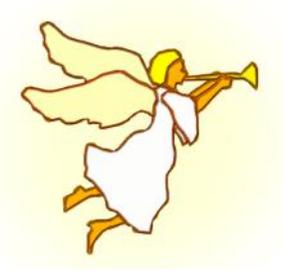




The Herald Faith Lutheran

December, 2019 - January, 2020

Upcoming Events



Congregation Meeting
December 1, 11:15 a.m.
Activity Center
see page 3

Decorate Worship Center for Advent & Christmas
December 3, 8:30 a.m.
Worship Center
see page 4

Women's Christmas Brunch
December 7, 9 a.m.
Activity Center
see page 7

Christmas Festival of Music & Banquet
December 8, 10 a.m.
Worship Center & Activity Center
see page 5



Caroling to Homebound
December 8
Meet in Activity Center after Christmas Banquet
see pages 4 & 6



CDC Christmas Program
December 12, 6:15 p.m.
Worship Center

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
December 24, 5:30 p.m.
Worship Center

Altar Guild Meeting
January 19
Room 203
see page 10

From Pastor Tom

The holiday season is upon us! Here at church we focus first on the season of Advent. We look forward to the birth of the Savior and also remember his promise to come again. God promised a Savior who would usher in the reign of God and peace on earth.

The angel said to the shepherds, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing to you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord"... and suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Folks my age remember comedian George Carlin, of 1970's fame. He has been gone for a number of years now, but I recently ran across an article, reprinted from *American Bungalow News*, which included the following paragraph written by the comedian/social commentator:

"The paradox of our time in history is that we have taller buildings, but shorter tempers; wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints. We spend more, but have less; we buy more, but enjoy it less. We have bigger houses and smaller families; more conveniences, but less time; we have more degrees, but less sense; more knowledge, but less judgment; more experts, but more problems; more medicine, but less wellness; we drink too much, smoke too much, spend too recklessly, laugh too little, drive too fast, get too angry too quickly, stay up too late, get up too tired, read too seldom, watch TV too much and pray too seldom...."

There may be elements of truth in all of that, though one might argue whether there is really anything new about the human condition as we prepare to begin a new year. The article left me yearning for the gospel. Where's the good news?

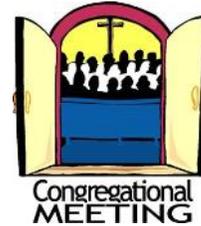
2020 is an election year. Social media and the daily news provide evidence to many that we are in the midst of a culture war, with our nation split right down the middle ideologically. Is our situation and our plight really so bleak? Yes, and no. Yes, we live in troubled times, but so did the saints who have gone before us. Yes, we may feel anxious and frustrated and powerless. But this, too, is nothing new.

Carlin continues, *"We've learned how to make a living, but not a life; we've added years to life, not life to years. We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet the new neighbor. We've conquered outer space, but not our inner space."*

George, YOU NEED A LITTLE CHRISTMAS! And so do we. Get ready to celebrate! Get ready to spread the news! God has not left us to wallow in despair. God does not even expect us to solve the human predicament. The *real* paradox of our time and of human history is about to be revealed. The omnipotent I AM has intervened and chosen not to abandon us! The Eternal Being was born in a stable, then nailed to a tree, then raised to life for you and me and all people. With the angels, all of creation smiles, then cries, then laughs and shouts for joy! Brothers and sisters in Christ at Faith Lutheran Church, CHRISTMAS JOY AND PEACE AND A BLESSED NEW YEAR TO YOU! All is well.



**Semi-Annual Congregation Meeting
December 1, after worship
Activity Center**



Agenda Items:

1. Approve 2020's proposed budget.
2. Appoint two lay delegates to the 2020 SWT Synod Assembly, June 5-7, in New Braunfels.
3. Approve constitution amendments required by the churchwide ELCA.
4. Receive an update on the call process.

Several copies of the constitution amendments are available in the narthex; please review them on church premises and return them to the narthex immediately for others to review.

You may also visit the SWT Synod website at www.swtsynod.org. Go to the Congregations tab (upper right), then Constitutions and Bylaws (upper left). Click "Amendments to Model Constitution (2019)," mid-page on right in blue font.

