

Grace Notes



2020

November brings with it the end of the Church Year. As another Church Year comes to a close, the Scripture readings, prayers, and hymns draw our attention to Christ's promised second coming. We confess it each week in the Creed: "From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead." This Day is the hope of every Christian, and so it is good and right that we spend time this month reflecting on the joy that God's Word gives us in the second coming of Jesus.

First, God's Word plainly says that Jesus' return is imminent; He is coming soon (Revelation 22:20) at a time known only to the Father (Matthew 24:36). God's Word uses images such as the suddenness of Noah's flood (Matthew 24:37), a master who comes home sooner than expected (Matthew 24:50), a bridegroom who comes later than anticipated (Matthew 25:5), and a thief in the night (1 Thessalonians 5:13). No person can ascertain how much closer we are to Jesus' return based on current events. God is not waiting for a certain ruler to arise in the modern nation-state of Israel; God is not waiting for a certain war to take place or a certain currency to gain acceptance throughout the world. The world has been in the last days since the moment of Jesus' ascension. Already on the Day of Pentecost, St. Peter preached from Joel 2 to announce to the people that the last days had arrived (Acts 2:16). St. Paul tells St. Timothy in both epistles written to the young pastor that they are living in the last days (1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Timothy 3:1). St. John says quite clearly: "Children, it is the last hour" (1 John 2:18). Every Christian throughout history should have the same urgency. Right now, you and I are living in the last days. Jesus will come at any moment, perhaps before I finish writing this, perhaps before you finish reading this.

Second, because Jesus comes unexpectedly, God's Word gives this simple command in multiple places and multiple ways: "Be ready." Jesus says in Matthew 24:42, "Stay awake." He says in Matthew 24:44, "Be ready." He says in Matthew 25:13, "Watch." He says in Mark 13:33, "Be on guard." What does it mean to be ready for Jesus' return? He is the One who makes us ready. Jesus' makes His Christians ready through faith. This faith worked by the Holy Spirit trusts that Jesus is the only Savior, the One who has saved them through His perfect life, death, and resurrection, given through the water and Word of Holy Baptism. St.

Paul writes concerning the Last Day in 1 Thessalonians 5:9-11, "For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."

Finally, Jesus' return is a day of great joy for Christians. Judgement Day gives joy to Christians because we know how God has judged us; we know that God has already judged us. God has declared us righteous in His Son Jesus Christ. This verdict was not rendered based on anything we have done, but solely based on what Jesus has done for us. Our works according to the Law will not and cannot save us (Romans 3:19-20), but Jesus' works according to the Law can and do save us (Galatians 4:4-5). By His grace, God has judged us righteous on account of Christ. This verdict has been declared personally to each Christian, to you and to me, when God spoke His name over us in Holy Baptism (Romans 6:1-11). Because God has already judged us righteous by grace through faith for the sake of Christ, the Last Day is a Day of joy for Christians. On that Day, He will raise us from the dead in resurrected bodies and souls. He will publicly declare the verdict He has already spoken, and He will take us to live with Him in eternity. That is day of great joy for us as Christians, our ultimate hope. For that reason, we pray with the Church throughout history: "Come, Lord Jesus! Come quickly!"

In Christ,
Pastor Appel

November 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>8:30am Worship/Communion 10am Worship/Communion 11am-Family Bible Study</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7pm Elders  Elders Meeting</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>5:30pm- Youth Confirmation</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6pm LWML </p>	<p>6</p> <p>Pastor Away-Family Day</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>8:30am Worship/Communion 10am Worship/Communion 11am-Family Bible Study</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9am Pastor Circuit Mtg</p>	<p>11</p> <p>5:30pm- Youth Confirmation</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Pastor Away-Family Day</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8:30am Worship/Communion 10am Worship/Communion 11am-Family Bible Study</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6pm- GLLC Meeting</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>5:30pm- Youth Confirmation</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Pastor Away-Family Day</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>8:30am Worship/Communion 10am Worship/Communion 11am-Family Bible Study</p>	<p>23</p> <p>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE/NOON  **NOTE THE EARLY DEADLINE THIS MONTH****</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7pm-Thanksgiving Eve Service</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Office Closed  Thanksgiving DAY</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Pastor Away-Family Day</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>8:30am Worship/Communion 10am Worship/Communion 11am-Family Bible Study</p>	<p>30</p>					

