



The Herald Faith Lutheran

August, 2020



Faith's worship services will continue to be livestreamed until further notice, on Sundays at 10 a.m. Please view our services using the Facebook or YouTube links on FLC's website *FaithLutheranAustin.org*.

A phone-in option is also available for those without internet access.

On August 5, Pastor Tom will resume Wednesday prayer services using Zoom, at noon.

Sunday Bible study for adults will resume on August 9, from 11:15 a.m. until noon, also using Zoom.

Please see pages 2 & 4 for more information.



From Pastor Tom

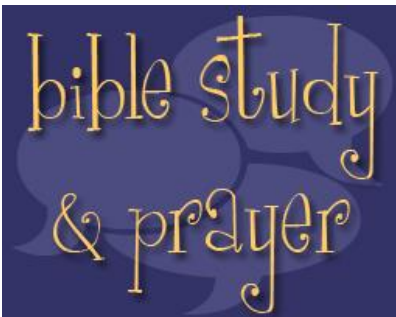
Luke writes about the early church, "Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread... with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people." (Acts 2:46-47) The author of Hebrews writes, "Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together..." (Hebrews 10:23-25)

Meeting together, worshipping and praying together, eating together, working together, encouraging one another—united by the Spirit, fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ has been central to the life of the Church from the very beginning. The past months have been difficult for people across the nation and around the world for many reasons. As I write, Covid-19 cases and hospitalizations remain high in our area. The Church grieves and prays for all who suffer even as we long to once again be together with Christian friends. Meeting together right now would not promote the health and "goodwill of all the people." "Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful." We will meet again!

Until we are able to do so in person, I am happy to announce a couple of additional opportunities to stay connected at FLC using technology. Prior to the pandemic, I continued a practice begun by Pastor Gary and met with a group of members every Wednesday at noon for prayer. Beginning on August 5, I will do so again every Wednesday via a Zoom meeting. FLC members who wish to participate may contact Steve and Cathy Zwernemann who will send a link to join either by internet or telephone.

Starting August 9, I will lead a Sunday morning Bible class following online worship. The class will also be a Zoom meeting to which FLC members are invited, 11:15 a.m. – 12:00 noon. Again, the internet link or phone number may be obtained from Cathy and Steve Zwernemann.

Both of these weekly gatherings will be informal in nature. The prayer meeting will allow time for participants to talk and share prayer concerns, and the Bible class will not be a 45 minute lecture by the pastor! All who attend will be welcome to join in conversation. May God bless our time "together" even while we are apart. God be with you 'til we meet (in person) again!





Council Highlights from May 25, 2020

- ♦ Jacob Dush presented his confirmation questions & answers in advance of his confirmation on May 31.
- ♦ The spring congregation meeting has been postponed from June 7 to June 21, and will be conducted electronically. Eligible voters will be provided with prior instructions for joining the meeting either online or by telephone.
- ♦ The council retreat scheduled for June 27 has been canceled.
- ♦ In-person worship will not resume in June due to continuing concerns over the pandemic.
- ♦ The congregation budget is currently showing a surplus due to reduced expenses, but CDC's funds may be depleted in July.

Council Highlights from June 22, 2020

- ♦ Council members do not think a return to in-person worship is safe at this time; we will continue to livestream worship and are investigating an audio option using telephones for those who are not internet users.
- ♦ Pastor Tom's contract with FLC has been renewed through September. He will be on vacation July 24-August 3; we will arrange to have supply pastors on July 26 and August 2.
- ♦ The Call Committee is maintaining contact with a primary pastoral candidate and is determining how best to proceed during the pandemic.
- ♦ CDC has an enrollment of around 30 children including the Summer Youth Program. That's approximately half the usual summer enrollment.



