

Mountain Mover



May 2017

Monthly Newsletter of
Faith Lutheran Church

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Scattered Thoughts

by Rev. Kerry Nelson, Senior Pastor



All this month the song “Because He Lives” by Bill and Gloria Gaither will be playing in the soundtrack of my mind. Every weekend I will draw an idea from that song as a way to connect the stewardship of our daily lives to the blessings we receive in Jesus’ resurrection. Because he lives, everything in our lives, because he lives.

The old cliché is that stewardship is “everything we do after we come to faith.” That, of course, is true. Clichés always have some basis in reality. But on a day to day basis we don’t do “everything” in our lives. We do very particular things. One at a time. We make choices. We make decisions. We suffer losses. We accept trade-offs. We are sometimes surprised, sometimes affirmed, often disappointed. And most of the time we live our lives on auto-pilot. We just do what we do without much conscious thought.

Because he lives, we can do better than that.

There is great spiritual benefit in the practice of “mindfulness.” This includes using time each day for quiet, for prayer, for reflection, and it also includes paying closer attention to the actions we take throughout the day. How we seek connection in our relationships. How we use our time. How we spend our money. What we do today to prepare for tomorrow. All of this happens best when we are intentional, purposeful, mindful.

Dave Ramsey has helped thousands of people through his books, radio program, and “Financial Peace University.” We try to offer Financial Peace University once or twice a year at Faith. Each time we offer it, the class is primarily people from the community rather than people from the congregation. Why? Is it because it feels less like something that might be helpful and more like “one more trip to church this week?” Or is it because we are afraid? We are afraid of being exposed.

Twice in my lifetime I have let credit card debt get the better of me. At first it kind of snuck up on me. Then came major expenses I hadn’t prepared for. Then came periods of hopelessness and I just used my cards whenever I felt like it. Both times the slow climb back to zero balances was painful and discouraging. I don’t ever want to go there again. The Bible is right, “the borrower is slave to the lender.”

There have also been times when I have completely lost control in time management. I was always behind, always doing things at the last minute, never feeling “done” with anything before I was off to the next demand. There are seasons of life like that but that is no way to live. The playing field is level. Everyone gets 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Those who enjoy a balanced life manage their time in a balanced way. They have priorities and they stick to them. We can all do that.

Stewardship is often a scary subject at church. It doesn’t have to be. Actually it is not supposed to be. The simple fact is that the closer we live to the way that God has designed life to be lived, the happier, healthier, and even holier we will be. Because Jesus lives, and because Jesus forgives, we are free to be. Free to slow down, to simplify, to be content, to be generous, to be open-minded and open-hearted to others. Because Jesus lives we can be free from stress, from worry, from all that would rob us of the faith, hope, and love that God intends for us.

Yet this takes action on our part. It means making decisions and choices. It means reaching out for guidance and support. It means mindfulness. Such focus is fun because we are focusing on what matters.

Because he lives....

Prayer Corner - Joy to Be Born

by Peggy Porter



Read John 16:16-33.

Though we have no memory of our birth, it is through pain that we are brought into the world. We all rejoice for the gift of our mothers. Without their first labor for their children, none of us would be born.

Perhaps some of us were born to a mother who did not rejoice at our birth. Instead, our relationship is broken, damaged by years of hearing our mother's bitter words, hiding our bruises, or enduring the emptiness of neglect. Even those with the best of mothers have relationships marred by sin.

Our Lord Jesus dwelt in his mother's womb. When her labor had passed, she was joined with all the company of heaven rejoicing that this baby was born into the world. Mary was not without sin, and thus her relationship with the Son of God was broken. In Jesus, a new labor had begun, which was perfected in his sorrowful death. Here on the holy cross, sin is forgiven. Here in Jesus' bloody dying Mary was restored to her Son for all eternity. In Christ, all mothers are reconciled to their children, a relationship restored by forgiveness. Though we have sorrow now, no one will take our joy from us.

Pray: Thank you, Jesus, for our mothers, and heal all brokenness with your merciful forgiveness. Amen.

Smart Planning for Your Family and Ministry

Dr. Lizbeth Johnson, Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest



Mark your calendar for the Smart Planning for Your Family and Ministry presentation on Sunday, May 14 at 9:45 AM in the conference room.

Dr. Lizbeth Johnson, the synod gift planner with Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest, will be here to share with us on end-of-life estate planning.

At the end-of-life, smart planning can maximize any remaining funds for your family, your congregation, and/or other Lutheran ministry in tax-advantaged ways. Consider it a "Mother's Day" gift to know if you are fully prepared with plans.

In addition to the session, she can provide private consultation with individuals and families, to create "blueprints" that achieve your goals based on what you would like to accomplish for family and ministry at no cost or obligation.

