

Faith's Happenings...

June, 2018

Happy Birthday

Linda Schultz	2nd
Marcie Eifert	12th
John Schleede	13th
Linda Bennett	18th
Barb Gschwend	19th
Ivan Foerster	20th
Lynn Kittleson	21st
Susan D'Amico	22nd
Margarete Rieck	22nd
John Matz	27th
Byron Myrick	27th
George Burger	30th

Happy Anniversary

Robert & Beverly Martin	6th
Lynn & Jeanne Kittleson	8th
Pastor Brian & Lori Armen	9th
Brian & Ellen Lindhurst	11th
Gene & Verna Newlon	12th
Harv & Alma Claussen	19th
Fred & Cyndi Carley	23rd
Ray & Marcie Eifert	28th

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

June at a Glance

Mark your calendars now!
Men of Faith Breakfast: June 5
Ladies Luncheon: June 9
Congregational meeting: June 10
Father's Day: June 17

Walk With Me, Daddy

By Helen Bush

Walk alongside me, Daddy
and hold my little hand
I have so many things to learn
that I don't yet understand
Teach me things to keep me safe
from dangers every day.
Show me how to do my best
at home, at school at play
Every child needs a gentle hand
to guide them as they grow.
So walk alongside me, Daddy.
We have a long way to go.

***Gray hair is a crown of
splendor, it is attained by a
righteous life.
Proverbs 16:31***



Men, You Are Invited...

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

Ways to Give

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.

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).

Neal Schattauer, Steven Flagg, Joyce Hickman, Elizabeth Hickman, Carol Schleede, Roger DeMeritt, Michael Romanelli, Jim Buroker, Ethel Hunn, Jacky Magee, Ray Eifert, Jim Smith, Danny DeGroot, Richard Wilder, Kent & Barb Neilson

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.

Thank You

Dear Friends at Faith Lutheran,
Thank you all so much for the prayers, donations of food and donations to the church, and for cards received for the recent passing of my husband, Dave. It was all deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,
Sharon Linton

Dear Friends,

We thank you for your recent donation of \$65.00...contribution. We truly appreciate you choosing our organization. We have an overwhelming number of families in need. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by our families.

Donations like yours are helping our local school children have some of the things that families are struggling to afford during these tough economic times.

Please know the items and monies donated, and funds raised, stay right here in our community...

Sincerely,
Leslie Edwards
Treasurer,
Kids' Needs

To everyone who has been so kind to us since the passing of our daughter, We want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Your calls, prayers, cards and general thoughtfulness have been deeply appreciated. God's love continues to surround and support us with all of you in our life.

Ruth and Bob

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.

There are a variety of ways to serve at Faith, giving your time and talents in service to the Lord. Here is just one opportunity. Just show up on Tuesday mornings and they will find a place for you – no sign-up involved!

JOCULARITY

Jocular, a word defined by use in the old television series "Mash". The meaning of jocular is best described by its application: a group of dedicated men and women performing a critical need with an input of humor; balancing work and camaraderie.

Such a group exists at Faith... Tuesday mornings bring together a group with diverse skills, working together to maintain and improve the physical structure of the Church and property. Balancing these skills is the friendly exchange of barbs and good humor between the participants.

This group of men and women spend over a 1,000 hours a year sharing of their time and talents, in dedication to maintaining Faith's physical assets. Not limiting themselves to just the Church's needs, they also volunteer hours and skills helping members and others as they can.

As defined in *The Great Thanksgiving*, "It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ."

Tuesday mornings will again find such a group exercising their faith. You're invited to join them. Jocular is free.

Ladies Luncheon

The Ladies of Faith Lutheran will meet for lunch on Saturday, June 9th, 11:30 am, at Beef O'Bradys (located at 1951 S. McCall Road, in the shopping center with Dollar Tree, Winn Dixie, etc.). The menu is posted next to the sign-up sheet in the narthex. I'm told the food is very good, and they have lighter menu items (salads, wraps, etc.) as well as wings and hearty sandwiches. This location has been suggested and will be a first for "us girls." Guests are always welcome, but please sign them up. Deadline is June 6th at noon. Questions? Call Kathie Wiley 941-662-5383

A PERSONAL INVITATION FOR YOU

The Thrivent Member Network - Florida & Georgia Region invites you to a Thrivent Action Team Celebration at the **Charlotte Sports Park for a Charlotte Stone Crabs Game on Wednesday, June 6!**

Join us at this event to celebrate the generosity of our members. At the ballpark, we'll have our own picnic area with food and beverages provided. Feel free to invite family or friends to join us. Please RSVP me as soon as possible, so I can give our Thrivent Representative a count of how many tickets are needed.

