

Faith's Happenings...

May, 2023

Happy Birthday

Bobbie Hildebrand	5th
Jean Ihlenburg	6th
Artie Zipp	8th
Lori Armen	11th
Joanne Best	12th
Ruth Magee	15th
Cyndi Carley	18th
Mark Speth	19th
Kathie Wiley	24th
Jennifer Boehler	26th
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
Michael & Karen Potts	31st

**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!
Men of Faith Breakfast: May 2
Mother's Day: May 14
Ladies Luncheon: May 17
Memorial Day: May 29



Mother's Day
May 14

A Clever Idea!

The counters received a cute note in the offering plate last week: "Tried to give up 'complaining' of any kind for Lent. 25 cents a complaint. I'm doing so much better thanks to Jesus!" (We won't tell you how many quarters were enclosed...)

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



May 29 Remember...

You are Invited

Please stay after worship each week for Sunday School at 10:30. It will last about 30 minutes, with the theme: "Thoughts, Questions and Shared Wisdom from God's Word." Jeff Kamm leads.

FYI

Pastor recently received several messages from folks who used to attend Faith but have since moved out of the area. They wanted you to know that they are keeping you in their prayers and they wished you a blessed Easter. Please remember to keep Merrilee Warner, Barb Manke, Alma Claussen and Charlene Howe in your prayers!

May Ladies Luncheon

The ladies of Faith Lutheran will gather on Wednesday, May 17th, 11:30 am, at Big Bamboo Asian Fusan. It's located on Route 776 in El Jobean. They offer Chinese Japanese, and Thai food selections, including Sushi, and a selection of luncheon plates for \$9.99 as well as luncheon sushi specials. (See menu on bulletin board.) Separate checks for all, as well as fun and great fellowship.

I previewed this restaurant this week with a friend who does not care for this type of food (she actually told me how good it was after going with her church group). The food was really good, with large portions. I brought enough food home for another meal, and I've already picked out a number of other selections I want to try next.

NOTE: Traffic is very heavy and moves quickly along here. If you miss the right turn into the driveway, please carefully move to the left and make u-turns to come back around. Also, when leaving, you need to go right and make a left u-turn to come back to Englewood. Carpooling would be a great idea too! Mention it and we will help you find a ride or riders. Deadline is Sunday, May 14. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex. If you need more information, see or call Kathie Wiley (941-662-5383.).



Moving through the Easter season, the words of Jesus in John 11:25 echo in our hearts and minds: "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live..."

When we explore the power of Jesus' resurrection we connect with themes of God's love for us, God's sacrifice for us, the promise of new/renewed life now and eternal life. We also connect with God's forgiveness of our sin because of his grace. It is this experience of God's grace and forgiveness that has the greatest impact on who we are and how we live as people of God.

After the crucifixion, when Jesus was buried in the tomb, all the disciples had departed in sorrow and sadness, broken in spirit. When Jesus appeared among them, his words of grace, "Peace be with you!" set the tone for moving forward. Jesus did not focus on their failure, but encouraged them to move forward. That forgiveness from God was for each individual follower/disciple.

The next step was forgiving one another. It would have been easy to blame others for running away, not sticking together. In Jesus' appearance the week after Easter, we see the fellowship of the disciples and followers of Jesus being restored and renewed. They publicly welcome Thomas back, in spite of his doubt.

Experiencing God's forgiveness and living out forgiveness in their own relationships, the final challenge for Jesus' people would be living out the power of forgiveness for the world.

The challenge of those first disciples, is the same challenge we face today. As we experience Jesus' resurrection, he greets us with grace and forgiveness, which brings peace to our lives. The significance and power of resurrection is lost if our lives are not transformed so that we reach out to neighbors, and the world, with that same love that first loved us.

As we move into May, and through the Easter season, please look for opportunities to live out God's grace (Love + Forgiveness) so that the lives in your sphere of influence will experience God with us, God with you, and God present for the world.

Blessings,
Pastor Brian



