

March 2019

Dear Faith Lutheran,

You may have heard that the Council met for a retreat recently and agreed upon our priorities for 2019.

Last year we focused on Outreach and were thrilled to become more involved in what's going on outside our doors –

- Community Kitchen - every single month a team feeds our hungry and homeless neighbors,
- TEAM - we recently gave 659 items to our neighbors!
- Clay Elementary - blankets, undies, inspirational rocks, cleanup, a bench
- Quilts, soap, and care kits for Lutheran World Relief - checkout the beautiful quilt now hanging in our narthex!
- support for our Christmas Family and our Synod
- \$500 worth of Wal-Mart gift cards for those impacted by Hurricane Michael
- and and and....

Whew! We were busy little beavers this past year and didn't it feel good?

This year the Council's priority will be stewardship. Did I just hear a collective groan? Ugh, not stewardship. Really? Many of us define stewardship as money. Some of us might even define it as time, talents, and money. Almost all of us squirm. I find that terribly sad, especially since there is SO much more to stewardship.

Mark Allan Powell in *Giving To God* defines stewardship as belonging to God; allowing God to rule our lives, putting God in charge of everything, including our time, our gifts, and our money. Surrendering control doesn't come easy for any of us.

But stewardship is a way of life. It's not just a *good* way, but a *better* and joyful way of life. When we really do belong to God and when we put God in charge of our entire lives, we will be better for it.

Powell claims that faithful stewardship is three things. First, it is an act of *worship*. It's giving out of a glad and generous heart as an expression of love and devotion to the God who is so good to us. I know a man who looks forward to writing a check to church every week. It's not a chore or something he's guilted into doing, but it's a true joy for him. It's a prayerful moment during his busy week when he gives God thanks for the gifts he's been given, then joyfully shares those gifts.

Faithful stewardship is an expression of our *faith*. We confess in worship each week that everything we have belongs to God. We sing: *All that we have and all that we offer, comes from a heart both frightened and free. Take what we bring now and give what we need. All done in your love.* Remember the story I told last month about ancient Celtic baptisms? The Celt would hold an arm out of the water, holding one part of his body out of the control of God so that he could fight with that arm in an unchristian like manner. Do we hold our pocketbooks and our time out of the waters of baptism? Out of God's control?

Finally, Powell claims that faithful stewardship is a *discipline for spiritual growth*. Giving of our money and our time, even when it hurts or is inconvenient, brings us closer to God, helping us to become the sort of people we most want to be.

Worship changes during Lent too We belong to God and our deepest desire, spoken or unspoken, is to be in a deep and satisfying relationship with the God who loves and cares for us, the God to whom we belong. Stewardship is discovering and living out our relationship with God.

I look forward to traveling the path of stewardship with each of you this year.

Blessings, Pastor Karen

Adapted from: Powell, Mark Allan, *Giving to God* (William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company: Grand Rapids, MI, 2006), 3.

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

LENT

Most of us know that our worship changes during Advent, the four weeks leading up to Christmas. We put up the Advent wreath and a family lights one additional candle each week. We put up the enormous tree and decorate it with white lights and Chrismons made lovingly by beloved saints who have gone before us. Paraments are blue, the color of hope. We sing Advent and Christmas carols, worship on Wednesdays, put up wreaths and candles in the windows - all to prepare for the coming of our Lord. Worship changes during Lent too. It's a penitential season – a time when we reflect on our own lives and our relationship with God.

Look and listen this year during Lent. You'll see sticks in the vases on the altar, expressing the desolation of the wilderness - a real contrast to the images of abundance we so often crave. The paraments will be purple, representing repentance and solemnity.

The children will help us put away the Alleluias for the season, allowing them to lie dormant. We won't sing the Musical Refrain during the Intercessory Prayers at 10:30 worship, and the children won't lead us out of worship with shakers and into the world. When we retire something familiar for a season, recovering it again always has a way of making it "new" for us, emphasizing what precedes and follows. Taking a rest gives shape and rhythm to life, to worship, to relationships – even our relationships with God.

