

Grace Notes


September
2020

Whoever despises the word brings destruction on himself, but he who reveres the commandment will be rewarded. (Proverbs 13:13)

The Lord gives us His Word for our good. This is always true, of course. At every moment of our lives, God's Word serves to strengthen our faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and to strengthen us to walk in His way of righteousness. However, there are often particular moments in life in which God's Word is drawn into sharper focus for us.

Martin Luther identified three tools by which Christian faith is strengthened; in Latin, they are *oratio*, *mediatio*, and *tentatio*. *Oratio* is "prayer." Through prayer, God teaches us to rely on His help in time of need. *Meditatio* is "meditation." This meditation is not what is commonly depicted in false religions such as Buddhism or Hinduism, in which a person seeks truth within himself. Christian meditation is engaging the Word of God, learning truth through hearing and reading what God has given in Holy Scripture. *Tentatio* is a bit difficult to translate with one word in English; "temptation" or "suffering" begin to get at the idea. *Tentatio* includes those moments of temptation, suffering, angst, and difficulty in which the Christian must put the Word of God into use in his life. Through that use of the Word in life, God strengthens the Christian's faith in Christ.

In our life together as a congregation, two recent events stand out as moments of *tentatio* for us. The first is an ongoing moment: the pandemic. The second is my recent consideration of the divine call to serve God and His Church elsewhere. Each of these have forced us to put God's Word into use in different yet overlapping ways. The pandemic has forced us to make use of God's Word to consider what truly is essential to our lives as a congregation and as Christians. The divine call has forced us to make use of God's Word to consider anew our relationship as pastor and congregation and the holy work God has given us to do here at Grace.

If we fail to examine our lives honestly in light of God's Word during these moments of *tentatio*, then we will have wasted God's gift to us. If we fall into a simplistic desire to return to the way things always have been, then we will have wasted God's gift to us. Certainly, in both of these situations, we have discovered strengths about the way things have been. The unity our congregation has experienced in having only one worship service on Sunday morning is a strength (Ephesians 4:4-6; Hebrews 10:25); it is right that we should desire that reality again. Our

congregation rightly recognized the importance of the Sacrament of the Altar (Matthew 26:26-28) during the weeks we could not meet together at all, finding ways for individual families to continue to receive the Body and Blood of Christ. During the time I was considering the divine call elsewhere, we recognized what a precious gift God has given us the last ten years through the bonds we have strengthened here through our shared labor in the Lord (Philippians 1:4-5).

Still, we must not shy away from the ways such reflections call us to repent and change our course. During the time of pandemic, we have not met for Bible study in-person. As we begin to move back to in-person opportunities for Christian education, God's Word calls us to repentance. It may have been normal for parents to drop their children off for Sunday school without staying for Bible class themselves, but this was not helpful. This moment of *tentatio* is an opportunity to repent and renew our family lives in God's Word. Coming out of the consideration of the divine call, we have recognized places where we have become complacent with each other, where we have taken for granted the work that God has given us to do as pastor and congregation. This moment of *tentatio* is an opportunity to repent and renew our dedication to working diligently for the good of our congregation and seeking opportunities to share the Word of Christ with our family and neighbors who do not believe.

Coming out of these moments of *tentatio*, it may seem comforting to take the easy road and go back to the way things were. If we do, we will miss this gift of God. We cannot idolize what was normal. Instead, we must examine ourselves according to the Word of God as pastor, as laity, and as a congregation to recognize the ways we have faithfully striven after God's Word and to repent of the ways we have not. These moments of *tentatio* are God's gift to us, brothers and sisters. Make use of them with me to take God's Word, apply it to ourselves, and act upon it, so that together may grow in our trust in the Savior.

In Christ,
Pastor Appel

September 2020

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

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

Elder(s): Jack Page
Galen Bunte
Ushers: Vince Kaiser
Tommy Oates
Trustees: Ronnie Pietsch
Colby Zimmerhanzel
Allan Riddle

Organist(s):
June Parker
Esther Wolff
(Sub)
Kim Appel (Sub)
Sept. Altar Guild:
Helen Fleck
Becky Watson

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



As of August 28th, 2020

| Name | Balance |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Prosperity Checking Acct | 60,748.03 |
| CEF-General | 2,432.81 |
| CEF-Land/Youth | 12,243.25 |
| CEF Scholarship | 12,394.19 |
| CEF Property Loan | 117,348.66 |
| Legacy Deo | 10,997.55 |
| Total Dedicated Funds | 25,386.14 |
| General Fund Balance | 35,361.89 |



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, KFUE

(www.kfuo.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.kfuo.org/category/sharper-iron/.





| | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| Sep. 1 | Bonnie Kaiser |
| Sep. 3 | Clarence Hannusch |
| Sep. 4 | Jean Miller |
| | Heidi Poppe |
| Sep. 7 | Baylor Watson |
| Sep. 8 | Daucie Davis |
| Sep. 9 | Jacob Stinson |
| Sep. 10 | Roy Flora |
| | Anthony Hurst |
| Sep. 11 | Benny Hajdik |
| Sep. 12 | Dorine Hoskins |
| Sep. 13 | Chrissy Becker |
| | Trenton Vinklarek |
| Sep. 16 | Gene Brown III |
| | Donna Zimmerhanel |
| Sep. 17 | Charlie Johannessen |
| Sep. 23 | Edward Randle |
| Sep. 24 | Esther Wolff |
| | Caysen Swartz |
| Sep. 26 | Collin Kasper |
| Sep. 27 | Ivan Fritsche |
| | Patricia Satterwhite |
| | Robert Wolff |
| Sep. 29 | Courtney Pietsch |
| Sep. 30 | Laurie Rector Hancock |

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.