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

Elder(s): Tommy Oates
Brad Zimmerhanel

Ushers: Bert Bunte
Jack Page

Trustees Allan Hancock
: Johnnie Kalina

Organist(s):
June Parker
Esther Wolff
Kim Appel

Nov. Altar Guild:
June Parker
Libby Caldwell



As of, October 27th2020

Name	Balance
Prosperity Checking Acct	72,504.84
CEF-General	2,445.55
CEF-Land/Youth	12,307.36
CEF Scholarship	12,459.08
CEF Property Loan	116,025.36
Legacy Deo	9,412.53
Total Dedicated Funds	24,140.28
General Fund Balance	48,364.56

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

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

Pastor Timothy Appel

If you need to contact him, his email address is: timothyappel@gmail.com 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)



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

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

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/.



Nov. 15	Katie & Jaysen Swartz
Nov. 17	Debbie & Tommy Higgins
Nov. 27	Vicki & Robert Vinklerek

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.



Thank you to all our donors and shoppers. We support non profit agencies in Smithville. Grace will partner with First Presbyterian the week of November 9th-14th. Work hours are Monday and Wednesday from 10-2. Friday and Saturday from 9-2. Donations are accepted Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday during listed hours. Donations are sanitized and placed into quarantine for a minimum of 3 days before they are brought insided. Join us as you are able.



Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service

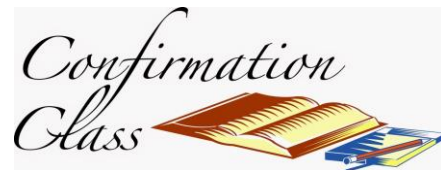
Our congregation gathers on **Wednesday, November 25 at 7 PM** to give thanks to God for all that He has done and continues to do through His Son Jesus Christ. As a part of our service that evening, it is our congregation's custom to receive donations for the Smithville Food Pantry (due to the ongoing pandemic, we will not share loaves of bread this year). Donations of non-perishable food items to the Smithville Food Pantry may be brought to church all month long through Thanksgiving Eve. Even though Thanksgiving may look different in our country this year, the blessings of our heavenly Father still abound far more than we could ever ask. Please make plans to join us for this special worship service.



Nov. 4	Debbie Hampton
	Chuck Stem
Nov. 5	Philip Appel
	Cheryl Moore
Nov. 8	Olivia Larkin
	Phillip Hellman
Nov. 9	Rose Pietsch
Nov. 12	Mary Ann Duty
Nov. 14	Aaron Owens
	Andrew Stem
Nov. 15	Marilyn Burns
Nov. 19	William Miller
Nov. 21	Kellye Geigenmiller
Nov. 24	Kaylee Wolff
Nov. 28	Alex Caldwell

Family Sunday School

Continuing at least through the end of 2020, Grace is having a family Sunday school class. 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. We start each week about 11:10 am, or as quickly as we are able after the 10:00 am service ends (if you attend the 8:30 am service, plan to come back and start gathering in the parish hall at 11:00 am). 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!



Youth Confirmation Classes

Our 7th and 8th grade youth confirmation students and parents meet each week for in-depth instruction concerning what Lutherans believe, teach, and confess according to God's Word. Class meets from 5:30-6:30 each Wednesday evening, making use of the necessary space in the parish hall to allow us to distance as effectively as possible. **Please keep these youth and their parents in your prayers, that their faith in Christ would grow during their time in God's Word.**



Dear Members of Grace Lutheran Church,

We are **excited** to report that our first Family Sunday School gathering was a success. With 40 plus people in attendance, I feel like all ages enjoyed learning together and participated in any way they felt comfortable doing. Please join us for Sunday School each Sunday around 11:00, and see what enjoyment everyone is getting out of this Christian gathering. We are open to suggestions and concerns anyone may have.

