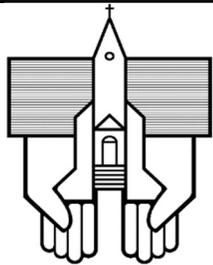


MAY
2021



Reach Out

Newsletter of Faith Lutheran Church

Deep Roots, Reaching Branches



As I have settled into the parsonage here at Faith since late summer, the view looking out over the backyard has come to be very precious to me. The family-room sliding doors face west, and so I am treated to sunsets that provide a meditative moment each day to soak in the wonders of God. Also reminding me of God – specifically of the great Flood of Noah – is the fact that our low-lying neighborhood provides lake-front property after a good rain. Most inspiring of all aspects of this beautiful lawn, however, are the trees.

As I write, I am looking at three strong, graceful trees, beautifully budding. Yes, I am sneezing! I am also reminded of a favorite biblical image of what it means to be people of God:

*“They are like trees planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.”
(Psalm 1:3)*

You may feel an urge to argue, “But we DON’T prosper in all that we do. Certainly we know our share of sorrow and failure.” I get it. There is a lot to this first and deceptively brief Psalm to dig into and discuss. However, the image stands as a powerful one for God’s people, and certainly for us as a community planted by God and kept abiding in God through Jesus Christ. One the first Sunday of May, we will hear these words of Jesus: *“I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15:5).* More lovely language and instructive imagery that may help us to envision what it means to be the People of Faith going forward:

- * As a community of faith, we are gathered by God to live and serve where we are planted. The places where we worship and work, laugh and learn, serve and share – these are precious to God. The people among whom we live are precious to God. Together, we are to be a blessing wherever we are, pointing toward the deep springs of God’s love, made most fully known in Jesus.
- * God plants us near streams of water, meaning, God provides what we need to bear the fruit we are called to bear. When you picture lush, cool, underground springs feeding the roots of a sturdy tree, that is how God provides for Faith through the Word, Jesus Christ. As we dig into the Word as sung and shared, preached and

(Continued on next page)

From Our Pastor (continued from page 1)

taught, eaten and drunk and bathing the baptized, our roots grow both deep and wide. We WILL be fed and provided for.

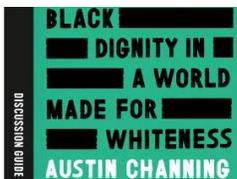
- * As our roots grow deep in God's goodness, so our branches will be strengthened to reach out, with all sorts of resources meant to spread God's love. The symbols are as rich as the variety of ways Faith can blossom for other' sakes: seed-laden whirligigs; leaves to give shade; corners to host birds' nests; buds to yield wondrous flowers and nourishing fruit. We WILL be a blessing beyond base of the trunk – that is, beyond our corner of So. Branch and Beekman.

In this season of returning outside and returning to old (and new) ways of gathering, we are first and foremost fed with God's promise: as we abide in God's Word, as our roots sink more deeply into dependence on the nourishment God provides, our "leaves will never wither."

There, perhaps, is a shorthand, an image, for the basics of the life of Faith:

***Roots growing deeper in Christ
Branches stretching wider in love***

In Christ,
Pastor Jill



LATE-SPRING BOOK DISCUSSION

**Austin Channing Brown's
*I'm Still Here:***

Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness

I hope some folks have had the chance to begin reading Brown's reflections on her experiences as a Black woman, working and traveling largely in environments with other people of Christian faith, yet still in "a world made for whiteness." We will schedule discussion sessions to begin in June. (Look for a survey to determine interest and day/time preferences.) Meanwhile, here is a link to the discussion guide we will make use of in most sessions (left side of the web page): <http://austinchanning.com/printables>

Questions or other desire to touch base? Contact me (Pastor Jill)!



Pastor Jill takes her weekly sabbath on Fridays. She is available to attend to emergencies. All other messages will be returned on Saturday or, if not urgent, on Monday morning.



We're in the process of updating our email accounts! You will soon be able to use the email links below to contact the staff or some of our committees directly. Watch your email for information on when it's official!

Office - office@faithlutherannj.org

Pastor Jill - pastor@faithlutherannj.org

Becky - music@faithlutherannj.org

Debra - youth@faithlutherannj.org

Have a finance question? You can contact the Finance Committee at finance@faithlutherannj.org

Want to speak with someone about our Stewardship campaign? Simply email them at stewardship@faithlutherannj.org



With the return to in-person worship, we are looking for help with our services. Please contact the church office if you would like to volunteer for any of the roles listed below. No experience necessary...training is available!

Acolyte – Participate at the worship services by lighting the candles, carrying the cross at special services, assisting with communion and collection of the offering plates.

Altar Guild – Work in teams to prepare the altar for Holy Communion and clean up after worship.

Assisting Minister – Assist the Pastor in leading worship services and distribution of communion.

Communion Bread Supply – Provide communion bread (baked at home or store bought) for Sunday and special worship services.

Lector – Read the lessons and psalmody during regular and special services. The readings are provided in advance of the service.

