



The Herald Faith Lutheran

May, 2020

Dear Faith Friends:

Due to the uncertainty of when the current stay at home orders will be lifted, all in-person events at Faith during May, including worship, are considered canceled until further notice.

Sunday worship will continue to be celebrated at the usual time of 10 a.m., using Service of the Word and online streaming. You may join our worship service from our church website's home page (www.FaithLutheranAustin.org), using either YouTube or Facebook.



Jacob Dush will celebrate his Affirmation of Faith (confirmation) on Pentecost Sunday, May 31. If we are able to gather in person for worship by then, we will joyfully celebrate with him; if not, we will view his Affirmation of Faith online during worship. Please keep Jacob in your prayers as he completes this important step in his faith journey.

The church office continues to be closed, but please contact Karen Noyes by email (flcoffice@att.net) as needed.

Please also see page 4 for important information about building use during child care hours; CDC is back in operation for children of essential workers, but with strict regulations from Texas Health & Human Services. No one except staff and children are allowed in the building for the time being, so members may not come and go as before.

We ask God's continued blessings for each of you, our congregation, and our neighbors.

From Pastor Tom

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes, fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. It will be a healing for your flesh and a refreshment for your body." Proverbs 3:5-8

Columnist Judy Woodruff draws from a book, *The Death of Expertise*, by author Tom Nichols: "A few years ago, a mischievous group of pollsters asked American voters whether they would support bombing the country of Agrabah. As you might expect, Republicans tended to support military action, while Democrats were more reluctant. There's only one problem: Agrabah doesn't exist. It's from the animated Disney film *Aladdin*. Only about half the people surveyed figured this out, and liberals and conservatives gleefully pointed fingers at each other."

The book contends that more and more Americans don't care about what experts say. Many of us have become "insufferable know-it-alls, locked in constant conflict and debate with others over topics we actually know almost nothing about." We believe ourselves to be as smart or smarter than experienced professionals. Parents refuse to vaccinate their children because "attending the university of Google, as one anti-vaccine activist put it, is the same as going to medical school." People may have no idea how much we spend on foreign aid but they consider their opinion equal to that of experienced diplomats. Talk show hosts and politicians claim to know more about global warming than scientists, and many Americans believe them. Or, we get our news and views from social media where propaganda and misinformation abound.

Judy Woodruff concludes, "We need to find our way back from this ego-driven wilderness. Historically, people return to valuing expert views in times of trouble or distress. We're all willing to argue with our doctors until our fever is out of control. Let's hope it doesn't come to that. We must accept the limitations of our own knowledge or we fail in our obligation to participate in our democracy as involved, but informed citizens."

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight." By profession I am supposed to be a Bible "expert." Following what I have just shared, you may be surprised by my permission to disagree with my expert opinions, even those shared from the pulpit on Sunday morning. My insight, my expertise, and my opinions are grounded firmly in Lutheran theology, for which I am grateful. My faith, however, my trust, and my hope for new life right now and for eternity is not in theology but in the Lord, the God and Father of my Lord Jesus Christ. Faith is a gift from God the Holy Spirit. Beware, brothers and sisters, of Christian pastors who insist that their theology and their political insight and their opinions come directly from God.

We find ourselves in the midst of a global crisis, a pandemic of unprecedented magnitude in our lifetime. When will we again be able to gather for worship on Sunday morning? Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Pray for doctors, scientists, and medical experts. Pray that leaders in government will listen and follow the advice of these experts. Pray that Americans will listen and humbly follow, receive medical and economic assistance when needed, and support and care for one another. When will we gather again? As Christians, we *are* gathered! Always. We are a holy communion, the communion of saints, saints in heaven and saints on earth, gathered and united by the Spirit. Longing for the day when we will feast together at the table of the Lord is nothing new to us! "Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight... It is well, it is well with my soul."



TRUST IN THE LORD
with all thine heart



Update from the Call Committee

The Call Committee has completed the next set of web-based interviews and has identified a candidate for a second interview. The schedule for the second interview will be determined with consideration of COVID-19 restrictions and a target date of May or June.

Semi-Annual Congregation Meeting June 7, after worship Activity Center



FLC's spring congregation meeting has been re-scheduled from May 3 to June 7, due to the stay-home orders currently in effect.

Agenda Items will include submission of annual reports and 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

Please plan to attend and participate in this important meeting.



Council Highlights from March 23, 2020

- ♦ The SWT Synod Council has approved FLC's constitution revisions adopted on December 1, 2019, bringing it into compliance with ELCA's current Model Constitution.
- ♦ All in-person worship, events, and meetings at FLC are canceled until further notice, due to city and county shelter in place orders expected to be issued this week.
- ♦ Plans are in place to offer Sunday and Holy Week worship services online through Facebook and YouTube.
- ♦ Candidates have been found for all open council positions, as well as the 2021 Nominating Committee.

