

# Mountain *Mover*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH | JULY 2020

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

### Scattered Thoughts

by Rev. Kerry Nelson, p. 2

### A Message from Council President

by Yvonne Moody, p. 4

### Reflections on the End of Internship

by Dr. Clayton Faulkner, p. 6

### News from Faith Library

by Laura Swanson, p. 7

### 50 Years of Ordained Women

p. 7

### CCSC Food Pantry Drive

p. 8

### Where is God in a Pandemic?

by Rev. Junfeng Tan, p. 9

### News from the Children's Ministry

by Courtney Lerch, p. 11

### Faith Camp in the New Age

by John Vickery, p. 13



## Faith Food Pantry Team Serves 60 Households

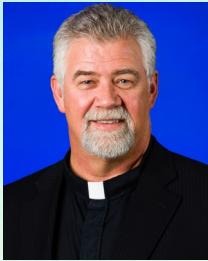
On Saturday, June 20 the Faith Food Pantry Team served 60 families at the CCSC Emergency Services—Southwest pantry. This masked ministry team included Tim Griffith, Pastor Junfeng Tan, Tom Karns, Brent Lamb, Sara Karow, Jane Gips Christine Markham, Nancy Caraway, and Deborah Whittington.

This is one of many ways that we are still blessing the world with faith, hope, and love during this pandemic. The pantry at St. Luke's Methodist Church—Gethsemane Campus, 6856 Bellaire Blvd. is still open, with a modified service system, both to limit contact and maximize food distribution.

Our team serves one Saturday morning each month. This is a great way to give back to our community. Contact Sara Karow ([karowse@comcast.net](mailto:karowse@comcast.net)) to volunteer.

# Scattered Thoughts

by Rev. Kerry Nelson, Senior Pastor



*In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. Mark 1:35*

Life is crazy right now. We all need some quiet time. We could all use a sabbatical.

A sabbatical is a period of paid leave granted to a person for study or travel. They are very common in the world of higher education, less common for pastors, increasingly common for people in other professions. Sabbaticals range in length and frequency - often a period of three months granted every seven years.

This past June marked the 32nd anniversary of my ordination. In that time I took one sabbatical in 2005. It was marvelous.

Usually a sabbatical is broken into three parts. 1) Take some time off from your normal routine to rest. 2) Go to somewhere interesting as a pilgrim to learn something about the world. 3) Find something new to learn that will benefit your daily work when you return.

Highlights of that sabbatical in 2005 included frequent motorcycle trips to interesting places, visiting presidential libraries, six weeks studying Spanish in Mexico, three weeks following the apartheid trail in South Africa, a week skiing in Colorado with my son, spending time in Minnesota and Washington with my family, and making new friends and doing new things around Houston. It came right after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Right after my congregation moved into a new building on a new site.

It was great to be away. But I made a horrible strategic mistake. I failed to make it crystal clear to the congregation that they too needed to take a sabbatical while I was away. Instead, while I was gone, changes were made, and new ministries

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**Check out [FaithBellaire.InFellowship.com](http://FaithBellaire.InFellowship.com)!**

[InFellowship](http://InFellowship) is our secure and easy to use online tool that allows our members and guests to connect to what's happening at Faith. Through your online accounts, you will be able to:



## 1) Access and update your contact information

Our Privacy Settings allow individuals to determine which pieces of personal information can be viewed by others.

## 2) Search and manage group involvement

This allows group leaders to manage groups and contact members of their group and prospects to find and inquire about joining a group.

## 3) Use the church directory - **You MUST OPT-IN**

Allows users to opt in to have their information displayed in an online directory. All access to information is controlled by the user by configuring your privacy settings.

## 4) View your contribution statements

Once enrolled, the church office will approve the user profile and contributions will be posted to the head of household's profile.

## 5) Find a group

Click "Find a group" and "Search" to see a listing of current Learning Groups and Relational Groups. See topic descriptions, times and locations, and sign up to participate.



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

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attempted, that proved unwelcome and unhelpful. I came home to a buzz saw of controversy. I decided then and there that I would never take another sabbatical. I would still find a way to enjoy the benefits of time away to do interesting things in interesting places, but I would do it in a less risky way.

