

February 2019

In his book *Giving to God*, Mark Allan Powell tells the story of the ancient Gauls, a feared and warlike people who inhabited what is now France and Belgium. The Gauls spoke a Celtic language and were Druidic by religion. By the Christian Era, they were supposedly conquered by the Roman Empire and under its control. A number of Christian missionaries ventured into the territory and over time, many of the Gauls became Christians. Legend has it that when a converted warrior was baptized, he would hold one arm out of the water, high above his head, as the missionary dunked him into the river or stream. It wasn't until the next battle when the missionaries learned the meaning of this curious ritual. Heading into battle, the baptized Gaul would shout "This arm is not baptized," then grab a club or sword to destroy his enemy in a very unchristian like manner.

It's unclear whether this story is truth or legend, but either way, it's a pretty powerful image and one worth considering. The Gauls held an arm up above the water. They wanted one part of their life removed from the power of the waters of baptism and of God. They wanted to retain control and do what they wanted with that one arm.

What part of our body or aspect of our identity are we tempted to try and keep free from the influence of our baptism?

Being a Christian is about living completely wet. Top to bottom and even inside out. Drenched. It's about giving God access to all parts of our lives. Our Sunday mornings. Our finances. Our family. Our jobs. Our hobbies. Our hearts and our minds.

Being Christian calls us to contemplate what part of our lives we want to keep dry, then faithfully dunking these parts into the water, confident that in God's hands, that arm or Sunday morning or checkbook or job will be blessed and loved beyond our wildest imaginations. Because we live fully wet, we can then use what God has given us in grateful and appropriate ways.

Powell says that giving our full self to God is an act of worship, an expression of faith, and discipline for spiritual growth. So, this month, every time you see the rain or cross the Cahaba or even take a shower, remember your baptism and embrace the feeling of living fully wet. When you pass the font on Sunday morning, dip your finger in (or dunk your arm) and make the sign of the cross of your forehead, remembering that you're really and truly wet and really and truly God's precious child. It is a beautiful thing!

Blessings,
Pastor Karen

6704 Deerfoot Parkway
P.O. Box 427
Clay, Alabama 35048

Phone: 680-2144 - Fax 683-0424
Email: flcoffice1@gmail.com
Website: www.flc-al.org

Rev. Karen M. Boda, Pastor
Email: pastorkarenflc@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES TO REMEMBER

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

For our meetings in February the Women's Bible Study group will continue its reading and discussion of the book *Liturgy of the Ordinary* by Tish Harrison Warren. Those meeting dates are February 11th and 25th at 6:30 pm at the church. For our meeting on the 11th please read chapter 2 and for our meeting on the 25th please read chapters 3 and 4.

CLIPPED WINGS "LOVE FEAST"

On Thursday, February 14th we will celebrate and give thanks for our Savior's love and the love we have for each other by gathering for lunch at 11:00 am at the Olive Garden at the Pinnacle in Trussville. Please note the earlier than usual time. Since it is a holiday, they would not accept reservations and by being first in line, we hope to be seated in "our" special alcove. As always, please call Gail Kohser or Beate Cole if you need a ride. Hope to see you there!

COMMUNITY KITCHEN

On Saturday, January 12, 2019, Karl and Linda Nelson, Mark Richey and Paul (a volunteer) served over 75 people at the Community Kitchen.

The 2019 volunteer sign-up sheet for helping with the Community Kitchen is on the bulletin board. Please consider taking a turn serving at the Kitchen. No experience is necessary just a willingness to serve.

Location: Grace Episcopal Church 5712 1st Ave N
Birmingham, AL 35212

Second Saturday of each month

Time: 11:15 a.m. to approx. 1:30 p.m.

**BOLD
WOMEN'S
DAY 2019**

Bold Women's Day—observed annually on the fourth Sunday of February—celebrates all Lutheran women who have acted or are acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

Some women are bold in their unceasing prayers. Other women are bold in their service to those in need. Still other women are bold in their advocacy or through their hospitality. Whether we live out our bold story of faith in the workplace, family home or community, our faith compels us to make a difference in the lives of others. It's all about living out our baptismal call, about being a disciple of Christ. Are you bold? Come celebrate Bold Women's Day in worship at Faith Lutheran on February 24.

