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# VIRTUAL WORSHIP

Due to concerns with COVID-19, in-person worship and other church activities are cancelled until further notice. However, we recognize the importance of God's word and worship in times like these.

We will live stream one English service on Sunday mornings at 8:30 AM. Go to <u>live.faithbellaire.org</u> and to join us online. You can view the recordings of previous services at <u>faithbellaire.org/worship/message-archive</u>.

Our Chinese worship will be online at 10:50 AM through Zoom (Zoom ID: 549-726-0963).

Holy Week Schedule listed inside...

# **Scattered Thoughts**

by Rev. Kerry Nelson, Senior Pastor



For many years I began my days by writing some reflections on scripture and sharing them with others. That daily discipline changed whenever my life changed. Sometimes I write, lately I haven't.

It felt to me like I "hit a wall" of sorts. I've been waiting for that to turn around. Until it does, I have a couple of other daily devotions that I read each morning. One of them is written by a Baptist pastor from Dallas.

Even though I read his stuff every day, I find that we seldom agree about anything. But I think it is important to listen to different points of view, always open to our minds being changed.

Sometimes his work is a real blessing to me. What follows are excerpts from his post on March 17.

The bubonic plague struck Wittenberg, Germany, in August of 1527. This disease was especially horrific: in just one day, an infected person could show signs of delirium, fever, speech disorders, and loss of consciousness. Soon after, they would break out in large boils that infected the bloodstream and rapidly led to their death.

Martin Luther and his wife Katharina, who was pregnant at the time, were urged to flee the city. However, they chose to stay in order to minister to the sick and dying.

When asked by Christians in another city for advice, Luther wrote a pamphlet that is as remarkable today as when he produced it. Titled "Whether One May Flee From a Deadly Plague," it combines realism and faith in a way that is powerfully relevant to our crisis.

Continued on next page...



### **Holy Week Livestream Schedule**

### Palm Sunday, April 5

- 8:30 AM—English worship at live.faithbellaire.org
- 10:50 AM—Chinese worship on Zoom

### Maundy Thursday, April 9

- 7:00 PM—English worship at live.faithbellaire.org
- 7:00 PM—Chinese worship on Zoom

### **Good Friday, April 10**

- 7:00 PM—English worship at live.faithbellaire.org
- 7:00 PM—Chinese worship on Zoom

### Easter Sunday, April 12

- 8:30 AM—English worship at live.faithbellaire.org
- 10:50 AM—Chinese worship on Zoom

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

### Continued...

Luther counseled his readers to utilize medicine and intelligence "to guard and to take good care of the body so that we can live in good health." As a result, he stated, "I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine, and take it." He also practiced what we call social distancing: "I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance infect and pollute others, and so cause their death as a result of my negligence."

With this caveat: "If my neighbor needs me, however, I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely." He understood the urgency of sharing the gospel so as to lead the sick to saving faith before they died and to minister to believers in their final days.

As it turned out, Martin and Katharina Luther were spared from the plague. But they did not know this when they chose to stay behind to care for the sick of their community.

They could risk their lives to serve others because they were not afraid to die. Their hope was in proper procedures and medical treatments, but even more, it was in Christ. They trusted their Lord to protect them in life and to bring them to heaven in death, whenever it came.

My point is not that we should refuse the urgent calls to social distancing that are absolutely crucial to slowing the spread of the pandemic. To the contrary, as one primary care physician notes, we must adopt such critical measures immediately.

My point is that choosing to hope in God as the Luther's did sustains us as nothing else can. It reminds us that the worst that can happen to us leads to the best that can happen to us. The moment we close our eyes on this diseased, fallen planet, we open them in God's perfect paradise. When we take our last breath here, we take our first breath there.

As Jesus said, "Everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die" (John 11:26).

He closed his devotion with the words to "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," written two years after the plague. Perhaps in response to it. I hope, when this season is finally over, we come out with a renewed appreciation for Christian community and a strong sense that the only solid rock to stand on is trusting God through thick and thin.



