

Faith's Happenings...

February, 2020

Happy Birthday

Elizabeth D'Amico	4th
Nancy Smith	7th
Kent Neilson	8th
Gene Newlon	13th
Barbara Hanson	14th
Dominic Moore	17th
Ruth Ash	18th
Mo Simpson	19th
Anne LeVasseur	21st
Neal Schattauer	24th
Adrienne Bakker	26th
Lester VanAllsburg	27th
Jeff Petersen	28th

Happy Anniversary

George & Lois Burger	10th
Thomas & Adrienne Bakker	11th
Sam & Susan D'Amico	24th

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

February at a Glance

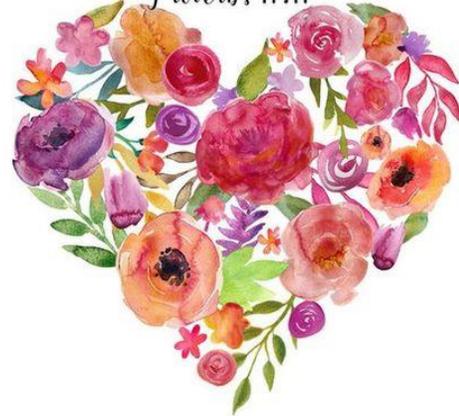
Mark your calendars now!
Men of Faith Breakfast: Feb. 4
Ladies Luncheon: Feb. 8
Ash Wednesday: Feb. 26

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.

*A friend loves
at all times*

Proverbs 17:17



**Welcome to our new and
returning council members:
Toni Newton, Lois Burger,
Art Hanson and Lynn Beck.**

Ash Wednesday

This year Ash Wednesday is February 26th.
You are invited to join us at 7:00 that
evening for a time of worship.

***Please notify Barbra in the church
office (697-3313) if your address or
phone number have changed.***

Ways to Give

(from your Stewardship Committee)

Information from the 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.

Another Option

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.



Ladies of Faith

Our February Ladies luncheon will be held at Landy's on Saturday, February 8th, 11:30 am. Landy's is just off SR 776/McCall Road near McDonalds at the beach turnoff. They have a very eclectic menu with something for everyone with a special emphasis on Greek food.

A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the narthex. Deadline is Tuesday, February 4th. This would be a great time to bring a guest! See you there. Information: Kathie Wiley 941-662-5383

Please Note

The 2019 contribution statements were mailed on January 27th. If you didn't receive yours, call Barbra in the church office (697-3313) and she will look into it.

Long Term Prayer

In order to save the Sunday prayer list for current issues, we have created this 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, Roger DeMeritt, Michael Romanelli, Jim Buroker, Ethel Hunn, Jacky Magee, Ray Eifert, Danny DeGroot, Brittany Schneck, Monica Friend, Larry Hladun, Jim Kelly, Jack & Kathie Zura, Tom & Sandy McKitterick, Jim & Paul Rodvik, John Collins, Larry Bennett, Pastor Mike Jones

We Need Your Help

We would like to make up 20 hygiene bags for the campers (homeless people) we help every week. All items can be purchased at Dollar Tree except 1.

If you can provide any of these items, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex. Note your name and how many of the item you will bring.

There will be a bin marked "campers" in the narthex where you can place your donations. We need everything here by Sunday, February 9. If you have any questions, see Linda Schultz or Bobbie Myrick.

Hear the Bishop

In the coming weeks, Bishop Suarez will host Bishop's Visits throughout the synod. These visits will include a time of learning and dialogue with Bishop Suarez and a worship service. The events will run from 9:00 to 12:30. The local visit will be Saturday, Feb. 15, at Living Lord Lutheran Church in Lakewood Ranch.



In February, while most folks are thinking about Valentine's Day, Lori (and I) are preparing to celebrate Ground Hog Day. Somewhere between the movies "Caddy Shack" and "Ground Hog Day," we found a new connection to February 2nd. For me, growing up in Western Pennsylvania, Punxsutawney Phil ranks right up there with the Pittsburgh Steelers, at least for one day a year. Even the national news turns their attention to the small Pennsylvania community for a few hours in the morning at the beginning of February. So much for our not so serious celebrations.

In mid-February we celebrate Valentine's day, originally a celebration of the church, it was co-opted by modern society to focus on candy, gifts and sentimental love. Society at large tends to skip over the religious connotations and goes back to the ancient mythology of Cupid, Venus and Mars. Rarely do we hear anything about Saint Valentine (circa 400), who was either a priest or a bishop in the Roman Empire and who ministered to persecuted Christians. The giving of self for another may be an underlying theme of our current Valentine's Day, but there is a much deeper lesson to be learned from all those who give of themselves for others.

On Wednesday, February 26, the month will take a different turn as we celebrate Ash Wednesday, and our entry into the Lenten season. Again, many will get caught up in the celebrations of Carnival and Madi Gras, focusing on the celebratory party

atmosphere, rather than recognizing these were once serious preparations for the penitential season of Lent. It is almost as if people take Romans 6.1 to heart; "What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning that grace may increase?" And then they forget that Paul answer that rhetorical question in verse 2, "By no means!"

On Ash Wednesday we have the entire salvation story laid before us. We are confronted by sin, death, the grave and our mortality when we hear the words, "remember you are dust and to dust you shall return." As we proceed through the Ash Wednesday service, and through Lent, we meet the Jesus who comes to us in bread and wine, the body broken and blood shed for us and our sin. In the midst of the downward spiral of sin, death and the grave God, in the person of Christ Jesus, reaches out to us.

Please enjoy the month of February and all the celebrations, but also take time to remember their deeper meanings. Join us for worship every Sunday, Ash Wednesday and every Wednesday though Lent.

God's blessing on your faith and life journey,
Pastor Brian

Looking Ahead

On Sunday, March 1st, we will celebrate Faith's 45th anniversary with a coffee hour between the services. We will also be welcoming the Bishop, who will be on hand to celebrate with us that morning. We'll have canopies set up outside and will serve pastries and fruit. Mark your calendars so you don't miss this special event!