Congratulations and God's Blessings

We give thanks to God and rejoice with **Melody Jan Nunley**, confirmed in the Christian faith on August 2. Thanks be to God for His gift of saving faith in Jesus Christ nurtured in Melody; please pray for her continued growth and joy in the Christian faith.



Due to the generous outpouring of wonderful donations it was necessary to halt donations in September. This will allow time to process the donations we have. As we quarantine donations we have many to process. We welcome donations again in October

We remain working on Monday and Wednesday and open for sales on Friday. Grace and First Presbyterian will staff the store the week beginning on September 28. Please join us as you are able



Dear Members of Grace Lutheran Church,

The Board of Education is praying for everyone during this very trying time.

We are working on ways to get Sunday School and Mid-Week classes back in our normal as can be lives. As you are aware it was decided to start Pastors class for children to be confirmed as our first step. Once school has started back up and there is more information about the Corona Virus and other typical school shared illnesses, we will try to make further decisions about the rest of our education efforts. If you have a child that should be involved in one of our classes either Sunday School or Mid-Week and have any suggestions or thoughts please feel free to contact a Board of Education member or Pastor.

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



Bazaar 2020

As most of you have probably already guessed, Grace Lutheran's annual Bazaar for 2020 has been cancelled.

The Bazaar Committee felt several months ago that in these uncertain times, there was no way to pull it off, and now with all the restrictions in place, we absolutely could not have it anyways!

We will see what next year brings. In the meantime, some folks have asked about making donations toward the bazaar and you can certainly do that if you like just be sure to write "Bazaar 2020" on your check before submitting to the church. We can figure out later what to do with any donations received.

Sincerely,
Bazaar Committee

CAMP LONE STAR

LUTHERAN OUTDOORS MINISTRY OF TEXAS

Support for Camp Lone Star

Due to the ongoing pandemic, Camp Lone Star made the difficult decision to cancel the majority of their camps this summer as well as their annual BBQ and auction fundraiser. These normally provide a significant portion of the ongoing financial support for the ministry of Camp Lone Star. As you are able, please consider supporting this important outreach in our area by making a gift online (www.lomt.com/donate.html) or by mailing a check to Camp Lone Star, 2016 Camp Lone Star Road, La Grange, 78945.



Youth Confirmation Classes

Youth confirmation classes are beginning again! Starting Wednesday, September 2, our 7th and 8th grade youth confirmation students and parents will be meeting 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 the youth and their parents in your prayers, that their faith in Christ would grow during their time in God's Word.

Financial Giving Year to Date for Years 2016-2020

| Year | Total | Jan. | Feb. | March | April | May | June | July | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. |
|------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 2020 | 148279.80 | 18352.91 | 20044.35 | 16544.06 | 19900.00 | 23752.00 | 16145.48 | 12109.00 | 21432.00 | | | | |
| 2019 | 217835.30 | 14942.86 | 16272.85 | 21699.31 | 18103.82 | 14925.78 | 18861.55 | 17221.02 | 18818.76 | 18620.25 | 15456.00 | 17145.00 | 25768.10 |
| 2018 | 220211.30 | 17137.00 | 20981.37 | 17087.75 | 21367.02 | 16809.25 | 15956.15 | 18172.57 | 16494.58 | 19366.50 | 14491.41 | 18340.78 | 24006.95 |
| 2017 | 217083.90 | 17998.00 | 16771.90 | 19827.60 | 18362.25 | 14431.50 | 15147.05 | 17204.58 | 14835.15 | 17417.00 | 19903.00 | 16578.56 | 28607.29 |
| 2016 | 203965.00 | 18718.20 | 15320.02 | 16117.00 | 14944.52 | 17542.00 | 18738.00 | 16808.50 | 16226.70 | 14864.75 | 21630.27 | 14763.00 | 18292.00 |

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 from the Board of Elders continues to be in place:

- 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!

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LWML

Lutheran Women *in Mission*

UPCOMING:

We are anxious to meet again, but until it is safe we will discontinue monthly meetings.

Ballots for Post Oak Zone Officers are in your mailbox. To be returned to June Parker's mailbox by Sept. 6th.

We welcome you to join us in "Serving the Lord with Gladness." Please contact any LWML member or Sharon Reinberg to learn more or go to www.lwml.org or www.lwmltxdist.org to read about the mission and great history of LWML.

Mites- Please remember that our Texas District & LWML grants need to be funded. Even though we have not been meeting monthly, you can put your mites in the large box in the narthex or in Margie Hicks mail box.

