

Faith's Happenings...

July, 2018

Happy Birthday

Bernita Bulwan	7th
Jean Matz	8th
Margaret Murphy	12th
Jonathan Armen	22nd
Debbie Porter	29th
Jack Fitzgerald	30th

Happy Anniversary

Jim & Autumn Hardenstine	1st
Les & Cathie VanAllsburg	8th
Cliff & Mo Simpson	19th
Gary & Jennifer Boehler	19th
Harold & Linda Schultz	22nd
Bill & Sara Speth	25th
John & Laura Kohler	28th

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

July at a Glance

Mark your calendars now!
Men of Faith Breakfast: July 3
Independence Day: July 4
New Members: July 8
Ladies Luncheon: July 14

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.



Celebrate
Independence
Day

Ways to Give: Stocks and Bonds

Stocks and bonds can be given directly to the church as part of your regular support, or for a special cause or fund. In making the direct gift of an investment, you base your deduction on the investment's appreciated value at the time of the gift.

Help Celebrate Our New Family Members

We will be bringing in several new members on Sunday, July 8th. The "summer crew" will be setting up a breakfast to welcome these folks after worship. All are invited. Please plan to stay and get to know our new family members.

Note

If you are a member of either a committee or a regular group that meets here at Faith, we would love to have you write out a description of that group and what it does. This would help our Faith family better understand what happens here during the week, and also help them determine if they would like to join – or maybe start a new group!

Deadline is the last Sunday of the month. Drop the article on Barbra's (church secretary) desk or email it to her at: office@alivingfaith.org.

Ladies Luncheon

The Ladies of Faith Lutheran will meet for lunch at Mango Bistro on Dearborn Street, at the corner of, where else but... Mango St., on July 14th, 11:30 am. We will order off the menu and there will be separate checks. See the menu next to the sign-up sheet for a glimpse of the many delicious selections available. Lobster Bisque, crepes, "burritos", paninis, melts, salads and much more. Dessert isn't mentioned on this menu but they are awesome!! We hope to see everyone and, as always, guests are welcome. Just sign them up. Deadline is Wednesday, July 11th, at noon. Questions: Call Kathie Wiley 941-662-5383.

Do you need some chairs?

The work crew found some chairs that used to be in the sanctuary before we got the ones with arms. If you can use some or know an organization that needs them, see Jim Hughs or one of the work crew guys.

The Biscuit Prayer

One Sunday morning at a small southern church, the new pastor called on one of his older deacons to lead the opening prayer. The deacon stood up, bowed his head, and said, "Lord, I hate buttermilk."

The pastor opened one eye and wondered where this was going. The deacon continued, "Lord, I hate lard."

Now the pastor was totally perplexed, but the deacon continued, "Lord, I ain't too crazy about plain flour. But after you mix them all together and bake them in a hot oven, I just love biscuits!"

"Lord, help us realize when life gets hard, when things come up that we don't like, whenever we don't understand what you are doing, that we need to wait and see what the final outcome will be. After you get through mixing and baking, it will probably be something even better than biscuits." Amen.

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, Kent & Barb Neilson, Brittany Schneck, Monica Friend, Larry Hladun, Jim Kelly, Jack & Kathie Zura, Tom & Sandy McKitterick

Do You Love a Parade?

Would you like to be in one? The annual Pioneer Day Parade is held over Labor Day Weekend each year. Anyone who might like to participate on behalf of Faith Lutheran, even if it is just driving a car with our banner on it, please let Pastor Armen know ASAP.

Faith in Action

This month we have some information on the OLT group you see listed regularly in the bulletin. They currently meet every other Wednesday, 1:00 pm, at the Hardenstine's home.

Our Life Together Small Group

The Our Life Together small group has been meeting every other week for the last two years. We are dedicated to Worship, Study and Mission and currently have 12-15 people meeting regularly.

Since September we have read and studied Rob Bell's book, Jesus Wants to Save Christians, Book Two of Set Our Hearts on Fire. Currently we are reading Adam Hamilton's book, Half Truths: God helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn't Say.

Our Mission work has been varied but consistent. In September, we gathered materials for "emergency supply bags," given to Hurricane Irma victims in devastated areas south of us. During Advent we collected funds to buy three goats from the ELCA Good Gifts program, to help needy people get back on their feet. At the beginning of the year we participated in the Relay for Life, donating time and collecting funds from our friends and neighbors.

During Lent we collected enough to buy one portion of a water well from the ELCA Good Gifts program, and to sponsor several

weeks of summer Kids Camp at Tringali Park, Charlotte County. This spring we collected funds to pack supply bags for the homeless "camping" outside in our very midst.

Each week we spend time in prayer for our community and the world, believing that our prayers do indeed make a difference. We pray specifically that God would use us to build his Kingdom here among us.

We also have plenty of time for fellowship and good conversation, all in the name of Christ. We are always open to having new members – there is always room!

Notice

We have some headsets available for the hearing impaired. If you need one, see the soundperson at the console at the back of the church.