Offering Counters – Teams of two or three work together to count the church offerings on assigned Sundays (typically every six weeks). Open envelopes, count donations, complete Counter Sheet, prepare and deposit money in bank.

Usher – The ushers serve as God's host by assisting visitors and members before and during the worship services. Each service has a team of two ushers who will distribute bulletins, collect the offering, direct people during communion and straighten up the sanctuary after each service.



Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been the primary focus of our church council to do our Christian best at protecting the health of our members and our community while providing worship, education, outreach and fellowship to all.

We understand that some members want to resume worship indoors, while others feel more comfortable worshipping outdoors or at home.

The Worship & Music committee has planned a worship schedule through June 2 to include both indoor and outdoor worship. According to the worship guidelines adopted by council, there can be no singing indoors and reservations are required. Because there are no time or gathering size restrictions for outdoor worship, we can sing and partake in the sacrament of baptism and communion.

All worship services will continue to be livestreamed on Facebook at 9:30 AM. We are inquiring about a new camera and sound equipment.

If Somerset county continues 3 weeks with a CALI score of 2 or lower, **Faith will have indoor worship on Sunday, May 9, 2021.** We are excited to worship in-person with you every week, whether indoor or outdoor. Please check your email or Facebook for changes due to weather or county COVID reports.

We welcome questions and input for our next committee meeting Tuesday, May 18, at 7:15 PM (zoom link on <https://www.faithlutherannj.org/calendar/>)

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| • May 2 | Outdoor worship with Baptism |
| • May 9 | Indoor worship |
| • May 16 | Outdoor worship with Holy Communion |
| • May 23 (<i>Pentecost</i>) | Outdoor worship with Holy Communion |
| • May 30 (<i>Holy Trinity</i>) | Indoor worship |
| • June 6 (<i>Pastor Jill's Installation</i>) | Outdoor worship |

Outdoor worship guidelines:

For your health and the good of our neighbors, please...

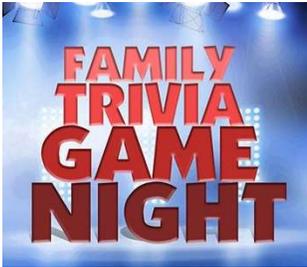
1. Park across the street if you are able.
2. Bring your own chair or ask the usher for a folding chair.
3. Wear a face mask and keep a 6 foot distance between groups.
4. Sign-in at the usher table and pick up your bulletin and communion kit.
5. Singing during worship is encouraged, with safety precautions.
6. Restrooms are open, but all other rooms in the building are closed.

Indoor worship guidelines:

1. Please arrive between 9:20-9:30 AM. Ushers will show your assigned seats. Please leave a 6 foot distance in line to avoid crowding.
2. All people are required to wear a mask that covers their mouth and nose at all times.
3. Offering will be collected in the narthex when entering, not during worship.
4. Bulletins will be placed on assigned seats and should be taken home at the end of worship.
5. Once seated, please remain in your seat, except for the purpose of using the restroom.
6. Singing is not permitted and speaking is discouraged.
7. At the end of worship, please exit the sanctuary in a single line, moving towards the pulpit door.



On Saturday, April 24, we celebrated the Holy Baptism of Kristian James Farreny, son of Erin and Kristopher, born on February 21, 2021. His sponsors were Dana Morris and Kevin Williams.



Fellowship Time, On-line! Do you have a mind for trivia? Do you have a spare 45 minutes? Or do you just enjoy battling wits with fellow Faith members? Evangelism would like to invite you to join us for a Kahoot Trivia Game Night on **Wednesday, May 12, from 7:15 to 8:00 p.m.** Please note: trivia will be general, all ages are welcome and there will be NO prizes other than bragging rights and laughter. Please join us via this Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86051100446>



The Property Committee has scheduled a **Spring Work Day** for the church property on Saturday, May 15, from 8:00 AM-Noon (rain date is May 22). Please contact Mike Pfau (cmichaelpfau@gmail.com) or Barbara Turck (bturck3510@comcast.net) if you are available.



ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held on Sunday, June 27, following worship.



A heartfelt thank you to all the members of Faith that have pledged during the current campaign. For those that have not completed the giving form yet, please check for an email from FLC Stewardship Committee (stewardshipcommittee_flc@comcast.net). We will gladly accept your pledges in the month of May. If you need additional information or a resend of the information, please contact Brenda Overcash (bovercas@gmail.com – 908-359-7279).

Hospital Stays/Prayer List Updates

Please notify the church office with any additions, deletions or changes to our prayer concerns or when you or someone you love is hospitalized (also when you or your loved one is released from the hospital).

Need or want to talk with the Pastor?

Please call the church office at (908) 369-3201 or you may email Pastor Jill at pastorcollict@verizon.net.

Please keep in your prayers...



