



The Herald Faith Lutheran

June-July, 2020

A PASTORAL ENCOURAGEMENT

How many of you older folks like me remember the excitement of owning your first microwave oven? I can't tell you the year exactly, but when I was a young man, I recall telling my parents sometime in the late 1970's that they should buy a microwave. They resisted. My mom was an excellent cook and had cooked her entire life without microwave technology. She saw no reason to learn anything new. So I purchased one for them. It wasn't long before they were using it every day to heat things up, a convenience we all take for granted nowadays.

Young people, how many of you have parents or grandparents who would enjoy watching our worship services streamed online but they do not have the means? They may resist. Help them anyway. They may have no desire to use Facebook in any other way, but with your help, they could join us for online worship, even if only on a smart phone.

Those of you who are not online, have you considered asking for help with internet technology? Believe me, I myself am not tech savvy! I ask for help all of the time! Some of you may rightfully hesitate to come back to church right away when we do resume gathering in person, especially if your immune system is compromised. Please consider getting what you need to worship with us online. You will be glad you did!

Pastor Tom

A Message from the Church Council

At their meeting on May 25, several council members shared that their conversations with congregation members indicate that many members are not ready to return to in-person worship and meetings. Therefore, the council has decided to continue with online worship services throughout June at least. An option for audio participation via telephone is being explored for those without internet access. When you do feel ready to return to worship in our sanctuary, please let a council member or the church office know; names of council members may be found on page 3. The Worship & Music Committee is preparing guidelines for resuming in-person worship in the safest manner possible; see page 6.

The council also decided to hold an online congregation meeting to elect council representatives on June 21, along with a proxy council installation during online worship on June 28. Please see page 3 for more information.

From Pastor Tom

People love to reminisce about the past and the way things used to be. When we get older and nostalgic, sometimes our memories are idealistic. We remember the simple joys and pleasures of childhood. We often forget the pain and heartache of years gone by, maybe because our parents and those who cared for us did their best to shelter us from the burdens they were carrying. I wonder if God reminisces about the past with the saints and angels in heaven. Or, is God continually making all things new and encouraging us to embrace the work of ministry right now and into God's future?

There is a sense of loss as we remember the past. We might wish we could simply return to the way things used to be. I don't blame you if you are wishing things could simply return to the way they were before COVID-19. They won't, but rest assured, some things will never change. Jesus prays, "All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them" (John 17:10). Down through the years, the message of the cross has been preached and the sacraments administered by many different pastors here at Faith Lutheran Church. Jesus has been glorified. That will never change. As children have been brought to the font, taught Bible stories, and learned that Jesus loves them in Sunday School classes and confirmation classes and youth group activities, Jesus has been glorified. That will never change. Parents have joined with other parents in supporting their kids' schools and activities, their sports teams, their bands and choirs, and Jesus has been glorified.

At hospitals and nursing homes the sick and elderly are tended, and Jesus is glorified. The body of Christ gathers to support those who grieve, and Jesus is glorified. When the poor are lifted up here and abroad, when we send benevolence dollars and quilts and health kits to Lutheran World Relief, when we support the Bread for All food pantry and help feed hundreds of people in our community, Jesus is glorified. People may change and needs may change, economic, political, and cultural aspects of our life together in the midst of a pandemic may change, but in this age, the work of God's kingdom never ends, and Jesus is glorified.

During this time of transition, Jesus continues to pray for us and our mission. His Spirit prays for you and for me. "Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name. Come and follow me, I will bring you home. I love you and you are mine" (ELW 581). May we be united by the love and joy that comes from above, may God protect us from all evil, and may we be sanctified and sent out for service in God's kingdom, for Jesus' sake.

ANNOUNCEMENT

On Trinity Sunday, June 7, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton will deliver the sermon during our service streamed online at 10:00 a.m. She is making her message available to congregations across the country via video recording.

Also on June 7, we will pray for our Southwestern Texas Synod Cross Trails Ministry and the staff and campers at Camp Chrysalis and Ebert Ranch Camp. We will especially ask God's blessing upon two of our own youth, Felix Jarrett and Destani Page, who will be working for Cross Trails this summer. Please invite your family and friends to tune in.

Semi-Annual Congregation Meeting June 21, following online worship

Our church constitution requires that our regular semi-annual congregation meetings be held no more than 30 days before or after the months of May and December (C10.01.01). Our constitution also expressly prohibits voting by absentee ballot (C10.05). Therefore, we must hold our spring congregation meeting before the end of June. Because of concerns over the safety of in-person gatherings, the Church Council has decided to hold this meeting online using Zoom, which is allowed by our constitution (C10.08). Though not everyone has internet access, there is an option to join the meeting by telephone. Instructions for joining the meeting will be provided to eligible voters in advance of the meeting (see last paragraph below).

