



Mountain *Mover*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH | JULY 2025

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pastor's Thoughts

by Pr. Marvin Havard, p.1

"Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor..."

by Pr. Junfeng Tan, p.3

Welcoming the Voice of Change:

by Dr. Jerry Maynard, p.5

Faith Camp & Kids' Meals

p.9

Hurricane Preparedness

p.11

HAPPY
4TH OF JULY
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INDEPENDENCE DAY USA



The church office and school will be closed

Pastor's Thoughts

by Pastor Marvin Havard, Senior Pastor



"We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another." Romans 12:5

Throughout this past program year, we have gathered under the theme of "Together!" We've explored what it means to be united by our faith in Jesus, how our individual gifts contribute to the full picture of God's work in our community, and explored Bonhoeffer's *Life Together* as a guide for Christian community.

What happens when we don't agree? How do we deal with conflict in our personal lives and in our congregation? Is there room for differences of opinion? Make space in your calendar on August 3 for an exciting chance to explore these questions with Rev. Arthur Murphy. I'm giving up the remainder of my space on this page because this is such an important topic and opportunity for us as a congregation. I hope to see you all there!



Faith and Crucial Conversation Rev. Arthur Murphy

YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT YOURSELF -

Did you know that everyone has a unique "conflict style?" And that we can all approach these hard issues with an open mind and be willing to learn from each other? We can create an environment that welcomes crucial conversations on important issues that can bring us together, rather than separate us! Through techniques grounded in emotional intelligence, and using the tools of respectful listening and mutual invitation, we can learn and grow



FAITH & CRUCIAL CONVERSATIONS

SUNDAY | August 3, 2025

10:45 AM – 1:00 PM

including lunch for all

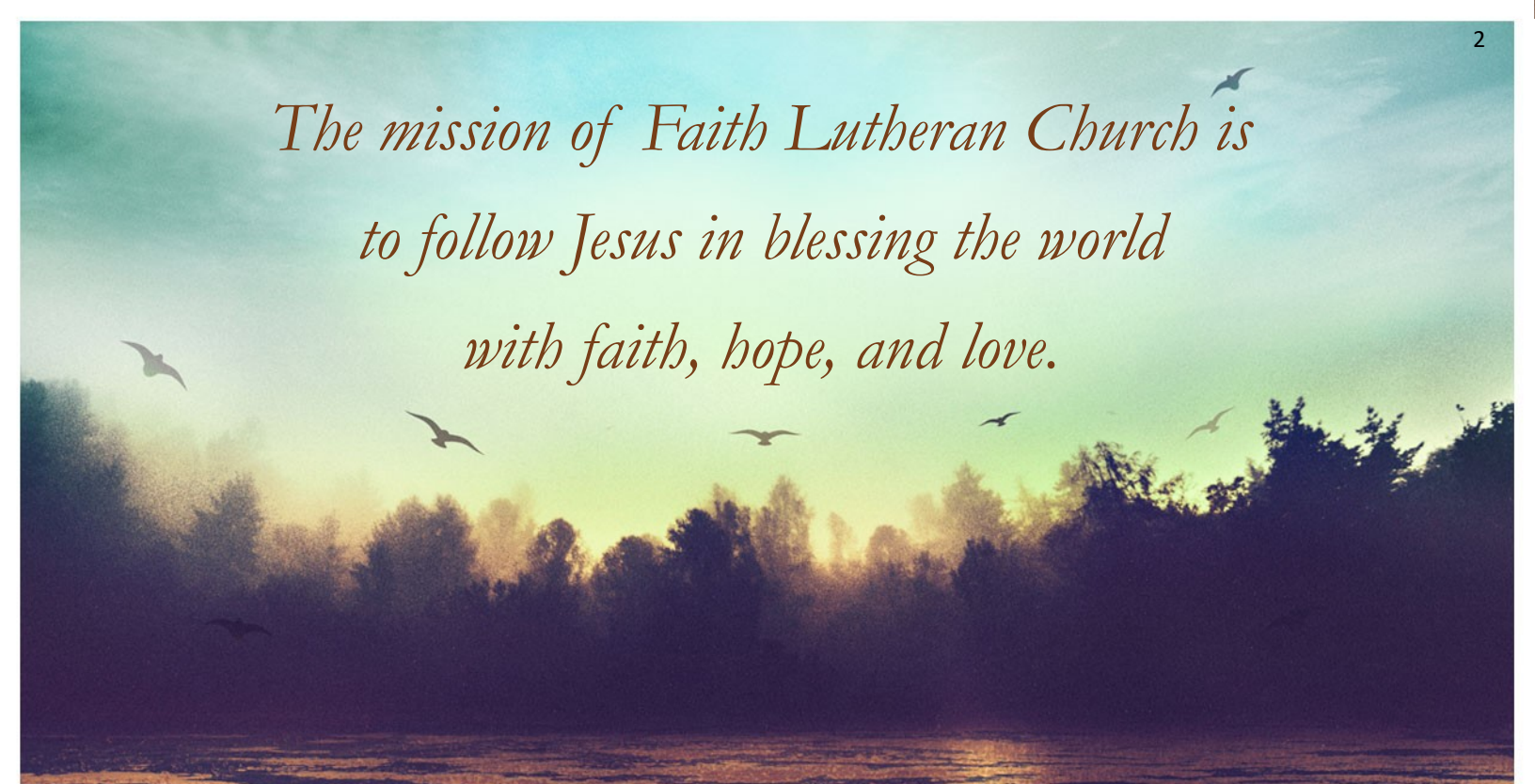
How did Jesus deal with conflict?

