



A Message from the Pastor

Last summer I read *Dear Church: A Love Letter From A Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination In The U.S.* by Lenny Duncan, a recently ordained ELCA pastor. It opened my eyes in many ways to the reality of white privilege that I had so often missed, because I've been conditioned to accept the way the world is. My impression last year was that most congregations in the ELCA would not be open to hearing Lenny's radical call. But in witnessing the protests around the country following George Floyd's death in Minneapolis, I sense a new openness to confronting white supremacy and racism within the church. I want to share with you in some of Lenny's own words how he sees this as the call of the church in the twenty-first century:

We are the whitest denomination in the United States: if not us, then who will enter this battle for freedom? If not now, then when? It is our duty and our joy that in this time and this place we join the angels and archangels, the witnesses of the resurrection in their never-ending hymn of justice. The banquet that is about to be laid out by the sovereign God is a feast of equity. But make no mistake: it will be like the night this same God was arrested. God will take this church, lift it up and give thanks, and then break it. He will turn and face us, saying to those we have oppressed, "This is my body, broken for you." This same God, who carried his own lynching tree up Calvary on his back, will lift a cup full of the blood of Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, Sandra Bland, Freddie Gray, Philandro

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Worship

We continue to livestream our worship via Facebook. You do not need to be a Facebook user to access this video stream; [just click here](#). If you wish to include the Eucharist as part of your worship, set out beforehand some bread or crackers and some fruit of the vine, wine or grape juice. Fol-

lowing the Lord's Prayer, you'll be invited to commune one another saying, "The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you." If you are by yourself, you can say the words for yourself. 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 have formed a task force to determine how and when we may gather together again for worship. We look forward to the day when we will again gather together around the Lord's table.

From the Pastor (continued)

Castile. (Note: more names could be added since Lenny's writing.) Jesus will lift up the cup and say, "This is the new covenant made in the blood of the innocent, spilt by our hands." We are the offering to end white supremacy in this nation and church. We can enter this new phase of American theology willingly, or we can fight it every step of the way. Either way, I am convinced the call of the church in the twenty-first century is to be the vanguard of this new battleground... This may mean that you are going to be really uncomfortable. But white discomfort is not worse than experiencing racism as a black person. This may mean that you will have to hold this church accountable to its own belief that racism is a sin. I am a part of the ELCA. So is Dylan Roof. We have to lean in to that tension. We may have to throw our very bodies on the road and break the wheels of oppression. We may be broken in the process. We may have to look America in the eye and say, "This is my body-broken for you." We can do this. I know we can...I believe in you. I have seen you at your best. I have been hurt by you at your worst. I am still hopelessly in love with you. The way of the cross in the twenty-first century is to gather our best leaders and our best minds for one purpose: to dismantle white supremacy. For the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, the great liberator and our savior. Amen.

Faith congregation has a long legacy of doing the work of justice in our community and within our world. Unlike many artistic depictions, Jesus did not have white skin. Our repentance may begin with the turning of how Jesus appears in our imaginations. Do you imagine him as a brown skinned Middle Eastern man? Like Lenny, I love the ELCA, and in particular Faith congregation. I love our open welcome of all people and our desire to be deliberately diverse and fully inclusive. Even as we continue to navigate our way through this global health pandemic, I believe that we can begin to explore ways that we can answer the call to dismantle white supremacy. I'm open to your suggestions for how we can do this together, perhaps discussing books or videos, or advocating for changes with our elected officials. As we do this work we'll be living more closely to our ideal of being deliberately diverse and fully inclusive. We'll also be living out our Biblical mandate to love our neighbors, which is our call to work for justice and equity for all. And I trust that the Holy Spirit will be at work in and through us as we travel together towards what promises to be a new day in our church and in our world.

In Faith, Love and Hope - Deep Blessings,

Pastor Mark



Thanks



I am grateful to all I have met and for all who have supported me and for all that I have learned at Faith Lutheran Church. I leave to complete my chaplaincy training at the VA hospi-

tal here in Lexington and to pursue chaplain certification. My prayers are with all of you as you continue in your baptismal journeys, especially the children, youth, storytellers, and helpers.

Blessings, Carl IV

Faith Formation

Sunday Bible Study

From Reverend Hahn:

I greatly enjoyed our study of 1st Peter. Some of you have expressed interest in another study, and in response I invite you to join me in a study of the BOOK OF ROMANS. Since the lectionary readings for the next several weeks come from Romans, I hope this overview will help us more deeply engage with these readings. The Book of Romans has been central to major moments in the history of the church. Augustine, Luther, Calvin, and Karl Barth have all grounded their thinking in this Epistle. Romans is a powerful statement of faith, rooted in the lived challenges of a handful of small house churches in first century Rome--no more than a couple of hundred believers.

- How do we bridge our social divides?
- How do we affirm our differences? Can we find the very face of God in our diverse neighbors?
- Can love of these neighbors reflect holy love that cannot be broken, from which nothing can separate us?

