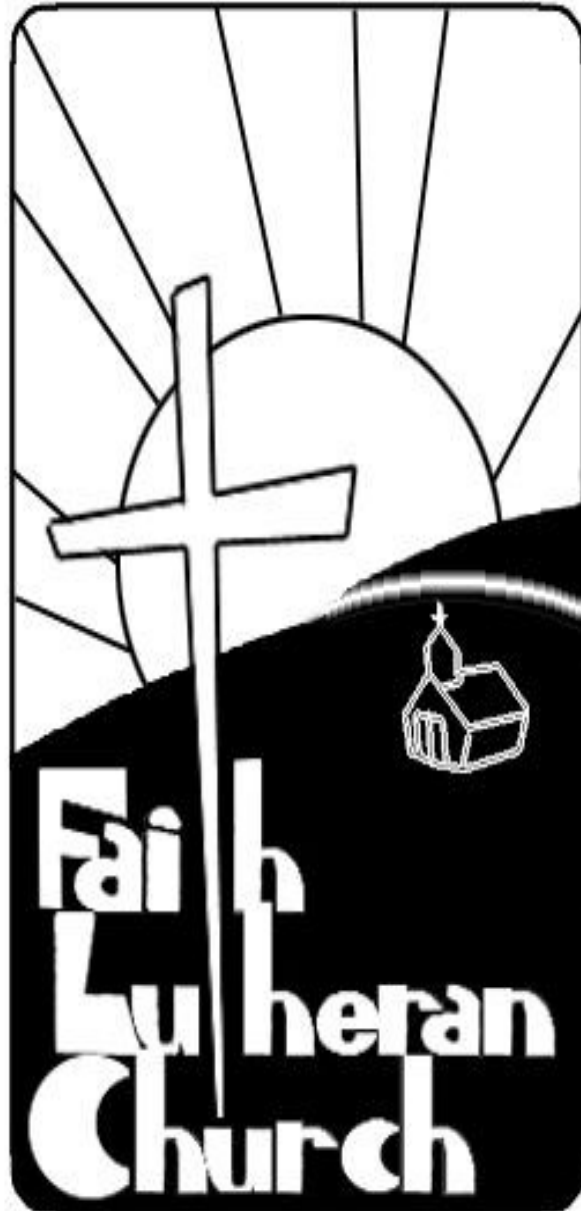


# The Grapevine

May 2019

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## Clippings from the Vinedresser



*Though the fig tree does not blossom,  
and no fruit is on the vines;  
though the produce of the olive fails  
and the fields yield no food;  
though the flock is cut off from the fold  
and there is no herd in the stalls,  
yet I will rejoice in the LORD;  
I will exult in the God of my salvation.  
GOD, the Lord, is my strength.*  
-Habakkuk 3:16-19a

The prophet Habakkuk, writing at various times from 609-587 BCE, was concerned about God's justice being done in an increasingly unjust world. His world was a world of chaos, where superpower bullies like the Babylonians, ran roughshod over the lesser kingdoms. Judah, the remaining kingdom of the Jews (Israel long having disappeared in 722 BCE), was right in the sights of Babylon, who sought to control the trade route that ran through Judah down to Egypt. The Judean kings variously cowed to the Babylonians, played up to the Egyptians, and/or defied Babylon. It depended mostly on what they could get personally out of the deal. They, like politicians today it seems, were in it for what they could get; the ordinary folks were not often thought of.

Our text comes from the time when the Babylonians were putting the final touches on deporting Judah's elite classes. The end had come. The temple lay in heaps, the walls around the city were torn down. In spite of all the devastation Habakkuk sings a song of praise basically saying, God is still in control; I will still put on trust in God.

That is not an easy thing to do, is it? When the chips are down, when it looks as if God no longer can do the things we expect God to do, it is much easier to look elsewhere. Many of Habakkuk's contemporaries put their trust in mighty Egypt (who let them down).

But it is not only when things aren't going well that we stagger in our faith. Maybe it is just as hard, even harder, to trust in God when things are going too well. Who needs God? I have a great job, a fat nest egg, a loving family, good health. I'll pat myself on the back and reap the benefits of my hard work.

What Habakkuk's song really gets at is that our trust needs to be in God at all times. There will come times when our lives go through some incredibly dark periods—death, cancer, relationship breakdowns to name a few. There will also be times when we are soaring with the birds, high as kites. Most of the time, however, life is pretty routine and stable. In every situation, God is in control. In every situation, our trust needs to be in the God who said, "Let there be," and there was; in the God who said, "No one will snatch you from my Father's hands," and they can't.

Other people, other nations, other products will vie for our faith, promising a brand of salvation that ultimately will leave us empty. But they are so persuasive, come wrapped up in such pretty bows, sound so logical and innocuous. But there really is only one way, the way Jesus trod. There is only one God, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. When our faith is in God, we will be able to pull through the dark times, avoid the pitfalls of the high times, and walk upright through the routine days. All because God, through the Spirit of the risen Christ lives in, through, and with us, never to depart.

May we have that Easter faith today and always.

*"But there really is  
only one way, the way  
Jesus trod. There is  
only one God..."*

TRUST  
TRUST  
TRUST

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## Choir Notes

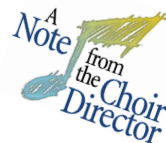
This will be our last “choir notes” until September. Our last practice for this season will be May 22.

I would like to thank our talented accompanist Tammy, and all the choir members for your faithful attendance and support this year. It was wonderful to have an increase in our membership this year. It

is a joy and a privilege to work with all of you each week.

I hope that everyone has an enjoyable summer and that you will all return in the fall with fresh voices and enthusiasm.