### A Message from the Council President

by Yvonne Moody, Church Council President



This month's newsletter comes during the midst of a community health crisis. It's not like anything we could have imagined, and certainly not something we planned for. Most of us are dealing with daily disruption to our normal routines at work, at school, and at home. And now, we must face that reality at church as well.

As I write this letter, I am reflecting on a virtual meeting that just transpired involving all of the church staff and the church council leaders. I am reminded how blessed we are with strong, capable leaders here at Faith, a staff that stands ready to serve and adapt however needed, and the resources and technology to make all of this work late in the evening, from different locations around the city.

I am still contemplating the question I posed last month: What does church mean to you? When I was thinking about this several weeks ago, I could never have imagined that circumstances would literally take away our ability to gather together for worship! I love attending worship! I look forward to seeing my "Faith family" and refilling my bucket for the week ahead. I treasure the time to be completely unplugged and focused on my relationship with God. But I also travel quite a bit, and in late February I found myself out of town for the weekend, which allowed me the opportunity to watch our worship service online from another state. Having that little piece of home and connection was a real blessing!

The church staff is committed to providing a quality, meaningful online experience for worship during this difficult time. Please take the time to visit the church website whenever you are able, and you'll find recordings of worship to refresh your soul. Families will be provided learning materials to use at home, and adult learning groups will be exploring options for remaining connected virtually. Be willing to try something new! Embrace this opportunity to "be the church" in a new way. Be open to letting the Holy Spirit stir among us, and through us, to bless each other in a time when we so desperately need to be connected. And pray. Pray for each other and for the whole world as we wait for life to return to normal.

What does church mean to me? It means having a group of faithful people who pledge to do life together, no matter what happens in the world. It means trusting that God is at work, in all things, and that God is ever present, especially in times of uncertainty. And it means that even when I may be disappointed by what's happening around me, there is a place to turn for comfort and peace. We'll be finding new ways to do that together, but I trust that God will help us!

Peace be with you. Be a blessing!

### A Message from the ELCA Presiding Bishop

by Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton

Dear church,

The last couple of weeks have been trying ones for everyone across this church. Our synods, congregations and ministries are facing challenges that they've never faced before. Being church together means more now than ever before.

The churchwide office is launching a comprehensive Covid-19 response across the ELCA beginning today. We have three new approaches designed to provide several levels of support

for our most vulnerable congregations and ministries. These three approaches are Daily Bread Grants, Here to Serve, and the Covid-19 Response Appeal.

**DAILY BREAD GRANTS ELCA** World Hunger is announcing the immediate launch of Daily Bread Matching Grants. Through these grants, ELCA congregations can raise funds for their feeding ministries using an online fundraising platform and will receive a grant of \$500 from ELCA World Hunger. Up to 100 Daily Bread Matching Grants are available for ELCA congregations on a first-come, first-served basis, with the possibility of more grants becoming available in the future. Apply or donate here.

**HERE TO SERVE** The churchwide organization is inherently a resource in support of the members, congregations, synods and partners of the ELCA. During this time, Domestic Mission will pivot to a project-based, service-oriented structure so this church knows we are here to serve. By the first week of April, we will launch a chat function on ELCA.org along with an 800 hotline for prayer, support and questions that will be answered by our staff. As soon as these channels are live, we will let you know.

**COVID-19 RESPONSE APPEAL** It's more important now than ever to support our church across the country through these difficult times. We will begin to raise funds to support our congregations, ministries and synods. This effort will launch the week of March 30 via email and social media with a special form online to donate.

In addition to our new three-pronged response, our work continues in providing and updating resources on ELCA.org/publichealth. We are also still at work in the world. Our global mission work continues and grows in this time of the Covid-19 pandemic. We are working with our global companions to provide support where we can. Learn more about that here.

I am proud to say that even during challenging times, we continue our service in living out the mission of this church: Together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly and serve joyfully.

Peace and be well.