That is why, once a year, I try to take three Sundays off in a row.

This year that time will include, among other things, a motorcycle trip to Northern California. (Please understand that long motorcycle trips are close as I get to a contemplative monk heading out into the wilderness to pray. It's a good thing.) I should be on my way home by the time you read this.

We will never forget the dark sides of our journey with the coronavirus. Its effects will last for decades, whether or not a vaccine is developed. We live in a traumatized country. A traumatized world. From economic devastation to cultural explosion to physical illness and death, the coronavirus has spared no one. The heightened outcry against systemic racism might have been triggered by the murder of George Floyd but it has been festering and simmering and part of the American experiment for 400 years. If ever we as a people needed a sabbatical, now is the time.

You might be able to escape or get away. Perhaps you might need a "sabbatical in place." Think about it.

Consider not only how you have spent your time since March, but how you will spend your time in the months to come as the world continues to battle the virus.

1. Are you appreciating the new "down time" you have been experiencing - even if that only means skipping the daily commute?
2. Are you using your TV time, your Internet browsing, your reading time, to learn new things? Are you reaching out via ZOOM, Skype, or FaceTime to connect with family, old friends, grandchildren?
3. Are you acquiring new skills that will serve you well when this time is over?

I know we are passing through a dark valley. God never said we wouldn't. God only promises to lead us through. We're in a dark valley. God will see us through. I think we ought to make the best of it and we'll find some new things that will last long after the pandemic subsides.



## A Message from the Council President

by Yvonne Moody, Church Council President



It's been a difficult few months, living in isolation and unable to gather together for worship. We are living in the midst of a global pandemic, an economic crisis, and social unrest in our nation. We long for good news. The last time I wrote, we were celebrating the Good News of Easter. And as Easter people, we know that Christ lives and walks with us through these times of trial.

We also live in the reality of a secular world, where bills have to be paid and it takes financial support to do ministry. Even though we are not gathering together for worship, the electric bill still comes, and the mortgage still needs to be paid. I am so excited to share this GOOD NEWS! **Faith Lutheran Church is DEBT FREE!**

As of May 31, we have received \$976,814 for the Proclaim Jubilee Capital Campaign. That is an amazing 66% of the original pledges of \$1,470,713 for a three-year campaign. Praise God for the faithfulness of the people of this congregation, and the resources to meet these pledges.

When the church council met on June 9, the balance of our mortgage was \$81,985 with a balloon payment coming due on July 6. If the note was not paid in full, we would need to refinance any remaining balance. The council voted to be good stewards of the gifts we have been given and use the balance of the pledges received towards our debt, plus a small amount from the building reserve fund to completely payoff our mortgage before the date of the balloon payment. With the wonders of technology, while we were meeting on Zoom, Stacy Williams logged on to the bank account, made the appropriate transfers, and we became a debt free congregation for the first time in many years!

As a reminder, the congregation voted to allocate capital campaign funds as follows: 70% to debt reduction, 20% to a long-term building reserve fund, and 10% to the Christian Community Service Center (CCSC). To date, we have committed \$95,264 to CCSC's capital fund for their new building! That is a real blessing to the community!

Like many of you, when I made my pledge to Proclaim Jubilee, I promised three equal payments over three years. So far, I've fulfilled my 2019 pledge, but have two more payments left. I want to encourage everyone to continue to fulfill their pledges to the best of their ability. Since we have paid off our debt, all remaining capital campaign donations will be split 10% to CCSC and 90% to a long-term building reserve fund. This will be available for future years to address needs as they arise. Council allocated approximately \$31,000 from this reserve account to payoff the mortgage, so those funds will be replenished as additional pledges are received.

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If you have any questions about any of the above, please feel free to contact me or Stacy Williams at the church office. You are also welcome to attend our next council meeting, scheduled for July 14. We are still meeting virtually, but I would be happy to send you a link or provide another option for you to participate.