Laurie



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## FLM Annual Meeting

On Sunday, May 5, the annual meeting of Faith Lutheran Ministries (Faith Lutheran Church, Faith Place, Faith Place Support Services) will be held. The meeting will take place during Fellowship Hour immediately following church.

The Bulletin of Reports has been in your mailboxes since April 21. Please be sure

to read your report, mark any questions or concerns you may have, then come prepared to participate in the meeting.

As the meeting is taking place during Fellowship Hour you're also asked to bring a potluck dish of finger foods.

See you at the meeting!



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## News from the GTA East

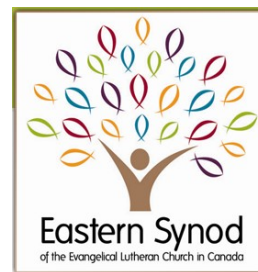
The GTA East group of ELCIC congregations, Epiphany (Scarborough), Peace (Pickering), Christ the King (Whitby), Christ (Peterborough) and Faith (Oshawa) have a few events planned for 2019:

- 1 On May 26, we will be having a service of Healing and Holy Communion at Peace, Pickering. It will be held in the late afternoon. This will be an opportunity to bring our hurts and pains, be they physical, spiritual, mental, and have healing prayers said over them.
- 2 October 19-20 we are planning our second annual Servant Sunday (this year including Saturday as a day of preparation.) All the churches will

again participate and serve their particular communities. We gather on Saturday to prepare what we will be serving on Sunday.

- 3 A fun event, in keeping with last year's Oktoberfest, will be a 50s-60s night at Club Loreley. The date is pending availability of the hall, but early November is the target. It will be a dinner and dance.

If you have any comments, please share them with our representatives on the GTA East committee: Laurie Ikeda, Wendy Ness, Will and Lisa Bachewich.



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# DIRECTORY

## Faith Lutheran Ministries

We Worship Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

**Church Office** ..... 905-725-2755  
**email** ..... office@faithlutheranministries.ca  
**fax** ..... 905-576-8676

**Pastor**  
The Rev. Dennis Becker ..... 905-725-2755  
dbecker@elcic.ca

**Ministers**  
People of Faith Lutheran Church

**Faith Place Administration** ..905-576-8619  
Ray Latour, Administrator

**Support Services** ..... 905-436-1309  
Gabriele Albrecht, Manager

**Treasurer**  
Linda Fisher ..... 905-723-0291

**Faith Council**  
**Faith Council Chair:**  
Will Bachewich ..... 905-433-1606

**Vice Chair:**  
Paul Wolfenberg ..... 905-433-0265

**Secretary:**  
Leslie Morrow ..... 905-571-0845  
Ed Albrecht ..... 905-579-6803  
Vickie Goddard..... 905-432-7444  
Dayna Graham ..... 905-240-5984  
Kathy Habec ..... 905-723-6690  
Laurie Ikeda ..... 705-357-3488  
Joe Klimtschuck ..... 905-391-9213  
Andrea Leibrock ..... 905-728-4335  
Al Leibrock ..... 905-728-4335  
Wendy Ness ..... 905-576-5724  
Marty Schieman ..... 905-576-6051

**Sunday School**  
Lisa Bachewich ..... 905-433-1606

**Choir**  
Laurie Ikeda ..... 705-357-3488

**Women's Group**  
Elke Rosenau ..... 905-432-2240

**Youth**  
Tammy Becker ..... 905-720-2444

**Envelope Secretary**  
Gert Rosenau ..... 905-432-2240

### Communications Committee

**Finance Committee**  
Irvin Linkie ..... 905-723-0684

**Mutual Ministry Committee**  
Angela Hauke ..... 905- 723-3717

**Property Committee**  
Will Bachewich ..... 905-433-1606

### Program and Service Committee

**Social Committee**  
Dayna Graham ..... 289-240-5984

**Stewardship Committee**  
Vickie Goddard..... 905-432-7444

# May 2019



<p><b>Ushers:</b>                      5: Bob and Arlene Jacobs                      12: Ed Albrecht, Donna Jennings                      19: Joe and Grace Klimeschuck                      26: Bernie and Vivian Roth</p>	<p><b>Readers:</b>                      5: Arlene Jacobs                      12: Laurie Ikeda                      19: Grace Klimeschuck                      26: Bonnie Keates</p>	<p>1                      Choir, 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>2                      Women's Circle, 5:30,                      Club Loreley</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5                      Worship, 10:30                      Fellowship Hour                      FLM Annual Meeting</p>	<p>7                      Faith Council, 6:30</p>	<p>8                      Choir, 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12                      Sunday School, 10:30                      Worship, 10:30</p>	<p>14                      Bible Study, 9:45 a.m.</p>	<p>15                      Choir, 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19                      Worship, 10:30</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22                      Choir, 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>23                      Pint with the Pastor,                      7:00, p.m.</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25                      Coffee:                      5: Fellowship Hour                      12: Gabriele Albrecht                      19: Lori Wilson                      26: Vickie Goddard</p>
<p>26                      Sunday School, 10:30                      Worship, 10:30                      Healing Service, Peace                      Picking, 4:00</p>	<p>28                      Bible Study, 9:45 a.m.</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31                      Counters:                      Gert Rosenau                      Donna Jennings</p>	<p>Communion Set-up                      5: Laurie J, Wendy B                      19: Donna, Maureen                      Communion Servers:                      5: Paul &amp; Charlotte                      19: Vickie, Angela</p>

Faith Lutheran Church  
44 William Street West  
Oshawa, ON L1J 7N6  
[www.faithlutheranministries.ca](http://www.faithlutheranministries.ca)

