

# Grace Notes



The Epiphany of Our Lord is marked each year on January 6, beginning the Epiphany Season, which will last seven Sundays this year, culminating with The Transfiguration of Our Lord on February 19. Traditional Epiphany themes deal with such things as Jesus being baptized in the Jordan River, Jesus performing His first miracle at the wedding in Cana, the miraculous healings, and Jesus calming the wind and the waves for a boatload of frightened disciples. These are sandwiched by the arrival of the Magi to worship Jesus, and Jesus shining like the sun on the mountain of Transfiguration.

What do each of these events have in common? Each of them gives us a brief revelation of just who this Jesus really is. Born in a cowshed; raised by ordinary, blue-collar parents; learning and using the skills of a carpenter; it would be easy to forget that Jesus' glory as true God is being intentionally, if temporarily, hidden. Through the church year's Epiphany themes, we have epiphanies about Jesus because we can see the full revelation of Christ through God's Word.

In addition to events in the life of Jesus, the Epiphany season focuses on several major themes: light/glory; Jesus as Messiah; revelation to the Gentiles; the divinity of Jesus; and finally, Christ's cross. The Epiphany season exalts in the glory of the transcendent God who enters the world and showers his own light upon us. He has sent us His only-begotten Son and in Him has manifested the fullness of his glory. As John's Gospel says in the prologue, "The light that enlightens every man was coming into the world." A star – a light – leads the Magi to Bethlehem. Jesus Christ is the Light of the World. We also see God's glory. God reveals Himself, and we see more than we ever expected to see. Epiphany is about God lifting the veil of Jesus' humanity and giving us a glimpse of His glory as true God.

Epiphany is about Jesus revealing Himself as the Messiah promised to God's chosen people for thousands of years. In the Baptism of our Lord, Jesus is the true Israelite who crosses the waters of the Jordan, conquers the ancient serpent (in the temptation), readies for the baptism of his death and resurrection, is identified as the Lamb of God, declared God's Son and Servant, and anointed by the Holy Spirit with kingly gifts.

Epiphany is the celebration of the removal of that ancient division between Israel and the Gentile nations (it even is sometimes called "Christmas for the Gentiles"). Epiphany is about the Magi, the coming of the Gentiles, as the prophets had proclaimed, to offer gifts as a sign of the end of the division of humankind and the acknowledgement by the nations of Israel's God. Epiphany is about God's chosen people, the children of Israel, being told anew that God's salvation was not for them alone, but also for those whom they considered to be both physically and spiritually unclean.

Epiphany is about the divinity of Christ. At Cana, water is turned into wine in anticipation of the wine of the New Testament, the marriage of Christ to the Church, and the eternal wedding banquet of the Lamb. We see His divinity in the Baptism of Jesus, in His Transfiguration, in the miracles. We remember that He is both true God and true Man.



Epiphany is a bridge between Christmas and Good Friday. At Christmas, we have celebrated the Incarnation of God's Son; now we begin to emphasize that He is destined for the cross. As the Christmas lights are extinguished, our eyes are fixed on the light that will be turned to darkness at Golgotha.

Epiphany is about God breaking into a sin-filled world and delivering the surprising news that God loves those who hate Him and has forgiven us long before we ever had an inkling of loving Him. Epiphany is the mind-blowing revelation of our God to each one of us that, as we despair over our sinfulness, as we lay mired in depression, as we struggle to forgive those who have resolutely set out to destroy our lives, God loves us. Epiphany is the surprising news that God has not only forgiven the whole world, He has, already from eternity, forgiven you in Christ—and if you believe that, you have it!

What is Epiphany? Epiphany is God telling us that this Jesus is no ordinary man. He died for you, He has loved you from eternity, and He will love you through all eternity. In Jesus, we have had our full Epiphany. Epiphany is about the proclamation of the Gospel.

In Christ,  
**Carl Roth**

# January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion	2 7pm Elders  Elders Meeting	3	4 5:30pm-Youth Confirmation	5 6pm LWML	6	7
<b>OFFICE HOURS WILL VARY THIS WEEK. PLEASE CONTACT ME (LISA) AT 512-595-4440 IF YOU HAVE ANY OFFICE NEEDS.</b>						
8 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion	9 4pm-Quilting 7pm LLL	10	11 5:30pm-Youth Confirmation	12	13	14
15 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion	16 6pm GLLC Mtg 7pm-Evangelism	17	18 5:30pm-Youth Confirmation	19	20	21
22 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion	23 8am Braille 4pm-Quilting	24	25 5:30pm-Youth Confirmation	26 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE/NOON 	27	28
29 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion	30	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](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

