

# Faith's Happenings...

August, 2021

## *Happy Birthday*

Janet Moynihan	3rd
Bob Ash	4th
Janet Lockhart	12th
Ellen Lindhurst	12th
Julie Petersen	14th
Linda Schleede	19th
Fern McCoy	28th

## *Happy Anniversary*

Art & Barbara Hanson	5th
Jeff & Julie Petersen	5th
Steve & Cyndy Hoops	7th
Jack & Kathy Myers	9th
John & Jean Matz	12th
Jim & Debby Porter	13th
Kent & Barb Neilson	24th
Ivan & Irene Foerster	25th
Tom & Linda Jasper	26th

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

### **August at a Glance**

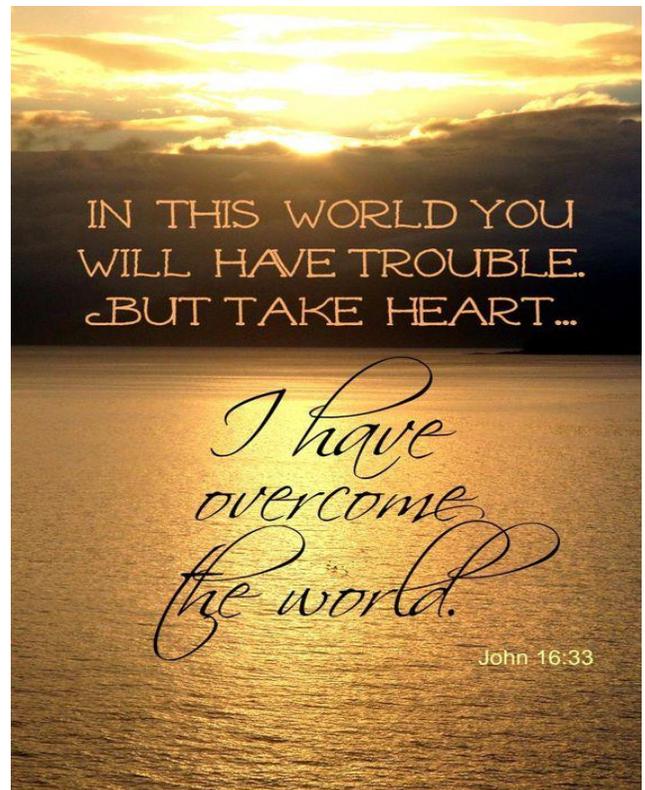
*Mark your calendars now!*  
*Men of Faith Breakfast: Aug. 3*  
*Fellowship time: Aug. 15*  
*Ladies Luncheon: Aug. 17*

### **Thank You...**

Thanks so much for your condolences.  
The Claussen Family

## **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 invite you to join us for our monthly breakfast at Stefano's restaurant. We will meet at 7:30 am on Tuesday, August 3rd. Please join us!

## 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, Greg Schultz, Scott Schultz, Sandy Honeycutt, Larry Bennett, John Schleede, Barb Neilson, Jack Myers, Carl Jaspers, Lois Howell, Glenna Seperic, Rick and Roberta Luckow, Ethel Hunn, Jackie Magee

## Ways to Give

(from your Stewardship Committee)  
IRA Direct Contributions are a means by which eligible persons can direct payments from their IRA to the church. You contact your plan administrator and have the desired amount of your contribution sent directly to the church. The distribution from your IRA is not taxable to you if it goes directly to the church. As the donor you receive a statement of contributions for your records.

## Electronic Giving

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

## August Ladies Lunch at Landy's

On Tuesday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 am, the ladies of Faith Lutheran will gather at Landy's on the Water (located just off McCall Rd./SR 776 near McDonalds). We will order off the menu and have separate checks. PLEASE ADD YOUR OWN TIP as the restaurant does not add one to the check. **Deadline to sign up is August 12<sup>th</sup>.** Sign up on the sheet in the narthex. If you have questions, call Kathie Wiley: 941-662-5383.

## You Are Invited...

Anyone interested in learning more about, or participating in, our Faith Caring Ministries is invited to attend a meeting on Monday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 am at the church. In case you don't know what those ministries are, here is a list with a brief description:

### Eucharistic Ministry

The Eucharistic Ministry provides communion for members of our congregation who are unable to attend worship. Following our worship services, Eucharistic Ministers distribute the elements of bread and wine to the ill or homebound.

### Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministers are members of the congregation who have received special training and regular training updates. These ministers walk with you during times of transition in your life, to provide the assurance of God's presence, and to offer referral for additional support as appropriate.

### Love and Serve Care Ministries

These congregation care ministers provide a variety of support services to members of our congregation. If you have a need and do not know where to turn, contacting a Love and Serve Care Minister may be the first step to finding an answer.

In addition to referrals to support services, our Care Ministers may also be able to provide occasional services such as a meal when you get home from the hospital or helping with a ride to or from an appointment. They also provide weekly lunches for area homeless people.

Come to the meeting and find out where you might like to serve our community and our church family. If you are interested but unable to attend, see Lou Taylor or Pastor.

## Are You Ready to Travel Again?

We need 2 voting members (1 man and 1 woman) to represent Faith at the annual Synod Assembly this fall. This year the assembly will be held in Kissimmee, FL, on September 17-19 (Friday through Sunday). If you are interested in volunteering, see Jay Fisher or Pastor Armen, or email the church office ([office@alivingfaith.org](mailto:office@alivingfaith.org)).



Paul writes *“lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called.”* Ephesians 4.1 If you are like me, you have found yourselves following the summer Olympics. A common element in the interviews with these athletes is their dedication to the sport; long hours of training, the support of family and the singular focus of determined commitment to be the best.

All of this leads me to reflect on the challenge Simone Biles has faced in this Olympic competition. While the story is still being written, Simone has stepped aside from some of the competition because of what was reported this morning as “twitches,” a mental or physiological block that is preventing one from completing a fundamental task. Anyone can go through these moments. What is amazing is that we are now hearing about it and paying attention to it.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Simone and all the competitors and families at the Olympics as they demonstrate what is possible with true dedication and mutual support as they struggle to perform at a high level. And, of course, the athletes make it look easy in many respects. As Paul writes to the church at Ephesus, the challenges faced by Olympic athletes are

not much different from the challenges we face as Christians. We train, we commit, we struggle, we offer support and receive support as we live our lives by faith. That support comes from God, as well as other Christians. We encourage each other and challenge each other to be the best we can.

But, like Simone Biles and other athletes, there are times we get stuck. The “twitches” get to us, and we have a hard time moving. The struggle is real. Paul encourages us to “lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called.” Notice Paul does not use the words excel, win or succeed. Paul uses the word “worthy”.

As we live our Christian lives in relationship with God, one another, and ourselves, we need to focus on wholeness; mental, physical, spiritual, and relational health. Our lives need to embody Jesus’ love, care and concern for others. But we must also balance that with concern for self. Remember Jesus went away to a quiet place by himself, and sometimes took the disciples with him, too.

“Authentic” is a term that was popular a few years back. I’m still not sure exactly what that means except that our life begins with our call from God to be God’s people and to use our gifts, talents and interests, to the best of our ability to benefit others. Please think about these things as we gather at worship, and particularly as we sing our Hymn of Praise:

We are one in the Spirit we are one in the Lord....

We will walk with each other we will walk hand in hand....

We will work with each other we will work side by side...

And they’ll know we are Christians by our love...

Blessings,  
Pastor Brian