

# Mountain *Mover*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH | AUGUST 2020

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**LAUNCH DAY  
AUGUST 23**

8:30 AM ONLINE WORSHIP IN ENGLISH  
9:30 AM VIRTUAL KIDS  
9:45 AM VIRTUAL FELLOWSHIP  
10:00 AM VIRTUAL LEARNING GROUPS

## **Fall Learning Groups Begin on August 23**

Join us for new virtual options for Learning Groups beginning on Sunday, August 23. Following the livestream of English worship at 8:30 AM, we will have a virtual kids gathering at 9:30 AM. At 9:45 AM we will host a virtual time of fellowship to say hello to familiar faces. Following that at 10:00 AM there will be virtual Learning Groups for children and adults. Other options for learning will continue to meet throughout the week.



# Scattered Thoughts

by Rev. Kerry Nelson, Senior Pastor



*"I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere*

*faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you.*

*For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline." 2 Timothy 1:3-7*

The writer opens his letter with a reminder of how the gift of faith is passed along - person to person, beginning in our homes. Christianity is all about relationships and the primary relationships of our lives is where the seed is planted (or not), nurtured (or not), and ultimately influences the value system and direction of our lives.

These verses came to mind as the continuing effects of this pandemic stretch on. Our sanctuary has sat largely empty for months now. We were all looking forward to the potential of gathering again for public worship on August 2. But - as we now know - things have gotten much worse in Houston and those plans have changed.

As the writer says, *"God did not give us a spirit of cowardice."* Life is inherently risky. Leaving our homes in this pandemic requires that we take risks. But there is a difference between risk-taking and foolhardiness.

Live worship is on a very short list of potentially dangerous ways of bringing people together. And, given the options in front of us, we can easily still continue to be church together using the online tools we have.

**Continued on next page...**

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

[InFellowship](https://FaithBellaire.InFellowship.com) 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.*

**Continued...**

We can livestream events like baptisms, confirmation, funerals, and weddings. These will include inviting a very limited number of people to gather in the sanctuary with strict protocols in place. The benefit is that everyone else who normally would come to such events can either watch it live or watch it later. The family is then provided with a DVD. They can post the service on social media and remember it forever. We can make the best of a bad situation.

We can continue to do all of our other gatherings (meetings, classes, support groups) online via ZOOM. I have come to really appreciate those gatherings. No one needs take the time to drive to church. We can focus on each other. It works very well.

You also have the option of gathering a small group in your home for prayer and Holy Communion. Pastor Tan and I are available to gather with you, wearing our masks, to share that time with you. We could do that at any time during the week.

The blessing hidden in all of this goes back to those words written to Timothy. The gold standard for sharing the Christian faith has always been "home schooling." Over time, the majority of people grew away from that. The Christian faith evolved into what one of our members often refers to as "*sit and git*" faith. People grew used to the routine of dressing up, showing up, dropping off the kids, and figuring that was about all it took for the faith to take root and grow. We all know that wasn't working. Now we are in a new place where that isn't an option.

So what do we do? We take advantage of this time. If you have children at home, you now have the opportunity to make the most of the resources that Courtney and John have been faithfully sending your way. When you gather around the computer or the TV (smart TV's allow you to connect to your computers live, or to watch it later via the internet), your kids will hear you sing, hear your liturgical responses, and know that you are worshipping as a family. They will never forget that. Even if they complain, know that you're nurturing those seeds of faith.

If you live alone, consider inviting someone else who lives alone to come to your home and share worship and a meal together. Developing a safe circle of friends who share worship at home will bring untold blessings into your life in the years to come. And USE THE PHONE throughout the week to reach out and support one another.

Pastor Tan and I are also always here for you. Call us on our cell phones. Send us text messages. Use email. And, if you have your computer or laptop ready, we love to visit via ZOOM. Let's make the most of this time together!



## A Message from the Council President

by Yvonne Moody, Church Council President



As you have already heard from Pastor Kerry in his weekly updates, the Church Council met on July 14 and discussed the critical decision of when to return to in-person worship. Ultimately, we decided that there is too much risk right now, with increasing COVID cases in Harris County. We have determined that we will not return to in-person worship in the sanctuary until at least November, and this decision will be re-visited in October as we review the most recent public health information available at that time. We were pleased to have 5 visitors join our virtual meeting on Zoom and appreciated hearing their opinions. ALL Church Council meetings are open to visitors. We meet the second Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM. If you are interested in attending, please contact the church office or Pastor Kerry for the meeting link.

