

Faith's Happenings...

April, 2019

Happy Birthday

Lois Burger	2nd
Mary Lou Fitzgerald	4th
Tom Jackling	11th
Ray Eifert	13th
Marie Rutherford	13th
Bonnie Wine	13th
Gary Boehler	13th
David Jacobson	13th
Ann Banting	14th
Barb Neilson	19th
Kathy Myers	22nd
Gloria DeMeritt	26th
Jeanne Kittleson	27th



*For God so loved
the world that he
gave his one and
only Son....*

JOHN 3:16, NIV

Happy Anniversary

Russ & Joyce Schultz	10th
Ed & Bonnie Wine	13th
Tom Newton & Toni Dufrene	17th
Gary & Marcia Wilkins	24th

**If we missed your name/date, we're sorry.
Please notify Barbra in the church office
to have your special dates added.**

April at a Glance

Mark your calendars now!

Men of Faith Breakfast: April 2

Ladies Luncheon: April 13

Wednesday evening soup suppers

Wednesday evening Lenten worship

See Holy Week schedule at right

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday	7:00 pm
Good Friday	7:00 pm
Easter Morning	7:00 am
	8:30 am
	10:30 am

Ways to Give

(Information from the Stewardship Committee)

Trusts and estate plans are ways to provide gifts to accomplish multiple purposes. The ELCA Foundation, Thrivent Financial or your own advisor are possible resources to help develop these advance gifts.

Men – You are Invited...

...to the April Men's Breakfast at Stefano's Restaurant (on Route 776 in front of Beall's Outlet). Meet at the restaurant on Tuesday, April 2, at 7:30 am for fun, food and fellowship. No sign-up required.

Long Term Prayer

In order to save the Sunday prayer list for current issues, we have created a special prayer list in our newsletter for long-term issues that need daily prayer. If you need to add someone to this list, contact Barbra in the church office (697-3313). Please keep these folks in your prayers on a regular basis.

Neal Schattauer, Steven Flagg, Joyce Hickman, Elizabeth Hickman, Carol Schleede, Roger DeMeritt, Michael Romanelli, Jim Buroker, Ethel Hunn, Jacky Magee, Ray Eifert, Danny DeGrood, Richard Wilder, Brittany Schneck, Monica Friend, Larry Hladun, Jim Kelly, Jack & Kathie Zura, Tom & Sandy McKitterick, Jim & Paul Rodvik, John Collins

Stephen Ministry in Our Congregation

Could you benefit from the confidential, one-to-one care and support of a Stephen Minister? Call (941) 681-0297.

April Ladies Luncheon

The Ladies of Faith Lutheran will expand our horizons with lunch on April 13th, 11:30 am, at Nicola's Italian restaurant (located at 4343 S Access Road, East Englewood). They have provided us with an abbreviated luncheon menu for groups. We will order off this menu (see sample on bulletin board in narthex) and they will provide separate checks for us.

Our headcount must be turned in Wednesday, April 10th, and needs to be as accurate as possible. I personally think this is the best Italian restaurant in Englewood! Come join us and see what you think!

Need more info? Call Kathie Wiley - 941-662-5383.

ELECTRONIC GIVING is now an option at Faith. Use this code to contribute and support God's work, or click on the code on our church website.



Welcome to Candace Montesi, our new Director of Music Ministries.

The Lemon Bay Chord Company

...will be presenting "The Best of the Past" on Saturday, April 6, 2:00 pm at Christ Lutheran Church. Cost is \$15 per ticket. See the flyer on the bulletin board by the office for details.



April 2019, Spring is upon us. A number of our church family, neighbors, family and friends have already made the seasonal migration north. This does not mean life in the church or community has slowed down. The Men's Breakfast, Ladies Luncheon and Relay for Life are a few of the events on our calendar.

Our Lenten Wednesday Soup and Worship will continue with services on April 3rd and 10th with our focus on the promises made in Baptism. Then we enter Holy Week. Beginning with worship on Palm Sunday, April 14th, our attention is drawn to Jerusalem, the temple, Jesus' life, suffering and death. Worship on Maundy Thursday invites us into the upper room as Jesus celebrates the Last Supper with his disciples. Worship on Good Friday we gather at the cross to hear Jesus' words and witness the depth of his sacrifice for us.

On Easter Sunday we will hear "The Rest of the Story", or maybe "The Best of the Story." But until then, we are left to focus on "the emblem of suffering and shame... (where Jesus) for a world of lost sinners was slain."

In 1 Corinthians 2:2, Paul writes, **For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.** (NRSV) This is the translation of the passage that I grew up with. Paul indicates his focus in ministry is on telling the story of Jesus, crucified for the sake of the world.

In my study of the text I found an interesting translation in the Contemporary English Version: **In fact, while I was with you, I made up my mind to speak only about Jesus Christ, who had been nailed to a cross.** (CEV) I think this translation does well to highlight the mission of Paul.

I made up my mind. Paul made a conscious decision, a commitment, to a particular course of action. In our lives we make conscious decisions all the time, but we also need commitment to follow through.

To speak only about Jesus Christ. I suspect there were many things Paul could have spoken about: The Roman emperor, the religious aristocracy, injustice, racism, slavery, exploitation and oppression. All of these are things we continue to experience in our world today. Instead Paul spoke only about Jesus who addressed all of these things as the brokenness of humanity that goes against God's desire for creation.

Who had been nailed to a cross. The pivotal event in human history that changes the world and our perspective. In focusing on the cross, we see the ultimate example of love in service as Jesus gives his life for the sin of to the world. In the cross we see the suffering servant have compassion for those who suffer with him. On the cross we learn the price for our sin is paid. On the cross we learn how to give fully, for the sake of others. On the cross we learn how to forgive and love in the hardest of times.

Please consider Paul's counsel to the church; *I made up my mind to speak only about Jesus Christ, who had been nailed to a cross.* We have been concluding our Wednesday services, Go in peace, learn from Christ. As we move through the events of Holy Week and on to Easter, **Learn from Christ.**

Pastor Brian