EPIPHANY FOOD DRIVE

During February, we will continue to collect food to feed our neighbors through the cold winter months. Each week we will be hitching another car to the train filled with needed supplies for TEAM.

- 2/3 Pancake mix, syrup, cereal, instant Oatmeal, grits and pop tarts
- 2/10 Canned Fruit



Last year Faith Lutheran collected 649 cans/boxes of food. Let's load up our train and surpass last year's awesome bounty to help stock the food pantry at TEAM.



The children of Faith have jumped right in to help with the Epiphany food drive to help fill the shelves at T.E.A.M.

ALTAR FLOWER SIGN UP CHART

Coming Sunday, February 3rd, we will have a new, festive-colored Altar Flower Sign Up Chart!! This chart will be relocated to the Narthex where it will be visible and have convenient, easy access.

Each individual floral arrangement (vase) is \$30.00. You may choose to sign up for one vase or both vases. Or you may choose to cost share for one \$30.00 vase (\$15.00 each) as long as you have someone else to share in this cost. Sign up for as many dates throughout the year as you wish!

Please make sure you check either "In Memory of" or "In Honor of" and indicate the person's name or event so that it may be properly noted in the Worship Folder. If there is no name or event, the flowers will be "Given to The Glory of God."

The floral arrangements are yours to take home. They will be bagged and left on a table in the Narthex. You will also find Blessing cards and ribbon for your use if you choose to share your flowers with others.

Please put your check or cash in an envelope and note that it is for flowers or you can include payment with your regular church offering by noting flowers on the offering envelope and place in the offering plate.

Thank you for helping to beautify our Altar space and Giving God the Glory!!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Zane Svoboda
Marsha Craig
Scott Gealow
Karl & Linda Nelson
Faye Hyde
David Wuerdeman
Ian Diuguid
Patrick Boyd
Eli Nafziger
Gail Kohser
Tim Awtrey
Robin Bakkegard



Mark your calendar for SHRED-IT DAY because we'd love to have you join us.

EVENT DETAILS:
Saturday, March 2, 2019
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
THRIVENT OFFICE PARKING LOT
3100 Lorna Road
Hoover, AL

HOSTED BY THRIVENT FINANCIAL REPRESENTATIVES:
Tom Noon, CFP®, LUTCF, FIC
Debra Cinquemani, CFP®

Gather Up Those Old Documents!
Limit 5 Boxes Per Household

*Please bring bags to Faith by Fri. 3/1.
Skip Craig will deliver bags to shred site.*

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WELCA SPRING CLUSTER RETREAT #7 DIASPORA

Faith will host the WELCA Spring Cluster Retreat, March 9th, 9 am-2:30 pm. We are looking forward to sharing this time with women who will be attending from churches in the Birmingham, Huntsville, Cullman, and Montgomery areas. Our theme this year is Embracing Grace.

Our Guest Speaker is Marge Mynhier. Marge is a member of Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in Marietta, GA. She is a biblical storyteller and has been an active member of the Network of Biblical Storytellers International for 15 years. We are so very excited that Marge will share her passion of telling stories to provide insight to the written word. We look forward to having her with us.

We will be tying fleece blankets for Lutheran World Relief as our Service Project/craft. As always, lunch is provided.

Save the date! Mark your calendars to participate in this exciting time of sharing in growth and fellowship with other Bold Women. More detailed information will be forthcoming.

CUDDLE BEAR MINISTRY



The Cuddle Bear Ministry is officially up and running. The first batch of bears have been blessed during worship and are ready for you, Faith Lutheran, to distribute to those who not only need a hug, but to know that God loves them. The bears are in the rack on the left as you exit the

building. When you take a bear, please record the name of the recipient so that we can avoid duplicates. If you are interested in donating to this ministry, please feel free to drop off some bears or include a note with your check in the offering plate. May God bless all who receive and give these cuddle bears!