# **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America** God's work. Our hands.

### **Luther's Theology: Priesthood of All Believers**

by Dr. Clayton Faulkner, Pastoral Intern



The priesthood of all believers is often thought of as one of the core tenants of Lutheran theology. Curiously, however, Martin Luther never wrote the phrase, "priesthood of all believers" in any of his writings. The phrase is not used once in the entire Book of Concord (the confessional documents of the Lutheran tradition).

The priesthood of all believers is a biblical concept, even if Luther never specifically mentioned it. 1

Peter 2:9 says, "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in

order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you...." From the Hebrew Bible we learn that the tribe of Levi was the specially called clan that would minister and serve as priests in God's presence at tabernacle and temple. But now, the writer of 1 Peter says, you all are considered priests and servants of God, not just the heirs of one tribe.

Although Luther never used the phrase "priesthood of all believers" (it was a later development of pietistic Lutherans in the 17<sup>th</sup> century), he does get at the idea by addressing the topic of vocation.

Many religions strive toward the idealized life of the monk or ascetic. Those who renounce the ways of the world are seen as being closer to God. In Luther's time there was a perceived spiritual hierarchy to one's vocation in life. On the bottom were every day, normal people: cobblers, blacksmiths, and merchants. On the top were those who had taken monastic vows, those who had sworn to a life of service, sacrifice, and solitude.

Luther's doctrine of vocation is a critique of this worldview. He argued that even the common person, through the calling placed on their life in baptism, can be equals with the monastic in their sense of nearness to God. The doctrine of vocation leveled the spiritual playing field. This was a key insight of Luther and one of his criticisms of the Roman Catholic church. In that day, the papal office claimed that through ordination, a bishop transfers a person into a new spiritual reality of life. Luther disagreed.

"It is important to realize that Luther does insist that, by virtue of our baptism, we are all priests, bishops and popes, that is to say, we are all Christians. However, this did not imply for him a democratization of the Christian church or a denigration of the pastoral office. Instead, it was an attack on the papal claim that, by virtue of the power to consecrate and ordain, the pope and his bishops could create a separate, spiritual [walk of life]" (Timothy Wengert, "The Priesthood of All Believers and Other Pious Myths" 11-12).

We may not all be called as literal priests and pastors. But it is through our baptism that we are "ordained" into a type of ministry. This is the ministry that all Christfollowers share and the priesthood we make vows to. It is the call to serve God that is clarified in the words of our baptismal liturgy: "to proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace." These are good words to remember during these days of confinement. Your call to ministry is still active.



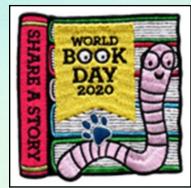
### **News from Faith Library**

by Laura Swanson, Parish Ed Team

In the United States, World Book Day will be celebrated on Thursday, April 22, 2020.

World Book Day is a registered charity and its mission is to give every child and young person a book of their own. The day was designated by UNESCO twenty-three years ago as a worldwide celebration of books. You can read more about it at https://www.worldbookday.com/about/.

For those who wish to celebrate their love of books, please consider hosting a friends and family reading and/or book-giving event during the month of April. If you are interested in donating a book, you may want to check with our day school, your local library or nearby YMCA to find out if they are taking donations and/or



know of someone in need. Also, there are many Little Free Libraries in our area and throughout the country. Make it part of your itinerary when travelling to buy a book from a local bookstore and leave a book in the community. Little Free Libraries can be found at Little Free Library Map - Little Free Library. There is one down the street from Faith at Evelyn's Park.

On Sunday, April 25, the Library Team had planned to celebrate World Book Day by hosting a cross-generational, "share a story" event at Faith. We will have designated readers of all ages visiting classrooms during the learning hour. Readers from MOVE and the adult learning groups will read an excerpt to their "crossover group" and engage in lighthearted fellowship and conversation around their chosen book. If you are not currently participating in a learning group, please ask someone which group they attend and join that group during the learning hour which is 9:45-10:30 AM. We will postpone this event to a later date.

