



# *The Herald Faith Lutheran*

September, 2019

## *September Events*

**Transition Pastor Tom Kesselring Arrives  
First Day in Office, September 4  
First Sunday to Lead Worship, September 8**



**God's Work  
Our Hands**

**God's Work Our Hands Sunday  
September 8  
Assemble Food Bags for Homeless, 11:30 AM  
Potluck Luncheon, 12 PM  
Activity Center**

**Women's Brunch/Bible Study/Unit Meeting  
September 14, 9 AM  
Activity Center**

**Special Congregation Meeting to Elect Call Committee  
September 15, 11:30 AM  
Activity Center**

**Gospel Service  
Pastor Judith Spindt Leads Worship  
September 29  
Potluck Luncheon, 11:30 AM**



*Call  
Committee*

## From Pastor Gary

Normally I would be using this space to talk about new beginnings: New school year, new Sunday School year, new programs and outreach getting started; before you know it here comes Advent and Christmas, the usual cycle of the church year and the school year. Instead, today I talk about an ending, the ending of seven years of ministry at Faith, and 37 years serving the church, both in a congregation setting and in the Army Chaplaincy. Both Maxine and I were overwhelmed by the outpouring of love we experienced on our last Sunday here. We are grateful for the kind words and the generous gifts. Most of all, we are both humbled by the opportunity to be a part of your lives these past years. The joy of baptisms, the celebrations of Christmas, the somber Lents, the mourning and grieving that come with the death of loved ones--all are a part of the ups and downs of congregational ministry.

There are new beginnings happening. For Maxine and myself, it is the new beginning of retired life. We ask for your prayers as we begin this new phase in our lives. For the people of Faith there is a new beginning. During this transition phase, you will be making decisions and choosing directions that will affect your ministry for the coming years. As we struggled together the past seven years with the steady decline of numbers, we have also caught a glimpse of new possibilities of ministry, especially in partnership with area congregations. It will be an exciting time for you. Maxine and I will continue to pray for your ministry.

God Bless all of you!!!

Pastor Gary and Maxine

## Transition News

**Pastor Tom Kesselring**, recently retired from Immanuel Lutheran Church in Pflugerville, **has agreed to serve as our transition pastor**. His first day in the office will be Wednesday, September 4, and his first Sunday to lead our worship will be **September 8**. Pastor Tom will work on a part-time basis, presiding over worship 3 Sundays per month and spending about 10 hours in the office weekly, depending on our pastoral needs. Various supply pastors will preside one Sunday per month.

**Please plan to stay after worship on September 8, to welcome Pastor Tom during a potluck lunch** (after homeless food bags are assembled). Bring your favorite dish to share.

**A special congregation meeting has been scheduled for September 15**, after worship, to elect Call Committee members. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

### Call Committee Nominees are:

Felix Jarrett  
Karen McGuire  
Mary Beth Meiske  
Ben Noyes III  
Sue Saathoff  
Steve Zwernemann



### It's Almost Time!

#### God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday, September 8

Just a reminder that Sunday, September 1, is the deadline for bringing your food items to create food bags for the homeless. On September 8, plan to stay after worship to help assemble the bags, and to enjoy a potluck fellowship. Bring your favorite dish to share.

#### Upbring Golf Tournament – September 16

It's not too late to sponsor Faith's golf team in support of Upbring's New Life Children's Center and BeREAL program. Make checks payable to Faith Lutheran and notate **Upbring Golf** on the bottom of the check. Questions? Ask Lynn or Mike Davidson.

#### Take Action in Support of Refugees and Migrants

**Eagle Pass Frontera Ministries** is providing support at one of our synod's local congregations, *Iglesia Luterana San Lucas* in Eagle Pass. Daily they welcome up to 20 documented asylum seekers on their way to relatives in the USA. They hold a service of thanksgiving for safe arrival; provide dinner, breakfast, a bed to sleep in, a change of clothes, hygiene kit, towel, backpack, and reusable water bottle; and prior to departure they hold a service of Godspeed to send them on their way.

**Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley** is the charitable branch of the Diocese of Brownsville. Located only two blocks from McAllen's main bus terminal, the new *Humanitarian Respite Center* at this site is positioned to welcome and serve the most vulnerable as they continue to pursue a new life in the United States.

**You can support both of these ministries** through our synod. Make checks payable to Faith Lutheran and notate **SWT Synod Border Relief** on the bottom of the check.

#### Calling All Thrivent Members

Did you know that Thrivent members can request seed money two times per year (usually \$250 each request) to support a special non-profit event? For example: purchasing food for Bread for All Pantry; purchasing in-kind items for Upbring kids; purchasing items needed to put on Spring Fling. Please let our church office know if you are a Thrivent member.