The primary agenda item will be election of council representatives and the 2021 Nominating Committee. Nominees are:

Vice-President:	Lynn Davidson
Treasurer:	Steve Zwernemann
CDC:	Mike Davidson (second term)
Worship & Music:	Karen McGuire
Youth & Parish Education:	Jane Lozano
2021 Nominating Committee:	Rachel Harmon (outgoing council member) Misty Dush, Jo Ann Jones, Don Kuempel

Current council members continuing their terms are:

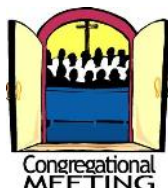
President:	Dan Raemsch
Secretary:	Karen Noyes
Outreach:	Cathy Zwernemann
Property:	Austin Gaskamp

Pastor Tom will install council members by proxy during online worship on June 28. Annual reports will be compiled and available upon your request to the church office.

Eligible voters are defined in our constitution as confirmed members of FLC who have both communed and made a contribution of record to this congregation at least once during the current or preceding calendar year (2019 or 2020). A contribution of record means one to which your name or envelope number is attached. If you put cash in the offering plate without your name or envelope number, that is not considered a contribution of record. This rule (C8.02) is required by the ELCA of all its affiliated congregations.

At this time, 94 FLC confirmed members are eligible to vote in the upcoming June congregation meeting, because they meet the requirements specified above. Therefore, a quorum of 10%, or 10 eligible voters, must be in attendance to conduct business (C10.04).

Again, eligible voters will be provided with instructions on how to join the online meeting using internet or telephone. These instructions will be sent by email if available or by postal mail if not, the week prior to June 21. Questions may be directed to the church office by email or phone. The Church Council appreciates your patience as we try to conduct essential business during unusual times!





Update from the Call Committee

The Call Committee had another web meeting with our primary candidate. Until both the candidate pastor and the committee are comfortable with an on-site meeting, web meetings will be held monthly to stay connected. Members of the Call Committee are: Felix Jarrett, Karen McGuire, Mary Beth Meiske, Ben Noyes III (chair), Sue Saathoff, & Steve Zwernemann.



Council Highlights from April 27, 2020

- ♦ Jacob Dush will be confirmed at worship on May 31.
- ♦ The spring congregation meeting has been postponed from May 3 to June 7.*
- ♦ The Council retreat has been scheduled for June 27.
- ♦ All meetings and events during child care hours have been canceled until further notice, due to Texas Health & Human Services requirements for day care centers.

*now June 21

Reminder!! Please Read!!

Requirements for CDC from Texas Health & Human Services



Due to recent requirements from Texas Health & Human Services, only CDC staff and children may enter our building during child care hours, Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-6 p.m. Even CDC parents are required to pick up and drop off children outside the building. Everyone who enters must wear a face mask and have a temperature check as well.

Therefore, it is important for Faith members, especially those of you with building keys, to understand that you may not enter the building at will, as you might have in the past. This includes the Oliver House, which is used by school-age children who attend our Summer Youth Program.

While these requirements are not expected to be permanent, we do not know how long they will be in effect. That is why all events in June & July during child care hours have been canceled. We will keep you informed as the situation changes, **but for the time being, please do not attempt to enter the building during child care hours.**



WELCA NEWS

Ladies, there are no meetings planned for any women of the church activities during the months of June and July, and none will be held until it has been decided it is safe to once again meet together in groups. Also, after getting in touch with our contact person at the Trinity Care Nursing Home in Round Rock, Faith's annual July tradition of baking cookies for the residents of the facility has been postponed until a later date (TBD) as they cannot accept the cookies at this time.

Even though we are not getting together for the monthly Bible study from the *Gather Magazine*, I encourage you to take the time to read June's lesson which starts a 3-session study on "Just Love," covering the theme verses John 11:1-6, 17-36. The study invites us to consider how justice and love intersect and asks "How do they shape each other?" and "What does 'Just Love' look like?" Session 1 of the study deals with how we hold one another accountable for loving in "just" ways within the family. Often, it is our own grief and anger that helps us access the grief and anger of others. Hopefully, you will read the study as well as the other interesting articles in the June issue of the *Gather Magazine*.

