

Faith's Happenings...

October, 2024

Happy Birthday

Fred Carley	1st
Donna Johnsen	3rd
Bruce Rieck	4th
Michael Potts	4th
Frank Ulissi	6th
JoAnne Stephens	9th
Leon Michaleski	19th
Anne Hebert	19th
Larry Bennett	22nd
Pastor Brian	23rd
Tom Jasper	24th
Byron Speth	25th
Irene Foerster	26th
Harold Schultz	28th
Gary Rosemore	30th
Janice Junker	31st

Happy Anniversary

David & Candace Montesi	7th
Jim & Lou Taylor	13th

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

October at a Glance

Mark your calendars now!

Men of Faith Breakfast: October 1

Safewalk on Dearborn: October 31



Safewalk on Dearborn

Most every year there is a Halloween Safewalk on Dearborn Street. This allows parents to take their children to a safe place for trick or treating. Faith has set up a table there for many years, and we plan to do so again this year. You can help by donating wrapped candy for us to hand out.

Generally, we ask for candy with no nuts and not a lot of chocolate. There is a tub in the narthex for your donations, and it will remain there till Halloween. Your help will make the holiday fun for the children of the community.

Men's Breakfast

Guys, you are invited to join us on Tuesday morning, October first, 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

Did You Ever Hitchhike?

How about joining us as we go hitchhiking through the Old Testament? For most of us who are not familiar with the Old Testament, this class will be a helpful guide map. If you already have a good grasp on the story, this will be an enjoyable review. Everywhere throughout the story we can see God's passionate love for humanity and how he moves us spiritually toward the salvation found in Jesus. We will meet in the doublewide ("outback") at 3:00 pm on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, starting October 2nd. Please join us! For more information, see Debby Porter.



Well Done, Faith! Gods Work Our Hands

Once again, Faith has participated in the ELCA's program "Gods Work Our Hands." We have been involved with this special day for many years and in various ways. Many Lutheran churches do actual work with their hands but, because of the makeup of our congregation, money or merchandise has always been our response.

The recipient of this year's project, Kids Needs of Greater Englewood, is a program that helps provide clothes to school age children in our area. We provided *147 pair of socks, 134 pair of girl's undies, 107 pair of boy's undies, and \$130.*

A huge basket full of these gifts was placed by the altar and blessed during the offering on September 8.

Once again Faith shows its dedication to our guiding principles by:

- LISTENING to a request,
- CARING for others
- SERVING others.



“even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.” Psalm 139.10

It is the end of September and another hurricane has assaulted most of the Gulf coast of Florida. Hunkered down, we keep in our prayers those suffering the worst. We may also have gratitude that we personally fared as well as did.

Friday at first light I, like many of you, will survey my yard and house assessing damage and cleaning up. I will drive around the church doing the same. When the track of the storm was confirmed on Wednesday, Hillsborough was the first county I heard call for mandatory evacuation. Jonathan and the kids were on their way down since they live in a mandatory evacuation zone. All is well, it is wonderful to have the grandkids down for an impromptu visit. Unfortunately, the one thing they really wanted to do was go swimming. Grandma and Grandpa were not their favorite people when we said no, we have to wait until the hurricane passes. Maybe we will be swimming on Saturday.

While we may have been spared the worst effects of the storm, we know those in the “Big Bend” and Tallahassee area will be devastated. Our thoughts and our prayers will be with those struggling the most to recover. Jonathan was following the marker buoys in old Tampa Bay. The highest reading in recent history was 4 feet, reached during Idalia in 2023. The buoys reached 6.5 feet at 11:30 Thursday evening. Jonathan was watching his ring doorbell as the water came and covered his front porch when the power went out. His neighbor

reported ankle deep water in their house. tomorrow, while Grandma watches the kids, we will try to get to Tampa to assess the damage.

This story is repeated over and over again in communities, neighborhoods: families distressed, displaced and devastated. BUT, family, friends, neighbors and communities will band together, support one another and HELP one another. In the days ahead you will hear about opportunities to help, in any way you are able. Please be as supportive as you can, and as generous as you are able.

When the Psalmist declares, **“even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast,”** the writer is affirming the faithfulness of God with us always. The verses that lead up to this statement of faith and confidence may be familiar,

⁷ Where can I go from your Spirit?

Where can I flee from your presence?

⁸ If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

⁹ If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,

¹⁰ even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.

Wherever we are, wherever we go, in whatever circumstances we find ourselves, God has promised to be present with us, and be present for us. How does God do this? By the power of the Holy Spirit, YES! But, to dig into the details, it is by the power of the Holy Spirit working in, on, with and through US. I am reminded of 1 Corinthians 12.27: **Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.** In the days and weeks ahead, as we address our own challenges, may we Listen, Care and Serve others in Jesus' name.

God be with you,

+Pastor Brian