We live in a time of great division, especially on social issues...

How can we have a civil conversation on a controversial topic with someone who disagrees with us on a particular issue, without creating division, or causing damage to our personal relationships?

That is, how can we have "difficult conversations" on social issues that reasonable people may disagree on, but without creating further conflict?

Come and see! Please join us!



*The mission of Faith Lutheran Church is
to follow Jesus in blessing the world
with faith, hope, and love.*

Continued...

together, rather than create division and animosity between us.

YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT OTHERS -

It has been said that through education comes understanding, and through understanding comes tolerance, and through tolerance comes peace. Jesus modeled for us how to manage conflict and, as Christians, we are called to follow his leadership in our relationships with others.

Please join us as Rev. Arthur Murphy leads us through a workshop he's doing as part of his postgraduate work, on how we can improve our skills on having "crucial conversations" without damaging our relationships with others—all based on the teachings of Jesus Christ.

At this gathering, you can expect to have guidelines for respectful communication that we all can agree to follow. We will invite all participants to share their experiences and perspectives. We will explore how to have better conversations at home, at work, and at church; and take time to get to know more about Jesus and one another.

We will not require a long-term commitment; try to convince others that we are right or force anyone to change; make you feel uncomfortable; or bore you to death.

JESUS WILL BE OUR GUIDE FOR THIS GATHERING

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

“Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor...”

by Pastor Junfeng Tan, Associate Pastor



As the Fourth of July approaches, my heart, as a naturalized U.S. citizen, is filled with gratitude. I often recall my naturalization ceremony, which took place in federal court in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, 15 years ago. That moment remains etched in my memory as one of profound joy and thanksgiving. Today, I'd like to share a few reflections on America as a nation shaped by refugees and immigrants.

My first reflection comes from a recent trip to New Orleans for the 2025 Gulf Coast Synod Assembly. On the evening of May 16, I took a walk along the Riverfront and came across a striking sculpture—an immigrant family of four on one side, and on the other, Lady Liberty looking out over the mighty Mississippi River, a powerful symbol of hope and freedom. I was deeply moved by the inscription:

“Dedicated to the courageous men and women who left their homeland, seeking freedom, opportunity, and a better life in a new country.”

Standing before the monument, I felt humbled and blessed to be one of the millions who have journeyed to the United States in search of a better future. It meant a lot to see the reason behind my own journey so clearly and beautifully affirmed.

My second reflection centers on the Statue of Liberty. In 2018, my family and I visited this iconic monument in New York City—a symbol that had captured my imagination and inspired my American dream long before I arrived in the U.S. nearly 28 years ago as a graduate student. It was at the base of Lady Liberty that I first read Emma Lazarus's famous poem, "The New Colossus," and was profoundly moved:

*Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!*



Later, I learned that Emma Lazarus (1849-1887) was an accomplished poet with deep Jewish spirituality. According to the official Statue of Liberty website, her work as an aide for Jewish immigrants detained by Castle Garden officials profoundly impacted her writing, particularly the plight of the Russian Jews she encountered.

Today, when I reread these words of Emma Lazarus, I am reminded of another Jewish voice—that of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As an infant, Jesus and His family fled to Egypt as refugees. In His final parable recorded in the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus says: “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” (Matthew 25:34–36) As Christians, we are called by Christ to care for the vulnerable, the poor, and the stranger, to welcome those seeking refuge, freedom, and a new beginning.