If you have an idea for an article for News from Faith Library or if you would like to shine the Spotlight on one of our members, please send us an e-mail at library@faithbellaire.org. We like to shine the Spotlight on members who share their gifts at Faith in inspiring ways.



### **Prayer Corner - Love**

by Peggy Porter

Read John 13:1-9 and Psalm 22:16-21

John 13:3-4 "Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist."

He knew what he was doing. It was Thursday, hours before he would endure the very worst to accomplish the very best. He had just a few hours left with his disciples before he would pay for their sins. What did he do? He put himself last. "Thoughts of self and safety scorning, knowing how the day would end." Jesus took on the role of a lowly servant. He washed the filth off the feet of his disciples. And he gave them a command: love.

"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:35)

But Jesus' love was far more than a demonstration of love. He made it possible for us to love. Forgiven and free and filed with the Spirit, we truly can love as God's servants. Just as Jesus served underserving others, we, too, can serve and love.

Prayer: O Lord of love, you command us to love, and you redeemed us to love. Send your Spirit that we may point others to your love. Amen.



### **Stewardship Moment**

by Judy Adams, Stewardship Team Member

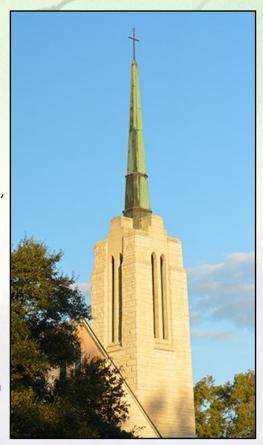
Each month in the Mountain Mover, the Stewardship Ministry Team is highlighting a ministry partner that we support through our annual congregational budget.

The Lutheran Advantage Scholarship at Texas Lutheran University in Seguin is one of these ministries.

TLU provides an education in a challenging and nurturing faith-based environment. It has long served students from many faith traditions. However, because they feel it is important that they continue to attract Lutheran students, they established the Lutheran Advantage Scholarship.

This scholarship is an important way to ensure that TLU continues to carry forward Lutheran values and their mission of preparing students for lives of meaning and service.

Students who qualify receive a yearly amount of \$1,000. During this school year, 161 scholarships were awarded. Since 2011, the Lutheran Advantage Scholarship Fund has awarded \$460,000 to deserving students. Faith Lutheran Church is part of that success!



### Lord, Have Mercy

by Rev. Junfeng Tan, Associate Pastor

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day

be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." Matthew 16:13-16, 21-23

Jesus, are you with us in the coronavirus crisis? Nothing has prepared us for this. When we started the Lenten season, we did not expect the coronavirus to become a global pandemic. We did not expect it would hit us so hard and cause cataclysmic disruptions in our city, our country, and the world. The time of Lent is coming to an end soon. But we do not know what this Easter will be like.

Jesus, are you seeing what we are seeing? Countless people being exposed to the virus, being hospitalized, doctors and nurses in desperate need of face masks and other protective gear, hospitals need more ventilators, many cities and communities are waiting for testing kits, more and more people are waiting in long lines to be tested, millions of people lost their jobs overnight. Lord, have mercy.

Jesus, are you feeling what we are feeling? Fear, panic, uncertainty, anxiety, not knowing what to do, not knowing whether we are doing the right thing or whether we are doing enough. Not knowing what's coming tomorrow, next week. Lord, help us not be paralyzed by fear and panic. Lord, have mercy.

Jesus, help us to trust that you are not far away from us, that you are with us in the war against the coronavirus. Help us to do our best to contain and mitigate the spread of the virus. Help us to care for each other, especially the most vulnerable among us. Lord, have mercy.

Jesus, teach us that we are in these trials and tribulations together. "All of our lives are in each other's hands." How true this saying has become in a crisis like the one we are going through. We weep with those who weep. We pray for our leaders, doctors, nurses, medical scientists, first responders, firefighters, police. We pray for those who have lost their loved one, those who are exposed to the coronavirus, those who are hospitalized and fighting for their lives. We pray for our senior citizens, our young people, and children. We pray for pregnant women and those who are going to be born. We pray for grocery store and gas station workers, for government employees, for those who work in essential businesses. Lord, have mercy.