Thank you, people of Faith, for answering the call and helping us meet these financial obligations! Remember that there are on-going needs for our general giving fund to support our ministry, including our staff and the technology that allows us to continue our live stream. The staff is also busy ordering necessary supplies and preparing for our planned return to worship in August. I look forward to that joyful day! "I thank my God every time I remember you." Philippians 1:3

## Stewardship Spotlight—Campus Ministry at Texas A&M and Blinn

by Judy Adams, Stewardship Team Member



At Texas A&M and Blinn/Bryan, the Treehouse Ministries is one of the ELCA's vibrant campus ministries. Welcoming all students undergraduate and graduate, they encourage students, regardless of background, to come together to explore what it means to love and serve God and their neighbors – **ALL** their neighbors.

Once a week at Texas A&M, students feast on a home-cooked meal, and while each week is different, service, sacraments and prayer are always included. The weekly dinner gathering brings all the students together, but there are also smaller group Bible studies each week. "The First Year Small Group" helps new students meet new people, make friends, and ask questions as they are introduced to college life. The "Off the Page" team reads the Bible together, lets it challenge them, and discusses what it means for everyday life. "Mike's Small Group" is for older students who really want to have a deep, challenging conversation.

The students at Blinn College in Brenham also gather every week at lunchtime. They're invited to come to the table to eat and chat about the "Question of the Day." They are also invited to participate in Bible study on a regular basis.

Although the campus ministries had been a part of college life at these campuses for many years, the program was totally revitalized when Pastor Mindy Roll arrived 11 years ago. Her strong leadership energized the campus ministry and helped make it the thriving program it is today. Pastor Mindy is the daughter of Joye and Mike Roll, long-time members of Faith. Mindy and her brother Matt were raised in our congregation at Faith since birth, and we are proud of all that she has accomplished. She is currently serving as Pastor at Zion Lutheran Church in Houston.

Over the last three months, Pastor Jerry Wirtley has been called to lead the Treehouse Ministry. While the Treehouse ministries have had to adapt in response to the coronavirus, they are now meeting and maintaining fellowship virtually. Through on-line technologies such as Zoom, they continue ministry and fellowship. When asked about future plans, Pastor Jerry stated "We are preparing for the fall semester and not sure if we will be able to gather in person, but we will continue via Zoom and Discord to build community and support each other."

Helping young adults who are on their own for the first time stay connected to God's word is an important part of our faith. We should all be proud that our congregation helps support these important ministries.



## Reflections on the End of Internship

by Dr. Clayton Faulkner, Pastoral Intern



July is a big month this year. On July 1 I celebrate my 9<sup>th</sup> anniversary of serving at Faith. I joined the staff in July 2011 and this is the longest I have stayed at any church in my ministry. Faith is a very special church, filled with very caring people, and has a unique, community-driven ministry. These years have been wonderful.

The other reason that July is significant is that at the end of the month, my time as a pastoral intern officially closes. I began my internship on February 1, 2019. As a collaborative learner at Wartburg Theological Seminary, my internship was a little different than the way students have traditionally done them. In an older, traditional model for seminary, the third year of seminary is dedicated to the internship, where the seminarian leaves campus, moves to a congregational site, and lives among them for 12 months doing ministry.

My internship was different. I didn't have to move to a new congregation. This is perhaps the greatest benefit of the collaborative model and what drew me to it in the beginning. The collaborative model allowed me to stay employed at Faith over the course of four years of seminary, including doing my internship here. The other things that were slightly different are that it lasted 18 months instead of 12, and that I continued to do coursework while on internship. In the traditional model a seminarian would not take courses during internship, focusing on ministry in the congregational context.

I am so happy that I was able to share my internship with you, the people of Faith. It was very special to me that I was able to first experience this pastoral role among you, where I have served all these years. I have to acknowledge and thank my Internship Committee for accompanying me in this process, sharing their wisdom with me, and offering their feedback: Karen Elsen (chair), Kathy Patrick, Roxy Funchess, Barbara McDowell, Janice Decker, Dave Gohlke, Alex Dyson, Hannah Dyson, Jim Richman, and John Vickery. They met with me about every other month during the internship.