Most importantly during Lent, we will worship. We will begin on Ash Wednesday at 11am or 7pm with ashes on our foreheads, reminding us we are dust and to dust we shall return. We will work our way through Sunday mornings and meditative worship at 7pm on Wednesday evenings using the beautiful liturgy, Joyous Light, by Ray Makeever. Holy Week will begin with Palm Sunday on April 14 when we process into the sanctuary, modeling Jesus' triumphal procession into Jerusalem. On Maundy Thursday we will worship with the Trussville Community at First United Methodist Church at 12pm, then at Faith at 7pm to strip the altar and prepare for Good Friday, when we will experience with darkness and the hammering of our sins to the cross the death and desolation felt by Jesus and now us. If you're interested in a Saturday Easter Vigil, Shades Valley Lutheran has welcomed us with open arms. Finally, we will arrive at Faith on Easter morning to the sounds of Alleluia and rejoicing at the resurrection of our Lord.

Give yourself and especially your children a gift this season. Attend as many of the special services as you can, living out the Lenten cycle. Allow yourself to be pulled into the mystery and the majesty of the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Children relish the sights and sounds of Lent – ashes on their foreheads, waving palms, washing of feet, pounding of nails, then rejoicing at the resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday.

Jesus can't rise from the dead Easter morning without going through the season of Lent. We can't fully experience the season either without being here. Join us.



- 3/6..... 11 am Ash Wednesday Worship
- 3/6..... 7 pm Ash Wednesday Worship
- 3/13..... 7 pm Mid-week Lenten Worship
- 3/20..... 7 pm Mid-week Lenten Worship
- 3/27..... 7 pm Mid-week Lenten Worship
- 4/3..... 7 pm Mid-week Lenten Worship
- 4/10..... 7 pm Mid-week Lenten Worship
- 4/18..... 12 pm Community Worship at Trussville First United Methodist Church– lunch to follow
- 4/18..... 7 pm Maundy Thurs. Worship
- 4/19..... 11 am Good Fri Worship
- 4/19 7 pm Good Fri Worship

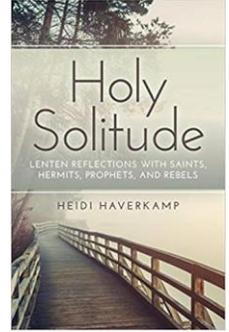


Sign up on the bulletin board to attend the Pancake Supper on Tuesday, 3/5 at 6PM. This meal is the start to the Lenten season. Come enjoy good food & fellowship. Then, join us on Wednesday, March 6th at 11am or 7pm for Ash Wednesday Worship.

DO YOU DECORATE YOUR HOME FOR ADVENT? CHRISTMAS? EASTER?

Even though Lent is one of the most meaningful seasons of the year, we don't often decorate. Episcopal Priest Heidi Haverkamp in her book *Holy Solitude* offers some ideas we might want to try to help us remember every day that we are in the midst of a special and particular time

- **Tabletop Desert:** Fill a bowl with sand. Add a stone, a nail, even a toy snake or a scorpion. Bury a tiny slip of paper with the word *Alleluia* on it. Place it somewhere you can see it often.
- **Tabletop Arrangements:** Fill a vase, bowl or bucket with bare sticks, dry flower stems, thistles, or other thorny branches. Wrap the arrangements with materials like burlap, twine, or metal wire, brown or purple ribbon or yarn. On Palm Sunday, add the palms you bring home from church. Or set out a low bowl or pan and fill with gravel, pebbles, bits of metal, or pieces of bone.
- **Door Hangings:** Hang an austere wreath, perhaps of grapevine, twigs, straw, dried flowers, or rough fabrics like burlap or canvas.
- **Display a Cross or Crucifix:** Display a cross or crucifix in a highly visible place, perhaps replacing a prominent object that normally hangs in your home.
- **No candles:** Don't light any table candles or scented candles in your home until Easter.
- **Live Simply:** Keep your shopping and leisure habits basic this year. When there is an option, choose the less fancy, less expensive, or special. Try not to buy anything to decorate for Lent, but use only found items.
- **Switch to Easter Decorations:** On Holy Saturday, the day of emptiness and waiting, remove all of the Lenten things. Last thing that day or first thing Easter morning, bring out all of the Easter decorations and leave throughout Easter tide (April 21-June 9)



