

In This Issue

Scattered Thoughts

by Rev. Kerry Nelson, p. 2

Prayer Corner

by Peggy Porter, p. 2

Message from the Council President

by Yvonne Moody, p. 4

Luther's Theology: Theology of the

Cross

by Dr. Clayton Faulkner, p. 6

News from Faith Library

by Laura Swanson, p. 7

Healing the Wounds

by Rev. Junfeng Tan, p. 9

Stewardship Moment

by Jim Brekke, p. 10

News from the Children's Ministry

by Courtney Lerch, p. 11

Lent Reflections

by John Vickery, p. 12

Lenten Book Study and Message Series

The focus for Lent this year will be on revisiting how we read, understand, interpret, and use the Bible in our faith lives. We will be using a book by Marcus Borg, "Reading the Bible Again for the First Time." The messages each week, on Sunday and Wednesday, will follow the chapters of the book.

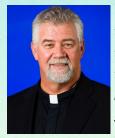


Sunday, March 1 Wednesday, March 4 Sunday, March 8 Sunday, March 15 Sunday, March 22 Wednesday, March 25 Sunday, March 29 Wednesday, April 1 Sunday, April 5

Reading Lenses: Seeing the Bible Again Reading Lenses: The Bible and God Reading Lenses: History and Metaphor Wednesday, March 11 Reading the Creation Stories Again Reading the Pentateuch Again Wednesday, March 18 Reading the Prophets Again Reading Israel's Wisdom Again Reading the Gospels Again Reading Paul Again Reading Revelation Again What Have We Learned?

Scattered Thoughts

by Rev. Kerry Nelson, Senior Pastor



"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will

declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you." John 16:12-14

I don't remember WHEN I learned the real reason why we always picture pirates wearing an eye patch, but I do remember how SURPRISED I was to learn the real answer. No, it wasn't because so many lost eyes while pillaging and plundering and pirating. The real reason was to retain the ability to see better in the dark. If they had reason to go below deck, they could just switch the patch from one eye to the other. So there you go.

You weren't expecting my article to begin with pirate eye patches. I trust I surprised you. Further, I hope that we all always maintain both the ability and the willingness to be surprised by our Christian faith. I hope that we will always be open to the promise of which the writer of John wrote — that the Spirit of Truth will continue to guide us into the truth. The truth that sets us free. Jesus, who is the Truth, as well as the Way, and the Life.

Do you see Jesus as the Truth? Do you see Jesus as the Way? Do you see Jesus as the source and the ground of Life? What does that mean to you? How would others see that in you? These are the sort of questions that we ponder during Lent.

As I have shared in the messages that I have been preaching on Sundays and Wednesdays during Lent, I don't look at the Christian faith the same

Continued on next page...

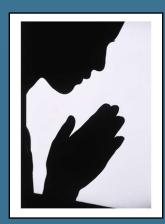
Prayer Corner - Gifts From Above

by Peggy Porter

Read Exodus 17:1-3 and Psalm 13

"But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation." (Psalm 13:5)

The baby doesn't realize it, but he has created a science experiment. He sits in his high chair and runs a test on how often his mother will pick up that spoon he immediately drops over the edge of the tray. Soon, he gets his answer when his mother leaves him to eat his beans with his fingers. Babies run experiments like this all the time. It is how they learn about their world and relationships with



others. In this example, the baby learns that his mother is willing to help him, but not to the point of playing a game when she is busy eating. It is a good lesson.

In our Bible reading for today, Moses asks why the Israelites are testing God. If they trust God to lead them to the Promised Land, they should trust God for daily needs. It seems simple when we read it in a Bible story. Yet we test God with our whining in just the same way. God sent Jesus to save us, yet we worry that God will not grant our requests on daily matters. God's love provides both the big and little things. We do not need to test God; we can rest in God's grace. This is a good lesson.

Pray: Lord Jesus Christ, fill our hearts with faith in your loving care. Let us trust you rather than test you. Amen.

The mission of Faith Lutheran Church is to follow Jesus in blessing the world with faith, hope, and love.

Continued...

way today that I did back when I was a kid, back in college when Jesus grabbed me by the back of the neck and refused to let me go, back in the seminary when I was a terrified sponge, or through the early years of ministry when I didn't want to do or say anything wrong. I could say that I've grown. Maybe I have matured. Maybe the Spirit has continued to lead me into truths that I missed along the way. Maybe those are all the same things.

As we continue to move through Lent together, I really hope you are taking every advantage of reading and wrestling with Marcus Borg's book, Reading the Bible Again for the First Time. It is just a book. Originally published in 2001, it has been around a long time. There isn't much in it that is new or hasn't been said before. It didn't make much of a splash when it was first published. This is, after all, America. The South Beach Diet sold millions of copies while Borg sold thousands. But – if you read closely and pay attention – it might be the most important book you have read in a long time. It might open your eyes. It might help you see in the dark. It will certainly push you. It might even help you to grow.

As you know, Christians with a Lutheran accent have a very high view of the Bible. The ELCA model constitution (and therefore our congregational constitution) says: *C2.02.c "The canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the written Word of God. Inspired by God's Spirit through their authors, they record and announce God's revelation centering in Jesus Christ. Through them God's Spirit speaks to us to create and sustain Christian faith and fellowship for service in the world." And, *C2.03. "This congregation accepts the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith and life."

