

**Faith Lutheran Church**  
**Voters' Meeting Information Booklet**  
**November 12, 2023**

**Mission Statement**

**Know Christ**

**Live Christ**

**Make Christ Known**

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## **Staff Reports**

### **Senior Pastor's Report by Pastor Walt Pohland A devotional thought for the Voters' Assembly of Faith Lutheran Church, November 12, 2023**

*"Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." (Luke 21:28)*

For those who will take note, the signs of Jesus' return in judgment at the end of time are plentifully evident. Violence and warfare fill the daily headlines, crime and corruption fill our courtrooms, political upheaval and societal disintegration erode our trust in institutions, and natural disasters strike around globe with seemingly greater frequency and intensity. Families are cloven by stress, and friendships are fractured by disagreement. Vices are brazenly portrayed as virtues, and Christian virtues are publicly ridiculed as outdated relics of a close-minded past. And yet, knowing all things and holding the future in His powerful hand, Jesus calls His disciples to hopefulness and missionary servanthood.

The "end times" pose no threat to those who follow Jesus. From the scriptures we know that death is the tragic and terrible consequence of sin but that beyond the grave there is life everlasting through faith in the Son of God. At the very moment of death, the believing soul is welcomed into the presence of the Father in heaven while the body rests in its tomb until Judgment Day. Then, when Jesus comes, our bodies and souls will be reunited in the perfection of resurrection to live forever with Jesus in God's promised new creation. This certainty excites the Christian community and encourages us to live through troubling times with confidence and joy given by the Holy Spirit.

From traffic and warning signs to advertising jingles and name-brand logos, all signs signify something. End times events point us to the day when Jesus will appear visibly in the company of angels to gather His disciples and escort them to Paradise. All earthly realms will then pass away; history will give way to eternity; and the rule and reign of God will become for all people the great undeniable reality. At Christ's command the devil will be hurled into unending fire and the saints will find rooms prepared for them in the mansion of heaven where an infinitely joyful reunion will commence. The whole family of believers will delight in each other and in the Savior Whose agony purchased this immeasurable gladness and Whose cross is revealed as a throne.

Dear ones, since this is our future, guaranteed by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the signs that point to it prompt us to steward time well, to fill with active love the hours, days, weeks, months, or years that remain. The world has never been more in need of Christian discipleship than it is right now. The bad news of the headlines make the good news of the Gospel all the more urgent. And while no one Christian can meet every need for help, each Christian can supply some. It is no little thing to give a cup of water to a thirsty stranger out of love for Jesus, nor is any act of Christian compassion inconsequential. The Holy Spirit has miraculous means of magnifying small gestures into life-changing pivots. So, not despite the troubles of life but because of them, live your faith. Hidden beneath your words and deeds is the power of the risen Christ Who promises to bring from the end of all things the renewal of all things. (Rev. 21:5)

# Pastor Mariott's Report

Dear Members of Faith Lutheran Church,

Thank you for calling me to be your Associate Pastor! It is a true joy to serve at Faith each week. I am energized and inspired by each of you, your love for our family, and your love for each other. May our Lord continue to use that love to propel the proclamation of the Gospel, that His Kingdom would come among us and His will be done among us!

My first few months at Faith have been focused on building relationships and learning rhythms. I have invested in building relationships with our ministry staff and administrative staff through our weekly interactions. We are blessed with some amazing and talented servants here at Faith! I have also enjoyed participating in the council and Elders meetings, seeing the passion and the dedication that our church leaders have for the Gospel and for God's work in this place. I cherish the new relationships I have developed with many of the families of our congregation, including the opportunity to teach communion theology (catechesis) to some of our new communicants. It is very inspiring to hear some of our youngest members express their faith confidently and knowledgably! In our bible studies, whether the Sunday morning studies or the men's study on Thursday, I continue to meet new people and hear new stories. Sunday morning worship brings the same opportunities for building relationships and learning about people. I am thankful for each and every member at Faith, and for the rich diversity of perspectives and personalities that comprise the body of Christ in this place! Thank you for the love you have extended to me and my family—even my flip flops and passion for Alabama football bring opportunities for laughter and love!

I'm also learning new rhythms. My balance of time between Concordia and Faith has been a real enrichment to my life. I am honored to get to do all the fun things! I feel energized in it all and have been able to maintain a healthy work-life balance in it all. I'm thankful for the support and encouragement I receive from both the university and the church in all of these endeavors. I look forward to continuing to learn rhythms and balance as my roles expand over time.

I'm thankful for the many opportunities I have to travel and serve the wider church. Each month I have been participating in conferences, hymn festivals, consulting, and other networking opportunities. These are a blessing to me and a great opportunity for me to tell the story of Faith Lutheran Church, commending y'all for your Christian love and discipleship. Thank you for your encouragement in all of this.

As you have questions or concerns, please come chat with me. I look forward to growing with everyone as we continue to know Christ, live Christ, and make Christ known!

Rev. Dr. James F. Marriott, Associate Pastor

# **Faith Senior Ministries (FSM) - November 23 Voters Assembly**

## **Introduction**

This report provides a synopsis of senior ministry areas and activities. Since I began leading Senior Ministry at Faith in 2019, the program has grown to encompass four areas: 1) Speaker Series, 2) Fellowship and Socials, 3) Devotional Services, and 4) Discipleship. These areas signify important aspects of Christian life: worship, advocacy and education, fellowship, and discipleship, which together serve the larger evangelical mission of *Faith Senior Ministries*.

Recognizing Christ's example and commission, our mission is to serve and edify older adults within and beyond our church family, nurture relationships, and bridge generations within the body of Christ. We recognize that discipleship involves helping others in need, building bonds of Christ-like love, as well as welcoming neighbors and strangers into our midst so that the Lord's grace and blessings are received by many for His glory.

## **2023-24 Calendar of Events**

FMS offers one regular, publicized calendar event every month. Certain events appeal to older adults exclusively, while other events reach a wider audience and are open to people of all ages.

Events since 2020 included a) devotional services with Pr. Selle, Pr. Selle, and Texas District President Newman; b) guest speakers such as Mayor Gravell, and experts on legal topics, Medicare changes, avoiding scams; c) intergenerational Bingo and ice creams socials with entertainment; and d) transportation initiatives to help elderly members obtain COVID shots, as well as guest pastors on special topics related to Christian life and Scripture. The 2023-24 calendar continues our model of scheduling invited speakers, devotional services with guest pastors, fellowship events such as games and socials, and Bible-oriented special topics.

## **Ministry Leadership**

Our leaders work in close harmony to administer objectives and goals, coordinate team activities, and assist all manner of planning. Current leaders include Lee Kunkel and Debbie Einem, with Anita Frank serving as secretary. A wider team of gracious helpers support calendar events every month. The ministry also involves many behind the scenes tasks that require attention, including clerical, communications, publicity, and coordination. As Specific Ministry Vicar, I oversee FSM in a leadership, shepherding, advisory, and coordinating capacity.

Please contact Vicar John Cotner at [jcotner@flcms.org](mailto:jcotner@flcms.org), [Lee Kunkel at lfkunke7@gmail.com](mailto:Lee Kunkel at lfkunke7@gmail.com), or [Debbie Einem at debbieeinem@gmail.com](mailto:Debbie Einem at debbieeinem@gmail.com) for information and consider joining the team.

In Christ, Vicar John Cotner

**High School**

As I mentioned in my May staff report, High School Youth Ministry at Faith Lutheran continues to be unpredictable, and God continues to work in and through the lives of young people at the church.

In an effort to accommodate students ever changing schedules, we've begun meeting on different days and times than the previous "Wednesday only" system we had in place. There are currently 35 high school youth who are officially "members" of Faith Lutheran Church. 11 are actively involved in the congregation, 12 are involved roughly once a month, and 12 who are not actively involved in the congregation. I am thrilled that many youth who are involved in the congregation serve in various ways: helping with the church music, assisting in teaching Sunday School, volunteering at large community events, etc.

**Sunday School Curriculum**

We are currently studying the Sermon on the Mount from Matthew 5-7. Over the summer we incorporated middle and high school youth into an adult Bible class titled: "Know Christ, Live Christ, Make Christ Known" where we explored Faith's mission statement in-depth over the course of 9 weeks.

**ECHO Ted Talks**

I'm very excited to start a high school youth series where a different high school student is invited each month to give a "Ted Talk" about a subject they are passionate about. Meeting on the first Wednesday of each month, youth are encouraged to bring in visual aids, power point presentations, and anything else that can help them talk about the subject of their choice. Afterwards I'll be leading a short devotion that ties into whatever subject they chose to speak on.

**Inks Lake Summer Youth Trip**

From June 4-6 we took a group of 8 High School youth on our first ever Summer Retreat at Inks Lake State Park in beautiful Burnet, Texas!