Haverkamp, Heidi, *Holy Solitude: Lenten Reflections with Saints, Hermits, Prophets, and Rebels* (Westminster John Knox Press, Louisville, KY, 2017), XX-XXI.

CALLING ALL CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Please be sure to come to Sunday School each Sunday during the Lenten season. All hands are needed! The children will be working on a special project and Youth assistance would be greatly appreciated.



UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES TO REMEMBER

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Bible study will meet on March 11th and March 25th at 6:30 pm at the church. Our study of *The Liturgy of the Ordinary* will continue with Chapter 5-- Eating Leftovers, Word, Sacrament, and Overlooked Nourishment on the 11th, and Chapter 6--Fighting with My Husband, Passing the Peace and the Everyday Work of Shalom on the 25th. Hope to have you join us!

CLIPPED WINGS

On Thursday, March 14th, 11:30am, we will meet at Ruth's Place. It is located at 2404 Derby way off 459 at the Derby Parkway exit. The special atmosphere and scrumptious soul food offered promises to make this a new and exciting experience for the group. For more details or if you need a ride, please call Gail Kohser or Beate Cole. Hope to see you there!

COMMUNITY KITCHEN

On Saturday, February 9, 2019, Linda Nelson, Mark Richey, Paul (a volunteer) and Tuval Mashburn (a friend of Mark's) served over 70 people at the Community Kitchen. Tuval offered the opening prayer and, as she often does, Linda Nelson went above and beyond by preparing a peanut butter and jelly sandwich for a late comer who arrived after all of the food had been eaten.

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.

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. See Paula McMillan for a registration form.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Sandra May
Richie Ford
Eason Kirksey
Mike & Chris Diuguid
Wallace & Kathy Moon
Linda Graham
Mike May
Teresa McCullough
Sharon Towry
Mark Craig
James Kennedy
Andrew Boyd
Paulette King
Shannon Graham
Tammie Richey



Finance Committee – We’re looking for new members. The finance team is responsible for monitoring the church’s financial situation and meet at least quarterly to review the Treasurer’s report and discuss any business that needs to be handled. We often speak after church on simple matters that need addressing. We are also responsible for preparing the

annual church budget. You don’t have to be an accountant to be on the committee. If you can balance a checkbook, you will be great!

Worship Assistants – Would you be interested in serving as an assistant during Sunday Worship services? There are several opportunities to help.

Assisting Minister - Assist Pastor Karen during the worship service, including reading the prayers of the church and assisting with communion.

Lector – Responsible for reading the 1st and 2nd lessons each week and the Psalm when it is not sung.

Communion Presenter – Take the communion elements to the altar each week during the offering.

Ushers – Responsible for handing out weekly worship folders, counting attendance, assisting visitors as needed, collecting weekly offering, and assisting with communion just to name a few of the things done each week. Ushers are a part of the welcoming team for all members and visitors each week.



PARISH NURSE NOTES

To promote a healthy body, reducing stress, getting adequate sleep and making good nutritious food choices are all part of a healthy plan. But, getting enough exercise plays a vital role in that plan. The benefits of regular exercise and the amazing effects on emotional, physical and mental health are immeasurable. A Harvard Nurses’ Health study found that those who walked 15 to 30 minutes per day, showed a 30% lower risk of diabetes and lowered the risk of Alzheimer’s and dementia. If that’s not enough to motivate you to get up and walk, it also helps lower blood pressure, helps digestion, improves mood and cognitive performance. It may even help increase longevity. Walking helps to strengthen bones, plus reduces the risk of developing osteoporosis and fractures.