Those are powerful words. But they ignore something I have long suspected. Many of us, for all of our talk about the Bible, feel a deep sense of shame that we aren't as familiar with the Bible as we think we ought to be. Because we really aren't. We largely operate based on what we THINK the Bible says rather than what it ACTUALLY says. And that is a problem. It makes us vulnerable to manipulation. It can veer us far off the Jesus way of being in the world. It can keep us stuck in a kindergarten faith in a post-graduate school of life.

We can do better. We ought to do better. Why not now?



A Message from the Council President

by Yvonne Moody, Church Council President



What does church mean to you? When you hear the word "church" do you think of a building, a group of people, or a place to belong? As I think about this question, I realize that my idea of church has changed with the different ages and stages of my life. Perhaps it's that way for many of us.

When I was young, church was the historic building at 424 W. Main in Fredericksburg, Texas. It was a place of weekly obligations and a place where my family had a deep history and perhaps a sense of entitlement. It was also a place where I learned and was supported, encouraged and expected to contribute. As I look back, my experience at Lutheran summer camps during middle school and high school taught me that church was more about a group of people gathered to worship than the actual

place or building where that worship occurred.

In college I admit that I was no longer bound by that sense of weekly obligation, and so I was not often found inside the walls of a church on Sunday morning. But, when I had to justify my faith to my first atheist friend, I realized that my faith that had formed in an old building on Main Street, and then grew in the open spaces of the Hill Country, was actually pretty deeply rooted in my sense of belonging to Christ's church. This was when I realized that if my faith was going to continue to grow and mean something, I needed to nurture it. And the easiest way I knew how to do that was to be inside a church, surrounded by other believers.

As I grew into adulthood, church was a place to get married, to baptize my children, to teach Sunday School and organize Vacation Bible School, and most importantly to form meaningful relationships. After moving to Houston with my family in 2013 and joining Faith Lutheran Church, I would quickly learn that church can be a lifeline – a safe harbor in the storms of life. When I lost my husband unexpectedly in 2014, the people of Faith embraced me without really knowing me. They supported me through a funeral and into the transition of being a single parent. Members of Faith cooked meals, sent cards, offered words of support and hugs on Sunday mornings, and allowed me to grieve in a safe place.

Over the past few years serving on church council and being a part of discussions about mission and vision, I often wonder: What does church mean to the people who enter through our doors? I hope we care enough to find out!

To be continued....

CCSC Update

by Kelley Keller, Faith's Liaison to CCSC

Faith is one of 40 area churches working together through Christian Community Service Center to reduce the effects of poverty in our community. CCSC's mission is to "serve the poor, hungry, disabled, and otherwise needy while respecting their religious, ethnic or cultural differences."



The following is CCSC "by the numbers" for 2019:

23,672

clients supplied with nutritious food packages

914

households received electricity, water, natural gas, or rent assistance

3,941

persons were provided with gently-used clothing

503

job seekers gained valuable skills through workshops, computer training, and personalized coaching with 148 reporting gaining employment

6,534

students started the academic year with new school supplies and clothing

2,843

children received new toys, books, and family food packages for Christmas

1,419

students received vision screening, **565** were provided professional eye exams, with **521** receiving new prescription glasses

2,051

unduplicated volunteers contributed **37,093** hours across CCSC, totaling an estimated value of donated hours of \$931,034

To accomplish its ministry—Faith's ministry as a CCSC member church—CCSC relies on volunteerism, in-kind donations, and cash donations. CCSC's primary fundraiser is the **Azalea Dinner** to be held Wednesday, **April 29, 2020**, at the Post Oak Hilton. The event sold out early, but you can still participate as a sponsor (including wine pull, raffle, big board auction) through donations via https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=LnnVnY.

Go to www.ccschouston.org to learn more about CCSC or contact Kelley Keller, Faith's liaison to CCSC, at kelley.keller@wtllaw.com.

Faith has purchased a sponsorship table. If you would like to attend the Azalea Gala, please let us know by contacting the church office at 713-664-3048 or info@faithbellaire.org.

Luther's Theology: Theology of the Cross

by Dr. Clayton Faulkner, Director of Worship, Music, and Technology



Martin Luther was one of the most important figures in all of church history. He did more than just publish some theses that started the Protestant Reformation. My hope over the next several months is to unpack some of Martin Luther's most important theological insights. This month I will focus on Luther's Theology of the Cross.

The Theology of the Cross is a key insight of Luther's that was developed in the Heidelberg Disputation of 1518, less than a year after the 95 theses were published. "The Heidelberg 28 theses

based the disputation, and represented a significant evolution from the 95 theses of the previous year from a simple dispute about the theology behind the indulgences to a fuller, Augustinian, theology of sovereign grace" (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heidelberg_Disputation).

Three particular theses from the disputation describe what is meant by a Theology of the Cross:

- 20. He deserves to be called a theologian, however, who comprehends the visible and manifest things of God seen through suffering and the cross.
- 21. A theologian of glory calls evil good and good evil. A theologian of the cross calls the things what it actually is.
- 22. That wisdom which sees the invisible things of God in works as perceived by man is completely puffed up, blinded, and hardened.