**Important--Please Read!!
Voting Requirements for Congregation Meetings**

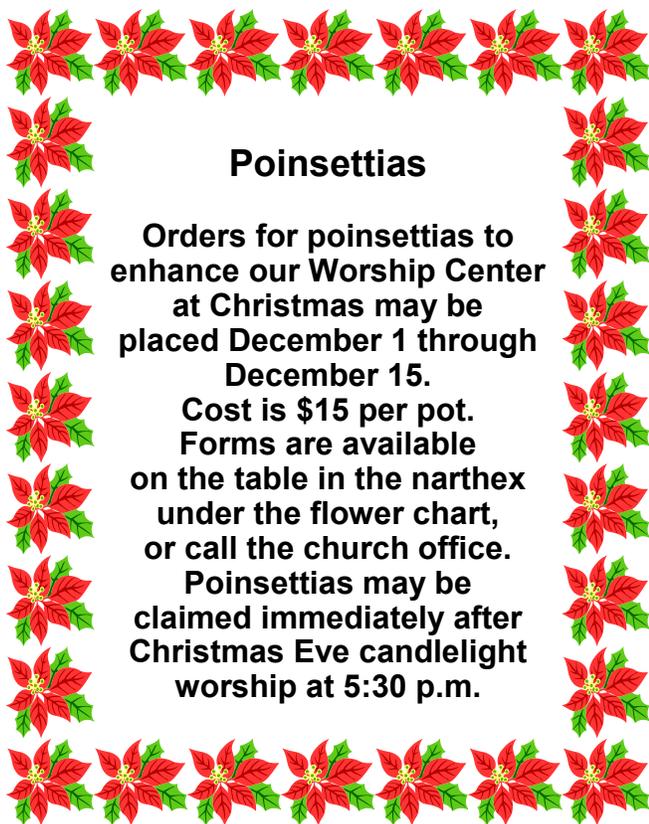
Faith Lutheran's constitution states that **voting members are confirmed members who have communed and made a contribution of record to this congregation at least once in the current or preceding calendar year.**

The sign-in sheets used at December's congregation meeting will ask you to affirm that you are a confirmed member of FLC who has communed and made a contribution of record in 2018 or 2019. 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.

In summary: Those FLC members who wish to speak and vote at any congregation meeting need to commune and make a recorded contribution at least once in the current or preceding calendar year. This rule is required by the ELCA of all its affiliated congregations.

Council Highlights from October 28:

- ◆ Approved the proposed 2020 budget to present to the congregation at its meeting on December 1.
- ◆ Agreed to hold a special worship service on December 8, followed by FLC's annual Christmas banquet.
- ◆ Decided to have the Goodwill donation bin removed, due to many unsightly items being left around it.
- ◆ Property Committee reported that several leaking roof drains have been repaired.
- ◆ CDC reported that it has received a high rating from Texas Rising Star, making it one of the best child care centers in the city.



Poinsettias

Orders for poinsettias to enhance our Worship Center at Christmas may be placed December 1 through December 15.

Cost is \$15 per pot. Forms are available on the table in the narthex under the flower chart, or call the church office.

Poinsettias may be claimed immediately after Christmas Eve candlelight worship at 5:30 p.m.



Come help decorate the Worship Center for Advent & Christmas!

Tuesday, December 3 at 8:30 a.m.

Help will again be needed on January 7, same time, same place, to take the decorations down.

Many hands make short work!

Join us for Caroling to the Homebound



CAROLING

Everyone is invited to sing songs of joy to our homebound members on Sunday, December 8.

Meet in the activity center after the congregation Christmas banquet. Please add your voice to spread Christmas cheer! No singing experience required!

Coordinated by the Outreach Committee





PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR

**CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL OF MUSIC
DURING WORSHIP
DECEMBER 8, 10 A.M.**

**FOLLOWED BY FAITH LUTHERAN'S
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BANQUET
11:30 A.M. IN THE ACTIVITY CENTER**

**FAITH'S CHURCH COUNCIL WILL PROVIDE:
HAM, SAUSAGE, LASAGNA, TAMALES, BREAD, & DRINKS.**

**CONGREGATION MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO BRING:
A SIDE DISH OR DESSERT REFLECTING YOUR CULTURAL HERITAGE
OR A FAVORITE CHRISTMAS DISH.**

BRING FAMILY & FRIENDS TO SHARE CHRISTMAS JOY!!



