

Grace Notes



2019

This year, Ash Wednesday falls on March 6. This observance marks the beginning of Lent, the season in the Church Year that leads up to the celebration of Holy Week, Good Friday, and the Resurrection of Our Lord. Here are a few thoughts to help us use this holy time in all of its fullness so that our faith in Christ may grow stronger.

First, the season of Lent is a time of repentance. Ash Wednesday is a vivid portrayal of this. As we receive an ashen cross upon our foreheads, we hear these sobering words: “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” During the forty days of Lent, this remembrance is brought into sharp focus. On our own, we are sinners and enemies of God. On our own, we commit sins of thought, word, and deed. On our own, we do evil and neglect good.

The focus on repentance during Lent is not meant to drive us to despair, however. We do not recall our great sin that we might wallow in self-pity. No, we recall our great sin so that we would turn toward our even greater Savior, Jesus Christ. The Gradual appointed for the season of Lent, taken from Hebrews 12, is a fantastic reminder: “O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”

The color violet, which is used for the paraments during Lent, is a good reminder of this as well. On the one hand, violet is a color of repentance, inviting us to mourn over our sins and turn from them. At the same time, violet is a color of royalty, inviting us to turn to Christ our King who has sacrificed Himself on the cross for our forgiveness.

Second, the season of Lent is a time of preparation. The readings, hymns, and customs of Lent prepare our hearts to receive Jesus’ resurrection with great joy. For example, during the

season of Lent, we do not sing the hymn of praise “This is the Feast” during the Divine Service. We also refrain from the word “Alleluia,” a Hebrew word that means “Praise the Lord!” By omitting these joyous responses for a time, we prepare with faith, hope, and anticipation for the celebration of our Lord’s resurrection when these words will leap with full joy anew.

Third, the season of Lent is a time of devotion. As we recall the ultimate devotion that Jesus showed for us in His suffering, death, and resurrection, we are filled with devotion for Him. There are various ways this devotion expresses itself during the season of Lent. We have extra worship services on Wednesday evenings to spend more time hearing the Word of God, this year focusing on the Ten Commandments. Some Christians fast during Lent, perhaps by giving up one meal a week or by giving up a favorite item or practice. At those times when the meal or the item is missed, the intent is to fill that time with prayer and study of God’s Word. Many Christians also engage in sacrificial giving during Lent, something above and beyond what they normally present as offerings. At Grace, we do this by designating our midweek offerings for different missions and ministries beyond the congregation’s general fund.

I encourage you to take advantage of these extra opportunities during the season of Lent so that, connected to Christ and His Word, your faith in Him grows stronger. In these ways, Lent will be a great blessing to you. Repent of your sins. Remember your Savior’s love. Renew your devotion to Him. God grant it for Jesus’ sake!

In Christ,
Pastor Appel

March 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Pastor Away- Family Day	2
3 8:45am Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion	4 7pm Elders  Elders Meeting	5	6 Ash Wednesday 10am GLLC Chapel 5:30pm-Lenten Midweek(see below)	7 6pm LWML 	8 Pastor Away- Family Day	9
10 8:45am Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion 6:30pm Youth Group	11 5pm Piecemakers 7pm LLL 	12 9am Pastor Circuit Mtg-Loebau	13 10am GLLC Chape 5:30pm-Lenten Midweek(see below)	14 11am-Bible Study	15 Pastor Away- Family Day	16 7am- Congregational Work Day
17 St. Patrick's Day 8:45am Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion 3pm Nursing Home Devotions	18 6pm GLLC Mtg 7pm-Evangelism	19	20 10am GLLC Chapel 1pm Ministerial Alliance 5:30pm-Lenten Midweek(see below)	21 11am-Bible Study	22 Pastor Away- Family Day	23
24 8:45am Bible Class 10am Worship/Communion 11am Brd of Ed 6:30pm Youth Group	25 8am Braille	26	27 10am GLLC Chapel 5:30pm-Lenten Midweek(see below)	28 11am-Bible Study NEWSLETTER DEADLINE/NOON 	29 Pastor Away- Family Day	30
31 8:45am Bible Class				LENTEN MIDWEEK SCHEDULE 5:30-6:15p Bible Class 6:00-6:45p Soup Supper 7:00p Worship		

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

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.



Passengers for Church Van

Benny Hajdik - 979-540-8437 is driving the Church Van for Sunday School and Church Services. If you need transportation, please call by 5:00 pm on Saturday. You may leave a message if no one answers.