I’m not advocating starting with a long, vigorous walk, but just starting a regular daily walk will reap rewards and maybe become part of your daily routine. Using a pedometer or fitness tracker is helpful to motivate you to advance your time and/or pace. The key is to start now, walking daily.

Many Blessings,
Gail Kohser, Parish Nurse

EPIPHANY FOOD DRIVE

Well done! During this Epiphany season, Faith collected 662 food items for T.E.A.M. Thank you to everyone who made donations & helped with the collection efforts.

Preschool Corner



This building is full of life each week
It's not quiet...it's not meek.
We fill the halls with laughter and joy,
Bounding from each girl and boy.

Each week at Preschool we have a theme.
We work on letters, we play, we dream.

February was lots of fun.
We finally got to see the sun.
We talked about dinosaurs and Seuss
Sang some songs and played Duck, Duck, Goose.

Come by to visit any old time
You can read us a book or help make slime.



**March 2019
Worship Assistants**

8:30am

March 3

Asst. Minister: Open

March 10

Asst. Minister: Troy Nelson

March 17

Asst. Minister: Linda Herold

March 24

Asst. Minister: Dennis McMillan

March 31

Asst. Minister: Sharon Towry

10:30 a.m.

Ushers: Rick Yarbrough, Matt Kirksey,
John Beyer, Al & David May

Greeters: Wayne & Linda Graham

March 3

Asst/ Minister: Paula Daum
Lector: Wanda Quinn
Acolyte: Lilly Nafziger
Crucifer: Ava Nafziger
Comm. Presenters: Fred & Wanda Quinn

March 17

Asst. Minister: Dennis McMillan
Lector: Linda Herold
Acolyte: Carter Kirksey
Crucifer: Devin Kennedy
Comm. Presenters: Ky-lin Berg & April Kirksey

March 6 Ash Wednesday 7pm

Asst. Minister Sharon Towry
Lector: Will Daum
Comm. Presenters: Karl & Linda Nelson

March 24

Asst. Minister Troy Nelson
Lector: Mark Craig
Acolyte: Michael May
Crucifer: David May
Comm. Presenters: Ken & Paulette King

March 10

Asst. Minister: Paula McMillan
Lector: April Kirksey
Acolyte: Annabelle Beyer
Crucifer: Ky-lin Berg
Comm. Presenters: Terrie Awtrey &
Mary Yarbrough

March 31

Asst. Minister: Skip Craig
Lector: Shannon Graham
Acolyte: Open
Crucifer: Devin Kennedy
Comm. Presenters: Kristen Svoboda



Please keep Rick and Mary Yarbrough, and the entire Yarbrough family in your prayers, as they mourn the passing of Rick's sister Michelle Yarbrough.

We grieve deeply with Jean Nelson on the death of her grandson,
Tommy Beaver. Tommy is also Troy Nelson's cousin.

