



The Herald Faith Lutheran

April, 2020



Dear Faith Friends:

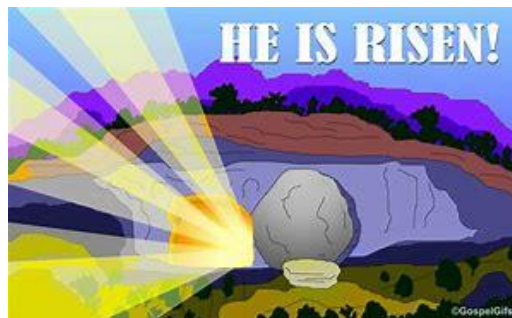
Due to the shelter in place order issued by the City of Austin and Travis County, all in-person April events at Faith have been canceled. However, Sunday Worship will be celebrated at the usual time of 10 a.m., using Service of the Word and online streaming. You may join our worship from our church website's home page (www.FaithLutheranAustin.org). Click on the Facebook icon to the bottom right of the rose window (blue square with letter "f").

See Pastor Tom's article on the next page for further worship information.

During April, the Church Council will meet using Zoom; committees and other groups are advised to meet using phone calls, emails, or whatever electronic communication is most suited to your group. We pray that all of you are healthy and want you to remain so!

The church office will be closed, but Karen will work as needed from home, checking email and assisting Pastor Tom with worship preparation. If needed, please contact the office by email at flcoffice@att.net, rather than by phone.

May the Holy Spirit keep us steadfast in faith, trusting and rejoicing in the Easter promise.



From Pastor Tom

Dear Members of Faith Lutheran Church,

Grace and peace is yours from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ! I am writing to share some changes in our life together at Faith during this chaotic time of Coronavirus precaution. Following the recommendation of our governing authorities, there will be no in person worship services or other activities on the church premises until further notice. Nevertheless, there are ways we can continue to be the church together. God is faithful, and together we will weather this storm!

I'm reminded of Psalm 46 from which Martin Luther drew inspiration and wrote the great Reformation hymn, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God." *"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear..."*. We need not be afraid! Why? *"The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge."* Jesus, Immanuel, is God with us, and we are called by the Spirit of God to be the Body of Christ on earth. Let me share some words of wisdom from our Southwestern Texas Synod Bishop, the Reverend Sue Briner:

"We are church together; expressing our solidarity with our neighbor, local communities, our nation and our world means reducing all possible risk of transmission of this virus which can be lethal for our most vulnerable citizens. To think 'this doesn't apply to me and my community' does not take seriously enough our responsibility as people of God."

"I want to be clear: this time of social distancing – or better said, physical distancing – does NOT mean we are suspending who we are called to be as church! Rather, we must become church in new ways. After all, we are a church that offers its best in times of adversity. This moment invites us to continue to live out who we are as Christ's Body for the life of the world and imagine new ways to be church. If our times of worship have always been about equipping the saints for their ministry, how do we now unleash that potential?"

The FLC Council and staff have met and will continue to pray about how to unleash our potential here at Faith Lutheran Church. Here are some things we can and will do right now:

Beginning March 29, our Sunday morning worship will be live streamed on Facebook at the usual time, 10:00 a.m. Go to www.faithlutharanaustin.org and click on the blue Facebook icon located at the bottom right of the rose window. The length of the current disruption is unknown. If necessary, online services will continue the following weeks, including Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services at 7:00 p.m., during Holy Week.

Announcements and updates will be made prior to worship, in the *Herald* newsletter, posted online, and via email blasts.

Your regular tithes and offerings will insure that the work of the Church continues. The website has a Pay Pal link to enable online giving. If this is not an option for you, please remember to mail your offering to the church office.

Service to homebound members and others who are already isolated will continue and in fact will increase as needed. Council members and I will be in phone contact and offer assistance when possible.

Outreach ministries like the Bread for All Food Pantry will continue to need your support. In the absence of canned and dry good donations, please consider monetary support. You can mail a tax deductible check directly to the Bread for All Food Pantry at Abiding Love Lutheran Church, 7210 Brush County Road, Austin TX 78749-2374, or mail it to our church office, marked for the Food Pantry.

Stay tuned for possible additional ministry opportunities.

The Psalmist writes, *"Be still, and know that I am God."* Keeping the Sabbath first means to cease from work and the cares of daily life. May God bless our ministry together and enable us to use extended time at home as Sabbath time. God's peace be with you and yours!

Nominating COMMITTEE

Nominees for Church Council positions and 2021 Nominating Committee are as follows:

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

These nominees will be presented to the congregation for election at its semi-annual meeting on May 3. Many thanks to them for agreeing to serve.

