

The Messenger, August, 2020

From the Pastor

Like you, I wonder when we'll be able to gather again as a community for worship. And yet the news about rising cases of Covid-19 in our community means that our call to love our neighbors includes not becoming a potential place where the virus can spread. Some churches that have returned to in-person worship have learned this lesson the hard way. The Task Force on Reopening for Worship has proposed September 13 as a tentative date for beginning an in-person service on Sundays that would be in addition to our livestream service. Please carefully read their guidelines on pages 2 and 3. In the meantime, join us in worshipping in your homes with our livestream.

One thing that renews my spirit during this pandemic is spending time in nature. Susan and I were able to get out and kayak the Red River one day and hike in the gorge on another this past month. Something spiritually grounding happens when I'm surrounded by the green beauty of forest wilderness. I hope that I never stop exploring the wonders of this created world as well as all the daily marvels around and within me.

Everything belongs and has spiritual lessons to teach us. Spending time in nature connects us to our Creator and opens our lives to the Spirit's directions for us. Spiritual growth happens through whatever frees us to be more at home in this world and in our own skin. The more spiritually mature we are the more we're able to cope with things outside of our control like a coronavirus. We accept our reality as the way it is knowing deep down that this too shall pass. We also are more open to growth and

change in our lives.

I know that I've begun to change in the wake of the tragic death of George Floyd and ensuing months of protests. I see how I have benefited from white privilege that I was previously blind to. I realize that I am racist without intending to be, and I desire to learn about how I can be more anti-racist. Please let me know if you would like to join me on this journey via a book study or in group conversation. I will put something together if there is enough interest. Shoot me an email, a text, or call me.

During these long hot days of summer I encourage you to continue calling and checking in with one another. Such connections warm our spirits to match the warmth on the outside. Continue to pray for our congregational leaders to be guided by the Spirit as they make decisions about how to be Christ's Church in this challenging time. And pray for our Learning Center as they plan to begin operation again this month in some very different and challenging new ways.

Know too that I will be praying that the Spirit move within us all during this uncertain time strengthening within us God's ways of love.

Grace, Mercy, and Peace,

Pastor Mark

Worship

We'll continue to livestream our worship online. You can access the livestream on our website at faithlutheranchurch.com. If you wish to include the Eucharist as part of your worship, prepare bread or crackers and fruit of the vine, wine or grape juice. You may eat and drink after the Pastor says the words, "The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you." If you don't have both bread and fruit of the vine, know that communing in one kind is just as acceptable as in both kinds. Our Lord is still fully present. We look forward to the day when we will again gather together around the Lord's table.



Update from the Finance Committee

Many of you know that Valarie Dutcher resigned as Treasurer for Faith, and we thank her for her service. We also thank Debbie Rosenberg who has agreed to serve in that capacity until a new Treasurer can be found. If anyone is interested, please contact the church office or the Finance Committee. Ruth Lundborg has resigned as Faith's bookkeeper, and we thank her for her many years of service. We are grateful to Leah Hower for agreeing to serve as our bookkeeper beginning in July.

Through July we have received 83% of the income which we had budgeted. Our June income was down slightly. We want to remind you that contributions can be mailed or brought to the church office. Many of you should receive your mid-year financial report soon.

We also want you to know that Faith has received a Paycheck Protection Program loan from the Federal CARES Act to help our Learning Center remain open and cover payroll. Since COVID guidelines require fewer students per classroom and the same or more staff, they will expand to 5 classrooms and will suspend the after school program. We thank Gayle McGrath, Debbie Rosenberg and others who helped apply for this grant. The Learning Center is expected to open again on August 13. The downstairs hallways and classrooms have already been repainted, and several people have also volunteered to clean, rearrange and otherwise support the opening.

Office Volunteers Needed

If you can help out in the office from time to time, please let Kathy know. This would involve answering the phone and watching the door or helping with mailings and bulletins. Anything you can do would be appreciated.



From the Task Force for Re-opening Worship

Dear Faith Family,

It is safe to say none of us ever thought we would be confronting the challenges we have faced since March. Who could imagine that Faith's doors would close, and we would connect with each other only through technology? The good news is we are planning how to reopen our doors and worship in person. We have created a task force to address the challenges confronting us as we look toward coming together for meetings and worship. We decided to tackle worship first and have targeted **September 13, 2020** to come together for in-person worship at 9:30 AM. Thanks to all who responded to the survey that helped guide our thinking.

Worship at Faith will look quite different. The guidelines for worship are below. We are doing our best to comply with CDC and ELCA Guidelines and the Governor's Executive Orders relative to group gatherings and will revise our procedures as guidance changes and we learn best practices. Hopefully, these guidelines will prepare you for our new normal. Please commit to following the guidelines. More importantly, please have patience. You probably will not agree with every choice. We will work through this together – just like any family would.