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

Friends: Tom Duke (friend of FLC Preschool); Eleanor Adeimy (Janet Awtrey's sister); JoAnn Johnson & Joyce Nelson (friends of Linda Herold); Heather Wesson (David & Cheryl Ehrensperger's granddaughter); Brett Smith (Hazel Wentzell's nephew); Carol Cantrell (friend of Ken Monk); Jerry McNutt (Sarah Nafziger's father); Sharon Gallant (Principal at Clay Elementary & friend of the congregation); Pat Ehlinger (friend of Harold & Sonja Utphall); Larry Allin (father-in-law of the Wentzell's grandson); Treasa Webb (friend of Preschool), Kaylen Apodaca (Preschool parent); Jerry Sellers (friend 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), 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
March 2019					1 9am Preschool	2
3 Worship & Sunday school at SOTH Pr. Joseph Ellwanger 8:30am Worship 9:15am Sunday school 10:30am Worship 12:15pm Choir practice	4 9am Preschool	5 9am Preschool 10am Quilters 6pm Pancake Supper 6:30pm Exec. Board 6:30pm Property Comm.	6 11am Ash Wednesday Worship 9am Preschool 7pm Ash Weds Worship	7 9am Preschool 5pm Mutual Ministries	8 9am Preschool	9 9am WELCA Spring Cluster mtg. Community Kitchen
10 Daylight Savings Gospel Storyteller Marge Mynhier 8:30am Worship 9:15am Sunday school 10:30am Worship 12:15pm Choir practice	11 9am Preschool 6:30pm Women's Bible study	12 9am Preschool 10am Quilters 6:30pm Council	13 9am Preschool 7pm Mid-week Lenten Worship	14 Conference Pastor Meeting CLC 9am Preschool 11:30am Clipped Wings	15 9am Preschool	16
17 8:30am Worship 9:15am Sunday school 10:30am Worship 12:15pm Choir practice	18 9am Preschool	19 9am Preschool 10am Quilters 6:30pm Worship & Music Comm. Mtg	20 9am Preschool 7pm Mid-week Lenten Worship	21 9am Preschool	22 9am Preschool	23
24 8:30am Worship 9:15am Sunday school 10:30am Worship 12:15pm Choir practice	25 No Preschool Spring Break 6:30pm Women's Bible study	26 No Preschool Spring Break 10am Quilters	27 No Preschool Spring Break Secretary on Vacation 9am Preschool 7pm Mid-week Lenten Worship	28 No Preschool Spring Break Secretary on Vacation 9am Preschool	29 No Preschool Spring Break	30
31 8:30am Worship 9:15am Sunday school 10:30am Worship 12:15pm Choir practice						

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 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 (via phone), Mary Yarbrough and Pastor Karen Boda.

Absent: None.

Opening Devotion: Mary Yarbrough opened the meeting with a devotion centered on Luke 7:31-35.

Review & Approve January Meeting Minutes:

The January Council minutes were approved with no corrections. Motion to approve by Beate Cole, second by Tim Awtrey.

Linda Herold thanked Skip Craig for his two years of service as the Council President.

Treasurer's Report: Fred Ehrensperger pointed out that the church lost about \$2,000 for the month of January and that there were no unusual expenses to account for this shortage. He also noted that there was nothing unusual under special this month. Amy Hollar moved that the report be accepted, second by Pat Holman. The report was accepted as submitted.

There were no questions from the Council regarding the written response from the Treasurer to the outside audit report of the church's finances. Skip Craig reported that he asked the auditor for assistance in determining other individuals who can complete an outside audit and she agreed to check around. Pastor stated that other ELCA churches in the area have the same issue with finding outside auditors and it has been suggested that the churches do this audit for each other. The Council agreed for the Pastor to pursue this option. Jeanine Spann also suggested that the Finance Committee check with United Way to see if they have anyone who can audit the books. This idea was also encouraged. Mary Yarbrough reported that after the Council Retreat on Saturday she and Tim Awtrey reviewed the church's books and did not find any problems.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Karen Boda reviewed her submitted report and added:

- Cluster churches have been officially invited to the upcoming WELCA cluster meeting being held at Faith.
- The newly formed Worship Planning team will meet again on Thursday.

- The Synod is traveling to Montgomery on April 27th to visit the Legacy Museum if anyone is interested in going.
- A detailed description of Synod activities and asked for feedback from the Council.

Submitted Reports: After some discussion, Fred Ehrensperger moved to accept all submitted reports with a second by Troy Nelson. All reports are accepted.

Current Business:

- Staff Position Performance Review Documents – The Council provided feedback on the ministry descriptions and evaluation tools for Pastor, Secretary, Keyboardist, and Nursery Attendant. Skip Craig will make the agreed upon changes and bring back to Council next month for final approval.
- Finance Committee Report – Mary Yarbrough reviewed a new allocation methodology being considered by the Finance Team. This includes allocating undesignated funds first to the Church's commitment to Benevolence and then paying what has been spent in Current and if any is left after that it will go to Faith-in-Action. The Finance Committee would like to finish the first quarter, look at this method of distribution and report back to the Council.
- Exterior Cross Dedication – Chris Seay and his family will be at the church service on April 7 for the dedication.
- Constitution Approval – The process for approving our new church constitution was reviewed and it was noted that changes will be flagged in the document. There are time frame constraints that must be met for the approval process. The Synod has already approved the draft document; however, we will need to send them a final ratified version.
- Nominating Committee – Terrie Awtrey and Paula Daum are on the nominating committee and Mark Craig has been added with one other person considering an appointment to the committee.

