



The Herald Faith Lutheran

October, 2020

Sunday Worship Livestreamed at 10 a.m.

**Access with the Facebook or YouTube links on FLC's website
FaithLutheranAustin.org.**

**A phone-in option is also available for those
without internet access.**

**Sunday Bible Study
11:15 a.m.—12 p.m.
with Zoom**

**Wednesday Prayer Service
12—12:30p.m.
with Zoom**

**Our Church Council continues to discuss
when to resume in-person worship at Faith.
Please let a council member know or contact the church
office if you are willing to attend in-person worship at this time.**

**Also, to make in-person worship possible,
volunteers will be needed to help with worship
set-up beforehand, technical assistance during,
and sanitizing surfaces afterward.**

**Please let a council member or the church
office know if you're willing to help in any way.**



**Please see page 6
for information to
order poinsettias.**

From Pastor Tom

*"How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!"
Psalm 133:1*

It's been six months since the quarantine began. No gathering at church on Sunday morning for worship with kindred voices. No fellowship with warm smiles and caring hands. No visits to those in our hearts who are hospitalized or who reside in nursing homes. No large family gatherings. No movie theaters, cozy restaurants, sporting events, church, or social gatherings of any kind with friends and loved ones. Are you growing weary, lonely, or slipping into despair? Six months ago it seemed reasonable to hope the economy and life in general would be back to "normal" by now. The Covid-19 pandemic has turned the world upside down, hasn't it? Add to it all the political divisiveness and disunity in this election year. Kyrie Eleison! Lord, have mercy!

Despite it all, we are blessed and called to bear the joy and light of the gospel to a hurting world. God in Christ loves you! God in Christ loves the world and promises a future filled with hope! The Apostle Paul wrote to the first century Christians at Ephesus, whose lives were in turmoil as much as our own:

"I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." ... "Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you." Ephesians 4:1-3, 31-32

I've printed the beginning and end of the chapter. I encourage you to read the whole chapter. Paul is writing to an early Christian congregation. My prayer is that American Christians across political party lines will heed his encouragement in the coming months. Folks, we were created to live in relationship with God and with one another. We need each other. Times are tough, but in the unity of the Spirit, we can do this! God bless you and your families, God bless Faith Lutheran Church, God bless America, and God bless the world through the light of the gospel we share.





News from the Call Committee

After careful consideration of six pastoral candidates submitted to them by Pastor Judith Spindt of the Southwestern Texas Synod, the Call Committee has unanimously recommended one of them to the Church Council for a call to Faith Lutheran Church. At a special meeting on September 14, the council also unanimously agreed to continue the call process with this candidate.

At its regular meeting on September 28, the council voted unanimously to approve a compensation package to offer the candidate. This compensation package will be presented to the candidate for review. If agreement is reached, the congregation will vote whether to issue a call at a special congregation meeting.

Because our constitution requires a written ballot to call a pastor, the congregation meeting must be held in person. For that reason and also because the pastoral candidate lives out of state and due to the pandemic may not be comfortable traveling to visit Austin, which is a typical step before reaching a decision, some questions of timing remain. Please pray for God's will to be done as we continue the call process.

The Call Committee was elected on September 15, 2019, and has been working for over a year on our pastoral search. Please thank them for their efforts and continue to keep them in your prayers: Ben Noyes III (chair), Felix Jarrett, Karen McGuire, Mary Beth Meiske, Sue Saathoff, Steve Zwernemann.



Council Highlights from August 24, 2020:

- Heard report from Call Committee that they have selected a pastoral candidate to recommend to the council. Council will review the candidate's information on September 14.
- Worship & Music Committee presented guidelines for safely resuming in-person worship when council decides to proceed; no date has been set at this time.
- Plans were reviewed for recognition of Sam Bauer's 50 years of service to Faith on September 6.
- Plans were reviewed for God's Work Our Hands Sunday on September 13.
- FLC's 2020 proposed budget is being drafted.



RE-CAP – God’s Work. Our Hands – Food & Funds Drive-Thru THANK YOU!!!

