



The Herald Faith Lutheran Church

June/July, 2023

Weekly Sunday Worship Service
In-person & live streamed on
Facebook at 10 a.m.

Wednesday Prayer Service at noon on
Zoom

Holy Fork in the Road Ministry

After much deliberation, the church council has decided to go forward with Holy Fork in the Road Ministry, a study of where we have been as a congregation and where we want to go. This past week we signed the Covenant to engage that process and our *first session with Pastor Mills will be on Sunday June 4th following the worship service.* We will provide the sandwiches that day but please bring a potluck dessert of your choice! Information about subsequent meals will be announced so watch your bulletin and Herald for more details. Anyway, once we have had a bite to eat, there will be a meeting which will include an introduction to the Holy Fork in the Road Ministry. The plan for future meetings is twice per month on the following schedule:

June 4	July 2 & 16	August 6 & 20	September 3 & concluding on September 17
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Upcoming special events in June:

3rd Piano Recital and reception
4th Holy Fork in the Road with luncheon
25th Installation of new Church Council

Upcoming special events in July:

2nd Holy Fork in the Road
16th Holy Fork in the Road
23rd Christmas in July
30th Gospel Service



At our semi-annual congregation meeting I was elected to serve as Faith's delegate to the Southwestern Texas Synod Assembly. The Assembly this year included many agenda items similar to years past but the format was very different. First, it was divided into two days, with presentations and learning opportunities on April 22, and the business portions of the assembly conducted on May 6. In addition, while delegates from the eight conferences could attend in person, most attended online via Zoom. All of the voting was conducted using a polling website. Videos and reports from both days are available on the Synod website at <https://www.swtsynod.org/pages/assembly>.

The theme for the Assembly was "Mientras Tanto," a Spanish phrase meaning "Meanwhile" or "In the Meantime." Last year's Assembly dwelt in the story of Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:26-40). This year we dwelt in the story of Paul's conversion (Acts 9:1-19). The two stories may seem unrelated but they are connected in Scripture, being written one right after the other and connected by the words "mientras tanto," "meanwhile." While the people and congregations of the SWT Synod live and dwell in the story of our one Lord Jesus Christ, we also dwell in the reality that many stories are occurring at the same time. God's presence is in many places working within many different people and communities.

The learning day featured Keynote speaker, Dr. Torres-Hostos from the University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley. Relevant to the theme, he addressed our need to engage, understand, and work with others who differ from ourselves. The Business meeting included the adoption of an Agenda and Standing Rules, a Bulletin of Reports, presentations from the ELCA, ELEA, LSTC, TLU, Wartburg, and the ELCA Youth Gathering.

Of special interest to me was a video regarding a new resource made available by the Synod, the Holy Fork in the Road Ministry. Upon the recommendation of Bishop Sue Briner, the FLC Council has entered into a Covenant agreeing to utilize this process of discernment during our time of transition. The program will be led Rev. J. Mills, a member of the SWT Synod Staff. There will be several times this summer when FLC members will have the opportunity to participate. May God bless our time and ministry together!

In Christ,
Pastor Tom

Thank you

Many thanks to our Church Council members who will be installed during the worship service on
June 25; terms begin July 1:

President: Kent Saathoff
Vice-President: Jason Stoneberg
Treasurer: Steve Zwernemann
Secretary: Karen Noyes
CDC: Helen Diedrick
Outreach: Carol Roberts
Property: Mike Davidson
Worship & Music: Karen McGuire
Youth & Parish Education: Jane Lozano

We also thank outgoing Council members for their faithful service:

Dennis Diedrick (President)
Mary Beth Meiske (Secretary)

WELCA NEWS --

Trinity Care Nursing Home Cookies -- For a number of years Faith Lutheran has been participating in gathering cookies for residents of the Trinity Care Nursing Home in Round Rock, and on Sundays, July 2nd and July 9th, members are encouraged to bring packaged, store-bought cookies (w/o nuts) that will be delivered to the nursing home in mid-July. Those nursing home residents always eagerly anticipate receiving those cookies and the Women of the Church appreciate your help with this project.