New Business:

- Sale of the office computer – The church has an old computer that is no longer needed. It was purchased in April 2010 for the secretary. A motion was made by Pat Holman to sell the computer and accept sealed bids from the congregation and church staff, second by Amy Hollar. Tim Awtrey will provide the specs on the computer. All documents and software except for the operating system will be removed prior to selling the computer.
- Council Retreat – At Saturday’s Council Retreat, Stewardship was selected as the priority this year. Skip Craig is the council liaison for Stewardship. Council members were asked to provide their names and any names of others who might be interested in serving on a Stewardship Committee to Linda Herold, Skip Craig or Pastor Karen Boda. In addition, Skip will make an announcement in church (a week from Sunday) to determine any who may have an interest in serving on the committee. Once a committee is formed, Linda Herold asked that they start with the notes from the retreat to develop the process.
- Yard Sale – Terrie Awtrey has offered to head up the annual church yard sale which is set for May 3 and 4, 2019. The Education Committee has requested that proceeds from the yard sale be used to update the church playground. The Council liaisons are asked to discuss with their committees if they have a specific need for a portion of the proceeds and bring that back to Council for a final determination of the distribution at the next Council meeting.
- The Executive Committee will meet Tuesday, March 5 after the pancake supper.
- Mary Yarbrough suggested adding a “Help Wanted” section to the monthly Scroll highlighting committees that need new/additional members.
- Fred Ehrensperger was asked to speak with Adam Bowles about notating on the church calendar when he will be using the sanctuary for practice or lessons to help in the scheduling of the facilities.

March 2019 Devotion: Amy Hollar

March 2019 Meeting date: Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at 6:30 pm.

Adjournment & Closing Prayer: Motion to close the meeting by Mary Yarbrough, second by Troy Nelson.

Respectfully submitted,
Tammie Richey

Monthly Submitted Reports

Pastor’s Report - Karen Boda, February 12, 2019

Worship

- Preached and presided at early/late worship services.
- A team consisting of Dennis McMillan, Karl Nelson, John Beyer, and the pastor was formed by the Worship and Music Committee to plan worship services. The secretary will retain all creation and publication responsibilities.
- The Stahl’s suggested that we sing Old Beloved Hymns on Sunday, Feb. 10. They were fun!
- Bold Women’s Day, sponsored by WELCA, will be Sunday, Feb. 24. The ministry of Women/girls will be celebrated. Women/girls will assume all leadership roles during worship; hymns and the anthem are composed by women.
- Attended Altar Guild meeting/training.

Congregational Care

- Ministered to members and families of Faith through visits, calls and cards. We have many in our midst who need care and prayers.
- Met with Mutual Ministry Team. Added new members Beate Cole and Mark LaRue.

Education

- Wednesday evening Dinner and Discussion – currently studying *Inspired* by Rachel Held Evans.
- Led Sunday School Bible Study for Adults each week on the lectionary. Sunday, 1/13 was focused on an overview of the gospel of Luke, Year C.
- Preschool – Led Bible Babble (chapel) each week.
- Faith will host Shades Valley and Shepherd of the Hills for a discussion on the upcoming bishop election at the Synod Assembly this May. Sunday, Feb. 24, 3pm. All are welcome.
- Faith has been invited to attend a special session with Pr. Joseph Ellwanger at Shepherd of the Hills, 3/3, 11am. Pr. Ellwanger was active in Birmingham and Milwaukee, fighting the “holy struggle” against injustice through non-violence.