22 vehicles (and one neighbor on foot) visited the church parking lot dropping off **563.5 pounds** of food, empty egg cartons, and re-useable bags for the ACL Bread for All Food Pantry; AND **29 pounds** of toiletries for the MLF Truck Ministry. Mike Davidson’s Facebook Go-Fund-Me fundraiser raised **\$240** for Bread for All, and we collected **\$190** in cash and checks made payable to Bread for All. Many folks contributed through Faith designating those funds for GWOH which will be divided 50/50 between Bread for All and MLF Truck Ministry. At press time, that amount was \$700! If you haven’t had an opportunity to contribute, there is still time. Make your checks payable to Faith Lutheran Church noting GWOH at the bottom.

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Sermons by Mail – The Tuesday **following** each Sunday worship service, printed copies of Pastor Tom’s sermons are available for you to read. If you would like to receive one **via postal mail**, call Cathy Z to be added to the list, or call the church office.

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REMINDER -- Wednesday Noon Prayer Time AND Sunday Morning Bible Study (11:15) are available via **computer, cell phone OR landline telephone**. Contact Cathy Z for info on how to join. We hope to see/hear you there!

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Do you enjoy shopping for a good cause? Visit the Outreach page of Faith’s website (www.faithlutheranaustin.org) for ways you can help others at home and around the world.

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Call someone you haven’t heard from in a while and brighten their day.
We can still be church **together** even while **apart**!

An update on the Upbring golf tournament:

Thank you to all the members who have donated to our golf team from Faith Lutheran. Tropical storm Beta forced the postponement of the annual Upbring golf tournament for the children, and the new date is Monday, October 19. That now means that if you forgot to make a donation, or meant to but ran out of time, you are in luck! You can still either mail or drop off a check at the church office. It can be made out directly to Upbring Golf, or simply add a donation to your regular contribution and just indicate the Upbring donation on the envelope! The children that are served by Upbring’s many programs need your support!





Ladies, another month has passed and October is here. Hopefully we will soon have cooler weather to look forward to in the days ahead. Since we will not be having our monthly Bible study this October, I do hope you will take the time to read *Gather* magazine's October Bible study entitled "the Holy How" which looks at "how we recognize and respond to God's grace and calling in the present moment." The focus Bible verse for the study is 2 Corinthians 6:2; other Bible verses include: Luke 12:54-56; Luke 21:25-33; Matthew 24:3-8; Luke 4:14-30; Mark 1:9-15; and Matthew 26:1-13. Please be sure to read the other inspiring articles in the magazine as well. I enjoyed them all.

It is now apparent that due to COVID-19 and the continued need to maintain safe "social distancing," we will be unable to have our annual church bazaar this November; however, I encourage you to keep working on those bazaar projects because, although we will not be having a bazaar this November perhaps we will be able to have a bazaar sometime in 2021, perhaps mid-year instead of November. Some ladies have already finished handmade items for the bazaar and quite a few items have been collected in the Oliver House for the "white elephant" sale, so please keep on working on those bazaar items as we look forward to having a bazaar sometime next year.

The other event on the calendar for Faith's WELCA is the November Thankoffering Service hosted by the Lydia Circle, which will be canceled for this year.

Although the annual regional LWR In-Gathering for kits and quilts for our church's area was canceled, a "drop-off" LWR In-Gathering will be held at St. John's Lutheran, 606 S. Center Street in Marian, TX, on Saturday, November 7 (8 am—5 pm), Sunday, November 8 (1 pm—4 pm), and Monday, November 9 (9 am—3 pm); however, Faith Lutheran will not participate in this event as our kits and quilts have not been packed and are not ready to be delivered. At these "drop-off" locations, there are changes: your time to drop off your boxes needs to be scheduled with LWR, facemasks are required and social distancing will be practiced, and you must bring folks to help unload your boxes as there will only be a few volunteers onsite to coordinate. Hopefully, LWR will have a regional In-Gathering sometime next year at which Faith will be able to participate.

