

# Grace Notes



2022

The month of February is well-known for the observance of Valentine's Day on February 14. In addition to taking the time to learn more about the historical St. Valentine, this provides us the opportunity to see how the Psalms teach us to pray in light of God's love for us. The place to turn is Psalm 136. Start by pausing your reading right here, pray all of Psalm 136, and then come back to consider this Word of God in greater detail.

I imagine it didn't take you long to see why we're looking at this Psalm as we think about God's love; the refrain in the second part of each verse goes like this: "for His steadfast love endures forever." It's easy to imagine this Psalm being used in the worship life of God's Old Testament people. I can hear the priest speaking the first line of each verse and the congregation responding with that beautiful refrain each time. We do well to use this Psalm similarly in our own worship here at Grace and in our devotions at home; you might consider praying Psalm 136 together as a family, with one family member speaking the first part of each verse and the rest of the family speaking the refrain together.

The Hebrew word *chesed*, which is translated "steadfast love" in the English Standard Version, is a rich word that carries a depth of meaning. The word is used 125 times in the Psalter as the most common way that the psalmists talk about God's grace. God's *chesed* is His faithfulness to the promise He made to His people Israel, even when they have been unfaithful. God's *chesed* is His loyalty to His people even when they have been disloyal. God's *chesed* is His unwavering commitment to bring salvation to His people by sending His Son to live, die, and rise. God's *chesed* is His goodness in action to bless His people with life, forgiveness, and salvation apart from any merit or worthiness in us.

Psalm 136 praises God by recounting the history of how God has shown His steadfast love to His people. Psalm 136:1-3 introduces the prayer through Trinitarian praise. In vv.4-10, God's steadfast love is seen in His works of creation. In vv.10-16, God's steadfast love is seen in the rescue He gave to His people from slavery in Egypt. In vv.17-22, God's steadfast love is seen in His gift of the Promised Land




to Israel by the conquest of Canaan. In vv.23-25, God's steadfast love is seen in His continued care for Israel in the present and into the future. The final verse of the Psalm summarizes everything that came before: "Give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever."

No wonder Psalm 136 teaches us to give thanks to the LORD for His steadfast love that endures forever! We are invited to pray with confidence that God has shown steadfast love to us in the past, that He is showering steadfast love upon us now, and that He will never fail to give steadfast love in the future. The word "love" in our culture is often reduced to a feeling that is here today and gone tomorrow, but this is a far cry from the reality of God's steadfast love. God's steadfast love is no mere feeling that one day will be gone. God's steadfast love is His faithfulness, loyalty, and commitment to give to us all that we need for this life and the next. Making this all the more astounding, steadfast love is the way God acts toward us even though we have surely deserved nothing but punishment. God's steadfast love is seen most clearly in the event to which Psalm 136 looks forward: the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus. Completely by His grace, God has given His Son to save us sinners. That's the steadfast love of God in action to the fullest.

Psalm 136 is a beautiful text to have in our minds as our world thinks about "love" on Valentine's Day. Here God gives us a true picture of what love is—His commitment to bring salvation to us sinners. God grant that we would share the good news of His love with our family, friends, and neighbors this February and always!

In Christ,  
**Pastor Appel**

# February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 10am GLLC Chapel 5:30pm-Youth Confirmation	3 6pm LWML 	4 Pastor Away- Family Day	5
6 8:45am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship/Communion 11am-Family Sunday School	7 7pm Elders  <b>Elders Meeting</b>	8 9am Pastor Circuit Mtg	9 10am GLLC Chapel 5:30pm-Youth Confirmation	10	11 Pastor Away- Family Day	12
13 8:45am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship/Communion Special Voters Mtg after Worship 11am-Family Sunday School	14 5pm-Quilting 7pm LLL	15	16 10am GLLC Chapel 5:30pm-Youth Confirmation	17	18 Pastor Away- Family Day	19
20 8:45am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship/Communion 11am-Family Sunday School	21 6pm GLLC Mtg 7pm-Evangelism Mtg	22	23 10am GLLC Chapel 5:30pm-Youth Confirmation	24 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE/NOON 	25 Pastor Away- Family Day	26
27 8:45am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship/Communion 11am-Family Sunday School	28 8am Braille 5pm-Quilting					

### 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

### 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**

### Pastor Timothy Appel

If you need to contact him, his email address is: [timothyappel@gmail.com](mailto: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