Outreach

- About to conclude annual Epiphany food drive to support T.E.A.M.
- Teddy Bear Care Ministry began 1/13. Bears were blessed during worship and are available for members to distribute.
- Linda Herold dropped a large supply of undies to the Clay Elementary Health Room.
- We will begin to feature one of the quilts made by Faith for Lutheran World Relief on the entry wall. They're beautiful!

Other

- Gathered with the Conference Pastors on 2/12/19.
- Attended Council Retreat on 2/9/19 to set priorities for 2019.
- Attended two Lunch and Learns for St. Vincent's Clergy Wellness Initiative. Topics were Palliative Care and Accessing Health Information.
- Attended Synod Compensation Team meetings to prepare for 2020 Compensation Guidelines.
- Represented Faith at the dedication of the new Synod Office space in Atlanta, 1/19.
- Attended the Dean's Retreat and First Call Education, week of Feb. 4 at Lutheranch. Led by Bishop Julian Gordy, education was focused on Word and Sacrament Ministry using an excellent ELCA resource called *The Use and the Means of Grace*.
- Upcoming: Fearless Dialogue at Eastlake UMC on Feb. 26, sponsored by Candler School of Theology, Dr. Gregory Ellison.
<http://www.fearlessdialogues.com/>.

Education Committee Report Children's Ministry –

Wanda Quin, February 4, 2019

Present: Wanda Quinn, Terrie Awtrey, Amy Hollar, Paula McMillan, Tammie Richey and Mary Yarbrough

- Met to discuss and plan the coming year. A discussion was held on future plans for our playground. We will gather information and continue discussing options.
- Discussion was held on possibly having a play day after dedication. It was decided to talk more with Pastor and with some of the younger families regarding participation, assisting with the set up and taking down.
- Will be making prayer flags each Sunday during Lent. These flags will be displayed in the Narthex Windows.

- Will host our Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday. Marsha will fill the eggs. We will ask Martha to request candy from the congregation as in prior years.
- A yard sale was set for May 3 and 4 with money going toward the playground fund. This will be brought to council for their approval.
- Affirm is June 16-21. Registration is open. We will encourage our students to attend.
- VBS was discussed. It had been requested that we look into change the ending time from 8:30PM to 8:00PM due to the increased enrollment of younger ages (2-4). It was decided to change the VBS time to 6:00-8:00PM and no longer serve dinner at the start in order to keep class time to 20 minutes. We observed lots of food being wasted at the dinner time most likely due to the many distractions before VBS opening starts.
- Discussed upcoming WELCA (Women of the ELCA) events.

February 24 Bold Women's Day The women will take over church duties on this Sunday and provide the coffee.

March 9 Cluster meeting held at our church. This involves churches in Alabama district of our synod. The meeting will be from 9-2:30. Our speaker will be Marge Mynhier a storyteller from Atlanta. Linda Nelson will lead the Bible Study. Our craft will be tying lap blankets. Lunch will be served followed by a short business meeting and a worship service.

Below are the calendar dates and activities we are planning through the end of the Sunday school year.

February 10 Joint Classes to create Valentines for members of the congregation and our shut-ins

February 17 Joint Classes to help separate and count TEAM items and box for delivery to TEAM

February 24 Pastor will have refresher class for young communion students

March 10 1st Sunday in Lent – Joint classes to create flags

April 07 Dedication of cross will follow immediately after 10:30 service.

April 14 Palm Sunday - Regular classes

April 21	Easter/Easter Egg Hunt
May 19	Last day of Sunday school
July 15-19	VBS - To Mars and Beyond

Fellowship report – Marsha Craig

- Making plans for Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper Tuesday March 5th at 6:00. A sign-up list will be up soon to help plan the meal.
- Notices are being posted in the kitchen to help clarify and eliminate issues especially concerning appliances that are occurring.

