

Grace Notes



As we turn the calendar from December to January once more, Psalm 90 is helpful for us to approach the new year and receive it as a gift from His grace and mercy. Since we won't take a look at every single verse in this article, I encourage you to pause your reading right here, pray all of Psalm 90, and then come back to consider select verses with me.

Now that you're back, let's start with the superscription of the Psalm: "*A prayer of Moses, the man of God.*" Although Moses was no stranger to leading the people of Israel in singing in worship (see Exodus 15), Psalm 90 is the only one in the Psalter attributed to the greatest prophet of the Old Testament. Although no particular situation is specified, any number of events in Moses' life could have led him to this prayer reflecting the brevity of man's life in the face of God's eternal nature.

Psalm 90 begins in the context of trust: "*Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.*" Right away, we see why this is an appropriate prayer for a new year. Just as the one true God has been the refuge for us and all His people since time began, so He will continue to be our refuge in all of the unknowns of this new year. This is our confidence along with Moses because God always has been, always is, and always will be God: "*Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.*"

As Moses meditates upon God's eternal nature, he can't help but see just how temporary his own human life is; we must recognize this truth with him. This truth runs throughout Psalm 90, but Moses pictures it most vividly and eloquently in verse 10: "*The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.*" Once again, this is appropriate reflection at the start of a new year. You may have already surpassed the number of years Moses mentions here; certainly that reality ought to cause great joy and thanksgiving to the one true God and bring about a hearty desire to do that which pleases Him in however many more years He chooses to give.

Moses' reflection not only recognizes that human life ends very quickly. He also recognizes that our death comes about because of our sin, and in our sin, we deserve it. Moses prays in verses 7-8: "*For we are brought to an end by your anger; by your wrath we are dismayed. You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence.*" In the same way, as we see how fleeting our own lives are, God grants us opportunity for repentance. Knowing that we are not guaranteed to see the end of 2022 as we have now seen the end of 2021, we take time at the start of this new year for self-examination, confession of sins, and repentance before the eternal God.

Moses' prayer does not leave us without hope. Even in his sin, he knows that his only hope is the LORD. He pleads in that hope in verses 13-14, "*Return O LORD! How long? Have pity on your servants! Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.*" In that same hope, we pray to the one true God at the start of this new year. We have experienced the steadfast love of the LORD through our recent celebration of the birth of Jesus at Christmas, and we know that each week in the Divine Service, this same Jesus comes to us in Word and Sacrament with His forgiveness.

In these ways and more, Psalm 90 is a fantastic prayer for the beginning of this new year. Before you finish reading this article, go back and pray it once more. God grant to each of us the same repentance and faith as Moses had, so that our God would teach us to number our days and, in His grace, establish the work of our hands!

In Christ,
Pastor Appel

January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 New Year's Day
2 8:45am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship/Communion 11am-Family Sunday School	3 7pm Elders  Elders Meeting	4	5 10am GLLC Chapel 5:30pm-Youth Confirmation	6 6pm LWML	7 Pastor Away- Family Day	8
9 8:45am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship/Communion 11am-Family Sunday School	10 5pm-Quilting 7pm LLL	11 9am Pastor Circuit Mtg	12 10am GLLC Chapel 5:30pm-Youth Confirmation	13	14 Pastor Away- Family Day	15
16 8:45am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship/Communion 11am-Family Sunday School	17 6pm GLLC Mtg	18	19 10am GLLC Chapel 5:30pm-Youth Confirmation	20	21 Pastor Away- Family Day	22
23 8:45am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship/Communion 11am-Family Sunday School	24 8am Braille 5pm-Quilting	25	26 10am GLLC Chapel 5:30pm-Youth Confirmation	27 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE/NOON  Newsletter Articles	28 Pastor Away- Family Day	29
30 8:45am Adult Bible Study 10am Worship/Communion 11am-Family Sunday School	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

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

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

Elders: Davey Kadlecek
Jack Page

Dec Altar Marilyn Burns
Guild: Mary Lou Oliver

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



As of December 23, 2021

Name	Balance
Prosperity Checking Acct	111,548.96
CEF-General	2,474.51
CEF-Land/Youth	12,453.09
CEF Scholarship	12,606.61
Legacy Deo	13,269.19
Total Dedicated Funds	60,149.17
General Fund Balance	51,399.79

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.



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



- 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



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



The BAE is closed for the Christmas break. Donations will once again be accepted on Friday, January 7th and Saturday, January 8th. Donation hours are from 9 to 2. Store hours remain from 9 to 2 on Friday and Saturday. Grace and First Presbyterian will partner the week of January 10-15th. Work schedule continues to be Monday and Wednesday from 10 to 2. Store will be open on Friday and Saturday. Thank you to all our group donors and our shoppers. We continue to give back to the community. Join us as you are able. Participation is welcome.

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, 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/.

Organists & Pastors Seminar

Please mark your calendar for Saturday, April 30th, 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!