The Theology of the Cross is a paradox. At its core is the idea that God is not removed from shame, suffering, and death. This seems like the opposite of what it should be. How could God be present in suffering?

To understand the Theology of the Cross we need to overcome a misconception about Jesus' crucifixion. When Jesus said from the cross, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me" (Matthew 27:46), we can interpret that to mean Jesus was being abandoned by God. That is what appears to be happening on the surface. However, we have to see it in context: Jesus was reciting Psalm 22. And while Psalm 22 starts in a place of existential doubt, we have to read to the end: "Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it" (vs. 30-31).

As usual, things do not appear as they seem in God's kin-dom. What appears to be abandonment is actually faithfulness. Jesus crucifixion is not abandonment, but the deliverance of all humankind from sin and death. God did not withdraw from Jesus on the cross. At Jesus' crucifixion, God was fully present as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Although Jesus the Son was physically on the cross, the Triune God was there. God is not divided against God's self.

The Holy Spirit remained with Jesus, the spirit of unity, uniting the Father and the Son. God is not removed from suffering and death but is in fact present and revealed in and through them.

This is why we must never separate the resurrection of Jesus from his crucifixion. A theology of glory would focus on the resurrection as correcting the crucifixion. A theology of the cross focuses on Jesus as both the Crucified and Risen One.



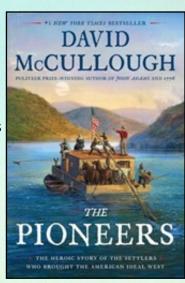
News from Faith Library

by Laura Swanson, Parish Ed Team

What Book Are You Reading?

I was so glad to talk to Doug Elsen about a book he recently read, <u>The Pioneers</u>, by David McCullough. This book would be considered family-friendly; however, parents should use their own discretion.

<u>The Pioneers</u> is a story about the development of the Northwest Territory in the United States, with an emphasis on the founding of the state of Ohio. The main characters carved out a settlement that holds an important place in history. Forward thinking leaders developed public schools; banned slavery by means of the narrowest of legislative vote; and valued the idea of "communitarianism" over individualism.



For the entire Elsen family, reading is considered a great way to spend time. Although leading a book club is not in Doug's future, <u>The Pioneers</u> might be an ideal book for one. It offers a plethora of discussion topics ranging from city planning to education to social dynamics.

As a side note, the author is considered a master historian. How this book came into being is very interesting and discussed during an interview held at the Library of Congress. Impressive stuff. In the interview, Mr. McCullough shares his views on why writing and reading history is so important. The video should be easy to find on the internet.

The library is open Monday through Friday from 9AM to 5PM. Please check in at the office for access and/or call ahead to reserve a time.

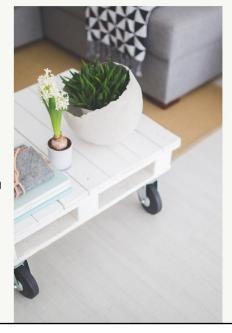
Save the Date: on Sunday, April 26 the Children's Ministry and Library Teams will host an event in honor of World Book Day (held on Thursday, April 23 in the U.S.). More details to come!

CREATING A BRIGHT FUTURE, ONE CLEAN HOUSE AT A TIME!

Do you dread cleaning but love that fresh, organized feeling in your home? CCSC has a solution - hire a Martha's Way graduate! There is no task too big or small. Clear out those closets, wipe away the dust, and tidy up neglected corners. Graduates are ready to work on one-time projects, or standard weekly or bi-weekly cleanings.

When you hire a Martha's Way graduate, you receive an outstanding service AND you make a difference in the life of a budding entrepreneur.

Contact Ana Tappan at 713-961-3993 or visit ccschouston.org/marthasway.





Martha's Way



Go TEXAN Sunday! Sunday, March 22

Sunday, March 22 promises to be an event you don't want to miss. Wear your boots, cowboy hats, and jeans as we celebrate our Texas heritage and the conclusion of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

We will experience "cowboy church" that will include southern gospel music and a relaxed liturgy. There will also be BBQ for lunch with all the trimmings at noon.

Giddy up partner! The Lord be with ya'll!

Faith Connection Dinners

by Judy Adams, Stewardship Team Member

Spring is almost here, and we want you to be a part of our Spring Faith Connection Dinners. As in the past few years, the Stewardship Board is inviting you to participate in dinner parties hosted by members of our congregation. The dinners will be held on the evenings of April 17, April 21, and May 2. There also will be a Sunday Luncheon (date to be determined).

If you would like to host one of our dinners or a luncheon, please sign-up on the Connection Card or on the sign-up sheets in the Narthex or contact Judy Adams at adamsjudyc@gmail.com. At the end of March, members of the congregation will then have the opportunity to sign-up to be a part of our Faith Connection Dinners. We look forward to building even stronger relationships in our Faith Community. Please plan to be a part of our Faith Connection Dinners.



A NEW Senior Adult Fellowship Group

Your Invitation to Join Salem Keenagers

I am Carole Knaub, a member at Salem Lutheran Church. I would like to take this opportunity to invite the 50+ age members of Faith Lutheran Church to join us in an adult fellowship group we call "Salem Keenagers."

