



The Herald Faith Lutheran

February, 2021

Give thanks
to the LORD,
for he is good;
his LOVE endures
forever.

PSALM 107:1

Sunday Worship Livestreamed at 10 a.m.

**Access with the Facebook link 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



**Ash Wednesday
Livestreamed Service
February 17, 7 p.m.**

**Zoom Lent Service
February 24, 7 p.m.**

JESUS REPLIED: "LOVE THE
LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART
AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND WITH ALL
YOUR MIND.' THIS IS THE FIRST AND
GREATEST COMMANDMENT. AND THE
SECOND IS LIKE IT: LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR
AS YOURSELF."
MATTHEW
22:37-
39

From Pastor Tom

The Sunday adult Bible class has been reading the Apostle Paul's letter to the Romans. At the beginning of chapter 5 he writes, *"Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, know that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us."*

People far and near have suffered multiple ways in the past year. Still, "by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." We have endured a pandemic and all of the ramifications. We have endured political division and a tumultuous election season. The Church has endured despite the inability to gather in person around the word and sacraments. Now we pray that all of this will produce character in our individual lives, in the Church, and in our nation. I believe it has and will. I sense a new hope. Though a return to normality is months away, there is hope that vaccines will end the pandemic. Though political divisions remain, there is hope that civility and trust in our democratic process can be restored. Faith Lutheran Church and Child Development Center have not only endured, the CDC has stepped up to every challenge and continues to serve families in the community. The congregation has successfully navigated the call process and will soon welcome a new pastor. Hope abounds! "And hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us."

The Lenten season of reflection begins this month. The Worship and Music Committee has begun to make preliminary plans. Tentatively, our Ash Wednesday service on February 17 will be streamed online, just like Sunday mornings, with no in-person attendance. Subsequent Wednesday midweek Lenten services will be via Zoom. Members are encouraged to participate and can receive the online link, phone link, and a copy of the Holden Evening Prayer booklet by contacting the church office. The format and service order is subject to change depending upon when we are able to celebrate the arrival and installation of Pastor Ranaivoson. We pray for Pastor Mamy and his family, for his safe travel and relocation, and for the congregation he is leaving, that together, *"we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand!"*

God's peace be with you all.

Council Highlights from November 23, 2020: (no council meeting in December)

- * Reviewed plans for in-person Sunday worship beginning December 6. However, these plans were canceled the next day after SWT Synod Bishop Sue Briner advised against indoor gatherings.
- * Decided to hold an outdoor Christmas Eve service with Holy Communion at 3:00 p.m., weather permitting. There will also be a livestreamed Christmas Eve service at 5:30 p.m.
- * Reviewed plans for two congregation meetings: December 6, to approve FLC's 2021 budget; and December 13, to call a new pastor.
- * Heard that CDC's enrollment remains low and their PPP loan will be exhausted this month. They are hopeful that enrollment will pick up in January.



News from the Council

On December 13, our congregation voted to extend a call to Pastor Mamy Ranaivoson, who was unanimously recommended by both the Call Committee and the Church Council.

We are pleased to report that Pastor Mamy has accepted Faith's call. He and his wife traveled to Austin recently to start searching for housing. Council president Dan Raemsch, Pastor Tom, and a few other council members gave them a tour of our facility on January 23. They were especially impressed with our sanctuary, gym, and Child Development Center, and are excited about moving to Austin.

His official start date has not been determined but will likely be sometime in March.



2021 Nominating Committee

The 2021 Nominating Committee has begun work to recruit nominees for council positions to be elected at the spring congregation meeting scheduled for May 2. Positions up for election in even-numbered years:

Vice-president, Secretary, Outreach, Property

In addition, the committee will be seeking members to serve on the 2022 Nominating Committee, three at large from the congregation and one from outgoing council members.

Please prayerfully consider serving if you are asked. If you would like to serve or wish to suggest someone, please contact one of the committee members listed below.

Members of the 2021 Nominating Committee are: Don Kuempel, chair; Misty Dush, Jo Ann Jones, and Rachel Harmon.

40 DAYS of Giving

Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday



From the ELCA.org website:

As the world has reeled from the effects of a deadly pandemic, we have seen the number of hungry people around the world rise, watched as food pantries and soup kitchens expanded to serve an ever-growing number of guests, and longed together for the time when we

“will hunger no more, and thirst no more . . . and God will wipe away every tear from [our] eyes.”
(Revelation 7:16-17)

This very yearning is at the heart of who we are as church together. Yet our longing has never led to inertia or despair, despite the discouraging forecasts. We are an Easter people, ever journeying toward the cross but trusting in faith that God’s story does not end on that hill.