+ Megan Barlow	+ Karen Blumenthal	+ Florette Bodmer
+ Martin Boer	+ Lorraine Capobianco	+ Betty Hannum
+ Rudy Harding	+ Bruce Hixson	+ Tara Joswick
+ Christine Kennette	+ Pastor Zimmermann	+ Jonathan Stein
+ Carol Suiter	+ Janice Vahl	+ Andrew Wishnow



Our sympathies and prayers are offered for the family and friends of:

Katie Vatter (requested by Tom Marvits
Patricia Sporman
Richard Mullen (Cathy Stampoulos' father)

5/2 Mike Kandell

5/3 John Faryniak

5/4 Nicholas Christopulos
Joseph Gerbino
Sarah Turck

5/5 Jeff Cowan
Nick Fanizzi

5/6 Erik Johnson

5/7 Jill Hockenbury
Vanessa Markota
Andy Ossman

5/8 Joel Barlow
Jack Marvits
Melissa Nobile

5/10 Daniel Illein
Lauren West

5/11 Paul Ludwig, Jr.
Cassidy Telewoda

5/12 Susan Flynn

5/13 Karen Blumenthal
Corinne Magliaro

5/14 Kendall Crow
Christine Mastakas
Heather Rutherford

5/18 Benjamin Magliaro

5/19 Kate Truncale

5/20 Cathy Stampoulos

5/22 Kyle Rutherford
Cathy Staszczuk

5/23 Linda Gerbino

5/26 Tom Ramsey

5/29 Aidan Adamo
Jeffrey Mallon
Ginny Williams

5/30 Tom Williams

5/31 Tina Greco





Thank you to all who have faithfully continued to support our ministries while the building has been closed. We ask that you continue to prayerfully consider how you can support these ministries, while not physically present. As always, your regular offering (with or without an envelope) can be mailed directly to the church office (381 South Branch Road, Hillsborough, NJ 08844). In addition, the Finance and Stewardship committees have worked together to provide two additional options. There

is a link on Faith's website, www.faithlutherannj.org/giving/ that will allow a person to give to a variety of ministries/funds using a bank account, debit or credit card. The same giving options are also available via an app (GivePlus or Give+) that can be installed on your smartphone. With either online giving option, it is easy to create an account, set Faith Lutheran as your church of choice and donate to different funds. Please contact the church office with any questions.



**Faith Lutheran Church
Operating Fund
Statement of Revenues and Expenses
For the ten months ending March 31, 2021**

	Approved Budget	Year to Date	
		Budget	Actual
Revenue			
Envelopes	\$ 262,116	215,860	222,694
Other	<u>15,930</u>	<u>12,217</u>	<u>6,920</u>
Total Revenue	<u>278,046</u>	<u>228,077</u>	<u>229,614</u>
Expenses			
Total Mutual Ministry	211,818	175,794	140,057
Total Worship & Music	4,554	3,792	963
Total Property Maintenance	60,031	51,125	44,372
Total Christian Education	2,475	2,321	2,463
Total Youth	1,200	947	1,624
Total Evangelism	2,240	1,410	654
Total Social Ministry	25,299	21,083	21,541
Total Finance	42,160	35,250	35,579
Total Stewardship	600	--	--
Capital Improvement Fund	5,000	--	--
Equipment Fund	<u>1,000</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>
Total Expenses	<u>356,377</u>	<u>291,721</u>	<u>247,254</u>
Income (Loss) Before Budget Gap	(78,331)	(63,644)	(17,640)
Budget Gap	78,331	63,644	--
Income (Loss)	\$ <u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(17,640)</u>

MAY

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Fifth Sunday of Easter 9:30 Worship (Outdoor) 9:30 More & Weisenbach Baptisms 10:15 Coffee Hour 10:30 Confirmation Class 10:30 Sunday School	3 10:00 Staff Meeting 7:15 Re-Entry Committee Meeting	4	5 7:30 Prayer Study	6 7:30 Property Committee Meeting	7	8
9 Sixth Sunday of Easter 9:30 Worship (Indoor) 10:15 Coffee Hour 10:30 Confirmation Class 10:30 Sunday School	10 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Leadership Training (Council)	11 7:15 Christian Ed Committee Meeting	12 7:15 Trivia Game Night	13 7:00 PM Finance Committee Meeting	14 Church Office Closed	15 8:00 Spring Work Day
16 Seventh Sunday of Easter 9:30 Worship (Outdoor) 10:15 Coffee Hour 10:30 Confirmation Class 10:30 Sunday School	17 10:00 Staff Meeting 7:15 Re-Entry Committee Meeting	18 7:15 Worship & Music Committee Meeting	19 7:15 Congregation Council Meeting	20 7:00 Outdoor Sing Along	21 Articles for June Reach Out Due	22 8:00 Rain Date for Spring Work Day
23 Pentecost 9:30 Worship (Outdoor) 10:15 Coffee Hour 10:30 Confirmation Class 4:00 Alumni BBQ/Fire Pit	24 10:00 Staff Meeting 7:15 Youth Committee Meeting	25 6:30 Leadership Training (Council)	26 7:30 Service of Lament	27	28 Church Office Closed	29
30 The Holy Trinity 9:30 Worship 10:15 Coffee Hour	31 Church Office Closed	All worship services will be live-streamed on Faith's Facebook page				Green = Held via Faith's Zoom account Blue = Facebook Purple = Other Zoom