Each of us on Council misses the opportunity to gather together for worship. We long to return to our normal routines and miss the chance to see, and hug, and encourage one another. But we love the people of Faith, the staff, and our own families, and keeping everyone safe is our highest priority. During Council meetings we review the virtual attendance numbers, including those who join for the live stream and those who view the recorded worship at another time during the week. We also review the financial statements of the church each month. While both the attendance and offering numbers are encouraging, we continue to monitor these indicators of the health of the congregation. We appreciate those who remain faithful in their giving, and who carve out time each week for worship. There is no doubt that these days of isolation are monotonous, and it takes discipline to remain faithful. It takes each one of us to keep this faith community vibrant and thriving. Please do your part! If you need help, ask. If you can give help, offer it! Pray without ceasing. Check in on each other.

### **BE THE CHURCH!**

Finally, I want to offer public thanks on behalf of the Church Council to several people. First, to Clayton Faulkner for blessing us with teaching and preaching during his pastoral internship, and for his continued dedication to supporting vibrant worship each week in his role as Director of Music, Worship and Technology. We lift Clayton up with thanksgiving and pray continued blessings on his journey through seminary. Second, to William Walker, for blessing the congregation with the addition of a bench to the prayer labyrinth as part of his Eagle Scout project. We are so proud of William and appreciate his service. And finally, a big thank you to Brent Lamb, whose name comes up almost every month during Council meetings for his handy work and contributions to maintaining our church property. Brent's most recent contribution is a new mail box. Thank you, Brent, William, and Clayton! You are each a blessing to Faith Lutheran Church!

*"I thank my God every time I remember you." Philippians 1:3*





Christian Community Service Center

## A TIME TO BUILD Campaign Update



### A BIG Week at the Building Site

The J. Dean Robinson Building hit a major milestone this week and we couldn't wait to share our excitement with all of you--the "A Time to Build Capital Campaign" donors who made this possible.

CCSC staff joyfully watched the cross and CCSC's name go up on the west façade of our soon-to-be in operation building, and we eagerly anticipate being able to serve more and serve better in our new location sometime this fall.

For more information, and to help CCSC reach the finish line for the "A Time to Build" campaign, please contact Development Director Sharon Current at [current@ccschouston.org](mailto:current@ccschouston.org).





## Tips for Attending Virtual Church

by Dr. Clayton Faulkner, Pastoral Intern



As we enter the month of August, we are now 20 weeks into exclusively offering online worship. This is new territory for all of us. At this point, the strangeness of it may be beginning to wear off. This is now the new normal. We have at least three more months of only being able to participate in worship online.

We have entered into an extended season of worshiping through a virtual space. Through technology, you are connected to our worship services while you are at home, or on your phone or tablet from anywhere in the world. We are connected together through our virtual church.

This isn't anything new for us. Faith started recording and sharing our worship services and sermons online in 2011. That means for nine years we've already been doing worship in a virtual space. But virtual church is an even older concept than that. Because the church has always believed that we are connected with the communion of saints from all times and places when we assemble together around word and sacrament. In that sense, the church has been gathering virtually with the communion of saints for thousands of years.

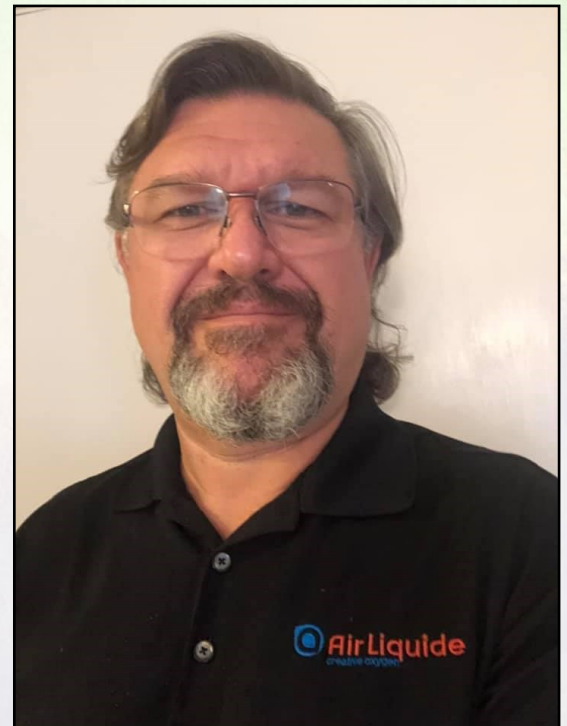
If there was ever any doubt, God's presence is mediated through virtual spaces. I trust that you still sense God's presence when you worship online. I hope that you feel the Spirit during a favorite hymn, or when we pray, or when you receive communion at home, or when you hear the gospel proclaimed through your device at home. The communion of saints, both at Faith and from all times and places, gather with you virtually for worship.