Elders: Galen Bunte  
Bert Bunte

Feb Altar: Toni Ann Kadlecsek  
Guild:

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

## **DOLLARS** **SENSE**

As of January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Name	Balance
<u>Prosperity Checking Acct</u>	<b>58,538.98</b>
<u>CEF-General</u>	<b>2,478.71</b>
<u>CEF-Land/Youth</u>	<b>12,474.25</b>
<u>CEF Scholarship</u>	<b>12,628.03</b>
<u>Legacy Deo</u>	<b>12,978.63</b>
<u>Total Dedicated Funds</u>	<b>11,867.44</b>
<u>General Fund Balance</u>	<b>46,671.54</b>

### Opportunities to Receive God's Gifts

When you are not able to make it to the weekly Divine Service on a regular basis, please know that opportunities to receive the gifts of God at other times are available. I encourage you to be in touch with me to let me know how I can deliver these gifts of God to you, because no Christian should go without God's gifts in Word and Sacrament. When circumstances do not allow you to join the congregation for a time, I certainly encourage you to make use of the Facebook livestream to hear the Scriptures and the sermon; I also would welcome the opportunity to set an appointment with you to study God's Word with you and bring you the Body and Blood of Jesus on an individual basis. ***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! –Pastor Appel



### 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! 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.





# FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

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



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



Thank you for your support and donations. Donations continue to be accepted on Friday and Saturday from 9 to 2. Grace and First Presbyterian partner to staff the store. Our next rotation is February 21 to 26. We work Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturdays. Join us as you are able.

### **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, KFUEO ([www.kfuo.org](http://www.kfuo.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.kfuo.org/category/sharper-iron/](http://www.kfuo.org/category/sharper-iron/).




# FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 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** Alexandria Hernandez  
David Wolff
- Feb. 24** Kimberly Craig
- Feb. 25** Justin Teague
- Feb. 26** Kayson Kaiser  
Ann Schroeder  
Johnny Schroeder

**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.



**Board of Education**  
**Sunday School**  
**Midweek News**

Dear Member of Grace Lutheran Church,

We would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and we pray that we will all be able to once again be able to attend service together and enjoy our fellowship together.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the food drive in November.

We will be giving out goodie bags after Christmas Eve service as we have done in the past. There will be no children's program this year again as a precaution to the on-going health issues we all hear way too much about.

Please join us for adult bible class at 8:45AM and-or Family Sunday School immediately after church every Sunday.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!**

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

May God Bless all of you.

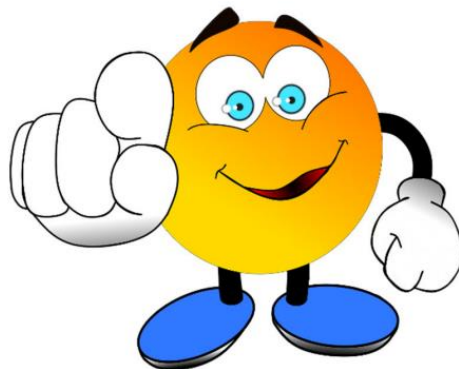
Respectfully,

Barb Johannessen

BOARD OF EDUCATION

**CALLING ALL**

**JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS  
and PARENTS**



**Join us February 20, at 5:00pm in the GLC Fellowship Hall to talk about future youth group fellowship and activities. We want your ideas!**





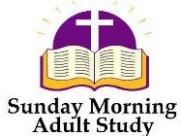
### Family Sunday School

Family Sunday School continues at Grace! Please join us after the 10:00AM 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!

### Adult Bible Study

Adult Bible study at 8:45 AM has resumed! We are studying God's Word in the Psalms that He invites us to speak back to Him in prayer. Each week has included a fantastic study and conversation so far; please join us!



Lent is the forty-day season of repentance leading up to Holy Week that prepares our hearts to receive in faith the gift of what Jesus has done in His Passion, Death, and Resurrection. Traditionally, Lenten devotion includes a focus on prayer, fasting, and giving, as well as extra opportunities to gather and hear God's Word as a congregation. Each Wednesday during Lent, we will gather at 7 PM to hear God's Word and give thanks for what Jesus has done in His death and resurrection. These begin on Ash Wednesday (March 2) and continue for the next five weeks (March 9, 16, 23, 30; April 6). More information will be published soon; please consider making these services a part of your Lenten devotion this year.



### Youth Confirmation

Youth confirmation classes continue 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.