Jesus, you chose the path of suffering, cross, and resurrection. Your suffering is inseparable from your love and compassion. Help us to remember Apostle Paul's words, "Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:35, 37-39) No matter how tough the going is getting, help us to believe that your divine love sustains, heals, and saves us.

Because you suffered, died and rose from the death, Lord Jesus, help us to believe that our Lenten journey will definitely lead to a glorious Easter. We may or may not celebrate Easter in the sanctuary on April 12. But we know that resurrection, not death, has the last word. Amen.

# Ways to stay connected with Faith Lutheran Church throughout the week

### Monday

Email update from the church

### **Tuesday**

 7:00 PM - High School Group Zoom( https:// uhd.zoom.us/j/590031981)



### Wednesday

- 10:00 AM Grief Share Support Group Zoom (https://zoom.us/j/8324923858)
- 11:45 AM Midweek worship (live.faithbellaire.org or playback any time after)
- 7:00 PM Weight God's Way Group Zoom (https://zoom.us/j/8324923858)
- 7:30 PM Holden Evening Prayer Zoom (https://us04web.zoom.us/j/2528585784)
- 8:00 PM Faith Chinese Fellowship Group Zoom (https://zoom.us/j/5497260963)

### **Thursday**

- This Week at Faith email update from the church
- 7:30 PM Faith Choir Group Zoom (https://uhd.zoom.us/j/270119266)

### **Friday**

- 6:30 PM Women of Faith Conversation/Discussion/Bible Study (https://zoom.us/j/394307598)
- 8:00 PM Faith Chinese Fellowship Group Zoom (https://zoom.us/j/5497260963)

### Saturday

Email update from the church with worship information

### Sunday

- 8:30 AM Sunday worship in English (live.faithbellaire.org or playback any time after)
- 9:30 AM Learning Group for Kindergarten through 2nd grade (https://us04web.zoom.us/ j/105046495)
- 10:00 AM Learning Group for 3rd through 5th grade (https://us04web.zoom.us/j/285532915)
- 10:30 AM Learning Group for Parents (https://uhd.zoom.us/j/9709559367)
- 10:50 AM Sunday worship in Chinese (https://zoom.us/j/5497260963)
- 4:00 PM Confirmation Group Zoom for Middle Schoolers (https://uhd.zoom.us/j/610343282))



### **News from Children's Ministry**

by Courtney Lerch, Children's Ministry Coordinator



Many of us are facing many extra hours at home with our children for an indefinite period of time. While I am sure this situation will be trying at times, we can also use this time to deepen our relationship with our children, as well as use some of this extra time together to enrich our faith formation in the home.

First, I would like to remind everyone about the Faith 5 practices that have been introduced at church in the past. The Faith 5 are an easy way to organize devotional time with children, and I encourage you to establish a time to come together each day to go through the Faith 5 as a family, perhaps during a meal or before bed. (For more information on Faith 5, go to <a href="https://www.faith5.org">www.faith5.org</a>.) Here are the 5 steps:

- **Share** highs and lows
- Read a Bible verse or story
- Talk about the Bible reading (perhaps how it might relate to your highs and lows)
- Pray for one another's highs and lows (may also incorporate other prayer requests)
- Bless one another

Creating this time to check in with each other daily can be a great help both to children and adults in navigating the uncertainty of our current situation. I will also send out new resources and materials twice a week for families to engage in different faith formation activities at home. On Wednesday, I am sending a midweek check in with some activities and a devotion specific to the upheaval and change the children are currently experiencing. On Saturday evening, I am sending a Sunday School curriculum that includes a lesson and activities.

