

# Faith's Happenings. . .

June, 2023

## *Happy Birthday*

Linda Schultz	2nd
Douglas Schuemann	10th
Marcie Eifert	12th
John Schleede	13th
Lou Taylor	14th
Linda Bennett	18th
Lynn Kittleson	21st
Susan D'Amico	22nd
Margarete Rieck	22nd
Sandy Cox	24th
John Matz	27th

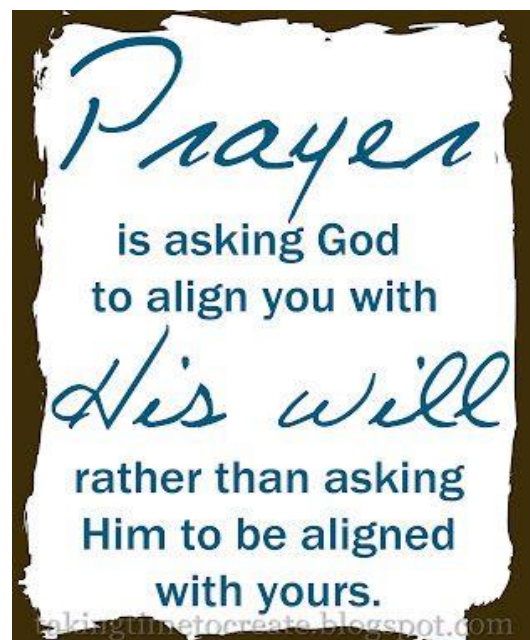
## *Happy Anniversary*

Lynn & Jeanne Kittleson	8th
Pastor Brian & Lori Armen	9th
Brian & Ellen Lindhurst	11th
Gene & Verna Newlon	12th
Fred & Cyndi Carley	23rd

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

### **June at a Glance**

*Mark your calendars now!*  
*Men of Faith Breakfast: June 6*  
*Synod Assembly: June 8-10*  
*Ladies Luncheon: June 14*  
*Father's Day: June 18*



## 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: Sarah, Hester and Carter Newton, Joanne Best, Kathy Kanak, John Schleede, Carl Jaspers, Lois Howell, Rick and Roberta Luckow, Ethel Hunn, Jackie Magee, Gary Wilkins, Neal Schattauer, Scott Schultz, Alex Hoops, Tom Jackling, Ginny Linsberg, Dave & Cathy Deitrich, Jack Myers



At the end of April, I attended the spring convocation of The United Lutheran Seminary, Gettysburg campus for continuing education. Under the banner of "Kindling Faith" there were two sub-themes: "Stewardship Preaching in Ordinary Time" and "Children of Abraham: Stewards of Creation."

While the subjects inspired me, I also looked forward to the opportunity to visit Pennsylvania in the spring. Driving from Pittsburgh to Gettysburg I traveled up and over the Laurel Highlands. The Redbud and Dogwood were in full bloom with red, white and pink flowers. The grass was green and there was no evidence of winter's snow banks, road salt, or trails of anti-skid along the edge of the roads.

One cannot visit the Seminary in Gettysburg without reflection on the Civil War, the battles, lives lost, and freedoms gained

through this pivotal conflict. While not a scholar of the history of Gettysburg, I do note that while the first bullets flew July 1, 1863, the events leading up to the conflict had been brewing for over two years before that. During those two years, states seceded from the union and battles were fought from the south and up, all along the east coast.

It was this time of year, the spring of 1863, that troops from the Union and Confederacy gathered around Gettysburg. I remember hearing the description of people coming out with picnic baskets to watch the battle, not realizing the conflict it would become and the impact it would have on our nation. United Lutheran Seminary, located on Seminary Ridge, was central to both the Confederate and Union armies in the conflict. The interweaving of faith, politics, conflict and sacrifice in this place cannot be denied and challenge us to explore how they inform each other and our lives today.

My "Verse for the Day" arrived this morning: "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14 NIV In this place full of history, both good and bad, I am reminded that God is with us. Whatever the struggle, whatever the conflict, whatever the difference of opinion, God is with us (through Jesus) and God suffers in our suffering.

In this physical and spiritual context of our Seminary at Gettysburg, we have had presentations and conversations that draw us into the Faith perspective of how God has blessed us with the diversity of creation, our intellectual capacity, and our talents, interests and opportunities. In scripture we are identified as stewards of all God's gifts and accountable to God for what we do with those gifts.

In these days of presentations, we have been challenged to consider climate change, and our response to the subject, as a matter



of our stewardship. There are no “easy answers” to the questions of climate change, our use of resources, care for communities and people, and what it means to be good stewards of God’s blessings. But we cannot ignore the situations in the world around us; our relationships with God, creation, communities and people. While in a day/week/year, we cannot resolve a global problem which was generations in the making, we can make changes today that will start to make a difference today and tomorrow.

And in this difficult time of reflection, in our conversation, and in movement for change, God is present. As we look at our life as Christians, our life together as people of F/faith, and members of communities, we have the opportunity to acknowledge and give thanks for the way God has blessed us. We also have the opportunity to consider how we respond to God’s blessings, using those blessings wisely, which is our Stewardship. I can’t say I have the answers, but I can ask you to think about how you will use God’s blessing in your own life.

Peace be with you,  
+Pastor Brian

### Ladies Luncheon

The "WILD" women of Faith Lutheran will meet on June 14<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 am, at The Twisted Fork restaurant. It’s located on S.R. #776 just past El Jobean by the Harley Davidson location. Motorcycles are optional!! We will eat inside in air-conditioned comfort, and they have a wide variety of items on their eclectic menu (including salads). Lots of burgers, fries, tator tots and even grilled cheese! Traffic is a concern on this stretch of highway, so we will be happy to help with car-pooling if you like. Deadline to sign up is June 11th. Sign-up sheet is in narthex. Questions? See or call Kathie Wiley (941-662-5383).

### Notes From the Bench Greetings!

Thank you to all the singers who joined in for choir this past season. It was wonderful to have your presence during worship. We look forward to start-up again in October.

As we travel through the summer months it would be great to have “special music” during worship. Please speak to me about your interest and availability, and consider adding your special gift to Sunday worship.

Special thanks to Chris and Ann Banting for bringing back their 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday “Remembering the Promise” service. They will be presenting this service again on July 30<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you ~~ From the Bench  
Candace