### The NEW Epiphany Lutheran Church of Bastrop:



Epiphany – Bastrop is excited to announce that they will be holding their first worship service on Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup>. The Seventh Day Adventist Church in Bastrop has agreed to allow Epiphany to lease their facilities on Sunday mornings.

We are grateful to the congregations who have agreed to share with us their pastors. Serving Epiphany are: Rev. Timothy Appel, Grace – Smithville; Rev. Dustin Beck, Holy Cross – Warda; Rev. Nate Hill, St. Michael's – Winchester; Rev. Jason Kaspar, Mt. Calvary – LaGrange.

Please pray for this new mission congregation as it brings the light of Christ to Bastrop and the surrounding area. If you would like to support the mission work of Epiphany, you may do so by mailing notes of encouragement or financial support to:

Epiphany Lutheran Church  
489 Agnes  
Suite 112, Box 117  
Bastrop, TX 78602

### Organists & Pastors Seminar



Please mark your calendar for Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022, for a church music seminar at Mt. Calvary in LaGrange. More details will come later, but our goal is to get as many of our organists and pastors as possible together to do some continuing education. We want to work together ever more

effectively in each of our congregations. There'll have different presenters, topics, etc., and the plan is to end the day with a hymn sing. Please do set 04/30/22 aside and ask your music staff to do the same. Questions can be directed to Pastor Bernie Schey of Trinity, Dime Box (254-368-0261). Happy Thanksgiving and a most blessed Advent to us all!



# 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!**

### **Thank you! Thank you!**

There have been so many people, organizations, groups and churches who have contributed to the success and growth of FLHS. Thank you for blessing our students, as they daily learn about Jesus as they are instilled with wisdom and knowledge!!

### **Athletics at FLHS**

Our boys basketball team continues preparing for each competition. Upcoming events include:

- Feb 1 - @Fayetteville, 4PM
- Feb 8 - @McDade, 7 PM
- Feb 15 - @Fayetteville, 4PM

Our archery team continues to have success. We will find out shortly if any of our students qualified for the state competition.

Track practices will begin soon!!

Thank you for supporting our students in their athletic endeavors as they use the gifts that God has given them.

### **Spring Raffle**

FLHS raffle tickets will be available soon (Feb 4). The Board of Directors are putting together an amazing slate of items. You don't want to miss out!! Tickets are \$20 each. Drawing will be the week of March 7-11, during National Lutheran Schools Week. A limited number of tickets will be available! Please contact any FLHS delegate, student, staff or call (979) 242-2889 to get your tickets!!

### **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.

### **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.

### **New Student Registration**

Any new student who registers for FLHS prior to March 11, 2022 will have registration fees waived for the 2022-2023 school year. Register early to take advantage of this savings! You can receive registration materials by calling (979) 242-2889 or visiting our website at [www.flhstx.org](http://www.flhstx.org).

### **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.

### **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 encouraging 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.

### **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.





# LWML

Lutheran Women *in Mission*

## UPCOMING:

Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>  
6pm- Regular Meeting

Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>  
4pm- Quilting

Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>  
Lexington

Feb. 21<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.

New officers for 2022-23 for Grace:

President- June Parker, Vice President-Rose Pietsch, Secretary- Mary Lou Oliver, Treasurer-Margie Hicks

Mission project is for Orphan Grain Train.

10AM- Lexington LWML  
Speaker- Byron Hobbs-Orphan Grain Train

## LWML TEXAS DISTRICT GRANT BULLETIN BYTES:

Mites needed for goal is \$43,499.89

Texas District President Frances Molitor will be the speaker April 24<sup>th</sup> at Post Oak Zone Rally, Grace Smithville.

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

## National Mission Grant Bulletin Bytes:

### Hope of Christ for Cancer Patients — \$70,000

*As Christians, we are charged with sharing the message of the Gospel and the Word with all individuals. The mission of Phil's Friends, an LCMS Recognized Service Organization, is to introduce and strengthen relationships with Christ by providing faith-based hope to those with cancer. The support includes a care package with practical, emotional, and spiritual items, including a Bible, a card sent monthly for 12 months, and a new program "Hope on Call," in which Phil's Friends' trained volunteers meet virtually with the cancer patient to talk and pray. This grant would further fund Phil's Friends Cancer Care Packages, Cards of Hope, and Hope on Call.*



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 2022

Grace Lutheran Church, Smithville, TX

"God's Word is our great heritage and shall be ours forever!" Continue your daily Bible reading during 2022. 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