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This year Faith’s Lenten offerings will be directed to the ELCA World Hunger campaign. *Make checks payable to Faith Lutheran Church, notating “LENT” at the bottom.* On the ELCA website you can download the items below to use as you reflect on the gifts you have been given and ponder how God is calling you to share those gifts with others: Go to www.elca.org and search “40 Days of Giving 2021.”

Lenten Giving Calendar – Daily reflections and actions, prayers, hymns, and Bible passages.

Weekly Study Guide – With impactful motivational stories and information about how your gifts to ELCA World Hunger are at work in the world.

Weekly Lenten Email Stories -- Join 40 Days of Giving – Living Lutheran, where you can sign up to receive these directly into your email Inbox.

If you don’t have internet access, call Cathy Z and she will print requested items for you and either send them to you via postal mail or hand deliver them to you.

Other News and Opportunities. . .

Refugee Services of Texas Amplify Austin Event – Thursday, March 4, Blue Starlight Drive-In
See the film “Not My Life” which explores the experiences of survivors of human trafficking nationally and internationally. Hear a panel discussion with survivors of trafficking and with local and global advocates and experts about how we can help. Sponsorship Opportunities are available which include reserved parking spots, and snacks/swag bags delivered to your car. There will also be an on-line auction. For more information go to www.rstx.org and search “Amplify Austin 2021.”

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services Top 10 Immigration Policy Priorities.
To read the priorities and information about what happens next, go to www.LIRS.org and search “Top 10 Immigration Policy Priorities.”

LIRS Culture Kitchen

For recipes with an international flavor, join LIRS CEO Krish O’Mara Vignarajah and others as they share their favorite recipes. Go to www.LIRS.org and search “Culture Kitchen.”



Ladies, it's time to look ahead to new beginnings amid hopes for a better year. Hopefully, you all had the opportunity to see the beautiful white snow with which God carpeted our countryside on Sunday, January 10. It was a lovely sight to watch the snow flakes falling and I thought of it as God wiping away the sins of yesterday and giving us a clean slate for this new year.

A Great Big Thanks To Everyone -- The overwhelming response from everyone to help the women of Faith Lutheran with donations to insure all Burnet Road Nursing Home residents would have a Merry Christmas was very much appreciated. More than the 13 requested plush, stuffed animals were received and delivered on Wednesday, December 15, in time for the residents' Christmas party on December 23. Also included for each of those residents were a Christmas card and a Christmas-print face mask. Thank you to all who helped make Christmas, 2020, a little merrier for those residents!

February, 2021

Valentine's Day -- February is already here and, sadly, with coronavirus still with us, Faith Lutheran won't be having our usual February WELCA event--the Valentine Social. We all will miss sharing Christian fellowship with one another; therefore, best wishes are being sent to everyone for a **Happy Valentine's Day!**

Bible Study -- The ELCA *Gather* magazine for January/February, 2021, started a 5-session study entitled "Journeys with Angels." The study states: "Angels are not a major focus of Scripture, nor are they ever mentioned in our Christian creeds. Yet they show up with frequency at pivotal moments in both the Old and New Testaments. Angels legitimately captivate our attention, call forth our imagination and elicit our wonder." Bible verse references are: Psalm 8; Matthew 13:39b-43, 47-50; 1 Corinthians 6:3; Job 38:1-7; Job 38:4-7; Genesis 1:1; Revelations 1:16a, 20; Exodus 25:17-22 and 26:1-2; Ezekiel 1:5-14, 10:15-20; Isaiah 6:1-8; Luke 1:11-12; and Luke 2:8-11. During the first session we look for angels above us in Psalm 8, those beyond us in Job, and those among us in Luke, while in March we will look at angels who confront us. Don't forget to read the other interesting articles in the magazine.

LWR Personal Care Kits -- February is usually the month when Faith Lutheran annually joins other churches in gathering items for the Lutheran World Relief's Personal Care Kits needed by those less fortunate than us. Even though we are not yet getting together in person, you are encouraged to start gathering those personal care kit items to bring and deposit in the narthex when we again meet for in-person church services. Those items needed for the Personal Care Kits are: 1 light-weight bath-size towel (between 20"x40" and 52"x27", dark color recommended); 2-3 bath-size bars of soap equaling 8-9 oz (any brand, in original wrapping); 1 adult-size toothbrush; 1 sturdy comb; and 1 metal nail clippers (attached file optional). This year with the virus creating havoc world-wide, your help is needed more than other years and the women of the church will very much appreciate your cooperation with this project.