Policies and Procedures Committee – Linda Herold

The Policies and Procedures Committee met with Tim Awtrey, Fred Ehrensperger, Mary Yarbrough, and Rick Yarbrough on Sunday, January 20 to share a draft financial policy with those involved in the finances of the church. It will meet again after receiving their comments about the draft.

Preschool Advisory Board – Linda Herold

The quarterly meeting of the Preschool Advisory Board was cancelled due to weather concerns and has been rescheduled for Thursday, February 21.

Worship and Music Committee Meeting – Beate Cole, January 15th, 2019

Announcement: At the close of 2018, Janet Awtrey resigned from the Committee due to health reasons. Janet has been the guiding light to the committee. Janet has planned and prepared the worship folder, dedicating countless hours of service that have been hidden from our view. Her love and passion for the church, worship, and music are reflected in her lifetime of service. Janet will continue to work with Fred Ehrensperger to plan the choir anthems.

- Dec 2nd new members were welcomed:
 - Diana Seevers, the niece of Craig and Sue Kuechenmeister;
 - Oren Price Tarpley, gained his claim to fame by bringing his three horses (!) to our "Blessing of the Animals;"
 - Amanda and Brian Billy with daughter Haven (6), and son Braxton (3) and a third one expected in April;
 - Jesse Byrd and his two sons Isaiah and Ezrah - he and his wife Miranda have been married for 9 years;
 - Mark and Amy LaRue, they have a married son Caleb, and a daughter Hannah.

Our December 2018 Scroll provides many more interesting details, for which we are grateful, and we thank our Heavenly Father for so

enriching our church family.

- Dec 2nd Adam's Concert was eagerly anticipated and comments were made that, "This was the best one ever!" Besides Adam's beautiful playing, the "Sing Along" including very well-known carols may have had something to do with it. The reception afterwards was enjoyed by all, as well.
- Advent AM services were eliminated and transportation to PM services was offered. The use of Holden and the Sermon/Homilies were well received and reflected the season.
- Dec 16 Christmas Pageant was very well done! Addition of older youth and congregation participation in singing were pluses.
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve
 - Single 7 pm service with choir - Added significantly
 - Pre-service instrumental music - Was enjoyed by all
 - Two stations Communion - worked out well/toward the end one side ran out of communion cups
 - Liked the anthems placed throughout the service. Consensus was an additional anthem might be included.
 - Candles/light brought into sanctuary during reading of OT - We want to continue this.
- Psalm from Psalter for Baptism of our Lord and Epiphany was a wonderful addition and will be added to Festival Sundays.
- Jan 13 Baptism of Our Lord - the altar and font were beautifully decorated and helped to emphasize the "water" theme.
- Upcoming Worship Services
 - Beginning Jan 20 for 6 weeks will be ELW Setting 4 with "Glory to God" Canticle of Praise
 - Ash Wednesday March 6, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday will have morning and evening services.
 - For Lent there will be single evening services, offering rides. The evening service setting will be "Joyous Light" by Ray Makeever.
 - The Lent Sundays' service setting will be ELW Setting 3 and children will exit to a different song without shakers.
- Assisting Ministers for the 8:30 am services will continue.

- Cost of Altar flowers - A new flower chart will be ordered and posted in the narthex on an easel to increase visibility and encourage more people to sign up.
- Background information on the Hymn of the Day - Dennis and Beate will provide when past info is not available.
- Feb 10th was our "Gospel Hymn Sunday" and the harmonizing was beautiful!

- Memorial Committee is being re-created with members Fred Ehrensperger, Beate Cole, Sharon Towry and Tim Awtrey. The Policies and Procedures Team will develop new P&Ps.
- Worship Planning Team and Anthem selection will be composed of Pastor, Karl, and Dennis with Anthem Selection by Fred and Janet.
- Worship Folder Creation and Martha's role - Martha is becoming very proficient.
- The next meetings of the W&M Committee will be Tuesday February 19th and March 19th at 6:30 pm.



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

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

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 Secretary's desk.

Faith Lutheran Staff

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

2019 Church Council

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

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

The deadline for the April 2019 Scroll is March 25

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