

# Grace Notes



2021

Merry Christmas! The holy season in which we celebrate the birth of God in our human flesh continues into the New Year. In fact, New Year's Day carries extra significance in the Church Year as the 8<sup>th</sup> Day of Christmas. On January 1, Christians observe the Circumcision and Name of Jesus. The event is recorded for us in Luke 2:21, "And at the end of eight days, when He was circumcised, He was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb." As we begin a New Year, it is good for us to spend a few moments rejoicing in this event the Lord accomplished for us and our salvation.

Let's consider Jesus' circumcision first. Jesus was circumcised when He was eight days old. This was done in accordance with the LORD's command for His people in His Word. The LORD gave circumcision to Abraham in Genesis 17 as the sign of the covenant He had made with the patriarch. Throughout the generations that followed, according to God's command, Israelite baby boys eight days old were circumcised as a constant reminder of God's promise to send the Savior from the family of Abraham.

The significance of Jesus' circumcision, then, is twofold. First, Jesus willingly submits to the Law of God in our place. St. Paul writes in Galatians 4:4-5 that "God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons." Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament sign of circumcision. No longer is circumcision required among Christians because Jesus has fulfilled the Law perfectly in our place. It is not our keeping of the Law that saves us; it is Jesus' keeping of the Law for us that saves us. Second, in His circumcision, Jesus first sheds His blood in our place. Throughout the Old Testament, the sign of circumcision preached to God's people that the Savior whom God would send would die for their sins. Jesus tastes this suffering for the first time in His circumcision, marking Him as the One who will later suffer and die for sinners. The third stanza of the hymn, "The Ancient Law Departs" (LSB 898) states it like this: "His infant body now

begins the cross to feel; those precious drops of blood that flow for death the victim seal."

Now let's consider Jesus' name. St. Luke reminds us that this was the name given by the angel when He was conceived in the womb. In Luke 1:31, Gabriel told the Virgin Mary, "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus." The angel was even more explicit as to the reason for the Child's name when he visited Joseph in a dream in Matthew 1:21, "You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." The name Jesus means "the LORD saves." The Child born to Mary alone bears this name in the fullest sense. The One who suffered for our sins, the One who died in our place, the One who rose from the grave to give eternal life to all who believe in Him—this Jesus, He is the God who saves. St. Peter preached this truth about Jesus in Acts 4:12, "There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Don't rush through the Christmas season too quickly, dear friends. Rejoice throughout the 12 Days of Christmas that God has come as a man to be your Savior. As the New Year begins on the 8<sup>th</sup> Day of Christmas, rejoice particularly that the Child who bears the name Jesus truly is the God who saves you by shedding His blood in your place.

In Christ,  
**Pastor Appel**

# January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Pastor Away- Family Day New Year's Day	2
3 8:30am Worship/Communion 10am Worship/Communion 11am-Family Bible Study	4 7pm Elders  Elders Meeting	5	6 5:30pm- Youth Confirmation	7 6pm LWML 	8 Pastor Away- Family Day	9
10 8:30am Worship/Communion 10am Worship/Communion 11am-Family Bible Study	11	12 9am Pastor Circuit Mtg	13 5:30pm- Youth Confirmation	14	15 Pastor Away- Family Day	16
17 8:30am Worship/Communion 10am Worship/Communion 11am-Family Bible Study	18 6pm GLLC Mtg	19	20 5:30pm- Youth Confirmation	21	22 Pastor Away- Family Day	23
24 8:30am Worship/Communion 10am Worship/Communion 11am-Family Bible Study	25	26	27 5:30pm- Youth Confirmation	28 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE/NOON 	29 Pastor Away- Family Day	30
31 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](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

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

10:30 Elders: C.Johannessen  
Galen Bunte

Trustees:

Organist(s):  
June Parker  
Esther Wolff  
Kim Appel

Jan. Altar Guild:  
Wendy Rohde  
Nelda Rohde



As of, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

Name	Balance
<b>Prosperity Checking Acct</b>	<b>77,986.96</b>
<b>CEF-General</b>	<b>2,445.55</b>
<b>CEF-Land/Youth</b>	<b>12,307.36</b>
<b>CEF Scholarship</b>	<b>12,459.08</b>
<b>CEF Property Loan</b>	<b>115,343.86</b>
<b>Legacy Deo</b>	<b>9,412.53</b>
<b>Total Dedicated Funds</b>	<b>24,691.66</b>
<b>General Fund Balance</b>	<b>35,748.71</b>

### Grace Lutheran Learning Center

401 Wilkes Street  
Smithville, TX 78957  
Office Phone: 512-360-2800  
Fax Number: 512-237-5990

Email address: [gracelutheranlearn@att.net](mailto:gracelutheranlearn@att.net)

**We now accept CCMS enrollment**

Please feel free to put old or unused toys in our box located in the Narthex

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

### 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

### 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](http://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/](http://www.kfu.org/category/sharper-iron/).



- Jan. 9 Andrea & Tommy Oates
- Jan. 10 Carol & Kenneth Wood
- Jan. 19 Mike & Cynthia Davis
- Jan. 20 Sheryl & Jon Pollard

**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 closed until further notice. A volunteer tested positive the day after working in the donation room. In an abundance of caution the decision was made to close. Covid numbers are being monitored. We had multiple precautions in place for safety. These precautions will continue.