Community Christmas Events

Christmas Concert Benefit for Drive a Senior North Central Austin - St. Louis Catholic Church, December 6, at 7:30 p.m. A free-will donation will be collected in lieu of admission. Please come enjoy a dynamic evening of joyful music and generosity of spirit!

Christmas Vespers will be presented by Texas Lutheran University at St. Martin's Lutheran Church on December 15, at 4 p.m. This service is free; no reserve tickets are required.



Caroling to the Homebound – Sunday, December 8

Come help spread Christmas cheer to Faith's homebound members. After our Christmas fellowship meal, we'll carpool together (around 1 p.m.) to visit and serenade four or five of our homebound members. **The ability to carry a tune is not a requirement – a jolly Ho! Ho! Ho! will suffice.**

Upbring Angel Tree Is Here!

More than 2,000 Texas children depend on Foster In Texas every year to provide safe, loving foster homes. Foster parents have the unique opportunity to give a child a second chance at childhood, helping them to heal and move on from the circumstances that brought them to foster care.

We have the opportunity to help make Christmas extra special for these children who have been through so much in their young lives. **A Christmas tree containing the names and wish lists of 30 special angels is at the back of the church.** Instructions are on a sign near the tree and Outreach Committee members will be available to answer questions. Deadline for bringing wish list items to the church is **December 9!**

Community First! Village of Lights

Saturday, December 14 5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

With more than 250,000 Christmas lights choreographed to holiday music, the Community First! Village of Lights is one of the biggest Christmas light displays in Central Texas! It's also a great opportunity to do some holiday shopping. Their Advent Market offers unique, handcrafted gifts created by formerly homeless artisans and makers who live in the Village. Food, snacks, and beverages will be available for purchase at the Goodness Grill. Your purchases help their neighbors who have experienced homelessness earn a dignified income.

Let the church office know if you'd like to join the Faith carpool! The more, the merrier! *Complimentary parking is available at the Travis County Expo Center and buses will transport us to and from the Village.*



SAVE THE DATE!

Healing Hearts Gala

Saturday, February 8, 2020 – The Westin, Domain

Envision a world without child abuse! Your support allows Upbring to develop and implement innovative, measurable programs to break the cycle of child abuse. Let Cathy Zwernemann know if you'd like to share a table. More info is available at www.Upbring.org/events.

Funeral Planning Seminar

Sunday, February 9, 2020 3-5 p.m.

As a follow-up to our "Medical End-of-Life" seminar last February, Nancy Walker, Executive Director of Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Texas will lead us in a discussion of how to make educated, practical funeral choices at the end of life. Invite your family, your friends, and your neighbors. Watch for more information in January in upcoming bulletins and on the Outreach page of Faith's website.



Church Bazaar

Bazaar setup started 12 noon Friday, November 1, with a number of congregation members showing up to help display items for Saturday's bazaar, November 2, from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. CDC staff as in past years was invited to purchase items from the bazaar starting at 3 p.m. Friday. The kitchen was staffed by Dot Olson's family who served breakfast tacos, cinnamon buns, chili, and coffee; many shoppers took advantage of taking a break from shopping to relax while eating a bite. There were many nice items for this year's sale and total proceeds for the bazaar were \$2,849.20, giving WELCA members a chance to provide financial assistance not only for projects within the church but to several local charities as well. As in past years, the bazaar was open Sunday morning after church for members to make last-minute purchases before the women and Boy Scouts packed up leftover bazaar items.

Door Prizes won were as follows: bowl w/plate-Wanda Muehlbrad; basket w/cup towels-Coleton Burrus; swan plate-Carol Sommers; foil carrier-Gill Garcia; Bar-B-Q set-JoAnn Jones; afghan-Bonnie Nauert; glass platter-Ann Harrison; Bacon Boss-Kyle Gillman; square pieced quilt-Gladys Hill; throw-Bertha Emshoff; salad bowl set-Rhonda Kunze; canister set-Therese Doss.