During these times of social distancing, many are feeling the need for social interaction. On Sunday mornings, we have opportunities for both children and adults to gather together via Zoom. At 9:30, the kindergarten-2<sup>nd</sup> grade Sunday School class meets, and at 10:00, the 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School class meets. During this time together, the children have the chance to check in with each other and to work through the Sunday School lesson together. We have already met two Sundays in this way, and we have had some wonderful discussions. We also have a time for parents to hang out together on Zoom following the two Sunday School classes. As each day presents new challenges that take us off guard, it is so important to have the support and encouragement of other parents going through the same things.

I hope these ideas and materials help families get started on using this extra time together to establish some new faith family traditions. Please reach out if you need support or help with anything. Even though we are not gathering together in a physical space, we can continue to support one another and find ways to be a blessing in the world.



### **Lent Reflections**

by John Vickery, Director of Youth and Family Ministry



These are very uncertain and unsettling times. We are living in a word right now where we are constantly worried about who we are around, where others have been, and how we need to protect ourselves. While it is important for us to take care of ourselves, and to take certain precautions, we also cannot allow ourselves to forget our neighbor.

I have been trying to spend a little more time going for walks in the evenings; not only for the exercise, but also to get the fresh air after being indoors almost all day long. This tradition is not something new for me, yet the experience as of late has been radically different.

Since many people are working from home right now, businesses are closed, and school is out; the number of people in my neighborhood that are outside in their driveways or yards has gone up exponentially. This led me to wonder why it takes a catastrophic situation for us to open up to our neighbors and have conversation, or even just to greet one another in passing? Even the simple "hellos" that we have exchanged with adults and kids alike have brought smiles to faces.

One of my favorite songs from my Sunday School years is "They'll Know we are Christians by our Love." This saying is all the truer today. We each are finding ourselves in similar situations of isolation, not knowing what the next hours or days hold. So, if we each took that moment and simply smiled as we pass each other at the store, in our neighborhood, or wherever may let the glimmer of hope and God's abundant love shine through us.

# 2020 National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Walks Greater Houston 5k Walk

NAMI Walks is the largest and most successful mental health awareness and fundraising event in America. Through



NAMIWalks, we are supporting the NAMI organization which National Alliance on Mental Illness is helping change how Americans view persons with a mental illness. The Nami walk is going virtual. I will provide more information as I receive it.

I am pleased to announce that the **NAMIWalks event is going Virtual!** It's the same event, only with a greater reach: the reach of your imagination, the breadth of your compassion. We are getting creative to bring you a Walk of our times, when our programs, services, and advocacy are most crucial.

Virtual NAMIWalks means what it sounds like: virtually anything goes. You can walk around your block, you can walk around your garden, you can walk with a wok in your kitchen. You can self-fundraise while you self-quarantine. Best of all, you can 5K your way! We will be joining other NAMI affiliates around the country to come together on May 30 to support one another as a community. There is no fee to register as a walker. You may register online and contribute to the Alliance now. Every registered participant who personally raises \$100 or more will receive a recognition T-shirt. The national website is <a href="http://www.namiwalks.org">http://www.namiwalks.org</a>. Select the Texas > Greater Houston walk to register or to donate online.

### 1 in 5 Adults

experience mental illness each year in the U.S.

### 1 in 6 Youth

aged 6-17 experience a mental health disorder each year in the U.S.

Walk with us

to raise awareness and funds that support free, top-rated programs and services for our community.

# 2020 FAITH CAMP REGISTRATION NOW OPEN



JULY 13 - 31, 2020

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

# **Continue to Support Our Mission Through Financial Support in These Challenging Times**

The ministry of Faith Lutheran is made possible only by the generous financial support of our members and guests.

As we have joined the rest of the country in moving our worship life online, we anticipate a possible significant impact on our congregational finances. Your continued support of the church and mission is ever more



important. Since only about 30% of our giving comes through online giving or automatic bank drafts, we run the risk of losing 70% of our financial support.