One of the things we did during our Internship Committee meetings was share what ministry looks like for each member of the committee. The term "ministry" here refers to the various roles each of us plays in everyday life, as spouse, friend, parent, child, worker, student, and parishioner. Just as I reported on my ministry as an intern, so each committee member took turns reflecting on their ministry, how they live out their lives as God's people in the everyday world. The work of ministry is truly collaborative, not something that just the pastor and staff do.

So, what did I learn? I learned that leadership is often difficult and requires you to make decisions in the best interest of people, even when they don't like it. I learned that the Lutheran flavor of Christianity is built on our salvation by grace through faith and that God's word is both law and gospel simultaneously. I learned that I really enjoy preaching and the process of preparing a sermon. I learned that presiding at the table and offering prayers is a sacred honor where God meets us. I learned that providing pastoral care does not equal being able to solve people's problems but observing where God is present. I learned that stewardship is about more than money and includes all of life. I learned that teaching and leading Bible studies can be fun and engaging. I learned that I really enjoy talking about the faith with middle schoolers and high schoolers. I learned that church administration works really well when you have systems in place. I learned that evangelism requires spending time outside of the church. I learned that calling attention to injustice is part of pastoral ministry.

Here is a line from the "Service of Godspeed" liturgy that we will use at the conclusion of my internship: *"We thank God for who you are and what you did among us, for us and with us. Clayton, God has blessed you to be a blessing to us in your faithful service as our intern."* Amen.



## News from Faith Library— Summer Reading

by Laura Swanson, Parish Ed Team

When the temperature rises and the days are long, it's a good time to pick a book or two for summer reading.

Growing up in Houston, I was not fond of the heat and humidity of the bayou city in July! Rather than roaming the streets, you would find me in a cool spot, lost in a book. One of those summer books is etched in my memory, The Blue Willow Plate, by Doris Gates. The story is about Janey Larkin, whose father was an itinerant worker. Janey didn't have a home she could call her own or any real friends, as her family had to keep moving, following the crops from farm to farm. It made a huge impression on me, big enough that I still remember it 40-something years later. That, I believe, is the blessing of a good summer read.



We'd love to hear from you during the month of July in order to create an article for August titled, "Faith Reads." Whether you are nine or ninety-something, please let us know what you're reading by sending an e-mail to [library@faithbellaire.org](mailto:library@faithbellaire.org). You can also drop us a line via mail and send it to Faith Lutheran Church, Attn: Library Team, 4600 Bellaire Blvd. Bellaire, TX 77401. Please also share a quote from or give a quick review of the book.

## 50 Years of Ordained Women

With gratitude for those who have gone before and hope for the future, the ELCA gives thanks to God for the ministry of women. In 2019 and 2020 we celebrate 50 years of Lutheran women being ordained in the United States, 40 years of women of color being ordained, and 10 years of LGBTQIA+ individuals being able to serve freely.

As part of this anniversary year, we lament that women have been barred from serving and have been bullied, dismissed and excluded. We also celebrate the gifts and service that women have brought to our church and our world as pastors.



# We Are Church, We Are Called

50•40•10





## CCSC Food Pantry Drive

Christian Community Service Center is on the front lines of feeding people and meeting their basic needs. During this national COVID-19 crisis, CCSC is experiencing difficulty obtaining groceries from its distributors, so your food donations will help keep the shelves stocked.

You can drop off food donations at the following two locations:

1. Food Pantry at 3230 Mercer St. (77027) Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM and Saturdays 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM.
2. Food Pantry at 6856 Bellaire Blvd (77074) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday from 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM, CCSC's Bellaire food pantry is located in the church's Canterbury Hall on the east side of the church campus (the same side as KIPP Connect school). Go to the blue double doors of the building closest to the athletic field.

### Here's a list of items that will help the most:

- Bags with handles for packing groceries (paper, reusable, plastic)
- Pasta
- Hearty soups (with meat or beans)
- Canned tuna or 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)





# Where is God in a Pandemic?

by Rev. Junfeng Tan, Associate Pastor



It has been four months since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in the United States. As I am writing, the cases of Covid-19 and hospitalizations in the greater Houston region are continuously increasing at an alarming rate in the last several days. "Where is God in this pandemic?" you may ask. Let us remember that the God we worship is Immanuel. God is with us here and now.

