



March, 2026



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear church family,

John 4:5–42 is one of the passages the church lectionary will bring us this month of March. In that passage, our Lord sits at a well in Samaria and speaks with a woman whom the people in her own community avoided. She was a Samaritan. She was a woman. She carried a complicated past. In the world of first-century Judea, each of those facts made her unwanted. Despite that, Jesus treated her as a person made in the image of God.

As we approach St. Patrick's Day, I was reminded of some of the people I worked with in a resort in Idaho. Two of them had very distinct Irish names. Both were proud US Citizens. Then, I was reminded that even the Irish were once pushed to the edges of the American life. In cities across the nation, signs were posted that read "No Irish Need Apply." They were mocked for their accents, suspected because of their extreme poverty, and distrusted because many were Catholic. Over time, Irish families found their place. They built neighborhoods, served in public office, and strengthened churches. Sadly, their story is not unique. Italians, Germans, Jews, African Americans, Asians, and many others have walked or are walking similar paths. Even though the American story is full of opportunities, it is also full of struggles.

If you study church history with me this fall at Calvary Chapel's Bible College, you will notice that churches have not always spoken clearly when neighbors were excluded or mistreated. At times, we were silent. At times, we opted to be cautious even though people were being hurt. At times, we just did not care enough. The gospel, however, does not permit indifference. If Christians are to follow the example of Jesus in John 4, Jesus crosses social, ethnic, gender, and religious boundaries without hesitation. He did not ignore the woman's faults, but even when confronting her, He did so with truth and grace. He showed that the kingdom of God gathers those whom society keeps apart. He showed us He cared for someone when his people or her own people didn't.

In our own communities here in Florida, we continue to meet people who quietly wonder whether there is a place for them. Some carry accents. Some carry poverty. Some carry mistakes from their past. Some simply carry the weight of being different. The church of Jesus Christ must not repeat old silences. We are called to see as our Lord sees, to speak when dignity is denied, and to open our doors and our hearts without partiality. If Jesus could sit at a well and begin a new story with someone others dismissed, then we can cross the street, start the conversation, and make room at the table. May we be known as congregations where no one hears "No need apply," but instead hears the gracious invitation of Christ, who still wants to welcome people from many backgrounds and have us calling them brothers and sisters in faith.

God bless you and your family.

Yours truly,

Rev. Syl Estevez

Designated Interim-Pastor

Faith's Happenings ...

February, 2026

Mark Your Calendars...

Sunday, March 1

- 9:00 am - Adult Sunday School
- 10:15 am - Morning Coffee
- **10:45 am - Gottesdienst (Divine Service)**

Tuesday, March 3

- **7:30 am - "Men of Faith" Breakfast at Stefanos'**
- 8:30 am - "Maintaining Faith" Work Crew
- 9:00 am - "Lutheran Chicks" Workshop

Wednesday, March 4

- **3:00 pm - Bible Study**
- 5:00 pm - Soup Supper Fellowship
- **6:00 pm - Lenten Midweek Wortgottesdienst (Service of the Word).**

Sunday, March 8

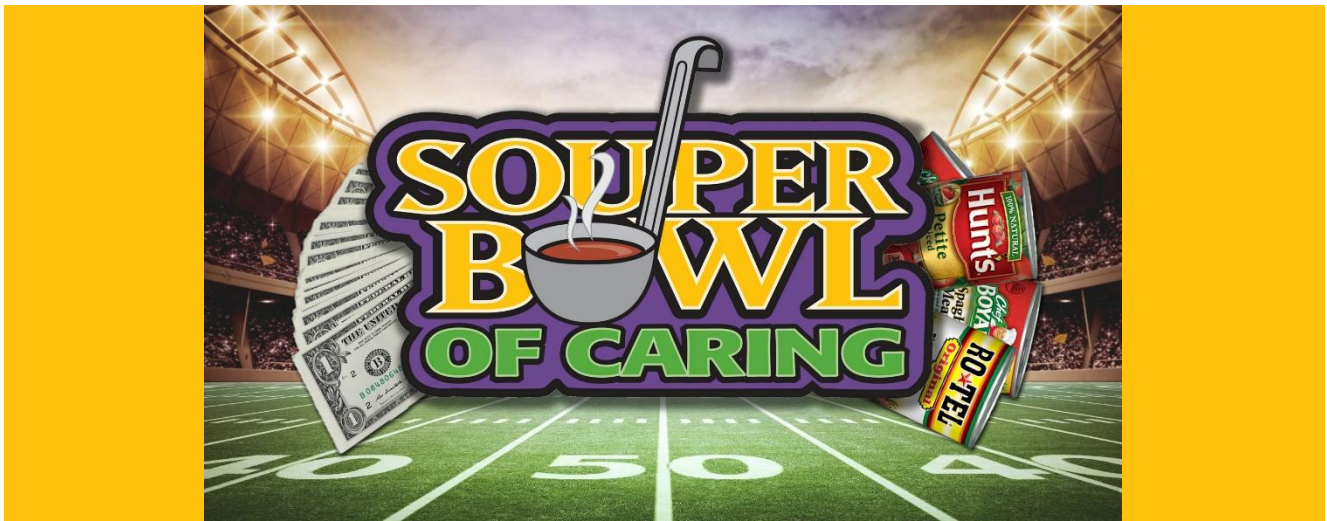
- **Daylight savings (clocks ahead one hour)**
- 9:00 am - Adult Sunday School