All of us have the opportunity to control our assets during life, and it is possible to convey our values at the end-of-life through a well-thought out plan. She will provide examples of what is possible when considering both family and charitable intent in your plans.



Easter 2017 Recap



Blood Drive
May 21 @ 8:30 AM
Community Room

Faith will be hosting a blood drive on May 21!

Please remember to sign up in the Fellowship Hall or online at www.giveblood.org (organization 1037) so there is adequate staff and minimal waiting time.

If you are unable to donate you can still participate by helping with snacks and a light lunch for the blood center staff, preparing the room the night before, or inviting a friend or relative to donate!



Grace Bags - Pick some up today!



"Grace Bags" are a wonderful way to be a blessing to those asking for help. They are available at our Visitor Center for a donation of \$5 per bag. Keep them handy in your car to give to those in need. By asking for a donation of \$5 per bag, this ministry can be self sustained as a long term way for us to ***Be a Blessing!***

Iftar Dinner Friday, June 9 @ 7:30 PM Fellowship Hall



The Iftar Dinner is the evening meal that happens at sunset during Ramadan, the Muslim month of prayer and fasting. As a means of fostering relationships and creating understanding, the Islamic Institute of Houston reaches out to Christian churches and Jewish synagogues to share an Iftar Dinner and program.

We will have a sign up sheet available in May for those interested in attending the dinner. Members of the Islamic Institute will bring the main dishes and an equal number of participants so that we can share the meal and have conversation with one another.

Our Church Council has endorsed our participation in this event and encourages as many Faith members and friends as possible to take advantage of this time for learning and sharing.

First Place 4 Health Spring Session

by Mardi Mayerhoff, First Place 4 Health Leader

The small group for men and women wanting to improve their health (physical and spiritual) has started the spring session. The "First Place 4 Health" program incorporates Bible study, a nutritious eating plan, exercise, scripture reading, and fellowship to help you include Christ in your life, manage your weight, improve your overall health, and develop new friendships.

The group meets on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM in the Faith Center, room 306. Please come on **Tuesday, May 2**. Call Mardi Mayerhoff at 713-203-1875 (cell) for more details.



Relational Groups @ Faith

English as a Second
Language Classes

Faith Chinese Fellowship
Gathering

First Place 4 Health

First Steps @ Faith

Women's Bible Study

LWR Quilters' Group

Men's Group

Painting Group

Couples Bible Study

Rebecca Ruth Circle

SW Radio Control Flyer
Group

Table for Ten

Women's Connection

Women's Dinner Group

Young Adults @ Faith

To see when these groups meet, go to:
FaithBellaire.InFellowship.com

What is the Christian Community Service Center (CCSC)?

The Christian Community Service Center (CCSC) is a community-based non-profit organization serving the inner city Houston community. CCSC is a coalition of 42 Christian churches united in service. "The mission of the Christian Community Service Center is to serve the poor, hungry, disabled, and otherwise needy while respecting their cultural differences. CCSC was created out of faith, and founded in the belief that we are to help all of God's children heart to heart and hand to hand."

What is the relationship between CCSC and Faith Lutheran Church? In 1993, Faith Lutheran Church requested membership in the CCSC coalition of churches. At that time, Faith closed the food pantry and clothes closet located in the Faith Church Office and partnered with the CCSC churches to provide these emergency services to those in need. Now the Faith Church staff gives a voucher to anyone who comes to Faith to request assistance; this voucher directs individuals to the CCSC Emergency Services facility where they receive food, clothing, and other services they need. At CCSC, trained volunteers interview everyone who requests assistance to be certain that they qualify for the services that are provided.

The Christian Community Service Center is a vital part of the Faith Lutheran Outreach ministry. Each year Faith Lutheran Church gives a gift (part of our church budget) to CCSC to help defray the operating cost of the CCSC organization. In addition, Faith members contribute donations to the CCSC programs (Back to School, Jingle Bell Express, and the food pantry); these gifts go directly to CCSC clients through the CCSC distribution events. And many Faith members are also loyal volunteers in the various CCSC programs. Faith members further the outreach of our congregation through participation in CCSC programs and, in partnership with members of 41 other churches, reach thousands of Houstonians-in-need each year. Thank you, Faith Lutheran members!



Faith Lutheran will welcome Michelle Shonbeck, Executive Director of CCSC, on May 21. Michelle will provide an update on the CCSC ministry, including some client stories that illustrate the impact of the services that CCSC provides. Please listen carefully to these stories – you help make these stories happen.

Chancel Flowers: These Upcoming Dates are Open!

May 14, May 21, June 4, June 18, June 25

No one has signed up for chancel flowers on the dates above. Would you like to give flowers? Sign up now on the flower chart in the lobby or email the Church Office at info@faithbellaire.org to sign up!

