

Faith's Happenings...

February, 2019

Happy Birthday

Elizabeth D'Amico	4th
Nancy Smith	7th
Kent Neilson	8th
Gene Newlon	13th
Barbara Hanson	14th
Dominic Moore	17th
Ruth Ash	18th
Mo Simpson	19th
Anne LeVasseur	21st
Neal Schattauer	24th
Adrienne Bakker	26th
Lester VanAllsburg	27th
Jeff Petersen	28th

Happy Anniversary

George & Lois Burger	10th
Thomas & Adrienne Bakker	11th
Sam & Susan D'Amico	24th

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

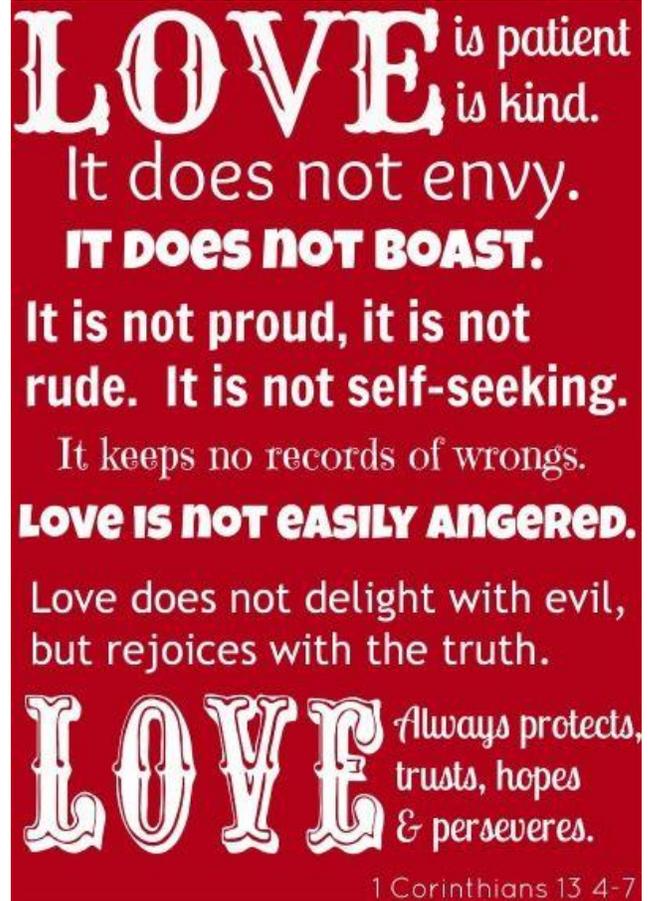
February at a Glance

Mark your calendars now!
Men of Faith Breakfast: Feb 5
Ladies Luncheon: Feb 9
Directory Picture Day: Feb 9
New Members Received: Feb 17

A Big Thank You

To all the folks who served as Bell-Ringers for the Salvation Army kettles in December – thank you for your work! Also thanks to all who donated to this worthy cause.

Harold & Linda Schultz



Want to Join the Family?

If you would like to be a member of Faith Lutheran, now is your chance. We will be receiving new members on Sunday, February 17. If you would like to be included, see Pastor Armen or call Barbra in the church office (697-3313).

Help Wanted

Faith's choir needs you! We're looking for enthusiastic people to join us in singing praise and thanks to God. No experience or tryouts needed. Just join us for practice Wednesday at 6:30 pm.

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.



February Ladies Luncheon

The Ladies of Faith Lutheran will meet on Saturday, February 9th, 11:30 am, at Landy's On the Water. Landy's is located just off SR 776, near the McDonald's at the Englewood Beach turn-off. They offer many fantastic selections from a fabulous soup and salad bar to seafood and sandwiches to Greek specialties. Truly something for every taste. Please join us and bring a guest if you like. Sign-up sheet is on the board in the narthex and deadline is noon, Wednesday February 6th. Call Kathie Wiley (941-662-5383) if you have any questions.

Men – You are Invited...

...to the February Men's Breakfast at Stefano's Restaurant (on Route 776 in front of Beall's Outlet). Meet at the restaurant on Tuesday, February 5, at 7:30 am for fun, food and fellowship. No sign-up required.

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.

Ways to Give

(Information from the Stewardship Committee)

IRA Direct Contributions

IRA Direct Contributions are a means by which eligible persons can direct payments from their IRA to the church. You contact your plan administrator and have the desired amount of your contribution sent directly to the church. The distribution from your IRA is not taxable to you if it goes directly to the church. As the donor you receive a statement of contributions for your records.

Buy a Brick – Create a Memorial

We are getting ready to place another order for personalized bricks for our memorial garden. You can place a brick even if the person is not interred there. Forms are in the narthex, or see Mary Lou Fitzgerald. Her email: MLZIGFITZ55@COMCAST.NET

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, Jim & Paul Rodvik, John Collins

From the Pastor,

I am at a Leadership Academy in Jacksonville this week. "Developing a Vision, Sharing the Vision, and Living the Vision" is the theme. The core question is: Who sets the vision?

In the church context, the one who sets vision is typically identified as the pastor, council and/or congregation. But the deeper answer is, it is God in Christ Jesus who sets our vision. A vision not just about who we are, but what we can be and, most importantly, what we will be in Jesus. A part of our life is to seek, learn, and grow in God's vision for us.

Paul writes in Colossians 3:16, Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

In this passage, Paul begins with the message of Christ dwelling in us, teaching and correcting, guiding us in faith and life. The common element is the power and presence of God in our lives. The difference is how this presence shapes, guides, and helps each of us develop our individual skills and gifts.

The conclusion of this passage is that we live our lives with gratitude in our hearts. We are grateful that God's vision is a part of our lives. We recognize God has blessed and shaped us with the gift of our life and talent. And, God gives us the opportunity to use those gifts every day.

Gratitude and thanksgiving are qualities that are to mark our lives. The words we have used to identify ourselves and our mission, Listening, Caring, Serving, are brought together in Colossians 3.16.

We listen to God as God's word dwells in us. We also listen to each other to grow and challenge each other to know God's will. And we listen to our community because God sent Jesus for all people. We care as we are transformed by God's Spirit at work in us. We grow into the people God visions us to be as we learn from and take on the heart of Jesus.

And, because we have been transformed, we serve with thanksgiving, because serving is love active in our world. We serve with gratitude and thanksgiving because we experience what God has done for us. But faith and life are about more than, "I heard it, I experienced it, so I do it."

What God invites us into is a relationship of renewal and growth. A question that may help in this reflection is the very simple: How can we do better?

This is not a matter of our hard work to attain salvation. Rather, it is a self-evaluative question from our desire to live thankfully in gratitude for what God has done for us.

So, as we move through the season of Epiphany and see how God's light and power are revealed in Jesus, we continue to affirm the ways we bring God's light to our world through involvement in worship, learning and community service. And a good question to ask is: How can do we do better?

Look for new opportunities to live out your faith and extend an invitation for others to join us in this grand adventure of Listening, Caring and Serving Jesus our Savior.

God's love and blessing,

Pastor Brian