Elder(s): MW Kasper
C. Johannessen
Organist(s): June Parker
Esther Wolff (Sub)
Kim Appel (Sub)
Ushers: Galen Bunte
Davey Kadlecek
Trustees: Ed Randle
Ronnie Pietsch
Mar. Altar Guild:
Mary Lou Oliver
Marilyn Burns

Readers:

Mar. 3 Rowan James
Mar. 10 Debbie Higgins
Mar. 17 Philip Appel
Mar. 24 Rose Caldwell
Mar. 31 Bernie Satterwhite

Acolytes:

Mar. 3 Adrian Wolff & Baylor Watson
Mar. 6 Thomas Brown & David Wolff
Mar. 10 Mackenzie Peres & Juniper Smith
Mar. 17 Ramon Wolff & Joshua Zimmerhanel
Mar. 24 Marianna Peres & Baylor Watson
Mar. 31 Adrian Wolff & Thomas Brown



Pre-School/	Mary Lou Oliver/
Kindergarten	Wendy Rohde
1 st /2 nd Grades	Charles Johannessen
3 rd /5 th Grades	Gene Brown
6 th /8 th Grades	June Parker
Adult Classes	Pastor Appel

STILL IN NEED OF SUBTITUTE TEACHERS



Please contact Barb Johannessen at 512-284-0199 if you are interested in this position

MIDWEEK AND CONFIRMATION TEACHERS

Pre-school - K	Kim Appel
1st – 3rd grade	Tim & Esther Wolff
4th - 6th grade	Kristin Appel (June Parker-sub)
7th - 8th grade	Pastor Appel
Adult Class	Ed Randle



- Mar. 2 Dorine & Bobby Hoskins
- Mar. 4 Debbie & Lee Hampton
- Mar. 10 Crystal & Kevin Vinklarek
- Mar. 12 Kristina & Brandon Pietsch
- Mar. 13 Esther & Timothy Wolff
- Mar. 19 Kayla & Brandon Herschap



- Mar. 1 Victoria Caldwell
- Mar. 2 Tyler Hancock
- Mar. 3 Marilyn King
- Mar. 4 Eugene Randle
- Mar. 5 Barbara Johannessen
- Mar. 6 Sarah Gwin
Tommy Higgins
- Mar. 9 LaVerne Wallace
Timothy Wolff
- Mar. 10 Brandon Pietsch
- Mar. 13 Mitchell Randle
- Mar. 14 Jeanie Kaiser
Jeremy Rector
- Mar. 15 Steve Pauley
- Mar. 16 Tim Claiborne
- Mar. 17 Ronald Pietsch
- Mar. 18 Allan Hancock
Ramon Wolff
- Mar. 19 Elois Curriuan
Margie Hicks
- Mar. 20 Mike Davis
- Mar. 23 Patsy Wiggins
- Mar. 24 Katie Swartz
- Mar. 25 Thomas Brown
- Mar. 28 Brenden Kadlecek
Brad Zimmerhanel
- Mar. 29 Elizabeth Caldwell
Cole Hampton
- Mar. 31 Frances Mynar
Crystal Vinklarek



As of February 28th, 2019

Name	Balance
Prosperity Checking Acct	19,389.57
CEF-General	2,395.23
CEF-Land/Youth	12,054.18
CEF Scholarship	12,202.80
CEF Property Loan	138,255.89
CEF Annex Loan	14,179.52
Legacy Deo	10,098.08
Total Dedicated Funds	11,341.54
General Fund Balance	8,048.03

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

May God bless you and keep you always in His tender, loving care



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

Wishing these Friends a Happy Birthday! from your "Grace" family

Congregational Work Day



The Board of Trustees is sponsoring a congregational work day on Saturday, March 16. We'll get started bright and early at 7 AM in order to tackle a few projects around the church and still have plenty of time to enjoy the rest of the day. Plan to participate this month, and keep your eyes open for more work days in the future. If you have any questions, or

would like to add a project to the list of things to do, please speak with Ed Randle.



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



PIECEMAKERS

No sewing talent needed.

We will meet again on Monday March 11th in the Sunday school building via the alley entrance. Join us in tying quilts. We will have the blessing on Palm Sunday. April 4th at the LWML meeting we will have quilts to tie. We hope to complete four to add to the gathering total.