Elders: Brad Zimmerhanzel  
Colby Zimmerhanzel

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

Altar Guild: Toni Ann Kadlecek  
Jean Miller



As of December 29, 2022

Name	Balance
<b>Prosperity Checking Acct</b>	<b>56,014.05</b>
<b>CEF-General</b>	<b>2,497.31</b>
<b>CEF-Land/Youth</b>	<b>12,567.88</b>
<b>CEF Scholarship</b>	<b>12,722.81</b>
<b>Legacy Deo</b>	<b>12,978.63</b>
<b>Total Dedicated Funds</b>	<b>27,940.59</b>
<b>General Fund Balance</b>	<b>28,100.46</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**

**Pastoral Care During Vacancy**

Pastor Carl Roth of Grace Lutheran Church in Elgin is our vacancy pastor. If you are in need of pastoral care (hospital visit, etc.) please contact him at 512-229-8899.

**CHURCH OFFICE**

Normal hours are 9 to 2 Tues. – Thurs and 9 to 1 on Friday. 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. I am here 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 I will get back with you as soon as possible. Please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions. Lisa Stem



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**

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](http://www.kfu.org)). Their variety of programs will provide something of value to every person who listens.



- 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
- 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.



December granted quarterly grants. Thank you donors and shoppers for allowing us to give back. The Emporium is undergoing some changes. Thank you David K for being on the building committee. Your input is valuable and appreciated. The store will be closed for two months. A date to begin accepting donations will be announced. We look forward to bring of service in the new year. We give thanks and praise for the continued blessings.

### Gifts for Organ Repair



On June 12, the voters approved organ repairs that will cost approximately \$11,800. Fischer Pipe Organ Tuning and Service will be putting us on their schedule so that these repairs can be made this fall. If you'd like to make a special gift to help with the cost of these repairs, you can make use of the "Organ Fund" envelopes in your offering envelope box. Thanks for

your generosity in providing for music that glorifies God in our worship services at Grace!

**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.



Dear Member of Grace Lutheran Church,

We are excited to have Sunday School back at 8:45 am every Sunday. Our classes will be in the fellowship hall for all ages. 3yrs old through kindergarten teachers are Kim Appel and Ester Wolff, 1<sup>st</sup> grade through 4<sup>th</sup> grade is Kayla Herschap, 5<sup>th</sup> grade through 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be Donna Zimmerhanel and Gene Brown, III and High School will be Gene Brown. We are always in need of volunteers to help teach or to sub when one of the teachers is out, so please feel free to contact a board member and we will gladly assist you in getting set up to volunteer.

### **DONUTS!!**

**There is a sign-up sheet on the Board of Education Bulletin Board for anyone who wants to furnish snacks between Sunday School and Church. There is also a donation can in the kitchen by the donuts if you would rather just donate to the cause.**

We handed out 100 Goodie Bags between Christmas Eve Service and Christmas Morning Service. Thank you too all who helped prepare them. What a joy it was to have such special services this year and to be able to participate by handing out the Good Bags. We look forward to what ever the new year brings.

The Board has chosen our next Sunday School Mission to be the Bastrop County Pregnancy Resource Center. There are **envelopes** on the Board of Ed Bulletin Board for anyone who would like to **contribute to our Mission**.

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

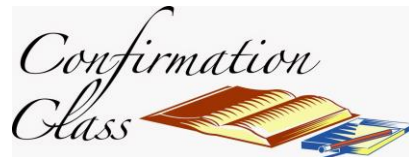
### **Sunday School**

Sunday school for all ages has returned to its regular time slot of 8:45 AM. The response from so many members of our congregation has been tremendous. The parish hall has been filled with great joy each Sunday morning as so many children and adults are eager to learn God's Word—and there's always room for more! Please join us each week in the Parish Hall for a short opening with everyone together before we go to our separate classes. You won't regret making time to read, learn, and rejoice in God's Word!



### **Adult Bible Study**

Adult Bible study at 8:45 AM continues each week, led by the guest pastor for that week. Join us to spend time together in God's Word.



### **Youth Confirmation**

Youth confirmation classes are continuing **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. Pastor Nate Hill will be teaching our youth confirmation class.

### **Youth Group**

All middle school and high school students and their parents are invited to join us at Youth Group! We normally meet every first Sunday of the month from 6:30-8:00 PM. Each month, we have time for Bible study, games, and snacks! Please join us!



# LWML

Lutheran Women in Mission

## UPCOMING:

Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>  
6pm-Business Mtg  
Take down Parish  
Hall Christmas Tree

Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>  
4pm-Quilting

Jan. 23<sup>rd</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.

Mission for December- Love Offering at the LWML/LLL Christmas Party on December 1.



