

Grace Notes



2021

The month of February brings with it the season of Lent this year. February 17 is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of a time of preparation and penitence that focuses our attention on the suffering and death of our Lord to win our forgiveness. As we approach this holy season, a few notes are in order so that we would observe it in a way that will build us up in faith toward God and love toward each other.

First, the season of Lent lasts forty days. This number shows up repeatedly in God's Word. For example, the LORD sent rain on the earth forty days and forty nights during the worldwide flood (Genesis 7). The people of Israel wandered in the wilderness for forty years after their initial rejection of the LORD's gift of the Promised Land (Numbers 14). Our Lord Jesus was tempted by the devil in the wilderness for forty days (Matthew 4). In each of these examples, God called His people to live by faith. Noah and his family trusted that God would deliver them through the flood. The faithful Israelites trusted that the LORD would sustain them in the wilderness and finally bring them to the Promised Land. Jesus trusted that His Heavenly Father spoke the truth in the face of the devil's lies. In keeping with these examples, the Church observes a season of forty days in order to teach us to live by faith. During Lent, we spend time in repentance over our sins, trusting that God has forgiven us in Christ. During Lent, we spend time meditating on our Lord's passion, death, and resurrection, trusting that these glorious deeds have won our eternal salvation.

Second, the color for the season of Lent is violet. This color reminds us both of royalty and repentance. In the ancient world, violet cloth could only be made with a very expensive dye and so was generally only purchased by the very wealthy, who were often royalty. In seeing this color during Lent, we are reminded that our King has given His life for us. This drives us to repentance. As we see the price that our King paid for us, God brings us to turn from our sins and toward Him and His mercy.

Third, our worship services are more penitential in nature. During the season of Lent, it is customary to omit the singing of "Alleluia" and the hymn of praise from the Divine Service. Although we never lose sight of the joy that we have in the salvation Christ has won by His death and resurrection, tempering these expressions for a season reminds us of our need to repent and heightens our joy when we come to the third day celebration of our Lord's resurrection.

Finally, spiritual disciplines are encouraged. The season of Lent is often associated with fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. In fasting, Christians give up a particular meal or other bodily need for a short time as a reminder that we do not live by bread alone but by every Word that comes from God (Matthew 6:16-18). In prayer, Christians make use of the time they would have used for that bodily need given up in fasting and spend it asking God for His mercy and thanking Him for His gifts (Matthew 6:5-15). In almsgiving, Christians make use of the money they would have used for that bodily need given up in fasting and spend it to serve the good of their neighbors (Matthew 6:1-4). Here at Grace, our midweek services are intended to assist us with these spiritual disciplines, particularly as we gather an extra time during the week to pray and use the offerings to help those outside our congregation.

God bless you with His grace during this holy season of Lent to be brought in repentance and faith to a joyful celebration of His victory for you by His death and His resurrection!

In Christ,
Pastor Appel

February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7pm Elders  Elders Meeting	2	3 5:30pm- Youth Confirmation	4 6pm LWML 	5 Pastor Away-Family Day	6
7 8:30am Worship/Communion 10am Worship/Communion 11am-Family Bible Study	8	9 9am Pastor Circuit Mtg	10 5:30pm- Youth Confirmation	11	12 Pastor Away-Family Day	13
14 8:30am Worship/Communion 10am Worship/Communion 11am-Family Bible Study	15 6pm GLLC Mtg	16	17 5:30pm- Youth Confirmation 7pm- Ash Wednesday Divine Service	18	19 Pastor Away-Family Day	20
21 8:30am Worship/Communion 10am Worship/Communion 11am-Family Bible Study	22	23	24 5:30pm- Youth Confirmation 7pm- Lent Midweek Worship	25 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE/NO ON 	26 Pastor Away-Family Day	27
28 8:30am Worship/Communion 10am Worship/Communion 11am-Family Bible Study						

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

8:30 Elder(s): Davey Kadlecek
Jack Page

10:30 Elders: Galen Bunte
Kerry Becker

Trustees: Brad Zimmerhanel
Colby Zimmerhanel

Organist(s):
June Parker
Esther Wolff
Kim Appel

Feb. Altar
Guild:
Becky Watson
Helen Fleck



As of, January 29th, 2021

Name	Balance
Prosperity Checking Acct	86,309.24
CEF-General	2,447.89
CEF-Land/Youth	12,319.13
CEF Scholarship	12,471.00
Legacy Deo	11,708.34
Total Dedicated Funds	24,665.04
General Fund Balance	61,644.20

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

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)

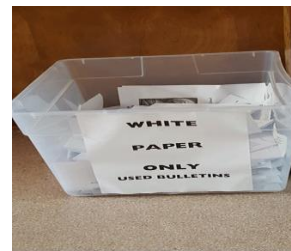
CHURCH OFFICE

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



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/.