Special thanks to our Senior Youth Leaders McKenna Barnes and Ryan Hughes who helped lead Bible Studies, cook meals, and served as excellent role models to the other youth who were attending.

**Middle School**

Confirmation classes started again on Sunday, August 20th! This fall we're about the Lord's Prayer.

In the past, Confirmation classes at Faith Lutheran have corresponded with students' 7th and 8th grade years of school. While the program is still 2 consecutive years, we're changing the program to be highly flexible regarding when students actually start. Students could start in 8th grade (ending in 9th), or begin their 9th grade year (ending in their 10th). If the parents feel their student is ready, they could also begin as early as 6th grade, ending in 7th grade. It all depends on the student's maturity, the families' schedules, and what they think works best for them. Regardless of age/grade, we do encourage new students to start during a 'fall' term in August.

Once a month we are going to host a servant event for both Middle and High school Students. We had a 'trial run' of sorts that had good results and turnout, so we'll be implementing this monthly. I have the next three months planned out which will wrap up 2023, but if you have an idea for a youth service project or event for 2024, please let me know!

## **Outreach**

Fall Festival was on Saturday, October 28th. Despite the rain, we had an excellent turnout from members of the community as well as eager volunteers from Faith Lutheran. We are so blessed to have such a hospitable and welcoming congregation! Once the downpour started, most of the people attending moved into the Activity Center where the games, crafts, music, and food continued! Roughly 100 folks packed the Activity Center seeking shelter from the rain.

Please reach out to me if you are interested in learning more about the Board of Community Outreach and what we do! We are looking for new potential members who are excited about reaching the surrounding community with a warm invitation into a relationship with Jesus and our church community.

Jonathan and I continue to run our ministry at the Boys and Girls Club of Georgetown. Titled "VIP", which stands both for "Virtues in Practice" and "Very Important People". We meet with 25+ children every Wednesday to read Bible stories, sing songs, and listen as they share about their lives.

We invite any and all who are interested to learn more about how they could make a huge difference in the spiritual lives of children in Georgetown. I will say that in the 5 years I have now been at Faith Lutheran Georgetown, I've not experienced anything quite like the Boys and Girls Club. If you've never gotten to share the love of Jesus and stories from God's Word with kids who do not know it, this is an incredible opportunity to do so.

## **Other**

Music lessons and music education at Faith Lutheran Church continues to flourish. I am teaching 10 students on piano, and have a waitlist of other students who are interested in taking lessons when more slots become available. Adam is teaching several percussion students as well. We are in the early stages of talks of further developing the program to include signing, and the potential development of a Children's Choir, and group lessons in a classroom style setting in 2024!

# **Jonathan Loesch's DCE Report**    November 12, 2023

## **CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL**

· Three classes for the fall quarter:

- The 3s, 4s, and 5s class meets in the Children's Ministry Wing, room B-114. The teacher is Ms. Dedie Wright. The assistant is Charlie Harrell.
- The 6, 7, and 8 year-olds meet in the Children's Ministry Wing, room B-122. The teacher is Ms. Lisa Flachs. The assistant is Elaine Flachs.
- The 9, 10, and 11 year-old students meet in the Kids Café (B-116) of the Children's Ministry Wing. The teacher is Jonathan Loesch. Connor Colangelo is the assistant.

We continue to use the Enduring Faith curriculum from Concordia Publishing House. We're on Unit 4: "God Calls a Nation." During our every Sunday Opening we have a brief devotion, sing some songs, take the offering, celebrate birthdays, and pray! · We will be teaching "Christmas Lessons" (CPH) all month of December. · Note: No Sunday School on December 24th.

## **ADULT BIBLE CLASSES**

### **Midweek mornings – fall quarter:**

- Wednesday Morning Women’s Bible Class: ELIJAH: Faith & Fire
- Thursday Morning Men’s Bible Class: Ezekiel
- Grief Support Group, led by Dolores Karkoska, meets on Wednesday afternoons.

### **Sunday mornings – Fall Quarter: September 3rd – November 19th**

- Title: “The Lord’s Prayer in Lutheran Theology and Daily Life”  
Leader: Vicar John Cotner, Ph.D.
- Title: The Parenting Class  
Leader: Rev. Dr. Jim Marriott & Kristi Marriott
- Title: Review of the Christian Faith (“New Member Class”)  
Leader: Pastor Pohland
- The Book of Romans  
Leader: Dr. Krisit Kirk

### **Sunday mornings – Advent: (“Son of God & Son of Man”) November 26th –December 31<sup>st</sup>**

Note: No Bible classes on December 24th.

## **MISSION OF THE MONTH**

Our Mission of the Month for November is LINC Austin | Building Relationships to Build Stronger Communities

## **ROCK HOUSE MINISTRY**

The called staff, along with elder Phil Kirkle, lead a once-a-month worship & Sunday School experience (we call it “chapel,” they call it “church”) at the Rock House Day-Hab in town. The average attendance hovers around 50+ attendees, not including RH staff. Anyone is welcome to come lead worship with us and get to know our Rock House neighbors!

## **OUTREACH KIDS CLUB: “VIP”**

- We meet at the Boys & Girls Club of Georgetown for our weekly Bible Kids Club (“VIP”) at the old Picket elementary at 1100 Thousand Oaks Blvd, leading two different age groups.
- There is a 6–8 year-old group that meets with us from 4:00 – 4:45 PM, and a 9–12 year-old group that meets from 4:45 – 5:30 PM.
- Please let Austin or me know if you, or someone you know, would like to serve in this awesome outreach to children in our community. Adults and high school age youth are encouraged to use their gifts to serve in this way.



## **NURSERY CARE**

- We continue to offer nursery care for children (infant thru age 3) on Sunday mornings during the worship and Sunday School/Bible class times. Ms. Kassie, Ms. Danielle, and Ms. Elizabeth serve as our nursery attendants. Julie Reynolds is our substitute.
- We will be working with other boards to be able to provide even more nursery care and child care opportunities – besides just Sunday mornings – for families in the future!

## **CRADLE ROLL**

- Jennifer Schmidt serves as our Cradle Roll coordinator for the young families at Faith.
- NOTE: Cradle Roll is a ministry where Christian resource packets and cards are mailed to families who have recently had a child baptized here at Faith. The mailings continue until the child turns three years of age.

## **FAITH LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL**

- We currently have a few openings for classes in our preschool. Please email our director, Ms. Sabrina: [director@flpreschool.com](mailto:director@flpreschool.com)
- Welcome Ms. Taylor to the FLP Team! She is currently the Kinder Prep teacher in B-122!
- Also, welcome Ms. Presley to the team! She will be our new teacher for our new 2/3 Year-Old class in room B-118!

## **KIDS CORNER**

The “Kids Corner” replaced the “Busy Bags” as an area in the narthex for kids and families to pick up the weekly Sunday children’s bulletin. Also, Happy Times and My Devotions magazines are available for kids preschool age to age 11. You can also learn about the Sunday School “Mission of the Month,” pick up children’s offering envelopes, and other goodies and resources offered throughout the church year.

## **STAFF LIASION**

Jonathan is currently the staff liaison to the Board of Education, the Board of Fellowship, and the Preschool Board.

- Jonathan Loesch, Director of Christian Education (Children & Families)

# **Adam Perez, Director of Music and Parish Administration**

## **Staff Report for Voter’s Assembly, Fall 2023**

### **Administration**

#### **Office:**

- Completed Projects:
  - Advertising Procedures Council Presentation Template and Policy is completed and approved by the council.
  - Our secretarial staff continues to work diligently and faithfully on our database, communications and records keeping to serve to our amazing congregation!

- Active Long-term Projects:
  - Office Database and Software Procedures.
  - Electronic Baptismal records conversion.

### **Technology:**

- Completed Projects:
  - Kids Ministry and Nursery Virtual Check-in.
  - MomCo Virtual Check-in.
  - Door Scheduling system is fully operational on a new “server” machine.
    - Remote access is setup and working as well.
  - Ed Wing Door repair for child security.
  - Remote security camera access for staff and elders.
  - Added Organ camera for livestream.
- Active Projects:
  - C203 Bible Class electrical is installed. AV will be in the coming weeks.
  - Wifi additions (donated) for Ed wing and Sanctuary area.
  - Lobby camera additions to security monitoring system.
  - Old servers decommission.
    - Old data is uploaded to our online file server.
  - Bible Class audio recording.
  - Updated hearing assistance devices.

### **Production:**

- Our number of rotated volunteer livestream techs remains stagnant, but incredible!
- Our AV lead (sound position), Steve Sommo, resigned at the end of July.
- In September, Matt Zuniga accepted and began the AV lead position along with some other miscellaneous IT help. He is an incredibly talented young man and has already done some amazing work for us!