## LWML TEXAS DISTRICT GRANT BULLETIN BYTES:

Homeless to Housed, LINC Austin  
Outreach, Austin- \$10,000

*Almighty and most merciful God, You have promised never to leave us nor forsake us but to abide with us to the end of time. Provide those who are homeless with people who, in wisdom and sympathy, will minister to them in their need, consider the road they have walked and do their best to provide hope and love, all the while pointing them to Jesus; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

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

## National Mission Grant Bulletin Bytes:

### Spiritual and Physical Food for Children of Peru — \$56,750

*Castillo Fuerte (Mighty Fortress) Mercy House is an outreach of the LCMS Missions in Latin America and the Caribbean and was started in 2013. The people of Lima are unable to fully finance the work of the Mercy House, and the work of our missionaries, who feed the souls with the Word of God and show the love of Christ by feeding the parents and children's stomachs. Families come to receive food for their physical bodies, and they stay because of Jesus' love for them as He feeds them the spiritual food which sustains their souls. The healing power of Christ's love and redemption shine into the broken lives of the families making them whole. This grant would partner with La Mision Luterana and Castillo Fuerte to work together to care for the children and families of Lima, Peru, by providing for the needs of the body and of the soul.*



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



# 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) 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.



DECEMBER 10, 2013 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

	2022 YEARS TO SERVE		2023 YEARS TO SERVE
<b>ELDERS (9)</b>			
Tommy Oates	2	Tommy Oates	1
Bert Bunte	2	Bert Bunte	1
Charles Johannessen	3	Charles Johannessen	2
Davey Kadlecek	3	Davey Kadlecek	2
Colby Zimmerhanzel	3	Colby Zimmerhanzel	2
Galen Bunte	1	Corey Macks	3
Jack Page	1	Jack Page	3
Kerry Becker	1	Jason Swartz	3
Brad Zimmerhanzel	1	Brad Zimmerhanzel	3
<b>PRESIDENT (1)</b>			
Bernie Satterwhite	1	Bernie Satterwhite	1
<b>VICE PRESIDENT (1)</b>			
Tommy Oates	1	Tommy Oates	1
<b>TREASURER (1)</b>			
Tim Wolf	1	Tim Wolf	1
<b>FINANCIAL SECRETARY (3)</b>			
Daniel Kadlecek	1	Daniel Kadlecek	1
Mary Ann Duty	1	Mary Ann Duty	1
Chrissy Becker	1	Chrissy Becker	1
<b>SECRETARY (1)</b>			
Rose Pietsch	1	Rose Pietsch	1
<b>BOARD OF EVANGELISM(6)</b>			
Jean Miller	2	Jean Miller	1
Sharon Reinberg (Moved)	2	Melissa Brown	1
Rowan James	2	Rowan James	1
John Stelling	1	Gene Brown	3
Chrissy Becker	3	Chrissy Becker	2
Wendy Rohde	3	Wendy Rohde	2
<b>BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP (3)</b>			
Marilyn Randle	2	Elders	1
Philip Appel	1		
	2		



**BOARD OF EDUCATION (7)**

Kathy Kasper	2	Kathy Kasper	1
June Parker	2	June Parker	1
Barbara Johannessen	2	Barbara Johannessen	1
Charles Johannessen	2	Charles Johannessen	1
Toni Ann Kadlecek	3	Toni Ann Kadlecek	2
Mary Lou Oliver	1	Mary Lou Oliver	3
Melissa Brown	1	Margery Hicks	3

**LEARNING CENTER BOARD (7)**

Darlene Becker	2	Darlene Becker	1
Tammy Campion	2	Tammy Campion	1
Jeannie Kaiser	2	Jeannie Kaiser	1
DeeDee Bunte	3	DeeDee Bunte	2
Cheryl Moore	3	Cheryl Moore	2
Katie Swartz	3	Katie Swartz	2
(Vacant)		Christina Juarez	2

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES (7)**

Coby Zimmerhanzel	2	Pat Satterwhite	1
Allan Riddle	2	Marilyn Randle	1
Corey Macks	2	Jim Duty	1
Ed Randle	1	Ed Randle	3
Allan Hancock	1	John Stelling	3
Ronnie Pietsch	1	Ronnie Pietsch	3
Chuck Stem	3	Chuck Stem	2

**SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPT (1)**

Donna Zimmerhanzel	1	Donna Zimmerhanzel	1
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**HEAD USHER (1)**

Elders

**BAZAAR COMMITTEE (6)**

(Vacant)	3	(Vacant)	2
(Vacant)	3	(Vacant)	2
Mary Lou Oliver	2	Mary Lou Oliver	1
Brenda Page	2	Brenda Page	1
Chrissy Becker	1	(Vacant)	
Rose Pietsch	1	(Vacant)	
Brad Zimmerhanzel	2	Brad Zimmerhanzel	1