LWR School Kits -- Ads for school items on sale will soon appear, giving Faith members the opportunity to buy school items for Lutheran World Relief School Kits at lower prices. Those school kits are sent all over the world to help kids as they strive to receive their education during difficult times caused by famine, war, and other disasters. The items needed for each kit are: four 70-page spiral notebooks (wide or college-ruled); five #2 pencils (**unsharpened**); five blue or black ballpoint pens (**no gel**); pencil sharpener; 1-1/2 inch eraser; 24 or 36 count crayons; 12-inch ruler; and scissors (**blunt**). Note: Most needed item is the spiral notebook! WELCA already has a good supply of pencils and pens; but crayons, sharpeners, and scissors are in short supply. A list of the School Kit items can always be found in the small pocket above the LWR Collection Box in the Narthex. The congregation's help gathering these items for LWR's November 1st In-Gathering will be much appreciated.

WELCA Handbook for 2023 -- If you haven't gotten your copy of the new WELCA Handbook for 2023, copies are still available in the Narthex. If no copies remain, just put your name and telephone number on the sign-up sheet provided and a copy will be made for you.

Upcoming WELCA Meetings --

June 2 -- Sewing & Social Etc Group at 9:30A in Room 206

June 9 -- Sewing & Social Etc Group at 9:30A in Room 206

June 12 -- Rebecca Circle w/Unit Meeting at 3P in Room 206; Bible Study: Lois Larson; Devotion: Gladys Hill

June 16 -- Sewing & Social Etc Group at 9:30A in Room 206

June 20 -- Quilting Group at 9:30A in Oliver House

June 23 -- Sewing & Social Etc Group at 9:30A in Room 206

June 30 -- Sewing & Social Etc Group at 9:30A in Room 206

July 7 -- Sewing & Social Etc Group at 9:30A in Room 206

July 10 - **NO Rebecca Circle w/Unit Meeting** (It's Vacation Time!)

July 14 -- Sewing & Social Etc Group at 9:30A in Room 206

July 18 -- Quilting Group at 9:30A in Oliver House

July 21 -- Sewing & Social Etc Group at 9:30A in Room 206

July 28 -- Sewing & Social Etc Group at 9:30A in Room 206

The hot days of summer will soon be the norm for all of us. Please keep cool and have a great summer.

Charleen Schneider, WELCA Unit Leader at Faith Lutheran



"If you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday." Isaiah 58: 10

CHRISTMAS IN JULY – On **Sunday, July 23**, we will be celebrating Christmas in July during worship with the opportunity to bring gifts once again for a worthwhile cause. This year we have selected **Ascension Lutheran Medical Lending Closet** as our recipient. Once a month our **Nuts and Bolts** group goes to Ascension to help with repairs needed on medical equipment and battery operated wheelchairs. We have learned that there is a great need for new batteries for wheelchairs, which sometimes require more than one battery and the batteries are not inexpensive. Anyone can borrow from the supply closet at no cost, so there is no income generated to purchase any supplies. So, this year, we will be collecting money to purchase batteries for the wheelchairs, and possibly some other needed medical supplies. Beginning **Sunday, July 2, 2023**, donations can be made to the church. If donating by check, make it payable to Faith and note on the check that it is for **Christmas in July**, or the **Medical Lending Closet**. Thank you for your support and donations!

ACL BREAD FOR ALL FOOD PANTRY – Thank you for your ongoing support of the **Austin City Lutherans Bread for All Food Pantry!** As food prices continue to increase there is an even greater need for donations. The more food that is donated the less money they need to spend purchasing food to stock the shelves. The pantry is always in need of the following items: **Canned fruits and vegetables, canned meats, canned tomatoes, peanut butter, jelly and diapers**. But any pantry item can be donated. Items can be left on the table in the narthex. Financial donations are also needed, either through Faith (write BFA at the bottom of your check) or directly through the **ACL website** – www.breadforall-atx.org. Thank you for “answering the call” to feed the hungry!

ACL MOVE-IN MINISTRY – Did you know that **ACL's newest ministry** is helping formerly homeless families get set up in a new home? As you can imagine, these families have nothing as far as household items to furnish a home. If you have furniture in good condition (no mattresses) that you'd like to donate to this cause, or if you are able to volunteer to help pick-up donations, or deliver items to the recipient's homes, please contact Mike Davidson or Steve Zwernemann for information.