LIVING LUTHERAN LEGACY

On Saturday, January 19, the ribbon was cut and the new offices of our Southeastern Synod were officially opened at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Atlanta, Georgia. The top floor of the St. John’s space was renovated and a new atrium and elevator were installed, giving our Synod a separate entry and offices. Our Synod will also utilize the common spaces in the church, including the sanctuary, fellowship hall, and large meeting spaces. This effort, named The Living Lutheran Legacy, has been in the works for several years. Faith Lutheran was honored to contribute financially last year to the rebuild which will help to save the Synod thousands each month in lease costs. If you’re in Atlanta, swing by and check it out!



CHURCH WORK DAY

Make plans to join the Property Committee for a church cleanup/work day on Saturday, 2/16 at 9am. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the property committee.

PARISH NURSE NOTES

An inexpensive remedy for treating various health issues and ailments was discovered in 1860 in Epsom, England, and is still in existence today. It is sold as Epsom salts and can be purchased in many places.

The most common use is for relief of muscle and joint pain added to your bath water. Add 1-2 cups to warm running water to dissolve. Soak for at least 12 minutes, keeping the painful body part in the water.

Additional beneficial uses: The warm bath soothes headaches, and to treat sore, cracked feet, make a mixture of olive oil, Epson salts and Castile soap and apply to feet twice a week. A bit of Epson salt can also be added to face cream to gently massage the face. Or to treat greasy hair, add a teaspoon to your shampoo. Finally, if you add a teaspoon of Epsom salts to the soil around your garden plants, it acts as a fertilizer and will boost the growth of your produce.

What a diverse, natural mineral that God has provided for our benefit. These are only a few of its uses. Let me know how you have used it in the past, or how you plan to re-discover it. I always appreciate comments.

Many Blessings,
Gail Kohser, Parish Nurse



Look closely and you'll see three men from Faith Lutheran at Lutheranch 1/26-27 for a Men's Retreat, joining the men of Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in Marietta, GA. What a great group which includes Oren Price-Tarpley, Will Daum, and Alan Boda.

PRESCHOOL CORNER

January has been busy here at preschool. We had a great time talking about Winter, space exploration and digging up some Dinosaurs.



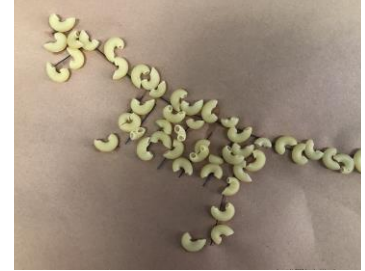
Snowman



Handprint Rocket



Mosaic Rockets



Macaroni Dinosaurs

Our 4 year old students are preparing for “Big School”...5K, here we come! Lots to learn in the coming months.

The 3 year old class welcomed a new student in January and our 2 year old class will have a new student beginning in February;.

Registration has begun for the 2019-20 school year! So, if you know of anyone in need of a preschool, please tell them about us!

February 2019 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

8:30am

February 3

Asst. Minister: Linda Herold

February 10

Asst. Minister: Sharon Towry

February 17

Asst. Minister: Paula McMillan

February 24

Asst. Minister: Dennis McMillan

10:30 a.m.

Ushers: Merle Wentzell & Fred Quinn

Greeters: Wanda Quinn & Mary Yarbrough

February 3

Asst/ Minister: Mark Craig

Lector: Karl Nelson

Acolyte: Annabelle Beyer

Crucifer: David May

Comm. Presenters: John & Katie Beyer

February 17

Asst. Minister: Paula McMillan

Lector: Mark LaRue

Acolyte: Carter Kirksey

Crucifer: Ky-lin Berg

Comm. Presenters: Wayne & Linda Graham

February 10

Asst. Minister: Paula Daum

Lector: Amy Hollar

Acolyte: Lilly Nafziger

Crucifer: Ava Nafziger

Comm. Presenters: Merle & Hazel Wentzell

February 24 – Bold Women’s Day

Asst. Minister: Mia Graham

Lector: Ky-Lin Berg

Acolyte:

Crucifer:

Comm. Presenters: Mark & Tammie Richey



Members: Al & Janet Awtrey, Johnnie Starnes, Ruth Spitzer, Teresa McCullough, Nancy Quinn, Tammie Richey & Dorothy Body

Friends: Carol Cantrell (friend of Ken Monk); Jerry McNutt (Sarah Nafziger's Father); Sharon Gallant (Principal at Clay Elementary & friend of the congregation); Sharon Grimes (Jennifer Craig's mother); Michelle Yarbrough (Rick Yarbrough's sister); Pat Ehlinger (friend of Harold & Sonja Utpall); Larry Allin (Father-in-law of the Wentzell's grandson); Treasa Webb (friend of Preschool), Kaylen Apodaca (Preschool parent) & Jerry Sellers (friends of the congregation), Gavin McMillan (Grandson of Dennis & Paula McMillan), Teresa Buckner (friend of Sarah Nafziger), Ned Brittain (brother of Dick Brittain), Rozann Brittain (Sister-in-Law of Dick Brittain), Johnny Fricke, Larry Fricke (cousins of Becky Brittain); George Brown (dad of Sandra May); David Spitzer, Mark Spitzer, Jeff Spitzer (sons of Ruth Spitzer); Mary Hamson (Al Awtrey's sister), Martin & Doreen Henry (friends of Johnnie Starnes); Kenneth Piper (cousin of Fred & Joyce Ehrensperger); Candi Prejean (friend of the Ehrensperger Family); Brian Poole, Gracie Ann Poole, Jackson Roberts, Kathie Finley, Reba Roberts (friends of Fred & Wanda Quinn), Ronald Park (brother-in-law of Wanda Quinn), Shirley Sanders (niece of Norma Holsombeck); Patricia Hofer & Winnie Starnes (sisters of Merle Wentzell); Neysa Charie Rhodes (friends of Sue Kuechenmeister), Stuart Craig (brother of Skip Craig), Michelle Miskelley (friend of Marsha Craig), Willard Leopard (brother of Wyomie McRae)

Serving Our Country: Connor Butz (son of Terry & Sharon Butz), Adam Ford & Austin Workman (sons of Richard & Emily Ford, Grandsons of Jerry & Sharon Towry), Chris Lewis (son of Jeff & Martha Lewis), Noah Graham (son of Shannon Graham, Grandson of Dennis & Paula McMillan and Wayne & Linda Graham)

College Students: Allison Boda (Furman), Andrew Boyd (UAH), Noah Graham (UA), Caroline Hoffman (Jacksonville State), Hannah LaRue (Tennessee Tech); Sarah Nafziger (UAB), Troy Nelson (UAB), Luke Richey (Auburn), Kinsey Waylander (UAB); Courtney Yarbrough (UAB) & Stephen Yarbrough (ASU)

Outreach partners: Lutheran World Relief, Community Kitchen, Trussville Ecumenical Assistive Ministry (TEAM), Clay Elementary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 2019						
					1 9am Preschool	2
3 Food Drive–Breakfast Items 8:30am Worship 9:15am Sunday school 10:30am Worship 12pm Altar Guild mtg. 12:15pm Choir practice	4 Pastor Karen at Lutheranch 9am Preschool 6pm Education Meeting	5 Pastor Karen at Lutheranch 9am Preschool 10am Quilters	6 Pastor Karen at Lutheranch 9am Preschool 6:30pm Dinner & Discussion	7 Pastor Karen at Lutheranch 9am Preschool 6:30pm Exec. Board	8 9am Preschool	9 9am-12pm Council retreat at Faith Community Kitchen
10 Food Drive – Canned Fruit 8:30am Worship 9:15am Sunday school 10:30am Worship-Gospel Hymn Sing 12:15pm Choir practice	11 Conf. Pastor Meeting SOTH 9am Preschool 6pm Women’s Bible study 6:30pm Property Comm.	12 9am Preschool 10am Quilters 6:30pm Worship & Music Comm. Mtg 6:30pm Council	13 9am Preschool 6:30pm Dinner & Discussion	14 Valentine’s Day 9am Preschool 11:30am Clipped Wings “Love Feast” 2pm Mutual Ministries	15 9am Preschool	16 9am Church work day
17 8:30am Worship 9:15am Sunday school 10:30am Worship 12:15pm Choir practice	18 President’s Day No Preschool	19 9am Preschool 10am Quilters	20 9am Preschool 6:30pm Dinner & Discussion	21 9am Preschool 6pm Preschool Board Meeting (tentative)	22 9am Preschool	23
24 Bold Women’s Day 8:30am Worship 9:15am Sunday school 10:30am Worship 12:15pm Choir practice 3-5:30pm New Bishop Discussion at Faith	25 9am Preschool 6pm Women’s Bible study	26 9am Preschool 10am Quilters 6pm ERT 1 st Aid Training class	27 9am Preschool 6:30pm Dinner & Discussion	28 9am Preschool		