As you are aware, Phases I and II of reopening Kentucky recommend that those who are 60 years old and older, those with pre-existing conditions that make them more vulnerable to the virus, as well as those who live with people who fall into those categories, to remain sheltered in place. We strongly recommend following that guideline. Many of you may also be hesitant to return to in-person worship or may be among those who must limit your exposure to others under the safest of circumstances. We want you to feel comfortable and safe so we will continue to create opportunities to keep our entire Faith family connected in virtual gatherings. We will continue to provide a live stream worship in addition to our in-person worship, and will seek ways to include you in Bible study and other times we usually gather. We support your choice to do what is best for you and your family. If that is virtual worship, tell us what would make your virtual experience more meaningful and how we can be sure you are included in every aspect of church life.

Your safety is at the heart of every decision we make. Each of us is honored to serve at Faith. We want to make this transition to in-person worship as smooth as possible, but the learning curve is steep. Please feel free to contact any task force member with your questions or concerns.

In Peace,
Miriam Brown, Charlie Hamilton, Charla Heersche, Jerry Klim, Jim Knauss, Richard Michel, Judy Page, Debbie Rosenberg, and Pastor Mark

(Continued on page 3)

Guidelines and Procedures for Worship

Before you arrive at church:

- Please check each family member's temperature before leaving your home. If any member of your family presents with a fever or symptoms of illness, we ask the entire household to stay home and join us in virtual worship.
- For the health and safety of our entire church family, we expect those who are medically able to wear a mask at all times when inside the building. Please be sure to bring a mask for each member of your family. We will have a limited number of masks on hand.
- Please communicate these guidelines to children in an age-appropriate manner. Children ages two and above are required to wear a mask.
- Please use the restroom before you come to church. Access to our restrooms will be limited.

When you arrive at church:

- Please use the entrance adjacent to the parking lot.
- Be prepared to have your temperature taken at the door.
- Clean your hands using the hand sanitizer provided.
- Doors will be propped open for your safety.
- Always wear a mask in the building unless you are not medically able to wear one. Children ages two and above are required to wear a mask.
- Do not congregate inside the building. If a line forms at an entrance, maintain 6 feet distance between households.
- Always maintain social distancing by keeping 6 feet between you and others. Feel free to greet others with a wave, but please forgo handshakes and hugs.
- Always keep your children with you. There will not be childcare at this time.
- Upon entering the sanctuary, look for an usher to direct you to a pew. It might not be the area in which you typically sit. Remember – everything is different! Households should sit together whenever possible.
- Look for the blue tape on each pew and sit with your back on the tape. Do not spread out beyond the tape, as we have measured the space to maintain a social distance.
- Once seated, please remain in your designated space unless you must leave to use the restroom, soothe a child, or exit the worship service. We would like to limit the traffic in the aisles for social distancing purposes.
- Children will remain in their pew for the children's sermon, instead of coming forward to the steps.
- Offering plates will be placed at the back of the sanctuary, so that you can place your offering inside as you enter or as you exit. You may also mail your of-

fering to the church or sign up for an automated offering method.

When it's time to leave:

- When the worship service is over, please wait in your pew. Ushers will dismiss worshippers one row at a time, beginning in the back. Again, please refrain from congregating in the lobbies.
- Please clean your hands upon departure using the hand sanitizer provided.
- If you would like to socialize with other worshippers, please do so at an acceptable social distance in the parking lot or in another outside space. We know you all have missed one another!

You also should know:

- Signage will be present outside and inside to remind you of all the guidelines.
- Access to the restrooms will be limited and we recommend you use your restroom before leaving home. However, if you must use the restroom please follow these guidelines:
- The available restrooms are those behind the sanctuary.
- If a line forms, please maintain social distancing by standing on the lines marked in the hallway.
- Only one person in each restroom at a time, except for members of the same household.
- The restrooms must be cleaned after each use, so we ask that you follow the sanitizing procedures posted in each restroom.
- This service will not include singing, and at this time, we do not plan to have communion; however, we are investigating alternate communion methods that we might use in the future.
- Drinking fountains will be covered and marked "Not in Use" for your safety.
- PLEASE DO NOT GO DOWNSTAIRS! The Learning Center will have been cleaned and disinfected and ready for our children to arrive on Monday morning.
- Finally, in the event a worship attendee tests positive for the virus, Faith Lutheran Church will be closed to in-person gatherings for a minimum of two weeks. All people present in worship the previous week will be asked to self-quarantine for 14 days, upon recommendation of the CDC.



Learning Center Status



Members of Faith,

I want to express my sincere gratitude to all the members who have donated money (either once or recurring) or items from our Amazon Wish List. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and means so much to me, my staff, the families, and the learning center committee. We have already received all the scissors needed, most of the watercolors and glue sticks, a couple sunscreen face sticks, and three temporary fences for the parking lot and garden.

The donation total from church members as of July 21, is \$4,628. Your donations are funding the learning center's portion of health insurance and being used through the pastor's discretionary fund to help to meet the teachers' needs.

As of July 21, the Learning Center has openings for ages 2 1/2 -4 years old. To enroll or inquire about the program, interested families should contact Charla Heersche for more information, fl-c859@gmail.com or 859-268-0108.