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- Feb. 20** Toni Ann & David Kadlecek
Brenda & John Anderson
- Feb. 24** Marilyn & Ed Randle
- Feb. 25** Marlene & Mike Wallace

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 BAE is reopening! Donations are accepted Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10 to 2. Sale day is Friday from 9 to 2. We will be limiting traffic. No one under age 16. Hand sanitizer will be provided. Protocols will continue for incoming donations. Quarantines will be in place. Grace will be working the week of February 22 to 26th. Join us as you are able. Social distancing is practiced. Temps will be taken for volunteers upon arrival.



Youth Confirmation Classes

Our 7th and 8th grade youth confirmation students and parents meet each week for in-depth instruction concerning what Lutherans believe, teach, and confess according to God's Word. Class meets from 5:30-6:30 each Wednesday evening, making use of the necessary space in the parish hall to allow us to distance as effectively as possible. ***Please keep these youth and their parents in your prayers, that their faith in Christ would grow during their time in God's Word.***



Dear saints at Grace,
Thank you for your generous Christmas gift to our family this year! We are continually overwhelmed by the blessings that God has given us over the last ten years by placing us among you here at Grace. We look forward to our continued labor with you in the kingdom of God here for however long the Savior grants us. God bless you all!
In Christ,
The Appels

- Feb. 1** Helen Fleck
- Feb. 2** Darrell Campion
David Kadlecek, Sr.
- Feb. 3** Walter Psencik
- Feb. 4** Aaron Kasper
- Feb. 7** Madison Whitney
Cody Spencer
- Feb. 8** Khloe Pietsch
- Feb. 9** Barrett Watson
- Feb. 11** Daniel Kadlecek
- Feb. 12** Bailey Bennight
Tammy Campion
- Feb. 14** Colson Kovar
- Feb. 15** Jerry Fleck
- Feb. 17** Elizabeth Penn
Paisley Owens
Jaysen Swartz
- Feb. 21** Tammy Teague
- Feb. 22** Ryan Smith
Hallie Herschap
- Feb. 23** Rebekka Gwin
Alexandria Hernandez
David Wolff
- Feb. 24** Kimberly Craig
- Feb. 25** Justin Teague
- Feb. 26** Kayson Kaiser
Ann Schroeder
Johnny Schroeder

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!

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.

Ongoing Worship Services at Grace

Grace continues to offer two worship services each Sunday, one at 8:30 AM and one at 10:00 AM, in order to continue spacing more effectively during the ongoing pandemic. We also continue with a variety of health-conscious practices before, during, and after worship. Our Board of Elders continues to strive toward providing worship opportunities that are not only physically healthy, but especially will build us up spiritually in faith in Christ and together as His Church here in this place.

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!



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 from all age groups from infant on up. Sunday school starts as close to 11:00am as possible. Directly after the 2nd Church Service. If you have any questions please feel free to contact a Board Member or Pastor.

We Pray that our Country returns to some type of normal activities soon without causing a rise in COVID 19 or other diseases.

Our Board members for this year are: Charlie Johannessen, Toni Ann Kadlecsek, 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



Lent 2021 Services and Offerings

This year, Ash Wednesday is February 17. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the penitential forty-day season of Lent that prepares us for Holy Week and the Resurrection of our Lord. Although we will not be having soup suppers this year due to the ongoing pandemic, each Wednesday during Lent (February 17, 24; March 3, 10, 17, 24) will offer a devotional worship service at 7 PM. This year's Lenten midweek services will focus on the fifth chief part of the Catechism, Confession and Absolution. Our offerings will go to support the mission work of the Lord in three places: our Learning Center, Faith Lutheran High School, and pastoral education costs at Zion Lutheran Church in Schulenburg. Make plans to join us for these Lenten services to grow in the repentance and faith that Jesus gives.



