

Faith's Happenings...

March, 2019

Happy Birthday

Jim Porter	1st
Marian Ruby	2nd
Sharon Ulissi	3rd
Beverly Martin	7th
Alma Claussen	8th
Cathie VanAllsburg	8th
Sara Speth	9th
Cyndy Hoops	16th
Gene Goldsberry	16th
Steve LeVasseur	22nd
Beth Bitant	24th
Susan Kiray	27th
Linda Jasper	28th
Ralph Crites	30th
Robert Martin	30th

Happy Anniversary

We have none submitted for March.

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

March at a Glance

Mark your calendars now!

Men of Faith Breakfast: March 5

Ladies Luncheon: March 9

Ash Wednesday: March 6

Wednesday evening soup suppers

Wednesday evening Lenten worship

*The Prayer
of St. Patrick*



The strength of God
pilot us,
the wisdom of God
instruct us,
the hand of God
protect us,
the word of God
direct us.

Lenten Wednesday Evenings

During the Lenten season (March 6-April 10) we will have our usual soup supper, followed by Lenten worship.

The weekly schedule will be:

5:00 pm	Choir Practice
6:00 pm	Soup Supper
7:00 pm	Lenten Worship

The Caring Ministries of Faith Lutheran Church

The following is a brief explanation of the ministries at Faith which are designated "Caring." If you need more details, call Barbra in the church office (941-697-3313) or see one of the coordinators of the specific ministry, included in parentheses.

1) **The Congregation at worship**

That's you on Sunday morning and special worship services

2) **The Pastoral Ministry**

That's Pastor Armen and his job

3) **Stephen Ministry** (Carleys or Myricks)

These are specially trained members who are available to walk with you during times of transition in your life. Call 941-681-0297 to request a visit.

4) **Congregation Care Ministries**

(Harold & Linda Schultz)

Provide a variety of support services to our congregation. "If you have a need and don't know where to turn, a Congregation Care Minister may lead you to an answer."

5) **Eucharistic Ministry** (Bobbie Myrick)

Trained volunteers who bring worship and communion to your home when you when you are unable to be at weekly worship. Call the Stephen number to request a visit from a Eucharistic Minister

Helping Our Neighbors

The ladies helping Project Phoenix by making lunches for the homeless thank you for the generous response to their request for assistance. Next they could use your help in providing spaghetti noodles and sauce in the coming week. If you prefer, you may donate a check and they will make bulk purchases. Donated items should be left in the kitchen.

March Ladies Luncheon

This month's luncheon will be held at the Lighthouse Grill (at the west end of Maryland St. off Placida Road), 11:30 am, Saturday, March 9th. This restaurant used to be called Stump Pass Tiki Bar, and is located right on the water of Lemon Bay. If you haven't been here for a couple of years you will be surprised with the changes from the name to the structure to the menu.

Unfortunately the parking is still a problem. Come early or carpool if possible. Order from the menu with separate checks. Come join us for a fun lunch! Sign up on the sheet in the narthex by March 5th at noon. Need more information? Call Kathie Wiley, 941-662-5383.

Soup Suppers

Soup suppers at Lent have been a long-standing event at Faith Lutheran. On the Wednesday evenings of Lent (not counting Holy Week) we gather an hour before Lenten worship to sit together, talk and share a meal. It is a wonderful "family time," and an opportunity to get to know others a bit.

It only works if people are willing to bring a pot of soup to share, so we need your help. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex if you can provide soup for one of the nights. Please bring the soup in a crockpot as we have no way of warming up soups brought in dishes. Note: We will need many folks to provide soup for the meals to be successful.

If you are attending a soup supper on a Wednesday evening in Lent, you should bring a place setting, bowl and sandwich (if you want one) for the meal. Sandwiches are not provided.

Who Are the Lutheran Chicks?

You may have noticed in the Sunday bulletin under "THIS WEEK AT FAITH" a listing at 9:00 am Tuesday for the Lutheran Chicks. You may be asking, "Who are they?"