There are no fees to join. We do have a basket at the lunch table for a donation for the meal and a suggested amount is \$3.00. This is completely voluntary. The money from this goes to pay for expenses that the Keenagers incur like paper, ink, stamps, plates, cups, cutlery, coffee, tea, etc.

Keenagers is a group for people 50 years old and older. We have many 90+ year old people that join us for our activities. I have been coordinating the activities for the past 10 or 11 years. We have a luncheon on the **second Thursday of the month** with either entertainment or an informational speaker suited for senior citizens. **The luncheons start at 11:00 AM.** We do not have the luncheons in June, July, August, or December.

If you should have any questions please let me know and I will try and answer them for you. The best way to contact me is via caknaub2@comcast.net or my home phone 281-344-0312. Please leave a message if I do not answer.

Healing the Wounds

by Rev. Junfeng Tan, Associate Pastor



While I took care of my father in the hospital in the last seven days of December 2019, I was taken aback by my father's sobbing one morning. He was getting better and having the strength to sit up in bed. My older brother and I were with him. After breakfast, my father asked me to massage his neck, shoulders, and back. While I was giving him the massage, he suddenly started sobbing uncontrollably. Other patients and family members turned to see what was happening to my father. I immediately stopped to asked him, "Are you OK?" "I don't know. I am recalling the memoires of the death of my mother, and it is hurting so bad." My father cried like a child, tears running down

his cheeks.

I've always felt very fortunate and blessed to have a father who is remarkably kind, gentle, and humble. When he talks with me in person or on the phone, I always feel his kindness and gentleness. And he never draws attention to himself. I had never heard him talking about his childhood and known almost nothing about it. The only time I saw my father weeping was when my grandfather was buried over 30 years ago. This was the first time my father, at the age of 93, opened up his heart and shared with my brother and me his childhood memories. He said, "My mother had been sick for a long time. My family was poor, we did not have money for a doctor or medicine. My mother suffered great pain until her death, I was only nine years old. My grandmother didn't allow me to go into my mother's room in order to prevent me from seeing my mother's suffering. When my mother breathed her last breath, I was not at her bedside. My sister was only five years old, my brother three years old. After my mother passed away, no one took care of the three of us. We all had a very difficult time, with no one to turn to for help." After weeping for several minutes, he calmed down and said to my brother and me, "I am feeling better now. Three of you (referring to my two brothers and me) are here with me. That was very comforting."

I am so grateful that my father shared with me the painful memories of the loss of his mother and the hardship of his childhood. But why did he keep that traumatic experience to himself in the past? What caused him to cry like a child and disclose his painful past to my brother and me in front of other people? Did my massaging help him open up his heart? Did he feel that he, at last, received from my brothers and me the kind of care and love that he had missed in his childhood? I hope my brothers and I have helped my father heal the wounds of his childhood.

Inside each of us there is an inner child that was once wounded. We always carry the wounds with us into adulthood, even at our old age. Some of us may bury the wounds in the recess of our heart and therefore suffer silently and unconsciously. Others may pretend the trauma never happened or rationalize or justify the unspeakable suffering. Still others may let the wound fester and make them bitter, cynical, and angry toward people, the world, and God all the time.

If you want to heal the wounds of your childhood and adulthood, can you be your own healer? To attempt to heal yourself is a noble effort. I, however, suspect it is like pulling yourself up by bootstraps. To heal the wounds, it takes the love and care of other people. We are emotionally and spiritually wounded because of the rupture or lack of loving and caring relationships. We are healed when we feel understood and cared for in loving and caring

relationships. As Mr. Rogers said, when bad things happen, always look for helpers. It is good advice for children and adults alike. One of the most important functions of the Christian church is a community of healing. We are led by Jesus the Great Healer and empowered by the Holy Spirit to be healers to one another. We are to listen to one another and understand one other. We are to encourage and comfort one another. Apostle Paul says, "Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law." (Romans 13:8)



Stewardship Moment

by Jim Brekke, Stewardship Team Member

While driving in the Texas countryside looking at bluebonnets, a hill noticeably larger than the others becomes clear outside of La Grange, Texas. It's Lutherhill Camp, located on the highest point in Fayette County. The mission statement at Lutherhill starts with "Lutherhill...Welcomes all people, of every generation to experience the love of Christ in unique settings and new ways."

Anne Liddle and Curtis Bradbury (director) describe the full picture of Lutherhill Ministries as a summer camp and year-round retreat center at two locations - Lutherhill Camp in La Grange and Zion Retreat Center in Galveston. Both locations offer summer camp and retreat options and annually serve over 7,000 campers and guests of all ages. According to Anne and Curtis, "Lutherhill Ministries carve out space and time for people of all ages to get away from the hustle and bustle of daily life. They offer sabbath - a time for rest and play – for those who spend their day consumed by work, invested in school, caring for others or serving those in need."

Their advertisement describes what a person gains through this experience as follows:

- Grow in faith through creative daily bible studies, worships and cabin devotions.
- Learn to live in community by making decisions together, serving each other and sharing all the joys and challenges of camp.
- Be valued and listened to by our young adult staff.
- Experience new things through the camp program and abundant activities.
- Wonder in God's creation through time in nature and learning how to care for this gift.
- Have Fun!