If you're still struggling to make virtual worship feel "real," I understand. I get that there will always be something that feels missing. There are things you can do to make online worship feel more engaging and participatory.

I recently had a conversation with Dave Gohlke about how he has learned to make virtual church feel more like worship. Here are some of his recommendations:

- Before worship, shower and dress decently. Don't just stay in bed in your pajamas. This helps me feel like I'm preparing for something important.
- Tune in early enough to hear the prelude music (usually around 8:27 AM).
- Engage your physical body with gestures and movement: standing (usually during confession and forgiveness, singing, the gospel reading, and prayers of intercession), sitting, perhaps kneeling during communion, and making the sign of the cross.
- Say the congregational responses out loud, not just in your head.
- Really sing (since there is no one to listen and judge my bad singing).
- Text the peace of Christ to people I think will be tuning in at the same time.
- Listen to the postlude music at the end.
- Reflect on worship: What is God's Spirit saying to me today?

Thanks for the helpful suggestions, Dave. What would you add to the list?





## News from Faith Library— Bingo!

by Laura Swanson, Parish Ed Team

The library team will be taking off during the months of August and September. We hope to get back to doing “library things” in October.

In the meantime, please continue to drop us a line at [library@faithbellaire.org](mailto:library@faithbellaire.org) and let us know what you’re reading. We’ll combine the responses for an upcoming article.

Perhaps this bingo game will inspire you!



## Prayer Corner - My Grace Is Sufficient For You

Read 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 and Psalm 95:1-6

“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” 2 Corinthians 12:9

There are times in our lives when we want to ask God, “Why?” Why do you allow suffering in the lives of your people? Usually it’s more specific. “Why are you allowing this hard thing in my life or my loved-one’s life when I know you’re capable of removing it?” Paul wondered why God was not removing his own thorn after having pleaded three times.

Consider the first word of Jesus’ very personal response to Paul’s question. He said, “My grace is sufficient for you.” There is an atomic bomb’s worth of power behind the small word “my.” This is the Creator of the universe, the Wisdom of the ages, God with us, the all-seeing, all powerful, and everywhere-present lover of our souls. Could Paul – can we—trust the measure of grace given for each circumstance of our lives when we consider who the giver is?

Can God cure our diseases, heal our broken relationships, smash our addictions? Yes. We wouldn’t bother to ask if we thought God incapable. But when God doesn’t, God asks us to settle deeply into God’s character. The fact of God’s love and compassion for our human condition was settled on the cross. God’s grace is sufficient for us.

Pray: Precious Savior, thank you for your grace! Thank you for the cross and the proof it gives of your love. Amen.





## 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)





## Find Your Own Calcutta

by Rev. Junfeng Tan, Associate Pastor



*When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat."*

Matthew 14:15-16

The story of Jesus feeding the 5,000 is the only miracle story that appears in all four gospels. Needless to say, I have preached on the story quite a few times. Sometimes, my message focuses on Jesus' compassion on the crowd or his power to perform miracles. Other times, I call attention to the little boy's (according to John) or the disciples' (according to Matthew, Mark, and Luke) willingness to offer the five fish and two loaves to Jesus. I am going to preach on the story again on the first Sunday of August at the Chinese service. I am feeling drawn to Jesus' command to his disciples, "You give them something to eat."

