



Faith Matters

Becky's Billet-doux

Christian Living

*The prince should think: Christ has served me and made everything to follow him; therefore, I should also serve my neighbor, protect him and everything that belongs to him. That is why God has given me this office, and I have it that I might serve him. That would be a good prince and ruler. When a prince sees his neighbor oppressed, he should think: That concerns me! I must protect and shield my neighbor ... the same is true for shoemaker, tailor, scribe, or reader. **If he is a Christian tailor, he will say: I make these clothes because God has bidden me do so, so that I can help and serve my neighbor.** When a Christian does not serve the other, God is not present; that is not Christian living.*

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! This is the cry from church buildings on Easter Morning! This is salvation, triumph over death and the grave. This is the conquering of our sins and of the enemy. This is the death of death. Alleluia, indeed! Now what? Now we have hope for eternity, but what about today? If Jesus saves us, what are we to do? Nothing? Yes, nothing. There is nothing more to do. It has all been done. Now we simply live this life. Isn't that freeing news? There is no pressure, no plan of action, no expectations. Since you don't have to do anything... what do you want to do? Do you have any desire to live the best life you can? Do you yearn for the peace that God delivers by the truckload? Do you have any desire to live the "Christian life?"

What is the "Christian life?" According to Luther's 1522 sermon, Christian living is serving the neighbor. Jesus has already met your needs (i.e. salvation), so living in Christ is serving the neighbor. How do we do that? Who is my "neighbor" and what does "serving" look like? My "neighbor" is anyone around me, everyone I see, and the people across the globe in need. That's inclusive. That's

everyone. The more difficult question is, 'what is serving?' Anything that takes of you and is given for 'the other,' is serving. Maybe this is time, talent, help, a bowl of soup, a ride to church or the doctor or the store, financial support, a smile, holding a door, driving slower so someone can change lanes in front of you.... This too is an inexhaustible list. It even sounds exhausting! When would you have time to do your job if your only focus was on serving others?

Luther said, "If he is a Christian tailor, he will say: I make these clothes because God has bidden me do so, so that I can earn a living, so that I can help and serve my neighbor." Service happens individually and in groups, through churches and organizations, service happens in the community and in your neighborhood. It happens when you go to work and do your job well. It happens as you go through your day. It becomes who you are. It becomes Who you are because of Whose you are. It happens precisely because God is present and he is changing your heart, your focus and your living.

Pastor Becky

Prayer of the Month

Holy Lord, full of forgiveness and life, we ask for your presence with us as we enter the glorious season of Easter. May your life fill us to the brim and spill over to splash life and joy onto those around us. Help us to love our neighbor as you love us. We ask in Jesus name, Amen.

Prayer Requests

- † Adams, Calvin (Angie Gullett's dad, prayer for salvation; health)
- † Ard, Farrell & Kellie (Healing)
- † Arnold, Dale (Praise, cancer free!)
- † Burditt, Larry (Angie Gullett's brother-in-law, Parkinson's & his dad for healing)
- † Collerd, Tyler
- † Eilers, Melvin (healing)
- † Estrada, Mary
- † Pr. Fisks, Paul (healing)
- † Fowler, Ginnie (treatments)
- † Fowler, Jerry
- † Gonzales, Lisa (healing)
- † Graves, Steve (rec. from surgeries)
- † Gullett, Angie (eye injections, health)
- † Pr. Kaskela, Jerry (healing)
- † Kirk family in the loss of Kevin
- † Hobson, Daisy (praise, doing well, she expresses thanks to all for prayers)
- † McClelland, Lee (Sally's nephew)
- † McGee, Helen (issues with left hand)
- † Merritt, Gertrude (broken clavicle, Physical Rehab)
- † Moore Family (loss of Frances)
- † Mullins, Ellie (5 yr old on kidney transplant list)
- † Nance, Bodhi (Bobby & Marlene Watson's grandson-health)
- † Otwell, Joyce (health)
- † Perez, Marsha (health)
- † Pitt, Pam (recovery from surgeries)
- † Reno, Sherita (healing)
- † Scott, Becca (for son and grandson, Dillon and Lincoln—custody issue)
- † Shipley, Sharon (Bobby Watson's sister, health)
- † Silhan, Charlie (Linda Wright's son's father—in-law– Covid in hosp.)
- † Southard, John (congestive heart failure)
- † Strickland, Gary (salvation)
- † Vencil, Naylan (healing)
- † Watson, Marlene (health)
- † Watts, Patricia (healing)
- † West, Kim (healing)

Prayers for Ethiopian Elections

Below is an excerpt of a personal communication between President Andagre of the North Central Ethiopia Synod. It concerns the current crisis in Ethiopia. The international press has been very hard on the Prime Minister, Abby. There has been much blood shed in Tigray. The country of Ethiopia suffered under the corrupt rule of this small area of the country in the North, Tigray, for nearly 3 decades. From the leadership of the church and others the conflict is the result of the unrelenting push of the Tigray power forces to retake the control they lost in the last election. It could well be that China has economic interests there, seeking control of essential minerals etc.