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
May	\$ 10,256	\$ 7,240	+\$ 3,016
June	\$ 12,022	\$ 7,712	+\$ 4,310
YTD	\$ 88,822	\$ 63,781	+\$ 25,041



Bread for All Pantry

The number of families served has decreased from a high of 125/week in March, April, and May to a more normal 60/week in June. The number of new neighbors served each week has also returned to near-normal levels. **THANK YOU** for supporting the pantry through your monetary donations since making a grocery store run remains a scary scenario for some.

Write checks payable to: Bread for All Pantry. **Mail them to:** Abiding Love Lutheran Church, 7210 Brush Country Road, Austin 78749.

The pantry needs: strong reusable bags, egg cartons, and non-perishable food. If you have donations, call Cathy Z to arrange a pick-up.

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Sunday Worship Service via Telephone

On July 2, we began offering “phone-in” church. Through our Zoom account, you can use your **landline telephone or cell phone** to call and **LISTEN** to the live-streamed worship services.

1. Dial: **1-346-248-7799** (between 9:50 and 10:00 a.m.)
2. You will be asked for the Meeting ID. Enter: **380-097-9062 #** (*the pound sign*)
3. You will be asked for the Participant ID. Enter: **#** (*the pound sign*)
4. You will hear this message: “You are now in the waiting room. You will be admitted soon.”
Be patient and we will connect you to the service in a few minutes.
5. To end the call, simply hang up.

The call-in information/codes above remain the same each week.

Please note: Depending on your phone plan, you could incur long-distance charges as the phone number is not a local 512 number.

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Wednesday Noon Prayer Time AND Sunday Morning Bible Study

As Pastor Tom mentioned in his article, we will begin offering these opportunities in August. You will be able to access them using your **computer**, your **cell phone**, OR your **landline telephone**. Contact Cathy or Steve Zwernemann for info on how to join. We hope to see/hear you there!

We can still be church *together* even while *apart*!



Ladies, since we are as yet unable to gather for our monthly Bible studies during our circle meetings, I hope you are continuing to enjoy the monthly Bible study in ELCA's *Gather* magazine. In June's issue, the "Just Love" series, session 1 of the lesson focused on Mary and Martha and the story of their brother Lazarus. The July/August issue includes the 2nd and 3rd sessions of "Just Love" and covers scripture verses Exodus 1: 8-22. Session 2 includes the story of the despised tax collector Zacchaeus, and session 3 examines the lesser known story of the midwives Shiphrah and Puah who refused Pharaoh's order to kill all Hebrew boys, thus saving the life of Moses. Session 2 widens our understanding of "just love" beyond the family into the community while session 3 considers how "just love" moves us beyond family and community to injustice at a nation's highest levels.

As the coronavirus is still with us, we do not know whether Faith Lutheran will be having their annual bazaar in November; however, all this "stay home" time currently on our hands is a good time for all of us to start working on projects for the bazaar. It's your chance to come up with some creative ideas of your own! If it is decided we are unable to have a bazaar this November, we could perhaps look forward to planning one at a later date. Will keep you posted!

Also, now is the time women of the church usually focus on gathering school supplies for Lutheran World Relief (LWR) School Kits sent around the world to those in need of supplies to further their education. So, please think about picking up some of the following listed items while shopping for your groceries: 70 page spiral notebooks (wide or college-ruled); #2 pencils, (unsharpened); blue or black ballpoint pens (**no gel**); pencil sharpeners; 1-1/2 inch erasers; 24 or 36 count crayons; 12-inch rulers; and scissors (blunt). Of those items, the ones needed most to fill more kits are: **pencil sharpeners, crayons, rulers, and scissors**. You can collect those items in your homes until church is again open for fellowship. Although LWR's In-Gathering of quilts and kits in April was postponed until the fall, no word has been received as to when or if that will happen. Faith's women would need to finish packing their LWR quilts and kits before such in-gathering is scheduled, since the March 27 packing date for LWR quilts and kits had to be canceled. As soon as I learn anything about LWR kits, I will let you know.

