



The Herald Faith Lutheran Church November, 2023



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

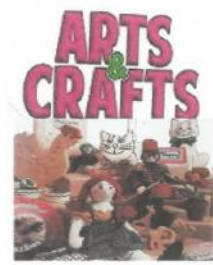
Wednesday Prayer Service at noon on
Zoom



Arts & Crafts/ Bake Sale

Where: Faith Lutheran Church
6600 Woodrow Avenue
Austin, TX 78757

When: 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Saturday, November 4th



We've been "shaking" things up around Faith--
"baking" goodies hard to resist and "making" arts and
craft items to help you get ready for Thanksgiving and
Christmas. Come see what we've got!



The Thanksgiving Feast

Thursday, November 16, 2023

Short worship service in the sanctuary at
4:30 followed by the feast at 5:00 until
6:30 in the Activity Center. Please feel
free to bring a dessert of your choice or a
sweet potatoes casserole.
Congregation members and CDC
families are invited

Church Updates:

Richard and Lois Larson transferred to
Faith from Emmanuel Lutheran
Church in Beresford, SD.



Gospel Service November 12 10 a.m.

Please join the Faith Gospel Singers
in making a joyful noise to the Lord

Dear FLC Family,



Aloha! Renee and I send greetings from Maui, Hawaii. We are blessed and awed by the beauty of God's creation. And, we are blessed to be a part of God's ministry at Faith Lutheran Church. Your gracious kindness to us is so appreciated. Mahalo! We look forward to working with you as God enables our "rebirth" at FLC. I will offer what support and assist as I can as we continue to pray and work to call a new full-time pastor who will lead our congregation and CDC into the future. To God be all thanks and praise!

Pastor Tom

Council Highlights from September 25, 2023:

- Discussed plans for the special congregation meeting to be held on October 15, at which a decision will be made regarding FLC's future. Lunch will be provided prior to the meeting.
- Finalized FLC and CDC proposed budgets for 2024, to be presented to the congregation for approval at its regular semi-annual meeting, to be held December 3.
- Agreed to hold our Christmas Festival of Music and Christmas banquet on December 10, during and after worship.
- Heard some options for improving communication with our community via web advertising and redesign of our website.
- God's Work Our Hands Sunday will be observed on October 8, by acknowledging all our efforts to serve our community this year. Refreshments will be provided.
- Faith will again sponsor an Angel Tree for Upbring this year.
- Trunk or Treat is planned for October 28.

Summary of Special Congregation Meeting on October 15, 2023

Forty-one eligible voters of Faith Lutheran Church met after worship and lunch on October 15, to determine FLC's path forward. This meeting was the culmination of seven prior meetings from June through September, six of which were led by Pastor J. Mills on behalf of the Southwestern Texas Synod. Three options were presented at those meetings for Faith members to consider:

- ⇒ Rebirth, involving intentional change to better meet the needs of the community where God has called us to serve;
- ⇒ Closure, involving distribution of FLC's assets to other ministries of our choice;
- ⇒ Continue as we are, but likely dependent on supply pastors rather than a called pastor.

Pastor Mills divided meeting attendees into four groups to discuss the three options once more, then each group reported back to the entire meeting. After those reports, a motion was presented and approved for the rebirth option, with 40 votes in favor and 1 vote against:

I move that we intentionally declare ourselves on a path of Rebirth and dedicate ourselves to at least 3 months of deep exploration and partnership with our Child Development Center in order to identify how we can, together, reflect shared values in our day-to-day life, as called by God: including worship, adult and intergenerational education, gathering opportunities and activities that build relationship and offer opportunities to experience God with one another; further details will be discussed separately and attached to these proceedings as necessary, naming responsibilities and accountability points with our leaders and siblings.

Plans to implement the rebirth option will be developed by the Church Council and shared with the congregation at our semi-annual congregation meeting on December 3.

December 3, 2023 Congregation Meeting

The regular December Congregation Meeting will be held on December 3, 2023 at 11:00 am immediately after worship. Business to be conducted will include:

- Approval of the 2024 Congregation and CDC budgets. The proposed budgets recommended by the Congregation Council are included in this issue of the Herald.
- Consider the affirmation of the Faith's Reconciling in Christ commitment.