#### Council Highlights from July 22, 2019:

- Council members will meet with the Rev. Judith Spindt from the SWT Synod Office on July 30, to review the pastoral transition and call process.
- Helen Diedrick was approved as a congregation representative of the CDC Board.
- The Property Committee has made arrangements to begin using a new pest control service.
- Nuts & Bolts replaced the water fountain in the downstairs hallway.

## Worship & Music



### FAITH RINGERS Adult Handbell Group

Practice time: Wednesdays  
7:00-7:45 p.m.

September 4, 11, 18

No practice September 25

Play for worship: September 22

### BELLS OF FAITH Youth Handbell Group

Practice during Sunday School  
beginning September 15

If you have an interest in ringing  
with these groups or want to know  
more about ringing, contact:

Karen McGuire  
512-585-4558 or  
mckarenk@yahoo.com.

### Retirement & Nursing Center on Burnet Lane

On August 1, fifteen residents and staff  
plus seven members of Faith  
worshiped together in services  
conducted by Pastor Gary.

The next service will be held on  
September 5, at 10:30 a.m.

All are welcome!



Join the  
Faith Gospel Singers  
on September 29,  
as we sing some  
favorite old hymns  
during worship  
at 10 a.m.

Help us make a  
joyful noise to the Lord!

Pastor Judith Spindt,  
Bishop's Associate for Leadership  
with the SWT Synod, will lead worship  
that Sunday. Please plan to stay for a  
potluck lunch with Pastor Spindt  
following worship. Bring your  
favorite dish to share and visit with  
her about the call process.

### MONTHLY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Month	Income	Expenses	Difference
Jan.	\$ 14,778	\$ 19,882	-\$ 5,104
Feb.	\$ 17,680	\$ 19,750	-\$ 2,070
Mar.	\$ 19,141	\$ 21,187	-\$ 2,046
Apr.	\$ 18,771	\$ 19,731	-\$ 960
May	\$ 16,222	\$ 20,189	-\$ 3,967
June	\$ 18,488	\$ 19,728	-\$ 1,240
July	\$ 15,256	\$ 20,130	-\$ 4,874
YTD	\$120,337	\$140,598	-\$ 20,261

### WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

July 28	56
August 4	63
August 11	69
August 18	70
August 25	163

## Members Serving in Worship September, 2019

### All Sundays in September

**Head Usher:** Les Doss

**Greeter:** Gladys Hill

**Tellers:** 2 needed

**Altar Guild Saturdays:** Therese Doss, Linda Jackson

**Altar Guild Sundays:** Mary Beth Meiske, Ree Nurnberger

### September 1—10:00 a.m.

**Guest Preacher:** Carol Roberts

**Assisting Minister:** None needed

**Lay Reader:** Karen McGuire

**Communion Helpers:** 3 needed

**Acolyte:** 1 needed

### September 8—10:00 a.m.

**Assisting Minister:** Lynn Davidson

**Lay Reader:** 1 needed

**Communion Helpers:** 3 needed

**Acolyte:** 1 needed

### September 15—Praise Worship—10:00 a.m.

**Assisting Minister:** Praise Team

**Lay Reader:** Praise Team

**Communion Helpers:** 3 needed

**Acolyte:** 1 needed

### September 22—10:00 a.m.

**Assisting Minister:** Ben Noyes III

**Lay Reader:** Karen McGuire

**Communion Helpers:** 3 needed

**Acolyte:** 1 needed

### September 29—Gospel Service—10:00 a.m.

**Assisting Minister:** 1 needed

**Lay Reader:** 1 needed

**Communion Helpers:** 3 needed

**Acolyte:** 1 needed



### A big thank you to Verlene Schoen

for being Faith's flower coordinator for the past 13 years. Not only did Verlene coordinate our Sunday bouquets, but she expertly arranged the lilies at Easter and the poinsettias at Christmas.

If anyone is interested in taking on the flower coordinator role, please let me know. For now, I will be acting flower coordinator and Karen Noyes will be our backup.

I have the flower reservation sheets that have been submitted for September and October.

On Sunday, September 22, Altar Guild will have flowers at the altar in appreciation of Verlene.

Mary Beth Meiske  
Altar Guild Chair

### Member Updates

#### Death:

John Olson died August 9. His funeral was conducted by Pastor Goodson at Faith Lutheran Church on August 17, followed by burial at Forest Oaks Cemetery.