## **Music**

### **Lessons:**

- Faith’s music lesson ministry has continued to thrive! Elementary-age music students are now a frequent part our worship life as a congregation, and we are delighted to add them to our worship rotation. Both Austin and I love teaching these kids and love demonstrating how music fits into the life of the church.

### **Ensembles:**

- Our *Chamber Choir* was added to our monthly rotation of ensembles beginning in February 2023. The team consists of young vocalists both studying and not studying vocal repertoire that are in our choir, band and other ensembles. I absolutely love directing these young folks!

- Faith's *Choir* continues to bless our congregation, singing in an ensemble rotation for worship once a month.
- Our volunteer *Instrumental Ensemble* continues to enhance congregational worship each month. I am blessed to get to work with these bright musicians.
- Faith's *Handbell Ensemble* continues to grow and bless our congregation each month during worship. The ensemble has added 1 ringer to make 17 total.
- The *Modern Worship Band* continues to grow in community and faith with one another. This ensemble is amazingly faithful and unified, learning from one another and engaging in God's Word together. It is a blessing to have the opportunity to direct them each week.
- Our *Soloist* rotation has not been active this year due to travel and scheduling, but we plan to incorporate more soloists during the upcoming months.
- Faith's *Organist* rotation continues to bless our congregation. As the Principal Organist, it is a blessing to get to work with and schedule every one of these folks. Many churches struggle to find a single organist. The Lord continues to walk with us and work through Music at Faith!

### **Musical Connections:**

- Our connection to professional musicians around the greater Austin area continues to grow. We are blessed to book them for festival services, to be able to make connections with them, and to become recognized within the professional music community in the area. Almost every musician we hire pulls me aside to comment on how welcoming our congregation is and how easy it is to work with our team. It is a great ministry to them, and we are blessed to make those Christian connections with folks that would not otherwise be in our sanctuary.
- We remain with a wonderful rotation of music students and recently graduated musicians from Concordia University Texas. While serving on our worship team (band, vocalist, instrumentalists) they also get the opportunity to lead and grow more comfortable in their talents that will one day serve other congregations like ours. What a blessing it is to get to mentor and guide these folks as they begin their ministry.
- We continue to have a strong musical relationship with Southwestern University right here in Georgetown. We've had the blessing of hosting the SU Choir for their choir retreat, two concerts, and two recording sessions this year. It is a blessing to have them in our space, and a blessing to have four of their choir members as section leaders in our choir.

### **Music and Events Overview:**

- We continue to use live worship music for community events, namely Faith's Easter Eggstravaganza and Fall Festival, which is always well-received. As we invite other area LCMS Worship Leaders, it also serves as a connection point to our sister congregations.

- We are so blessed to have our music program rapidly grow over such a short time. As our program grows, I am blessed to need to focus my time in that area and to have an incredibly musically talented staff to support it!

**Concerts and Performances:**

- Vineyard Voice – November 19, 2023 @6pm
- Faith Lutheran Church / Concordia University – December 10, 2023 @5:30pm

## **Church Council Reports**

### **Chairman's Report**

The weather is getting cooler and the daylight hours are dwindling. It must be Fall and that means it is time for our Fall/Winter Voters' Meeting. As always, the Church Council has been busy. The following is an update on issues and projects since our last Voters Meeting. After reading it, feel free to ask me for further explanation if needed.

- Very little progress on the Columbarium and it is frustrating. We are still waiting for the building permit from the City of Georgetown, but recently our contractor submitted an application with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, TCEQ, which will hopefully give us permission to build the 80 square foot foundation. If so, the work should progress quickly.
- Mike Martin took point on the proposed Activity Center Remodeling - Phase 2. He organized a committee and since then they have: selected an architect, created specifications for the remodeling and identified some HVAC work we can do immediately (see motion in new business) and hopefully we can expect drawings shortly which we will share with the Voters'.
- Mike also initiated a Records Retention Committee which met several times. Recommendations are forthcoming.
- The Hospitality Committee was formed as a result of the By-Law change approved by the Voters' in May. Linda Byran was selected as Chairperson and she has teamed up with Pastor Marriott and several board members have been recruited by Linda. They are already studying how they can serve our congregation best and continue the good service already in place. The proposed 2024 budget grants her committee some funding and I recommend you approve this action to allow them to reach their objectives.
- One of the responsibilities of our Church Council is to find ways to implement programs to help us reach our goal to Know Christ, Live Christ and Make Christ Known. The Council studied a request for more child care for those families with young children. The Council agreed we should find ways to help our young families be more active and to do this we need to provide child care. It is our hope our young parents will have more opportunities to be active in church services, committee meetings, bible study groups, special events, etc. As

with the Hospitality Committee, you will find funding for this program in the proposed 2024 budget. We are hopeful the Voters' will find this program beneficial to our congregation.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Rick Schmidt, Council Chairman

## **Board of Assimilation Voters Assembly November 2023**

### **Current BOA Members**

Gen Shepherd, Mary Fuller, Dorothy Bowers, Holly Decherd, Diana Tchida, Gayle Schulz, Jean Linderman, Dedie Wright, Gil Bowers, Bill Fuller, John Cotner

### **Meetings are held prior to events for planning purposes**

We held a meeting on 6 June and 10 August to plan the 18 June and 27 August New Member Luncheons.

### **Luncheons**

The New Member Luncheon on 18 June had a total of 31 attendees, 11 of 17 New members were able to attend plus 3 guests. The BOA prepared BBQ chicken, potato salad, macaroni salad, slaw salad, 7 bean baked beans, dessert, and drinks. The New Member Luncheon on 27 August welcomed 10 New Members. We had 21 total attendees. Sandwiches were purchased from HEB, fruit salad, green salad, desserts, drinks and flowers were provided by BOA members.

### **New Member Directory and Faith Directory**

Photos and Bio information was obtained from New Members. New Member Directories were compiled and distributed in the Narthex in the weeks after each luncheon. A copy of the Faith Photo Directory and online instructions were distributed to all New Members. Photos of New Members were posted on the New Member Bulletin board. Faith Photo Directories are reprinted as needed for New Members. The online Directory is updated as information changes and members are added.

### **New Member Interests to Committees and Ministries**

New member interests are obtained from the Opportunities to Serve worksheet each new member fills out after joining. This information is shared with the committee/ministry chairman so that they can be contacted. New members are sent a card and follow up email from BOA members in the weeks after joining.

Respectfully submitted,      Mary Fuller - Co-Chairman    Gen Shepherd - Co-Chairman

## **Board of Christian Education**

November 2023

Since I became the chairman for the Board of Education in April my amazing board and I have been working hard to make improvements to our many areas of education, with a special focus on our Children's Sunday School and young families. Our biggest prayer is that we will begin to see many more families active in the church and that they will feel more prepared to educate their children in their own homes.

A few of our biggest changes so far have been to recruit and train more Sunday School teachers for the younger ages. We offered two training classes and had great turnout. We now are able to consistently have three Sunday School classes each week for ages 3-5, 6-8, and 9-11. We began the school year with a new Sunday School Kick-Off introducing kids to their new teacher and classrooms. We opened with a skit and songs and ended with fun take home gifts to help kids spread the Good News to their friends. We had a big turn out and are very excited to see our Children's Sunday School growing.

In addition to the three classes, we have also begun doing a weekly Sunday School Opening where all the classes come together to pray, sing, have an introduction to the week's lesson, and recognize and celebrate any birthdays. Adam and Amanda have been doing an excellent job leading this alongside our teachers. This has also allowed us to begin prepping for the Children's Christmas service as the kids have already begun learning the songs for the special service. CPH recently put out a new addition to the Enduring Faith Curriculum we currently use. We have purchased a special Advent addition and are excited to use it when Advent comes.

Be sure to check out our new tablet check-in system, which you can see on the corner of the ministry center. This allows families to check their kids in, prints them each a name tag, and gives the parents a receipt which they use to pick up their children. This is a common system in many big churches that helps to keep our precious children safe and gives parents the peace of mind as they attend classes of their own. There have also been a few other updated safety measures put in place in coordination with the safety team. We want to make sure everyone feels comfortable in Sunday School.

Each month we select and advertise the mission of the month for Sunday School. As well as brainstorming and finding teachers for each quarter's Sunday School offerings. We try to offer a variety of classes and teachers, always include at least one book of the bible and one topics class. We are also currently working on recording the adult Bible Classes and posting them online so that you will be able to listen to any classes you may have missed or wish you could attend but couldn't because there are too many good classes being offered. We've encountered a few hiccups and are working diligently to get this system up and running.

As we look forward to next year, we pray to continue to serve the congregation in all areas of education. We also hope to be able to provide more educational resources for use at home, especially some for families to help prepare and teach their children.