Grace Society donation of mission projects- If you want to make your donations, please put in Margie Hicks mailbox.

LWML Fall Rally- The LWML Fall Rally has been cancelled due to the coronavirus. We are hoping to have our spring rally. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact President Dorothy Schautschick.

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

LWML TEXAS DISTRICT GRANT BULLETIN BYTES:

Mercy Meals — Orphan Grain Train — \$5,000

World hunger continues to be a desperate need, especially among children in third world countries. This mission grant will assist Mercy Meals at Orphan Grain Train in packing and shipping meals. Most of these shipments will go to countries with sister church destinations where they will accompany Gospel messages.

Lord, we are grateful for their ministry and ask You to bless our efforts to support them financially so they can continue this wonderful outreach ministry. In the precious name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

National Mission Grant Bulletin Bytes:

-Hope and Healing Hub of Downtown Lincoln (\$50,000)

God has used the ministries of the University Lutheran Chapel (ULC) to reach students with the Good News of Jesus Christ. The connection between ULC, international students, and young adults in the downtown community is an important one which will provide those in need with Christian counseling services in a comfortable, easily accessible space. Research shows young adults are especially susceptible to depression leading to suicide making it the second most common cause of death among college students. ULC sits on the very edge of the University of Nebraska campus in the heart of Lincoln. It is the hope of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Nebraska District to use this building and its location as a hub of hope and healing for the students and young adults in the downtown community. It is our prayer that the students and community members who use this Hope and Healing Hub might be drawn into a relationship with Jesus, leading to faithful participation in the Word and Sacrament ministry offered there. This grant will make the building more inviting while offering Christian counseling services through GracePoint Institute for Relational Health.



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!

Great Start to the School Year

We have had a great start to the school year! We love having our students back on campus and pray that their education and faith may grow abundantly this year! Registration remains on-going. Call us today - (979) 242-2889!

Amazon Smile

Did you know Faith Lutheran High School is on Amazon Smile? After you select FLHS as the charity of your choice, everytime you purchase something from Amazon Smile, FLHS will receive a donation.

Free Wednesday mornings?

Join us for our weekly Chapel Worship Service every Wednesday, beginning at 10:30 am

Busy Night? Dinner's On Us

FLHS will be selling 8 X 8 casseroles of Chicken Spaghetti, available for pick-up on Tuesday, September 29th. Pre-orders only. Cost is \$20 each. Watch your church bulletin or our Facebook page for more details on how to order!

Thank you!

There have been so many people, organizations, groups and churches who have contributed to the success and growth of FLHS - through donations of wish list items, monetary donations 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!!

Oktoberfest

FLHS will be hosting a family friendly event on Saturday, October 24th at the Holy Cross Picnic grounds. Lots of games, activities and food will be available. Stay tuned for more details!

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.

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 Nikki Kueck by calling (979) 242-2889. Help us to be able to take advantage of these funds for the good of our school. *We are currently looking to utilize Action Grants for our Family Fun Nights and Oktoberfest!

Follow Us On Facebook!

With a new school year underway, you may want see the exciting things happening inside here 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.

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 September

| | | |
|--------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| September 1 | Proverbs 17 | Psalms 107 |
| September 2 | OFF | |
| September 3 | 1 Corinthians 14 | Ezra 1-2 |
| September 4 | 1 Corinthians 15:1-34 | Ezra 3-6 |
| September 5 | 1 Corinthians 15:35-58 | Ezra 7-8 |
| September 6 | 1 Corinthians 16 | Ezra 9-10 |
| September 7 | 2 Corinthians 1:1-2:11 | Nehemiah 1-5 |
| September 8 | Proverbs 18 | Psalms 108 |
| September 9 | OFF | |
| September 10 | 2 Corinthians 2:12-3:18 | Nehemiah 6-7 |
| September 11 | 2 Corinthians 4:1-6:2 | Nehemiah 8 |
| September 12 | 2 Corinthians 6:3-7:16 | Nehemiah 9-11 |
| September 13 | 2 Corinthians 8-9 | Nehemiah 12-13 |
| September 14 | 2 Corinthians 10 | Job 1-3 |
| September 15 | Proverbs 19 | Psalms 109 |
| September 16 | OFF | |
| September 17 | 2 Corinthians 11 | Job 4-5 |
| September 18 | 2 Corinthians 12-13 | Job 6-8 |
| September 19 | Philippians 1 | Job 9-11 |
| September 20 | Philippians 2 | Job 12-15 |
| September 21 | Philippians 3-4 | Job 16-18 |
| September 22 | Proverbs 20 | Psalms 110-113 |
| September 23 | OFF | |
| September 24 | Colossians 1:1-14 | Job 19-21 |
| September 25 | Colossians 1:15-2:23 | Job 22-24 |
| September 26 | Colossians 3-4 | Job 25-28 |
| September 27 | 1 Thessalonians 1 | Job 29-31 |
| September 28 | 1 Thessalonians 2-3 | Job 32-33 |
| September 29 | Proverbs 21:1-22 | Psalms 114-116 |
| September 30 | OFF | |