We were able to provide our quarterly grant in December. We had been blessed by abundant donations and plentiful customers. I will notify our volunteers when I know more information. FB



**Youth Confirmation Classes**

Our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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.**



- Jan. 3 Makayla Kelt  
Marianna Peres
- Jan. 4 Harlye Bonorden  
Sandra Kadlecek
- Jan. 5 Johnie Kalina
- Jan. 6 Kerry Becker
- Jan. 7 Angel Wolff
- Jan. 12 Toni Ann Kadlecek
- Jan. 13 Galen Bunte
- Jan. 16 Andrew Hurst
- Jan. 17 Mackie W. Kasper  
Benjamin Appel
- Jan. 18 Darlene Becker  
Mackenzie Peres  
Dusty Randle
- Jan. 19 Hannah Teague
- Jan. 20 Sheryl Pollard
- Jan. 21 Brandon Herschap
- Jan. 24 Jocelyn Kadlecek  
Carol Wood
- Jan. 25 Colby Zimmerhanel
- Jan. 26 Jase Geigenmiller
- Jan. 29 Brantley Percy  
Kolt Pietsch
- Jan. 30 Clara Kaiser
- Jan. 31 Karla Burns

**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!



**Board of Education**  
Sunday School  
Midweek News

Dear Members of Grace Lutheran Church,

Please join us for Sunday School each Sunday around 11:00, and see what enjoyment everyone is getting out of this Christian gathering. We are open to suggestions and concerns anyone may have.

We are still hear to answer any questions you may have about Sunday School or the Christian Education of our Youth.

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**



# 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 this past semester and in these first few years. We are so incredibly blessed! THANK YOU!!

### **End of Year Giving**

Thank you for your support of Faith Lutheran High School during our End of Year giving. If the holiday season was just too busy or you simply forgot, we are still accepting donations to support the ministry at FLHS. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mrs. Kueck at (979) 242-2889.

### **Raffle Items**

The Spring Raffle is just around the corner. The Board of Directors is currently looking for valuable items or monetary donations to be used in the raffle. Please contact Nikki Kueck if you have something to donate!

### **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.

### **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](http://faithlutheranhighschool.com)) which is updated regularly as well!

### **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.

### **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!

### **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 us. Help us to be able to take advantage of these funds for the good of our school.

### **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:

Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>

Regular Meeting

-Bible Study: June

Parker "Resolutions

-Meal Hostesses:

Linda Read and June

Parker

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](http://www.lwml.org) or [www.lwmltxdist.org](http://www.lwmltxdist.org) to read about the mission and great history of LWML.

Grace LWML Mission Project: Uganda School

See the LWML Bulletin Board for 2020 Lutheran World Relief In gathering Report.

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

## LWML TEXAS DISTRICT GRANT BULLETIN BYTES:

- *Urban Base Camp Outreach* - \$15,000

Almighty God, You created this world and everything in it. You provide a healthy environment in Your creation where youth are able to learn about the strengths and abilities You have given them. We pray Your blessing on Urban Base Camp Outreach that it may bring some of those advantages to youth in city settings who are not able to enjoy the surroundings of Camp Lone Star. Grant that they will learn to trust You and to grow in the confidence of Your love; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

## National Mission Grant Bulletin Bytes:

-*Mobile Medical Mercy Mission Bus for Guatemala* (\$100,000)

While Guatemala is a beautiful country, many people suffer in extreme poverty. Over 50% of the children are malnourished and have no access to any form of medical or dental care. Most have no pre-natal or post-natal care and often die from preventable diseases. Immanuel Lutheran Church, Hood River, Oregon and the Lutheran Church of Guatemala have partnered together to share God's physical and spiritual healing with as many souls as possible. They have developed a network of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod partner churches to send medical professionals and mission teams to Guatemala on short term medical mission trips. In order to reach these isolated villages they need the right tool, namely a Mobile Medical Mercy Mission Bus. The funds will be used to purchase and retrofit a bus with medical equipment. Bible school equipment will also be purchased enabling the teams to heal both the physical and spiritual needs of the Guatemalan children. While the physicians tend to their physical needs, the ministers and lay leaders go into the villages and set up bible classes, VBS and worship services. Child Beyond International will continue to financially support this ministry.



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 January

January 1	John 1	Genesis 1-3
January 2	John 2	Genesis 4-5
January 3	John 3	Genesis 6-9
January 4	John 4:1-26	Genesis 10-11
January 5	John 4:27-54	Genesis 12-15
January 6	Proverbs 1:1-19	Psalms 1-5
January 7	OFF	
January 8	John 5:1-30	Genesis 16-18
January 9	John 5:31-47	Genesis 19-21
January 10	John 6:1-40	Genesis 22-23
January 11	John 6:41-71	Genesis 24-25
January 12	John 7:1-31	Genesis 26
January 13	Proverbs 1:20-33	Psalms 6-9
January 14	OFF	
January 15	John 7:32-8:11	Genesis 27-30
January 16	John 8:12-47	Genesis 31
January 17	John 8:48-59	Genesis 32-33
January 18	John 9	Genesis 34-35
January 19	John 10	Genesis 36-38
January 20	Proverbs 2:1-11	Psalms 10-14
January 21	OFF	
January 22	John 11:1-16	Genesis 39-40
January 23	John 11:17-57	Genesis 41-42
January 24	John 12:1-19	Genesis 43-44
January 25	John 12:20-50	Genesis 45-47
January 26	John 13	Genesis 48-50
January 27	Proverbs 2:12-22	Psalms 15-18
January 28	OFF	
January 29	John 14	Isaiah 1-4
January 30	John 15:1-16:4	Isaiah 5-8
January 31	John 16:5-33	Isaiah 9-11