

# Faith's Happenings...

October, 2020

## *Happy Birthday*

Fred Carley	1st
Roger DeMeritt	2nd
Bruce Rieck	4th
Bill Speth	6th
Frank Ulissi	6th
Gail Pedersen	11th
Autumn Hardenstine	16th
Jim Hardenstine	18th
Anne Hebert	19th
Larry Bennett	22nd
Pastor Brian	23rd
Tom Jasper	24th
Byron Speth	25th
Irene Foerster	26th
Harold Schultz	28th
Gary Rosemore	30th
Janice Junker	31st

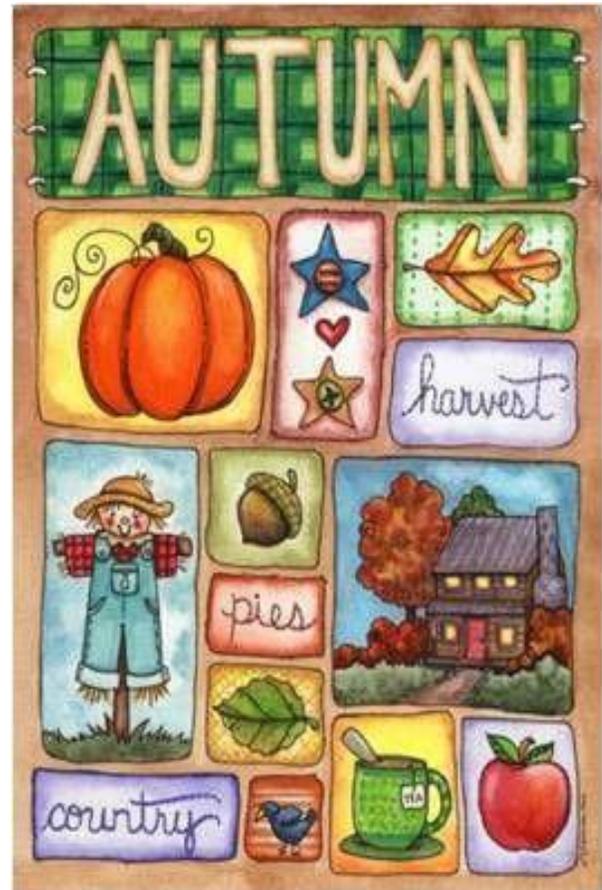
## *Happy Anniversary*

David & Candace Montessi 7th

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

### **October at a Glance**

*Mark your calendars now!*  
*Men of Faith Breakfast: October 6*  
*Mid-Gulf Conference: October 10*



**During this difficult time, we  
want you to know the  
church office is open from 9  
till noon if you have a  
prayer request or other  
need. (697-3313)**

## 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.

### NOTE

There will be no communion during the October 4<sup>th</sup> morning worship and no drive-through communion that morning.

### Ways to Give

(Information from the Stewardship Committee)

In the case of real property, you may hold title to (with certain limitations), if this is transferred to the church, you may receive a tax-deductible contribution, up to the full value of the property.

### 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.



### You are Invited

This year's Mid-Gulf Conference of the ELCA will be held on Saturday, October 10. Because of Covid concerns, it will be done by Zoom, so you have the opportunity to attend if you would like to learn more about the Conference. If you are interested, check the link on our website.

### Men's Breakfast

Men, please join us as we have resumed monthly breakfasts at Stefano's restaurant. We will meet at 7:30 am on Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. Please join us!

### Looking Ahead

On Monday, November 16, 11:00 am, there will be a congregational meeting, by Zoom, to consider the constitutional amendments as recommended by the Congregation Council. If you would like to review these changes, see our website:

<https://alivingfaith.org/faith-lutheran-church-of-rotonda-west-about/newsletters/>

### Memorials and Celebrations

If you would like to celebrate a special event in your life or the life of someone dear to you, if you want to remember someone in a unique way or you just want to thank the Lord for his goodness, we have the perfect opportunity.

For \$20 you can place flowers on the altar, or for \$5 you can sponsor the eternal candle, and your special message will be in the bulletin that week. Best of all, you can take the flowers home after worship!



## 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 and be sure we have the names 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:  
all those who have had or now have the covid-19 virus and Ralph Crites.



2020 will be a year to remember and a year to forget.

A year to forget because of the hardship of COVID-19, stay at home orders, job losses, travel bans, isolation, conflicting medical advice, and an obsession with daily virus reports.

A year to remember because of the “reset” in values and priorities, working from home, spending time with family, finding new ways to connect with family and friends, and a new opportunity to understand our “being” without the distraction of “doing.”

2020 may be remembered as a year without holidays. Easter, Memorial Day, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Labor Day, Halloween or Thanksgiving; at least this year we will celebrate these holidays in ways that differ from our traditional activities.

And 2020 will be remembered, as one writer put it, as the year all pastors became televangelists. This may be the hardest change for those who rely on the weekly gathering of the faith community; we miss the opportunity to gather in worship, fellowship, support and serve. While we may have adapted to ZOOM meetings and worship on YouTube from our comfortable seat at home, the reality is we miss the connectedness of seeing people in person.

First, thank you for your understanding as we go through this time of global pandemic. Thank you for your continued support of our life together at Faith. Thank you for joining us in worship, in person, and on-line. Thank you for your continued support of outreach and volunteerism in our community. Thank you for your connectedness and support of members, friends and neighbors during our time of isolation. Thank you for being the body (the presence) of Christ in our world.

Second, please contact me or Barb in the church office if you are aware of a need in our congregation or community. It is hard to be aware of every need, or meet every need, as we live with various restrictions. However, with your help we will be as responsive as we are able.

Third, thanks to the support of our congregation leadership, we will continue to offer worship on line through our website <https://alivingfaith.org>. We are also offering in-person worship for the month of October at 9:30 am. Masks/face coverings are required for everyone’s safety.

If you have a question or concern, please speak to me. We currently have 60 chairs in the sanctuary, we may be able to expand that to 75 and still maintain some sense of distance. However, as we approach “season,” we will have to adjust again. We don’t know when this will begin, maybe as early as November, maybe as late as January.

Our plan to accommodate more people at worship is to offer an 8:30 am (Early) service outside in the memorial garden. Outside so people can distance without having to wear a mask. You will need to bring your own chair, and we will not have singing, but we may have special music. We are not sure if, or how, we will be able to accommodate communion.

When we start the 8:30 service, we will move our in-person worship service to 10:30 am in the sanctuary. This will allow us to live-stream and record our service on YouTube for those who cannot join us for worship and those who have become a part of our "distant" on-line worship community.

The in-person worship service will have limited singing (2 verses of hymns) and communion. Masks will be required as long as necessary to provide a reasonably safe environment for worship.

Fourth, as we plan for Reformation, All Saint's Sunday, Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas, we will work to keep the heart of these celebrations focused on our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. However, our practice will probably be modified for the health and safety of our members, and to present a positive witness in our community.

If you have thoughts or ideas on how we can honor these special days as a congregation, please share your thoughts with me or Barb in the church office.

Hebrews 13.8 says, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." This scripture reminds us that whether we are dealing with COVID-19, or some other event, God's word is still true, Jesus is still our Savior, and the Holy Spirit is still at work in and through is, for the sake of the world.

In these times of uncertainty and unsettledness, we call upon God to be our strength, and work through us to accomplish God's work. Thank you for being the people of God.

Blessings,  
Pastor Brian

