

Faith's Happenings...

April, 2022

Happy Birthday

Lois Burger	2nd
Mary Lou Fitzgerald	4th
Tom Jackling	11th
Ray Eifert	13th
Marie Rutherford	13th
Gary Boehler	13th
David Jacobson	13th
Ann Banting	14th
Barb Neilson	19th
Kathy Myers	22nd
Gloria DeMeritt	26th
Jeanne Kittleson	27th

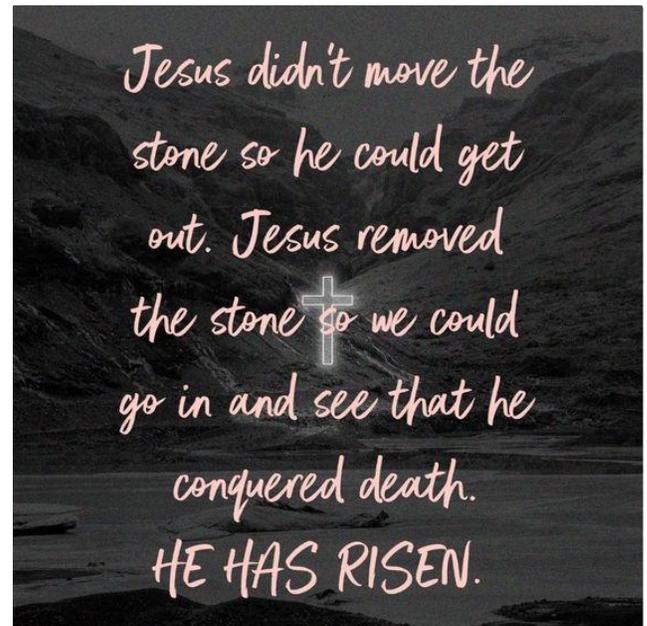
Happy Anniversary

Gary & Marcia Wilkins 24th

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

April at a Glance

Mark your calendars now!
Men of Faith Breakfast: April 5
Lenten Wednesday worship
Ladies Luncheon: April 6
Golf Outing: April 10
Maundy Thursday: April 14
Good Friday: April 15



Easter Worship

~ Maundy Thursday: 6:00 pm
~ Good Friday: 6:00 pm

~ Easter morning: 7:00 and 8:30
outside services, 10:30 inside

Please Note:

~ The night before Easter we need some helpers to move chairs from the doublewide to the Memorial Garden.
~ On Easter morning, we ask folks to bring flowers from home to decorate a flowering cross.

Long Term Prayer Update

This prayer list is for those who need continued, long-term prayer. We try to keep the weekly prayer list short, so people named may be moved to the newsletter after a few weeks in the bulletin. If you want to add someone to this list, contact Barbra in the church office (697-3313).

Please keep these folks in your prayers:
Ralph Crites, Sarah, Hester and Carter Newton, Joanne Best, Kathy Kanak, Sandy Honeycutt, John Schleede, Jack Myers, Carl Jasperse, Lois Howell, Rick and Roberta Luckow, Ethel Hunn, Jackie Magee

Electronic Giving

To contribute to support God's work, you may visit our web page <https://alivingfaith.org> and use the "Give" button.

Men's Breakfast

Men, we invite you to join us for our monthly breakfast at Stefano's restaurant. We will meet at 7:30 am on Tuesday, April 5th. Please join us!

Thank You

A big thank you to everyone here at Faith Lutheran for their thoughts, prayers, meals and everything you did for us. It is so appreciated. You are a wonderful faith family!

Harold and Linda Schultz

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.

Golf Outing

We have scheduled a golf outing at the Hills for our Faith family and friends on Sunday, April 10, at 12:00 pm, which is a brunch followed by 9 holes of golf. *Brunch starts at 12:00 and includes the Golden Bear, beverage and gratuity, for \$15.00. Golf tees off at 1:30 pm, and the cost is \$35 (for Rotonda Golf Non-Members) or \$15 (for Rotonda Golf Members).* Please sign up for your options in the narthex. Checks (payable to Faith, memo: Golf) or cash are to be placed in the envelope by the sign-up sheet. Deadline is April 3rd.

April Ladies Luncheon

The Ladies of Faith will meet Wednesday, April 6th, 11:30 am, at The Lighthouse at Stump Pass. We are meeting a little earlier in the month as Holy Week and Easter are the following week and some of our ladies may be leaving soon for up north.

