

Faith's Happenings...

July, 2019

Happy Birthday

Bernita Bulwan	7th
Jean Matz	8th
Margaret Murphy	12th
Jonathan Armen	22nd
Marilyn Reynolds	24th
Debbie Porter	29th
Jack Fitzgerald	30th

Happy Anniversary

Jim & Autumn Hardenstine	1st
Gordon & Marilyn Reynolds	6th
Les & Cathie VanAllsburg	8th
Gary & Jennifer Boehler	19th
Harold & Linda Schultz	22nd
Bill & Sara Speth	25th
John & Laura Kohler	28th

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

July at a Glance

Mark your calendars now!
Men of Faith Breakfast: July 2
Independence Day: July 4
Office closed: July 4
Ladies Luncheon: July 13
Summer Celebration: July 21

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.



Men – You are Invited...

...to the July Men's Breakfast at Stefano's Restaurant (on Route 776 in front of Beall's Outlet). Meet at the restaurant on Tuesday, July 2, at 7:30 am, for fun, food and fellowship. No sign-up required.

Thanks!

For the past few months Faith has been blessed to have Brandy Schneck serving as an assistant during Sunday morning worship. Her last Sunday with us will be July 21. Then she is off to begin Seminary. A big thank you to her from the entire family of Faith Lutheran. [You can read a little more about her on the last page of the newsletter.]

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, Carol Schleede, 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

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.



Warning

The church office recently received an email from someone claiming to be Pastor Armen. It asked us to buy some gift cards and reply with the numbers on those cards. If you ever receive such an email, note that neither the church nor Pastor will email you asking for gift cards. If you didn't hear about it in church on Sunday morning, it is a scam. Remember you can always call the church office to verify any request you receive.

Ladies Luncheon

For the first time ever the Ladies of Faith Lutheran will meet for lunch on July 13th at the **Lemon Bay Golf Club**. It is located at the intersection of Placida Road and Rotonda West.

We will meet at 11:30 am in this relatively new (2 yr. old) clubhouse with the dining room on the second floor, surrounded by glass--a fantastic view! Fear not, there is an elevator to whisk you upward from the parking lot. From the above-mentioned intersection, drive slowly into the golf grounds and continue to follow the road until you see the clubhouse on your left. Pass the clubhouse to find the parking lot, behind the building on your left. You will see a grand stone staircase and find the elevator just behind on the right.

Wonderful menu choices include salads, sandwiches, wraps, quesadillas, and even chicken tenders. Prices are reasonable and include a side. A copy of the menu selections is posted with the sign-up sheet in the narthex. Deadline is July 9th.

Please join us for a summertime "first." And, as always, guests are welcome. Need more information? Call or see Kathie Wiley 941-662-5383.

**Thank you to Joyce Schultz for putting a bee in my bonnet about this lovely choice.

Ways to Give

(Information from the Stewardship Committee)

Monetary contributions are the most common means of supporting the work of the church. Gifts by cash or check are received by the congregation, and you, as the donor, receive a statement of contributions for your records. You may also give by clicking on the code in monthly newsletters and on our website.



Psalm 113.3 *From the rising of the sun to its setting the name of the Lord is to be praised.*

The Psalmist encourages us to live a life of praise to God with gratitude and thanksgiving. While the experiences of our lives will shape how we live with gratitude and thanksgiving, it is God who is the center of all we do. If we are at home, we are God's presence for family, friends, neighbors and our community. If we are on vacation or traveling, we take God wherever we go.

All we have to do is look around us and we can see a creation God made and people for whom Jesus gave his life. As a result, we should live in the power of the Spirit to do God's work in our lives. During the summer months, please be aware of events happening in and around our life together at Faith:

- 1) We have begun working with our Synod Stewardship team and a consultation titled Stewardship for All Seasons. With this we will review our existing methods of communicating the concept of stewardship as well as looking at new ways we can lift up gratitude in thankful living.
- 2) In June, Brandy (our Worship Assistant, now Seminarian Worship Assistant) will head off to Southern Seminary for Summer (July/August) Greek, then the fall Semester in August. Please keep her in your prayers during this transition and look for updates on her journey of theological and pastoral training.