WORK AT GLLC

Grace Lutheran Learning Center is hiring part-time workers for the afternoon shift. Applicants should be available to work between 12:30-6:00 PM, must have a high school diploma or equivalent, and be willing to submit to a background check. If you love working with kids and sharing the love of Jesus, this is the job for you! Please contact our director, **Angel Hurst**, at [512-360-2800](tel:512-360-2800) to receive an application



Here is another weekday opportunity for you to gather with fellow Christians here at Grace and study God's Word! Pastor Appel is leading a Bible study on the Small Catechism from 11 AM-Noon every Thursday morning in the parish hall. Come and refresh your memory on everything you learned as a youth during confirmation classes. Bring your Bible and your Small Catechism; if you don't have either one of those items, please let Pastor know and he'll be glad to get you one! If you have any questions, please see Pastor Appel.

Lent 2019



This year, Ash Wednesday is March 6. 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. Each Wednesday during Lent (March 6, 13, 20, 27; April 3, 10), we will have a soup supper at 6 PM

followed by a worship service at 7 PM. This year's Lenten midweek services will focus on the first chief part of the Catechism, the Ten Commandments. Make plans to join us for these services in the coming weeks to grow in the repentance and faith that Jesus has given.

Caring for Towers Residents

The staff at Towers Nursing Home was very appreciative of our congregation's recent donation of toiletries for their residents. The Evangelism Committee is continuing to encourage the members of our congregation to donate various toiletries (shampoo, body wash, lotion, toothpaste, etc.) to the residents at Towers. You can place them in the designated box in the narthex. Thank you for showing this love to our neighbors at Towers!



Braille volunteers meet the 4th Monday of each month @ 8am.

We carpool to Immanuel Lutheran Church in Giddings to assemble braille bible study books.

Toni Ann Kadlecek



The BAE continues to be blessed with bountiful donations and cheerful shoppers. Thank you to all who support us by donating, shopping, or volunteering. We couldn't do it without all of you. Our next scheduled week will be April 29th to May 4th. We will be closed for holy week. The open week will be March 18 to 23. Drop in to work and meet new people. The BAE is looking for permanent volunteers. Commit to working one day per week. If you are interested in working linens, sorting clothes, or working in other departments talk to Susan or Jan. This is in addition to our scheduled week. Join us as you are able.



ALL invited to lunch/game day
THURSDAYS at NOON
In the Parish Hall

We meet at noon in the Parish hall. We have a lite meal. All our welcome to join us for a spirited game of train. If you don't know how to play--not a problem. We will help. We play for the fellowship and don't play for points



Two Germany Trip Opportunities in 2020

In 2020, the city of Oberammergau, Germany, will be holding its world-renowned Passion Play that happens only every ten years. Two central Texas pastors are leading tours in 2020 that will include not only this Passion Play, but also a variety of Luther sites. Pastor Obersat of Ebenezer, Manheim, is leading a tour in May 2020, and Pastor Barz of Crown of Life, San Antonio, is leading a tour in July 2020. Information concerning both of these tours is available in the narthex for anyone who is interested.

Evangelism Committee Needs

Over the past two years, our congregation has had a parade float in both the Jamboree in the spring and the Festival of Lights in the winter. The Evangelism Committee is considering the possibility of acquiring a trailer for the congregation's continued use, not only in these parades, but also for the bazaar and other functions. If you have a trailer that you'd be willing to donate, or if you know of a reasonably priced trailer that might fit our purposes, please speak to John Anderson of the Evangelism Committee.



Dear Members of Grace Lutheran Church,

REMEMBER!!!! The FIRST Sunday of every month is Sunday School Mission Sunday. Our Sunday School Mission for this quarter is The Refuge Rescue Ranch in Bastrop, for young girls who have fallen victim to human trafficking of all types. Please remember to give generously the first Sunday of every month to help support this great cause.

We as a Board will be working on Easter Sunday Events. We will be taking candy donations as well as plastic egg donations for our annual East Egg Hunt. If you want to donate please bring donations to the church or contact a board member.

CHALLENGE!!!!

We would like to encourage each of you to participate in our weekly challenge by answering the question in the back of the bulletin. We as a board feel it is important to educate each other on what Christ did for us and continues to do for us.