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

Our Board members for this year are: Charlie Johannessen, Toni Ann Kadlecek, Kathy Kasper, Mary Lou Oliver, Melissa Brown, June Parker, Barb Johannessen and the Sunday School Superintendent is Donna 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



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!

Junior High Game Night

FLHS will be hosting a game night for 7th and 8th grade students on Friday, November 13th from 6:00 pm until 9:00 pm at Faith Lutheran High School. We will have lots of food, fun, and fellowship! It may look a little different this year, due to Covid, but we are excited to host this memorable event. Parents, you must call FLHS to reserve your child's spot at Game Night this year, as limited space will be available! Please join us!

Accreditation Visit

Faculty and staff at FLHS are anxiously preparing for our accreditation visit on November 8th - 10th. This visit was delayed last spring due to Covid, but we are so excited to walk through this process as the ministry at FLHS continues to grow.

Thanksgiving Chapel and Feast

Join us Wednesday, November 18th, beginning at 10:30 am for our 4th Annual Thanksgiving Celebration. Rev. Thomas Obersat will be leading us in worship and students will be assisting with music. Stay and fellowship with us during our pot-luck Thanksgiving feast lunch, immediately following chapel.

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.

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.

Free Wednesday mornings?

Join us for our weekly Chapel Worship Service every Wednesday, beginning at 10:30 am. We will be practicing social distancing.

Follow Us On Facebook!

See the exciting things happening at Faith Lutheran High School 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.

Thank you!

There have been so many people, organizations, groups and churches who have contributed to the success and growth of FLHS - through our fall envelope fundraiser, wish list items, and so much more. Thank you, on behalf of the students who will be instilled with wisdom as they become faithful leaders tomorrow, for your generous support. 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, memorial contribution, or a Thrivent Action Grant, please contact us.

Ongoing Worship Services at Grace

In order to continue to receive the gifts of God in the Divine Service together at Grace, all the while protecting the physical health of our neighbors during this time of pandemic, the following plan has been put in place by our elders for the coming weeks:

- Two worship services will be offered each Sunday, one at 8:30 AM and one at 10:00 AM. Each week, you will need to sign up for your desired service ahead of time, either by using the online tool sent by e-mail and posted on Facebook or by calling the church office.
- We will practice social distancing throughout the sanctuary. We will skip every other pew in the first service, and then switch the pews for the second. Households will sit together, leaving at least 6 feet of space between other households.
- Families will be ushered forward one at a time for the distribution of the Sacrament. Rather than kneeling at the rail, this will take place immediately in front of the chancel, in a method similar to what we use during our service before the bazaar. Individual cups and the chalice will both continue to be offered; the purificator, used to wipe the chalice, will be soaked in a neutral spirit with extremely high alcohol content in order to sanitize the chalice between communicants
- Commonly touched surfaces will be sanitized between services.
- The assisting elder and I will wear masks during the distribution of the Sacrament. In accordance with current city and state ordinances, those who come to in-person worship should wear a mask or other face covering.
- Previously implemented health-conscious practices will be continued. The service will be printed fully in bulletin so you will not need to use the hymnal. We will forgo the passing of offering plates, the sharing of the peace, and handshakes during greeting. Please enter the church through the doors that open to the parking lot (these will be held open for you), and avoid going into the parish hall. We will also avoid congregating in the narthex.

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 Grace gathers together for worship again, it is important that we are able to prepare our facilities properly with appropriate cleaning supplies. We do not want to hoard these materials; we only want to make sure we have what is needed. The items we need most are disinfecting wipes, disinfecting spray, and hand sanitizer. If you are able to donate one of these items, it is greatly appreciated. They can be left on one of the benches outside of the parish hall during normal office hours (9 AM-2 PM, Tuesday-Friday); call the office to let us know, and items will be brought inside. Although we know these items are hard to find right now, we hope that everyone in the congregation looking for them will help us have the items that we need. Thank you for supporting Grace in this way!