This leads to my third reflection—a question: Will America continue to welcome refugees and immigrants from around the world? Will the moral vision rooted in the Judeo-Christian tradition continue to inspire our nation to be a beacon of hope for those whose hopes are being denied in their homelands?

Continued on next page...

Faith's Zoom Prayer meeting Tuesday, July 15 @ 7:00 PM

sing prayer songs
share prayer concerns
pray for strength,
hope, and healing



Scan for
Zoom Link

To submit a prayer request, please email to jtan@faithbellaire.org.

Continued...

Finally, my heart turns to Global Refuge (formerly known as Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service) and other refugee resettlement agencies. They have been on our congregation's prayer list for months. Let us continue to lift them up, asking our Lord and Savior to be with them and strengthen them as they tirelessly work to resettle those displaced by war, persecution, and natural disaster—both here in the United States and around the world. May God bless them as they face the challenges of our time and carry out their God-given mission. Let us also continue to pray for our brothers and sisters of St. James Lutheran/Santiago Apostol and other immigrant congregations in our synod and across the country. May God watch over them and grant them peace, safety and strength.

May God bless America, and may we continue to be a light for those seeking hope and refuge.

Happy Fourth of July!



Welcoming the Voice of Change: A Summer of Renewal in Our Worship Life

by Rev. Dr. Jerry Maynard, Director of Worship & Digital Ministries



As we enter the summer season, our culture embraces longer days with scorching heat, humidity, and plenty of time for relaxation. Spiritually speaking, summer is a time when creation reminds us that change is always moving, reshaping, inviting.

This summer, we are embracing a simple but powerful spiritual principle: *change is the first and final voice we should always welcome.*

At the very beginning of scripture, we read that God spoke creation into being; that first voice is the voice of movement — separating light from darkness, waters from land, calling life into places of despair. Continuing in our reading of scripture, we are promised “a new heaven and a new earth” — a final voice of change that gathers all things into God’s renewing love.

Change, then, is not something we resist or fear but rather, something we welcome, knowing that God is already there, preparing the way ahead.

What does this mean for us as a community?

This summer, we are adopting a **wholistic** and **thematic** approach to living as a worshipping community.

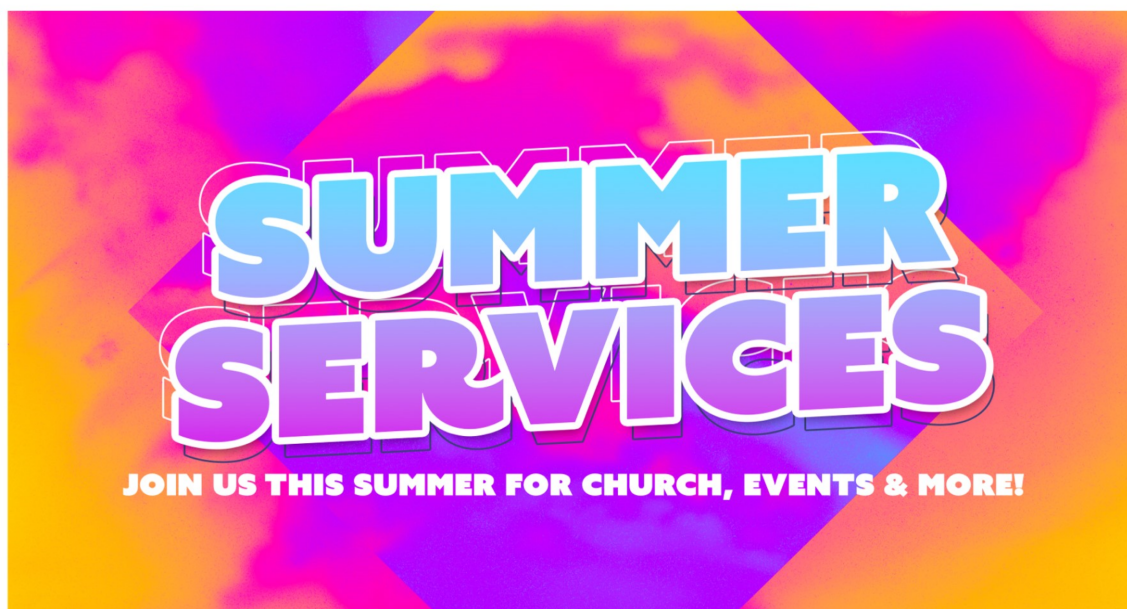
- **Wholistic:** Emphasizes integration of the full human experience; Body, Mind, Spirit, Heart - not merely an intellectual assent but a complete adherence to the dynamism of the interior life.
- **Thematic:** Allows us to expand our worship pragmatically so that we can connect our church community with members of the local community, including local artists, community organizations, and much more. We will begin by focusing on Creation Care with the “Season of Creation” an ecumenical time of the year when many Christian communities spend a month praying and discerning how they want to protect creation.

