

Faith's Happenings...

December, 2018

Happy Birthday

| | |
|-------------------|------|
| Ginny Linsberg | 1st |
| Dorthea Fisher | 3rd |
| Bonnie Goldsberry | 12th |
| Art Hanson | 15th |
| Gordon Reynolds | 26th |
| Tracy Reynolds | 27th |
| Nick Hoops | 29th |
| Pat Pelic | 29th |

Happy Anniversary

| | |
|--------------------------|------|
| Gene & Bonnie Goldsberry | 19th |
| Byron & Bobbie Myrick | 22nd |
| Larry & Linda Bennett | 27th |
| Roger & Gloria DeMeritt | 31st |

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

December at a Glance

Mark your calendars now!

Ladies Luncheon: Dec. 1

Men of Faith Breakfast: Dec. 4

Lessons & Carols: Dec. 12

Christmas celebration: Dec. 24



Keep CHRIST in CHRISTmas!



**Remember, we return to 2
services on December 2nd!**

Wednesday Evening Advent:

Dec. 5 @ 7:00 pm

Lessons @ Carols:

Dec. 12, 7:00 pm

Christmas Eve Worship:

5 pm, 7 pm and 10 pm



LESSONS & CAROLS

This year we are combining with some other area churches to do an evening of Lessons and Carols. The event will be held at St. Francis Church on Wednesday, December 12, at 7:00 pm.

Ladies Christmas Luncheon Please note the date change to the FIRST Saturday in December

Ladies, meet on December 1st, 11:30 am, at Placida Grill for our Christmas Luncheon. It's been a while since we lunched at Placida Grill, and they have moved from their original location, further south on Placida Road, to just past Cape Haze Resort in the Ace Hardware plaza.

They have a lovely, reasonably priced luncheon menu. Google it and plan ahead! This would be a great occasion to share with guests, who are always welcome. Please sign up on the sheet for a head count. Deadline is Sunday, November 25th after worship (at the restaurant's request). Hope to see you there! Questions? See or call Kathie Wiley (941-662-5383).

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.

Organist Info

At the November Congregation Council meeting, we received and accepted Priscilla Fullerton's letter of Retirement/Resignation. We thank Priscilla for her 15+ years of service to our congregation and wish her well in her future endeavors. The Council has begun the search process for a replacement; ads have been placed online at indeed.com, as well as the local papers. Job Descriptions and applications will also be available in the church office.

Financial Info

Church Council has decided we need to share the current donation total year-to-date, and the 2017 donation total year-to-date.

Donations through October 31, 2017 = \$153,844.12; donations through October 31, 2018 = \$134,741.21.

Lois Burger, Treasurer

Men – You are Invited...

...to the December Men's Breakfast at Stefano's Restaurant (on Route 776 in front of Beall's Outlet). Meet at the restaurant on Tuesday, December 4, at 7:30 am for fun, food and fellowship. No sign-up required.

We need a few more ushers for the late service – only one Sunday a month required. Why not give it a try? Call or see Marcia Wilkins (941-456-0039).

Ways to Give

(Information from the Stewardship Committee)

Monetary contributions are the most common means of supporting the work of the church. Gifts by cash or check are received by the congregation, and you, as the donor, receive a statement of contributions for your records.

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.



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 DeGroot, Richard Wilder, Brittany Schneck, Monica Friend, Larry Hladun, Jim Kelly, Jack & Kathie Zura, Tom & Sandy McKitterick, Ralph Crites

December Caring and Sharing

During this month when we think of giving, please help us reach out to our community by joining us in a special "caring and sharing." All items will be distributed to the needy of our community through the St. Francis Food Bank.

December 2: Toothpaste/ brushes

December 9: Laundry detergent

December 16: Meats and proteins

December 23: Pasta and sauce

December 30: Anything Buy-One-Get-One (BOGO)

Thank You

We received the following from Christ Lutheran Church to thank those from Faith who helped them prepare/set up/serve Thanksgiving dinner this year.





Advent is a time to focus on God's promise and remember God's faithfulness.

Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years before God raised up Joshua, who led the people into the Promised Land. God's people were held captive in Babylon for 70 years before God raised up Cyrus the Great and Zerubbabel (a descendant of King David) to begin the return to Jerusalem.

In a time of uncertainty, the prophet Jeremiah assured the people of God's faithfulness... *"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."* Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT)

Today we live in a world that seems to be filled with too much uncertainty. For us, and for our world, the word of God through Jeremiah is still relevant; God has a plan for us, for good, a future, a hope.

The Friday after Thanksgiving, when I turned on the radio, I was greeted by the sounds of Christmas Carols. The Christmas music playing on the radio is a part of the Advent message pointing us to the future. It is a reminder to the world that something special is going to happen.

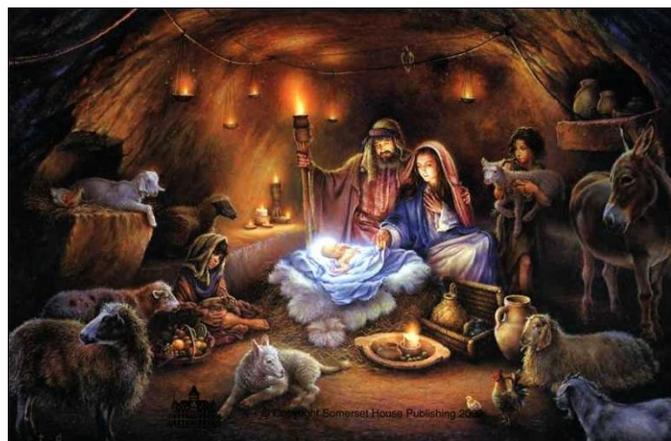
As we make our plans, decorations put up, dinner parties held, travel arrangements made, please remember this is a time of preparation for something good and hopeful.

God is at work. With the arrival of baby Jesus and the Christmas celebration, God's work is revealed for all people giving us "a future and a hope."

Blessings in this Advent season,

Pastor Brian

Merry Christmas



**From the staff of
Faith Lutheran Church**