

Faith's Happenings...

March, 2025

Happy Birthday

Jim Porter	1st
Sharon Ulissi	3rd
George Myers	3rd
Ruth Hallam	3rd
Alma Claussen	8th
Cathie VanAllsburg	8th
Sara Speth	9th
Rosie Buccine	11th
Cyndy Hoops	16th
Gene Goldsberry	16th
Candace Montesi	21st
Steve LeVasseur	22nd
Susan Kiray	27th
Linda Jasper	28th

Happy Anniversary

Steve & Debby Wolfe	6th
Ernie & Linda Ovitz	18th
Ken & JoAnne Stephens	25th

**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 4
Ash Wednesday: March 5
Ladies Luncheon: March 19:
Anniversary Dinner: March 23



Ash Wednesday Worship March 5 @ 7:00 pm

Long Term Prayer

This prayer list is for those who need continued, long-term prayer. We try to keep the weekly prayer list short, so people named may be moved to the newsletter after a few weeks in the bulletin. If you want to add someone to this list, contact Barbra in the church office (697-3313). Please keep these folks in your prayers: Kathy Kanak, John Schleede, Carl Jasperse, Gary Wilkins, Chris Hoops, Ginny Linsberg, Rosie LaQuay, Doug Skolski, Bob Ash, Sandy Cox, Larry Bennett, Byron Myrick, Lynette Cormier

Lenten Worship

Lenten worship will be offered on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm, starting March 12th. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us.

Did You Know...

The church has an assortment of medical assistance equipment (walkers, wheelchairs, etc.) available for your use. Contact Barbra in the church office (941-697-3313) to borrow something.

Lenten Ushers Needed

We need several ushers for our Ash Wednesday service, then one per night for Wednesday evening Lenten services. Also needed are ushers for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. This is one-time service and a good way to try being an usher before you make a larger commitment.

Sign Up Today

Our 50th anniversary dinner will be held on Sunday, March 23, at 11:30 am at the Rotonda West Community Center. Cost is \$15 per person. Deadline for registration is March 9th.

Ladies Luncheon

The March Ladies Luncheon will be held at 11:30 am on Wednesday, March 19th, at Jr. and Rosie's Restaurant, Location #2. It is located on SR 776 North Access Road, approximately one block north of Spinnaker Road on North Access Road. (It was formerly "Good Time Charlie's.") The menu has many of the same favorites from their original location but now expanded with newer items as well. We will order off the menu with separate checks. Deadline to sign up is Sunday March 16th. Come for the fellowship and laughter! If you have questions, see or call Kathie Wiley (941-662-5383).

Men's Breakfast

Guys, you are invited to join us on Tuesday morning, March 4th, at Stefanos. We meet at 7:30 for some great food and fellowship. You can stay as long as you like and get to know your church brothers. No sign-up necessary.

Special Congregational Meeting

There will be a congregational meeting next Sunday, March 9th, at 9:30 am (between services). The purpose: to take a second and final vote on the constitutional amendments proposed at the January meeting.



An Opportunity For Fellowship

We are having soup suppers on the Wednesdays during Lent, starting with March 12th. The supper will be at 6:00 pm, followed by mid-week Lenten worship at 7:00 pm.

A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex for those able to bring soup (in a crock pot). Dessert is also appreciated. We need 4-5 people each week to provide nourishment. There will also be a sign-up sheet to help with set up and clean up. This is a great time to meet other church friends and enjoy a light supper before the Wednesday Lenten service.

If you are attending, please bring a place setting, bowl and sandwich (if you want one) for the meal. Sandwiches are not provided.



And Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God." Luke 9.62

This Sunday, March 2nd, we celebrate the Transfiguration of our Lord, the conclusion of the Epiphany Season, and the 50th anniversary of the legal constituting of Faith Lutheran Church of Rotonda West.

Epiphany, the season after Christmas, begins with the baptism of Jesus and follows through Jesus' activity and teaching bringing the kingdom of God to the people. The culmination of the season is Transfiguration, seeing Jesus in all God's glory for Jesus' faithfulness in deed and word. This also allows us to hear and see God's affirmation of Jesus before his final journey down the mountain and toward Jerusalem and the cross.

This year, we celebrate 50 years of ministry at Faith. On Sunday, March 2nd, we celebrate the chartering of the congregation, it's official beginning. We will continue the celebration with a festival worship service on Sunday, March 23, the third Sunday of Lent. I mention that because in 1975 March 2 was the third Sunday of Lent. As we use this time to look back on the history of Faith, Jesus' teaching comes to mind; "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

Does this mean that Jesus does not want us to look back on our history and celebrate? No! This instruction comes as Jesus and his disciples come down from the mountain of Transfiguration. On the mountain they had just spent time looking back in a meeting with Moses and Elijah, and shortly Jesus would celebrate the Passover with his disciples. We can witness the faithfulness of God in the lives of many members of Faith: members, seasonal residents, visitors and guests. They were welcomed as part of our Faith family, joined us in worship, Sunday School, fellowship and service in the community. Looking back, we remember and celebrate people, activity and making a difference in people's lives, our community and world.

Jesus words are still a powerful teaching, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God." While we take an opportunity to look back to discover and celebrate the faithfulness of God, our focus is always to be forward, looking for what God is doing now, what God will do tomorrow, and what God will do in us and through us. Jesus' word for the disciples was, literally, don't focus on the glory of the mountaintop Transfiguration, God has important work for us to do now, as we head toward Jerusalem and the cross. Our focus is on Jesus, the cross, sacrifice, suffering and death. Learning to live by giving of ourselves for others, just like Jesus.

In the month of March 2025, I encourage you to do 3 things well: 1) Remember and celebrate God's faithfulness for everything that is a part of our history as individuals and a congregation. 2) As we move through the Lenten season, also look around and celebrate who we are as God's people today doing God's work every day. 3) Look forward to what God is calling us to do as individuals and a congregation, as people of Faith in our community and world.

Blessings,
Pastor Brian

<p>In the Bible, forty is the number used to signify enough or ample time.</p>	<p>Bible stories that involve forty days:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Noah's floodMoses on Mt. Sinai before the Ten CommandmentsElijah's walk through the desert to Mt. HorebJonah's warning to the people of Nineveh	<p>St. Gregory the Great considered the six weeks of lenten weekdays (thirty-six days) as a ten percent tithe of the year.</p>	<p>The forty day fast of Jesus in the desert before he started his public ministry (Mt 4:2, Mk 1:13 and Lk 4:2) is the most likely inspiration for the forty days of Lent.</p>
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What is the significance of forty days? 