You might ask: Why change something that’s familiar? Namely, the familiar can be a gift, but it can also become a comfort zone that no longer stretches us. Welcoming change is one of the surest ways to stay awake to God’s surprises. Change reminds us that faith is a journey, not a fixed place.



In his book *Life Together*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer reminds us, “The Christian cannot simply take for granted the privilege of living among other Christians.” This is especially true when we gather in worship: it is a privilege, a gift, to let God shape us anew so let us not take it for granted.

Together, let us practice the holy art of welcoming the new, knowing that it is in the movement of change that we meet the living God.



Installation of Bishop Tracey Breashears Schultz

On Saturday, May 17, at the Synod Assembly, Bishop's Associate Tracey Breashears Schultz was elected as the 4th bishop of the Gulf Coast Synod. This summer, Bishop-elect Tracey Breashears Schultz will attend New Bishop Formation and the ELCA Churchwide Assembly. She and Bishop Michael Rinehart will begin the gradual process of handing over the duties of the office, and she will officially begin as Bishop on September 1. **Sunday, September 7, at 4:00 PM, Bishop Tracey Breashears Schultz will be installed at Living Word Lutheran Church in Katy, Texas, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton presiding.**

Join Bishop-Elect Tracey and Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton at the Lutherhill Gala.



Please join us for a night of celebration at Lutherhill's 19th Annual S'mores & Champagne Gala! Gather with friends, family, and alumni to raise funds that make it possible for Lutherhill to continue providing quality outdoor ministry for all ages at our La Grange and Galveston locations.

Prepare for an unforgettable evening – featuring silent & live auctions, memorable photo booth moments, a thrilling raffle, and of course, great food, wonderful company, and plenty of dancing!

Mark your calendars...Ticket sales open in June! Be sure to secure your place early for what is destined to be the BEST.NIGHT.EVER.!



Our mission is to serve the poor, hungry, disabled, and otherwise needy while respecting their religious, ethnic or cultural differences.

713-961-3993 | P.O. Box 27924, Houston, Texas 77227-7924



Volunteer with CCSC Food Pantry

*For I was hungry and you gave me food.
(Matthew 25:35)*

Come to join the Faith food pantry volunteer team! We serve as receptionists, interviewers, or packers.

Location:

St. Luke's United Methodist Church Gethsemane Campus (6856 Bellaire Blvd, Houston, TX 77074)

Saturdays @ 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

July 12, August 9, September 13, October 11, November 8, and December 6

To join the Faith Food Pantry Team or for more information, contact Pastor Tan at itan@faithbellaire.org or 832-540-6802.



CCSC needs manual can openers!



CCSC
Christian
Community
Service
Center

Our Pantries Need

Hearty Soups
(with meat or beans)
Peanut Butter
Boxed Dry Cereal
Pasta Sauce
Canned Tuna or Chicken
Canned Fruit (all types)
Canned Vegetables (all types)
Ready-to-Eat Foods (cereal
bars, Vienna sausage, etc.)

THANK YOU!



Help students start the school year strong

Since 1986, CCSC has been helping students from low-income families prepare for the first day of school. This year's program will provide 4,000 students with school supplies, a backpack and a \$50 clothing gift card.

Here is how you can equip students with the supplies they need to feel confident and be successful:

GIVE Online

<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/ccscbacktoschoolsupplies>

Volunteer

July: Supply Bag Assembly

Package school supplies into pre-K through 12th grade bags.

Volunteer ages: 5+

Parental supervision is required for children ages 12 and under.

August: Community Event

Distribute school supply bags, backpacks and gift cards to clients.

Volunteer ages: 15+

Bilingual English/Spanish volunteers needed for some roles.



\$75

provides brand-new school supplies, a backpack, and a clothing gift card to a child in need.

Second Sunday Service



July 13, 2025

10:45 AM

*Packing Rice & Beans
for CCSC Food Pantry*

Each year Faith Camp campers partner with local organizations that make a difference in our communities.