God is with us as we are wrestling with the question: how long is the pandemic going to last? How will it end? No one seems to have a definitive answer to the question. But we take comfort in the fact that we are not alone in this regard. People of faith have dealt with epidemics for thousands of years and this is not the first time we ask the question. The psalmist cried out to God "How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I bear pain in my soul, and have sorrow in my heart all day long?" (Psalm 13:1-2, NRSV) God is not offended by our question. Neither does God turn a deaf ear to our pleading. Rather, God patiently listens to us. God understands our anxieties, our fears, our worries, our questions, our doubts, and our hopes.

God is with us as we are grieving. When Mary and Martha lost their brother Lazarus, Jesus came to console them. He shared in their pain and loss. He grieved with them. He even wept and shed tears. Those who died in the pandemic are God's children and Jesus' brothers and sisters. As we lament and grieve the lives that have been lost to Covid-19, we believe Jesus comes to us and sympathizes and grieves with us. We find consolation in these holy words, "You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book." (Psalm 56:8, New Living Translation)

God is with us as we show appreciation and gratitude to those who are fighting the coronavirus on the front line: scientists and researchers who are working hard on finding the right drugs and vaccines, doctors, nurses, lab technicians, public health officials and workers, first responders, hospital and clinic administrators and support staff, firefighters, police, grocery store and supermarket workers, truck drivers, mailpersons, and countless others who work in other essential businesses. Many of them have taken great risks and made many sacrifices in treating and caring for patients, and serving us. We pray that God be with them and grant them wisdom, strength, and protection.

God is with us as we care for one another and serve the vulnerable and needy. When we take heed of the advice of scientists and public health officials: maintaining social distancing, wearing face masks, washing hands regularly, we help prevent the spread of the coronavirus and save lives. When we give to charities and volunteer at food pantries, when we lend a helping hand to elderly neighbors or friends, we are practicing loving our neighbors as ourselves. No one is an island. We are in this together, and we will get through this together if we stay together.

God is with us as we remain steadfast in faith. There is no question that we are facing an unprecedented challenge. Where do we get the help and strength and hope to meet the challenge? "I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." (Psalms 121:1-2) Participating in the worship service via internet, being fed by God's Word and Holy Communion, staying connected to church and church friends, supporting the church's mission and ministry through your financial gifts, regular Bible reading and devotion, teaching our children Bible stories and songs of faith...as we remain faithful to the Lord, we will definitely experience the steadfast love of the Lord.



## 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>)
- 7:00 PM - Weight God's Way Group Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8324923858>)
- 7:30 PM - Adult Learning Group Zoom -Bible study/prayer with Clayton Faulkner (<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/2528585784?pwd=S1Q0ZIR0SnYvRVF6QnVXUTZnYnZXQT09>)
- 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 with Kathy Patrick (<https://zoom.us/j/394307598>) Dates to be TBD
- 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](http://live.faithbellaire.org) or playback any time after)
- 9:30 AM - Learning Group for Kindergarten through 2nd grade (<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/105046495?pwd=SXdRT3BDaTMzMjcXK293MXI0ZlI3Zz09>)
- 10:00 AM - Learning Group for 3rd through 5th grade (<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/285532915?pwd=NW9qSXlWTm5CdHE1Z1BHMFljK2diUT09>)
- 10:00 AM - Taking Faith Home Learning Group with Betty Becker (<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8737353743?pwd=UzI6T2tJNUFuMzJtTk1WM3orQXBrUT09>)
- 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>)
- 1:30 PM - Handbell Choir Zoom (<https://uhd.zoom.us/j/91561239583>)
- 4:00 PM - Confirmation Group Zoom for Middle Schoolers (<https://uhd.zoom.us/j/610343282>)







## News from the Children's Ministry

by Courtney Lerch, Children's Ministry Coordinator



As I sit to write this article, not much has changed since mid-March in the daily lives of most families. Although parents no longer have to make sure their children are keeping up with virtual schooling, summer vacation has brought extra time with significantly fewer available activities to fill that time. The hope that things might start opening up over the summer has vanished with the recent surge in COVID cases in the Houston area.

