

Faith's Happenings...

January, 2025

Happy Birthday

Linda Hughs	2nd
Ken Stephens	3rd
Kathryn Gallagher	3rd
Noma Schattauer	6th
Niki LeVasseur	6th
Barbra Davis	14th
Karen Potts	14th
Ron Mines	16th
John Kohler	17th
Jim Taylor	19th
Linda Jackling	20th
Bill Buccine	20th
Sue Michaleski	23rd
Steve Hoops	23rd
David Johnsen	23rd
Susan Schuemann	24th
Toni Newton	26th
John Matz	28th
Laura Kohler	28th

Happy Anniversary

Bruce & Margarete Rieck	14th
David & Donna Johnsen	23rd

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!
Begin 2 services: January 5
Men of Faith Breakfast: January 7
Annual Meeting: January 26



**Have a Happy
New Year!**

TAKE NOTE

**Two services begin January
5th.
8:30 am in the Memorial
Garden
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am in the church**

Annual Meeting

Faith's annual meeting, to get an overview of 2024 and vote on the budget and council members for 2025, will be held on January 26 at 9:30 am.

Men's Breakfast

Guys, you are invited to join us on Tuesday morning, January 7th, 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: Kathy Kanak, John Schleede, Carl Jaspers, Gary Wilkins, Alex Hoops, Tom Jackling, Ginny Linsberg, Jack Myers, Rosie LaQuay, Doug Skolski

Hey, everyone!

Time to sign up and meet new people! Friendship Dinners return for 2025. Sign up now! Thursdays, January 16th and February 13th



Friendship Dinners

In January, we will meet at church at 6 pm. Everyone please bring a hearty appetizer to share. You may also bring a drink of your choice (iced tea and water provided).

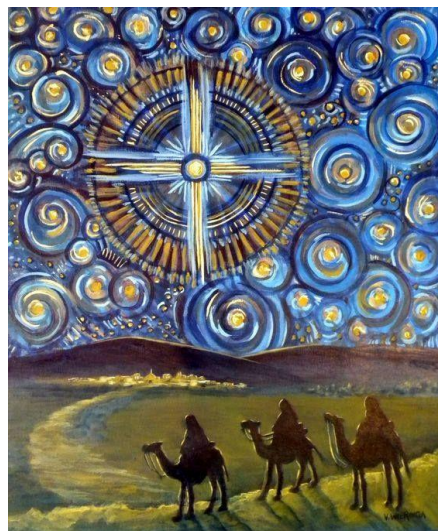
In February, we will meet at host homes.

Hosting duties: prepare an entrée and contact your guests to let them know what they can bring for the dinner.

Anyone, member or not, is welcome to come. Bring yourself and a spouse, significant other, or friend.

Sign-up sheets are in the narthex. If you are able to host, please check the box marked "able to host". Come share a wonderful evening with people from your church family. Contact RoseAnne Woodliff (269-365-7747) or Ellen Lindhurst (941-681-5542) for more information.

January 6: Epiphany



For those who attend the 8:30 am service: we have decided to hold the service inside if the temperature drops below 60 degrees.



Luke 2:9-10: An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.

The messengers of God's good news regarding the Christ child's birth come to us at the beginning of the new year. The angels proclaimed good news, the shepherds glorified and praised God for what they witnessed, and Mary treasured all these things in her heart. Peace on earth,

good will to all, is not just the hope of Christmas eve, it is the promise of God for all generations.

2024 was a hard year for many, the passing of loved ones into life eternal and our sorrow and grief at the loss. Then, after hurricanes Helene and Milton, there was the loss of homes and businesses, possessions, memories, dreams, neighbors, community, friends and everything we were comfortable with. For some, the only option is to move and find a new home. With the turning upside down of our world, many have said they were looking forward to 2025 and the new year.

The message proclaimed at Christmas is hope in the midst of the turmoil of our lives. The message of Christmas begins with the faithfulness of God across the generations. It is about Emmanuel, God with us, in hard times as well as good ones. It is about sharing the love of God with those around us who are hurting and in need. This is the spirit of Christmas, the spirit of generosity and giving.

This is what we will bear witness to in 2025 as we celebrate 50 years of ministry at Faith Lutheran Church. At two dinners, one in January at church and one in February in homes, we will gather as a community to share fellowship and friendship and our commitment to God, one another and community.

On Sunday, March 2, we will celebrate in two worship services, at 8:30 and 9:30, our founding, focusing on the people and mission that set the course of our life together over the past 50 years.

On Sunday, March 23, we will gather for a festive worship celebration at 9:30, and a dinner at 11:30, that will celebrate where we have been, where we are, and where we are still called as we move into God's future for our community and congregation.

This year, like the witnesses that first Christmas eve, we will proclaim with the angels, we will praise God with the shepherds, and with Mary we will ponder these things in our hearts, as we move through each day living in the faithfulness of our God, who is still Emmanuel, God with us.

God's blessing this Christmas season and into the New Year,

+ Pastor Brian and Lori