Flowers are a wonderful way to honor a special occasion or to remember a loved one! Cost is \$55.

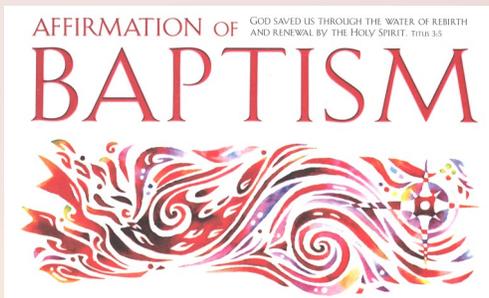


Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation Sunday, May 7 Sanctuary

We will celebrate the Rite of Affirmation of Baptism with the following teens and their families at both the 8:30 and 10:50 AM services.

*Julian Daniel Jones, Nicholas Groenewold,
and Alice Yuxuan Tian.*

Formation of Faith presentations will take place at 9:45 AM in the Sanctuary.



Annual National Alliance on Mental Illness Walk Saturday, May 6, 2017 Sam Houston Park

Come walk with our Faith Lutheran group on May 6 to raise money and awareness of Mental Health issues. NAMI Greater Houston (a 501.c.3) is an affiliate association of NAMI that provides free education programs, peer facilitated support groups, and grassroots advocacy initiatives in the Houston area. There are more than 80 NAMI Walks planned for 2017 all across the U.S.



The Houston NAMI Walk is Saturday, May 6. Check-in is at 8:00 AM and the walk begins at 9:00 AM. We will walk around Sam Houston Park along the bayou. It is a leisurely, fun event, however it is a serious fund-raising event, too. You need to register to walk either ahead of the event (see website below) or at the event.

We have a team goal of \$500, so please donate, walk with us, or walk virtually. More information, registration, and donation information is available online at namiwalks.org. Search for the Houston Walk, then select "Register or Donate." Be sure to find and register/donate for the **Faith Lutheran Candle Lighters** team so we can reach, or better yet, exceed our goal.

If you have questions, please call Lorah Gough at 713-885-5516.

Rebecca Ruth Circle

The Rebecca Ruth Circle will meet on Thursday, May 4 at 10:00 AM in the Conference Room.

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

All are welcome!!

Women's Connection

Women's Connection will meet on Tuesday, May 9 at 9:30 AM outside the church office. Everyone is welcome! You should join us!

For more information about the Women's Connection, please contact Brenda Cauthen at 281-630-8088 or bcauthen1@gmail.com.



Faith Schools

by Kendolyn Pope, Director of Faith Schools



We closed out the second to last month of the school year with our Bike-a-thon at the Day School! Children brought their bikes, trikes, scooters and helmets to school and rode the course in the parking lot. Parents supported this event by donating money and time as they helped get children on bikes, manned the water and first aid stations and cheered on the eager riders. I am continually amazed at how this community comes together in support of Faith Schools. We closed out the event with an extra special treat. We had snow cones from the Kona Ice truck. This is a change from the tradition of having Ms. Tonia, Kitchen Manager, make the snow cones and her special syrups. This year, we gave Ms. Tonia a little break and enjoyed Kona's tropical shaved ice. Yum! As we finalize the financial reports for the event, we are hopeful that we can surpass our fundraising amount from last year – about \$3,000. We encouraged every family and every teacher to contribute, even if just 25¢ or \$1.00. The names of contributors are still on display outside of the Day School Office, with each donor's name printed on a bike. Thanks to everyone who donated!

May is the last month of our school year and is filled with lots of activities that help us celebrate the end of the school year. At Mother's Day Out, we celebrate with not one but TWO Muffins with Mom events. At the Day School, we will say "goodbye" to departing families at our Closing Family Chapel and Spring Picnic on the Thursday before Memorial Day. This is an exciting time for our Bridge Kindergarten families as the children participate in an actual graduation (with caps, gowns and diplomas) and prepare to head off to schools including Horn, River Oaks Elementary and MCLIMS. Four of the twelve students in our Bridge Kindergarten class will go to 1st grade next year, and we're confident that wherever our students go, they'll be prepared.

We made one change to our school calendar this year. After being open all but two days at Easter this Spring, we will close for the last two days of May, the two days after Memorial Day. While we've cleaned, redecorated, welcomed new students with the school open in past years, we will close to complete these tasks this year. We will have a full house this summer, so I think it's important to offer the teachers a bit of a break before we get started. We will also use these two days to participate in teacher training. Each teacher is required to complete 24 hours of training each year. I will lead the entire staff through 6 hours at this InService and 6 hours at our August InService. This allows all of us to start on the same page and allows us to reduce our Professional Development budget significantly as we participate in free, in-house trainings.