Respectfully Submitted

Elissa K Grotfendt, Chairman of the Board of Education

## **Board of Hospitality**

The Board of Hospitality was formed mid-year 2023. The Board is comprised of the Greeters, Welcome Center, Ushers, Baptism Reception, and Parking Lot Traffic Control. The members are Debbie Einem, Nicky Shepherd, Gilbert Bowers, Holly Decherd, and Tanya Pedersen. Linda Bryan is the Chairman and Pastor Jim Marriott is the Staff Liaison.

The Board of Hospitality hosted a Brunch on Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, to thank the volunteers who graciously have given of their time this year. The Brunch was attended by approximately 70 persons. The food was prepared by the Board of Hospitality.

**Welcome Center** - Debbie Einem is in charge of the Welcome Center. The Welcome Center has been cleaned and organized. There are at least two persons scheduled for each service. New items for the gift bags are being researched. In the coming year the goal is to add at minimum one more person per service to aid in assistance with registering guest's children for Sunday school and showing them to their class. The broken headphones are a concern that is currently being addressed.

**Greeters**- Nicky Shepherd is in charge of the Greeters. Currently there are two teams of greeters scheduled for each service. A team is comprised of two persons. Recruitment for greeters is currently going on with the goal to increase from two teams to three teams minimum per service.

**Ushers**- Gilbert Bowers is in charge of the Ushers. Currently there are enough Ushers to cover each service. In the coming year the goal will be to increase number in the pool of Ushers.

**Baptism Receptions** – Tanya Pedersen is in charge of the Baptism Receptions. Since the Board of Hospitality was formed mid-year there has only been one reception. The reception is offered by the Pastor and if the family agrees it is then given after the Church service.

**Parking Lot Traffic Control**- Mike Bryan is in charge of the Parking Lot Traffic Control. Upon the request of the Pastor or Elders there will be a team to direct traffic.

Linda Bryan, Chairperson

## **BOARD OF HUMAN CARE**

### **Report to Voter's Assembly      April, 2023**

The goals of the Board of Human Care are: 1) to provide advocacy in each ministry; 2) to assist in making ministries known to the congregation; 3) to help coordinate publicizing of ministries; 4) to seek and evaluate new ministries as needs are identified in the congregation and community; 5) to encourage measurable goals within each ministry to provide direction, purpose and promote enthusiasm and; 6) to ensure continuity of ministries in the church and show love to those in need as well as to nurture relationships between the servants and those being served.

In 2023 members of Faith and its Human Care Ministries continue to carry on the Lord's work, serving and touching lives within our congregation, our community, our region, state, nation and into the world. Following is a year-to-date update from each ministry.

### **Bags to Mats**

Bags to Mats membership is currently 18. Several are not church members. We generally have 5-8 members at meetings and not always the same people. People come as they can. Several only work from home and several are inactive at present. We are pleased to be adding new members all the time and invite anyone who would like to serve the homeless and recycle with a purpose to join us.

Meetings take place on the 1st and 3rd Friday in the Activity Center, C-101. We meet only the 3rd Friday June to August. You do not have to attend meetings to be a part of Bags to Mats, but the meetings provide instruction, drop off and pick up of materials and most importantly, fellowship. At this time, we have sufficient bags to last us well into next year so we ask church members to PLEASE HOLD YOUR BAG DONATIONS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

Bags to Mats works with LINC Austin to distribute mats to those who most need them. We have distributed a total of 76 mats to LINC Austin since November 2020. We plan to deliver between 12-14 mats in November.

We would like to thank everyone who donates clean grocery bags to our ministry and those who fold, take home folded or cut bags and return plastic yarn (plarn) to our cart in the Narthex. We could not do this without you. And of course, thank you to our members who fold, cut, make plarn and crochet mats.

### **Bereavement Committee**

The Bereavement Committee served 5 meals so far for 2023.

### **Caring Place**

The Caring Place is once again accepting food and other pantry donations from the public. Non-perishable food, diapers and hygiene products are accepted during item donation hours at the 2000 Railroad Avenue drive-through Monday through Saturday, 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The Caring Place offers an online portal for neighbors in crisis to begin the enrollment process for financial assistance. This assistance could be help with rent, mortgage, utilities, food, clothing, household items, transportation, some prescription help, or assistance with other emergency-related basic needs. The confidential link can be found at [caringplacetx.org/gethelp](https://caringplacetx.org/gethelp). Walk-in assistance from Programs & Services is located at 2001 Railroad Avenue in Georgetown. Our service area includes Georgetown, Andice, Bartlett, Florence, Granger, Jarrell, Jonah, Schwertner, Walburg, Weir, and the portion of Hutto within Georgetown Independent School District.



Things are bustling at The Caring Place and we are in need more volunteers. We need Cashiers, Pricers, Sorters, Merchandisers, Warehouse Helpers, Food Pantry Shoppers, Eligibility Specialists, Welcome/Enrollment Specialists and Donations Intake Assistants. Weekly opportunities will help you fill your time in a positive and enriching way. Fill out an application at: [caringplacetx.org/volunteer](http://caringplacetx.org/volunteer) .

In 2022, The Caring Place was voted as the best place to volunteer and give in Georgetown for the 12<sup>th</sup> year in a row.

## **Grief Support**

Starting in March, the Grief Support Group meets on Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m. in the Family Room. Many members have stopped attending as they reached the point that they were adjusting to their loss and no longer felt the need for weekly support. Fewer people have joined the group recently, so the number of participants is low. However, we currently have two additional participants who are in the new member class on Sundays.

Regardless of the number of attendees, we still share a devotion, pray, and share about our current struggles and victories regarding the grief in our lives. I appreciate this opportunity to share the Gospel and encourage the participants through the Word.

Please let grieving people (members and non-members) know that the group is available. We welcome those who have recently lost a loved one from this life and anyone who still needs to process longer term grief. Please pray for the functioning of the group as a whole and the individual participants.

## **Faith in Action Georgetown**

Faith in Action Georgetown (FIAG) provides services at no charge to non-driving seniors age 65+ who cannot afford a vehicle and related upkeep, and who live in their own homes in Georgetown or its ETJ. FIAG's mission is to help seniors maintain their independence and quality of life by providing transportation and other services. Faith in Action was formed by the cooperative efforts of area churches. It continues to draw much of its strength from its close association with these congregations.

FIAG provides many services to Georgetown seniors:

- Transportation: Volunteers provide rides for clients to a variety of destinations.
- Buddy Program: Volunteers check on seniors regularly to ensure their needs are being met.
- Van Program: FIAG's Go-Van-Go is a fun way for seniors to go grocery shopping.
- Medical Equipment Closet: FIAG provides wheel chairs, etc. free of charge.
- Information and Referral: FIAG provides needed information to seniors and their families regarding aging resources and services.

FIAG looks forward to a continued partnership with Faith Lutheran's support in promoting volunteer opportunities, awareness of services and financial contributions. Faith Lutheran's quarterly donations of \$200 are gratefully appreciated as they allow FIAG to continue providing transportation free of charge to Georgetown's senior adult population.

FIAG's Executive Director is Vickie Orcutt (512) 827-2644

## **Senior Ministry**

Faith Senior Ministry encompasses four areas: 1) Speaker Series, 2) Fellowship and Socials, 3) Devotional Services, and 4) Discipleship. These areas signify important aspects of Christian life: worship, advocacy and education, fellowship, and discipleship, which together serve the larger evangelical mission of Faith Senior Ministries. Our mission is to serve and edify older adults within and beyond our church family, nurture relationships, and bridge generations within the body of Christ. We recognize that discipleship involves helping others in need, building bonds of Christ-like love, as well as welcoming neighbors and strangers into our midst so that the Lord's grace and blessings are received by many for His glory. FMS offers one regular, publicized calendar event every month. Certain events appeal to older adults exclusively, while other events reach a wider audience and are open to people of all ages. Our leaders work in close harmony to administer objectives and goals, coordinate team activities, and assist all manner of planning.

## **Habitat for Humanity**

Habitat for Humanity is "gearing up" for the large building project "Shepherd's Village"- a multi-family project beginning in May. Donations to this effort will be greatly appreciated. The ReStore, on N Main, directly across from Georgetown H.S. continues to take donations, 9am - 3pm Saturdays. Happy to report we had two Faith members sign-up at the Ministry Fair!

## **Heartfelt Stitchers**

Heartfelt Stitchers has had a blessed and successful year. We continue with our overall purpose as stated in the OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE HANDBOOK. A total of 300 items were made and have been or will be distributed in the coming weeks to these organizations: Baptisms at Faith, Sick and Homebound at Faith, Dell NICU, Texas Oncology, Veterans Hospital and homeless vets and Veterans Celebration at Faith.

## **Hospital Chaplains**

No activity.