May God Bless all of you.
 Respectfully,
 Barb Johannessen

2019 MIDWEEK DATES

The following Wednesdays are the dates for our midweek classes this year. Our regular midweek schedule consists of a light meal at 6:00 PM, followed by classes for all ages from 6:30-7:30. Dates marked with an asterisk (*) occur during Advent and Lent, when we have midweek worship services at 7 PM. During this season of the Church Year, midweek classes will begin at 5:30 PM and end at 6:15 PM so that parents and children still have the opportunity to eat at the soup suppers before services. Sharon Reinberg will once again be coordinating and cooking midweek meals. Contributions are needed to assist with the cost; please designate your offering toward midweek meals and bring it to the office during the week or place it in the plate on Sunday morning. Please plan to participate in our midweek classes this year; it is an excellent opportunity for all of us to grow together in a deeper understanding and appreciation of our Christian faith.



2019

*March 6, 2019	*April 10, 2019
*March 13, 2019	April 24, 2019
*March 27, 2019	May 1, 2019
*April 3, 2019	



5:30-6:15p Bible Class
 6:00-6:45p Soup Supper
 7:00p Worship

Lent 2019

Each year, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. This penitential, forty-day season of the Church Year prepares us for Holy Week and the Resurrection of Our Lord. Here at Grace, each Wednesday during Lent we have a soup supper at 6 PM followed by a devotional worship service at 7 PM. This year's Lenten midweek services will focus on the first chief part of the Catechism, the Ten Commandments. Our Lenten midweek offerings this year will go to support three important missions: Grace Lutheran Learning Center, Faith Lutheran High School in Central Texas, and Pastor Askins in Hong Kong. The schedule for this year's services, including Holy Week and Easter, is printed below. Make plans to join us for these services in the coming weeks to grow in the repentance and faith that Jesus has given.

March 6	Ash Wednesday	Soup: A - Fo Host: LLL	Imposition of Ashes Divine Service with Holy Communion 1 st Commandment
March 13	Lent Midweek 2	Soup: Fr – P Host: LWML	2 nd and 3 rd Commandments
March 20	Lent Midweek 3	Soup: R – Z Host: Evangelism	4 th Commandment
March 27	Lent Midweek 4	Soup: A - Fo Host: Board of Education	5 th and 6 th Commandments
April 3	Lent Midweek 5	Soup: Fr – P Host:	7 th and 8 th Commandments
April 10	Lent Midweek 6	Soup: R-Z Host:	9 th and 10 th Commandments
April 14	Palm Sunday	10:00 am	Procession of Palms Divine Service with Holy Communion
April 18	Maundy Thursday	7:00 pm	Divine Service with Holy Communion Stripping of the Altar
April 19	Good Friday	7:00 pm	Tenebrae Vespers
April 21	Easter Sunday	8:00 am	Divine Service with Holy Communion Easter egg hunt & breakfast following the Service



LWML

Lutheran Women *in Mission*

UPCOMING:

March 7th

6pm-Business Meeting

March 13th

Host Lenten Soup Supper

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.

March Meeting Agenda:

Host: Sharon Reinberg, Darcy Long, Debby Compton

Topic: by Pastor Appel

Reveal Secret Pals

Project: Prayer Book

Our Mission Projects:

Smithville Food Pantry

A non-profit organization serving as a source of supplemental nutrition for elderly, disabled or low income families in the Smithville, Texas area.

Wednesdays 9am-11:30am

107 SW 2nd St

LWML TEXAS DISTRICT GRANT BULLETIN BYTES:

Let it Shine for Children with Autsim (\$10,000)

Let It Shine for Children with Autism is designed to address the unique needs of children with autism in an early learning environment. Grant funds will be used by Lutheran Special Education Ministries(LSEM) to purchase appropriate curriculum, materials and equipment for these unique early learners.

Also see page 19 of February Lutheran Witness for more information.

This month donations to the large Mite Box in the Narthex will go to National grants and are joyfully accepted.

National Mission Grant Bulletin Bytes:

-Lutheran World Relief Quilt and Kit Shipping Fund (\$40,000)

Every year, many Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML) groups and individuals join their hearts and hands in sewing mission quilts, making blankets, and assembling personal care, baby care, school, and fabric kits to be distributed to people in need through Lutheran World Relief (LWR).

Delivering these materials to people in need is a long and sometimes complex process, involving trucking and rail transportation, warehousing, processing, and overseas shipping. This grant to LWR’s Quilt and Shipping Fund ensures the ability to deliver more than 35,500 quilts each year to our neighbors in need around the world and sustains the ministry that so many LWML members have been a part of for generations.



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 seeks to engage young adults in a Christ-centered environment where faith and knowledge grow as one.

HOME OF THE FALCONS!

What's New at FLHS?