Important!! Please Read!!

New Requirements for CDC from Texas Health & Human Services



Due to new 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, some of whom will be cared for by CDC while school is not in session.

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 May 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.**



Youth & Parish Education

Congratulations to Felix and Destani for being chosen to work at Cross Trails Camp Chrysalis this summer.

Jacob's confirmation is Pentecost Sunday, May 31.

Emily has applied to the CDC to work at VBS this summer.

Early registration for the 2021 National Gathering is September 20. We are discussing fundraising ideas to help pay for it.



We probably all are getting tired of staying in our homes these days; however, we must keep adhering to the coronavirus pandemic guidelines. For now, at least through the month of May, the women of the church will **not** hold any meetings of the Lydia Circle, Rebecca Circle, Quilting Group, or Sewing Group. Regretfully, the Mother/Daughter Banquet has been canceled and will **not** be held, but I wish all of you a Happy Mother's Day on May 10. As yet, no plans have been made for future women of the church gatherings; you will be kept updated as new guidelines are issued.

In case you haven't seen them, the two stoves (each with a griddle) that WELCA purchased are now in place for use in the church kitchen and thanks have been expressed by the Church Council to WELCA for their gift. The remainder of bazaar funds from 2018 and 2019 will be used at a later date towards purchasing new chairs for the Resource Center.

Although we will not meet for Bible Study in May, please take time to read the interesting articles in May's *Gather Magazine* as well as the Bible Study entitled "Plenty Good Room" with a subtitle of "We often entertain angels unknowingly." The article questions "How do we offer generous hospitality?" and "Is it time for us to examine the differences between being welcoming and being inclusive?" The focus verse for the study is Luke 24:28-29; the scripture readings covered by the study are: Luke 24:13-35, Hebrews 13:1-2; Psalm 23, Luke 23:32-43, John 14:1-3, and Peter 4:8-11. I found the study very thought-provoking.

If you are bored and don't know what to do, here are a few suggestions to keep involved with other things besides watching the dis-heartening news on TV:

1) During your trips to the grocery store (with your face mask on), pick up an item or two of the needed school supplies to help fill more **LWR School Kits**. The items in short supply are: crayons (24 count), scissors (blunt), sharpeners, and rulers (12 inch). Once we again have church services in the sanctuary, those items can be deposited in the narthex's school kit collection box. The Sewing Group ladies had finished packing the Personal Care Kits; however, the school kits and quilts need to be packed and a Kit and Quilt Blessing Service held before the LWR Kits and Quilts In-Gathering, tentatively re-scheduled for the fall (no date set).

2) The **annual church bazaar** is always in need of new ideas which would be very much appreciated. Now is a great time to put on your "thinking caps" and start making items for the bazaar, which we hope to hold as scheduled in November.

3) The **Quilting Group** can always use your old clean sheets and blankets as fillers for LWR quilts; spools of sewing thread (any color) used to sew quilt squares into quilt tops; and any thin crochet thread, which is knotted to tie quilt tops and bottoms together. The group needs help in cutting quilt squares; all you need to do is cut a 9 inch, 6-1/2 inch, or 5-1/2 inch square pattern from cardboard or paper; then use the pattern to cut squares from any suitable materials you may have for making quilts. *Note: According to LWR rules and regulations, materials with flag or political designs or text cannot be used for LWR quilts.* Help is also needed with sewing quilt squares into quilt tops; if interested, contact Gladys Hill or Charleen Schneider for instructions for sewing them.

4) The **Used Stamp Project** is an ongoing WELCA project and now is a good time to dig out those boxes from under your beds, in your closets, and in the garage to go through those old cards and letters you may have saved and stashed away. Just clip the stamps from the envelopes, leaving at least a 1/4" margin around each stamp. You can save the stamps and place them in the stamp box in the narthex whenever we get back into the church building.

5) Another very worthwhile project and much needed during this time is helping provide food for those in need. Many people have lost their jobs because of the coronavirus pandemic and are now joining others in the food lines. Most of us have been contributing to the food items being collected weekly by Faith Lutheran, but since we currently cannot bring food items into the church's narthex, why not send a financial donation to the **Bread for All Pantry**? Donations can be made either through PayPal online or by sending a check to Bread for All Pantry, c/o Abiding Love Lutheran Church, 7210 Brush Country Road, Austin, Texas 78749.

