

Faith's Happenings...

April, 2021

Happy Birthday

Lois Burger	2nd
Mary Lou Fitzgerald	4th
Tom Jackling	11th
Ray Eifert	13th
Marie Rutherford	13th
Gary Boehler	13th
David Jacobson	13th
Ann Banting	14th
Barb Neilson	19th
Kathy Myers	22nd
Gloria DeMeritt	26th
Jeanne Kittleson	27th

Happy Anniversary

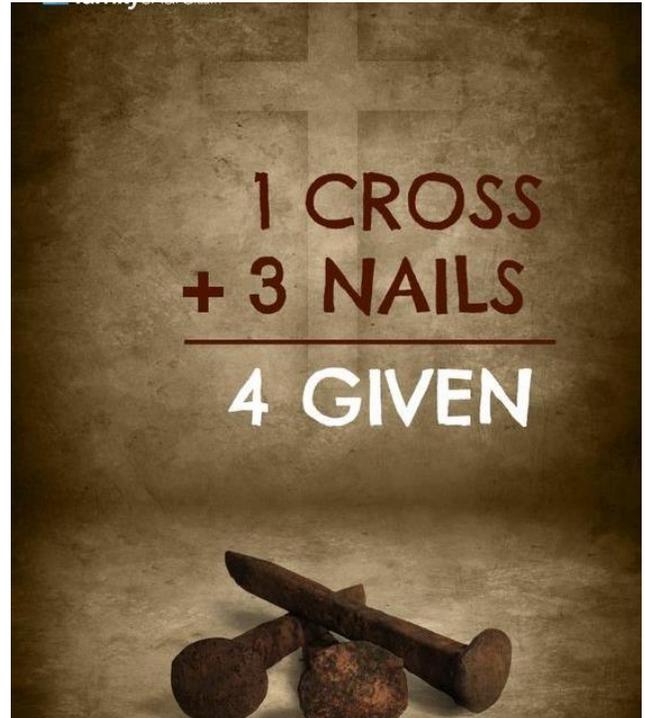
Gary & Marcia Wilkins 24th

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

April at a Glance

Mark your calendars now!
Maundy Thursday: April 1
Good Friday: April 2
Easter: April 4
Men of Faith Breakfast: April 6

He knew the price of those sins was death. He knew the source of those sins was you and since he couldn't bear the thought of eternity without you, he chose the nails. Max Lucado



HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday: noon

Good Friday: noon

Easter Sunday

Please join us for morning worship at

8:30 am (sunrise service at the
Memorial Garden)

10:30 am (worship inside)

Long Term Prayer Update

With all the changes over the past few months, we have decided it is time to start over with our prayer list of those who need long-term prayer. If you want to add someone to this list, contact Barbra in the church office (697-3313).

For now, please keep these folks in your prayers on a regular basis: Ralph Crites, Sarah, Hester and Carter Newton, Joanne Best, Kathy Kanak, Greg Schultz, Scott Schultz, Sandy Honeycutt, Larry Bennett, John Schleede, Barb Neilson, Bob Ash, Jack Myers

Men's Breakfast

Men, we have resumed our monthly breakfasts at Stefano's restaurant. We will meet at 7:30 am on Tuesday, April 6. Please join us!

On the Spot

The ladies who serve in our camper ministry have made a connection with an organization called "On the Spot." It is a non-profit group sponsoring 2 nurses who help the homeless in our area. They provide first aid, showers and supplies to the "campers" they visit. Their ministry has enabled us to enlarge the territory we cover in our outreach. If you would like to know more about this unique group, check out their Facebook page under "On The Spot Aid, Inc."

Congratulations!

Congrats to Lou Taylor for graduating from the Stephen Ministry program and taking over leadership of our Stephen Ministry.

Ways to Give

(from your Stewardship Committee)

Trusts and estate plans are ways to provide gifts to accomplish multiple purposes. The ELCA Foundation, Thrivent Financial or your own advisor are possible resources to help develop these advance gifts.

Thank You

Madison Mougalian and her family and friends thank God the injuries she received in her accident are not permanent. She is healing and somewhat mobile on crutches. She, her family, and I want to thank the family of Faith for your prayers on her behalf.

Merrilee Warner

Electronic Stewardship

Electronic Giving is an option at Faith. Use this code to contribute and support God's work, or click on the code on our church website.



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.



Thinking about Stewardship!

It has been quite a while since the topic of Stewardship has come up, even though we “use” stewardship all the time – time, talents, and treasures! I have been doing a lot of thinking about it lately, and many of us have received stimulus check from our Uncle Sam! So many have used the money to pay bills or do needed repairs, etc., but in case it was a windfall, have you thought that the money was a gift and perhaps we should give a gift to God? There are multiple thoughts for Faith: endowment fund, capital fund, Memorial Garden. About the Memorial Garden, quite a few people have talked about purchasing a brick to be placed next to the sidewalk. This might be a great time with the extra funds available. One could also prepay for a brick and internment in the Memorial Garden. So, think about it and perhaps use a bit of the money for a gift to Faith!

Mary Lou Fitzgerald

From Pastor Armen...

Do you remember the television series “Mutual of Omaha’s Wild Kingdom?” As a youngster I would watch these documentaries on wildlife with wonder. Two images that remain with me are the bears waking up after the winter’s hibernation and the caterpillar cocooning, then the butterfly coming out of that cocoon.

Those images come to mind as we come out of our own COVID winter and not so much hibernation but isolation. In both cases, there is a waking period where movement is slow and measured. The movement and activity begin with stretching and testing of muscles and movements that have not been used in some time. But it doesn’t take long before full activity is restored; the bears begin to forage, romp and explore, the caterpillar now transformed to the butterfly flies for the first time, and begins to explore the world from a new perspective.

As we move into April, May and June, we will be “wakening” as a congregation.

We have been gathering for worship and doing ministry in different ways with limited contact and adapting for safe practices. If you have ideas on how we can flex our muscles and work toward resuming a more normal schedule of activities, please share those with me, a council member, or Barb in the office.

To meet the needs of our congregation, we will continue with our two worship services (outside at 8:30 and inside at 10:30) through April and into May. At the April council meeting we will be talking about the mask requirement, CDC guidelines, and how we can help people feel safe at worship. Depending on the heat and humidity, when we cannot worship outside (late May or June) we will probably resume one worship service at 9:30 inside. Again, please share your thoughts as we “wake” from the constraints of the past year.

The Easter celebration is a very vivid illustration of this waking process. After our worship on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday we are left at a low point. Jesus, crucified for our sin, is now laid in the tomb. The waking was slow. The women went to the tomb. Then the men. It wasn’t till Jesus appeared among them that Jesus’ followers began to understand the significance and power of resurrection and new life.

In our scripture for Easter morning, both Peter and Paul recount their slow waking, the power of God they experienced, and how they were able to out and proclaim God’s good news to all people. May we learn the lessons of our Lord and the power of our God as we move forward in faith at Faith. Please provide feedback on how we can meet your needs. Join us for worship as you are able, in person or on-line at <http://alivingfaith.org>. May the power of resurrection and new life continue to sustain and inspire you.

Blessings,
Pastor Brian