Easter Vigil Recap

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



Faith Lutheran Church began to hold the Easter Vigil in 2012. Some of our long-term members can recall gathering for worship on the Saturday before Easter decades ago, so technically 2012 was not the first time the Vigil was held at Faith. However, Faith began to celebrate the Vigil anew in 2012. That means that this was our fifth year to gather on the Saturday evening before Easter Sunday.

I'm not going to sugar coat it: this service is not easy. It is not the most "user friendly" worship we offer. It starts late (8:00 PM). It runs long (nearly two hours). There is a procession from outside the building to inside the gym. There are SIX scripture readings (but I want you to know that there are 12 readings assigned for the service, so it could be worse). The air conditioning turned off half way through the service. I could go on, but you get my drift.

Why is it so challenging? Our version of the Easter Vigil is modeled after what we know the church did based on historical documents from the first several centuries after the resurrection. In the first centuries of Christianity, believers would gather together and hold vigil, all night long from sunset on Saturday till sunrise on Sunday. The church would be gathered in prayer in one part of the building, while in another part of the building, final preparation was being made for candidates for baptism. These candidates had in some cases been preparing for three years. Three years of gathering with the believers on Sunday, hearing the word read and the gospel proclaimed, and then being ushered out of worship into a separate space for further explanation and instruction. This time of preparation was intense and included fasting and exorcisms.

Why did it take so long? Mainly because the church didn't assume that their candidates understood the doctrinal basics of the faith. But also because these candidates weren't simply transferring their name to a new church directory or joining a country club. They were undergoing the radical transformation that we call conversion. Their thinking, their livelihood, their origins, their idolatry, and everything else about them were called into question. It was a slow, measured, weighty process. These churches weren't interested in the assembly line production of Christians. This was slow-growth, organic, artisanal discipleship.

Now you see some of the rationale behind the First Steps @ Faith catechumenate. Our motivating factor is slightly different though. We think that it is relational connectedness that is most needed for a newcomer in this day and age. More than fully grasping what it means that Jesus is both human and divine, more than renouncing our idolatrous ways of being, we think that candidates need to know that they are loved and cared for by a group of people called into community by God's Spirit. That is the bed of soil that the seed of faith is planted in.

I have many favorite parts of the Easter Vigil, and one of them is how we gather together for this service. We start outside around a fire. If you're a fan of camping you will get this. There is something magical about being outdoors around burning wood. If we try to explain the magic we can trace it all the way back to the origins of what it means to be human. What set us apart from the other animals is that we learned how to use tools and start fires. So gathering around a fire outdoors is perhaps one of the earliest, oldest cognitive memories of humanity. Fire is also a central symbol in our faith. God led Israel by fire through the desert. God spoke to Moses in a flame. All the way down to the narrative of Easter, where around the fire Peter denies even knowing the Lord. We start the service around a fire. But not any fire, a new fire, signaling a new way of being that is burning into our world.

If you've never been, make plans to attend the Easter Vigil next year.



Let's Get Together

9



for Dinner!

As we begin celebrating our commitment to the Church during this coming Stewardship season, we will be emphasizing our relationships with each other and the work we do together through the many ministries of Faith Lutheran.

Throughout the Stewardship Sundays after Easter, various ministries will be highlighted and their stories told.

At the same time, members of our congregation will be hosting dinners/suppers, and we hope that you will be a part of this fun, delicious time together.

Please sign up to be a guest at one of the parties. Plan on being a part of celebrating Faith Lutheran and the work we all do together.

Current list of hosts:

Jim and Jennifer Cross

(Bellaire)

May 5 (Fri) @ 6:30 PM

Dave and Wendy Farner

(Pearland)

May 13 (Sat) @ 6:30 PM

Kirk and Beth Bruce

(Bellaire)

May 16 (Tue) @ 6:30 PM

Brian Taylor and Jennifer Takagi

(Bellaire)

May 18 (Thr) @ 6:30 PM

David and Anna Stock

(Rice/Museum District)

May 19 (Fri) @ 6:30 PM

Faith
Chinese
Worship
中文崇拜



Chinese Worship Every Sunday

9:45 AM Learning Groups
10:50 AM Worship (FC)
12:00 PM Lunch

Everyone Welcome



We Owe it to the World to Share the Easter Story

by Rev. Junfeng Tan, Associate Pastor



*The Strife is O'er, the battle done; Now is the victor's triumph won!
Now be the song of praise begun. Alleluia!*

*The pow'rs of death have done their worst; Jesus their legions has
dispersed. Let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!*

The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done, ELW #366

Why do we shout, "Christ is risen. He is Risen Indeed" every Easter?
Why do we sing Easter Hymns like The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done?

