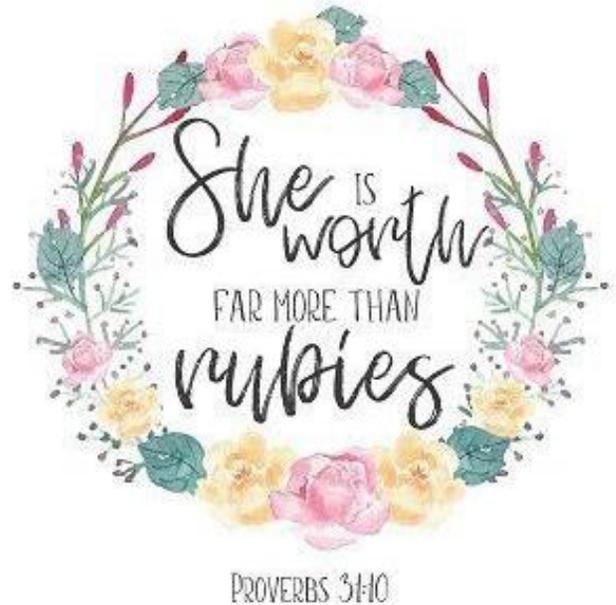


Faith's Happenings...

May, 2022

Happy Birthday

Phyllis Crider	2nd
Bobbie Hildebrand	5th
Jean Ihlenburg	6th
Artie Zipp	8th
Lori Armen	11th
Joanne Best	12th
Barbara Manke	13th
Ruth Magee	15th
Phyllis Fish	15th
Cyndi Carley	18th
Mark Speth	19th
Kathie Wiley	24th
Jennifer Boehler	26th
Ed Wine	27th
William Linsberg	28th
Verna Newlon	29th
Jay Fisher	29th



Happy Anniversary

Chris & Ann Banting	2nd
Bill & Ginny Linsberg	4th
Artie & Maryann Zipp	6th
Bill & Rosie Buccine	14th
Doug & Susan Schuemann	28th

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

May at a Glance

Mark your calendars now!
One service: May 1
Men of Faith Breakfast: May 3
Ladies Luncheon: May 18

Mother's Day
May 8th

**NOTE: We will return to
one service (9:30 am) on
Sunday, May 1st.**

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, May 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, Sandy Honeycutt, John Schleede, Jack Myers, Carl Jasperse, Lois Howell, Rick and Roberta Luckow, Ethel Hunn, Jackie Magee

May Ladies Luncheon at The End Zone

The ladies of Faith Lutheran will meet on Wednesday, May 18th, at The End Zone, at 11:30 am. The restaurant is located on 776 just past the motel 6. They have a varied menu with everything from burgers to wings to pizza. Something for everyone! Separate checks as always. Please sign up on sheet in narthex. Deadline is Sunday May 15th. Looking forward to seeing a good crowd! Questions? See or call Kathie Wiley (941-662-5383).

Choir Update

Council recently talked about when it would be best to resume choir, and came to a decision about timing. Since, in the past, choir has taken the summer off, we will attempt to start again in September. This is largely dependent on how many people are interested in participating. If you would like to add your voice to the Faith choir, please let Candace know, or call Barbra in the church office (941-697-3313).

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.

Results of the Golf Outing on April 10

Team 1 (First Place)

Larry Bennett
David Montesi
Linda Jackling
RoseAnne Woodliff

Team 4 (Second Place)

Jim Taylor
John Kohler
Linda Bennett
Linnea Sahl

Team 2 (Third Place)

Tom Jackling
David Woodliff
Lou Taylor
Candace Montesi

Team 3 (Fourth Place)

Brian Armen
Marcie Eifert
Deb Wolfe
Bobbie Hildebrand

Team 5 (Fifth Place)

Ron Hatt
Luke Schairich
Steve Wolfe
Art Hanson

Electronic Giving

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



God gave you a fingerprint that no one else has, so you can leave an imprint that no one else can.

I can do it

Opportunities to Use Your Gifts and Talents

The choir isn't the only area of our ministry that has openings for your gifts and talents. The following committees also are looking for new members. If you are interested, contact the ministry head for more details. To volunteer for any of the open positions, call Barbra in the church office (941-697-3313).

~ **Stewardship (Art Hanson):** The committee is looking for folks to join in the fall, especially to function as a "think tank" to stir a better response from members.

~ **Endowment (Pastor Armen)** – Another member is still needed.

~ **Pictorial Directory (Barbra, Church Office):** We have found a company which still does pictorial directories, and set up two separate times for taking photos (November and January). A coordinator is needed for the scheduling and follow through.

~ **Work Crew (Jim Hughs):** This group meets every Tuesday morning at 7:30 to keep the church looking good and running smoothly. They can always use more helpers—just show up Tuesday to join.

~ **Campers (Cyndy Hoops):** They need occasional drivers to take the lunches to Indian Mound Park Tuesday evenings.

Motherhood is a million little moments that God weaves together with grace, redemption, laughter, tears, and most of all, love.



-Lysa TerKeurst

Congratulations!

Ellen Lindhurst has agreed to take over the open Council position until the end of the year, and Council has appointed her. Welcome aboard, Ellen!

Recent Benevolence Giving

Due to the generosity of our Faith family, we were able to send \$370 to Food for the Poor, and \$1950 to Lutheran World Relief to help in Ukraine (the LWR donation will be matched!). Thank you all.



Last week I was able to participate in Spring Convocation at United Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg. The theme of the convocation was "Grace and Grit." While it is impossible to give a complete summary of the presentations, here are a few thoughts.

