

# Faith's Happenings...

March, 2021

## Happy Birthday

Jim Porter	1st
Marian Ruby	2nd
Sharon Ulissi	3rd
Beverly Martin	7th
Alma Claussen	8th
Cathie VanAllsburg	8th
Sara Speth	9th
Cyndy Hoops	16th
Gene Goldsberry	16th
Candace Montessi	21st
Steve LeVasseur	22nd
Susan Kiray	27th
Linda Jasper	28th
Ralph Crites	30th
Robert Martin	30th

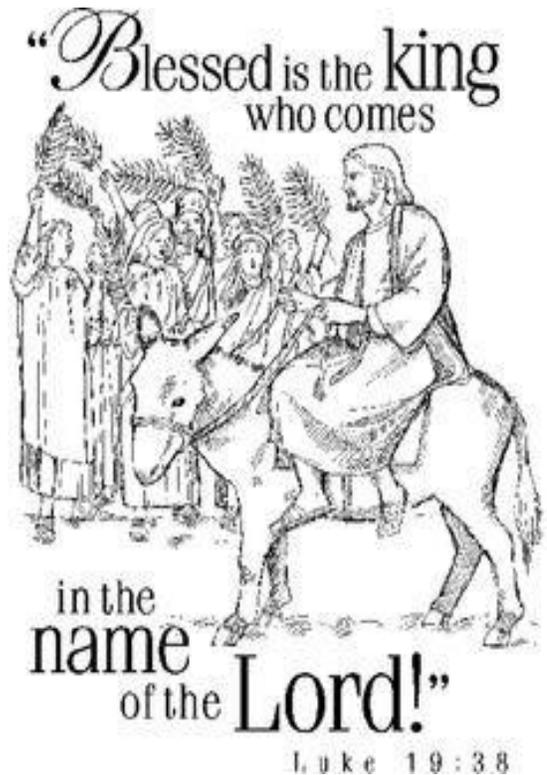
## Happy Anniversary

Steve & Debby Wolfe 6th

**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 2  
Receive new members: March 21*



### Lenten Wednesday Worship

This year our Lenten Wednesday worship is at noon in the building. It is also live streamed for those who prefer online worship.

If you would like to be a member of the Faith family, we will be receiving new members on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Call Barbra in the church office for details (697-3313).

## 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: 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

## 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)

## 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's Breakfast

Men, we have resumed our monthly breakfasts at Stefano's restaurant. We will meet at 7:30 am on Tuesday, March 2. Please join us!

## 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.



## Reminder

If you are a Thrivent investor, your 2020 Thrivent Choice Dollars must be designated by March 31<sup>st</sup>. If you are having difficulty, call the church office (697-3313) and Pastor will help you.

## Are You an Artist or Crafter?

Christ Lutheran is having a "Healing Through the Arts Fair" on April 10<sup>th</sup>, and they are looking for vendors to participate in the event. If you are interested, there is a poster on the family bulletin board (by the church office) with contact information.

Welcome to our newest council members Dave Deitrich and Kent Neilson.

## Ways to Give

(from your Stewardship Committee)

Stocks and bonds can be given directly to the church as part of your regular support, or for a special cause or fund. In making the direct gift of an investment, you base your deduction on the investment's appreciated value at the time of the gift.



Psalm 19.1 *The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of God's hands.*

Our Lenten pilgrimage this year invites us to recall God's faithfulness, and open our lives to God's leading. The past year's challenge of COVID-19 has necessitated our leaning on God's faithfulness. In our life together as the church at Faith, we have also spent much time adjusting, adapting and modifying our ministry to keep people safe while finding ways to be God's hands at work. In the words of the Psalmist, along with the heavens, we continue declaring the glory of God.

While we have lost loved ones during this time and we have not been able to grieve and support one another as we normally do, we remember that God is still present in our suffering and we look for ways to support one another. It will take time for our sorrow to be turned to joy, but it is the faithfulness of God that will move us forward.

This Lenten season continues to be an adjustment, with Wednesday Lenten services being held at noon. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday will also be at noon. All services will be live streamed and recorded for viewing. Thank you for joining us at worship in person and online during this special time of the church year.

Sunday worship will continue with our current pattern of Sunday 8:30 am (outside) and 10:30 am (inside) through April. On Easter Sunday, our 8:30 worship will be "Sunrise" at the Memorial Garden; bring a chair or worship in your car. The 10:30 worship service will be live streamed and recorded.

Since January we have experienced an increase in participation at worship, both inside and outside. As the COVID infection rates drop and more people receive vaccines we expect this trend to continue. As a congregation our expectation is that our current precautions, outdoor worship and masked worship with limited singing, will continue through the spring. Once the humidity and summer rains arrive, we will move to all indoor worship.

We will continue to monitor health and safety guidelines so those who are comfortable coming to worship in person can be confident we are using best practices.

For our congregation that joins us for worship online through live stream or recording, our commitment is to continue the live stream/recording of worship even when things get back to "normal". We currently have a team of 3 assisting with our live stream. Two are required for each worship service. If you can move a computer mouse and press a few keys on a keyboard, you can be trained to help connect with our virtual community. Please contact the church office if you are willing to give it a try.

The biggest challenge we have had is staying connected with our members who are in care facilities and homebound. Our caring ministries of pastoral care, Eucharistic ministry and Stephen ministry look forward to being able to resume more "normal" modes of ministry.

Regarding pastoral care: I have been, and am, ready to visit and take communion to anyone, anywhere, any time. I have received the COVID vaccine and will still use mask and gloves in my visitation as you request. Care facilities are still restricted in visitation, however special arrangements may sometimes be made for visitation. Please contact me in these circumstances and we will find a way to meet your need.

Eucharistic ministers and Stephen Ministers have maintained safe contacts with their care receivers over the past year. As expected, the needs of our community have changed during this time.

Lou Taylor is now participating in Stephen Minister Leader Training. In late Spring or early Summer, we will re-convene our caring ministries (Eucharistic Ministry, Stephen Ministry and Love and Serve) to review our resources and identify needs in our community.

Many thanks go out to the "Lutheran Chicks" who help maintain contact with our members and those in special circumstances through cards and other outreach. Many thanks to our men who work diligently "Maintaining Faith," reducing maintenance costs through volunteer work, and seeing that necessary tasks are completed by professionals when needed.

The work of our congregation, with our many volunteers and with everyone's faithful and generous support is evidence of your generosity, both receiving and sharing God's

blessing in your life. Currently we are supporting outreach to the "camper" community providing meals, laundry packets and now wallets to keep their ID and important papers safe. Generosity is evident in our care for others.

Another incidence of generosity was evidenced more than 10 years ago when a member anonymously donated money for the church to purchase the chairs that are now in the sanctuary. Several years ago, the seats of the chairs began to pull apart. Again, it was a member who volunteered, stepped forward and made new covers for the seats, which our men were then able to install. Late last year, however, as we were concerned about sanitizing the worship space, it was noted that the finish of the fabric was worn on many chair backs. Once again, our designers went to work to come up with a solution.

When the cost for replacement material, time, and the final finish were all considered, the congregation council considered the cost of new chairs. Jumping to the end of the story, new chairs will be delivered sometime this spring. When the expenses were totaled, a generous offer was made anonymously to cover the cost of new chairs.

What is evident in our life together at Faith, even in times of challenge, is that we are blessed and we share that blessing as a congregation and in the community. Thank you for your continued support as we do God's work together. Let us work together so that we declare the glory of God and proclaim the work of God's hands by our words, our caring and our serving.

Together on our journey with Jesus,  
*Pastor Brian*