Yes, we all would like nothing more than getting back to doing what we used to do, but for now we need to continue "staying hunkered" down in our homes to stay safe from the coronavirus, which is still with us. We should help others in whatever way we can. Many people are struggling to put food on their tables and would much appreciate financial donations to the various causes feeding those in need such as the Bread for All Pantry, which our church supports and for whom donations may be sent to Abiding Love Lutheran Church in Austin. Ladies, remember you can also be of great help to the women's projects by clipping used postage stamps from envelopes to add to the Canceled Postage Stamp Project collection box in the narthex (sale of the stamps helps pay postage for distributing LWR kits and quilts), cutting quilt squares--9 inch, 6-1/2 inch, and 5-1/2 inch--from any material you may have around your home for the Quilting Group to use for LWR quilts, and working on handcraft projects for the annual November church bazaar, which hopefully we will be able to have. Busy hands help to make these dreary and gloomy stay-at-home days pass by more quickly!

Take care of yourselves until such time that we are once again able to gather for worship, Bible study, and other events to continue working together to do God's will. If you have any questions you would like to ask pertaining to the Women of the Church at Faith Lutheran, please feel free to call me.

Peace Be With You,
Charleen Schneider, WELCA President

Reminder: United States Census Due

If you haven't yet completed your census form, please do so for the following reasons:

Census data helps determine how hundreds of billions of dollars are funneled to communities for critical services like hospitals and health care clinics, schools, and educational programs, including crisis management and grants; census data is used to inform funding for specific programs that support church communities, like job training and public safety; census data informs political representation in Congress.

Go to 2020census.gov or call 1-844-330-2020, or fill out and mail the paper form if you received one.



Bread for All Pantry

Due to a continued increase in the number of families requesting food, the pantry has had to limit distribution to 125 families per week and has asked folks not to come more than once a month.

The pantry needs: strong, reusable bags, egg cartons, and non-perishable food. As food donations have dwindled due to churches being shuttered, there is a greater need for **monetary donations** so more food can be purchased from Central Texas Food Bank. **Write checks payable to:** Bread for All Pantry. **Mail them to:** Abiding Love Lutheran Church, 7210 Brush Country Road, Austin 78749. If you have food or reusable bag donations, call Cathy Z. to arrange a pick-up. Steve, Alan Van Dyke, and Cathy continue to help at the pantry the first Monday of the month.

Mariposa Family Learning Center

Thank you for supporting this new ministry with your Lenten offerings which totaled \$1,258!

Faith Active In Love

Several Faith members have donated their stimulus checks to various organizations to help others in need. What a blessing you have been to those around you.

Being Church

We continue to reach out to each other through online worship services, and phone calls. Recently, we began mailing printed copies of Pastor Tom's weekly sermons to folks who do not have internet access. We are currently exploring ways to allow those folks to "phone-in" to listen to the services. If you are interested in either receiving the sermons via mail or being able to "phone-in" to listen to the services and have not yet been contacted, call the church office and leave a message.

Safe Worship Guidelines from the Worship & Music Committee

- ◆ Sanitize sanctuary and hallway restrooms before each service.
- ◆ All other areas used by CDC will be off limits, including courtyard, kitchen, activity center, Family Room.
- ◆ Leave doors open to minimize touching.
- ◆ Pastor, worship assistants, ushers, greeters receive a temperature check upon arrival.
- ◆ Maintain 6 feet distance, including greeters.
- ◆ Masks will be required and provided for those without.
- ◆ Use every other pew, with one family unit per pew or individuals seated with 6 feet between.
- ◆ No handshaking or sharing the peace; offerings and attendance collected in narthex, using baskets.
- ◆ Exit by pews from the back first, maintaining 6 feet distance; remove masks once in vehicle.
- ◆ Continue online streaming of worship for those who prefer to stay home.
- ◆ Consider delaying Holy Communion until safe distribution procedures are determined.



Youth & Parish Education

We have not met as a committee in several months but have tried to keep in touch with all of the youth. They have all finished their spring semesters via virtual classes.

Destani and Felix start their Cross Trails training and orientation at Camp Chrysalis on May 25. They will be there for the summer camp starting June 21. Pastor Tom will give them a blessing at the worship service on Sunday, June 7. Please continue to keep Cross Trails Ministry's staff and board in your thoughts and prayers as they navigate protocols for the summer months.

Jacob will read his confirmation essay at the May 25 Church Council meeting, and will be confirmed on Pentecost Sunday, May 31.

Emily was hoping to work with the CDC and also help out during VBS. As the social distancing started, these plans were halted. She will look for other options this summer.

As soon as we are able to be a community again without social distancing, we will finish the mural and install it. New installation date TBD; stay tuned.

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
YTD	\$ 65,286	\$ 47,571	+\$ 17,715

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

May 3	Online Worship
May 10	Online Worship
May 17	Online Worship
May 24	Online Worship

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

May, 2020

Emergency Reserve Fund

Joe & Suzette Kump

In Memory of Tina Russ

Youth Fund

Anna Bell Zwernemann

In Memory of Norma Klaus



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 worshiping, caring, learning community.**

June-July, 2020

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