- 3) There are several events in the works for fellowship and service over the summer. A summer celebration is in the works for July. In August a congregation picnic is being planned. In September "God's Work, Our Hands" will give us an opportunity to serve. And, maybe, last year's Octoberfest at worship will make it back on the schedule.

Listening, Caring and Serving are the things we do as God's people. These are the attributes we experience in our relationship with God. God is one who listens to us and hears our cry for help. God is one who cares, who's heart is drawn to worship and moved by the prayers of his people. And God is one who acts to save and serve God's creation.

In response to what God has done, let us listen to one another, care for one another, love and serve one another, fellowship and celebrate God's love for us. In doing so, we bring a message of hope to our hurting world. I'm reminded of a saying I learned long ago: "The only Christ some people will see, is the Christ who lives in me."

Have a blessed summer as we continue to find ways to praise God, living our lives in ways that honor what he has done for us.

Pastor Brian

Come Celebrate Summer

We're celebrating summer's arrival with a special fellowship time on July 21st after morning worship. It's a breakfast/brunch, and we need folks to sign up to bring some food for the meal. We also need to know how many will be attending so we can plan accordingly. There is a poster in the narthex with sign-up sheets. Choose what you'd like to bring and let us know how many will be attending.



I am originally from the small town of Pine Grove, in Pennsylvania. I have lived in Florida for 2 years now. Growing up, my family was unchurched. I was a member of a United Church of Christ church and only went to be baptized and confirmed. Then I stopped going for over 10 years.

After getting back into the church, I felt very comfortable and knew that's where I belonged. But it wasn't until a few years later I felt my call to ministry. I received my message from a lady on an airplane, flying back to Pennsylvania from Florida after visiting Jim and Autumn (Hardenstine).

When I sat down, she told me she was glad someone "normal" was sitting next to her. The whole flight back she kept talking to me and asking me questions. She asked why I was in Florida. When I explained to her that I was visiting the retired pastor of my church, she told me she knew I would be a pastor one day. I just laughed and didn't really think about it.

A few days later, I received a pamphlet in the mail from a church I never heard of before about answering my call. That made me think a little more about what the lady from the airplane had said, but I still just let it go. A few days after receiving that piece of mail, I received a message from an old college professor saying she was thinking about me in church that Sunday, and God was telling her I belonged in ministry. That was when I decided I needed to stop ignoring the messages and really start paying attention to God's leading.

I enrolled in an online school, Regent, and earned my Bachelor's degree in Christian Ministry. While finishing my degree, I moved to Florida and started attending Faith Lutheran. It didn't take long until I knew that was where I belonged, so I became a member. Soon after, I started the candidacy process.

The first part was being a member of Faith for a year before I could move on. At first, I thought a year was a long time but it flew by quickly! Before I knew it, I was writing essays, filling out forms, getting recommendations, having interviews and evaluations and preparing to meet with the Candidacy Committee. Then I was granted entrance into the candidacy process. The next step was picking a seminary!

After thinking that the lady from the airplane was crazy, I now know that was a message from the Holy Spirit as were the other messages I ignored. As I move on in this journey, I know that the Spirit is working within me, guiding and leading me to where I am supposed to be.

But I wouldn't have made it to where I am today without the support and encouragement of the Faith congregation. I am grateful to have been blessed with such a wonderful support system. I was able to grow so much in this church and am thankful for everything that everyone has done for me. Whether it is encouragement when I'm trying something for the first time, or constructive criticism to help me improve for the next time. Faith Lutheran has been such a blessing to me in this journey and I want to thank every one of you for all you have done for me, and for going along with me on this journey.

I am very excited to keep you all updated as I move forward, and to stay in touch so you can continue to support and encourage me along the way. Thank you.

Brandy Schneck