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 2019

Meeting minutes are a summary & a preliminary draft. Minutes will not be final until the next council meeting

Attending: Tim Awtrey, Beate Cole, Skip Craig, Fred Ehrensperger, Linda Herold, Amy Hollar, Pat Holman, Karl Nelson, Troy Nelson, Tammie Richey, Jeannine Spann, Mary Yarbrough and Pastor Boda.

Absent: None.

Opening Devotion: Skip Craig

Review & Approve December Meeting Minutes:

The December Council minutes were approved with one correction for the January 2019 Council meeting date. Motion to approve by Tim Awtrey, second by Beate Cole. The corrected minutes were approved.

Election of Council Officers:

President: Linda Herold [Motion to close nominations Tim Awtrey, second Fred Ehrensperger.]

Vice President: Tim Awtrey [Motion to close nominations Troy Nelson, second Jeannine Spann]

Secretary: Tammie Richey [Motion to close nominations Fred Ehrensperger, second Amy Hollar]

Treasurer: Fred Ehrensperger [Motion to close nominations Linda Herold, second Beate Cole]

Financial Secretary: Rick Yarbrough [Motion to close nominations Tim Awtrey, second Beate Cole]

Officers approved by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report: Fred Ehrensperger distributed the Treasurer's report and reviewed the document highlighting some of the December disbursements and asked for questions. Linda Herold moved that the report be accepted, second by Pat Holman. The report was accepted.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Karen Boda reviewed her submitted report and asked for feedback from the Council on the report.

Committee Liaison assignments: Council members were tasked to be liaisons to the church committees/teams. The liaison is to attend all committee meetings and work with committee chairs to report committee activities and needs to the Council. The 2019 Council Liaisons are as follows:

Education: Mary Yarbrough

Evangelism: Troy Nelson

Fellowship: Pat Holman

Finance: Fred Ehrensperger

Mutual Ministry: Jeannine Spann

Outreach/Social Ministry: Karl Nelson

Property: Tim Awtrey

Stewardship: Skip Craig

Worship and Music: Beate Cole

Youth: Amy Hollar

TEAM: Connie Waylander

Updates:

- The Policy & Procedures Team will be meeting with the Finance Team during January to review draft financial policies.
- The Mutual Ministry Team meets again on January 17, 2019. Two additional members need to be selected for this team.
- Staff position descriptions and performance evaluation tools are ready except for the evaluation tool for the church secretary position. Skip will send drafts to the Council for review at the February meeting.
- Outreach priority progress. There were quite a few outreach events throughout the year.
- A check for \$2,000 has been sent to Designs for Hope as a thank you for Chris Seay's donation of the exterior cross. There will be a dedication of the cross and lighting this Spring.
- Preschool reporting is done quarterly so a report will be presented to the Council next month.
- An Epiphany food drive is under way to benefit TEAM.

Old Business:

- The need for a marketing coordinator was reiterated.
- Council installation is scheduled for Sunday, January 13th.