Silent Auction item winners were: flower quilt-Wanda Muehlbrad; air fryer-Chris Raemsch; breakfast basket-Pat Meiske; Bar-B-Q set-Helen Diedrick; cross-Ree Nurnberger; Santa Christmas hanging-Marianne Garcia; copper dolls -Marianne Garcia; copper figures-Frances Pierson; Longhorn pillow-Marianne Garcia; and afghan-Debbie Williams.

Tuesday morning several Nuts and Bolts members loaded packed boxes of leftover items into the vehicles of Wanda Muehlbrad, Melvin Rose, and Charleen Schneider who delivered their loads to three different Good Will locations. We were delighted with the success of the bazaar and the help received, so current plans are for Faith to have another bazaar in 2020! WELCA wishes to give a great big "Thank You" to everyone who helped in any way at all as "it takes a whole congregation to have a successful bazaar."

WELCA 2020 Handbooks

Any information that needs to be updated in the new handbook--officers, any changes, etc.--should be given to Charleen Schneider for input as soon as possible.

Upcoming Events

December 7: The **Christmas Brunch/Social** will be here before you know it. Mark it on your calendars and plan to come! Linda and Sissie Johnson have volunteered to plan the program to celebrate the Christmas season. The event is hosted by both the Lydia and Rebecca Circles and is for all women of the church and any guests you may wish to bring with you as well as a brunch or breakfast dish to share. After the brunch, we will have entertainment with games and prizes. For those who drew names last December, there will be a Prayer Partner Gift Exchange and, for those who wish to participate for 2020, Prayer Partner names will again be drawn. Hope to see all of you women there!

January 9: Coordinating Board Meeting @ 9:30 a.m. in the Resource Center

February 8: Valentine Brunch/Unit Meeting @ 9 a.m. in the Activity Center

March 7: Capital North/Capital South Conference at Abiding Love, Austin, on Saturday, March 7. Mark your calendars now so you won't forget to attend.

Faith Lutheran Women's Bible Studies

Ladies, if you aren't a member of either the Lydia or Rebecca circles, 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 the regular dates, times, and places for the circles; however, neither circle will meet during December since the annual Christmas Brunch/Social is planned for Saturday, December 7, to which all ladies are invited.

Lydia Circle with Ree Nurnberger as chair meets the 2nd Monday of each month in the Resource Center (January & February @ 4 p.m.; March-October @ 5 p.m.; November @ 4 p.m.).

Rebecca Circle with Charleen Schneider as chair meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month in the Resource Center at 9:30 a.m.

Worship & Music



FAITH RINGERS
Adult Handbell Group

Practices:
December 4 at 7 p.m.
December 15 & 22 after worship
First practice in 2020: January 8,
at 7 p.m.

Play for worship:
December 8
December 24

YOUTH RINGERS

Practices:
December 15 & 22 after worship

Play for worship:
December 8
December 24

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.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

November 3	74
November 10	75
November 17	74

**Retirement & Nursing Center
on Burnet Lane**

On November 7, eleven residents and staff
plus three members of Faith worshiped
together in services conducted
by Pastor Tom. The next services
will be held December 5 & January 2,
at 10:30 a.m.
All are welcome!

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
Aug.	\$ 20,395	\$ 21,627	-\$ 1,232
Sept.	\$ 16,344	\$ 15,009	+\$ 1,335
Oct.	\$ 16,756	\$ 16,424	+\$ 332
YTD	\$173,832	\$193,658	-\$ 19,826



Please Sign Up to Serve in 2020!

Lay readers, communion servers, assisting ministers, greeters, tellers,
ushers, acolytes, Altar Guild workers are all needed to assist before,
during, and after worship. Training will be provided as needed.
Contact the church office at 512-451-1116.

Members Serving in Worship December

All Sundays in December

Head Usher: Ben Noyes II
Greeter: Cathy Zwernemann
Tellers: Kris Edgerly, Anne Kuempel
Altar Guild Saturdays: Mary Beth Meiske, Chris Raemsch
Altar Guild Sundays: Helen Diedrick, Mary Beth Meiske,
 Ree Nurnberger



December 29—10:00 a.m.

Assisting Minister: 1 needed
Lay Reader: 1 needed
Communion Helpers: None needed; no Communion
Acolyte: 1 needed

Members Serving in Worship January

December 1—10:00 a.m.

