

Faith's Happenings...

November, 2021

Happy Birthday

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| Sam Besase | 3rd |
| Harv Claussen | 3rd |
| Laura Wine | 3rd |
| Francine DeGroot | 8th |
| Merrilee Warner | 13th |
| Barb Buroker | 13th |
| Dee Trethewey | 13th |
| Mary Ellen McMahon | 14th |
| Jerry Hebert | 15th |
| Jim Hughs | 21st |
| Steven Kiray | 22nd |
| Tom Newton | 25th |
| Joyce Schultz | 28th |
| Rich Pedersen | 28th |
| Thomas Bakker | 29th |

Happy Anniversary

| | |
|----------------------------|------|
| Jim & Linda Hughs | 4th |
| Jack & Mary Lou Fitzgerald | 6th |
| Tom & Toni Newton | 7th |
| Tom & Linda Jackling | 29th |
| Steve & Niki LeVasseur | 30th |

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

November at a Glance

Mark your calendars now!
Men of Faith Breakfast: Nov. 2
Veteran's Day: Nov. 11
Ladies Luncheon: Nov. 17
Thanksgiving Eve Worship: Nov. 25
Return to 2 services: Nov. 28

It's time to turn our clocks back again. The way things are going, it's too bad we can't turn 'em back about 30 years.



You Are Invited

On Sunday, November 14, Faith Lutheran will be welcoming a very special guest: Dr. Martin Luther. Come and enjoy learning first-hand information from the founder of Lutheranism, as portrayed by Ken Lentz from Christ Lutheran.



Don't forget to turn your clocks **BACK** one hour on **November 6!**

November Changes

We will return to 2 services on Sunday, November 28th. The first service (8:30 am) will be in the memorial garden, with no music. Please bring a chair or remain in your car. The second service (10:30 am) will be indoors, and masks are recommended.

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, Larry Bennett, John Schleede, Jack Myers, Carl Jaspers, Lois Howell, Glenna Seperic, 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.

Notice

The third quarter Contribution Records have been mailed for your review. If you have questions, call Barbra in the church office (697-3313) and she will forward them to the Committee.

Thanksgiving Worship

You are encouraged to attend our annual Thanksgiving Eve worship on Wednesday, November 25 at 7:00 pm.



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, November 2. Please join us!

Doves for Remembrance

All Saints Sunday is November 7. If there is someone you wish to have included in the list of those who went to be with the Lord in the past year, be sure to get the name to Barbra in the church office.



Advent begins on Sunday, November 28.

November Ladies Luncheon

The November luncheon will be held at Artur's on Wednesday, November 17th, at 11:30 am. Arthur's is located on SR 776 - one block north of Dearborn. This is one of Englewood's newer restaurants, however the owner was previously associated with Phil's 41 in Punta Gorda. While they have a full menu, they specialize in Polish food.

Something new in our area. See their menu on bulletin board. Also new is a maximum number they will accept for our luncheon, so the first 20 to sign up will be included. The deadline is Sunday, November 15th. Hope to see you there!!! Kathie Wiley 941-662-5383



Devote yourself to prayer, being watchful and thankful. — Colossians 4:2

Paul's reminder here to pray, be watchful and thankful, seems particularly appropriate as we close out October and enter November. Beginning with Reformation Sunday and ending with the First Sunday of Advent, we are invited, as God's people and as a nation, to pay attention and learn the lessons of our days of celebration and commemoration.

Beginning with the Reformation we remember God's work to bring the church back to its core values at a time in history when it seemed to lose focus. God, working through reformers in the life of the church,

was influential in changes to the life of the church, as well as society at large. The lesson for us today is to be watching for God's spirit at work, and to be open to how we can be instruments of change in the church and society.

Paul's word to be thankful reminds us to live with gratitude for the work of God in our lives and in our world, with the hope and prayer, "God's word forever shall abide."

Continuing with All Saints Sunday, we celebrate people of great faith. We remember in prayer those who continue to grieve the loss of loved ones. We are watchful of the witness we offer with our own lives, wondering if, hoping that, praying we will be faithful witness to those who we interact with. And yes, we live with thanksgiving and gratitude for all those who have gone before us in faith, and the way they lived out and modeled God's love and care for us.

In the middle of November we will honor our Veterans. We take time to thank those who answered our nation's call in the struggle against oppression, injustice and tyranny the world over. As we remember those who gave their lives for their friends, comrades, God, country and freedom's cause, we honor those who are still able to receive our gratitude and appreciation in our words and deeds. Our hope and prayer are, "let there be peace on earth." The sacrifice of those to have fought for freedom and defended the oppressed should be our motivation to work for true peace that recognizes we are all created in the image of God.

On our national day of Thanksgiving, we have witnessed the pendulum swing between a focus on our nation's founding and the commercialization of "Black Friday" (which in recent years began as early as 3:00 Thursday afternoon). We may have experienced a greater focus on football games than family dinners.

Thanksgiving in the life of the church has traditionally involved some sort of worship service. A time to pray for those who are struggling, a time to be watchful of the world around us so we do not get distracted by fleeting things and can focus on that which is important and lasting. And it is a time to focus on being thankful, not just for one day, but to live with gratitude each and every day, for everything we have, and every sacrifice that has been made to get us where we are today. If we do take the time to do these things, maybe our hearts will be moved by the love and grace of God to be better stewards of what we have, so we can move forward to make a better home for family and neighbor, community and world for our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

As we close out November, we will enter into the Advent season, a time of hope, looking for God's promise to be fulfilled; a time of prayer, watching and thankfulness. The seasons and focus may change from day to day and holiday to holiday, but the faithfulness of God is a thread that runs through it all and binds it together.

In the coming weeks our attention will be drawn in many different directions with these celebrations and commemorations. There will be opportunities to gather in many different ways as family, friends, church and community. Please keep in your heart and mind what Paul instructs us to do: *"Devote yourself (ourselves) to prayer, being watchful and thankful."*

Blessings,

Pastor Brian

November 11 – Remember