"You give them something to eat." I sense an urgency in Jesus' command to take responsibility and to act in the face of human suffering and need. The coronavirus pandemic has made the economic inequality worse. Since the beginning of the pandemic, there has been an increasing number of people in the greater Houston region who are experiencing food insecurity due to rising rates of unemployment or underemployment. Prior to the outbreak of the pandemic, Faith's food pantry team usually distributed food to a dozen or less families on a given Saturday at CCSC's food pantry. That number, unfortunately, has increased significantly as the cases of coronavirus have continued to climb in the past four months. On June 20, 60 families were served by our team. July 25 saw thundering and raining on and off in the morning. As I was driving to the food pantry, I thought we would not see many clients that day. To my surprise, we ended up serving 48 households. We could have served 80 families had it not been for the rain.

"You give them something to eat." Jesus believes that some kind of resource is available to us to meet the human needs. He believes that each of us can do something to help relieve human suffering and hunger. Members of Faith's Grace Meal Team brought homecooked meals to the homeless youth at the Montrose Grace Place on March 9, May 11, and July 13. To maintain social distance and refrain from close contact, young men and women are not able to sit together at tables to share the meal. Our team serves them by making and handing out food boxes. On August 16, Faith will partner with Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center and host a blood drive in the Faith Center. Please consider being a blood donor and help save lives.

"You give them something to eat." There are enormous emotional, mental, and spiritual hunger and needs in our communities. Many people feel lonely and isolated during the pandemic. Many people have contracted the coronavirus and are in the fight for their life. Many are worried about their job and financial security. Some are grieving the death of loved ones due to Covid 19 or other causes. Parents are struggling and worried about their children's learning as the new school year is about to start... Mother Teresa once said, "Stay where you are. Find your own Calcutta. Find the sick, the suffering, and the lonely right there where you are — in your own homes and in your own families, in your workplaces and in your schools. You can find Calcutta all over the world, if you have the eyes to see. Everywhere, wherever you go, you find people who are unwanted, unloved, uncared for, just rejected by society — completely forgotten, completely left alone." When you find your own Calcutta, will you heed and obey Jesus' command and offer your "loaves and fish" to serve?

"We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality; tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. As long as there is poverty in this world, no man can be totally rich even if he has a billion dollars. As long as diseases are rampant and millions of people cannot expect to live more than 20 or 30 years, no man can be totally healthy, even if he just got a clean bill of health from the finest clinic in America. Strangely enough, I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. You can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be."



## 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=S1Q0ZlR0SnYvRVF6QnVXUTZnYnZXQT09>)
- 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

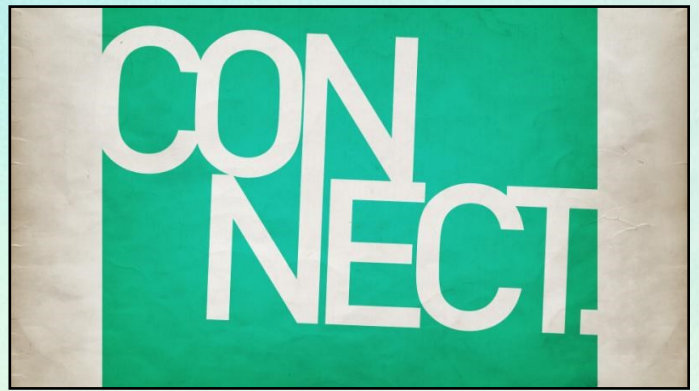
- 6:30 PM - Women of Faith - Conversation/Discussion/Bible Study with Kathy Patrick (<https://zoom.us/j/394307598>) Dates to be TBD
- 8:00 PM - Faith Chinese Fellowship Group Zoom (<https://zoom.us/j/5497260963>)

### 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=SXdRT3BDaTMzMjcXK293MXlOZlI3Zz09>)
- 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



Every year when August rolls around, Back to School is on everyone's mind, including here at church. Under normal circumstances, we will typically focus on the CCSC Back to School event held on our campus every year the first week of August, gearing up toward the Fall Season of Learning, and the preparations of our own families getting ready to send their children back to school. Although each of these events will still happen this year, the reality of how each event plays out will be very different from what we have come to expect.