Other changes for the Women of the ELCA made due to COVID-19 were: The Southwestern Texas Synod's Annual Convention was mini and virtual on Friday, September 25, and Saturday, September 26. Also, the 11th Triennial Convention and Gathering of the Women of the ELCA scheduled for the summer of 2020 in Phoenix, AZ, has been postponed until August of 2021.

I'm sure all of you are getting tired of staying home (as am I); but, perhaps we need to look at all this "stay home" time we now have as "time we have been given (set aside) to do God's work and to do good for those who need our help," especially those who have lost their jobs and their homes. So many people have sadly lost their lives during this pandemic but others need help with supplying food for their families, and the Faith Lutheran members who volunteer for the Bread for All Pantry appreciate your help with furnishing sturdy bags and egg cartons as well as financial contributions for that organization. Also, WELCA continues to work with projects to help others worldwide who need our help; any support you can give to those will be much appreciated, such as: 1) collecting school kit items for the Lutheran World Relief School Kits, 2) clipping canceled postage stamps to help defray shipping costs for LWR kits and quilts, and 3) cutting quilt squares (9", 6-1/2" and 5-1/2" squares) that are pieced together by the Quilting Group ladies for LWR quilt tops. Any of those items can be gathered in your homes during our "stay home" days and deposited in the proper collection boxes in the church narthex when we once again can meet in person at church.

If you have any questions relating to WELCA issues, please give me a call at my home (where you can usually find me these days).

Take care of yourselves. This, too, shall pass. May God bless all of you until we can once again meet together in person.

Charleen Schneider,
WELCA President



Important: It is Time to Order Poinsettias. You are likely thinking we are just now heading into the month of October, how can it be order time? Since we no longer have a church florist, we need a new supplier. And the good news is, Down Home Ranch in Elgin is offering red and white (actually off-white/pale yellow) poinsettias. Every purchase goes towards their mission to empower the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities through social, educational, residential, and vocational opportunities.

Jo Ann Jones shared that Felix's school has sold the poinsettias before and the plants are so full and beautiful. I have a friend in Elgin who also shared that their church orders Down Home Ranch's poinsettias and Easter lilies.

Since we have to order so early and we have no idea what our Christmas Eve service will be like due to Corona-virus, I am offering to deliver poinsettias to you the week after Thanksgiving (November 30 and December 1) for you, your family, and friends to enjoy.

However, if you would still like to order a poinsettia for the Christmas Eve service, I will pick those up from Down Home Ranch on December 21 and arrange them around the Chrismon trees.

The charge for the poinsettias is \$12; if we purchase 50+ plants the charge is \$10. The red poinsettias will have gold foil; the white poinsettias will have red foil. Because the plants are so full, ribbons/bows are not included.

I was asked by a church leader if we pay \$15 per plant as we have in past years, could we give the additional \$3-\$5 to Down Home Ranch as a donation. That is very thoughtful as Down Home Ranch has shared online: "In the last few months, the COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to cancel multiple retreat groups, refund lily orders for customers, cancel Ranch Camp and lose multiple wholesale orders for spring plants. These unfortunate events have resulted in a loss of over \$185,000 in profit for the mission and the number keeps growing. While the monetary impact is huge, what hurts even more is the ripple effect it is having on the Ranchers' vocational program. Every dollar we lose equates to a decrease in the amount of job skills training and paid employment we are able to provide."

I will need your order by Sunday, October 18. Give me a call and let me know if you want an early order delivered to you and/or a plant for the Christmas Eve Service. And do you want red or white plant(s)? Once I place the full order with Down Home Ranch, I can get back with you on the cost, \$12 or \$10 per plant. I so look forward to talking with you. You are also welcome to email me.

Changing the subject: The last florist I checked with, the cost of a small bouquet for our Sunday services would be \$50. That is over our current \$30 budget. I have been able to keep the bouquets I am arranging between \$30-\$40. I appreciate all the suggestions on florists to contact and sources for flower stems to arrange.

