support the proclamation of the Gospel in Asia.

This last month, I traveled from San Francisco to New England, then down to the Carolinas and Virginia to reconnect and re-engage donors and supporting congregations. At the same time, I made new connections. In fact, most of my visit were to new congregations and Lutherans interested in the work of the church in Asia.

Thanks to the generosity of friends and supporters, I only had to rent a car once, and I never stayed in a hotel. Fellow members of Christ's body welcomed me

into their lives and homes. To all of you who supported me in this way: Thank You.

Sadly, my family was not able to join me on this trip. While they missed me, they worked diligently on school work and Chinese. I continue to marvel at the progress they've made; it makes me immensely proud of them and their work.

Even as I finish this round of support raising, we're beginning to plan our full home service for the spring of 2019. Then the entire family will return for the first time in three years and travel with me to reconnect with donors and raise support.

Take a look at the following page for our tentative travel dates for this coming spring and early summer. If a time slot in there works particularly well for you and your congregation and we'll be in your area, please ask me as soon as possible. Sundays, especially, tend to fill up fast.

Finally, we will also be looking for housing and — more importantly — a vehicle that can accommodate our family during this trip. If you have vehicle or home you are willing and able to lend, we would greatly appreciate it.

Tentative Travel Dates

Please take a look at the rough time table below. If your congregation would be interested in a particular date within those times and we'll be in your area, please let me know. The dates are not set in stone and may change.

Also, if you have a home and a vehicle (large) we might be allowed to borrow, please let us know.

Date	Location
Mid April	Arrive and travel to Texas via St. Louis
Mid April – Early June	Texas
Early June to Mid June	Colorado, Wyoming
3rd Week of June	Travel to Iowa & Wisconsin
Late June – Early July	Iowa & Wisconsin
Early July – Mid July	Family time in Iowa & Wisconsin
3rd Week of July	Pr. Askins at Synodical Convention
Last Week of July	Return to Taiwan

✠ *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 Askins children as they have birthdays, especially Ezekiel in the month of November
- For Pastor and Mrs. Askins as they celebrate 13 years of marriage on November 25
- For the China Evangelical Lutheran Church (Taiwan, Republic of China) that her members and pastors would remain faithful to the Scriptures and boldly share the message of Christ and him crucified
- For a vehicle that we might borrow during home service this spring

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.



My first stop at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Rocklin, CA



First Lutheran Church, Holyoke, MA



Above: Redeemer Lutheran Church, Lebanon, CT



Above: Teaching chapel at Augustana Lutheran Church, Hickory, NC.

Below left: Grace Lutheran Church, San Mateo, CA; Below Right: Crucifix from Zion Owego, NY.



Below: Made a new stop in Owego, NY where Rev. Timm Heath serves.



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!

End of Year Giving

In Proverbs 2:6, God's Word promises: "The LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding." Faith Lutheran High School exists to instill Christ's wisdom in His Word to prepare faithful leaders for tomorrow. Thank you for being a part of this mission through your prayers and financial support. The Board of Directors has set a goal of raising \$50,000 by December 31, 2018 to support the ministry of FLHS. Please prayerfully consider how you can give to further Lutheran education in our area. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mrs. Kueck at (979) 242-2889.

Registration

Registration is ongoing. Check out FLHS!! You can receive registration materials by calling (979) 242-2889 or visiting our website at 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 at (979) 242-2889 to set up a shadow day for your child.

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.

Free Wednesday mornings?

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

Yard Signs Available

Show your support of FLHS by placing a sign in your yard. New single sided signs are now available. There is no cost to you to obtain one! Come by and pick one up today! (*Donations are accepted to offset cost.)

Thrivent Action Team Grants

If you are a Thrivent member willing to submit an application for a \$250 grant to be used on projects at Faith, please contact Nikki Kueck by calling (979)242-2889. Help us to be able to take advantage of these funds for the good of our school. *Current project list includes: Game Night Events, and making Christmas cards for local nursing homes and oversea missionaries.

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, or volunteer your time and talents, please contact Mrs. Nikki Kueck.

Keep in Touch

Stop by school and say "Hi," explore what the students are learning in classes and learn more about FLHS. Find and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube or Twitter - like and share our posts. Also, visit our website at www.faithlutheranhighschool.com!



In Proverbs 2:6, God's Word promises: "The LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding." Faith Lutheran High School exists to instill Christ's wisdom in His Word to prepare faithful leaders for tomorrow. You can be a part of this mission through your prayers and financial support. The Board of Directors has set a goal of raising \$50,000 by December 31, 2018 to support the ministry of FLHS. Please prayerfully consider how you can give to further Lutheran education in our area.

Feel free to fill out this form and return it with your donation. Thank you for your support!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Gift: ___\$50 ___\$100 ___\$250 ___\$500 ___\$1,000 ___Other (\$_____)

Checks can be made payable to "Faith Lutheran High School" and mailed to PO Box 138, Warda, TX 78960.