I remember a story that my seminary professor Paul Martinson told. It is a story "of the lost Japanese soldiers from World War II who hid in caves on a desolate island for decades after the war had ended. The soldiers didn't know that the war had ended way back in 1945 and that the political shape of the world had drastically changed. Instead, they remained in hiding, loyal to their emperor, doubtless hoping someday to be recovered by their own troops." (Paul V. Martinson, *Families of Faith*, p. 211)

The church is in the business of proclaiming the good news of Jesus' resurrection. We do it with great joy and humility because we believe it is the event of salvation and liberation. On Easter Jesus has won the battle against sin, the devil, and death. He has done this for not only Christians but all peoples of the world. We believe Easter proclamation makes a difference in people's lives. We believe that those who hear and embrace the good news of Jesus' resurrection now have the hope that they can come out of the dark caves of fear, misery, and death, and start living in joy, love, and peace. That is why I was so glad and grateful to see many visitors on our church campus on Easter Sunday. For some Chinese visitors, this was their first Easter in church. This was the first time they heard the proclamation of Jesus' resurrection as the foundation of Christian faith.

Some of my Chinese friends ask, "We are not Jesus, aren't we? Suppose Jesus is the victor, how can his triumph possibly become yours and mine? Granted, Jesus' tomb was empty and he indeed resurrected from the death. But how can he transfer his resurrection to you and me?"

This is how I responded: "That is right. You and I are not Jesus. But you and I and everyone who receives Jesus as our Lord and Savior can be grafted into the body of risen Jesus. Jesus himself says, 'Abide in me as I abide in you...I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit.'" (John 15:4-5)

Christian church is the body of Jesus Christ. Every Christian is a member of the body of Jesus Christ. When we are connected to the church, we are connected to the living body of Jesus. When we are actively involved in the church, we know Jesus Christ is alive among us and in the world. He gives us a spiritual birth at the font of baptism. He feeds us through his word and at the Lord's table. He binds our wounds and heals our hurts through Christian friendship and fellowship. He leads us to the eternal destiny as we join other Christian brothers and sisters to walk on the journey of faith. He blesses us as we become a blessing to others. He gives us the gift of abundant life here and now as we give our time, talent, and money to build up his church and his mission. This is how we are grafted to the body of Jesus Christ. This is how Jesus conquers sin, defeats the devil, and raises the dead. This is how the Easter story of Jesus' resurrection becomes our story of salvation.

Christ is risen indeed! Christ has won the battle on Easter. He's won it for you and for me. He's won it for those who have not yet heard the Easter story. We owe it to the world to share the Easter story with everyone.

2017 Synod Assembly - Who is my neighbor?

May 18 - 20

Hilton Houston North



In the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus is asked, “**Who is my neighbor?**” The lawyer doing the asking was perhaps looking for a loophole in the laws of the day or hoping for a shortcut to eternal life. Jesus’ answer was surprising. The person who truly acted like a neighbor was not the upper class priest or Levite but instead was the Samaritan, the outsider of that society.

We know that God tells us to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. In Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, he takes this commandment even further by saying, “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”

The 2017 Synod Assembly will attempt to address the question, “**Who is my neighbor?**” Join us as members of marginalized communities share their stories and experiences with us. Engage in conversation and reflection. Hear stories of truth and leave equipped with resources for addressing some of these issues within your context.

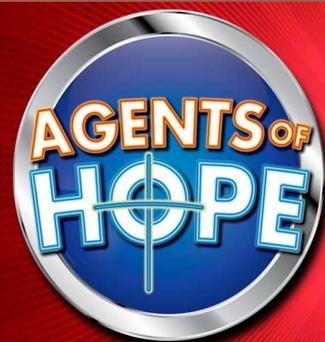
We are incredibly excited to have Glocal taking a leading role at our assembly this year. The mission of the ELCA Glocal Musicians and Educators is to equip for God’s work in global and local realities, as well as their “glocal” intersections. They will lead us in mission conversations around the realities of our communities and this world God loves.

We hope you will join us for assembly, as together we consider the question, “**Who is my neighbor?**”

Churchwide Representative

Judith Roberts serves as ELCA Program Director for Racial Justice. The work of the ELCA Racial Justice ministries educates, equips, and engages leaders to analyze the systems of racism and identify solutions that create equitable outcomes within and outside of the ELCA. The Racial Justice ministries of the ELCA serves as catalyst and bridge builder committed to the work of equipping leaders to recognize and understand the complexity and implications of racism and racial issues. Through partnerships with synods, congregations, associations, and agencies, Racial Justice supports training and education in the areas of anti-racism and racial justice.