In 2018 the Congregation voted to become a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Congregation. At that time, the only commitment presented to the congregation was that it adopt a welcome statement. The statement approved by the congregation and accepted by Reconciling Works was:

As followers of Christ, the people of Faith welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. All are welcome: your family, children, friends, spouses, partners, all of God's people in their diversity and uniqueness.

All have a place at God's table of grace and are welcome to fully participate in the ministry of Christ which we share.

We open our doors to all who may have been excluded because of sexual orientations, gender identities/expressions, race, economic status, ability, age, or station in life.

Since that time three other commitments have been required by Reconciling Works in order to be considered a RIC congregation:

>Be open to calling an LGBTQIA+ and Black, Brown, Indigenous, Person of Color (BIPOC) Rostered Leader.

>Allow the sanctuary/community space to be used for LGBTQIA+ weddings and blessings.

>Make a meaningful contribution annually to support the national RIC program.

- Elect delegates to the 2024 Southwestern Texas Synod Assembly May 3-5, 2024 in Corpus Christi, Texas.
- Receive a status report on the Rebirth option efforts approved at the October 15th Congregation meeting.

If you have any questions or comments about these items or have interest in being a delegate to the 2024 Synod Assembly feel free to contact Kent Saathoff, Council President.

Eligible Voter Information for those wishing to participate in the Semi-annual Congregation Meeting on December 3

Eligible voters are defined in our constitution as confirmed members of Faith who have both communed and made a contribution of record to this congregation at least once during the current or preceding calendar year (2022 or 2023). 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. Other members of your household may or may not be eligible to participate in the meeting, depending on their own communion and contribution records. Spouses share a contribution record, but confirmed youth and adult children must make contributions under their own name or envelope number to be considered eligible voters. This rule (C8.02) is required by the ELCA of all its affiliated congregations.

In summary: Any confirmed FLC member who wishes to speak and vote at the semi-annual congregation meeting on December 3 needs to have communed and made a recorded contribution at least once in the current or preceding calendar year. Deadline to do so for this meeting is November 26.

Questions may be directed to Karen Noyes, Council Secretary, by email or phone.



Arts & Crafts/Bake Sale in Faith's Activity Center -- Arts and crafts donated items (priced and ready to sell) can be brought to the church office during office hours 10 AM through 3 PM Monday through Thursday (November 3rd); however, baked items for the sale (priced, contents marked, and ready to sell) should be brought to the Activity Center no earlier than Friday (November 3rd) during set-up 9:30 AM through 12 Noon. All items--arts and crafts as well as baked goods--must be brought to the Activity Center by 7:30 AM on Saturday, November 4th. Start time for sale set-up is 9:30 AM Friday, November 3rd, with pre-sale for CDC teachers from 12 Noon to 1 PM. The Arts & Crafts/Bake Sale will be Saturday, November 4th, from 8 AM to 2 PM. After the sale, leftover items will be packed up until displayed for CDC families at CDC's Thanksgiving Feast on November 16th; therefore, Faith will **not** have an after-church sale on Sunday, November 5th. Any help from congregation members to assist with set-up and the sale will be much appreciated. Any questions, please call Charleen Schneider

WELCA's Thankoffering Service -- The Women's Thankoffering Service will be Sunday, November 26th. The Thankoffering Service has been a long-time event provided by the Women of the Church which they wish to continue celebrating; however, due to the limited number of women able to participate, the women will be providing only the first and 2nd readings, the brief history of the Women's Thankofferings, and the Offering Prayer. After the reading of the history of the Thankofferings, the women of the church and others wishing to give a thankoffering will go toward the front of the Sanctuary to place their thankofferings in the basket provided. Please make sure any envelope containing a "thankoffering" is marked "Thankoffering" as 100% of all thankoffering monies collected that Sunday will be sent to the ELCA church-wide office!

Christmas Gifts for Burnet Road Nursing Home (now Austin RNC) Residents -- WELCA members will again be gathering socks to give to those "20 nursing home residents least likely to receive visitors during the Christmas holidays." Collection boxes for the socks will be placed during mid-November in both the Narthex and the Church Office. Congregation members are encouraged to donate socks to help warm both the hearts and feet of those residents who will receive them!