This year we are partnering with:



Kids' Meals delivers over 9,000 meals daily to preschool-aged children across 56 zip codes in Greater Houston

We need your help collecting:



Protein

Peanut Butter Crackers
Jerky
Tuna Packs



Fruit

Fruit Cups
Individual Applesauce
100% Fruit Snacks



Snack

Snack bags of:
SkinnyPop
Pretzels



Drink

8oz Waterbottles
100% Juice Boxes

We are partnering with Kids' Meals, Inc. who delivers over 9000 meals daily to preschool children daily in the greater Houston area.

Our goal is to gather enough supplies to make 1,000 meals, and we need your help! Your donation will help to buy the supplies needed to make the meals.

From now until the end of July, we are gathering supplies for our DC campers to put together meals in partnership with this very impactful organization in our community.

If you don't have time to shop but want to help, scan the QR code below. We will buy items needed in bulk to fill the bags.





Faith Camp

INVENTORS

July 7-11 | July 14-18 | July 21-25

Adult volunteers are needed for a few hours each day to:

- ♦ take pictures
- ♦ help with crafts
- ♦ Be a PAP (Positive Adult Presence)

Email info@faithbellaire.org to volunteer for a few hours, a day or a week.



EVELYN'S PARK
Conservancy

HELLO SUMMER!

MONDAY

Bubbles & Board Games
11 AM - 12 PM

TUESDAY

Tai Chi
9 AM - 9:30 AM

Art in the Park
10 AM - 12 PM

Inferno Hot Pilates
6 PM - 7 PM

WEDNESDAY

Bubbles & Board Games
11 AM - 12 PM

Bingo
6 PM - 8 PM

THURSDAY

Art in the Park
10 AM - 12 PM

Live Music
6 PM - 8 PM

FRIDAY

Circle Time
11 AM - 12 PM

Live Music
6 PM - 9 PM

SATURDAY

Danz Jamz
8 AM - 8:45 AM

4400 BELLAIRE BLVD | BELLAIRE, TX 77401

Hurricane Preparedness - 72 Hour Lutheran

Hurricane season is from **June 1 through November 30**. We may not be as prepared as we need to be. We encourage each and every one of you to become a **72 Hour Lutheran**, a person who has enough supplies in their home to meet their household's basic needs for 72 hours.

- Discuss the type of hazards that could affect your family. Know your home's vulnerability to storm surge, flooding, and wind. Locate a safe room or the safest areas in your home for each hurricane hazard. In certain circumstances, the safest areas may not be your home but within your community.
- Create a **disaster supply kit**
 - Proper identification
 - Immunization records
 - Medicines, Prescriptions
 - Waterproof bag for important documents and items
 - Flashlight/Batteries
 - Battery operated and NOAA weather radio
 - Fully charged cellphone, charger, power bank, etc.
 - Access to a traditional (non-wireless) landline phone, in your home or at a nearby trusted location.
 - Cash (with small bills)
 - Extra keys
 - Tools – keep a set with you during the storm
 - Vehicle fuel tank (kept filled)
 - Pet care items, including drinking water
- Make a plan now for what to do with your pets if you need to evacuate.
- Call the church and make sure that they have all your information.
- Stock up on **non-perishable emergency supplies**
 - One gallon of water per person per day
 - Snack foods
 - Cooking tools
 - BBQ, camp stove, or other method of heating food
 - Non-electric can opener
 - Fuel, oil for generators, chainsaws, etc.
 - Paper plates and plastic utensils
 - First-aid kit
 - Toiletries, hygiene items, moist wipes
 - Weather & news apps downloaded to devices
 - Bug repellent
 - Duct tape
 - Tarps
- If necessary, determine an escape route from your home and designate places to meet. (Note: these should be measured in tens of miles, rather than hundreds of miles.) Have an out-of-state friend as a family contact so all your family members have a single point of contact.



Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Faith Lutheran Church

4600 Bellaire Boulevard at Avenue B
Bellaire, Texas 77401

Office: 713-664-3048

Fax: 713-664-3371

Faith Day School: 713-664-3233

Mother's Day Out: 713-664-3233

Faith House: 713-664-3048

FaithBellaire.org

FaithDaySchool.org

FaithHouseHouston.org

info@faithbellaire.org

Pr. Marvin Havard

Pr. Junfeng Tan

Stacy Williams

Dr. Jerry Maynard

John Vickery

Courtney Lerch

Kendolyn Pope

Alan Balius

Yu Cao

Patricia Deckard

Lin Chen

Malcolm Mathis

Teresa Roman

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Operations

Director of Worship & Digital Ministries

Pastoral Intern

Director of Faith Formation

Director of Faith Schools

Organist/Choir Director

Office Coordinator

Office Coordinator

Faith Formation Admin Assistant

Facility Sexton

Accounting Clerk