Game time: 6 PM.

Charlene
460-0183 or charleneseltz@verizon.net



In 2006 Charles (Chick) Lane published "Ask, Thank, Tell", a guide to improving Stewardship Ministry in Your Congregation. This month I would like to mix it up and Tell, Thank and Ask.

TELL

Over the past 7-10 years Faith Lutheran Church as invested over \$200,000 in our physical plant (buildings). All these numbers are rough estimates:

Sewer connection/Lift Station	60,000
Sanctuary Roof	50,000
Ramp Repaving	17,000
Sanctuary A/C	20,000
Parking Lot Repaving	20,000
Fellowship Hall (double-wide)	
38,000	(Individual Donation)

These Capital Improvements/Investments have maintained a base for our ministry in the Rotonda and Englewood Communities.

In addition to supporting our community by regularly gathering for worship, care and service, we have provided meeting space for community groups. We support the meeting of daily and weekly AA groups. The Girl Scouts have had up to 4 different groups of girls meeting in our fellowship hall. The Girl Scouts have also had regular leader training events. The Englewood Community Coalition, Rotonda Women, Rotonda Women's Chorus, and Activity groups have used our facilities while the RWA was building a new facility.

Working together our congregation provides support for the Food Pantries, Meals on Wheels, Kid's Needs and other community organizations, in addition to Mission Support, Haiti Support, Lutheran Disaster Response, and Lutheran World Relief, which are global outreaches; all from our little corner of the world.

This is but the tip of the iceberg when it comes to ministry from this place (our community of faith) which we identify as Faith Lutheran Church.

THANK

All of this work we do is thanks to individual persons of faith who make the commitment daily to walk with Jesus. Thank you to our women, The Lutheran Chicks, who find ways to encourage our extended church family and friends with cards, gifts and crafts. Thank you to our men who commit hours each week maintaining Faith with yard care, general maintenance and painting.

With an annual yearly congregation budget of approximately \$180,000, it is the regular giving of offerings by members every week that supports God's work here. We frequently refer to this regular offering as "good stewardship", "offerings" or "tithing." Our weekly support of God's work might better be called "thanksgiving." We give in gratitude and thanksgiving for what we have received, and we give generously so others may know the blessing of God in their lives. THANK YOU for regular contributions and participation in our life together. We also want to thank those who have contributed to Capital Campaigns in the past. Over the past 10 years, we have had the funds to effect the repairs noted above, precisely because people have faithfully and generously given. Their giving was not for an immediate need, but a future need, supporting the ongoing work of Faith. We THANK them for their foresight and provision that has continued to support Gods' work through our life together.

If you look at the list above you will see that a single donation provided for the Fellowship Hall, which is an integral part of our ministry. What you won't see is an unrestricted gift received several years ago from one individual's estate which continues to grow to support the work of Faith Lutheran Church and God's Work through our life together. These significant individual gifts remind us that giving with gratitude and thanksgiving makes a difference, whether it is from current resources or an estate plan. THANK you for those with the foresight to plan significant gifts to support God's work through our life together at Faith.

ASK

What do we need you to do today?

- 1) CONTINUE your regular participation in our life together at worship and by the giving of tithes, offerings and service in our community, and around the world.
- 2) PRAY about the needs of our ministries now and in the future.
- 3) REFLECT on your own life, God's blessing, and those who have invested time and resources in you.
- 4) COMMIT to living with renewed gratitude and thanksgiving.
- 5) CONTRIBUTE; make a commitment to our continuing ministry through a special commitment to our Capital Campaign. You will be hearing more about this at our Special Congregation Meeting on June 10th.

When we started talking about the need for our congregation to support doing God's work, the following verse from James 4.2 came to mind. The first part highlights the way the world operates (in italics). The second part (in bold) teaches us how we are to live as people of faith:

*You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. **Yet you don't have what you want***

because you don't ask God for it. James 4.2

James goes on to remind us how Jesus, in our Lord's Prayer, states what we ask for must be in agreement with God's will. "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done."

As we enter into the summer months and prepare for several essential Capital projects,

TELL/HEAR the story of the generosity and faithfulness of our Faith family over the past 45 years. THANK/HEAR the thanks and appreciation for your faithfulness week by week to God's work being done as a part of our life together. ASK/HEAR the invitation to give in a special way to support the continued work of our congregation, not just now but into the future. PRAY/REFLECT/COMMIT/CONTRIBUTE. Do God's work.

Your partner in God's Work,

Pastor Brian

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.