

Grace Notes



2021

Forty days after His resurrection, Jesus ascended to the right hand of God the Father Almighty. We confess this truth every week in the Creed, and yet, sometimes our Lord's ascension gets overlooked when we consider His work of our salvation on our behalf. We celebrate His birth at Christmas with great joy, we contemplate His suffering and death during Lent with great reverence, and we hail His resurrection on Easter with glad shouts of "Alleluia!" All of that is meet, right, and salutary. However, if we neglect our Lord's ascension, we miss out on the great comfort, peace, and joy that Jesus intends us to have. I invite you to consider with me for a few minutes the great gift of Jesus' ascension.

First, Jesus' ascension means that He is present with His Church. That may seem like a strange statement at first; after all, when Jesus ascended, His apostles stared up at the sky for a while in a vain attempt to see Him (Acts 1:9-10). Yet Jesus does not withdraw His presence by His ascension; instead, He transforms His presence. Remember the comforting promise Jesus gave His Church: "And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). Jesus' ascension means that He has kept His promise. The right hand of God the Father Almighty is not a physical location; it is a position of authority. Because Jesus sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, He has the authority and the ability to keep His promise to be present with His Church in His Word and Sacraments until the end of the age.

Second, Jesus' ascension means that our Brother reigns over all creation. Consider what St. Paul writes in Ephesians 1:20-23, "[God] raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And He put all things under His feet and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all." Clearly, this text teaches us that Jesus reigns with almighty power over

absolutely everything. Now remember: who is this Jesus? He is your Brother (John 20:17). He is your Friend who gave His life for you (John 15:13). He is your Prince of Peace who still bears the scars that mark Him as your crucified and risen Savior (John 20:19-20). He is your Great High Priest who sympathizes with you in your weakness and intercedes before the Father on your behalf (Hebrews 4:14-16). Jesus' ascension gives us the great comfort that, even in the midst of this world's turmoil and upheaval, our Brother is the One who reigns over all things for our good.

Third, Jesus' ascension means that He will return to take us to the eternal home He has prepared for us. When the disciples stared into the sky in vain to catch a glimpse of Jesus, God graciously sent His angels to tell them to stop it: "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11). Already at Jesus' ascension, Jesus' disciples are directed to look for His return. So it remains for you and for me. In John 14:1-3, Jesus promises, "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also."

All of this and more is the comfort, peace, and joy of Jesus' ascension. We do well to recall it with the same devotion as we recall His birth, suffering, death, and resurrection. This year, Ascension Day is Thursday, May 13; as is our congregation's custom, we will have a worship service at 7 PM. If you've never joined us before, I encourage you to do so this year as we rejoice together in the ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ!

In Christ,
Pastor Appel

May 2021

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

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.



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

Elders: Colby Zimmerhanzel
Tommy Oates

Organist(s):
June Parker
Esther Wolff
Kim Appel

May. Altar
Guild:
Linda Read
Frances Pool



As of, April 22nd, 2021

Name	Balance
Prosperity Checking Acct	62,825.04
CEF-General	2,455.95
CEF-Land/Youth	12,359.66
CEF Scholarship	12,512.03
Legacy Deo	12,405.66
Total Dedicated Funds	20,823.56
General Fund Balance	42,001.48

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



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). 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/.



May 18 Jason & Rebekah Watson
 May 25 Chuck & Lisa Stern
 May 30 Michael & Elizabeth Caldwell

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.



We continue to be blessed with abundant donations. We continue our present schedule of Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for donations. Sale day is Friday 9 to 2. Grace is scheduled to staff the store May 24th through the 28th. Join us as you are able.

Youth Confirmation: Sunday May 2nd



Since last September, our 7th and 8th grade youth confirmation students and parents have been meeting each week for in-depth instruction concerning what Lutherans believe, teach, and confess according to God's Word. According to His promise, God has blessed our time in His

Word. Youth confirmation is being planned for three students during worship on **Sunday, May 2**. Please keep these three youth and their families in your prayers as they confess their faith before God and the world.



