

# Faith's Happenings...

January, 2022

## *Happy Birthday*

Linda Hughs	2nd
Noma Hickok	6th
Niki LeVasseur	6th
Barbra Davis	14th
Ron Mines	16th
John Kohler	17th
Jim Taylor	19th
Linda Jackling	20th
Allison Ward	22nd
Steve Hoops	23rd
Toni Dufrene	26th
John Matz	28th
Laura Kohler	28th
Hannah Armen	30th

## *Happy Anniversary*

Bruce & Margarete Rieck 14th

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

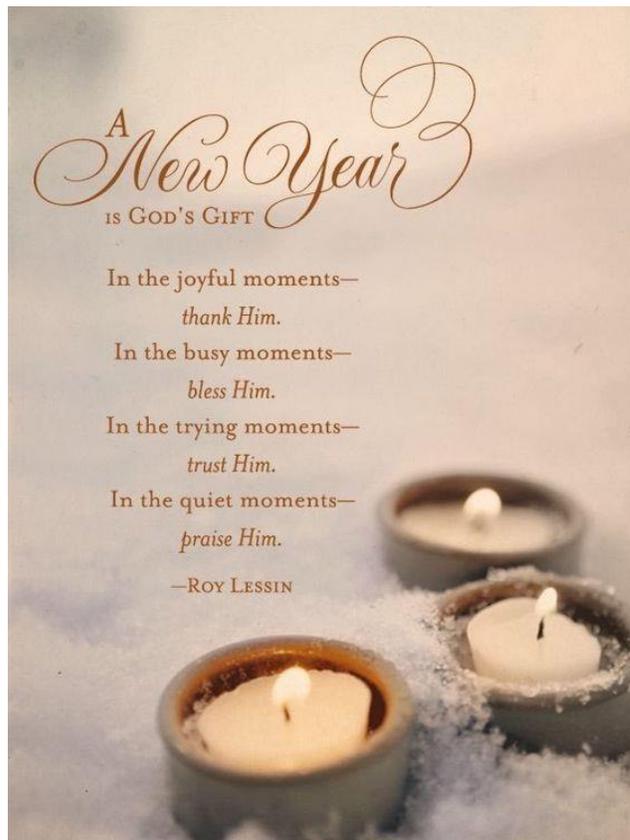
### **January at a Glance**

*Mark your calendars now!*

*Men of Faith Breakfast: Jan. 4*

*Faithful Families begins: Jan. 5*

*Ladies Luncheon: Jan. 12*



### **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.

## 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 Jaspers, 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, January 4<sup>th</sup>. Please join us!

## "Faithful Families" is Here!

The Florida Department of Health sponsors a special series of lessons for local families to help improve their lives in several areas. The nine-lesson curriculum is taught through group discussions, recipe taste tests, and activities, to encourage individuals and families.

Faith will be offering these classes, "Faithful Families," from January 5 through February 16 (Wednesdays at 1:00 pm) and again from March 2 through April 13 (Wednesdays at 10:00 am). Sessions are 45 minutes long, and topics include diet and exercise among others. Classes are limited to 15 and there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex if you would like to attend.

## Ladies New Year Luncheon at Stefano's

On Wednesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, the ladies of Faith Lutheran will meet at Stefano's Restaurant, located at 401 S. Indiana Avenue (in front of Beall's OUTLET).

They have a lovely menu with selections of salads, soups, burgers and assorted sandwiches, as well a large breakfast menu (\$1.00 extra after 11 am). Check out their dinner menu for some other time too – it's on the bulletin board in the narthex. We will order off the menu and have separate checks. They have no maximum number, so the more the merrier!!

Please sign up if you will be able to join us!! If you have questions, give me a call – Kathie Wiley, 941-662-5383. See you there!





The Celebration of the Christ Child's birth is upon us. We turn the page of the calendar to a new year. The Maji arrive in Bethlehem to honor the new born King. Jesus is baptized by John at the River Jordan. These events mark the close of 2021 and our entry in to a new year.

The Prophet Isaiah writes, **The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them.** Isaiah 11:6 NIV

Set forth in these words is the peaceable kingdom of God. Enemies by our understanding of the natural world, wolf-lamb, leopard-goat, calf-lion, and yearling all together are shown to be at peace. Predator and prey, in the kingdom of God, are found to all be satisfied and content, no longer needing to exploit another for their own survival, because God reigns supreme and all needs are met when God is present.

The final promise of this verse from Isaiah, **and a little child will lead them**, rings true in this season as we celebrate the Christ Child's birth and follow in rapid succession with the family's flight to Egypt, Jesus' childhood visit to Jerusalem to celebrate of the Passover, and Jesus' baptism, which marks the beginning of his public ministry. May we see in Jesus, those characteristics of a child: an openness to others, genuine concern for the wellbeing of others, a willingness to do new things, taking time to rest, listening to learn, and speaking to encourage, invite and challenge, to show us the true heart and love of God.

The needs in our congregation today are many. The needs in our community and world, even more so. It is easy for us to get weighed down by the burden. Observing my own children, and now grandchildren, learning to ride a bike then trying to ride without training wheels, it seems there is a phase where we are fixated on not being able to do it. But then, after much practice, they figure out how to ride, not just without training wheels, but on two wheels, and jumping curbs. And they move from fear to courage, where they can do anything.

In these days we need to support and encourage one another to move from fear and uncertainty and the burdens that weigh on us, to courage to move forward in faith letting the little child of God, Jesus, lead us. If this were an easy task, we wouldn't regularly struggle with it in our daily lives, one generation after another.

Today the prophet reminds us of the child who leads us and the peace God provides. May we share one another's burdens, lightening the load for each other, be and bear the light of the Christ child for a hurting world, and be workers for God's peace in troubled times.

May the light of the Christ Child guide you every day,

*+Pastor Brian*