The Lutherhill website (http://lutherhill.org/) describes this retreat as a place where people of all faiths are welcome to enjoy 85 acres of wooded and wide-open spaces. Facilities are available for swimming, games, high ropes adventure course, RVs, tent campsites and other activities. People have enjoyed Lutherhill since 1954 as a place to gather, worship, study, and play together.

I called on John Vickery, Youth and Family Director at Faith, for his thoughts on Lutherhill. John interfaces once a month in a group teleconference with Curtis Bradbury (director). Last year, John tells me, Faith sent 17 kids of various ages to Lutherhill. When I asked John about the value of this, he rattled off many phrases that hit home:

- ...moving kids out of an urban area to a new setting, giving them a bigger picture
- ...building reliance on each other on an even playing field
- ...giving them a recharging experience away from social media
- ...providing exposure to different church groups and face-to-face with counselors
- ... opening a fresh view that harnesses their energy
- ...giving leadership training that's baked into the whole experience.

When I asked Pastor Kerry about his impression of the value he said, "Looking back, it

is clear to me that nothing was more formative, or transformative, in my faith than the experiences I had as a camper one summer in middle school at a Bible camp in Minnesota, and in the three years I worked on staff in college and seminary at a Bible camp in North Dakota. Not only would I not be a pastor today, I wouldn't be the kind of pastor I am, had I not experienced God as God shows up when you get people away from their regular lives as only camps and retreats can do."

John Holmes, Faith Stewardship Committee president, had a life-changing experience with Lutherhill that he shared with me. He described the story of how he and his future wife Nancy met there while he was working at a camp for Hemophiliac boys and Nancy was the Camp Director and a Recreational Therapist for the Easter Seals Society. Jon tells me the rest is history!!!

I've participated at council outings at both Zion and Lutherhill and have come to appreciate the bonding experience. Putting together this article has given me an even further appreciation that I feel is important to share with the congregation through this newsletter.

Lutherhill Ministries is just one of many ministry partners that we support with our offering dollars at Faith. I encourage you to participate in some of the events that are held there. It is a special ministry for kids and families.





News from the Children's Ministry

by Courtney Lerch, Children's Ministry Coordinator



Thank you to everyone who participated in Souper Bowl of Caring! The Faith Community donated over 1,250 food items and \$1,753 to the CCSC Food Pantry. It took two fully loaded cars to bring everything to CCSC, and the CCSC staff were so grateful when we delivered the food. In addition to the tremendous donations by the community, preschool and elementary children had the opportunity to participate in a hands on service project. As they sorted the food donations and prepared them for delivery, they learned about helping those without enough food to eat and the important work food pantries do in our community. Moving forward, the youth will take even more ownership of the service projects, including helping with the promotion of the event and planning the logistics. The more involved our youth are in each project, the more they will learn about people in need and the importance of helping others. Plans for future projects include a book drive and a hygiene supplies drive.

In addition to planning activities for children and their families, we are also taking a close look at the learning done in our children's Learning Groups. It is our goal that the children not only learn a wide variety of stories from the Bible, but also how these stories apply to their lives today. Every lesson each week includes three main parts: the Bible story or passage, a craft or other activity to reinforce comprehension and retention of the story, and a service component that helps the children learn how to live out the lessons in their daily lives. Examples of past service projects include: decorating "You are Loved" notes for homebound members, writing "God loves you" notes to the Pastors, and preparing an invitation to invite a friend to church. Every project is geared toward things children can do on their own to help others and share God's love.

Another major goal of the Learning Groups is to create opportunities for faith formation in the home. For this purpose, children will bring home a "MOVE Recap" each week that includes a brief summary of the Bible story of the day, the craft or activity, the service project with talking points and questions, and a prayer. Parents can use these handouts to start conversations with their children about what they learned in Learning Group that day. Sometimes the conversations might be short, other times they might evolve into a longer discussion based on the interests of each child. Regardless of the length, having these weekly conversations is a great way to bring faith discussions into your home and reinforce the concepts learned at church on Sunday.

We had an intergenerational learning day on Sunday, February 23. During the Learning Group time, families gathered to create a Lenten devotional activity that they can use together throughout the season of Lent. So often with children we skip right to Easter! Inviting children into the observance of Lent is a key way to help them learn the importance of this season to our faith and to help them more fully appreciate the celebration of Jesus's resurrection on Easter.

And parents, don't forget that we have a Parent Meet Up on Friday, February 28! Hire a babysitter or drop the kids off at Parents' Night Out and join us at Union Kitchen (4057 Bellaire Blvd.) starting at 6:00 for some kid-free social time. This is a casual event, so come for as little or as long as you like. We look forward to seeing you there!



Lent Reflections

by John Vickery, Director of Youth and Family Ministry



I remember growing up and dreading when the season of Lent would come around. I knew that it would mean attending more church services on Wednesday evenings, on top of what I already had to go to on Sunday mornings each week. I also knew that it meant that family dinner time would take more time because we would sit around the table and share family devotional time, much like we did during Advent. Little did I realize then that Lent would quickly become one of my favorite seasons of the church year.

For me Lent is a time of expectation and contemplation. In my life, there's not much time for me to sit down and contemplate very often; I get caught up in the hustle and bustle of busy city life and forget to feed my faith. Each year during Lent I am reminded that there is much more to faith than merely going through the motions.