Also, many thanks to our 2020 nominating committee members: Jackie Allen, Mary Beth Meiske, Wanda Muehlbrad, and Carol Roberts (chair).



Council Highlights from February 24, 2020:

- ♦ Call Committee has asked the synod to provide more pastoral candidates for consideration.
- ♦ Nominating Committee still needs nominees for Vice-President, Treasurer, and two 2021 Nominating Committee members.
- ♦ Property Committee notified council that parts can no longer be obtained to repair our elevator; options are being investigated.
- ♦ WELCA has purchased two new 30" ranges to replace the current kitchen range.
- ♦ A fellowship event centered around games is being planned for Saturday, June 13, from 3-5 p.m.



Lent 2020

Please remember that all Lenten offerings will support **Mariposa Family Learning Center** (a ministry of Austin City Lutherans). Even though we aren't worshipping together in person, we can still support this outreach ministry by mailing our Lenten offering checks to the church office or by giving on-line through the church website. Don't forget to write "Lent" on your check.

Thank you for continuing to support the ministries of Faith and the wider church during this unprecedented Lenten season.

Bread for All Food Pantry

In the past few weeks Bread for All has seen a dramatic increase in the number of clients who depend on the pantry. As more people experience unemployment as a result of the pandemic, we expect those numbers to continue to increase. Three ways you can help:

Send checks payable to Bread for All c/o Abiding Love Lutheran Church, 7210 Brush Country Road, Austin, TX 78749.

Continue to support this ministry through food donations.

Donate strong reusable bags. As food distribution practices have changed for the time being, the pantry needs many more bags.

Call Cathy Zwernemann at 972-672-8893, and she will either meet you at church to receive your food and/or bag donation OR she will come to your house to pick them up – keeping a safe social distance of course.

THANK YOU for continuing to reach out to others!

Violet Crown Festival 2020 – Saturday, May 2

We will need folks to help "person" our joint booth with Faith CDC (in two-hour shifts) during this annual community event at Brentwood Park. **New this year** – we will be offering shuttle service from the church parking lot to as close to our booth as we can get you! Watch for a sign-up sheet in the coming weeks. Of course, this event like many others around the city is subject to change. Stay tuned!

Let the Games Begin!

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, June 13, from 3-5 pm**. We're planning a time of **fellowship** (*that sounds good right about now, doesn't it?*) and game playing including: cards, dominos, board games, puzzles, Farkle (a dice game), indoor corn hole AND any other game you'd like to bring. More details to come.

Feeling Wobbly?

According to the CDC one in three older adults experience a fall each year, and falls are the leading cause of both nonfatal and fatal injuries in older adults. Faith plans to partner with AGE of Central Texas to offer **FREE A Matter of Balance** classes at Faith in the fall. The two-hour classes would meet once per week for six weeks. Call the church office at 512-451-1116, and let us know what day of the week and time of the day would work best for you. We'll tally your preferences and let you know when the classes will begin. Please invite your friends!



WELCA 2020 Handbooks -- Ladies, don't forget to pick up a copy of the new 2020 WELCA Handbook from the table in the narthex.

LWR Personal Care Kits -- During Lent Faith Lutheran joined Lutheran World Relief in **A SEASON OF HOPE** to announce to the world the HOPE of Christ by collecting Personal Care Kit items for those in times of need around the world. The scheduled collection of items was as follows: **March 1 - bars of soap** (4 to 5 oz, any brand, in original wrapping); **March 8 - bath towels** (light-weight towels desired due to faster drying, maximum size 52" x 27" with dark colors recommended); **March 15 - toothbrushes** (adult size, in original wrapping); **March 22 - combs** (sturdy); **March 29 - nail clippers** (metal, attached file optional); and **April 5 (Palm Sunday) - bars of soap**. Now, due to current Coronavirus guidelines, the scheduled LWR In-Gathering at both Palm Valley Lutheran-Round Rock on April 14 and the LWR In-Gathering at TLC-Seguin on April 15 have been postponed until the fall of 2020. Any of the Personal Care Kit items can be brought any time; however, the items needed most to fill more kits are **combs, nail clippers, and soap**. The collection box for Personal Care Kits along with the list of Personal Care Kit items will remain in the narthex to accept your donations. The congregation's help, as always, is much appreciated in participating with this worthwhile project. *Please note: According to an e-mail from Lutheran World Relief, the Personal Care Kits as usual will still include 4 and 5 oz bars of soap; however, as of March 1, no boxes of bulk soap will be accepted nor, due to environmental concerns, will any fleece blankets be accepted.*

LWR School Kits -- A number of school kits have already been put together by women of the church and some items are in plentiful supply to complete more kits; however, some are currently in short supply: crayons (12 or 24 count), 1-1/2" erasers, and scissors (child, blunt). The support of the congregation in gathering more of these school kit supplies for the fall LWR In-Gathering will be most appreciated.

