

#### **Mission Statement**

June 2020

Guided by the Power of the Holy Spirit, we at FELC experience God through **Worship**, **Learning**, **Service**,



People of Faith Evangelical Lutheran,

I feel a call to action. A call to truly love our neighbors. We can love our neighbors by wearing masks; we can, in some cases, love our neighbors by staying home and, in other cases, going to work. We can love our neighbors by keeping our gatherings small and following the restrictions made to help keep neighbors and ourselves safe during the pandemic. We can also love our neighbors by acknowledging oppression and seeking justice.

God loves all of God's children. We are called to love our neighbors as ourselves. We can love our neighbors that have a variety of belief systems different from our own and we can love our neighbors of all skin colors. It is too often that people of color are taken advantage of and killed. Are we going to stand for this? How can we seek justice for our siblings in Christ?

I don't have all the answers; I am still listening and learning. All I can do is try, and I invite you to do the same. It isn't enough to just say, "This is bad," or "Things need to change." The change needs to start from within ourselves.

I grew up in a small town where most of the people looked like me, white. It wasn't until college when it just so happened that many of the friends I made were black. Occasionally hate crimes happened on campus, hate crimes especially targeting students that were black. I wasn't a target, I had the privilege of walking to class not feeling afraid. That wasn't the case for my friends. That isn't the case for many people at this time, in our country and in our world. A world that was created by love and for love to be spread. I'm without words. I am frustrated. Please proclaim with me these words as we strive to make this a safer place for all bodies to live.

#### Together, we will proclaim the value of Black bodies.

People deserve to be heard, lives need to be respected and saved.

For the mother who is still grieving the child she will never hold again. We stand by you.

For the child who lives in fear because his neighborhood is now barricaded with police. **We stand by you.** For the father who feels forced to teach his son how to hold his head down rather than hold his head up.

#### We stand by you.

For the sister who is doubly-subjugated because her skin and gender is labeled ugly by outsiders and unworthy by her own community,

#### We stand by you.

Throughout our churches, our cities, our classrooms, our jobs, and our homes, we will continue to declare Christ's everlasting truth, that "who the Son sets free is free indeed." This is a promise that America cannot give and cannot take away.

We must proclaim: Black justice matters, Black freedom matters, and Black lives matter.

Love and Peace, Vicar Lily Brellenthin If you want to reach me by the pastor phone, call or text at 262-812-3064, or email at pastor@felcwalworth.com



#### Two things I have learned During the Pandemic

1. In my conversations with Vicar Lily, church leadership at Faith and Sugar Creek Lutheran and my own ponderings and musings the image of leadership that I have stumbled on is that we are all in a mine-field. Some people are simply choosing to live in denial that the minefield even exists. Some people's response to this mine-field experience is to panic and just run wildly hoping they might make to safety. Other folks are immobilized in fear. What we are looking for and are in need of is someone to tell us where to take the next step. Not all the steps at once or leave us where we are at and say you are on your own.

My natural way of providing leadership is collaborative and community directed. Listen to the hopes and hurts of the community, discern the gifts of the community and match the two together as we forward in ministry and mission together. That style has served me well for 30 years. I discovered in March of 2020 that style does not work when we are in the midst of the hour by hour, day by day shifting landscape of this current pandemic. We need leaders to tell us what is the present reality as best as they are able. Make decisions on behalf of the group that takes into consideration the safety and security of the least of these in our midst. Finally, we need leaders who are willing to reevaluate, admit when mistakes are made and provide enough hope that allows us to take the next step forward. We have talked about this new and temporary form of leadership and your church council, Vicar Lily and myself are committed to providing it with the people and community at Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church. We are a people of the resurrection who always sees and provides hope in the midst and face of death. We are going to take each step together until the minefield is behind us.

2. Our relationships were not built for this. Some of you have commented that you are getting on each others nerves. Please know that is normal. Our intimate relationships are not and never have been built to meet all of our relationship, psychological and emotional needs. As human beings we are wired to connect to a social group and with the pandemic we are cut off from the larger social group and all of our relationship needs are focused on those in our household. That is way too much pressure on these relationship. I share this with you all so that number one you don't start to panic about your relationships with your spouse and children. Second, it is okay to take time away, go for a walk, call a friend, not do everything together 24/7. Talk with each other and come to an agreement on who and how other people may start to be let in to meet those social needs. My primary reason for sharing this with you is to let you know it is normal, it is temporary and you will be able to do a reset in the future.



# **Adult Opportunities**

This discussion is open to all!stice Heatvery 3rd Sunday of the month.tics The deat Come when you can! sexuality ELCA Social Statements We will pick up our discussion on the

topic of Genetics once we are able.