"Dr. Abey our PM is doing his best to take this country forward to democracy and prosperity. In spite of all his limitation he

is a best leader ever this country had. I know what is going on among the international community but the truth is on the other round. This week the united nation council held and Rash and China stand besides us by using their veto power. As you may know in the history of Ethiopia, America never stand besides us in critical time like Italian invasion, Somalia invasion and while TPLF (The Tigray liberation front) hammering us for the last 27 years and such a time. The funny thing is we Ethiopian love USA and Israel more than other country. As you know the Ethiopian politics is water politics which strongly connected with Egypt and Sudan, still USA is stand with Egypt and Sudan both in admiration of Trump and Biden. In Ethiopia national election will held on May. Pray for us to have peaceful election and to be wise to do the right choice."



Volunteers Needed

Did you know that there are many ways to serve at FF? You can sign-up to host a fellowship event, usher, greet, help in the office, Sunday morning reader... please sign up on the clipboard outside

the Sanctuary if interested.

READERS NEEDED

Please prayerfully consider serving during worship as a reader. Pastor will be happy to answer any questions you have. A sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex.

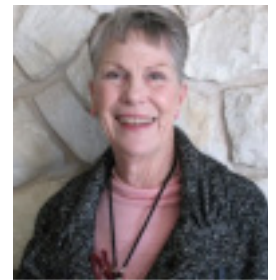


Meet Our Board Members

Meet the last but not least of our Board Members, Bill White. Bill joined LCRL March 29, 1981, before joined Faith Fellowship. He has been married to Betty since January 28, 1983. He and Betty own House of Vacuums at 229 E. University. Bill is the Board Chair on Properties. Everyone loves to see his smiling face and his joyful personality. We are grateful he is here and a part of this church family.



Welcome



Please welcome Jo Boring who joined us March 7. Jo is a retired Dental Hygienist, and moved to Odessa in 1983, to work for Dr. Meek.

Jo has two children from a previous marriage, Carmen Witt, and Zeb Foster. Jo, is recently widowed. She married Wayne in 1991, and they adopted 2 children, Jesse Boring, and Amber Bridges.

Jo and Wayne were members of LCRL years ago and Jesse and Amber were baptized here. She has 5 grandchildren.



Mickey mouse and toy trucks and love to cuddle with Mommy all the time.



Hello to my fellow members at Faith Fellowship. On April 18 we will be having a fundraising auction. The theme of this auction

is Garden Party. We will have flower pots that have a number on the inside that we will bid on. The number inside that pot will coincide with a prize. As prizes become available they will be on display. This is going to be a blind auction you will bid on the pot with without knowing what prize coincides with that flower pot. At the end of the auction we will all reveal our number and auctioneer well match prizes to your number. We have set up three pots for silent auction so that if you are not going to be able to attend the live auction you can still make a bid. Please make a plan to attend this fun event and help raise money for our stages of the cross prayer walk. Lunch will be served as well.

I thought you might like to know a little bit about our Bobby project family to be known as BPF from now on.

Lisa is our mother she has four beautiful children. She has just taken and passed her nurses assistant test.

The oldest son's birthday is in October He loves books and love to play games on an Ipad also loves to Google everything he is a very smart boy.

The second son's birthday is in July. He loves



The oldest daughter's birthday is in November. She loves to dress up in tutus and loves Minnie mouse.

The baby girl's birthday is in December. She loves to snuggle with Mom and loves to drink bottles and sleep.

Lisa and her 2nd son are both cancer survivors.

The CARES Act and Charitable Giving

CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2021

Did you know Congress recently passed a new Act that could affect your charitable giving this year?

The Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021 (H.R. 133) has three important provisions that may positively impact your charitable giving through the end of the year!

