

Faith's Happenings...

December, 2023

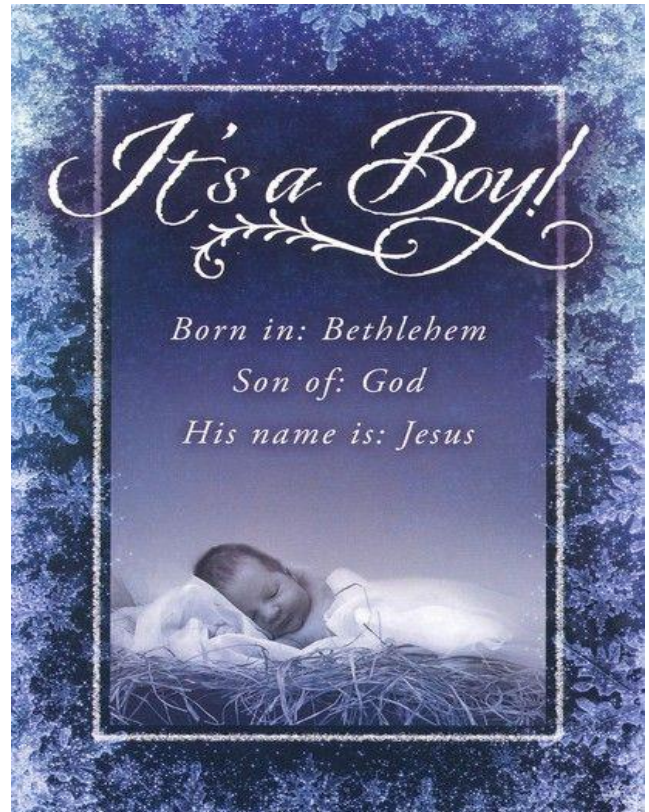
Happy Birthday

Ginny Linsberg	1st
Dorthea Fisher	3rd
Bonnie Goldsberry	12th
Art Hanson	15th
Pat Pelic	29th

Happy Anniversary

Susan & Leon Michaleski	14th
Gene & Bonnie Goldsberry	19th
Larry & Linda Bennett	27th
Carl & Sandy Despreaux	28th

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



December at a Glance

Mark your calendars now!

Men of Faith Breakfast: December 5

Ladies Luncheon: December 13

Christmas eve: December 24

Christmas Day: December 25



**He who reads the
newspaper knows what's
going on in the world.
He who reads the Bible
knows why.**

We will celebrate Advent with Wednesday evening services on December 6, 13 and 20, at 6:00. Christmas Eve is a Sunday, and we will have a regular morning service at 9:30, as well as evening services at 5:00 and 7:00.

Men's Breakfast

Guys, you are invited to join us on Tuesday morning, December 5, at Stefanos. We meet at 7:30 for some great food and fellowship. You can stay as long as you like and get to know your church brothers. No sign-up necessary.

Long Term Prayer

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: Joanne Best, Kathy Kanak, John Schleede, Carl Jaspers, Lois Howell, Jackie Magee, Gary Wilkins, Neal Schattauer, Scott Schultz, Alex Hoops, Tom Jackling, Ginny Linsberg, Jack Myers, Rosie LaQuay

**Santa has been
reading your
posts all year.
Most of you are
getting Bibles
and dictionaries.**

Did you ever check the "family bulletin board," located by the church office in the back of the sanctuary? We use it for news articles, events and items of general interest to our church family. Check it out!

Remember...

As usual, we need some help decorating the church with seasonal flowers. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia for our Christmas celebration, they are \$10 each, and there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex. (Please write legibly as your name and any dedication will be listed in the bulletin.) If you like, you may take the flower home after the second service on Christmas Eve. You can place your checks marked "poinsettias" in the offering plate.

Church Use

If you want to use the church or doublewide for a meeting or event, please DO NOT assume it is available. All scheduling is done through Barbra in the church office (941-697-3313). Please be sure she OK's your event and puts it on the church calendar.

Wanted: Council Members

If you are a full member of Faith, you can be a member of the congregation council, assisting in the leadership of the church. Council members meet once a month and serve a 3-year term. This year's Nominating Committee includes Jim Taylor, Gene Newlon and Linda Bennett. If you are interested in serving, or need more information about the job, see one of them or call Barbra in the church office (941-697-3313).

Flower Arranging

The ladies of Faith have a lot of opportunities for fun and learning. Last month, Kathy Myers taught a class on flower arranging. You can see a few of the lovely arrangements on the next page. Keep an eye on the bulletin for future opportunities.



Thursday, November 30, 2023

Yesterday (Wednesday) I led worship at Village on the Isle. Our celebration of Christ the King, like our worship on Sunday, closed out the church year. Now we look ahead. On Tuesday, Faithful Elves descended on the church and transformed our worship space in hopeful expectation of the Advent and Christmas seasons.

In Mark 13:37 Jesus instructs those who follow him, "...what I say to you, I say to all: Keep Awake." Advent is a time to hear the promises of God, across the ages, for people who live in darkness, carry heavy burdens and need to hear a word of hope. We will hear these promises and share this journey of anticipation and hope gathering for worship on Sunday mornings at 9:30, as well as Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm. Please join us. You are invited. You are also welcome to invite friends.

My grandmother was the artist in our family. She could knit, quilt, paint and garden. She had an eye for how things should look and work together. She also had the ability to make it happen. Two paintings I have from her collection are oil paintings of winter scenes similar to the works of Norman Rockwell and Currier and Ives. Those paintings take me back to a simpler era when families lived close together and spent time with each other. Days when FAITH and HOPE carried people, families and our nation through dark times.

This Advent season, and through our celebration of Christmas, I pray that the promises of God and our opportunities to gather as a church "family" will encourage you with the hope we have in God's promise of a savior. The nativity, the gift of the Christ child, the promise of God fulfilled, are timeless reminders of the Love of God permeating these seasons and our lives. God be with you in these days of Advent preparation and Christmas celebration,

+ Pastor Brian

Join us Wednesdays in Advent

Our mid-week Advent worship starts on Wednesday, December 6th, at 6:00 pm. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us.

Help Needed for Advent

We need a few people to serve as ushers for the Wednesday evening advent services, and/or Christmas Eve. If you are willing to volunteer for this one-time job, there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Remember, we return to 2 services on January 7: 8:30 outside in the Memorial Garden and 10:30 inside.

December Ladies Lunch

It seems like this has become our Christmas tradition! We will meet at Farlows on December 13 at 11:30 am. The restaurant is located at 2080 S. McCall Rd in Englewood. They have a wonderful menu with lots of seafood and fantastic salads and even a Hot Brown for mid-westerners.

Deadline to sign up is Sunday, December 10th. Sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Please come join us at the beginning of the holiday season. If you need more information, see or call Kathie Wiley (941-662-5383).

Merry Christmas From the Staff



The Greatest Gift Ever Given: Jesus Christ