Time and time again, Kelsey and I try to establish a habit of sharing evening devotions with each other so that we are continually growing in our faith together. But it seems that each time we try to achieve that goal, we fail. Lent is a time when no matter what, we are able to sit down and share in that time together. I think it is a residual effect of my upbringing.

During my childhood I didn't have much interest or appreciation for those family conversations that happened around the dinner table that centered on our faith, Jesus, and the cross. In reality though, they had a profound impact on the way that I approach the season now as an adult.

Perhaps, this year we will be able to keep the devotional time going through the use of FAITH5 even past Lent; since it is only one piece to the larger church year.

I encourage all of our families to take the time for one another, regardless of what ages your family consists of. We all can benefit by coming together and sharing our faith out loud. Through doing so, I am sure that you will create memories, conversations, and learnings that will last a lifetime!

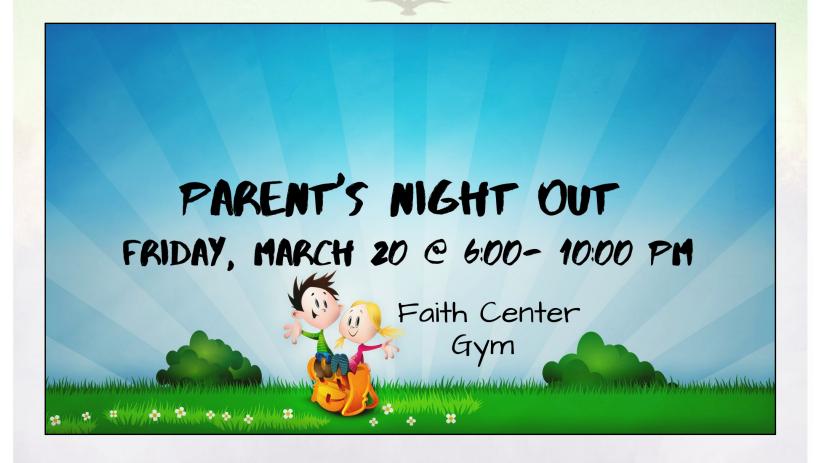
Lent is a perfect time to start this habit, because we know what is coming next, the joy of Easter. But if we don't consider and talk about what leads up to that moment, I cannot help but think that I am missing crucial parts to the story. So, give it a try, or two or even three if that is what it takes; I am sure that you and your family will find value together by practicing FAITH5 as a guide for family throughout this season.

2020 FAITH CAMP REGISTRATION NOW OPEN



JULY 13 - 31, 2020

WWW. FAITHBELLAIRE.ORG/FAITHCAMP July 13 - 31, 2020



Sunday Worship Leader Schedule—March 2020

8:30 AM	March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29
Acolyte	Silas White	John Tan	Andres Baerenwald	Masamo Faulkner	Luke Cauley
Crucifer	Alice Tian	Elsa Becker	Zach Michaud	Deacon Faulkner	Ava Cauley
Lector	Janice Kolosseus	Karen Elsen	Joann Welton	Mardi Mayerhoff	Troy Becker
Communion Assistants	Doug Elsen Scott Ramsey	Doug Elsen Scott Ramsey	Sara Karow Lenora Ohlenbusch	Sara Karow Lenora Ohlenbusch	Bill Puryear Jeff Addicks
Asst Minister	Annika Becker	Carol Strawn	Carol Strawn	Karen Elsen	Doug Elsen
Ushers	Albert Family	Albert Family	Art Grove Doug Elsen	Art Grove Doug Elsen	Brian Taylor Carl Watson
Children's Church	Sara Karow	Susan Tallman	Melinda McGouldrick	Helen Watson	Mayra Marshall
Altar Guild	Carol Strickland Roxy Funchess		Betty Dossey Diana Freeman	Bob and Ida Medlen	Diana Freeman Dorothy Rosenbaum
10:50 AM	March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29
Acolytes	Masamo Faulkner Deacon Faulkner	Caleb Fidone Aidan Fidone	Silas White Dillon Williams	Caleb Fidone Aidan Fidone	Andres Baerenwald Zach Michaud
Communion Assistants	Dave and Wendy Farner	Jon and Nancy Holmes	Barbara McDowell	Kirk and Beth Bruce	Kelley Keller Susan Tallman
Asst Minister	Alice Tian	Dylan McGouldrick	Dylan McGouldrick	Wendy Farner	Wendy Farner
Ushers	Jon and Nancy Holmes	Dave and Wendy Farner	Roxy Funchess Susan Tallman	Parkan Family	Benson Family
Children's Church	Catherine Hahn	Kevondra Mathis	Leslie Parkan	Amy McNulty	Beth Bruce
Altar Guild	Beth Bruce Janice Decker	Cady Gaines Heather Hartman	Betty Dossey	Bob and Ida Medlen	Diana Freeman

If you have been scheduled as a worship leader and are unable to serve, please respond by clicking "Decline" on the Planning Center Online email. You may also arrange to trade with someone else who is scheduled during the month and advise the church office of the change by Wednesday afternoon.