We will order off the menu and have separate checks. This restaurant is a favorite of our ladies as they have a wonderfully diverse menu of fresh fish, salads, burgers and BBQ. Parking might be tight but check for off-site parking with golf-cart rides to the restaurant.

Time is short for sign-up -- **deadline is Sunday April 3.** The sheet is on the narthex bulletin board. Info? Call Kathie Wiley 941-662-5383



Flower Change

Because of a major increase in the price of altar flowers from Stevens, we have decided to purchase them from Ann's Flowers, at a cost of \$35 per arrangement. A new flower chart has been posted with this price change. Even if you signed up already, ***you need to sign up again if you want flowers.*** If you have already paid, the \$25 can be counted toward the total, or can be transferred to the general fund. If you have any questions, call Barbra in the church office (941-697-3313).



Flowering of the Cross Easter Sunday

Once again, Faith will be doing a *flowering of the cross* at all three services on Easter Sunday. This tradition has deep significance for us. *This glorious cross represents the transition from Good Friday to Easter, from meditation on death to joyful celebration of His resurrection.*

Everyone is asked to bring fresh flowers to place on the cross. The flowers may be any kind, from your property, purchased, wild-flowers etc. So how about bringing a flower or two to help transform the cross on this most jubilant day? Mark your calendars now to remind yourself!

NOTE: We will return to one service (9:30 am) on Sunday, May 1st.



Easter Lilies

Please sign up to provide an Easter lily for Easter Sunday. Cost is \$10 and a sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the narthex. Plants may be taken home after the late service on Easter Sunday. Those remaining after that will be planted in Memorial Garden area.



With the continuing conflict in Ukraine, many people are asking how they can assist those who have fled the country for their own safety. We recently received a notice from Lutheran World Relief that any donation you make will be doubled (up to \$422,000)!

In order to take advantage of this generous offer, you need to send your checks directly to Lutheran World Relief, P.O. Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21297-1061. Be sure to write "Ukraine Match" in the memo line.

If you prefer, you can give online at: lwr.org/match. Either way, the deadline for matching is April 25.

From the Pastor



This is no April Fool....

Lent is the season where we commit time to reflect on our lives and walk with Jesus to the cross. We remember the wages of sin are death. We acknowledge our struggle against sin, and we witness Jesus' faith and life. We acknowledge Jesus' obedience to God, and the grace and life we experience because of what he endured. We rejoice because of God's victory over death and the grave in resurrection, which gives us hope and new life.

How did Jesus prepare during that final week of his life? How did he prepare for the cross? It was by taking time away, resting, praying, and calling upon God for guidance and strength. In Luke 22:41 Jesus goes with his disciples to the Mount of Olives, taking time away from the usual activities with his disciples to pray, both talking to God and listening to God.

This is a pattern Jesus modeled in his ministry. When he prepared to call his disciples, Luke 6:12, Jesus went out to a mountain alone to pray. In the morning Jesus called his disciples together and chose 12 as Apostles. After feeding 5,000 Jesus sent the disciples off in the boat while he went by himself up a mountain to pray (Matthew 14:22). Having sent the disciples out to do ministry, then listening to the way God was at work in them when they returned (Mark 6:30), Jesus invited them to

a quiet place for rest. At the Transfiguration, in Matthew 17:1, Jesus, Peter, James and John were led high up a mountain by themselves where they had a holy experience with Moses, Elijah and the voice of God. Jesus' time alone prepared him to take our place on the cross.

The first part of April, which includes Holy Week, invites us to spend time alone, away, in thoughtful reflection with God and God's word, sometimes by ourselves, sometimes with others. We have one more Wednesday evening service at 6:00 pm on April 6. We will enter into Holy Week on Palm Sunday, April 10 (8:30 and 10:30 am). Then we have the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services on April 14 and 15 also at 6:00 pm. On these occasions we are invited to draw near, and walk with Jesus and learn from him. And as we learn and experience what God has done for us, the glorious Easter celebration of Resurrection becomes our song and shout of thanksgiving and praise as we rally to do God's work in our world today.

Please note that our Easter worship services will be held at Sunrise 7:00 am in the Memorial Garden (chairs provided). Our early worship service will be at the memorial garden at 8:30 am (bring a chair as usual). Our late worship service will be held in the sanctuary at 10:30 am, live streamed and recorded.

The Sunday after Easter, April 24, will be our final Sunday for two services. On Sunday, May 1, we will resume one Sunday worship service at 9:30 am.

+ Pastor Brian