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:15 am - Morning Coffee • 10:45 am - Gottesdienst (Divine Service)
Tuesday, March 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:00 am - "Maintaining Faith" Work Crew • 9:00 am - "Lutheran Chicks" Workshop
Wednesday, March 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12:00 pm - Ladies' Luncheon • 5:00 pm - Soup Supper Fellowship • 6:00 pm - Lenten Midweek Wortgottesdienst (Service of the Word).
Sunday, March 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:00 am - Adult Sunday School • 10:15 am - Morning Coffee • 10:45 am - Gottesdienst (Divine Service)
Tuesday, March 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Patrick's Day • 8:00 am - "Maintaining Faith" Work Crew • 9:00 am - "Lutheran Chicks" Workshop • 10:00 am - Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3:00 pm - Bible Study • 5:00 pm - Soup Supper Fellowship • 6:00 pm - Lenten Midweek Wortgottesdienst (Service of the Word).
Sunday, March 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:00 am - Adult Sunday School • 10:15 am - Morning Coffee • 10:45 am - Gottesdienst (Divine Service)
Tuesday, March 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:00 am - "Maintaining Faith" Work Crew • 9:00 am - "Lutheran Chicks" Workshop
Wednesday, March 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5:00 pm - Soup Supper Fellowship • 6:00 pm - Lenten Midweek Wortgottesdienst (Service of the Word).
Sunday, March 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:00 am - Adult Sunday School • 10:15 am - Morning Coffee • 10:45 am - Palm Sunday Gottesdienst (Divine Service)

Last Month's

Recap

"Souper Bowl" Soup Can Drive



While most of the country was gearing up for Super Bowl Sunday on February 8, we at Faith had a different kind of goal. Our church supported the Tackle Hunger Souper Bowl of Caring. We were asked to bring cans of soup with a dollar bill attached to it, to support one of the local food pantries. This year, we decided to donate all we collected to the food pantry at the First Presbyterian Church in Port Charlotte. We received notice from pastor Estevez that in total, they have reached a staggering **\$1,053** and **1,894 cans**. Elder Nancy Sharpless, who is the chairperson for FPCPC sent us a massive thank you to everyone who pitched in to make this miracle happen. You did it again, church family.

Upcoming Events

An Opportunity for Fellowship

Lenten
WORSHIP &
SOUP SUPPERS



We have soup suppers on the Wednesdays during Lent. The supper is at 5 pm followed by mid-week Lenten worship at 6 pm. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex for those able to bring soup (in a crock pot). Dessert is also appreciated. We need 4-5 people each week to provide nourishment. There is also a sign-up sheet to help with set up and clean up. You are asked to bring a spoon, bowl and (if you want) a sandwich. This is a great time to meet other church friends and enjoy a light supper before the weekly Wednesday Lenten service.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to...

3/01 - Jim Porter

03/03 - Sharon Ulissi

03/03 - George Myers

03/03 - Ruth Hallam

03/08 - Cathie VanAllsburg

Happy Birthday to...

03/11 - Rosie Buccine

03/16 - Cyndy Hoops

03/16 - Gene Goldsberry

03/21 - Candace Montesi

03/22 - Steve LeVasseur

03/28 - Linda Jasper

Happy Anniversary to...

03/06 - Steve & Debby
Wolfe

03/18 - Ernie & Linda Ovitz

03/25 - Ken & JoAnne
Stephens

If we missed your birthday or anniversary, we're sorry. Please notify Barbra in the church office to have your special dates added.

We are Praying for

Sandy Despreaux - Health issues

Ginny Linsberg - Health Issues

Tracie Thompson - Health Issues

Bob Ash - Health Issues

Shirley Rice - Health Issues

Kay Culver - Health issues

Debbie Porter - Health issues

Barbra Davis - Health Issues

Jim Hughs - Health Issues

Barbara Rodvik - Hospice

If you would like to add your name or someone else's to the prayer list, please notify Barbra in the church office. We remove names every three months, unless individuals request to remain on the list.