## **Lutheran Braille Workers**

Lutheran Braille Workers are volunteers throughout the USA. There are amazing letters of thanksgiving of blind people who rejoice when they can get God's Word in their language. In the USA a full Lutheran Braille Bible would cost over \$1,320 and many could never afford to purchase God's Word or devotional writings or a Hymnal. Faith has a faithful group of volunteers who meet MONTHLY on the SECOND MONDAY of each month from 12:00 noon to 2 PM.

Those who volunteer from Faith are:

Wayne and Jane Schmidt	Carol Hancock	Diane Huff
Jeannet Fasce	Jim Mateos	Kim Herndon
Karen and Dennis Sparks	Bonnie Tippins	Jan Roller
Pat and Lewis Klawitter	Paul and Lois Howe	

## **Lutherans for Life**

January 22 was Sanctity of Life Sunday; I presented a brief Temple Talk at both services. A display table was set up in the church narthex with brochures with information on life issues ranging from abortion to end-of-life questions. The baby models included in the display presented a realistic look at the baby at different stages of development. Donation baskets were placed in the church narthex and we received approximately \$1000 in donations which were evenly divided between Lutherans for Life and The Pregnancy Help Center of Williamson County. Also, each quarter, Life Date booklets are placed around the church which offer informative and sometimes challenging articles by the Lutherans for Life staff. A similar table of information is also set up for the church's annual Ministry Fair.

## **Lutheran World Relief / Quilt Ministry**

LWR Quilters meet each Tuesday of the month. In addition to quilting at the church, many of the ladies sew at home to increase the number of quilts we produce in a year. Currently we have completed 176 quilts as of September 28, 2023. We will ship out 190 quilts on November 1, 2023. The Fall Quilt/Craft sale will be October 29, 2023. The sale supports batting, quilting tread, sewing notions, shipping cost etc.

## **Meals on Wheels**

Faith's Meals on Wheels team is made up of 48 volunteers. The recruitment efforts in March through flyers and the Friday newsletter resulted in 7 new volunteers and the Ministry Fair identified two more interested volunteers. Praise God!! There are nine churches in Georgetown that carry out the MOW Georgetown program. There are fourteen delivery routes in Georgetown including four in Sun City with 15-20 clients each and one at Merritt Hawkins Senior Village with over 30 clients.

## **Military Care Support**

We have recruited several new members. The checking account balance is \$146.70, less some postage expenses to be paid, leaving an approximate balance of \$100. During 2023, we completed 2,045 *old style* paracords. In 2022, we completed a total of 9,959 shipped that were shipped to Operation Gratitude. The *old style* cords were 7.5 feet long. Going forward, we will be starting *New style* cords which will be 5 feet long. The change in style cords will increase the number of cords produced from 133 cords per roll to approximately 200 cords. During the past year, costs per roll (1000' per roll) of paracord material has almost doubled. Postage to mail the completed cords has also increased. We recently received 2 donated rolls of paracord material, resulting in a tremendous savings to us. Last of the old style paracords will be shipped in October.

## **New Life Treatment Center / Upbring**

No report at this time.

## **Prayer Ministries**

- **Prayer Warriors** meet in person weekly at 9am on Mondays in the church library. We have seven prayer warriors and usually 4-5 who attend and pray. I am so thankful for their faithful pray-ers.
- Our **Mission Prayer Team** prays for monthly mission prayers by e-mail. Please pray.
- Good Friday Prayer Vigil took place on Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM. The family at Faith spent the day in prayer, petition, and thanksgiving, as we remembered our Lord's journey to the cross. Good Friday Prayer Vigil guides were available. **Thanks to those who prayed that day.**

## **Prayer Quilts**

Since January, we have given six (6) Prayer Quilts.

## **Pregnancy Help Center of Williamson County**

This year, we promoted two events for the Pregnancy Care center of Williamson County. One was an Evening of Hope benefit dinner held at High Point Estate in Liberty Hill. The other was the annual Barbeque Lunch. We had members from Faith attending both events.

## **Stephen Ministry**

Faith Lutheran church Stephen Ministry has had a significant impact on the lives of countless Care Receivers from Faith and the Georgetown community. Although the number of active Stephen Ministers at Faith has diminished, we continue to meet regularly and serve when called upon to provide high quality, one-to-one Christ-centered care to people experiencing life difficulties. Potential Care Receivers are identified and meet with an assigned Stephen Minister on a regular basis who provides distinctively Christian and confidential care.

Adult men and women who have the desire to be a Stephen Minister receive 50 hours of initial specific training in areas such as listening, assertiveness, maintaining boundaries, and confidentiality. Two Stephen Ministry Christian churches here in Georgetown are offering the training January-mid-May 2024: First Baptist Church (Hwy. 29 & DB Woods) will be Monday evenings, 6:30-9:00 p.m. The Worship Place (Sun City) will be Tuesday evening 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. All materials are supplied for the course and registration begins now. All materials are supplied for the course and registration begins now. Please call the Faith Church office for more information or questions at 512-863-7332.

## **Sunshine Friends from Faith**

The Sunshine Friends Card Ministry is blessed to continue this ministry. Faith's homebound members are so appreciative that Faith Lutheran remembers them with a monthly card and prayers. Eight Sunshine Friends have a designated list of Faith's homebound members they remember each month by sending out a monthly card. Friendships have been formed over receiving a simple card full of God's love and encouragement. Several of our homebound members (and their family members) have reached out to us, Pastor Selle, and the church office to let us know how much they enjoy and look forward to receiving their monthly card from Faith Lutheran! They know this congregation loves them! Our ministry continues to bless not only

our Homebound friends but each one of us. We continue to give thanks to God that we can continue this ministry.

## **Board of Parish Fellowship – 2023 In Review**

Activities for the remainder of 2023 A special thanks to all of the Board of Parish Fellowship members & all volunteers for another great year for their continued support & help in making the events we host a wonderful success. The board members are an awesome group of people: Denise Barnes, Holly Decherd, Sherry Vogel, Priscilla & Terry Lester, James Sanborn & Jonathan Lester. Thanks to all of you. You are a blessing!

The January 2023 Planning Meeting was held at the Sanborn's home. Board Members brought appetizers for a light meal. There were no events planned for January or February 2023. Planning was done for the Lenten Meals scheduled for March and the other events discussed at the planning meeting. Other topics discussed were the Church Picnic, Movie Nites, Easter Breakfast & Ice Cream Social.

March consisted of Lenten Meals provided by the Board of Assimilation, Joy Mission Circle, Board of Elders & Board of Parish Fellowship. Vineyard Voice Concert was held on March 26<sup>th</sup> and about 100 people attended. Light refreshments were provided for attendees & choir members after the concert. Easter Breakfast was held on April 9<sup>th</sup> during the Sunday School hour and about 140-145 attended the meal. There was lots of great casseroles and pastries items. Also, great fellowship!

A movie night was held on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, but not well attended. Board decided to sponsor another movie night later in the year or early 2024. The movie was Overcomer, which was done by the same group that produced Fire Proof & Facing the Giants.

In July, Faith was blessed with the installation of Dr. Jim Marriott as our Associate Pastor. The Board of Parish Fellowship provided a cake & punch reception for about 100 people.

In August, we held an Ice Cream Social & a Family Game Nite. We had about 20-25 people participate. People enjoyed playing games for those who wanted to play, as well as great fellowship. We also had a donation event to collect school supplies for The Locker in Georgetown. Donations were well received & appreciated by those at The Locker.

On September 24<sup>th</sup>, our board sponsored the annual Church Picnic on our campus. Barbecue brisket & sausage from Pok-E-Joes was provided by the Board. Congregation brought side dishes & desserts. Many volunteers helped with set up and clean up. Faith Preschool held their Book Fair. A Scavenger Hunt was available for families and participation packets were available for those who participated. Activity Packets (coloring pages) were also provided for small children. Approximately 180 – 190 attended the picnic. Most activities wrapped up around 2:30 PM. Many positive comments were received regarding the picnic. Traffic flow was addressed at the October board meeting and will be corrected by Easter Breakfast 2024.

The next event for board is the upcoming Vineyard Voice Concert on November 19<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm. We will be providing cookies & water for the attendees & choir members.

The Board of Parish Fellowship will also be working on planning the three Advent Meals on November 30<sup>th</sup>, December 7<sup>th</sup> & December 14<sup>th</sup>. The Board of Parish Fellowship will provide meal on November 30<sup>th</sup> of Brisket sandwiches & sausage wraps with the leftover barbecue from the picnic and sides. Congregation will bring desserts. Our 2024 Planning Meeting will be in January 2024.

The board is always looking for additional members and welcome them with open arms! If interested, please contact Marlana Sanborn at (512) 818-0329 or [sanborn.marlane60@gmail.com](mailto:sanborn.marlane60@gmail.com).