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Friday, November 3rd, 9:30 AM-1 PM -- Set-up for the Arts & Crafts/Bake Sale in the Activity Center w/ pre-sale for CDC teachers 12 Noon-1 PM

Saturday, November 4th, 8 AM-2 PM -- Arts & Crafts/Bake Sale in Activity Center (workers to arrive by 7:30 AM; leftovers packed/stored in Rm 206 until Nov. 16th for CDC's Thanksgiving Feast)

Friday, November 10th -- **No** Sewing & Social, Etc Group (Charleen on vacation)

Monday, November 13th, 3 PM-4:30 PM -- Rebecca Circle/Unit Meeting in Room 206

Thursday, November 16th -- Leftover Arts & Crafts/Bake Sale items will be displayed in Activity Center by CDC personnel for CDC families during CDC's Thanksgiving Feast

Friday, November 17th, 9:30 AM-12 Noon - Sewing & Social, Etc Group in Room 206

Tuesday, November 21st, 9:30 AM-11:30 AM -- Quilting in the Oliver House

Friday, November 24th -- **No** Sewing & Social, Etc Group (Thanksgiving holidays)

Saturday, December 2nd, 9:30 AM-11:30 AM -- WELCA Christmas Brunch/Social in the Activity Center



Christmas Cheer!



It's time to begin thinking about how you will share the joy of Christmas with others. Here are some suggestions:

Upbring Angel Tree – In early November look for the Upbring Angel Tree filled with **20 angels** waiting to be “adopted.” If you want to participate but don't want to venture out to shop, speak with one of the members of the **Outreach committee** who will be near the tree. We will be happy to do the shopping for you.

ELCA Good Gifts – If you are looking for gift ideas that can really make a difference in someone's life, consider a gift through the **ELCA Good Gifts program**. Visit **www.goodgifts.elca.org** where you can choose your item, print a card to put under the tree and learn about the impact your gift will make. Choose from a variety of gifts such as a chick, a cow, a vaccination, or a backpack filled with food. Or, consider a hygiene kit, an environmentally friendly cookstove, or a computer for a community center. Happy shopping! *(For those without internet, a few printed catalogs will be available in mid-November.)*

ACL – Thank you for your continuing support of Austin City Lutherans. Current needs at BFA are listed here but any, and all contributions are greatly appreciated!

Pasta/spaghetti (the Central Texas Food Bank has not had any pasta for a few months)

Canned soups; Dry beans (pinto or black); Rice; Diapers - sizes 4, 5, 6

They We would also appreciate bags (paper with handles and strong reusable ones) since we go through a few hundred each week. If you are unable to shop, you can also make a **financial contribution** through your church offering. Simply indicate on your check the amount you would like to give to ACL. **Outreach Committee Members:** Lynn Davidson, Anne Kuempel, Sue Saathoff, Cathy and Steve Zwernemann, and Carol Roberts (Council Representative).

Memorials & Honorariums
October, 2023

Emergency Reserve

Pam Hamilton
Daniel & Glenda Jansky
Joe & Suzette Kump
Patrick & Liz Wysocki

In Memory Of Carl Schoener
In Memory Of Carl Schoener
In Memory Of Carl Schoener
In Memory of Rev. Norman & Jean Hein

Property Reserve

Mike & Lynn Davidson
Dennis & Helen Diedrick

In Memory Of Carl Schoener
In Memory Of Carl Schoener

Worship Attendance:

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

	<u>In-person</u>	<u>Facebook</u>
Sept 3	55	68
Sept 10	47	65
Sept 17	50	59
Sept 24	47	62
Oct 1	53	39
Oct 8	41	63
Oct 15	56	63
Oct 22	35	54

Save the Date!!
Christmas Festival of Music & Banquet
December 10 at 10 a.m.

Please plan to join us for our Christmas Festival of Music during worship on December 10, then stay for our Christmas Banquet after worship. Council members will provide main dishes, bread, and beverages. Congregation members are invited to bring a side dish, salad, or dessert reflecting your cultural heritage or a favorite family dish. We plan to include our CDC families, and we hope you'll invite family and friends as well.

November Altar Guild Volunteers:

Saturday: Mary Beth Meiske
Sunday: Helen Diedrick, Mary Beth Meiske, & Wanda Muehlbrad

Assisting Ministers in November

November 5 Lynn
November 12 Ben
November 19 Karen
November 26 Cathy



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.

November, 2023

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