Save the Date - 75th Jubilee Celebration

Faith is getting ready to celebrate an important anniversary. In January of 2021, the church will be 75 years old, and we are beginning to plan a year-long celebration to be launched in January 2021 and culminate in the closing months of that year. The plans will involve the participation of many groups and individuals. We invite everyone to become involved. Watch for an opportunity to sign up in the Connection Card, or call Stacy in



the church office at 713.664.3048 or contact one of the co-chairs (George Amundson or Karen Elsen) to express your interest in helping.

Women ELCA ***

Women's Connection

Women's Connection will meet on Wednesday. March 11 at 9:30 AM in the Faith Center Kitchen to prepare lunch for Lent Worship. Come join us, everyone is welcome!

For more information about the Women's Connection, please contact Jane Gips at 713-417-2548.

Rebecca Ruth Circle

The Rebecca Ruth Circle will meet on Thursday, March 5 at 10:00 AM in the Conference Room.

We would love for you to join us for Bible study. Come hungry! Bring your sack lunch. Desserts and drinks will be provided. Socializing with the group is so joyful. All are welcome!

Faith Lutheran Church

4600 Bellaire Boulevard at Avenue B

Bellaire, Texas 77401

Office: 713-664-3048

Fax: 713-664-3371

Faith Day School: 713-664-3233

Mother's Day Out: 713-664-7726

FaithBellaire.org

FaithDaySchool.org

FaithHouseHouston.org info@faithbellaire.org

Rev. Kerry Nelson

Rev. Junfeng Tan

Stacy Williams

Dr. Clayton Faulkner

John Vickery

Courtney Lerch

Kendolyn Pope

Yu Cao

Patricia Deckard

Alan Balius

Nettie Rodriguez

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Operations

Pastoral Intern

Director of Youth and Family

Children's Ministry Coordinator

Director of Faith Schools

Morning Office Coordinator

Afternoon Office Coordinator

Organist/Choir Director

Evening Facility Manager



	_
c	/arch
-	₹
Ć	<u> </u>
	Ť
ľ	V
Ć	\supset
r	2020
ï	ゔ
١	_
	1
,	$\overline{}$
۶	ν,
	<u>~</u>
1	Calendar
-	÷
	≺
	_
ζ	ע
	7
ľ	\sim
`	ᆃ
ľ	IJ.
۹	of Events
(D
	3
ŕ	+
Ĺ	s