- Sophomore Andrew won the Fayette Co. Soil and Water Conservation Essay Contest
- Freshman, Benjamin qualified for the NASP state Archery competition on March 29th
- Track Season is underway with 3 meets on our schedule
- Students are preparing for National Lutheran Schools Week - celebrated March 4th - 8th - and will include dress up days, games and activities

Texas Lutheran Writer's Round Up

FLHS will welcome Elizabeth Ahlman, Sarah Baughman, Angie Goeke, Christina Hergenrader and Ruth Meyer on Friday, March 8th at 10 am for the Texas Lutheran Writer's Round Up. The authors will give a presentation beginning at 10 am and then be available for questions and book signings. We are blessed to offer this event to our community so please plan to join us!

New Student Registration

Registration for the 2019-2020 school year is underway. Three new students have enrolled for the 2019-2020 school year and we are looking to add more students to our family. Are you looking for a Christ-centered education, a rigorous college prep curriculum, small class sizes? Schedule a shadow day to check out FLHS!! Call (979) 242-2889 today!

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.

Spring Raffle

Get your tickets today before it is too late! Tickets are available through Sunday, March 3rd. Tickets are \$20 each. Drawing will be during National Lutheran Schools Week (March 4-8). Items include:

- \$1500 Travel Voucher
- Guided Gulf Coast Fishing Trip for 2
- 30" Fire Pit with adjustable grill top
- 26" Custom made Plow Sweep Wok
- \$500 Visa Gift Card
- Savage Axis Rifle
- Kendra Scott Earrings/Necklace, Handmade Quilt and \$100 Visa Card
- Cedar Carved Truck and Trailer

Please contact any FLHS delegate, student, staff member or call (979) 242-2889 to get your tickets today!!

Thank you, Thank you!

Thank you for all the support you have showered upon Faith Lutheran HS this past year! We are so blessed! Whether you remembered us in your prayers, time, talents, or gift, we are forever grateful and your gifts make a bigger impact than you know! THANK YOU!

Free Wednesday mornings?

Join us for our weekly Chapel Worship Service every Wednesday beginning at 10:30 am. Our teachers and local association pastors will be leading us in worship throughout the year.

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. If you would like to support our ministry through a one-time or enduring gift, Thrivent Action Grant, Thrivent Choice Dollars, or volunteer your time and talents, please contact Mrs. Nikki Kueck at (979) 242-2889.

The Askins in Asia



Reviewing the Past; Looking to the Future

As of February 3rd, our family will have served on the mission field for three years. It has been a delightful whirlwind of service to the Church.

Regularly I stop and marvel that I have been asked to serve in this way and that you all have supported us in this work.

For this article today, I want to review the last year and look ahead to the next.

We originally moved to Hong Kong in February of 2016. January of 2018 found us busily packing and preparing to move the regional office to Taiwan.

At the time, our interim regional business manager and his family had joined us in Hong Kong, and we enjoyed getting to know them as we moved to Taiwan.

Most of the first three months of the year were filled with acquiring visas, cleaning up and disposing of materials at the office space, and travels to Taiwan to check on housing for the family.

In the midst of these plans, I made a short trip to India. Our partner church seminary had been hit by a cyclone and we went to collect pictures and information about the devastation.

As a family, we said goodbyes to dear friends, got rid of family pets, sold furniture, and prepared our goods to be packed into a shipping container bound for Taiwan.

On April 1st, we moved to Taiwan and the process of adjusting to the culture began again. As we have reflected on our life in Taiwan, we have agreed that Hong Kong provided a good transition stage.

We love Taiwan. We prefer the slower pace of life in Taiwan.

Almost immediately, Eliza and the children started Chinese class, and they will continue class until we return to the United States in April for home service.

The summer kept me busy in preparing the new regional office to greet the workers of the Asia region for a workgroup meeting in the fall.

Also, this summer, I picked up the additional title of "Witness Team Manager." It gives me extra opportunities to serve our Asia team and ensure they are able and equipped to do the work Christ has called them to do.

Continued on next page . . .

Reviewing the Past; Looking to the Future

cont.

This summer also brought to fruition a two-year project. In cooperation with the web team that works in St. Louis, we developed and deployed a website dedicated solely to the work of the LCMS around the world.

This coming year promises to provide many opportunities to fill up that website with stories, pictures, and videos of the work going on in the Asia region.

In October, I made a short fundraising trip to the US. Since we missed the normal two-year home service due to our move, I wanted to connect with some donors in the middle of the year before doing a full home service this coming spring.