2017 Faith Camp



July 10-14, 2017
Week 1: Calling All Agents

July 17-21, 2017
Week 2: Agent Academy

July 24-28, 2017
Week 3: Agents on a Mission

Cost: \$130 per week

Camper Registration:
faithbellaire.org



Family Movie Night
Friday, May 12 @
6:30 PM
Faith Center Gym

Faith Families Ministries invite you to come bounce, dance, play, eat and most of all fellowship with us! Invite your friends and family! All are welcome!



Parent's Night Out
Friday, May 5
6:00 - 10:00 PM
Faith Center Gym

Fun activities for kids from ages six months to 12 years old. The cost is \$15 per child, with a \$45 household max. You may pay in cash at the door. Email pno@faithbellaire.org to reserve a spot for your kiddos.

Pass this information to ALL of your friends, family, and neighbors for a safe and inexpensive place for your child to go when you need a parent's night out!



Easter Vigil 2017



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

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

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.



Lost in Change

by Charles Wilson, Assistant Director and Church Liaison for Faith Schools



Being lost is no fun at all. I still remember the time in kindergarten where my teacher put me on the wrong school bus. Before I knew it, I was in an unfamiliar part of town, with unfamiliar people; completely terrified. Thankfully my mother had drilled into my head my address and phone number. Eventually, I found myself reunited with my family; safe in the arms of my once

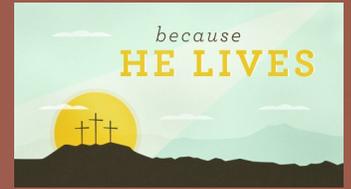
worried mother. To this day, I recount this story to children and families. I use it as an anecdote in gatherings and celebrations. This tale, though terrifying initially, is truly a reminder of how to overcome adversity with the right information.

Sometimes when things change, we can feel overwhelmed, confused, lost. When adversity comes into our lives we can become so overwhelmed that we may want to just sit and cry or run and hide or worse yet,



we may find that we detach ourselves from what we once loved. Lost in change, we find ourselves wandering far away from the place we knew. We find ourselves wandering far from the smiles that greeted us, the voices that encouraged us, the arms that loving held us. We find ourselves far from the table where we first found our place. We however, can find comfort that Jesus himself came to find and rescue those who were lost. (Luke 19:10)

Times of change and trial are difficult and can leave you feeling like you've been abandoned in unfamiliar territory. I encourage you to not lose hope. You have the right information etched on your heart. You have the assurance that you can call on God at any time and be able to return to be among God's people. Know that in your mind you have the address to the place where the table is set for all. Here in this place, God will hold you with joy and welcome you home.



May Message Series "Because He Lives"

The Easter Season is the 50 days between Easter and Pentecost Sunday. It is a season for reflection on the meaning of Jesus' resurrection for our lives. The resurrection is God's gift to us, how we live in that resurrection, how we respond to God's love, is our gift to God. Someone once defined Christian stewardship as "everything that happens after we come to trust that God loves us." Let's enjoy the Easter Season together by focusing on the stewardship of our lives, our time, our talents, and our financial treasures.

May 7 (Confirmation Sunday)
We Can Prepare Our Children

May 14 (Mother's Day)
We Can Change the World

May 21 (Graduate Sunday)
We Can know we're Never Alone



***Please Use Office Entrance
During Office Hours***

Unless a meeting or class has been scheduled on the calendar, all doors to our facilities are locked during office hours.

We have a wonderful security system with a camera and intercom system at the office doors to the administrative wing. The office staff will buzz you in if the office doors are locked. Please park in the parking lot behind the church designated for Faith.

You may wonder why the doors are locked during the week. It's a matter of security for staff, visitors, the Day School, and Mother's Day Out. The facility is large, and if all the doors are unlocked, it's hard to know when someone comes in.

Thank you in advance for understanding and for using the office entrance during office hours.



**CALLING ALL GRADUATES
Sunday, May 21**

We want to celebrate with you on Sunday, May 21! We will be recognizing all of our graduates at each worship service. Even if you will be out of town, we would like to include you and your accomplishment.

If you are graduating from High School, College, Grad School, Tech School, Boot Camp, or any other school, please contact Tessa Holmes by email at tholmes@faithbellaire.org and include where you are graduating from and your future educational or career goals.