These are the questions that Paul addresses in Romans. They are important questions for us. Join us **Sunday morning** at 11 AM for a one hour Zoom meeting. The [link](#) is available in Faith Notes and on our Facebook page. Or you can email Reverend Hahn at revhahn@aol.com and he will send you the link.

Tuesday Bible Study

The Tuesday morning 11:00 AM Bible Study is now held via Zoom. (The link is in Faith Notes.) Please consider joining us next week. All are welcome! We are now studying the book of Second Timothy.

Summer Packets for Kids

Faith Lutheran's Summer Children's ministry is transforming to meet the present situation. We have created activity packets for July and August, as well as a special packet for VBS. If you want to receive one of these packets, please email your name, the names of your kids, and mailing address to

office@faithlutheranchurch.com





Learning Center Status

Members of Faith,

FLLC will reopen on **Wednesday, August 12 with operating hours M-F from 7:30 am-5:00pm.** Enrollment will be for 2-5-yr-olds (after-school program temporarily suspended) and tuition will be \$200/week/child. With this necessary tuition increase, we plan on boosting our scholarship fund to help the families in greatest need of additional support.

Due to reduced capacity requirements (a loss of 37 students) and a need for increased staffing, there will be a temporary financial strain on the program. To offset some of our staffing costs, we are seeking volunteers to help with drop-off and pick-up. While there is never a guarantee a volunteer will not be exposed to COVID-19, volunteers will interact with one child at a time and will be provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Volunteers will also be trained by the director prior to their first shift. **Please contact Charla at:**

flc859@gmail.com or 859-576-6099 by July 20, if interested.

FLLC has been a ministry of Faith Lutheran Church for 37 years. We appreciate the support we have received over the years and are especially thankful for the donations from church members over the past few months (\$3,978). **Donations to our scholarship or emergency fund may be made online at <http://www.tinyurl.com/flclex> or via check, payable to "FLLC", 1000 Bates Creek Rd, Lexington, KY 40502.**

In addition to monetary donations or volunteering, there are additional ways to help with the reopening of our program. We will be repainting the learning center early to mid-July. **If you would like to help with painting, please contact cynthia.heine@gmail.com by July 6.** We also have a list of supplies and other items needed. Anything collected will limit our purchases prior to reopening.

I have created an Amazon wish list for supplies: <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 near the elevator, or you may have Amazon orders delivered directly to the school:**

Faith Lutheran Learning Center
1000 Bates Creek Rd
Lexington, KY 40502
859-268-0108

The items below are not on the Amazon list:

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

Charla Heersche, FLLC Director

Life Together at Faith

July Birthdays

- 1 Scharlene Austin
- 2 Catron Arnold
- 4 Nancy George
- 6 Muzzy Hemken
- 7 Rebecca Chapman
- 11 Al Akers
- 12 Jennifer Carey
Steve Rosenberg
- 13 Jim Conn
Melinda Wilson
- 14 Adam Carey
- 15 Britt Fugmann
Morton Terry
- 16 Jacob Horrell
- 17 Leslie Hughes
- 18 Aubrey Reynolds
- 21 Jim Stephens
- 22 Ford Cornett
- 25 Isaac Witt
- 29 Tuesday Hadden
- 31 Miles Johnson
Pat True

July Wedding Anniversaries

- 7 Dan and Melody Kazee
- 13 Mike and Anna Shannon
- 16 Matt and Amanda Terry
- 17 Will and Carolyn Holmes
- 22 Gordon and Bert Grotrian
- 28 Adam and Heather Witt

Baptism Anniversaries

- 1 Jim Conn
Nolan Williams
- 15 Abbie Grotrian

Recent Deaths

Johnny Mashni died on June 8. Members will remember his cheerful demeanor and his support for UK football and basketball. Johnny was confined to a wheelchair and, because his home church next door to Faith, had no handicap access, he faithfully worshipped with us for many years.

Dorina Longarzo's brother, Bill, died June 8. Please remember Dorina and her family in prayers.

May Financial Summary

May 2020						
	Total Income - Month	Total Expense - Month	Actual Total Income Less Actual Total Expense	Total Income - YTD	Total Ex- pense - YTD	Actual Total Income Less Actual Total Expense
Budget Forecast	\$36,164.83	\$36,461.51		\$180,824.15	\$182,307.55	
Actual	\$32,747.09	\$32,257.28	\$489.81	\$157,870.53	\$144,777.55	\$13,092.98
Variance	(\$3,417.74)	(\$4,204.23)		(\$22,953.62)	(\$37,530.00)	
%	90.5%	88.5%		87.3%	79.4%	

MEMO ONLY: "Snapshot"	Month of May	May YTD 2020
Budgeted Expense	\$36,461.51	\$182,307.55
Actual Income	\$32,747.09	\$157,870.53
Variance	(\$3,714.42)	(\$24,437.02)
%	89.81%	86.60%

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

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1000 Tates Creek Road
Lexington, KY 40502