The center will be opening August 24 with operating hours M-F 7:30-5:00, and tuition of \$200 per week. These are reduced hours from our typical 7-6 schedule, so we can comply with the extra cleaning and staff requirements mandated by the Governor and the Division of Child Care's emergency regulations. With this necessary tuition increase, we are boosting our scholarship fund to help the families in greatest need of additional support.

If you would still like to donate to our scholarship or emergency funds, you may visit <http://www.tinyurl.com/flclex> or mail a check payable to "FLLC", 1000 Tates Creek Rd, Lexington, KY 40502.

Donations to pastor's discretionary fund should be made payable to Faith Lutheran Church, with "pastor's discretionary fund" in the memo.

I have also created an Amazon wish list for supplies, which will reduce our purchases prior to reopening. Please visit <https://tinyurl.com/yd7ggm6g>.

If there is something on the list you would like to purchase elsewhere, please contact Charla and she will remove it from the Amazon list. **Items should be placed in the container at the bottom of the Gathering Area stairs, or you may have items delivered directly to the school:**

Faith Lutheran Learning Center

1000 Tates Creek Rd

Lexington, KY 40502

859-268-0108

The needed items below are not available on Amazon:

Clorox or any other brand of disinfectant wipes

Lysol spray

Bleach

Powder-free Latex gloves (size L), vinyl gloves (size L) & food service gloves (size M) – we have been finding these at GFS in Hamburg

Thank you for your continued prayers and support,

Charla Heersche, FLLC Director



Life Together at Faith

August Birthdays

1	Jan Dornbrock
	Jennifer Klee
	Shari Veil
2	John Atkerson
	Cheryl Sievers
4	Isabella Meier
5	Jeanette Woods
7	Marge Holmes
9	Gerald Pierce
	Joe Seidel
	Diann Terry
	Kerstin Wendroth
10	Phyllis Hasbrouck
	Michael Holmes
12	Paula Klim
14	Julius Fox
16	Faye Gross
	Lois Steward
18	Makenna Delap
20	Anna Holmes
21	Ana Maria Hetzel-Ebben
	Grace Saatman
	Julia Wilson
25	Maximus Schadler
27	Carol Davis
30	Steve Hayes
31	Judy Knauss

August Anniversaries

1	Kevin & Jennifer Carey
6	Joe & Gail Swanson
9	Chris & LaDawn Reynolds
11	Lee & Marge Holmes
15	Ned & Diana Shappley
18	Paul & Joan Sorenson
21	Jim & Gayle McGrath
22	Joe & Diana Seidel
26	Dale & Scharlene Austin
	Barry & Kris Neese
	Gil & Susan Krouse
29	Gary & Bonnie Chastain
	John & Kay Cottrill

Baptism Anniversaries

1	Patrick Carey
	Hannah Hetzel-Ebben
	Dave McGrew
	David Templar
	Ella Johnson
	Rose Johnson
11	Nick & Shari Veil
20	Kolby Cloyd
26	Ole Wendroth
27	Jan Dornbrock
29	Henry Davis



Baptism

Carter Thomas Williams was baptized on July 19. He is the son of Hannah and Barry Williams, the grandson of Diann and Darryl Terry, and the great-grandson of Nancy George.



Deaths

Berne Hanford died on July 14
John Mau died on July 14
May they rest in eternal peace.



June Financial Summary

June 2020	Total Income - Month	Total Expense - Month	Actual Total In- come Less Actual Total Ex- pense	Total Income - YTD	Total Expense - YTD	Actual Total Income Less Actual Total Expense
Budget Forecast	\$36,164.83	\$36,461.51		\$216,988.98	\$218,769.06	
Actual	\$21,344.88	\$27,384.03	(\$6,039.15)	\$179,215.41	\$169,220.57	\$9,994.84
Variance	(\$14,819.95)	(\$9,077.48)		(\$37,773.57)	(\$49,548.49)	
%	59.0%	75.1%		82.6%	77.4%	

Faith Lutheran Church

1000 Tates Creek Drive
Lexington, KY 40502
Phone: 859-266-7621
Fax: 859-266-9600
Email:
office@faithlutheranchurch.com

Church Council 2020

Jonathan Delap, President
Richard Heine, Vice-President
Gayle McGrath, Secretary
Roland Born
Sherri Greer
Carolyn Holmes
JoEllen McComb
Peyton Zink, Youth Representative



Worship Schedule

Sunday Online Streaming, 10:00 AM

Staff

Mark Sloss, Pastor

pastormark@faithlutheranchurch.com
859-266-7621
Office hours: Tues-Thurs 9:00-12:00, day off Friday
765-437-3879

Kathy Egner, Parish Administrator

office@faithlutheranchurch.com
859-266-7621
Office hours: Mon-Thurs 9:00-3:00; Fri. 9:00-12:00

Neil McComb, Sexton

859-229-8834

Charla Heersche, Learning Center Director

flc859@gmail.com
859-268-0108

Lexington, KY 40502

1000 Tates Creek Road

Faith Lutheran Church