As I write this, I'm sitting in the airport in Papua New Guinea. Looking ahead, the first few months of this year will be filled with travels to Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Cambodia.

On these travels, I will not only collect stories for the new website, but also the stories we will tell for the LCMS convention this coming summer. It's an exciting if very busy time.

In March, all of the international communications workers will travel to our regional office for additional training. I will help accommodate them and both support and participate in the training.

Then, at the beginning of April, we will be returning to the United States until the end of July. I haven't had an opportunity to plan beyond that date yet.

Thank you for your prayers and support. I hope this summary of the past year and the view of the one ahead helps provide some context and background for the work that you're supporting in Asia.

As always, please do not hesitate to send me an email with questions. We enjoy hearing from you.

✠ *Soli Deo Gloria* ✠

To support the LCMS through the work of Rev. Roy S. Askins, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod or LCMS. Include "Askins-Hong Kong" in the memo line. Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website at www.lcms.org/givenow/askins. To give a gift over the phone, please call 1-888-930-4438.

Contact us at roy.askins@lcmsintl.org.

For Your Prayers

In your prayers, please keep these things in mind:

- For Eliza and the children as they are home while dad is gone for two weeks
- For Pr. Askins during these travels over the next few months
- For the Gutnius Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea that the Holy Spirit would unite them in Christian love
- For Pr. Askins as he tries to finish his STM while also preparing for home service support raising and events this summer
- For a vehicle that we might borrow during home service this spring

Thank You

To all of you who are supporting us in so many and various ways, thank you.

For your prayers, thank you. For your financial support, thank you. For your notes and thoughts, thank you.

—The Askins

A Page of Pictures

Enjoy these pictures from the last month. For more, visit our website: askinsinasia.com.



LEFT: The kiddos got to make pottery with some friends.



RIGHT: Ronan turned 8 years old on January 8.



I had the privilege to return to the USA this January to help five (four shown above) pastors from various Asian countries participate in Symposia at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN.



Our Asian guests got to see the Oscar Mayer Wienermobile!



LEFT: Eva Maria got her first scooter ride from a local friend.

RIGHT: A friend from Hong Kong (now Singapore) came to Taiwan to visit.

FAR RIGHT: Cornelia goes for a walk across a suspension bridge with another local friend in Taiwan.



Read Through the Bible in 2019

Grace Lutheran Church, Smithville, TX

“God’s Word is our great heritage and shall be ours forever!” Continue your daily Bible reading during 2019. 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 March

March 1	Galatians 1	Exodus 17-19
March 2	Galatians 2	Exodus 20-22
March 3	Proverbs 4:20-27	Psalms 32-33
March 4	OFF	
March 5	Galatians 3:1-4:7	Exodus 23-24
March 6	Galatians 4:8-31	Exodus 25-26
March 7	Galatians 5-6	Exodus 27-28
March 8	Ephesians 1	Exodus 29-31
March 9	Ephesians 2-3	Exodus 32-33
March 10	Proverbs 5	Psalms 34-36
March 11	OFF	
March 12	Ephesians 4:1-16	Exodus 34-36
March 13	Ephesians 4:17-5:33	Exodus 37-38
March 14	Ephesians 6	Exodus 39-40
March 15	1 John 1-3	Leviticus 1-3
March 16	1 John 4-5	Leviticus 4-6
March 17	Proverbs 6:1-8	Psalms 37-38
March 18	OFF	
March 19	1 Peter 1:1-2:3	Leviticus 7-8
March 20	1 Peter 2:4-25	Leviticus 9-11
March 21	1 Peter 3-4	Leviticus 12-13
March 22	1 Peter 5	Leviticus 14-15
March 23	Luke 1:1-25	Leviticus 16-18
March 24	Proverbs 6:9-19	Psalms 39-40
March 25	OFF	
March 26	Luke 1:26-56	Leviticus 19-20
March 27	Luke 1:57-80	Leviticus 21-23
March 28	Luke 2	Leviticus 24-25
March 29	Luke 3:1-20	Leviticus 26-27
March 30	Luke 3:21-38	Numbers 1
March 31	Proverbs 6:20-35	Psalms 41-44

Save the Date
2019
Vacation Bible School
Sunday, June 9 thru Thursday, June 13
5:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.



Our God created our vast, amazing universe and also loves each of us with a vast, amazing love! He loved the world so much that He sent Jesus, the promised Savior, to live, suffer, die and rise again to save us—the most Miraculous Mission of all!!