The cumulative months of limited social interaction has taken its toll on all of us. Many of us have had grand ideas about how to take advantage of this extra time with our children, only to have the daily grind sap our energy to the point where we just want to survive the day with our sanity intact.

Considering our limited supply of energy and patience, it makes sense to focus only on what is most important to us and to let the rest go. I completely understand that this is easier said than done, but it is a worthwhile goal to keep in mind. For example, my husband and I decided to use some of this time to work on faith formation together as a family. As we talk about different Bible stories, we try to use them as starting points to discuss our family values. Given our close proximity to one another day in and day out, these conversations frequently include how we can follow the loving example of Jesus and treat each other with kindness and respect. I know firsthand the daily struggle families face in our current circumstances and how daunting it can seem to add one more thing to your plate, but I encourage you to consider joining us in making faith formation a family goal for the remainder of this quarantine period.

In an effort to support families in their faith formation journey together, I have sent out a packet of activities centered around a Bible story each week during the month of June. As the number of days our children are home continue to multiply, it becomes increasingly difficult to find meaningful activities to fill the time. My hope is that the activity packets have helped when parents are searching for something new or different to do with their children. Each packet includes a Bible story, a link to a short video telling the story, some links to songs (I tried to find some active ones to help kids get some energy out during those long, hot afternoons!), a craft, an activity, and some discussion questions.

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Below are the links to each activity packet, for anyone who has missed them or would like to go back and do some of the activities again. If you need any of the templates for the crafts or activities, please email me at [clerch@faithbellaire.org](mailto:clerch@faithbellaire.org). I am happy to share!

**Holy Trinity Sunday:** <https://media.myworshiptimes4.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/40/2020/06/30102057/June-7-Holy-Trinity-Sunday.pdf>

**Jesus Calls and Sends Out His Disciples:** <https://media.myworshiptimes4.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/40/2020/06/30102058/June-14-Jesus-Calls-Disciples.pdf>

**The Lord's Prayer:** <https://media.myworshiptimes4.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/40/2020/06/30102100/June-21-The-Lords-Prayer.pdf>

**The Parable of the Sower:** <https://media.myworshiptimes4.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/40/2020/06/30102101/June-28-The-Sower.pdf>

As we continue to go through the daily grind, let's try to remember the other parents in our Faith community. If you come across an activity that your family enjoyed, share it by emailing [FaithBellaireFamilies@googlegroups.com](mailto:FaithBellaireFamilies@googlegroups.com). The few minutes it takes you to send that email could just make another family's day! We are all in this together, and we all need community support more than ever. We have a wonderful community here at Faith—let's be there for one another even during these times when we cannot be together!



# Faith Camp in the New Age

by John Vickery, Director of Youth and Family Ministry

13



July has arrived and we still find ourselves in a time that social distancing, face coverings, and avoiding large gatherings are each part of our every day considerations. As a result of these considerations, Faith Camp in the traditional sense has been cancelled.

This means that if you come by the building in July, you won't be seeing about 100 kids running around; learning the Bible story, playing games, eating snacks, and having fun. Instead, we had to come up with a creative way to still reach families, and take Faith Camp to their living room.

This sparked an idea. Children's television shows are often in a 30 minute slot, with there only being about 22 minutes or so of show and the rest being commercials. Why don't we create a Faith Camp "television show?"

This year for camp, we are doing just that! Various Faith Camp staff are sending in videos of themselves telling each day's Bible story, others are telling about the person of the day. Myself and Clayton along with some other helpers recorded all of the Faith Camp songs, Kelsey helped out and demonstrated activities that families can do together at home; everything pointing back to a Bible story.

Our hope is that Faith Camp will be able to be done with family units watching the videos together, singing the songs, listening to the story, and having conversations.

While this is a radical change from what we usually do, it is a way to practice radical hospitality through Faith Camp in a new way. The videos will be uploaded to Youtube, and links to the videos each day shared to Faithbook, the Faith Camp Facebook Page, as well as emailed out to all Faith Camp families.

In closing, I would like to publicly thank our 2020 Faith Camp Staff. As a result of in person camp being cancelled, their work transitioned to being a volunteer role. Creating Faith Camp this summer would have been a massive undertaking for one person to pull off, but with all of us together we were able to create something we can be proud of and that will be a blessing to others. So, thank you Faith Camp Staff for your dedication to the camp that we all love!