CCSC still plans to serve 6,500 students in their annual Back to School Program this year. Even though CCSC will not host a distribution event this year due to social distancing concerns, CCSC is working with local high-need schools to deliver supplies and uniform vouchers to families directly through schools to ensure they reach as many students as possible. Due to the current economic downturn as a result of COVID, the need to support low-income families is now stronger than ever. It only costs \$50 to provide a student with a complete school supply packet and a uniform/shoe voucher. If you are able, please consider sponsoring a student and helping these children start the year prepared to succeed. [Click here](#) for more information about the CCSC Back to School Program.

The Fall Season of Learning will kick off this August, and we are considering how to optimize our children's programming given the fact that we will be continuing to worship remotely for the foreseeable future. As difficult as the current situation is, it does provide a unique opportunity to strengthen our faith formation in the home. My goal is to provide families with the support they need to strengthen and improve their family faith formation. If you have not already done so, please [click here](#) to fill out a short survey to provide your feedback on what materials are working and how we can improve our family faith formation resources moving forward.

Whether your children are preparing to return to school virtually or in-person, the Back to School preparations certainly have a different feel this year. This year is far from normal, and we have no idea when our lives will return to anything that resembles "normal." As we attempt to navigate our way through our daily lives during the pandemic, we are faced with new challenges and decisions at every turn. Please remember that your family here at Faith is ready to help whenever you need it, so please do not hesitate to reach out to me or one of the pastors any time. I hope everyone's Back to School experience this year is the best it can be!



# GIVE BLOOD.ORG

**Faith Lutheran -**  
**4600 Bellaire**

**Sunday, August 16**  
**8:30 am - 1:00 pm**  
**Community Room**

Contact Tim Griffith  
(832) 277-5592  
([tnlgriffith@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tnlgriffith@sbcglobal.net)) for  
more information  
sponsor code: 1037

**\*Donors will receive a coupon for a  
FREE pint of Blue Bell ice cream!\***



Artemio, blood recipient



# This Too Shall Pass

by John Vickery, Director of Youth and Family Ministry



We are living in a “this too shall pass” world these days. In this kind of reality, it is natural for us to ask the question, “when will it pass?” Unfortunately, this is the question that has no answer on the horizon, so then how do we cope with this unknown?

For so many this season has been full of disruptions to our every day lives. People have been working from home, others have lost their jobs. School students learned how to do school online, and high school and college graduates either had their graduation ceremonies postponed or cancelled all together. The church has been pressed into learning how to do ministry in new and creative ways, harnessing the power of technology to spread the Word. So, in the midst of all of these challenges, where can we find hope? Hope for the future? Hope that life will get better?

The answer may be more simple than you may like to admit, because it is also one of the toughest pills to swallow for us who like to be in control. The answer is that hope is all around us through the Holy Spirit working in and through us.

I once had a confirmation student ask me how to tell that the Holy Spirit was at work in our world. In the moment I struggled to come up with a good comparison to a real world example. Now, it should be noted, that there is no adequate comparison, but we can get close enough to get the gist. Eventually, the response I gave was that the Holy Spirit is like the wind. While we cannot visibly see the wind, we are able to see the wind rustling the leaves of the trees, we can feel it on our skin, we can see its’ effects on our everyday life. In the same way, the Holy Spirit works in invisible, mysterious ways; yet we are able to see its effects in our world for good.

In this season, we should have our eyes open to see the positives of an otherwise negative situation. Of course, there are causes for concern in the constant rise of COVID-19 cases, but that is by far the end of the story.

Personally, with Addy being born just before all of this started, I was wondering how I would be able to spend the first days with her, watching her experience the world around her for the first time. I was working on how I would handle my vacation time so that I could be present around the house. Well, that prayer was answered in a way, though in a way that I wouldn’t have seen coming from a million miles away. While we have been stuck at home, I have been able to work from home and still be present for Addy’s first few months of life without having to worry about missing the big moments. Similarly, there are several youth of our church who have parents who travel often for work, and they have mentioned to me that having their parents around more during this time has not only been a great relief, but also a positive outcome of the pandemic.

Long story short, we should ensure that we are always looking at the big picture of any situation and ask ourselves, how God is working though such events. It may not always be what we want or expect, but God provides what we need when we need it. The pandemic is no different no matter how bleak the prognosis looks on paper. God is our hope, and that hope is not going anywhere any time soon. Thanks be to God!