~ God's "Grace" is both radical and transformative, unearned and undeserved. Our experience of God's love in grace changes our lives, the lives of those around us and the world. God's grace is experienced as we live it out in relationship with others.

~ The “Grit” is how hard it is to actually live out God’s grace. In presentations we listened to experiences of people who struggled with living out God’s grace. A theologian, a historian, a television commentator, all shared from their experience the blessing of grace and the hard work of living it out.

~ Given the increased polarization we experienced over the past two years with the pandemic, the election cycle, and the social reckoning, the challenge we faced was how to find ways of keeping the main thing before us; doing the hard work (the grit) of living out God’s grace.

Another benefit of this time was being able to see presenters in person, have discussion in person, and be together with colleagues for the first time in two and a half years. At Faith we have been blessed through our own challenges during this time of finding ways to keep connected, through worship, in person and on line. The hard work of living out God’s grace, as I experienced this past week at the Seminary, still has challenges, has always had challenges, and will always be hard work, for one reason or another. But the important lesson to remember is: God is with us, and we are in this together.

These two messages, God with us, and being in this together, are at the heart of the Easter season. As we heard last Sunday, Jesus brings peace and Jesus sends disciples. Jesus still speaks and brings peace to our world but, regrettably, not everyone is listening. Jesus still sends us to proclaim that peace to the world. If we embody the grace of God with Grit then the world will hear about a God who brings HOPE!

At the April Council meeting the Congregation Council approved the outline of a Pastoral Sabbatical for July 4, 2022 through August 31, 2022. Pastor Autumn will be providing pastoral care during this time, as well as leading worship. We also hope to integrate some special opportunities

for member to share their faith experience. Based on reading in preparation for the sabbatical, and the counsel of a spiritual director, my focus will be on rest, as outlined by Dr. Sandra Dalton-Smith and summarized below. Incorporated with that will be educational opportunities, retreat opportunities, and consultations with other pastors.

Full article: [The 7 types of rest that every person needs](#) Sandra Dalton-Smith MD

This is a summary:

We go through life thinking we’ve rested because we have gotten enough sleep — but in reality, we are missing out on the other types of rest we desperately need. The result is a culture of high-achieving, high-producing, chronically tired and chronically burned-out individuals. We’re suffering from a rest deficit because we don’t understand the true power of rest. Rest should equal restoration in seven key areas of your life.

*The FIRST type of rest we need is **PHYSICAL REST**, which can be passive or active.*

Passive physical rest includes sleeping and napping, while active physical rest means restorative activities such as yoga that help improve the body’s circulation and flexibility.

*The SECOND type of rest is **MENTAL REST**.*

Some people have a difficult time concentrating on work because there are so many thoughts and things to do. This person may also be kept awake at night because they can’t turn off their brain. Despite sleeping seven to eight hours, the person who wakes up feeling as if they never went to bed may very well have a mental rest deficit.

*The THIRD type of rest we need is **SENSORY REST**.* Bright lights, computer screens,

background noise and multiple conversations — whether they’re in an office or on Zoom calls — can cause our senses to feel overwhelmed. Sensory rest can begin to undo the damage inflicted by the over-stimulating world.

The FOURTH type of rest is CREATIVE REST. This type of rest is especially important for anyone who must solve problems or brainstorm new ideas. Creative rest reawakens the awe and wonder inside each of us. Do you recall the first time you saw the Grand Canyon, the ocean or a waterfall? Allowing yourself to take in the beauty of the outdoors — even if it's at a local park or in your backyard — provides you with creative rest.

We also require the FIFTH type of rest, EMOTIONAL REST, which means having the time and space to freely express your feelings and cut back on people pleasing. Emotional rest requires the courage to be authentic. An emotionally rested person can answer the question "How are you today?" with a truthful "I'm not okay" — and then go on to share some hard things that otherwise go unsaid.

A SIXTH type of rest is SOCIAL REST. This need occurs when we fail to differentiate between those relationships that revive us from those relationships that exhaust us. It is about being a care receiver instead of a care giver. To experience more social rest, surround yourself with positive and supportive people.

The SEVENTH and final type of rest is SPIRITUAL REST, which is the ability to connect beyond the physical and mental and feel a deep sense of belonging, love, acceptance and purpose. To receive this, engage in something greater than yourself and add prayer, meditation or community involvement to your daily routine.

A variety of settings will provide me the experience of these types of rest. Chautauqua Institution will provide an educational opportunity to focus on our relation with creation and renewal/creation care. Houghton College will provide time to engage with professors, students and reading. Time at a family camp will support spiritual renewal in worship and Bible Study,

along with a retreat at the Abby of the Genesee, providing for a different worship experience and quiet time for spiritual reflection. Time at Letchworth State Park will provide the opportunity to connect creation care with spirituality close to nature. Thank you for the gift of this time to rest and renew for the ministry we share here as God's people at Faith Lutheran Church.

Please keep in your prayers those who have, and who will be returning to family, friends, congregations and communities up north (and other directions). Pray for those who will be traveling over the summer. Pray for Pastor Pat's family and friends as she now celebrates the hope and promise of Jesus' resurrection. Keep in your prayers those who continue to struggle with loss and changes in life and life style brought on and amplified during the pandemic. Continue in "Grace" to listen, care and serve in Jesus' name. As we do this with the "Grit" of perseverance, and engage in doing hard work (God's work), we will experience hope, and proclaim hope for people (and a world) that are still hurting.

+ Pastor Brian