In Service to Christ, Marlana Sanborn, Board of Parish Fellowship Chair

## **Faith Lutheran Preschool**

The eight-week mission based 2023 Summer Program, God's Living Water, was successful. Based on the response from families and the community, plans are already in place to offer the Summer Program again in 2024. The program will be available for children 18 months to 5 years. The fall semester opened for the 2023-2024 school year with six classes and over 50 students. Director, Sabrina Skelton is in the process of hiring another teacher to teach another 2 year old class as there is a waiting list for this age group.

Board member, Ali Saladino, volunteered her time, talent and funds to paint murals on the walls in the Children's Ministry Wing. Thank you so much, Ali! The walls look amazing. Pastor Poland dedicated the new decor before "Meet the Teacher" on August 31. Board member, Paula Holland Price organized a once a month "Teacher Appreciation" day in lieu of a May week of teacher appreciation. Teachers have been treated to edible goodies. Thanks, Paula!

Lynn Hunt continues to bring her service dog, Daisy, to entertain the students. The 20 year old carpet in the Children's Ministry Wing will be replaced with flooring over Christmas break. A big "Thank You" to Frank Menzel for guidance with this project. We are grateful for all the prayers and support we have received, and we look forward to continuing our mission of providing high quality, Christ-centered teaching to our young children.

## **Faith Lutheran Preschool Board**

Kathy Nelson Jane Hutson Ali Saladino Paula Holland Price Sabrina Skelton, Director Renee Maloney, Financials Jonathan Loesch, DCE Liaison

Linda Robinson, Chairperson

## **FLCMS Board of Stewardship - Fall 2023**

Your Board of Stewardship strives to praise, instruct, inform, and encourage the ongoing practice of good stewardship incorporating our Body of Christ's time, talent, and treasure in the joyful privilege and responsibility of proportionate, sacrificial, and first-fruit giving.

During this year of our Lord 2023, the FLCMS Board of Stewardship has frequently communicated with the congregation primarily through Faith Alive and Faith Works media and via the recent 2024 Stewardship Commitment Drive. The Board of Stewardship eagerly welcomes additional volunteers to assist with The Board's joyful "work." We meet at 8:00 AM on first Thursdays in room C104 of the Activities' Center.

Through Faith Works articles, the FLCMS Board of Stewardship has encouraged on-line giving and has suggested investment in The Texas District Church Extension Fund.

This year's planned stewardship theme was based on 1 Peter 2: 4-5 which reminds us that we, as stewards, are "living stones" in our secure foundational relationship with our Savior as we are being built into His spiritual House to become a Holy Priesthood.

Thank you for your prayerful support of the FLCMS Board of Stewardship. Giving of our time, talent, and treasure is a privilege in response to all the Lord has done, does, and will do through the blessed ministry of Faith Lutheran Church, Georgetown, Texas.

Respectfully submitted,

James L. Robinson, Chairperson, FLCMS Board of Stewardship

## **Faith Lutheran Church Board of Trustees**

Chairman – Josh Swafford Vice Chairman – Facilities Manager – Frank Menzel Membership: The Board of Trustees currently has 10 members from the congregation. We are in need of 10+ more members to conduct our business properly. Protocol: Trustee Meetings are conducted on the First Wednesday of each month, if needed, beginning at 10A in the Fellowship Hall.

**Board Procedures:** - The Board of Trustees employs 16 local vendors to perform maintenance/repair work not otherwise performed by the Board teams. The church saves thousands of dollars using the volunteer work of our board members. - Work requests come to the Chairman and are assigned to a team to do the work or contact one of the vendors. - Utilities and budget balances are monitored and reported to the Board by the Trustee Chairman. - The board rotates between members to clear sidewalks, open doors, turn on lighting and necessary A/C adjustments every Sunday morning and verifies that doors have been locked as well as the lights and A/C are turned off every Sunday after services.

**2023 Accomplishments:** - During the period, January 2023 to November 2023 we have repaired sprinkler system leaks - Many small plumbing repairs made around the campus. - Individual trustees removed some of the dead plants and trees and will continue as time allows. Some plants are slowly recovering. - Trimmed tree limbs near buildings and removed storm damaged limbs - Sealed many windows and siding holes around campus buildings. - Replaced many light bulbs around the campus, and contracted out the transition of all fluorescent lighting to LED. - Trustee mowing of the back acreage not covered by landscape contract. - Replace A/C filters as scheduled. - Replaced and Repaired multiple AC/C units around campus. - Trustees are involved

with planning emergency management program. - Touch up painting to some walls was done. - Directional arrows in the parking lots have been repainted. - The trustees monitored the buildings during the winter storm daily to verify the heat was on and water dripping to control damage to the buildings. - Repaired Fire Monitoring System, and Fire Suppression System leaks. - Repaired most of the boards on the back decking

**2023 Goals:** 1) Frugal Management of the Budget. 2) Pursue active recruitment efforts for the Board membership. 3) Encourage congregation participation on different tasks around the campus. 4) Maintain timely communication with Council, Elders, Office and Trustee Board. 5) Conduct Trustees meetings in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order. 6) Maintain a flowing agenda for scheduled meeting to limit meeting times to one hour.

**Josh Swafford, Chairman Faith Lutheran Church – Board of Trustee**

## **GIFT & ENDOWMENTS COMMITTEE NOV. 2023 REPORT**

The Gift and Endowments Committee has oversight responsibility for two Endowment funds and the Memorial and Special Gifts activity. The Lutheran Foundation of Texas has a professional administrative staff and a Board of Investment Directors, determines investment pools, manages the endowment funds, recommends appropriate investment allocations, and provides quarterly reports to the Gifts and Endowments Committee.

### **Financial Balances as of June 30, 2023**

**Church Worker Scholarship Endowment Fund**    \$113,303.71

One of the blessings that Faith has received is that some of our members have gone on to be church workers. They have completed university coursework, field training, and now serve in various church positions around the country.

The university coursework is typically completed at a Concordia University campus. As many of you know, a university education is not inexpensive, and an education at a private university is even less so. This Church Workers Scholarship and Endowment Fund provides scholarships to those who are earning a degree and intend to pursue a career in church work. This fund has helped make it possible for almost twenty students to continue their education and become church workers. There have been situations when a scholarship from this fund has been the difference between continuing an education or suspending study.

One distribution was made for the current school year.

For additional information on Faith's Endowment and Gift Fund opportunities please refer to the Gift and Endowment Committee brochure located in the information racks in the Worship Center.

**Restricted Private Member Memorial Endowment Fund**                    \$7,707.54

This Restricted Private Member Memorial Endowment Fund was established by the estate of a former member of Faith. Distributions from this fund are limited to students preparing for the pastoral ministry of the LCMS. Scholarship distributions are approved by the Church Council and executed by LFOT.



One distribution was made for the current school year.

Questions concerning the Endowment or Gift Funds may be directed to David Wright, Chairman of the Gifts and Endowments Committee or to any of the committee members.

Pastor Walt Pohland  
DCE- Jonathan Loesch  
Ron Jiede

Larry Bielss  
Becky Pohland  
Kathy Nelson

Paul HerrNeckar  
David Wright

## **Minutes of the 2023 Summer Voters' Assembly**

### **May 21, 2023**

#### **Voters' Assembly Actions**

- Approved Creation of Board of Hospitality
- Approved \$60K + (Permitting Fees + Other fees if required) for Architectural Services (Activity Center Phase 2)

78 Attendees

All present were members of Faith Lutheran Church and 18 years and older.

1. & 2. The meeting was called to order at 12:28 p.m. by Rick Schmidt, Congregational Chairman. Pastor Pohland opened with prayer.  
Rick presented the agenda to the assembly. Packet available.  
Rick welcomed any new members.

Introduced members Mike Martin – voted to be our vice chairman to the council.

Vacancy in the board of Education – Introduce Elisssa Grotefendt.

We still have an opening in the Board, will discuss later.

3. Minutes from the November 2022 meeting were approved. Chris Woods, Tonya Bowman Passed.
4. Update on Active Projects
  - Associated Pastor Call Progress
    - Special voters meeting on June the 4<sup>th</sup>.
  - Columbarium Construction Status
    - Being completed in Minnesota, but can't be delivered until the foundation is poured. We are fully funded, have paid over 50k, anticipating completion within 6 months.
  - Current Financial Status
    - Numbers are in the Faith Works and News as a separate document.
  - Capital Campaign VI
    - Capital Campaign VI (Growing Abundantly, Giving Abundantly)
    - Loan Balance 5-1-2023                      \$642,323(current monthly mtg pmts are \$10,606.71)

- Outstanding Pledges                      \$310,000
- Mortgage Reserve Funds                \$127,404
- Remaining to Pay Off                    \$204,919
- Pastor added, it was a 30 yr mortgage and if 750k savings if we can pay it off in 2024.
- Ukrainian Immigration Family
  - Susan – there has been some progress recently, first year no response. But now some response. There is also an opportunity to write up a grant to sponsor a family. Susan is asking for help with writing up a grant
- Activity Center Remodeling (Phase 1)
  - Stair lift and classrooms
  - Spent \$77,824
  - Classrooms have been remodeled and they are now holding classes in the Activity Center
  - Bill explained why over budget of \$28k due to added security alarm system and also the lighting upgrades. That money came out of the budget.
- Parking Lot Repair and Restoration essentially done, spent \$98k of \$100k budgeted
- Receive Reports of Staff and Committees – As submitted

5. Board of Hospitality – proposing to add a new board

Purpose – coordinate such things as receptions and gatherings.