The Chicks are a group of women from Faith who meet to share talents and conversation. Some of the projects we are working on are:

- Making and sending cards to those who have lost a loved one, had surgery, etc.
- Making lap robes for anyone who needs one, for example, those in chemotherapy at Moffitt
- Knitting, crocheting, or using a loom to make hats and scarves for the homeless
- Other projects suggested by the group or by you

Currently, most people are working on the hats and scarves project. Last year we provided over 200 hats for the homeless. This year we are including scarves with the hats.

Neither knowledge nor experience are necessary to join us. We will happily share with you. The looms are very easy to use to create hats and scarves and we have them and the yarn available. You can work on projects on Tuesdays only, or at home whenever you wish. There is no specific time commitment.

A bonus extra: shared coffee and snack time with the men's work group! Just show up Tuesday morning at the modular building behind the church.

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. Hebrews 13:16

Men – You are Invited...

...to the March Men's Breakfast at Stefano's Restaurant (on Route 776 in front of Beall's Outlet). Meet at the restaurant on Tuesday, March 5, 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

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.





I begin with my own confession: I have been listening to Christmas music since last Thanksgiving. When the radio stations quit playing Christmas music on December 26th, I started listening online. "OK Google, Play Christmas music," actually works.

I have enjoyed listening to the up-beat hopeful sounds of the Christmas season through January and into February. So many songs. So many good messages. All of that will change with our entry into Lent.

On Wednesday, March 6th we enter the Lenten season. I don't know if I will be able give up the sounds of the season celebrating the Christ Child's birth, but the focus of the Lenten season will be on the suffering servant. We will think remember Jesus' sacrifice, suffering and death for the sake of all people. It will be a time to look at our own lives, when have we NOT given of ourselves for others; when have we not made a sacrifice in our own lives and when we have failed to help others.

Lent invites us to experience the depth of Jesus' love for us as he lives out, "**Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.**" – John 15.13

Two disciplines are practiced during Lent. First, there is giving up something important to us, making a sacrifice to help us remem-

ber Jesus' sacrifice. Second, there is doing something special to help others. Engaging in an act of generosity and service reminds us how Jesus gave of himself generously in service to all people, and we honor him by doing this.

For this journey our Lenten mid-week services will make a connection to our Baptism and the baptismal promises. In **Romans 6.3-5** we read; "**Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.**"

In Baptism we are united with Jesus in his suffering and death. But death is not the end of the Lenten journey. "It's Friday – But Sunday's Comin'" is also a refrain used in this season to focus our attention on the point Paul makes in **Romans 3.5** "**we will certainly be untied with him in a resurrection like his.**"

Our baptism is into both the death and resurrection of Christ. Join us for worship in our mid-week services, Wednesdays at 7:00 PM and during Holy Week as we explore what it means to be baptized and live each day as God's people.

As for my ability, or willingness, to give up Christmas music for Lent -- check back with me in a couple of weeks.

Blessings as we enter the Lenten journey with our Savior,

Pastor Brian

Ways to Give

(Information from the Stewardship Committee)

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.

Another Outreach Opportunity is Coming!

The "Relay for Life" is coming up soon and, once again, some of our people will be participating – and they need your help.

The team, "Faith 'n' Christ Walkers," will be walking to help the American Cancer Society reach out to folks dealing with cancer. They are doing this because several of our Faith family were lost to cancer over the past year, and others are currently going through the process of dealing with the disease.

The Team will have representatives in the narthex, beginning March 10, to receive your donations. Checks should be made out to "American Cancer Society."

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.



Dear Lord, As we enter this Solemn and Holy Season, we pray that you would send your Holy Spirit upon us that we might prepare ourselves for these coming 40 days of Lent. Even though we may no longer wear sackcloth and ashes, we do seek to humble ourselves so that we can understand the magnificence of Your Love for us as You humbled Yourself and gave Your Life on the Cross that we might receive the gift of Eternal Glory with You. AMEN.

Lenten Ushers Needed

Every year we struggle to find ushers for our Lenten services. This year we ask you to make it your service to the Faith family. This is a one time commitment and is the easiest usher job of the year. You will find a sign-up sheet in the narthex for Lenten and Easter worship. Please make this the year you volunteer – we need your help!

Lent is a journey
That moves us
Toward the cross.