New Business:

- Council members are asked to attend a meeting of local ELCA churches to discuss the upcoming Bishop election. Faith is hosting this event on a Sunday from 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm. The Council requested February 24th as the date. Pastor is meeting with the other 2 churches this week and will discuss the date with them.
- Council needs to meet to set priorities for 2019. Dennis McMillan has agreed to facilitate the meeting. The council suggests the meeting date to be Saturday, February 9 beginning at 9:00 am.
- Pastor Boda asked for feedback from the Council regarding the elimination of morning Advent services and the combination of Christmas Eve services into one 7:00 pm service. Some feedback was given and Pastor

will also discuss this with the Worship and Music Committee.

- Fred Ehrensperger stated that he is working on a written response to the Council regarding the outside audit report of the church's finances that was completed late last year. He has some notes and has asked other members of the finance team to review it before finalizing his response to the Council. He also asked for input from the Council on the type of financial review to be done this year so that he can prepare the necessary information. A discussion was held on how often an outside audit is needed and the complexities involved in obtaining such an audit. It was discussed that the Finance Team could review the books this year and then request an outside audit the following year. It was noted that an outside audit every other year would be advisable. Skip volunteered to contact the auditor for information on availability and if she knew of others who might be available to perform an outside audit.
- The Memorial Committee has been reestablished with four members: Fred Ehrensperger, Tim Awtrey, Beate Cole, and Sharon Towry.
- There is a need for a nursery attendant on Wednesday nights. After some discussion, a motion was made to hire an attendant with the funding to come from undesignated since this need was not known and therefore not budgeted. Motion made by Linda Herold, second by Karl Nelson.
- Committee annual reports are due. Liaisons are responsible for making sure the committee

reports are in and for letting the committee know the due date of January 31, 2019. Reports are to be sent to the church secretary.

- Mary Yarbrough started a discussion on different ways to allocate undesignated funds. This will be discussed by the Finance Team further and then brought back before the Council.

February 2019 Devotion: Mary Yarbrough
February 2019 Meeting date: Tuesday, February 12th
Adjournment & Closing Prayer: Motion to close the meeting by Pat Holman, second by Amy Hollar.

Respectfully submitted,
Tammie Richey

Monthly Submitted Reports

Fellowship – submitted by Marsha Craig

- Fellowship provided a reception following Adam's concert on Sunday Dec. 2nd.
- Fellowship along with Parish Education hosted a reception after the Children's Sunday School Christmas program.
- Fellowship along with Parish Education will provide sugar cookies to be decorated after the Christmas Eve service. Coffee, milk and hot chocolate will also be served.
- Coffee service in the Narthex between services will no longer be provided. This was done on a trial basis and proved not used by many.



2019 Church Council

Worship Service: 8:30 am
Sunday School: 9:15am
Worship Service: 10:30 am
Coffee Fellowship: 11:45 am
Choir Practice: 12:15 pm

President - Linda Herold
Vice President - Tim Awtrey
Secretary - Tammie Richey
Treasurer - Fred Ehrensperger
Financial Secretary - Rick Yarbrough

2019 Liaisons

Education: Mary Yarbrough
Evangelism: Troy Nelson
Fellowship: Pat Holman
Finance: Fred Ehrensperger
Mutual Ministry: Jeannine Spann
Outreach/Social Ministry: Karl Nelson
Property: Tim Awtrey
Stewardship: Skip Craig
Worship and Music: Beate Cole
Youth: Amy Hollar
TEAM: Connie Waylander

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday 9 am to 2 pm
Friday 9am to 1pm

Sign up for ENEWS today
go to WWW.ELCA-SES.org

Connect with Faith Lutheran online
Website – www.flc-al.org
Facebook – @faithlutheranclay

The Sermon can be found online each week at
www.flc-al.org

Hard copies of The Scroll can be picked up from the
Secretary’s desk.

Faith Lutheran Staff

Rev. Karen Boda, Pastor
Terrie Awtrey, Preschool Director
Martha Lewis, Secretary
Adam Bowles, Keyboardist
Gail Kohser, Parish Nurse

Attention Thrivent Members:
If you have any questions about Thrivent Choice,
please see Skip Craig for more information

The deadline for the March 2019 Scroll is February 22

Information received after this date is not guaranteed to be included. Email submissions to the
church office - flcoffice1@gmail.com.