Bylaws Revisions – in the packet are proposed revisions

Clarification question answered - Greeters and Ushers would go under the new Board of Hospitality.

Motion to Approve by Tonya Bowman and seconded by Jennifer Schmidt - Motion approved by unanimous vote.

6. Remodeling of Activity Center – Phase 2 – Mike Martin

The main room of the Activity Center

Scope of Project

- Improve the appearance
- Reduce noise
- Remove the roll up door and replace with a new front entrance with a deck connecting walkways and an overhead cover. Front entrance facing the parking lot.
- Improve the overall Function
- Have spoken with Wang Architecture – gave some background on Wang’s experience and his work with other churches/nonprofits.

## Deliverables

- Will obtain a plan and cost and permit check
- Oversee the work
- Estimate of \$45K for his part of the architectural fees. But asking to approve up to \$60K for architectural, permits, and other anticipated fees.
- Questions where money come from - The money would come out of our savings
- Question on quality estimate – we will get details of the plan and get bids. We will come to the Voters for approval. Mike says they gave Wang a total budget of \$400k
- Question– are they planning to add a “loop for hearing” in the Activity Center?
- Question – There could be a phase 3, it is not known yet.

## Schedule

- Initial scoping to be completed in FY23.

Motion to Approve by Bill Fuller and seconded by Joann Cotner.

Passed by unanimous vote. Approved \$60K + (Permitting Fees + Other fees if required.)

### 7. Concordia University Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

- Request to sign a memorandum to consider Church Worker graduates from CTX for calls at Faith.

From the MOU:

To deem all students who graduate from CTX with degrees or certifications in church work including pre-seminary, Christian education, parish music, or education eligible for employment as interns, and/or full-time or part-time employees of MINISTRY.

- Spirited discussion about the relationship of Concordia University of Texas and LCMS Board of Directors.
- Voters Assembly was unable to resolve open questions further discussion may be required.
- Motion to Table this from Peggy Boehm– Second by Tonya Bowman, unanimously passed.

### 8. Formation of Master Plan Committee

- Purpose and Scope of the Committee discussed
- Asking for volunteers

A motion to adjourn was made, it was seconded. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 1:51. Pastor Pohland closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Paul, Recording Secretary

# Minutes of the Special Voters' Assembly

## June 4, 2023

### Voters' Assembly Actions

- Approved the Call Committee Recommendation to call Rev. Dr. Jim Marriott as our Associate Pastor 132 Attendees. All present were members of Faith Lutheran Church and 18 years and older.

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. by Rick Schmidt, Congregational Chairman. Pastor Pohland opened with prayer.

Rick announced the one item of consideration at this meeting would be a vote to accept or reject the name being submitted and recommended by the Call Committee. Rick gave Michael Thane the floor to present the Call committee's report and recommendation.

After the presentation by Michael Thane, Rick called for a motion to accept the Call Committee recommendation to issue a call to Rev. Dr. Jim Marriott as our Associate Pastor. Lynn Martin made a motion to extend a call to Rev. Dr. Jim Marriott. Mark Baker seconded the motion.

Discussion followed for about 15 minutes, then Rick called for a vote. Paper voting ballots were handed out and once each voter had time to decide, they passed the ballots to the aisles. The Call Committee members then collected and counted the ballots. The Call Committee members announced 123 votes to extend a call to Dr. Marriott with 9 dissenting. Section IIC.2 of our constitution requires at least a two-thirds majority vote of the written ballots to declare the candidate elected. Dr. Marriott received over 93 percent of the votes and a call will be extended to Rev. Dr. Marriott

Jennifer Schmidt made a motion to adjourn. Mary Fuller seconded the motion. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 1:22.

Pastor Pohland closed the meeting with the Doxology.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Schmidt, Acting Recording Secretary

## **Financial Reports – All figures are YTD September 30**

**Faith Budget vs Actual (see separate document)**

**Faith Balance Sheet (see separate document)**

### **Financial Summary – Offerings**

YTD Projected offerings	\$ 1,102,493
Actual YTD Offerings	<u>\$ 1,092,622</u>
Surplus / (Shortfall)	(\$ 9,871)

### **Financial Summary – Expenses**

YTD Projected Expense	\$ 1,102,493
Actual YTD Expense	<u>\$ 1,035,547</u>
Surplus / (Shortfall)	\$ 66,946

**Financial Status – Surplus \$ 57,075**

### **Cash Report**

<b>Total Cash (CEF and Checking Acct)</b>	<b>\$ 1,180,271</b>
Less: CEF – Mortgage	\$ 129,510
Less: CEF – Staff Development	\$ 24,374
Less: CEF – Mission Plant #2	\$ 29,274
Less: Designated Funds	\$ 254,340
<u>Less: Payroll and Safety Reserve</u>	<u>\$ 216,000</u>
<b>Total Uncommitted Reserves</b>	<b>\$ 526,773</b>

## Debt – Sanctuary Expansion

30 year loan with Texas District CEF initiated 12/21/2008 for **\$ 3,708,478**

Current Loan Balance – October 2023 **\$ 498,433**

Debt on 01/01/2023 was \$ 712,970

Debt on 11/01/2019 was \$ 1,738,267

## “By Faith” Capital Campaign

Three year Campaign, 2022 through 2024

Contributions pledged \$400,000

Contributions received (YTD) \$242,273

## 2024 Proposed Budget

		2023 Budget	2023 AUG Actual	2024 Budget
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Texas Dist & Synod	5180	\$150,000	\$100,000	\$159,000
Concordia	5181	\$24,000	\$16,000	\$25,440
Caring Place	5182	\$7,200	\$4,800	\$7,632
Concordia High School	5183	\$7,200	\$4,800	\$7,632
Ministry Opportunity	5187	\$5,000	\$0	\$0
<b>OUTREACH</b>	<b>5100</b>	<b>\$193,400</b>	<b>\$125,600</b>	<b>\$199,704</b>
Conferences/Workshops	5212	\$5,000	\$3,373	\$5,000
Guest Pastor	5219	\$1,000	\$650	\$500
Organizational Membership	5220	\$100	\$100	\$100
<b>PASTORAL</b>	<b>5200</b>	<b>\$6,100</b>	<b>\$4,123</b>	<b>\$5,600</b>
Organist (Inactive)	5301	\$5,000	\$1,100	\$0

Bell Choir Director	5302	\$3,600	\$1,500	\$3,600
Nursery Attendants	5303	\$8,132	\$5,664	\$11,600
Nursery Supplies	5304	\$750	\$0	\$750
Altar Supplies	5321	\$1,000	\$1,046	\$1,000
Choir Music	5324	\$800	\$231	\$800
Piano Tuning	5325	\$900	\$525	\$900
Handbell Music	5330	\$600	\$0	\$100
Section Leaders - Southwestern Univ.	5345	\$5,500	\$6,075	\$6,000
Instrumental Musicians	5350	\$10,000	\$5,900	\$10,000
Sound Technicians	5370	\$14,000	\$8,341	\$30,000
Annual Choir Concert	5380	\$7,000	\$1,112	\$7,000
Music Licenses	5390	\$700	\$887	\$1,700
<b>WORSHIP</b>	<b>5300</b>	<b>\$58,832</b>	<b>\$32,381</b>	<b>\$73,450</b>
Evangelism Supplies	5420	\$1,000	\$0	\$0
Publicity	5425	\$3,500	\$124	\$1,000
Community Events	5430	\$10,000	\$3,959	\$10,000
Adult Confirmation Matl-New Members	5450	\$0	\$0	\$2,500
Outreach Endeavors	5455	\$10,000	\$768	\$5,000
Easter Pageant	5456	\$200	\$100	\$200
<b>COMMUNITY OUTREACH</b>	<b>5400</b>	<b>\$24,700</b>	<b>\$4,950</b>	<b>\$18,700</b>
Campaign Follow-up - By Faith	5522	\$0	\$0	\$0
Fall Stewardship Material	5526	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000
Offering Envelopes	5528	\$1,500	\$0	\$1,500
<b>STEWARDSHIP</b>	<b>5500</b>	<b>\$3,500</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$3,500</b>
Sunday School	5640	\$1,200	\$1,559	\$1,900
Vacation Bible School	5641	\$3,000	\$2,345	\$3,500
Adult Bible Study	5642	\$1,500	\$13	\$1,500
Confirmation	5643	\$1,750	\$1,926	\$2,500
Library	5644	\$50	\$51	\$50
Special Events	5646	\$500	\$940	\$800
Compass Groups	5648	\$750	\$0	\$750
Family Ministry	5650	\$1,500	\$1,308	\$2,500
Rock House	5654	\$1,000	\$253	\$1,000
Kids Clubs	5660	\$1,000	\$990	\$1,250
DCE Fieldworkers	5670	\$2,500	\$2,109	\$3,000
Workshops & Conferences	5690	\$600	\$1,456	\$1,200
Tract Racks	5691	\$250	\$55	\$250
Licensing/Background checks	5692	\$1,500	\$0	\$1,750
<b>EDUCATION</b>	<b>5600</b>	<b>\$17,100</b>	<b>\$13,002</b>	<b>\$21,950</b>
Jr. High Youth	5710	\$1,000	\$838	\$1,500
High School Youth	5711	\$2,000	\$1,134	\$2,000
Workshop/Conference	5712	\$500	\$119	\$500