Assisting Minister: 1 needed
Lay Reader: Helen Diedrick
Communion Helpers: Helen Diedrick, 2 needed
Acolyte: 1 needed

All Sundays in January

Head Usher: Dennis Johle
Greeter: 1 needed
Tellers: 2 needed
Altar Guild Saturdays: Rhonda Kunze, Viola Kunze
Altar Guild Sundays: Mary Beth Meiske, Dorothy Mogonye

December 8—Festival of Music—10:00 a.m.

Assisting Minister: Carol Roberts
Lay Reader: Helen Diedrick
Communion Helpers: Helen Diedrick, 2 needed
Acolyte: 1 needed

January 5—10:00 a.m.

Assisting Minister: 1 needed
Lay Reader: 1 needed
Communion Helpers: 3 needed
Acolyte: 1 needed

December 15—Praise Worship—10:00 a.m.

Assisting Ministers: Praise Team
Lay Reader: Praise Team
Communion Helpers: 3 needed
Acolyte: 1 needed

January 12—10:00 a.m.

Assisting Minister: 1 needed
Lay Reader: 1 needed
Communion Helpers: 3 needed
Acolyte: 1 needed

December 22—10:00 a.m.

Assisting Minister: Ben Noyes III
Lay Reader: 1 needed
Communion Helpers: 3 needed
Acolyte: 1 needed

January 19—Praise Worship—10:00 a.m.

Assisting Ministers: Praise Team
Lay Reader: Praise Team
Communion Helpers: 3 needed
Acolyte: 1 needed

December 24—Christmas Eve Candlelight—5:30 p.m.

Assisting Minister: Carol Roberts
Lay Reader: Carol Roberts
Communion Helpers: 3 needed
Acolyte: 1 needed



January 26—10:00 a.m.

Assisting Minister: 1 needed
Lay Reader: 1 needed
Communion Helpers: 3 needed
Acolyte: 1 needed



Youth & Parish Education

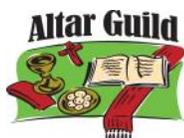
As we approach the holiday season, Felix, Destani, Emily, and Jacob look forward to participating in the Festival of Music service on December 8, with readings, bells, and musical performances in the Activity Center before the meal. After the Christmas banquet, we will join the carolers for an afternoon of singing to the homebound. We will give each homebound member a gift that we made for them.

At each Advent service in December the youth will light the Advent candles and do readings. On December 22, we will meet after worship and practice bells with the Faith Ringers for our Christmas Eve performance. We will have our Christmas party afterward in room 201 with a Secret Santa gift exchange and holiday goodies.

After the Christmas break, we will continue in January with middle and high school Sunday School in room 201 at 11:15 a.m. Misty will lead the kinder and elementary Sunday School in room 209. Bells practice will start on January 19, at 11:45 a.m. First English youth and friends will join us.

Jacob will attend a confirmation retreat January 10-12. He will continue his monthly lessons with Pastor Tom, plus confirmation Sunday School on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

Have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Altar Guild will meet in room 203 on Sunday, January 19, at 11:15 a.m. This meeting is for all current members and anyone interested in being a Saturday or Sunday worker.

Time commitment for Altar Guild is reasonable and the experience is very rewarding.

If you have questions or concerns, please visit with me.

Thank you -- Mary Beth



2019 Contributions:

The deadline for contributions to be reflected in your 2019 statements will be Tuesday, December 31, at noon. Please be sure to get your 2019 offerings to the church office before that time.

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

November, 2018

CDC Scholarship Fund

Johnnie & Dorothy Mogonye

In Memory of Nathan Hein

Emergency Reserve Fund

Joe & Suzette Kump

*In Honor of Angeline Harrison's
90th Birthday*

Joe & Suzette Kump

In Memory of Nathan Hein

Pat Meiske

In Memory of Nathan Hein

Leonard & Dorothy Mitschke

In Memory of Norm, Jean, & Nathan Hein

Ben & Karen Noyes

In Memory of Nathan Hein

Media & Technology Fund

Mike & Lynn Davidson

In Memory of Nathan Hein

Unified Budget

Patrick & Liz Wysocki

In Memory of Nathan Hein

Youth Fund

Anne Kuempel

In Memory of Helen DeWitt



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

Sextons: 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
Dec. 2019-Jan. 2020