Sunday Worship Leader Schedule—May 2017

8:30 AM	May 7	May 14	May 21	May 28
Acolyte	Zach Michaud	Audrey DeKunder	Alice Tian	Trevor Groenewold
Crucifer	Nate Michaud	Andrew Strickland	Andy Allen	Nicholas Groenewold
Lector	Joann Welton	Sara Karow	Sharon Koch	Mardi Mayerhoff
Communion Assistants	Bill Puryear Jeff Addicks	Sara Karow Sharon Koch	Sara Karow Sharon Koch	Doug Elsen Scott Ramsey
Asst Minister	Carol Strawn	Carol Strawn	Sharon Richter	Sharon Richter
Ushers	Bill Freeman Art Grove	Bill Freeman Art Grove	Jeff Addicks Earl Thompson	Jeff Addicks Earl Thompson
Altar Guild	Dorothy Rosenbaum Doris Williams	Dorothy Rosenbaum Doris Williams	Betty Dossey Tina Wood	Betty Dossey Tina Wood
10:50 AM	May 7	May 14	May 21	May 28
Acolytes	Andy Allen Alice Tian	Emma Voosen Dillon Williams	Taylor Schugart JD Jones	Nicholas Gill William Gill
Communion Assistants		Kelley Keller Susan Tallman	Dave and Wendy Farner	Karen Ellison Diana Boihem
Asst Minister	Janice Decker	Janice Decker	Eric Lerch	Eric Lerch
Ushers	Roxy Funchess Susan Tallman	Lerch Family	DeKunder Family	Holmes Family
Altar Guild	Dorothy Rosenbaum Doris Williams	Dorothy Rosenbaum Doris Williams	Betty Dossey Tina Wood	Betty Dossey Tina Wood

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

Please email info@faithbellaire.org or call 713-664-3048.