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!

February 2020

Thank you! Thank you!

There have been so many people, organizations, groups and churches who have contributed to the success and growth of FLHS this past semester and in these first few years. We are so incredibly blessed! THANK YOU!!

Spring Raffle

FLHS raffle tickets will be available THIS week!! Tickets are \$20 each. Drawing will be the week of March 8-12, during National Lutheran Schools Week. Items include:

- Exotic Deer Hunt with Lodging (no meals)
- Flounder Giggling Trip on Texas Coast
- 3 Nights at Pelican Bay Resort, Rockport
- Custom Fire Pit
- \$500 Visa Gift Card
- Custom Cedar Carved piece and Commemorative Silver Coin
- Handmade Quilt (Queen)
- Dessert a Month for a Year
- Casserole a Month for a Year

Limited amount of tickets available - get yours today! Please contact any FLHS delegate, student, staff or call (979) 242-2889 to get your tickets!!

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. If you're not on social media, head to our website (faithlutheranhighschool.com) which is updated regularly as well!

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.

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.

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.

Wish List

FLHS has created a wish list on Amazon, containing ongoing needs. The easiest way to get to it is by clicking on the link on either the FLHS Facebook page or website. 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. Faith is looking for individuals or families who share in our commitment to Lutheran Education and asking that you would support our ministry through a one-time gift, establish a monthly giving plan, or set up an enduring gift. To learn more about these options, please contact Mrs. Nikki Kueck.





LWML

Lutheran Women *in Mission*

UPCOMING:

Feb. 4th
Regular Meeting
-All ladies bring
snacks

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: Smithville Food Pantry

LWML TEXAS DISTRICT GRANT BULLETIN BYTES:

- *Creating a Network of Hope-
Driving Hope of Texas - \$20,000*

God of hope and mercy, when poor and elderly patients need rides to medical appointments, You raise up willing servants who help with transportation and other needs. Grant that Driving Hope of Texas will be able to network needs with helpers to give assurance of Your love to the hopeless. In Jesus' name. Amen

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

National Mission Grant Bulletin Bytes:

-Restoring Hope for Detroit Children and Families
(\$100,000)

Detroit has experienced economic disaster and leads the nation with 57.3% of their children living in poverty without food or opportunity. Camp Restore Detroit provides a safe nurturing Christ-centered place for these children, their families, and other adults. This camp provides a place for the children to come and learn about God's love as they participate in art, theatre, and music classes and receive homework help while receiving assistance with basic educational and developmental skills. Additionally, adults are offered parenting, finance, and resume building classes. This grant will fund the renovation of two previously abandoned houses into community outreach centers, along with the house furnishings and outreach materials.



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 February

February 1	John 17	Isaiah 12-16
February 2	John 18	Isaiah 17-21
February 3	Proverbs 3:1-12	Psalms 19-20
February 4	OFF	
February 5	John 19:1-27	Isaiah 22-25
February 6	John 19:28-42	Isaiah 26-28
February 7	John 20-21	Isaiah 29-32
February 8	Romans 1	Isaiah 33-36
February 9	Romans 2	Isaiah 37-39
February 10	Proverbs 3:13-26	Psalms 21-23
February 11	OFF	
February 12	Romans 3	Isaiah 40-42
February 13	Romans 4	Isaiah 43-45
February 14	Romans 5	Isaiah 46-49
February 15	Romans 6-7	Isaiah 50-54
February 16	Romans 8	Isaiah 55-58
February 17	Proverbs 3:27-35	Psalms 24-27
February 18	OFF	
February 19	Romans 9	Isaiah 59-63
February 20	Romans 10	Isaiah 64-66
February 21	Romans 11	Exodus 1-3
February 22	Romans 12	Exodus 4:1-6:12
February 23	Romans 13	Exodus 6:13-8:32
February 24	Proverbs 4:1-19	Psalms 28-31
February 25	OFF	
February 26	Romans 14:1-15:13	Exodus 9-11
February 27	Romans 15:14-33	Exodus 12-14
February 28	Romans 16	Exodus 15-16