Something we can all do while at home -- We need to stay safe and healthy and look forward to the day we can all be together again, but for now, do what you can to help others in need. Even a simple phone call to a relative, friend, or neighbor may greatly lift the spirits or help that person more than you will ever know! Since last March, I have tried to keep in touch with others by phone, and sometimes during those long and lonely coronavirus pandemic days, I myself have had my day brightened by a phone call when I was feeling "kinda blue." So, now is a good time to pick up the phone and call someone you haven't heard from in quite a while. It's such a small thing to do, but knowing you possibly cheered up that person may help you "have a brighter day!" May God bless each and every one of you.

Charleen Schneider
WELCA Unit President
Faith Lutheran, Austin



Time to Order Easter Lilies

It was such a pleasure to work with Down Home Ranch (DHR) for the poinsettias we received in November and December. Through the generosity of those who ordered the plants, we were able to donate \$220 to DHR. My DHR contact was so appreciative for the thoughtfulness of Faith Lutheran.

Down Home Ranch does not grow Easter lilies, like they do with the poinsettias. However, they partner with Klepac Greenhouses in Blanco as a fundraiser for DHR's Garden Program. I have been told Klepac produces beautiful plants. We have the opportunity to order Easter lilies through DHR. Their quantity is limited, so I need to submit our order on Monday, February 22.

Please let me know by Sunday evening, February 21, if you would like to order a plant. Each plant is \$15, of which \$3.34 will be given to DHR as a donation. Each container is wrapped in gold foil.

I will follow up on all orders mid-March to get your wording for the dedication list to be included with the Easter bulletin.

Just a reminder, if you would like to sponsor a bouquet for our online Sunday services, please let me know.

Thank you.

Mary Beth Meiske
Altar Guild Chair and
Flower Coordinator



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Figures are approximate, since multiple people may attend via each Facebook connection.

| | |
|-------------|----------------|
| November 29 | 37 |
| December 6 | 23 |
| December 13 | no count |
| December 20 | 21 |
| December 24 | 17 (3 p.m.) |
| December 24 | 23 (5:30 p.m.) |
| December 27 | 20 |
| January 3 | no count |
| January 10 | 22 |
| January 17 | 22 |
| January 24 | 28 |

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

December, 2020 — January, 2021



Altar Guild Fund

Brenda Sakewitz

In Memory of Lee Roy Itz

CDC Scholarship

Mike & Lynn Davidson

In Memory of Lee Roy Itz

Emergency Reserve

Dennis & Helen Diedrick

In Memory of Lee Roy Itz

Gladys Hill

In Memory of Lee Roy Itz

Shayne Hansen McWhorter

*In Loving Memory of Bob & Opal Hansen,
Valeri Hansen Murphy, Dwight Hansen, &
Sharilyn Hansen Dunbar*

Ben & Karen Noyes

In Memory of Lee Roy Itz

Youth

Joe & Suzette Kump

In Celebration of Adalynn Kump's First Christmas

Joe & Suzette Kump

In Honor of Noah Roberts's Baptism

Death

Lee Roy Itz died on January 20.
A graveside service was held at
Memorial Hill Cemetery in Pflugerville
on January 30, at 3 p.m.
Pastor Tom Kesselring officiated.

Baptism

Noah Henry Roberts was baptized on
November 29, 2020, by Pastor Tom Kesselring.
His parents are Patrick & Ashley Roberts.
Sponsors are Tim & Ashley McKelvey.

Dear Faith Friends,

I would like to thank everyone for your
memorials and cards after the death
of my husband, Dennis.

I appreciate your
prayers and your
kindness.

God's peace,
Marilyn King



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 |
| Aug. | \$ 16,549 | \$ 10,693 | +\$ 5,856 |
| Sept. | \$ 10,987 | \$ 8,307 | +\$ 2,680 |
| Oct. | \$ 11,751 | \$ 9,595 | +\$ 2,156 |
| Nov. | \$ 10,392 | \$ 9,297 | +\$ 1,095 |
| Dec. | \$ 17,974 | \$ 9,431 | +\$ 8,543 |
| YTD | \$170,617 | \$120,214 | +\$ 50,403 |

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.**

February, 2021

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