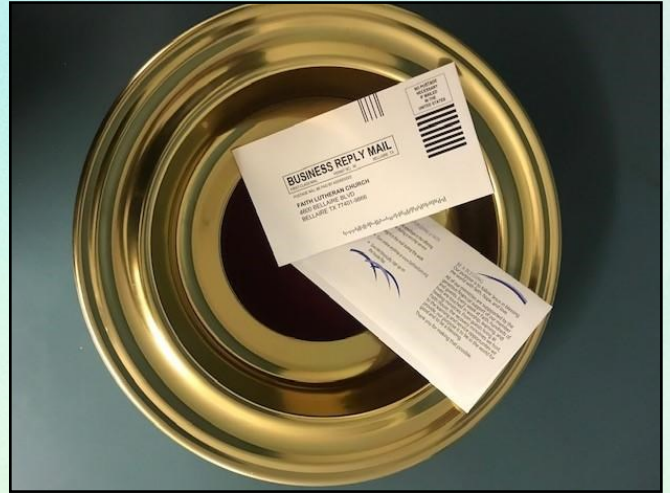




## Continue to Financially Support Our Mission Through These Challenging Times

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).

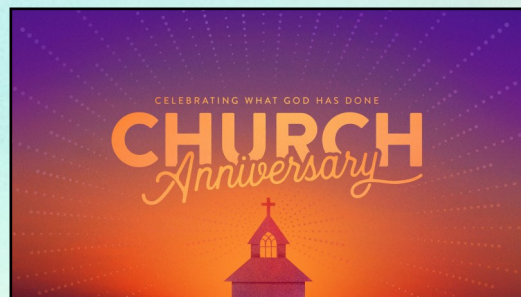
Here's our mailing address for your reference.

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 Carole Knaub 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

Director of Worship, Music, and Technology

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





# 50 Years of Ordained Women, 40 Years of Women of Color, 10 Years of LGBTQIA+

<https://elca.org/50yearsofordainedwomen>



**We Are Church,  
We Are Called**

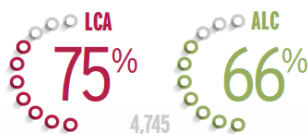
50•40•10

## 50th Anniversary

**1970**

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of U.S. Lutheran Churches' Decisions to Ordain Women to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament

In some congregations during the 1960s, women were still not allowed to serve on congregation councils or speak at congregational meetings.



In 1970, a survey of 4,745 Lutheran adults found that 75% of LCA members and 66% of ALC members agreed with the decision to ordain women.

**1970**

In 1970 the American Lutheran Church formed a committee of men to study the ordination of women. It was not until Margaret Barth Wold spoke up that women were asked to join the committee.

Women's organizations such as Lutheran Church Women from the LCA and American Lutheran Church Women from the ALC were key in achieving women's ordination.

Many female pastors of this first generation had never heard a woman preach until they heard their own voices in the pulpit.



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



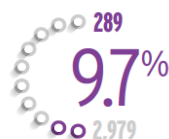
**We Are Church,  
We Are Called**

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## 40th Anniversary

**1979**

Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the First Women of Color Ordained in U.S. Lutheran Churches



As recently as October 2018, out of 2,979 women active on the ELCA roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament, only 289 are women of color. This is 9.7% of the ordained women.

Statistically, pastors who are women of color experience discrimination more than their white counterparts because of racism.

On average, pastors who are women of color face a disproportionate wait time for their first call compared to their white counterparts.

"Once my eyes were opened to the possibility of ordained ministry, and after various members of my ethnic/racial community encouraged me to become a pastor, I never gave up on my goal of seeking ordination."

—The Rev. Cheryl Stewart Pera, 1995



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## 10th Anniversary

**2009**

Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the ELCA's Decision to Remove the Barrier to Ordination for LGBTQIA+ Individuals

"Intentional welcome to all people and families matters. As Lutherans, we believe every human being reflects the Divine image. Each of us is a beloved child of God, wonderfully made, just as we are. Our confidence in Christ Jesus calls us to work with all God's people to transform our communities, so welcome can be a lived experience in our congregations and in the world."

—Reconciling Works



According to Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries,

**18** extraordinary ordinations of LGBTQIA+ clergy took place in the ELCA between 1990 and 2009.

There are over

**883** Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Communities throughout North America, with

**385** more on the way.



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God's work. Our hands.