These are only a few suggestions but there are so many other opportunities for us to help one another during this very tragic and scary time when our lives have been interrupted as they never have been before during our lifetime. Although we daily hear very sad news throughout the world, there are also the very uplifting stories we hear of others taking time to help others, which is what God wants us to do!

Hopefully, we all will soon be able to get back to our normal way of life, but first and foremost is our need to do it safely--not too quickly. Stay safe by staying home, washing your hands often, practicing social distancing, and wearing your face mask when out in public. I miss seeing each and every one of you and look forward to the day when we can all be together once again!

You are all in my prayers to God to take care of us,

Charleen Schneider,
WELCA President



Helping Our Neighbors During the COVID-19 “Shelter in Place” Order

Did you recently receive a check through the government’s economic stimulus package? For some, that check will provide necessary relief. For others, it would be nice to have, but not necessary for their economic survival. If you don’t absolutely NEED this infusion of cash, consider donating the funds to these non-profit organizations or to others dear to your heart.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER – The CDC was shuttered in mid-March, but was able to pay the teachers through April 30. Although they have applied for a government PPP loan, it is still being processed. In late April they began providing childcare for several children of “essential” workers but many fewer than the normal enrollment. With this reduction in tuition funds received, they need your help to enable them to keep the full staff employed. Send checks **payable to Faith Lutheran Church** to the church office **designating it for CDC salaries**.

BREAD FOR ALL FOOD PANTRY – They’ve been serving an average of 125 families per week (up from the usual 50-60). They expect those numbers to continue to increase during the pandemic. **How can you help? Send checks payable to Bread for All Pantry** to Abiding Love Lutheran Church, 7210 Brush Country Road, Austin, TX 78749. **Donate strong reusable bags or non-perishable food.** *To donate bags or food, call Cathy Z; she’ll pick it up.*

MARIPOSA FAMILY LEARNING CENTER – This full-day childcare center in Montopolis which serves low-income families, is a ministry of Austin City Lutherans. Help support teacher salaries and programming by sending your check **payable to Mariposa FLC** to Abiding Love Lutheran Church, 7210 Brush Country Road, Austin, TX 78749. For more info go to: <https://austincitylutherans.org/2020/04/22/mariposa-flc-stimulus-check-fundraiser/>.

MOBILE LOAVES & FISHES – Community First! Village and Food Truck Ministry – This organization continues to provide for the physical and emotional needs of Austin’s homeless population. As more people lose their jobs due to the economic downturn, they expect to be caring for many more neighbors. You can contribute to either ministry at: www.mlf.org or send checks **payable to Mobile Loaves & Fishes** to: 9301 Hog Eye Road, Suite 950, Austin, TX 78724.

UPBRING – You can help provide essential medical supplies, household necessities, educational resources, and additional counseling and spiritual care services by donating to their **Unmet Needs Fund**. Or, you can provide specific items from their **Wishlist**. Visit their website at www.Upbring.org. Or, send checks **payable to Upbring** to: P.O. Box 140767, Austin, TX 78714.

REFUGEE SERVICES OF TEXAS – Like many Texans, refugees are experiencing job loss, wage reduction, and isolation. Imagine experiencing those things while adjusting to life in a new country. Your donation will provide life-changing assistance and lend a hand to our new neighbors in need. Send checks to: 500 East St. Johns Ave., Suite 1.280, Austin, TX 78752. For on-line giving and more information go to www.rstx.org.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES ON HOLD: Games Day (June 13); Fall Balance Classes (date TBD)

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

April, 2020

Altar Guild Fund

Don & Jeanette Kuempel

In Memory of Charlotte Moore

CDC Playground Fund

Dennis & Helen Diedrick

In Memory of Emily Garcia

CDC Teacher Support Fund

Dennis & Helen Diedrick

In Memory of Emily Garcia

Emergency Reserve Fund

Anne Kuempel

In Memory of Charlotte Moore

Anne Kuempel

In Memory of Tina Russ

Joe & Suzette Kump

In Memory of Josef, Tillie, & Elizabeth Kump

Joe & Suzette Kump

In Memory of Oliver & Mable Johnson

Lucian Morrison

In Memory of Tina Russ



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
YTD	\$ 49,168	\$ 38,892	+\$ 10,276

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

March 29	Online Worship
April 5	Online Worship
April 9	Online Worship
April 10	Online Worship
April 12	Online Worship
April 19	Online Worship
April 26	Online Worship

*Thank
You*

Dear Faith Friends,

Thank you each and every one for all the memorials, beautiful cards, and phone calls. Each one takes a little of the sadness away. It is such a blessing for Tina.

God's Blessings,
Bertha Emshoff & Family
Bob Russ

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.**

May, 2020

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