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 NEW Epiphany Lutheran Church of Bastrop:

The formation of an LCMS congregation in Bastrop has begun! If you are interested in being part of this exciting new venture, come join us as we gather to celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord. We will gather in the home of Paul and Barbara Hofmann, 711 Bluffview Dr. Bastrop, TX on Thursday, January 6th. From 6:00-7:00pm will be fellowship and refreshments, a prayer service at 7:00pm, and more fellowship time following the service. If you have a friend or relative in the Bastrop area who may benefit from this information, please share! Please RSVP to Barbara Hofmann at (830)377-2308 or barbpaul83@gmail.com.



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 Zimmerhanel. Please feel free to contact any of us at any time if you have questions.

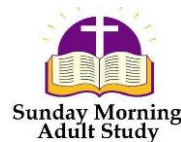
May God Bless all of you.
Respectfully,
Barb Johannessen
BOARD OF EDUCATION



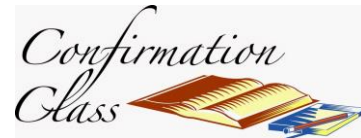
Family Sunday School

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!



Youth Confirmation

Youth confirmation classes continue each Wednesday evening this fall in the parish hall from 5:30-6:30 PM. Please keep our 7th and 8th graders and their families in your prayers as they grow in the knowledge and grace of God's Holy Word.



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.

Athletics at FLHS

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

- Jan 8 - Moulton Tournament
- Jan 11 - @ St. Paul Catholic Shiner - 4:30 pm
- **Jan 14 - HOME (Immanuel) vs. McDade - 6 pm**
- Jan 18 - @ Faith Academy, Bellville - 5 pm

Our archery team continues to have success. They have upcoming events on:

- Jan 22 - Faith Lutheran, Plano - 9am
- **State Qualifier (HOME) - TBD**

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

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.

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!

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 (flhstx.org) which is updated regularly as well!





LWML

Lutheran Women in Mission

UPCOMING:

Jan 6th
6pm- Regular
Meeting

Jan. 10th
Quilting

Jan 24th
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 or 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 LINC/Austin.

Our thanks to Helen Fleck who is retiring from Altar Guild. Her replacement is her daughter, Tammy Campion.

LWML TEXAS DISTRICT GRANT BULLETIN BYTES:

Mites needed for goal is
\$63,516.93.

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

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

National Mission Grant Bulletin Bytes:

Making the Next Generation of Disciples for Life — \$92,000

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations" (Jeremiah 1:5). The sanctity of life created by God, and the family as God designed it, has been under attack by pro-choice organizations who are expanding their movement to reach children of younger ages, to attack chastity and promote promiscuity, and to influence our children causing devaluation of life, marriage, and the family. The continued development of "Life" curricula is one of the most frequent requests by LCMS schools. With this grant, LCMS Life Ministry will build a set of developmentally appropriate resources and curriculum for early childhood, young children, and elementary-aged children and their families.



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 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

<u>2022 Officers</u>	Years to serve		Years to serve
<u>Elders (9)</u>		<u>Board of Education (7)</u>	
Tommy Oates	2	Kathy Kasper	2
Bert Bunte	2	June Parker	2
Charles Johannessen	3	Barbara Johannessen	2
Davey Kadlecek	3	Charlie Johannessen	2
Colby Zimmerhanzel	3	Toni Ann Kadlecek	3
Galen Bunte	1	Mary Lou Oliver	1
Jack Page	1	Melissa Brown	1
Kerry Becker	1		
Brad Zimmerhanzel	1	<u>Learning Center Board (7)</u>	
		Darlene Becker	2
<u>President (1)</u>		Tammy Campion	2
Bernie Satterwhite	1	Jeannie Kaiser	2
		DeeDee Bunte	3
<u>Vice President (1)</u>		Katie Swartz	3
Tommy Oates	1		3
		Cheryl Moore	3
<u>Treasurer (1)</u>			
Tim Wolff	1	<u>Board of Trustees (7)</u>	
		Colby Zimmerhanzel	2
<u>Financial Secretary (1)</u>		Allan Riddle	2
Chrissy, Daniel, & Mary Ann	1	Corey Macks	2
		Ed Randle	1
<u>Secretary (1)</u>		Allan Hancock	1
Rose Pietsch	1	Ronnie Pietsch	1
		Chuck Stem	3
<u>Board of Evangelism (6)</u>			
Jean Miller	2	<u>Sunday School Supt (1)</u>	
Sharon Reinberg	2	Donna Zimmerhanzel	1
Rowan James	2		
John Stelling	1	<u>Head Usher (1)</u>	
Chrissy Becker	3	Elders	
Wendy Rohde	3		
		<u>Bazaar Committee (6)</u>	
<u>Board of Stewardship (3)</u>			3
Marilyn Randle	2		3
Philip Appel	1	Mary Lou Oliver	2
	3	Brenda Page	2
		Chrissy Becker	1
		Rose Pietsch	1
		Brad Zimmerhanzel	2