FAI				31.5 AM Children's Chapel (Sanc) 9:30 AM ESL Class (200) 10:00 AM ESL Class (200) 10:15 AM ESL Intro Level (201) 3:00 PM Cornerstone (400, 401, 306) 7:00 PM First Place for Health (306) 8:00 PM AA Men Only (300)	30 AM ESL class (200, 201) 6:00 PM Cornerstone Climbers Parents (401) 7:00 PM V8 Early Ford (300)	8:30 AM Heritage Worship 9:45 AM Learning Groups/MOVE 10:50 AM "The Gathering" Worship 10:50 AM Faith Chinese Worship (FC) 12:00 PM Lunch (FH) 1:30 PM Handbell Choir (208) 7:00 PM Al-Anon (300)
22 28 9:00 AM Greysheet Eating Program (204) 10:00 AM Cornerstone (300, 306) 3:00 PM AA Co-Ed (300)	8:00 PM AA Co-Ed (300)	9:30 AM ESL Class (200) 10:15 AM ESL Intro Level (201) 3:00 PM Cornerstone (400, 401, 306) 7:30 PM Faith Choir (208) 7:30 PM Cornerstone (306, 400, 401) 8:00 PM AA Men Only (300)	9:00 AM LWR Quilting (101) 9:30 AM ESL Class (200, 201) 10:00 AM Grief Share (209) 11:45 AM Lenten Worship (Sanc) 12:30 PM Lunch (FC) 3:00 PM Cornerstone (400, 401, 306) 6:00 PM Painting Group (307) 6:15 PM Dinner (FC) 7:00 PM Lenten Worship (Sanc) 8:00 PM AA (300)	9:15 AM Children's Chapel (Sanc) 9:30 AM ESL Class (200) 10:00 AM Church Staff Meeting (108) 10:15 AM ESL Intro Level (201) 3:00 PM Cornerstone (400, 401, 306) 7:00 PM First Place for Health (306) 8:00 PM AA Men Only (300)	23 9:30AM ESL (200,201) 6:00 PM Cornerstone Climbers Parents (401)	Go Texan Sunday 8:30 AM Heritage Worship 9:45 AM Learning Groups/MOVE 10:50 AM "The Gathering" Worship 10:50 AM Faith Chinese Worship (FC) 12:50 PM Lunch (FC) 12:15 PM Parish Ed. Team Meeting (201) 1:30 PM Handbell Choir (208) 1:30 PM Internship Meeting (201) 2:45 PM Worship Team Meeting (201)
220 21 9:00 AM Grey Sheet Eating Program (204) 10:00 AM Cornerstone (300, 306) 3:00 PM AA Co-Ed (300)	6:00 PM Parent's Night Out (FC) 8:00 PM AA Co-Ed (300)	9:30 AM ESL Class (200) 10:15 AM ESL Intro Level (201) 3:00 PM Cornerstone (400, 401, 306) 7:30 PM Faith Choir (208) 7:30 PM Cornerstone (306, 400, 401) 8:00 PM AA Men Only (300)	9:00 AM LWR Quilting (101) 9:30 AM ESL Class (200, 201) 10:00 AM Grief Share (209) 11:45 AM Lenten Worship (Sanc) 12:30 PM Lunch (FC) 3:00 PM Cornerstone (400, 401, 306) 6:00 PM Painting Group (307) 6:15 PM Dinner (FC) 7:00 PM Lenten Worship (Sanc) 8:00 PM AA (300)	\$t. Patrick's Day \$t. Patrick's Day 9:15 AM Children's Chapel (Sanc) 9:30 AM ESL Class (200) 10:00 AM Church Staff Meeting (108) 10:15 AM ESL Intro Level (201) 3:00 PM Cornerstone (400, 401, 306) 6:00 PM Faith School Board Mtg (101) 7:00 PM Faith Care Team Mtg (201) 7:00 PM First Place for Health (306) 8:00 PM AA Men Only (300)	### 9:30 AM ESL Class (200, 201) 6:00 PM Cornerstone Climbers Parents (401)	8:30 AM Heritage Worship 9:45 AM Learning Groups/MOVE 10:50 AM "The Gathering" Worship 10:50 AM Faith Chinese Worship (FC) 12:00 PM Lunch (FH) 1:00 PM Faith Chinese Badminton (FC) 1:30 PM Handbell Choir (208) 7:00 PM Al-Anon (300)
13 9:00 AM Grey Sheet Eating Program (204) 10:00 AM Cornerstone (300, 306) 3:00 PM AA Co-Ed (300)	8:00 PM AA Co-Ed (300)	129:30 AM ESL Class (200)/201 10:00 AM Grief Share (Library) 10:15 AM ESL Intro Level (201) 3:00 PM Cornerstone (400, 401, 306) 6:00 PM Jubilee Team (Library) 7:30 PM Faith Choir (208) 7:30 PM Cornerstone (306, 400, 401) 8:00 PM AA Men Only (300)	9:00 AM LWR Quilters (101) 9:30 AM ESL Class (200, 201) 10:00 AM Grief Share (209) 11:45 AM Lenten Worship (Sanc) 12:30 PM Lunch (FC) 3:00 PM Cornerstone (400, 401, 306) 6:10 PM Painting Group (306) 6:15 PM Dinner (FC) 7:00 PM Lenten Worship (Sanc) 8:00 PM AA (300)	9:15 AM Children's Chapel (Sanc) 9:30 AM ESL Class (200) 10:00 AM ESL Class (200) 10:15 AM ESL Intro Level (201) 3:00 PM Cornerstone (400, 401, 306) 7:00 PM Church Council Mtg. (101) 7:00 PM First Place 4 Health (306) 8:00 PM AA Men Only(300)	9:30 AM ESL Class (200, 201) 6:00 PM Cornerstone Climbers Parents (401)	Day Light Saving Time Starts 8:30 AM Heritage Worship 9:45 AM Learning Groups/MOVE 10:50 AM "The Gathering" Worship 10:50 AM Faith Chinese Worship (FC) 12:00 PM Parent Meet Up 12:00 PM Lunch (FH) 1:00 PM Faith Chinese Badminton (FC) 1:30 PM Handbell Choir (208) 7:00 PM Al-Anon (300)
<u>\$</u> 9:00 AM Grey Sheet Eating Program (204) 9:30 AM Cornerstone (300, 306) 3:00 PM AA Co-Ed (300)	8:00 PM AA Co-Ed (300)	9:30 AM ESL Class (200) 10:00 AM RESL Class (200) 10:15 AM ESL Intro Level (201) 3:00 PM Cornerstone (400, 401, 306) 7:30 PM Faith Choir (208) 7:30 PM Cornerstone (306, 400, 401) 8:00 PM AA Men Only (300)	### 330 AM ESL Class (200, 201) 10:00 AM Grief Share (209) 11:45 AM Lenten Worship (Sanc) 12:30 PM Lunch (FC) 3:00 PM Cornerstone (400, 401, 306) 6:00 PM Painting Group (306) 6:15 PM Dinner (FC) 7:00 PM Lenten Worship (Sanc) 8:00 PM AA (300)	Election Day 9:15 AM Children's Chapel (Sanc) 9:30 AM ESL Class (200) 10:00 AM Church Staff Meeting (108) 10:15 AM ESL Intro Level (201) 3:00 PM Cornerstone (400, 401, 306) 6:00 PM Stewardship Team Mtg (108) 7:00 PM First Place 4 Health (306) 8:00 PM AA Men Only (300)	2 9:30 AM ESL Class (200, 201) 6:00 PM Cornerstone Climbers Parents (401)	7:00 AM Faith Schools' Book Fair 8:30 AM Heritage Worship 9:45 AM Learning Groups/MOVE 10:50 AM "The Gathering" Worship 10:50 AM Faith Chinese Worship (FC) 12:00 PM Lunch (FH) 12:30 PM Sacraments Class (Conf Rm) 1:30 PM Faith Chinese Badminton (FC) 7:00 PM Al-Anon (300)
Sat	Fri	Events Thu	March 2020 - Calendar of Events Wed	Tue	Mon	Sun