

Faith's Happenings...

November, 2020

Happy Birthday

Sam Besase	3rd
Harv Claussen	3rd
Laura Wine	3rd
Francine DeGroot	8th
Merrilee Warner	13th
Barb Buroker	13th
Dee Trethewey	13th
Mary Ellen McMahon	14th
Jerry Hebert	15th
Jim Hughs	21st
Steven Kiray	22nd
Tom Newton	25th
Joyce Schultz	28th
Rich Pedersen	28th
Thomas Bakker	29th

Happy Anniversary

Jim & Linda Hughs	4th
Jack & Mary Lou Fitzgerald	6th
Tom & Toni Newton	7th
Tom & Linda Jackling	29th
Steve & Niki LeVasseur	30th

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

November at a Glance

Mark your calendars now!
Time Change: Nov. 1
Men of Faith Breakfast: Nov. 3
Congregational Meeting: Nov. 16



Thanksgiving Eve

As of this issue, we will have a regular Thanksgiving Eve service in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm on November 25th. Please join us.

Reminder

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/>

NOTE: There will be no communion during worship on November 8th, and no drive-through communion that day.

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, please join us as we have resumed monthly breakfasts at Stefano's restaurant. We will meet at 7:30 am on Tuesday, November 3rd. Please join us!

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.



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.

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.



Love and Serve

Recently we had a call from a family member about parents who attend Faith and needed some assistance. Fortunately, we had a few ladies available to fill the need, but it raised the question of what to do about future requests of this sort. Consequently, we are forming a new team of folks willing to do some small tasks to help others.

The Love and Serve Team will be available for providing a meal, picking up a prescription or doing light shopping for someone in need. Barbra (church secretary) will coordinate from the office, calling people in rotation so no one is overburdened.

If you are willing to be part of this Team, call the church office or send an email to office@alivingfaith.org

A Note from Our Seminarian

Hey everyone!

I hope you're all doing well during these times that can be stressful! I just wanted to give an update and let you all know how things have been going.

This semester of classes is online, with the option to go to in-person class for some classes. Not all professors are giving the option for in-person and are doing everything online. Even though I am on campus, I do not attend classes in-person. Over the summer I started nannying a baby for a family and am still nannying, and I'm the teaching assistant for a professor with health issues who is doing all online class. I chose to still do all my work online to make sure I can keep them safe as well.

We have been updated, aware that there are still things being worked out, but the call process of finding seminarians a church after they graduate is changing. Because seminarians are "under the care" of their bishop in their synod, churches in our home synod will be the first place they look to send us to for our first call. So, instead of me being sent anywhere, they will first look for a church in the Florida-Bahamas synod for my first call. Maybe, hopefully, Pastor Brian can help explain that more/better if there are any questions about it. But, essentially, I will be coming back to Florida, or the Bahamas, after seminary for my first call!

And more exciting news!! I had my Endorsement interview Wednesday October 14th, and was giving a recommendation for a Positive decision! For the interview, I just had a "panel" so I did not have the whole candidacy committee present. The committee members that were on my panel will take their positive recommendation to the whole committee in November, where they will all make the decision together. The chances that my panel gave me a positive decision but the whole committee overall

does not, is not very high. That means I am ready to continue and go into internship next year, after completing my clinical pastor education this summer. I will not know where I am going for internship until March/April. I will keep you updated on that as I find out!

I am pretty sure that is everything that is going on at seminary right now. I will certainly keep you updated if anything changes!

I miss you all and can't wait to come home and visit, hopefully, between semesters! Thank you for your continued support and prayers!

Brandy Schneck

Just a reminder to turn
back your clocks tonight.



Unfortunately only one
hour, not twenty years.

Note: Do this on Saturday,
October 31 – just wanted to
share a little humor!



A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed. – Proverbs 11:25 NIV

There are two words about fall I haven't heard used in a few years: cornucopia and smorgasbord.

Cornucopia: a curved, hollow goat's horn or similarly shaped receptacle (such as a horn-shaped basket) that is overflowing especially with fruit and vegetables (such as gourds, ears of corn, apples, and grapes) and that is used as a decorative motif emblematic of abundance.

Smorgasbord: a buffet offering a variety of hot and cold meats, salads, hors d'oeuvres, etc.; a wide range of something; a variety.

This month's reflection draws from elements of both words: abundance and variety. Fall is a time to give thanks for the harvest and, in the church, reflections turn to our stewardship of God's blessings.

In Thanksgiving for your faithful support over these months of COVID-19, our congregation continues strong in ministry. Although our Stewardship/Pledge/Giving Intent "drive" did not happen until January and February, intents increased for this year. That commitment has been reflected in our regular weekly/monthly offerings.

In living out our mission to have a heart for our neighbor we have expanded our ministry, exceeded our capital campaign goal, and given more in support of our community outreach endeavors. Thank you! Without your commitment this would not be possible. With your continued faithful giving through the end of this year we will start 2021 strong.

Because of your faithful support, we have not missed a week of worship. When public worship services were stopped because of COVID-19, we were immediately able to move to video worship with the help of a number of volunteers.

Once we determined our needs and had a chance to evaluate equipment, we were able to purchase cameras and have them integrated into our system so we can now record and live stream our worship services.

With this expansion of our worship opportunity we now connect with people all over the country, maybe even internationally; seasonal members, family and friends who join us each week for worship. The gift of our volunteer's time, talents and your faithful financial support have made this possible. Thank you!

As we prepare for 2021, I would like your help in identifying one or two mission priorities. These may be something we are already doing but could do better, or it might be something new, something growing out of a passion you have for reaching and helping others in our community or the world. Please email me your thoughts: pastor@alivingfaith.org

We will have our traditional **Thanksgiving Eve service** on Wednesday, November 25, 7:00 PM. If you are not able to join us in person, please join us on line for the live stream at <https://alivingfaith.org>.

With continuing concern about COVID-19 our 3 December **mid-week advent** services will be online worship only. As we develop the service, I am looking for 3 volunteers (one each week) who are willing to share their favorite memories or traditions from the Advent/Christmas Season. If you are willing to share please speak to me or email me: pastor@alivingfaith.org

In **December we anticipate beginning two worship services**, due to the reduced capacity of our sanctuary. Because of the challenge of sanitizing the sanctuary, and the lack of fresh air exchange, we have been talking about an outdoor service on Sundays at 8:30, much like our first services back in May.

Please bring your own chair, or you remain in your vehicle if you prefer. Face coverings would be encouraged. Music would be limited and we would have communion available.

In the event of rain, we could move into the sanctuary. We would then have a second service at 10:30, inside, with face coverings required, so that we can record and live stream for those joining us for worship on line.

The worship and music committee and council will continue to be in discussion regarding these arrangements anticipating the day when we can hold all worship inside without restrictions.

Thank you for your support of one another and our witness to the world as the truth of Proverbs 11.25 is born out in our life together.

Blessings,
Pastor Brian

Veterans Day is November 11th.