Potluck Luncheon 2nd Thursday of every month at noon

Lunch Bunch Potlucks will resume as soon as we are able.

# **Phone Buddies**

If you would like to have a member of our congregation call you on a regular basis during this time of social distancing please contact Laurie Collins at (262) 949-3169

#### Ways to stay connected to the Church:

- Facebook: Follow our page so you don't miss a post. Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church (Walworth Wisconsin)
- Website: Links to worship services, Vicar Lily's Reflections, and Pastor Dick's Sermons.
   www.felcwalworth.com
- South Central Synod of Wisconsin Community Page contains messages from Bishop Rogness and many other resources. <u>https://scsw-</u>

elca.org/community/





**Faith Sew-ers** Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Will resume once we are able. Join us for Quilt Making and Christian Fellowship

Wine First Tuesday of every month at 7pm Current Book: Expecting

Word Adam: A True Story of Birth, Rebirth, and Everyday Magic by Martha Beck

We will discuss Chapters 14-24 via zoom on June 2. If you would like the meeting link, please contact Rebecca Roehl.



#### Wednesdays at 9:15am

Together time will resume as soon as it is safe to do so. At this time we encourage you to connect with one another via phone calls and letters.



## **Vacation Bible School**



During this time of COVID-19 we are all making decisions that we feel are best to keep the most people safe. I

am sorry to announce that we will be cancelling VBS this summer. Please plan to attend VBS next summer at Faith.

## **Faith Formation**

Thank you to all the volunteers who made Faith Formation a success this year. FELC is so grateful to have such a wonderful group of dedicate people working with our children. We are grateful for you all!

**Thank you to parents** and families for committing to our program and helping your children grow in their faith. We appreciate all your time and effort! Thank you for sharing your children with us!

Watch your email, the webpage, and Facebook for announcements about summer activities as we are able to have them.



CHAOS meetings will continue on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 5pm via Zoom until we can meet in person.

#### Next Meeting: Sunday, June 21

Contact Rebecca if you would like the meeting information or if you would like to be added to our group text. education@felcwalworth.com or (608) 728-2798

Dear Faith Families,

if you need anything, please do not hesitate to reach out.

The church is here to support you.

You are in our prayers!

For more information, or to help with any activity, please contact Rebecca Roehl at education@feclwalworth.com

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Thank

- To the church leadership for working hard to keep us connected and making the best decisions they can with the information they have. We are grateful to have a team of people working hard to care for this community.
- To everyone who has shared ideas and help implement new creative ways for us to stay in touch as a faith family.

- FELC has a Facebook page. Search for Faith Evangelical Lutheran (Walworth Wisconsin) and like us and follow us so you don't miss a post.
- Our synod has a community webpage <u>https://scsw-elca.org/community/</u> with resources for members during this time of social distancing.
- The church office is still open from 10am-Noon Monday-Friday.
- The new *Christ in Our Home* daily devotionals are available for pick up at the church.
- The church library is an excellent resource for good reads. You are able to borrow books at your convenience. Just return them when you are finished.
- The pastor's cell phone number and email have *not* changed. You can contact Vicar Lily via pastor@felcwalworth.com or (262) 812-3064.

#### Learning Committee Meeting Thursday, June 18 at 7pm

If you are not currently on the Learning Committee, but would like to attend please contact Rebecca education@felcwalworth.com)



#### Looking ahead through June with scripture:

June 7th, Holy Trinity Sunday: <u>Psalm 8</u> How majestic is your name in all the earth! (Ps. 8:1)

<u>2 Corinthians 13:11-13</u> Paul's farewell to the church at Corinth

Matthew 28:16-20 Living in the community of the Trinity June 21st, Third Sunday after Pentecost: <u>Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18</u> Answer me, O Lord, for your love is kind. (Ps. 69:16)

Romans 6:1b-11 Buried and raised with Christ by baptism

Matthew 10:24-39 The cost of discipleship

June 14th, Second Sunday after Pentecost: <u>Psalm 100</u> We are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture. (Ps. 100:3)

Romans 5:1-8 While we were sinners, Christ died for us

Matthew 9:35--10:8 [9-23] The sending of the Twelve

June 28th, Fourth Sunday after Pentecost: <u>Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18</u> Your love, O Lord,

forever will I sing. (Ps. 89:1)

Romans 6:12-23 No longer under law but under grace

Matthew 10:40-42 Welcome Christ in



## Congratulations to Ty, Taylor and Sydney!

Sydney Bender, Ty Freimund and Taylor Weborg are graduating high school. It was good to celebrate with them during worship on May 31". Also maybe say "cards can be dropped off or mailed to the church"