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



May 4 Rod Langer
 May 7 James Rice
 May 8 Brody Bennight
 Shena Kadlecek
 Ryan Teague
 Adrian Wolff
 May 9 John Stelling
 Issac Schwall
 May 13 Alice Miller
 Jarrett Randle
 Darcy Long
 May 14 Murrelyn Rice
 Kyleigh Psencik
 May 15 Kayla Herschap
 May 16 Mike Noak
 May 17 Asher Vanegas
 May 18 Nelda Rohde
 May 21 Daniel Davis
 May 25 Cason Herschap
 May 29 Rebekah Watson
 May 30 Madison Hannusch
 Brenda Sanders

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!



Ongoing Worship Services at Grace

As of Sunday, March 7, we have transitioned back to one worship service at 10:00 AM on Sunday mornings. Here are some important details:

- Appropriate distancing will be maintained by making use of our entire facility. In addition to continuing the practice of roping off pews in the sanctuary, the balcony and parish hall will both be available. Some chairs will be set up ahead of time in the parish hall in those places that allow for the best view of the sanctuary, but you may also choose to use the rest of the parish hall to sit farther away, according to your preference. You will still be able to hear, receive the Lord's Body and Blood, and be together with your brothers and sisters, even at a distance.
- When you arrive at church, please go in an expedient manner to your seat and remain there, as much as you are able. Similarly, when you leave, please avoid lingering in the narthex and other common areas as much as possible.
- Please continue to wear a mask or face-covering to worship and throughout as much of your time at worship as possible, both in accordance with recommendations from health authorities and especially out of our love for each other as fellow Christians, knowing that others may have greater risk or concern.
- For the time being, family Sunday school will continue to be offered after worship in order to continue to allow for appropriate distancing, both in Sunday school and as people are coming and going to and from worship.

Please note that this plan is subject to change based on the continuing conditions of the pandemic and feedback from you. We welcome your questions, comments, and concerns as we return to one worship service; please be in touch with any member of the Board of Elders or with Pastor Appel. We ask for your patience and prayers as we move once again to worshipping all together as a congregation.

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!

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.



Dear Members of Grace Lutheran Church,

We would like to invite everyone to attend and learn God's word with all age groups from infant on up. Sunday school starts as close to 11:00am as possible. Directly after the Church Service. We will be collecting an offering each Sunday at Sunday School that will go to a missionary. Family Sunday School is going well for those that are attending, there is ALWAYS ROOM FOR MORE. Please join us in learning together and in supporting our fellow Christians in need. We look forward to what the summer will bring and welcome any comments or suggestions you may have regarding Sunday School. Please contact any board member.

We will make decisions in the near future regarding the Sunday School Rally and will keep you informed.

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



GLLC 50/50 Raffle

The Grace Lutheran Learning Center Board is sponsoring a 50/50 raffle for our spring fundraiser. Tickets are available from any GLLC Board member beginning today, April 18, until Sunday, May 23. The winner will be drawn and announced on Monday, May 24. Each ticket is \$10, and a maximum of 400 tickets will be sold. GLLC receives half of the proceeds from ticket sales; the winner receives the rest. Please consider participating to support our Learning Center!



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!

May 2021

Youth Camps

Summer camps are back! We are excited to offer a variety of camps for youth this spring and summer. Ages are for grades NEXT school year.

May 3-5 - Archery - Grade 5 to 8 - \$15

June 7-9 - Volleyball - Grade 3 to 8 - \$15

June 14-16 - Basketball - Grades K to 8 - \$15

June 21-23 - Art Camp - Grades K to 6 - \$ 30

June 28-30 - STEM Camp - Grades K to 6 - \$30

Please visit our website or Facebook page for more information! Don't wait --- Sign up today!! Space is limited!

The Spring Thing!

FLHS is proud to present The Spring Thing! This will be a showcase of our students' work in the fine art department. Please join us Wednesday, May 12th, at 7pm.

Staff Positions Available

Faith Lutheran High School will have part time openings on its faculty for the 2021-2022 academic year!