Work Crew Recipe

One of the great benefits of joining the work crew is the wonderful snacks they share at break time. Last month Toni Dufrene brought this tasty treat, and everyone wanted the recipe. She is kindly sharing it with us.

Tangy Fruit Dip

8 oz. sour cream
8 oz. vanilla yogurt
6 tsp. Tang

Mix together and serve with chunks of assorted fresh fruit. So simple!

If you have a favorite easy recipe to share, be sure to get it to Barbra in the church office before the end of the month. We will print one a month.

Thank You's

Dear Pastor Armen & members of Faith Lutheran Church ~

On behalf of the Smith family, thank you for the loving, compassionate care you provided my parents throughout my Dad's illness and after his passing. I can't even count all of the calls, cards, visits and food that appeared just when needed. Pastor Armen's spiritual guidance and support was invaluable to all of us. We are so grateful that our parents have Faith Lutheran as their church family. You all embody what it means to walk with Christ.

We are truly grateful,
Deb (Reilly), Jimmy and Peg (Person) Smith

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To my family at Faith Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for all of your kind words and gifts in celebration of my recent graduation from Lemon Bay High School. I will be attending the University of Florida to study Health Science and Anthropology on a Pre-Med track, and hope to one day be a trauma surgeon. I greatly appreciate the support I have received from this congregation since I was four years old, and I know I will always have a home in this church.

Many thanks,
Elizabeth D'Amico

Men, You Are Invited...

...to the July Men's Breakfast at Stefano's Restaurant (on Route 776 in front of Beall's Outlet). Meet at the restaurant on Tuesday, July 3, at 7:30 am for fun, food and fellowship. No sign-up required.

Eucharistic Ministers

On Sunday, June 17, nine Eucharistic Ministers were set apart for the work of bringing communion to the homebound, hospitalized, and those unable to regularly gather for worship.

Eucharistic ministry (AKA the Lay Distribution of Communion) has been around in the Lutheran Church for 40 years or more. It has been present in other Christian traditions even longer. Connecting people to God through a visit and the sacrament are two ways we want to expand the care of our congregation.

Beginning in July, our Eucharistic Ministers will be contacting members who are not able to regularly worship to ask if they would like a visit and to receive communion. If you are one of those contacted please consider saying yes. Then, when the Eucharistic Minister arrives, if you have questions, please ask. If you would like to receive communion weekly, or monthly please let the Eucharistic Minister know.

A few facts:

- ~ The bread and wine are consecrated by the pastor at worship.
- ~ The Eucharistic Ministers bring the consecrated elements to your residence.
- ~ The Eucharistic Ministers have had basic training.

If you have a question, please ask the Eucharistic Minister or the Pastor. If you know of a member who would like to receive communion at their residence, please contact Pastor Brian or Bobbie Myrick, who is our coordinator.

May we think of freedom, not
as the right to do as we please,
but as the opportunity to do
what is right.

New Capital Improvement Fund

On Sunday, June 10, at a Special Congregation Meeting, a revised budget was approved for 2018. Included in this was about \$32,000 for new air conditioners in the back of the sanctuary and kitchen/fellowship areas, as well as flooring in the sanctuary.

A challenge was put forth to raise money for the Capital Fund. We have spent over \$100,000 in the past few years, maintaining our facilities as a place for worship and service in the community. This would not have been possible were it not for the foresight and planning of the members of Faith in years past.

Now it is our turn. The council set a modest goal of \$40,000, in part to cover our present expenses, but also recognizing we need to learn from, follow and emulate those who have gone before us. As we contribute to the Capital Fund we are setting aside resources today, out of our abundance, to help our congregation down the road continue this ministry.

Will you help?



John 13:35, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." This question came to mind as I was putting my thoughts down this month: how do people know we care about them? And the corollary question is how do we know if they know we care?

If that sounds confusing, remember a song from 1971, written by Les Emmerson and performed by The 5 Man Electrical Band, "Signs." I'm not sure about all the signs to which the song refers, however the refrain is fairly straightforward:

*Signs, signs, everywhere a sign
Blockin' out the scenery, breakin' my mind.
Do this, don't do that, can't you read the sign?*

But the final verse has a redemptive quality about it:

*And the sign said, "Everybody welcome.
Come in, kneel down and pray."
But when they passed around the plate at
the end of it all, I didn't have a
penny to pay.
So I got me a pen and a paper, and I made
up my own little sign.
I said, "Thank you, Lord, for thinkin' 'bout
me. I'm alive and doin' fine."
Wooo!*

What ultimately prompted my thoughts along these lines is our own church sign board, which is changed almost every week, with an encouraging or thought-provoking phrase. I wonder, do these ever make an impact? Does anyone notice?

Then on Friday someone posted the saying from our sign on the Rotonda West Florida Facebook page. I reposted it to our church Facebook page so you could see it and some of the discussion it fostered.

Some of my takeaways: Signs are important. People are paying attention. We do make a difference. By what we say, and what we post, people are engaged, and we have an opportunity to show we are Christians by our Love. Think about this: People really are watching us.

Pastor Brian