## Continue to Financially Support Our Mission Through 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 [www.faithbellaire.org/give](http://www.faithbellaire.org/give) can be very convenient but every gift costs the congregation a small service charge 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 [info@faithbellaire.org](mailto:info@faithbellaire.org) 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](mailto:swilliams@faithbellaire.org).

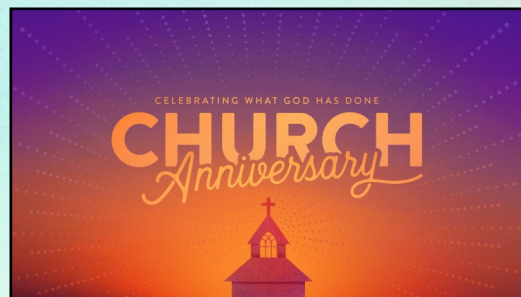
Here's our mailing address for your reference.

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 Church's Thursday email, or call the church office at 713.664.3048 or contact one of the co-chairs (George Amundson or Karen Elsen) at [jubileeteam@faithbellaire.org](mailto:jubileeteam@faithbellaire.org) to express your interest in helping.



## Salem Keenagers—Upcoming Events

Keenagers will not meet for the regular monthly luncheons and entertainment during the summer months. We will continue our regular luncheons again in September. Enjoy your summer and keep safe!!!

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

More information about these trips will be coming later. As soon as I know when the buses will be running again I will schedule the upcoming trips. I am really looking forward to Keenagers resuming their activities again.

- **Thursday, August 13** – Plans still in progress
- **Thursday, September 24** – Plans are being made to tour the Cotton Gin Museum and the Peek Ranch in Burton, TX.

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 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](http://FaithBellaire.org)

[FaithDaySchool.org](http://FaithDaySchool.org)

[FaithHouseHouston.org](http://FaithHouseHouston.org)

[info@faithbellaire.org](mailto: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 Balus

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





## ELCA Anti-Racism Pledge

[elca.org/racialjusticepledge](https://elca.org/racialjusticepledge)

In 2019, at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly, voting members [adopted a resolution](#) designating June 17 as a commemoration of the martyrdom of the Emanuel 9—the nine people shot and killed on June 17, 2015, during a Bible study at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C. Congregations of the ELCA are encouraged to mark this day of penitence with study and prayer.

As church we are called to confess the sin of racism, condemn the ideology of white supremacy, and strive for racial justice and peace. Beyond statements and prayers, we are called to also act and respond to injustices. We invite you to commit to one or more of the actions below:

1. [Sign the pledge](#), “I commit to study, prayer and action to become an anti-racist individual in an anti-racist church,” and share your participation on social media using #ELCA4justice.
2. Work to dismantle racial injustice by [listening](#) to voices, experiences and the expertise of people of color. Learn about the [ELCA ethnic-specific associations](#) and their [strategies](#).
3. Learn the history of systemic racism in this country and the ways racism and white supremacy impact every aspect of our life together.
4. Join, support or attend your synod’s anti-racism team or work with your synod leadership to start one in your congregation. Study the ELCA social statement “[Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture](#)” and the “[Explanation of the Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent](#).”
5. Explore and use on “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday the forthcoming ELCA Advocacy resources on a “Just Society Supporting the Health of All,” which are focused on advancing racially equitable public policies, and by engaging in [ELCAvotes](#) to encourage and ensure voting rights for all.
6. Start where you are by joining community organizations working for racial justice.
7. Reach out to build or [deepen relationships](#) with Historic Black Churches. Consider using the congregational resource “[Understanding One Another](#),” co-authored by the ELCA and the African Methodist Episcopal Church, or our [Joint Statement of Mission](#) with the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church as a way to get started.
8. Explore and use the [anti-racism resources](#) of our ecumenical partners through the [A.C.T. Now to End Racism](#) initiative of the National Council of Churches.

**We invite you to join us in the  
ELCA’s Anti-Racism Pledge**

LEARN MORE