Quilt and Kit Blessing Service - CANCELED! -- Due to current Coronavirus guidelines, the blessing service scheduled for March 29 by Pastor Tom Kesseling for the LWR quilts and kits prepared by Faith Lutheran members was canceled. It will be re-scheduled at a later date before the LWR In-Gathering in the fall of 2020.

Capital North/Capital South Conference of the SWT Synod for Women of the ELCA -- The Spring conference hosted by women at Abiding Love Lutheran Church, 7210 Brush Country, Austin, Texas 78749, on Saturday, March 7, was attended and enjoyed by four (4) of Faith Lutheran's women of the church--Gladys Hill, Wanda Muehlbrad, Ree Nurnberger, and Charleen Schneider.

Ladies, please note, due to current Coronavirus guidelines, these upcoming meetings will need to be confirmed as to whether or not they will be held as usual:

Lydia Circle: Held the 2nd Monday of the month in Resource Center @ 4 p.m. (contact person: Ree Nurnberger @ 512-795-8145)

Rebecca Circle: Held the 2nd Tuesday of the month in Resource Center @ 9:30 a.m. (contact person: Charleen Schneider @ 512-836-4659)

Quilting Group: Held the 3rd Thursday of the month in the Oliver House from 9 to 11 a.m. (contact person: Gladys Hill @ 512-928-0038)

Sewing Group: Held every Friday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in room 206 (contact person: Charleen Schneider @ 512-836-4659)

Scheduled Events:

Friday, March 27: Packing day to pack Quilts, School Bag Kits, and Personal Care Kits in room 206 -- **CANCELED!**

Sunday, March 29: Kit and Quilt Blessing Service -- **CANCELED!**

Tuesday, April 14: LWR In-Gathering for Kits and Quilts for the Austin area at Palm Valley Lutheran-Round Rock — **POSTPONED UNTIL FALL 2020!**

Wednesday, April 15: LWR In-Gathering for Kits and Quilts at TLC-Seguin -- **POSTPONED UNTIL FALL 2020!**

Saturday, May 9: Mother/Daughter Gathering (salad dinner) for all women of Faith Lutheran @ 5 p.m.--**Need to confirm meeting will be held due to Coronavirus guidelines!**



Youth & Parish Education

Holy Week and Easter plans have been canceled due to the shelter in place order.

We will continue to work on the mural when we are able to meet again.

The youth are working with Helen D. on volunteering at the VBS & SYP to earn community service hours for college resumes and recommendation letters.

We are brainstorming fundraising ideas for the 2021 National Gathering costs. We are looking at corporate sponsors like Krispy Kreme and Flock Yards and would appreciate any suggestions from the congregation.

Handbells—Karen McGuire will discuss with First English and friends regarding future practice and performance dates, then update everyone.



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

February 26	35
March 1	59
March 4	22
March 8	60
March 11	20
March 15	35
March 18	No Worship*
March 22	No Worship*

*Due to COVID-19 crisis

Retirement & Nursing Center on Burnet Lane

On March 5, twenty residents and staff plus five members of Faith worshiped together in services conducted by Pastor Tom.
Date & time of the next service TBD.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Month	Income	Expenses	Difference
Jan.	\$ 18,167	\$ 13,368	+\$ 4,799
Feb.	\$ 16,452	\$ 14,748	+\$ 1,704
YTD	\$ 34,618	\$ 28,116	+\$ 6,502

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

March, 2020

CDC Scholarship Fund

Johnnie & Dorothy Mogonye
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Betty Joann Burns
Charlotte Moore
Julia Rector

Emergency Reserve Fund

B. C. & Jackie Allen
B. C. & Jackie Allen
Spencer & Joyce Altman
Mr. & Mrs. M. F. Bielefeldt
Dennis & Helen Diedrick
Dennis & Helen Diedrick
Jo Ann Jones
Carolyn King
Carolyn King
Joe & Suzette Kump
Lydia Circle
Johnnie, Dorothy, & Jon Mogonye
Jay & Dana Moore
Lucian Morrison
Ben & Karen Noyes
Ben & Karen Noyes
Melvin & Helen Rose
Melvin & Helen Rose
Brenda Sakewitz

Charlotte Moore
Tina Russ
Charlotte Moore
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Media & Technology Fund

Mike & Lynn Davidson
Mike & Lynn Davidson

Charlotte Moore
Tina Russ

**Member Update****Death:**

Charlotte Moore died February 21, 2020. Her funeral was held on February 26, at Cook Walden Funeral Home, North Lamar location. Burial was in Post Mountain Cemetery in Burnet, Texas. Pastor Tom Kesselring officiated.

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.**

April. 2020

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