This Act, which was signed into law in December 2020, provided an additional injection of stimulus into the economy, including relief for businesses and non-profits. There were also specific provisions that were extended from the CARES Act of March 2020 for those who support their favorite charities.

Specifically, these three provisions may impact your giving through the end of calendar year 2021.

1. You may deduct cash donations up to 100% of adjusted gross income through December 31, 2021, if you itemize your deductions. The CARES Act provision for cash donations was set to expire on December 31, 2020 but has been extended. The limit for cash contributions was 60% of adjusted gross income prior to both acts being passed, which may increase the opportunity to give more this year to help offset income.

2. For those who do not itemize, the above-the-line deduction was extended through December 31, 2021 as well, with an added boost. Non-itemizers can now deduct \$300 per filer (\$600 for joint filers) as an above-the-line deduction. This is an increase from the CARES act which was limited to a \$300 deduction per tax return, including joint filers.

3. The Consolidated Appropriations Act extended giving incentives for corporations, as well. Through 2021, corporations can give up to 25% of their taxable income through cash donations or food inventory. This is an increase from the 10% deduction allowed against taxable income prior to these acts being passed.

Contact your financial planner or tax advisor for more information.

Schedule of Events

- 🕒 Ladies Bible Study - Tuesdays - 10:00 - 11:00 AM
- 🕒 Wednesdays - Will resume on April 28 at 6:00 PM You can still see the Sundays readings on our Facebook page Wednesdays, after 5pm with Ron Harrison.
- 🕒 Sunday School for all ages - Sundays - 10:00 AM
- 🕒 Worship Service - Sundays - 11:00 AM



- 🕒 April 1- Maundy Thursday Service at Hope, 7:00 p.m., 2003 N. "A" St., Midland.
- 🕒 April 2 Good Friday Service at FF, 7:00 p.m., 1603 N Grandview, Odessa
- 🕒 April 4 - Easter Celebration and Baptism
- 🕒 April 18 - Garden Party Luncheon Fellowship & Fundraiser after the Service
- 🕒 April 20 - FF Board Mtg 6:00PM
- 🕒 April 21 - 23 Pastor in Minneapolis for LCMC Board Mtg.
- 🕒 April 28 - Theology Study resumes 6:00PM

Please visit the church calendar on the website for more information at <https://faithfellowshipodessa.org/church-calendar/>





“Behold, I Make All Things New,”

Rev. 21:5 is the theme for the 2021 Augustana District Convention on May 1st. Our congregation needs a voting delegate to represent us. The plan is for this convention to

be in-person, but virtual attendance will be offered. If you'd like to be a voting delegate, please let pastor know by April 18th. Donations have been pledged to support travel to the convention for a delegate. On-line attendance is also encouraged.



Faith Fellowship gave to the following Ministries a 5% of our tithes:

- December: A person in need
- January: Reflections Ministries of Texas
- February: West Texas Gifts of Hope
- The other 5% goes to Augustana District



What is the meaning and use of liturgical colors?

For the first three days of Holy Week, we use scarlet or purple representing the deep color of blood.

Maundy Thursday, celebrated as the institution of the Lord's Supper, scarlet or white is used.

Good Friday, no vestments or paraments are used on this day, after the stripping of the altar on Maundy Thursday night.

Vigil of Easter, white as the color of joy in the resurrection is used on this night.

On Easter Day, gold may be used. White is the alternate, perhaps with gold running through it. The gold color indicates that this day is the “queen of feast,” unique in the entire church year.

The Sundays of Easter, white is used.

Classifieds

We are offering ad space for \$5 donations in our Newsletter. If you have:

- a business you want to promote;
- something you want to sell;
- someone you need to hire;
- or are looking for recommendations

Please fill out a form, or email the office and we'll put it in the next Newsletter.



Our Mission is to Gather God's people, and to Grow in faith and Service to Christ

Church Directory

Office Email office@faithfellowshipodessa.org

Office Tel (432) 362-2549

Office Fax: (432) 362-0573

Website <https://faithfellowshipodessa.org>

Address:

1603 North Grandview Avenue

Odessa, TX 79761

Pastor's Hours

Sunday 8:00-noon

Monday 1-4:00 office, 5-9:00 Doctoral class

Tuesday 8:45-5:00

Wednesday 9:30-7:00

Thursday - Midland for Hope

Friday Flex hours for Work and Study

Best times to catch her in the office are Tuesday mornings (9 to noon) and Wednesdays (9:30 to 6:00). Home visits are made, typically, on Tuesday afternoon.