I have been sharing with you the names of those receiving the bouquets since July 12, and we are now back on schedule with the Flower Chart signups. Beginning with the October 4 order of service email, the bouquet sponsor will be listed just like we did in the Sunday bulletins before March 22.

The August 30 bouquet was given by Cathy and Steve Zwernemann in loving memory of Cathy's parents, Chester and Rita Rossi.

The September 6 bouquet was given by Dorothy Mogonye in celebration of Johnnie's 90th birthday. The 13th bouquet was given by Kent Saathoff in celebration of Sue's birthday. The bouquet on the 20th was given by Lucian Morrison in loving memory of wife Mary Ann and her birthday. The bouquet this past Sunday the 27th was given by Marianne and Gil Garcia to the glory of God and shared with Jo Redding.

I hope to hear from you soon.

Blessings to all,
Mary Beth Meiske
Altar Guild Chair

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

September, 2020



CDC Scholarship Fund

Mike & Lynn Davidson

In Honor of Johnnie Mogonye's 90th Birthday

Emergency Reserve Fund

Dennis & Helen Diedrick

In Honor of Sam Bauer's 50th Anniversary at FLC

Joe & Suzette Kump

In Honor of Johnnie Mogonye's 90th Birthday

Ben & Karen Noyes

In Honor of Johnnie Mogonye's 90th Birthday

Flowers

Luella Weber

In Memory of Jack Brown & In Honor of Sandy Brown

Music & Handbell Fund

Mike & Lynn Davidson

In Honor of Sam Bauer's 50th Anniversary at FLC

Joe & Suzette Kump

In Honor of Sam Bauer's 50th Anniversary at FLC

Richard & Lois Larson

In Honor of Sam Bauer's 50th Anniversary at FLC

Ben & Karen Noyes

In Honor of Sam Bauer's 50th Anniversary at FLC

Thank
YOU!

Dear Faith Friends,

Just like Lucian, the big 90 came up for me. The cards, calls, honorariums, goodies, other well wishes as well as the "birthday button" made it a very nice occasion.

I am truly blessed and send thanks to my Faith friends.

Johnnie Mogonye

Baptism

William Michael Gutierrez was baptized at Faith on August 29, by his grandfather, Pastor Gary Goodson. Parents are Emilie & John Gutierrez. Sponsors are Memorie & Chris Schultz.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Month	Income	Expenses	Difference
Jan.	\$ 18,167	\$ 13,368	+\$ 4,799
Feb.	\$ 16,452	\$ 14,748	+\$ 1,704
Mar.	\$ 14,550	\$ 10,777	+\$ 3,773
Apr	\$ 16,118	\$ 8,679	+\$ 7,439
May	\$ 10,256	\$ 7,240	+\$ 3,016
June	\$ 12,022	\$ 7,712	+\$ 4,310
July	\$ 14,143	\$ 9,612	+\$ 4,531
August	\$ 16,549	\$ 10,693	+\$ 5,856
YTD	\$119,513	\$ 84,085	+\$ 35,428

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
6600 Woodrow Avenue
Austin, Texas 78757
Office: 512-451-1116

Website: *FaithLutheranAustin.org*
Faith is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation

Worship & Bible Study

Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study (all ages) 11:15 a.m.

3rd Sunday Praise Service 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday Day of Prayer

12:00 p.m. - Noon Prayer

Transition Pastor: Tom Kesselring

Organist/Choir Director: Sam Bauer

Director of Handbells: Karen McGuire

Accountant: Lynn Davidson

Administrative Assistant: Karen Noyes

CDC Director: Melissa McCoy

Sexton: Norbert Gardner

**MISSION STATEMENT OF
FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**We at Faith Lutheran Church believe in Jesus Christ
as Lord and Savior of all life and creation.
In response to His grace and love toward us,
we are called to share His love by reaching out to all people.
We are called to be a worshipping, caring, learning community.**

October, 2020

Faith Lutheran Church
6600 Woodrow Avenue
Austin, Texas 78757-2596