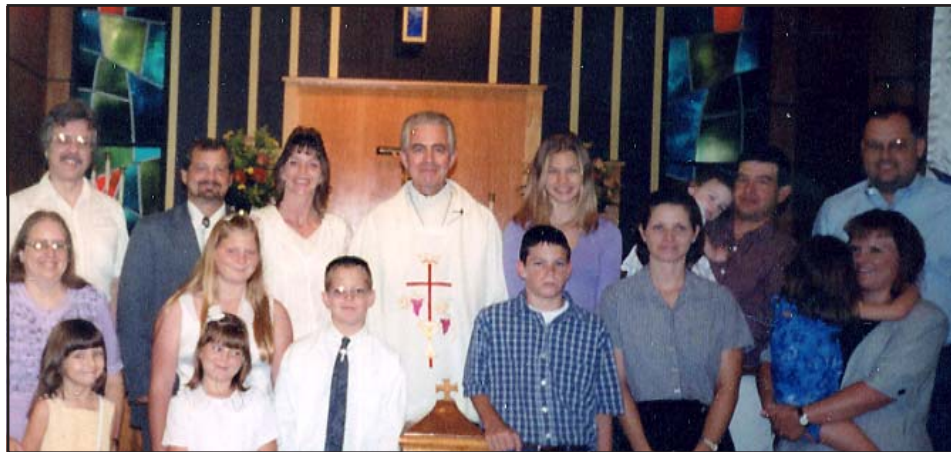


# Traditional style still grows members

Over the years, Grace Lutheran Church, Elgin, Texas, has resisted various trendy innovations in evangelism, says its pastor, Rev. Bryan C. Sullivan. And he adds, “A Sunday morning service is like a step back in time. The hymnal is ‘The Lutheran Hymnal.’ The Bible translation used for reading is King James. The pastors wear historic vestments. The preaching follows closely the historic pericopes . . . following the Augsburg Confession, communion is offered weekly.”

Grace celebrated its 50th anniversary this year. At the end of the first 30 years, it

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Some of the new members received at Grace Lutheran Church, Elgin, Texas, as it continues to grow using traditional liturgical worship, Gospel preaching and a friendly welcome.

## **Traditional style still grows members**

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was a congregation of fewer than 100 members with a church attendance of about 40 per Sunday. With the coming of a new pastor in 1980, the decision was made that in order to gain new members, the

congregation would commit itself to three things: (1) Preach the pure Word of God and administer the Sacraments as the Lord gave them; (2) offer a rich liturgical service; (3) develop a warm and loving atmosphere to help people know that the members and the pastor care about them and their physical and spiritual welfare.

Since 1980 Grace's membership has

gone from 100 to 450; and attendance from 40 to more than 200. The pastor adds, "A large percentage of Grace's members are adult converts and their families. They report that they are at Grace because of the emphasis on Gospel preaching, the Sacraments, liturgical worship, and warm and friendly welcome." †