Interested individuals who teach science, social studies, English, Spanish, or electives, or would like to supervise dual credit or study hall students may submit resumes to Faith Lutheran High School, PO Box 138, Warda, TX 78960, call (979) 242-2889, or email them to kueckn@faithlutheranhighschool.com. If you have the time and talents, please consider applying and sharing your gifts with our students. Thank you!

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.

Graduation

The first senior class of Faith Lutheran High School will be graduating this spring. Graduation will be Saturday, May 29th at 1:30 pm at Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

Please join us as we celebrate these seniors and celebrate this wonderful occasion.

New Student Registration

Registration for the 2021-2022 school year is underway. Eight new students have already enrolled. We would love to welcome you into our Falcon family as well. Call us at (979) 242-2889 to schedule a visit or visit our website at www.faithlutheranhighschool.com for registration information.

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. We utilize TADS to disburse these scholarship funds, and EVERY family who applies receives some assistance. We'll do everything in our power to make sure that money isn't the reason you don't choose FLHS. **In today's increasingly hostile, non-Christian society, you can't afford to NOT send your child to FLHS!**

Thank you, Thank you!

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





LWML

Lutheran Women in Mission

UPCOMING:

May 6th
6pm- Business
Meeting

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.

Grace LWML Mission Project:
April circuit Pastor’s Meeting at Grace for brunch and lunch. There will not be a Mother’s Day Bake Sale this year

Lutheran World Relief Ingathering 2021:
This year’s ingathering will again be in November.
Saturday, November 6, 2021

LWML TEXAS DISTRICT GRANT BULLETIN BYTES:

-Laundry Love – St. Paul, San Antonio- \$12,000

Dear Lord, We ask your blessings on Laundry Love that detergent and dryer coins combined with Bible lessons, prayer and fellowship may point lonely neighbors to Your love. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen

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

National Mission Grant Bulletin Bytes:

-LCMS Deaconess Ministry-LCMS Office of International Mission (\$39,523)

LCMS Deaconesses are women who are full time professional church workers, trained to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through a ministry of works of mercy, spiritual care, and teaching the Christian faith. The LCMS Deaconess Ministry program will provide LCMS students the opportunity to become a church professional, learning and training to understand the diaconal leadership, the work of deaconesses as applied to body and soul ministry. This grant will provide educational and financial support to our partner churches who introduced deaconess training programs within their church bodies like the Philippines, Latvia, Liberia, Indonesia, Malaysia, and India.



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 May

May 1	Luke 18:31-43	Deuteronomy 12-14
May 2	Luke 19	Deuteronomy 15-18
May 3	Luke 20:1-26	Deuteronomy 19-22
May 4	Luke 20:27-47	Deuteronomy 23-25
May 5	Proverbs 8:22-36	Psalms 60-63
May 6	OFF	
May 7	Luke 21	Deuteronomy 26-27
May 8	Luke 22:1-38	Deuteronomy 28-29
May 9	Luke 22:39-65	Deuteronomy 30-32
May 10	Luke 22:66-23:25	Deuteronomy 33-34
May 11	Luke 23:26-56	Joshua 1-4
May 12	Proverbs 9	Psalms 64-67
May 13	OFF	
May 14	Luke 24:1-35	Joshua 5-7
May 15	Luke 24:36-53	Joshua 8-9
May 16	Acts 1	Joshua 10-12
May 17	Acts 2:1-13	Joshua 13-15
May 18	Acts 2:14-47	Joshua 16-18
May 19	Proverbs 10:1-14	Psalms 68-69
May 20	OFF	
May 21	Acts 3	Joshua 19-20
May 22	Acts 4	Joshua 21-22
May 23	Acts 5	Joshua 23-24
May 24	Acts 6	Judges 1-4
May 25	Acts 7:1-53	Judges 5-6
May 26	Proverbs 10:15-32	Psalms 70-71
May 27	OFF	
May 28	Acts 7:54-60	Judges 7-8
May 29	Acts 8	Judges 9-11
May 30	Acts 9	Judges 12-13
May 31	Acts 10:1-22	Judges 14-17