### **LWR School Kits**

Faith members, although most school supply sales are already over, Faith Lutheran ladies will continue collecting school supplies until LWR's In-Gathering next April. The School Kit collection box is in the narthex along with lists of school supplies needed for the kits, which are: 70-page spiral notebooks, 12 or 24 count crayons, scissors (blunt), 1-1/2 inch erasers, pencil sharpeners, #2 pencils, and blue or black ink ballpoint pens (**no gel**). Your help with this project which the women of the church annually participate in is very much appreciated.

### **KoffeeKlatch held August 16**

Twelve ladies met in Faith's sewing room and shared new ideas for projects for the upcoming church bazaar in November, while enjoying Christian fellowship and munching on cookies and drinking either coffee or lemonade. The ideas presented were greatly appreciated, and now it's time to start working on various projects for the bazaar as November will soon be here!

### **2019 Annual Convention of SWT Synod Women of the ELCA, August 23-25**

#### **Marriott Courtyard in Pflugerville**

Over 100 ladies attended the convention and had a good time visiting with old friends and making new ones while, gaining new knowledge about the inner workings of the SWT Synod of WELCA. Wanda Muehlbrad, Ree Nurnberger, and Charleen Schneider attended. Charleen served as Faith's voting member at the meeting during which Lorie Garcia was elected as new president for the SWT Synod. The 8 workshops (including Wanda's on Fostering Children) were presented as the result of diligent efforts of Faith's Workshop Committee--Wanda, Ree, Charleen, and Gladys Hill--and were well attended. A tasty banquet meal was served Saturday evening while everyone enjoyed great entertainment provided by the Taylor Czech Singing Group. This convention was the planning responsibility of the Capital North Conference with help provided by the Capital South Conference. Next year's convention in 2020, will be in San Antonio, with planning responsibility being the Capital South Conference (of which Faith Lutheran is a member) and help from the Capital North Conference.

### **Upcoming WELCA Calendar Events**

**September 12 (Thursday)** -- Coordinating Board Meeting for all board members @ 9:30 a.m. in the resource center.

**September 14 (Saturday)** -- Brunch with Bible Study and Unit Meeting for all women of Faith Lutheran; hosted by Lydia & Rebecca Circles @ 9 a.m. in the activity center.

### **Faith Lutheran Women's Bible Studies**

Ladies, if you aren't a member of either the Lydia or Rebecca Circle, we would love to have you join us for a monthly Bible Study with a short meeting afterwards to keep circle members updated on the status of ongoing projects. Following are dates, times, and places for the circles:

Lydia Circle with Ree Nurnberger as chair meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month in the resource center (Jan & Feb @ 4 p.m.; Mar-Oct @ 5 p.m.; Nov TBA).

Rebecca Circle with Charleen Schneider as chair meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month in the resource center @ 9:30 a.m.



MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

August, 2019

Child Development Center Playground Fund*Pastor Gary & Maxine Goodson**In Memory of John Olson*Child Development Center Scholarship Fund*Mike & Lynn Davidson**In Memory of John Olson*Emergency Reserve Fund*Anonymous**In Memory of John Olson**Spencer & Joyce Altman**In Memory of Ernest Spradling**Evelyn Buchhorn**In Memory of John Olson**Dennis & Helen Diedrick**In Memory of John Olson**Bertha Emshoff**In Memory of John Olson**George & Carol Holmgreen**In Memory of Ernest Spradling**Lee Roy Itz**In Memory of John Olson**Anne Kuempel**In Memory of Ernest Spradling**Joe & Suzette Kump**In Memory of John Olson**Joe & Suzette Kump**In Memory of Ernest Spradling**Shayne McWhorter**In Memory of John Olson**Pat Meiske**In Memory of John Olson**Johnnie & Dorothy Mogonye**In Memory of John Olson**Johnnie & Dorothy Mogonye**In Memory of Ernest Spradling**Janice Moss**In Appreciation of Anne Kuempel**Ben & Karen Noyes**In Memory of John Olson**Clyde & Joyce Olson**In Memory of John Olson**Byron & Ella Rode**In Memory of John Olson**Sandra & John Williamson**In Memory of John Olson*Organ Fund*Pastor Alvin & Susan Epperson**In Memory of Ernest Spradling*Unified Budget*B. C. & Jackie Allen**In Memory of John Olson**Jane Harrell**In Memory of John Olson**Don & Jeanette Kuempel**In Memory of John Olson**Buster & Leona Schaefer**In Memory of John Olson**Verlene Schoen**In Memory of John Olson**Carl Schoener**In Memory of John Olson**Bea Templeton**In Memory of John Olson**Alan & Shelly Van Dyke**In Memory of John Olson*

**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.**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Praise Service 10:00 a.m.**

**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.**

Faith Lutheran Church  
6600 Woodrow Avenue  
Austin, Texas 78757-2596  
Septembet, 2019