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

info@faithbellaire.org

Rev. Kerry Nelson

Rev. Junfeng Tan

Stacy Williams

Dr. Clayton Faulkner

Tessa Holmes

Kendolyn Pope

Yu Cao

Avier Whitfield

Alan Balius

Alicia Obando

Ana Rivas

Darrell Glen

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Operations

Director of Worship, Music, and Technology

Director of Youth & Family

Director of Faith Schools

Office Coordinator

Office Coordinator

Organist/Choir Director

Facility Services

Custodian

Facility Services



May 2017 - Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Confirmation Sunday 8:30 AM "Heritage" Worship 9:45 AM Formation of Faith Papers 9:45 AM Learning Groups 10:50 AM "The Gathering" Worship 10:50 AM Faith Chinese Worship (FC) 12:00 PM Lunch (FC) 1:30 PM Hand Bell Choir (208) 7:00 PM AI-Anon (300)</p>	<p>9:30 AM ESL (200, 201) 6:00 PM SW Radio Control (FC)</p>	<p>9:15 AM Children's Chapel (Sanc) 9:30 AM ESL (200, 201) 10:00 AM Church Staff Meeting (101) 3:00 PM Cornerstone (400, 401, 306) 6:00 PM Stewardship Meeting (108) 6:30 PM Cornerstone 2nd Stage (FC) 7:00 PM First Place 4 Health (306) 8:00 PM AA Men Only (300)</p>	<p>9:30 AM ESL (200, 201) 3:00 PM Cornerstone (305, 400, 401) 6:00 PM Social Ministry Meeting (101) 6:00 PM Painting Group (307) 8:00 PM AA Co-Ed (300)</p>	<p>9:30 AM ESL (200, 201) 10:00 AM Rebecca Ruth Circle (101) 3:00 PM Cornerstone (305, 400, 401) 6:45 PM Executive Board Meeting (101) 7:30 PM Faith Choir (208) 8:00 PM AA Men Only (300)</p>	<p>6:00 PM Parent's Night Out (FC) 7:00 PM Faith Chinese Gathering (101) 8:00 PM AA Co-Ed (300)</p>	<p>Election Day 8:00 AM NAMI Walk (Sam Houston Park) 8:30 AM CCSC Food Pantry (St. Luke's UMC-Gethsemane) 9:00 AM Grey Sheet Eating Program (204) 9:00 AM Cornerstone (300, 305, 306) 3:00 PM AA Co-Ed (300)</p>
<p>Confirmation Sunday 8:30 AM "Heritage" Worship 9:45 AM Formation of Faith Papers 9:45 AM Learning Groups 10:50 AM "The Gathering" Worship 10:50 AM Faith Chinese Worship (FC) 12:00 PM Lunch (FC) 1:30 PM Hand Bell Choir (208) 7:00 PM AI-Anon (300)</p>	<p>9:30 AM ESL (200, 201) 6:00 PM Cornerstone Climbers (401)</p>	<p>9:15 AM Children's Chapel (Sanc) 9:30 AM ESL (200, 201) 9:30 AM Women's Connection (lobby) 10:00 AM Church Staff Meeting (101) 3:00 PM Cornerstone (305, 400, 401) 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting (101) 7:00 PM First Place 4 Health (306) 8:00 PM AA Men Only (300)</p>	<p>9:00 AM LWR Quilters (101) 9:30 AM ESL (200, 201) 3:00 PM Cornerstone (400, 401, 306) 6:00 PM Painting Group (307) 8:00 PM AA Co-Ed (300)</p>	<p>9:30 AM ESL (200, 201) 3:00 PM Faith Choir (208) 8:00 PM AA Men Only (300)</p>	<p>6:30 PM Faith Family Movie Night (FC Gym) 8:00 PM AA Co-Ed (300)</p>	<p>9:00 AM Grey Sheet Eating Program (204) 9:00 AM Cornerstone (300, 305, 306) 3:00 PM AA Co-Ed (300)</p>
<p>Mother's Day 8:30 AM "Heritage" Worship 9:45 AM Learning Groups 10:50 AM "The Gathering" Worship 10:50 AM Faith Chinese Worship (FC) 12:00 PM Lunch (FC) 6:30 PM Young Adults @ Faith (off-campus) 7:00 PM AI-Anon (300)</p>	<p>9:30 AM ESL (200, 201) 6:00 PM Cornerstone Climbers (401)</p>	<p>9:15 AM Children's Chapel (Sanc) 9:30 AM ESL (200, 201) 10:00 AM Church Staff Meeting (101) 3:00 PM Cornerstone (305, 400, 401) 6:00 PM Faith Schools Board Meeting (101) 7:00 PM First Place 4 Health (306) 8:00 PM AA Men Only (300)</p>	<p>9:00 AM LWR Quilters (101) 9:30 AM ESL (200, 201) 3:00 PM Cornerstone (400, 401, 306) 6:00 PM Painting Group (307) 8:00 PM AA Co-Ed (300)</p>	<p>9:30 AM ESL (200, 201) 3:00 PM Cornerstone (400, 401, 306) 6:00 PM Faith Choir (208) 8:00 PM AA Men Only (300)</p>	<p>8:00 PM AA Co-Ed (300)</p>	<p>9:00 AM Grey Sheet Eating Program (204) 9:00 AM Cornerstone (300, 305, 306) 3:00 PM AA Co-Ed (300)</p>
<p>Graduate Sunday 8:30 AM "Heritage" Worship 9:45 AM Learning Groups 10:50 AM "The Gathering" Worship 10:50 AM Faith Chinese Worship (FC) 12:00 PM Lunch (FC) 1:30 PM Hand Bell Choir (208) 7:00 PM AI-Anon (300)</p>	<p>9:30 AM ESL (200, 201) 6:00 PM Cornerstone Climbers (401)</p>	<p>9:15 AM Children's Chapel (Sanc) 9:30 AM ESL (200, 201) 10:00 AM Church Staff Meeting (101) 3:00 PM Cornerstone (305, 400, 401) 7:00 PM First Place 4 Health (306) 8:00 PM AA Men Only (300)</p>	<p>9:00 AM LWR Quilters (101) 9:30 AM ESL (200, 201) 3:00 PM Cornerstone (400, 401, 306) 6:00 PM Painting Group (307) 8:00 PM AA Co-Ed (300)</p>	<p>9:30 AM ESL (200, 201) 3:00 PM Cornerstone (400, 401, 306) 5:30 PM Day School Graduation & Spring Picnic (Sanc & FC) 7:30 PM Faith Choir (208) 8:00 PM AA Men Only (300)</p>	<p>8:00 PM AA Co-Ed (300)</p>	<p>9:00 AM Grey Sheet Eating Program (204) 9:00 AM Cornerstone (300, 305, 306) 3:00 PM AA Co-Ed (300)</p>
<p>8:30 AM "Heritage" Worship 9:45 AM Faith Alive Rehearsal 9:45 AM Learning Groups 10:50 AM "The Gathering" Worship 10:50 AM Faith Chinese Worship (FC) 12:00 PM Lunch (FC) 6:30 PM Young Adults @ Faith (off-campus) 7:00 PM AI-Anon (300)</p>	<p>Memorial Day All Day Church Office and Schools closed 7:00 PM AA Buffalo Group (300)</p>	<p>9:15 AM Children's Chapel (Sanc) 9:30 AM ESL (200, 201) 10:00 AM Church Staff Meeting (101) 3:00 PM Cornerstone (305, 400, 401) 7:00 PM First Place 4 Health (306) 8:00 PM AA Men Only (300)</p>	<p>9:00 AM LWR Quilters (101) 9:30 AM ESL (200, 201) 3:00 PM Cornerstone (400, 401, 306) 6:00 PM Painting Group (307) 8:00 PM AA Co-Ed (300)</p>	<p>9:30 AM ESL (200, 201) 3:00 PM Cornerstone (400, 401, 306) 5:30 PM Day School Graduation & Spring Picnic (Sanc & FC) 7:30 PM Faith Choir (208) 8:00 PM AA Men Only (300)</p>	<p>8:00 PM AA Co-Ed (300)</p>	