Ladies, please remember: If you don't know what to do with yourself, find some material suitable for quilting and cut out 5-1/2 inch or 6-1/2 inch or 9 inch-squares for the women of the church who piece together quilt tops for LWR quilts. Those quilters would love your help cutting squares for them! Also, keep clipping those canceled postage stamps to help cut shipping costs for LWR kits and quilts, leaving a 1/4 inch margin all around each stamp. During this pandemic many people need help supplying food for their families, and your support for the Bread for All Pantry by providing financial assistance, empty egg cartons, and strong shopping bags would be much appreciated. These are just some of the ways you can continue to help others even though you are staying at home!

When it is considered safe for us to gather in groups, I am sure we all look forward to that time when we can again join together in doing "God's Work, Our Hands." Please stay safe, wear your masks, and practice social distancing! If you have any questions related to the women of the church issues, please do not hesitate to give me a call.

Peace be with you,

Charleen Schneider,
WELCA President

From Altar Guild



Flowers have sure brightened our Sunday services through the years.

The Worship & Music Committee was told our weekly Sunday services viewed via YouTube and Facebook due to COVID, are missing flowers. I made a bouquet of flowers on July 12, in appreciation for Cathy Zwernemann serving as assisting minister since March 22. The July 19 bouquet was in appreciation for all Misty Dush has been doing to get our Sunday services online. Carol Roberts has been offered the July 26 bouquet in appreciation for filling in while Pastor Tom is out.

If you signed up for flowers the remainder of March through August, I will contact you in the next week.

Jack Brown, our florist, decided to retire. I had the pleasure of talking with Jack in late May and expressed our appreciation for all the years he and his family provided Sunday bouquets, palm branches, Easter lilies, and poinsettias. He shared with me his grandfather first provided flowers for Faith, then his father, and then he took over the business. I told him I was happy he was going to have more time with family and friends.

Karen Noyes talked with Jack's wife Sandy the second week of July. Sandy shared that Jack had cancer, which was only discovered recently and he passed on in late June. A memorial service is planned on August 2, at Gethsemane Lutheran Church. I sent Sandy a card on behalf of Faith, expressing our condolences and appreciation for the years of service provided by Brown's Floral.

I am looking for a new florist. The challenge is finding one that will provide a bouquet for what we have been paying, \$30. I will give you an update next month.

If you have any questions or concerns, please give me a call.

Mary Beth Meiske
Altar Guild Chair



Youth & Parish Education



Felix and Destani have returned from Camp Chrysalis where they were working, due to a decision by Cross Trails ministry to cancel the remainder of summer camp sessions because of the pandemic. They will need to quarantine for 14 days. Please keep them in your prayers.

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

June-July, 2020



CDC Playground Fund

Mike & Lynn Davidson

In Memory of Bill Thompson

Emergency Reserve Fund

Carolyn King

In Memory of Bill Thompson

Anne Kuempel

In Memory of Linda Brown

Joe & Suzette Kump

In Memory of Josef Kump and Oliver Johnson

Johnnie & Dorothy Mogonye

In Memory of Bill Thompson

Ben & Karen Noyes

In Memory of Bill Thompson

Joe & Sandi Pennington

In Memory of Flo & Bill Thompson

Billy & Judy Reager

In Memory of Charlotte Moore

Unified Budget

Loretta Spradling

In Memory of Ernest Spradling

Member Updates

Rite of Confirmation:

Jacob Dush was confirmed by Pastor Tom Kesselring on Pentecost Sunday, May 31.

Transfers:

Phil & Leadema Radford transferred their membership back to Hope Lutheran Church in The Villages, Florida, on June 8.

Deaths:

William (Bill) Thompson died on June 28. His funeral was held at Beck Funeral Home in Round Rock on July 3. Burial followed at Capital Parks Cemetery in Pflugerville. Pastor Tom Kesselring officiated..

Linda Brown died on June 29. Her graveside service was held at Capital Parks Cemetery in Pflugerville on July 3. Pastor Karl Gronberg 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 worshipping, caring, learning community.**

August, 2020

Faith Lutheran Church
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Austin, Texas 78757-2596