Prayers for Hope & Healing: Pat Grams, Shirley Heyer, Evie Andersen
Ongoing Prayers for Healing: Fran Winston (Pam Christensen's sister), Chuck
Christenson (Angie Kynell's father), Kay O'Toole (Kris Strehlow's sister), Mike O'Toole
(Strehlow's brother-in-law), Rick Montag (Kris Strehlow's brother), Jonathan Carlton
(grandson-in-law of Arnell's), Tom Fredrick (Stephanie Freimund's father), Steve Jacobson
(Angie Kynell's cousin), Kristi Hugunin (friend of Rachel's), all service men & women,
Sofia Zematis (neighbor of Christensens), Bruce Lewis, Jean Null & family,
Kim Christiansen (Lisa Voss' sister), Renae Clinton (friend of Rachel's), Marques Brugger,
Reita Erickson (Rachel's aunt), Interim Bishop Peter Rogness & the synod staff,
Wim Henebiens & Aria Pierce (friends of Rachel), Miles Kadlec, Madeline Zindrick,
Rebecca Blonsky-Nummelin (Rachel's niece), Yvonne Reynolds (friend of Gail Connelly),
Christine Helke-Larsen's son, Glenn Larsen, Debbie Maresso (neighbor of Tildahls),
Dorothy Eckert (Gert Moritz's sister), Denise Robertson (cousin-in-law of Gail Connelly),
all victims of violence

# You Can Help

# Reaching Out from Home

- Mail letters to friends and family
- Make phone calls to connect with people
- Put uplifting messages in your windows or on your driveway
- When you finish a good book mail it to someone else to enjoy
- Pray for the health and wellbeing of others

# Sentry Receipts

WELCA collects Sentry receipts to help fund special projects. Receipts can be turned into the box in the gathering space. Check the date: make sure the receipt is dated within the last four months.



Contact Us:

*Address:* 420 Read Street P.O. Box 128, Walworth WI 53184 *Telephone:* 262-275-3445 *Website:* www.felcwalworth.com

# Church Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

# Staff

Vicar Lily Brellenthin *Pastor cell phone:* 262-812-3064 *Email:* pastor@felcwalworth.com

Gail Connelly, Secretary *Email:* secretary@felcwalworth.com

Rebecca Roehl, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries *Email:* education@felcwalworth.com

# **Congregation Council 2020**

#### **Executive** Team

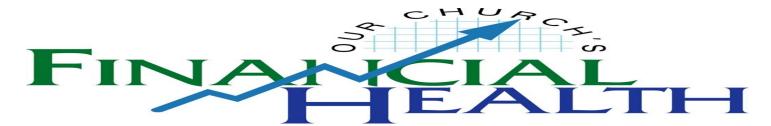
Tracy Volbrecht, President Elizabeth Hemmerich, Vice President Gail Nelson, Secretary Bill Clark, Treasurer

#### Committee Liaisons

Amanda Bender, Youth Penny Gruetzmacher, Stewardship Brent Tildahl, Finance Diane Voss, Learning Perry Weborg, Property Congregation Council meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the third Monday of the month.

All are welcome to attend.





#### Monthly Financial Report April 30, 2020

Cash Received:			
From E	nvelopes, Special Contributions, and Others	\$5 <i>,</i> 463	
From N	lemorials/Dedicated (or transferred)	3,403	
Total C	ash Received		\$8,866
Cash Paid:			
Operat	ng Expenses*	\$8,646	
Synod I	Benevolence***	1,784	
Commi	tees	316	
For Me	morials/Dedicated (or transferred)	33	
Total C	ash Paid		10 <u>,779</u>
Monthly Change in Cash (Cash Rec'd – Cash Paid)			(\$1,913)
Checking Account Balance, April 1, 2020		17,043	
Checking Account Balance, April 30, 2020		15,130	

\* Includes changes in non-cash assets, current liabilities, and restricted transfers

\*\* Includes monthly and specific donations

#### **Unrestricted Cash Balance**

Checking Account Mission Investment Fund Endowment Fund (Fund A) Subtotal Less: Memorials/Dedications/Restricted Cash	15,130 109,283 <u>270,973</u>	395,386 23 <u>,150</u>
Less: Memorials/Dedications/Restricted Cash		23 <u>,150</u>
Unrestricted Cash Balance		372,236

#### Year to Date Information

	Budget	Actual
From Members to General Fund (Through April 30, 2020) **	37,601	48,263
Total Expenses	44,448	35,779

#### Memorial/Dedicated/Restricted Information

Balance, April 1, 2020 New Dedicated	19,780
Lottig Memorial Designated	1,300
Undesignated Memorial	50
Projection System	1,000
WELCA	53
Youth Group	1,000
VBS	(33)
Balance, April 30, 2020	23,150

\*\*\*Due to the bookkeeping transition, two months of Synod Benevolence was paid in April.