HOMEBOUND MINISTRY – If you, or your family member or friend of Faith, would like to receive communion, visits, phone calls, or prayers with someone from the committee please let us know. Please contact the church office, or any member of the **Outreach Committee** listed at the bottom of this page. Help us, help you, to stay in touch with the church!

GREETERS NEEDED! – Help is needed on Sunday mornings greeting members and visitors as they enter the church. Sign-up sheet can be found in the narthex. This is an important part of our ministry by welcoming all who enter to worship. For more information please contact Gladys Hill or one of the Outreach Committee members.

Outreach Committee Members: Lynn Davidson, Anne Kuempel, Sue Saathoff, Cathy and Steve Zwernemann, and Carol Roberts (Council Representative).



Council Highlights from April 24, 2023 Meeting:

- Spring Congregation Meeting on Sunday, April 30 with annual reports, voting on 2023-2024 nominees for Council and 2024 Nominating Committee, along with a Call Committee update.
- Youth & Parish Education Committee's Easter egg hunt after worship services was a tremendous success with ~6 dozen eggs found in the CDC courtyard.
- Audit Committee Ben Noyes Sr, Byron Rode and Austin Gaskamp continue to meet and will complete their work soon.
- Sharing of the Peace restrictions have been lifted; you are welcome to move around during this time of the service if you are comfortable doing so. Please be mindful of others' potential distancing comfort.
- Congregation is invited to CDC's Graduation Program on Wednesday, May 17 at 6 PM.

Be sure to read the *Herald* newsletter and Sunday bulletins for a complete update on Faith's activities and opportunities to participate.

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

May, 2023

Emergency Reserve
by Joe & Suzette Kemp
In memory of Frank Ivy

Assisting Ministers in June & July:

June 4	Cathy
June 11	Carol
June 18	Karen
June 25	Lynn
July 2	Carol
July 9	Lynn
July 16	Karen & Kris
July 23	Cathy
July 30	Open



As a result of the 36 Easter lilies we purchased this year, a donation check from FLC is being sent to DHR. Here is the reply I received when sharing with DHR that a donation would soon be received: *"How kind that Faith Lutheran Church is giving a donation to DHR! We truly appreciate your church's generosity and support of Down Home Ranch's mission. You all are truly making a huge difference in empowering and enriching the lives of people with disabilities. — Laura."*

Thanks to all who purchased the lilies this year. It is hard to believe, but in a few months it will be time to order poinsettias. — Mary Beth Meiske, Altar Guild Chair and Flower Coordinator

June Altar Guild Volunteers:

Saturday: Karen Noyes

Sunday: Helen Diedrick
Mary Beth Meiske
Wanda Muehlbrad

July Altar Guild Volunteers

Saturday: Mary Beth Meiske

Sunday: Helen Diedrick
Mary Beth Meiske
Wanda Muehlbrad



**Gospel Service
July 30
10 a.m.**

Please join the Faith Gospel Singers in making a joyful noise to the Lord as we sing some of our favorite old hymns.

Worship Attendance:

Figures are approximate, since multiple people may attend via each Facebook connection.

	<u>In-person</u>	<u>Facebook</u>	<u>Total</u>
April 30	53	73	126
May 7	33	85	118
May 14	54	99	153
May 21	38	61	99

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

6600 Woodrow Avenue

Austin, Texas 78757

Office: 512-451-1116

Website: FaithLutheranAustin.org

Faith is a *"Reconciling in Christ"* Congregation

Sunday morning worship 10:00 a.m.

Every 3rd Sunday - Praise Service 10:00 a.m.

Adult Bible Study 11:15 a.m.

Wednesday Prayer via Zoom

12:00 p.m. Noon

Transition Pastor: Tom Kesselring

Organist: Renee Kesselring

Director of Handbells: Karen McGuire

Accountant: Lynn Davidson

Administrative Assistant: Missy Trimble

CDC Director: Melissa McCoy

**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.

June/July, 2023

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