### Here is how you can help...by giving online or through bank automated checks.

- 1. If you use the "bill pay" feature at your bank, 100% of your gift will come in a check sent directly to Faith.
- 2. Giving online at <u>www.faithbellaire.org/give</u> can be very convenient but every gift costs the congregation a small service change if giving by credit card. Giving online can be set up to give electronically by check (no fee) or credit card and there is also a feature to set up your frequency.
- 3. Mail a check to the church office using one of our prepaid postage offering envelopes. Please send an email to the church office at <u>info@faithbellaire.org</u> and request for us to mail some to you.
- 4. If you are required to make annual IRA withdrawals, consider giving a portion directly to the congregation. Consult your financial advisor for the tax savings and charitable contribution impact of such gifts.

If you have questions about setting up online giving, processing a one time gift, or other types of gifts, please call Stacy Williams at 713-664-3381 or email her at swilliams@faithbellaire.org.

Here's our mailing address for your reference.

Faith Lutheran Church 4600 Bellaire Blvd Bellaire, TX 77401

### 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.



### Salem Keenagers—Upcoming Events

All Salem Keenagers activities for the month of April have been cancelled on the recommendation of the city of Houston, the CDC and other agencies. We will see what the recommendations are for the month of May and let everyone know in the Keenagers May newsletter if there are additional cancellations. Money will be refunded for the March and April bus trips. Please pray for everyone, especially the sick and those in need.

### Mark your calendars for the following upcoming trip dates:

- Saturday, May 9 Tickets have been reserved to attend Stratford High School's production of the play "Mamma Mia". Get your name on the list now for this play. Cost of this trip will be \$18.00.
- Thursday June 11 Plans have been made to travel to Livingston, TX for blueberry picking at the "C & M Blueberry Farm". This comes as an invitation from current and former members of Salem. Cost of this trip will be \$3.00.

PLEASE NOTE: All payments for bus trips must be paid in full at least a week before our trip unless you are on a waiting list or unless tickets need to be purchased in advance. Please use separate checks for each event. If paying in person, please place the money in an envelope and mark on the front of the envelope: the event, the amount, and your name. Please make all checks payable to Carole Knaub as Keenagers does not have a bank checking account. Checks may be mailed to me at 1802 Thompson Crossing Drive, Richmond, TX 77406. Please call me at 281-344-0312 if interested in this luncheon or any of the above trips. Remember, Keenagers is for anyone age 50 or older regardless of religious preference. Come and get involved and have fun.

### **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** 



### **Help CCSC from Home**

by Michelle Shonbeck, Executive Director, Christian Community Service Center

CCSC is continuing its work and mission, while taking the necessary precautions with our staff and volunteers. The CCSC food pantries are essential services – serving as a grocery store to our clients – in compliance with the "Stay at Home, Work Safe" order issued by the City of Houston. Your assistance is needed now more than ever.

During this national COVID-19 crisis and the resulting economic impact, we need your help. Please take a moment to donate funds through our secure website <a href="www.ccschouston.org/donations/">www.ccschouston.org/donations/</a> or purchase from our Amazon Wish List <a href="https://smile.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2VC7Q4YB25729">https://smile.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2VC7Q4YB25729</a>

CCSC is experiencing difficulty obtaining groceries from its distributors and your food donations will keep the shelves stocked.

If possible, drop a bag (or more) of groceries at either of our food pantries (3230 Mercer St. or 6856 Bellaire). Here's what will help the most:

Pasta

Hearty soups (with meat or beans)

Canned tuna

Canned chicken

Boxed dry cereal

Canned Vegetables (all types)

Canned fruit (all types)

Cleaning wipes

Toilet paper

Bar soap

Baby Wipes/Diapers (sizes 4, 5 and 6)



We do not know exactly how COVID-19 will impact our community members already in need, but this is what we are seeing:

- Work hours and wages reduced and certain jobs completely eliminated.
- School closings increasing the need for food in homes with children.
- Those requiring medical care now in deeper financial crisis.

I thank you on behalf of CCSC and all the people walking through our doors. It is our hope and desire to remain open and in service to others today, tomorrow and in the weeks and months to come.

