

Faith's Happenings...

November, 2024

Happy Birthday

Francine DeGrood	8th
Merrilee Warner	13th
Barb Buroker	13th
Dee Trethewey	13th
Mary Ellen McMahon	14th
Jerry Hebert	15th
Bruce Grosvenor	15th
Chuck Grosvenor	19th
Jim Hughs	21st
Linda Ovitz	21st
Steven Kiray	22nd
Joyce Schultz	28th
Thomas Bakker	29th

Happy Anniversary

Jim & Linda Hughs	4th
Jack & Mary Lou Fitzgerald	6th
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. 5
Ladies Luncheon: Nov. 13
Thanksgiving: Nov. 28

**On Sunday, November 3,
at 2:00 am**



**Join us to celebrate
Thanksgiving and give
thanks to God. Wednesday
evening, November 27, at
7:00.**

Sunday School Returns!

Men's Breakfast

Guys, you are invited to join us on Tuesday morning, November 5th, 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.

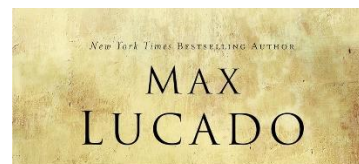
Long Term Prayer

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, Scott Schultz, Alex Hoops, Tom Jackling, Ginny Linsberg, Jack Myers, Rosie LaQuay, Doug Skolski



All Saints Sunday

November 3rd is All Saints Sunday. That morning we celebrate the folks who have gone to be with the Lord in the past year. We do this by writing their names on small white paper doves which are then pinned to a banner of a cross. This banner hangs in the hallway as a perpetual reminder of those who have gone before us. If you would like to remember someone in this fashion, call or email her before Friday, November first. Your dove will be waiting on November 3.



Sunday School will be starting back up on November 3rd. We will be discussing Max Lucado's book "Life Lessons from Romans." Class will commence immediately following worship in the doublewide. If you're not a reader that's fine, feel free to come for discussion and reflection. The true value is in the interaction between believers as we discuss and share God's word. Hope to see you there. See Jeff Kamm if you need more information.

Looking Ahead...

We're bringing back Friendship Tables in the new year. One night in January, February and March will be designated for the Tables. Participants meet in various homes and get to know other folks at Faith while enjoying a relaxing meal. More details will follow. Be ready to sign-up soon.

Another Outreach

The Lutheran Chicks have assembled more laundry packets to distribute to the local homeless folks. Each packet contains quarters for laundromat washers and driers, as well as a softener sheet and detergent pod. They will be distributed through the Tuesday night outreach group.



When I found this as Bible verse for the day; *"bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. Luke 6:28 NIV"* I had to look up the context.

As he prepares for the sermon "on the plain" (Luke 6.17), Jesus teaches his disciples using blessings and woes. He concludes with a teaching on "love your enemies" in Luke 6.27-28 NIV *"But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you."*

Jesus' is teaching us to do a hard thing: love those who do not deserve it. Love those who do not love us. Love those who persecute, abuse, steal and kill. Love those who break God's order and desire for human relationships and all of creation.

This past Sunday we celebrated the Reformation, remembering God's work to bring the people of God back into relationship with himself, one another and creation. We also heard about God's work of reformation across the generations as recorded in Scripture. Our God is a gracious God who works persistently on behalf of humanity and creation.

This coming Sunday we will celebrate All Saint's Sunday. A portion of the service celebrates the lives of those who have entered God's rest over the previous 12 months. A portion of the service will remind us that we are Saints of God as well. As the

Holy Spirit still moves among us, we will be challenged to live as God's people, loving all of humanity, working on behalf of creation.

Our work, God's work, involves loving our enemies and doing good for all people, especially those who hate us. The two ways Jesus teaches us to do this are by being a blessing as we focus on those hard to love, the ones who curse us, and by praying for those who mistreat us.

Following Jesus' teaching, our lives are to be a blessing, they are to be about prayer. As we move into the fall and harvest season, may we live with gratitude for the blessings we have received, and may we share those blessings with others in God's name.

And we should be people who pray. Pray for our relationship with God. Pray that we are nurtured by God's Word and Spirit. Pray that we can nurture others based on our relationship with God. Pray for our nation's election process, those who will be elected, ballot initiatives and constitution amendments. Pray that God will be with us to renew, reform and strengthen us for the work ahead as God's people.

Jesus' teaching *"bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. Luke 6:28 NIV"* is a simple phrase with transforming and reforming implications in our lives.

+ Pastor Brian

When Were You Born?

If you never told us, we would love to have your birthday (no need to include the year). If your name hasn't appeared in a newsletter from your birth month, we don't know your birthday. Let us know by writing your name and birthday on one of the purple slips in the narthex, and leave it in the box.

Ladies Luncheon

The November Ladies Luncheon will be held at 11:30 am on Wednesday, November 13th, at Libee's Sports Bar and Grill. The restaurant is located at 1859 Englewood Road in the Big Lots shopping center. We will order off the menu with separate checks. Come for the enjoyment of fellowship and laughter! Deadline to sign up is Sunday, November 10. The sign-up sheet is in the narthex. For more information, see or call Kathie Wiley (941-662-5383).



Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Starting Sunday, November 3, we would like to help the food bank collect items for Thanksgiving meals. Items should be quick and easy to prepare, like instant mashed potatoes or turkey gravy packets. Some other suggestions for items: stuffing mix, canned green beans, cream of mushroom soup, shelf stable milk, canned sweet potatoes, pumpkin pie filling and graham cracker pie crusts, cake mixes. All donations should be placed in the bin in the narthex. You have 4 Sundays before Thanksgiving to donate. This is especially important this year when so many members of our community suffered loss in the recent storms. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Get to Know the Bible Better

We offer two wonderful opportunities to study God's Word and participate in some lively discussions. Join one or both to help you better understand the Bible.

~ Sunday School starts again on November 3, studying Max Lucado's Life Lessons from Romans. Jeff Kamm will continue to lead. You are welcome to attend after Sunday morning worship. Meet in the doublewide behind the church.

~ Bible study has already begun, meeting the first and third Wednesday of each month. The focus this time is on the Old Testament. The group meets at 3:00 pm in the doublewide. You are welcome to join at any time.