Counselor Expense	5760	\$500	\$0	\$500
Scholarships	5761	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
National Youth Gathering	5762	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000
<b>YOUTH</b>	<b>5700</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>	<b>\$2,091</b>	<b>\$7,500</b>
Faith Activities-Child Care Support	5852	\$150	\$0	\$10,000
Habitat for Humanity	5860	\$625	\$313	\$625
Meals on Wheels	5865	\$800	\$400	\$800
Upbring	5866	\$1,000	\$500	\$1,000
Lutherans For Life	5870	\$500	\$378	\$500
Funeral Luncheons	5872	\$2,000	\$633	\$2,000
Stephen Ministry	5873	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
Sunshine Team	5877	\$800	\$854	\$1,000
Grief Process Group	5878	\$300	\$0	\$300
Mission Visions	5879	\$100	\$0	\$100
Heartfelt Stitchers	5882	\$300	\$305	\$300
Military Care Pkgs.	5883	\$350	\$0	\$1,500
Bread of Life	5890	\$500	\$50	\$500
Faith in Action Georgetown	5891	\$800	\$400	\$800
Senior Advocacy Group	5892	\$100	\$0	\$100
Pregnancy Help Center	5895	\$500	\$250	\$500
Prayer Quilts - New	5896	\$0	\$0	\$300
<b>HUMAN CARE</b>	<b>5800</b>	<b>\$9,825</b>	<b>\$4,083</b>	<b>\$21,325</b>
Portals of Prayer	5945	\$4,500	\$2,622	\$4,500
Visitation Ministry Expense	5960	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
Church Worker Assistance	5990	\$1,500	\$750	\$2,000
New Member Materials	5995	\$2,000	\$0	\$500
Security	5996	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>CONGREGATION SUPPORT</b>	<b>5900</b>	<b>\$9,100</b>	<b>\$3,372</b>	<b>\$8,000</b>

Property/Liability Insurance	6010	\$35,750	\$29,196	\$43,370
Workers Compensation Insurance	6015	\$2,500	\$2,276	\$2,500
Office Supplies	6020	\$5,000	\$3,421	\$5,000
Postage	6030	\$3,000	\$861	\$3,000
Office Furniture	6050	\$500	\$0	\$500
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>6000</b>	<b>\$46,750</b>	<b>\$35,754</b>	<b>\$54,370</b>
Assimilation Expense	6101	\$0	\$250	\$1,000
Orientation Program	6102	\$2,000	\$0	\$1,000
<b>ASSIMILATION</b>	<b>6100</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>	<b>\$250</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>
Computer System (Delete)	6201	\$3,000	\$0	\$0
Computer Replacement and Maint	6202	\$2,000	\$2,938	\$2,000
Computer Software Contracts/Train.	6203	\$15,500	\$12,246	\$15,000
Vanco Host Fee	6205	\$240	\$160	\$240
Networking, DSL (Optimum)	6210	\$2,880	\$1,658	\$2,960



Audio Video Equipment	6240	\$3,500	\$1,280	\$3,500
Printer and Copier Contracts	6250	\$22,000	\$21,485	\$30,000
<b>TECHNOLOGY &amp; MEDIA</b>	<b>6200</b>	<b>\$49,120</b>	<b>\$39,767</b>	<b>\$53,700</b>
Facilities Management (Janitor)	6301	\$50,558	\$475	\$50,000
Supplies	6320	\$7,000	\$6,292	\$7,000
Bldg Furn/Maintenance Equip	6360	\$500	\$0	\$500
Propane	6371	\$3,300	\$1,801	\$3,300
Utilities	6372	\$77,000	\$37,227	\$80,000
Maintenance & Repair	6374	\$5,500	\$9,864	\$5,500
Major Projects (A/C Replacement)	6376	\$60,000	\$42,779	\$60,000
Maint Contract (landscape, pest, fire)	6390	\$19,000	\$49,563	\$21,000
<b>PROPERTY</b>	<b>6300</b>	<b>\$222,858</b>	<b>\$148,000</b>	<b>\$227,300</b>
Baptismal Reception	6410	\$0	\$0	\$500
Welcome Center	6420	\$0	\$0	\$2,000
Hospitality Fund	6430	\$0	\$0	\$1,000
<b>HOSPITALITY</b>	<b>6400</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$3,500</b>
Mortgage Interest Paid	6810	\$0	\$14,080	\$0
Vanco Processing Fees	6813	\$8,000	\$6,262	\$9,600
Safe Deposit Box	6820	\$20	\$20	\$20
<b>BANK EXPENSE</b>	<b>6800</b>	<b>\$8,020</b>	<b>\$20,362</b>	<b>\$9,620</b>
Coffee/Condiments	7010	\$1,800	\$1,345	\$1,800
Congregational Picnic	7020	\$2,500	\$0	\$2,500
Parish Ministry & Fellowship (Other)	7030	\$700	\$588	\$1,000
Lent/Advent Meals	7031	\$1,000	\$211	\$1,000
<b>PARISH MINISTRY &amp; FELLOWSHIP</b>	<b>7000</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>\$2,145</b>	<b>\$6,300</b>
<b>EMPLOYEE EXPENSES</b>	<b>8000</b>	<b>\$816,186</b>	<b>\$496,452</b>	<b>\$842,188</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$1,480,491</b>	<b>\$932,330</b>	<b>\$1,558,707</b>

**5.28%**

### Recent FLC Budget Comparisons

<b>2019</b>	<b>\$ 1,320,000</b>	<b>+ 5.8%</b>
<b>2020</b>	<b>\$ 1,358,100</b>	<b>+ 2.9%</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>\$ 1,223,100</b>	<b>- 9.9%</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>\$ 1,404,800</b>	<b>+13.4%</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>\$ 1,480,491</b>	<b>+5.4%</b>
<b>2024</b>	<b>\$ 1,558,707</b>	<b>+ 5.3%</b>

## **Major Budget Changes from 2023 to 2024**

- Increase in Sound Technician Pay 16K
- Personnel Increased Costs 11K
- Outreach and Mission Giving 11K
- Child Care (New Program) 10K
- Printer & Copier Contract 8K
- Property and Liability Insurance 7.5K

## **Election of Church Council – Recommended Slate**

Chairman	Rick Schmidt
Vice Chairman	Mike Martin
Recording Secretary	Becky Paul
Christian Education	Elissa Grotefendt
Stewardship	Robby Robinson
Assimilation	Mary Fuller & Gen Shepard
Human Care	Susan Schmidt
Pre-School	Linda Robinson
Parish Fellowship	Marlana Sanborn
Hospitality	Linda Bryan

## **Open Council Positions**

Community Outreach  
Trustees  
Financial Secretary  
Assistant Financial Secretaries  
Information Technology  
Youth

## **Election of Elders – Recommended**

Elders (3-year terms)

## **New Business**

### **Motion for approval by the Voters' Assembly on November 13, 2023.**

The Church Council recommends the Voters' Assembly authorize an expenditure of up to \$ 40,000 from our reserve funds to replace the Heaters/AC units in the Activity Center. This expenditure would be separate and in addition to any requests for the Phase 2 remodel of the Activity Center.

### **Motion for approval by the Voters' Assembly on November 13, 2023.**

The Church Council recommends the Voters Assembly approve the establishment of a new "Capital Campaign" for the years 2025 -2027 which would follow the completion of the "By Faith" Capital Campaign which ends in 2024. If approved, the Church Council will select members for this committee and a presentation of the goals will be given to the Voters at the November 2024 meeting.

In addition, if the funds received by the By Faith Campaign exceed the amount needed to pay off our 2009 CEF Loan, the Council recommends the Voters approve directing those funds to a Capital Reserve Fund.

Notes: