



GRACE LUTHERAN NEWSLETTER

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
1212 Jefferson
Brenham, Texas 77833
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December 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

www.gracebrenham.org

Rev. Ryan Ogradowicz, Sr. Pastor Rev. Isaac Schuller, Assoc. Pastor Rev. William Holzer, Assoc. Pastor

PASTOR'S PAGE

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come” (Matt.24:14).

Jesus’ return follows the gospel reaching “all nations.” Stats and studies showing the freefall in church attendance are easy to find, however, which doesn’t mean an absence of the Gospel being preached so much as its rejection. Or does it?

There’re faithful pastors who serve until the end of a church’s life. Demographic shifts and job markets play significant roles in this, along with cultural disinterest. Churches have met the problem with Charles Finney’s playbook in tow. Emotional pleasure and stimulation can bring conversions in ways escaping the stale, lifeless traditionalism of the liturgical church; an approach hard to dismiss when looking at packed seats in the mega-church. Still, not every church jumping on this bandwagon has found “success” when measuring by the numbers, which a) shouldn’t be our barometer for faithfulness, and b) shows church growth isn’t as easy as “do this and it’ll work.” The looming concern here is doctrine. Does the preaching and teaching change when worship patterns the world instead of the Bible? There’s an excellent book on this subject titled “Fire and the Staff” by the now sainted Klemet Preus. He persuasively shows that delicate and indissoluble relationship between doctrine and practice. Tampering with one affects the other.

Jesus uses the key verb “preached.” The gospel of the kingdom will be preached to all nations, showing the Lord’s emphasis and expectation of the gospel transmitted in preaching. The Church has long understood the power of the Word and witnessed growth at the hands of the Holy Spirit operating in His Word to expand His Kingdom in a fallen world. We see this happening in Africa where there’s currently an explosion of people hungering for the Gospel and needing pastors to preach that “gospel of the kingdom.” Lutherans in Africa is a confessional, liturgical mission organization committed to spreading confessional Lutheranism to those precious saints desiring Word and Sacrament in Kenya and beyond. They have a seminary on the cusp of being accredited called The Lutheran School of Theology and I’ve been invited to teach an introduction to church history course from March 10th to the 21st. After

discussing with the elders and getting their input on the matter, the Grace Lutheran elder body voted to support this endeavor. Thankfully God has blessed us with a multi-pastoral staff able to provide pastoral care in my absence. Pastor James May, the Director of LIA will be gracing us with his preaching on Sunday, December 15th followed by a presentation of the Lord’s work on the African continent during the Sunday School hour.

Grace Lutheran Church is a busy, active church with many moving parts. It’s a healthy exercise to look at what a congregation is doing and assess her work. So much of our labor goes to a classical, Lutheran school that has grown over the past 8 years. Students not only receive a classical education but daily drink from the wells of Scripture. Now one of her pastors is helping with the training of future pastors set to bring confessional Lutheranism—that “gospel of the kingdom”—to sinners in Africa needing justification by grace through faith in Christ. To God be the glory for all of this because it’s His work to bring that gospel to the nations.

I thought this would be a personal endeavor but word travels. We have four exceptional High School girls who found out about the trip before one very directly said to me, “Pastor, we’re going with you to Africa.” Planning naturally unfolded from there, running its course, and now they’re on for the trip. It won’t be a joy ride, for there’s plenty of work to do around the seminary and at neighboring schools. I have no doubt they’ll be a blessing to the African people and any way you want to support them is a blessing, especially with your fervent prayers.

Thanksgiving to God is due for the fruits of those labors coming from His baptized believers. So often the work itself is frustrating and hard, pushing the limits of our own sanity. Our sins get in the way, the sins of others hurt, and the world never cooperates. Jesus’ mission to bring His Gospel to sinners won’t be thwarted by the devil or us, God be praised. He is good to what He says and declare His love, mercy, and forgiveness to those in Africa as He still does to us weekly in the Divine Service. Christmas is coming though this letter comes in Advent. Our preparation is the same every year in this busy season. We repent and anticipate the coming of our Lord, born in a manger only to suffer, die, and rise again for our justification that continues going forth and there’s nothing the enemy can do to stop it.

-By Rev. Ryan J. Ogradowicz

Worship Opportunities – December, 2024

Sunday Worship – 9:00 a.m. ~ Sunday School & Bible Classes – 10:30 a.m.

Date	Festival	First Reading	Epistle Reading	Gospel	Preacher	Liturgist	Hymns	Distribution Hymns	Order of Service LSB Pg #
Dec. 1 2024	First S. in Advent	Jer. 33:14–16	1 Thess. 3:9–13	Luke 19:28–40 <i>or</i>	Ogrodowicz	Holzer	350	547	p.184
				Luke 21:25–36			332	566	
	Midweek 1	10:00am 7:00pm			Ogrodowicz	Holzer	348 337 346		
Dec. 8	Second S. in Advent	Mal. 3:1–7b	Phil. 1:2–11	Luke 3:1–14 (15–20)	Schuller	Ogrodowicz	345	623	p.184
							344	624	
	Midweek 2	10:00am 7:00pm			Schuller	Ogrodowicz	334 349 336		
Dec. 15	Third S. in Advent	Zeph. 3:14–20	Phil. 4:4–7	Luke 7:18–28 (29–35)	Ogrodowicz	Holzer	748	686	p.151
							754	683	
	Midweek 3	10:00am 7:00pm			Ogrodowicz	Holzer			
Dec. 22	Fourth S. in Advent	Micah 5:2–5a	Heb. 10:5–10	Luke 1:39–45 (46–56)	Ogrodowicz	Holzer	343	357	p.203
							338	355	
Dec. 24 <i>Eve</i>	The Nativity of Our Lord <i>(Christmas Eve) 6:00pm</i>	Is. 7:10–14	1 John 4:7–16	Matt. 1:18–25	Ogrodowicz	Holzer	Christmas program		printed
Dec. 25 <i>Dawn</i>	The Nativity of Our Lord	Is. 62:10–12	Titus 3:4–7	Luke 2:(1–14) 15–20	Schuller	Ogrodowicz	379 361 387	368 380	
Dec. 29	1st Sunday after Christmas	Ex. 13:1–3a, 11–15	Col. 3:12–17	Luke 2:22–40	Ogrodowicz	Holzer	384 389 806		Pg. 219
Dec.31	Circumcision and Name of Jesus (<i>New Year's Eve</i>)	Num. 6:22–27	Gal. 3:23–29	Luke 2:21	Ogrodowicz	Holzer	655 899 803	617 633	



Poinsettia Orders

*Members who wish to order poinsettias to be placed in church for Christmas are asked to fill out an envelope designated for this purpose. They are located on the counters in the Narthex. The cost per plant is \$13.00. Please make checks payable to Grace Lutheran Altar Guild. You may place the envelope in the offering plate or turn it in to the office. **The deadline to order is Sunday, December 8.***

Offering Envelopes for 2025

Contribution envelope box sets for 2025 are ready for you to pick up from the table in the Narthex. To avoid confusion, please do not use the new envelopes until 2025

Annual Reports

Just a reminder to all boards and organizations of the church to gather information to be included in the Annual Report. The information should be submitted to the Church Office by Monday, January 13th. Reports may be emailed to carol@glcsbren.org.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

As of November Council Meeting

Death: Teddy Boehm on 10/20/24 Funeral on 10/26/24

Transfer In: Warner & Helen Mize from St. John Lutheran, Giddings, 10/20/24

Transfer Out: Ken Jansen to St. Thomas in Magnolia, Tx - 10/22/24

Members Removed via Congregational vote at October Meeting:

Eric, Juliet & Lucy Hernandez; Jeffery, Lucy & Tyler Kaltwasser; Darryl Schultz; Haley Schultz; Melvin C. Riske; Maddie Randermann; Susan Feist; Jordan Feist; Jennifer Henderson; and June Henderson.

Souls: 576

Communicants: 491



Meetings This Month

DECEMBER 2024



MARK YOUR CALENDARS: *Ladies Evening Circle* will have their Annual Christmas Party on Sunday, December 1. It will be at the VFW Post at 1200 East Tom Green and will start at 11:30 a.m. with the meal starting at 12:00 p.m. noon.



Calling All Carolers: *Grace Lutheran Ladies Evening Circle* will be going Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 1st at 1:30pm. We are inviting the Congregation to join us. If you are interested, please go to the VFW Post, 1200 E. Tom Green St. by 1:30 pm. Any questions, please contact Marie Watson 512-966-5236.

Ladies Afternoon Circle: Will have their Annual Christmas Party on Thursday, December 5, at Los Cabos Mexican Grill and Steakhouse, 2800 Hwy 36 South with meal at 11:30 a.m. Bingo will be played. Deadline TO RSVP WAS 11/25/24. Call Judy Haevischer (979-836-0159) for more information.



Men's Bible Breakfast usually meets every Tuesday at 6:00 a.m. in the Parlor. Due to the holidays, they will only meet 3 times in December. Please see below for the schedule. Men of the congregation who would be interested in joining the group are encouraged to attend.

December 3 – David Dahmann
December 10 – Chuck Babb
December 17 – Pastor Ogradowicz

PLEASE NOTE:
There WILL NOT BE a
Men's Club Christmas Party this year





Altar Flowers

ALTAR FLOWERS

- December 1 –
- December 8 – Mike & Charlotte Dahmann
- December 15 –
- December 22 – Poinsettias
- December 29 –

RADIO MINISTRY

(30-minute program aired on KWHI 1280 AM each Sunday at 12:30 p.m.)
(Cost is \$85 per week.)

- December 1 – Anonymous
- December 8 – R.D. & Ginny Morrison
- December 15 –
- December 22 –
- December 29 – David & Lynette Dahmann



Coffee &
Doughnuts

- December 1 – Havers Family
- December 8 – Jerome & Marti Meyer
- December 15 – Holzer & Moses Families
- December 22 –
- December 29 – Flake Family

ALTAR GUILD ASSISTANTS

Communion Ware: Diane Young
Paraments: Barbara Maurer & Bev Jaster

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Delphine Addicks, Sandra Addicks, Billy Thaler, Elroy Wellmann





December 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 1st Sunday in Advent Pastor O - LSB 184 9:00am Worship w/Holy Communion 10:30am Confirmation 10:30am SS & BC 11:00am Ladies Evening Circle Christmas Party	2 Job 15:1 - 17:16 8:15am Chapel Archery Competition @ Warda	3 Job 18:1 - 19:29 6:00am Men's Bible Breakfast 8:15am Chapel 3:00pm JV Basketball Game with Good Shepard @ Grace 6:00pm PTL Meeting	4 Job 20:1 - 21:34 10:00am Mid-Week Advent Worship 4:30pm Confirmation 6:00pm Choir Practice 7:00pm Mid-Week Advent 8:00pm Elders	5 Job 22:1 - 24:25 HS Cross Country in Magnolia 8:15am Chapel 11:30am Ladies Afternoon Circle Christmas Party 4:00pm JV Basketball Game @ 1st Baptist	6 Job 25:1 - 28:28 Pastor Ogradowicz Day Off 8:15am Chapel 3:00pm Vespers	7 Christmas Parade Job 29:1 - 31:40
8 2nd Sunday in Advent Pastor Schuller - LSB 184 9:00am Worship w/Holy Communion 10:30am Confirmation 10:30am SS & BC	9 Job 32:1 - 34:37 8:15am Chapel 4:00pm Basketball Game - Legacy @ Grace	10 Job 35:1 - 37:24 6:00am Men's Bible Breakfast 8:15am Chapel	11 Job 38:1 - 41:34 10:00am Mid-Week Advent Worship 4:30pm Confirmation 6:00pm Choir Practice 7:00pm Mid-Week Advent	12 Job 42:1-17 Spirit Night @ Pizzaiolos 8:15am Chapel 4:00pm JV Basketball Game @ TNT Paige	13 Psalm 1:1 - 6:10 Pastor Ogradowicz Day Off 8:15am Chapel 3:00pm Vespers	14 Psalm 7:1 - 11:7
15 3rd Sunday in Advent Pastor O - LSB 151 9:00am Worship w/Holy Communion 10:30am Confirmation 10:30am SS & BC	16 Psalm 12:1 - 17:15 Newsletter Deadline 8:15am Chapel 4:00pm Varsity Basketball Game @ Serbin 6:00pm Council Meeting 7:00pm Special Voters Assembly - To Determine Officers & Budget	17 Psalm 18:1 - 22:31 6:00am Men's Bible Breakfast 8:15am Chapel	18 Psalm 23:1 - 28:9 10:00am Mid-Week Advent Worship & Christmas Program 11:00am Teacher Luncheon 12:00pm Trustees 4:30pm Confirmation 5:00pm Daycare Closes 6:00pm Choir Practice 6:00pm GLSB 7:00pm Mid-Week Advent Worship & Christmas Program	19 Psalm 29:1 - 34:22 Music Tour 8:15am Chapel	20 Psalm 35:1 - 41:13 Pastor Ogradowicz Day Off Daycare Closed No School - Christmas Break	21 Psalm 42:1 - 47:9
22 4th Sunday in Advent Pastor O - LSB 203 9:00am Worship w/Holy Communion 10:30am Confirmation 10:30am SS & BC	23 Psalm 48:1 - 53:6 Daycare Closed No School - Christmas Break	24 Psalm 54:1 - 60:12 Daycare Closed No School - Christmas Break Office Closed 6:00pm Christmas Eve Worship Pastor O - printed	25 Psalm 61:1 - 66:20 Daycare Closed No School - Christmas Break Office Closed 9:00am Christmas Day Service Pastor O - printed	26 Psalm 67:1 - 72:20 Daycare Closed No School - Christmas Break	27 Psalm 73:1 - 77:20 Pastor Ogradowicz Day Off Daycare Closed No School - Christmas Break	28 Psalm 78:1 - 82:8
29 1st Sunday After Christmas Pastor O - LSB 219 9:00am Matins 10:30am Confirmation 10:30am SS & BC	30 Psalm 83:1 - 89:52 Daycare Open - Sack Lunch No School - Christmas Break	31 Psalm 90:1 - 95:11 Circumcision & Name of Jesus - New Year's Eve Service Pastor O - printed Daycare Noon Dismissal No School - Christmas Break	1 Psalm 96:1 - 101:8 Daycare Closed No School - Christmas Break Office Closed	2 Psalm 102:1 - 106:48 Daycare Open - Sack Lunch No School - Christmas Break 2:00pm Ladies Afternoon Circle	3 Psalm 107:1 - 113:9 Pastor Ogradowicz Day Off Daycare Open - Sack Lunch No School - Christmas Break	4 Psalm 114:1 - 118:29



A CHRIST-CENTERED CHRISTMAS