LWML

Lutheran Women *in Mission*

UPCOMING:

Nov 5th
6pm- Regular
business meeting in
parish hall

Nov 7th
LWR Drop Off

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: Grace Lutheran Learning Center and the Smithville Food Pantry.

November 7th – LWR Quilts and School Kits will be taken to the drop off point in Ruttersville-St. John’s Lutheran Church between 8:30 and 10:30

New Zone LWML officers for the next two years:

President: Dorothy Schautschick

4th VP: Elaine Krause

Treasurer: Brenda Woelfel

Nominating Committee: Debbie Beisert-Chair, Elaine Kieschnick, June Parker, Theresa Krause

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

LWML TEXAS DISTRICT GRANT BULLETIN BYTES:

- Blessings and Bibles - Lutheran
Disaster Care - \$15,000

Loving Father, You have taught us to not only love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

Guide the hands and lips of the Lutheran Disaster Care volunteers as they share the love of Jesus in both words and actions to those facing crisis situations. Lord, in your Mercy, hear our prayer. Amen

National Mission Grant Bulletin Bytes:

-God’s Grace for This Generation (\$100,000)

LAMP Ministry Inc. has ministered for nearly 50 years in northern Canada where many villages are reachable only by aircraft or seasonal roads. Currently, nearly one million Indigenous people live in these isolated areas with about half of them under the age of 14. The most alarming statistic is that over 15 percent of children and youth will actually take their own lives out of despair and hopelessness. When LAMP goes into these communities with VBS, Bible studies, and personal witnessing, these communities will have access to Christian education for faith in Christ. In order to fulfill their mission of sharing the gospel in the next few years, LAMP will need to expand their staff of full-time missionary pilots to four or five. LAMP will need to recruit and train 100 to 200 more volunteer missionaries committed to serve at least five years. This grant will provide the funds to help LAMP reach their goal.



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 2020

Grace Lutheran Church, Smithville, TX

“God’s Word is our great heritage and shall be ours forever!” Continue your daily Bible reading during 2020. 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 November

November 1	Mark 9:14-50	Jeremiah 48-49
November 2	Mark 10:1-31	Jeremiah 50-51
November 3	Proverbs 25	Psalms 119:121-160
November 4	OFF	
November 5	Mark 10:32-52	Jeremiah 52
November 6	Mark 11	Lamentations 1-3
November 7	Mark 12	Lamentations 4-5
November 8	Mark 13:1-31	Ezekiel 1-5
November 9	Mark 13:32-37	Ezekiel 6-9
November 10	Proverbs 26	Psalms 119:161-176; Psalms 120-122
November 11	OFF	
November 12	Mark 14:1-42	Ezekiel 10-12
November 13	Mark 14:43-72	Ezekiel 13-15
November 14	Mark 15	Ezekiel 16-17
November 15	Mark 16	Ezekiel 18-20
November 16	II John	Ezekiel 21-23
November 17	Proverbs 27	Psalms 123-128
November 18	OFF	
November 19	III John	Ezekiel 24-27
November 20	Hebrews 1-2	Ezekiel 28-31
November 21	Hebrews 3-4:13	Ezekiel 32-34
November 22	Hebrews 4:14-6:20	Ezekiel 35-38
November 23	Hebrews 7	Ezekiel 39-41
November 24	Proverbs 28	Psalms 129-132
November 25	OFF	
November 26	Hebrews 8-9	Ezekiel 42-44
November 27	Hebrews 10:1-18	Ezekiel 45-48
November 28	Hebrews 10:19-39	Daniel 1-3
November 29	Hebrews 11	Daniel 4-6
November 30	Hebrews 12	Daniel 7-9