



The Newsletter of Faith Lutheran Church

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June, 2024



In June we are going to hold a special Congregational assembly meeting on the 5th Sunday. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss two items. The first is an opportunity to host a Homeschool Co-op at our church. The second is a proposal put forth by our elders to place a corpus (body of Christ) on the cross above the altar.

Homeschool Co-op

Homeschooling has become a much more mainstream choice of parents in recent years than it was when Gwyn and I started homeschooling our children 18 years ago. It is estimated that around 10% of all school age children in America are participating in some form of Homeschooling. Homeschool families take the education of their children very seriously and therefore are very involved in any activity. There is a flyer attached that will give you an idea of what will be going on at our church in the Co-op.

Also most homeschool families are interested in faith and Christianity. This is why I think this is a great opportunity for Faith to reach out to this segment of our community that will be open to the Gospel message as taught in the Lutheran Church. As Lutherans we have the most solid grounding of faith taught at an early age in our Catechism, which is designed to be taught to children by the parents. It is in a sense one of the first homeschooling curriculums, outside of the Bible itself. Most of the families will not be Lutheran, but some will be looking for a church that believes, teaches and confesses the truth found in scripture. Then we are the church for them. There are fewer and fewer churches that still teach the historical Christianity that we teach here at Faith. Many churches do not even believe that the Bible is the Word of God. At best they believe some of the Bible is God's Word, but the rest comes from man, so there are errors in the Bible. We do not believe this nor do we teach this and because of our Catechism and other foundational writings in the Book of Concord, we have a very clear message of grace, mercy and peace. Many Christians have never heard the pure Gospel as it is taught in this way. This is an opportunity to share the joy of our salvation with people in our community in a very focused way.

Many homeschool families participate in some form of a co-op, so that their children can meet others their own age and also so that they can be exposed to topics and activities that may be beyond the expertise of the parents. For example, Gwyn and I needed someone who could teach science at a much higher level than we could for Caleb, because of his great interest. Many co-ops over the last 20 years or more have operated in churches. The woman who will be directing the co-op at our church, if we decide to go ahead with the plan, was part of the same co-op that we were this year. She has participated in several co-ops over the years and has a couple of letters of recommendation from other churches that she has worked with in the past.

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What does this mean for Faith Lutheran? First the process of working with churches is well thought out. No co-op would be able to continue if they did not have a good relationship with the church they meet in. Therefore there is always a plan for set-up and clean-up. The kids are responsible for cleaning up after themselves and setting up the facilities as the church desires. They take out the trash and move the tables and remove all of their stuff. This is an assignment given at the very beginning. Every family participates in this as we all appreciate the privilege of using a space that we do not own.

It also means that liability is covered. No co-op can function without the proper insurance and since co-ops like these have been going on for decades, there are clear policies that can and are taken out so that the church, the students and the leaders are covered and protected.

Since the co-op wishes to meet during the day Mon, Tue and Thurs it does mean that there may be challenges in scheduling and usage. Fortunately most of our activities during the week take place on Wednesday, or are limited to the offices or the sanctuary. There will still be some challenges that need to be worked out, but I do not think they are insurmountable.

Finally, there are very few homeschool activities and groups north of Manatee River. This is an opportunity to be at the ground level of a program that could grow to reach many people. Right now this co-op is focused only on Jr high, but it could expand to all age levels and we could have the opportunity to connect with our community in a very real and valuable way.

Corpus

The second topic for discussion is the possibility of having a Corpus of Christ put on the cross above the altar. I have included in this newsletter two articles about this topic. The first is from the LCMS website's FAQs. It explains that Crucifixes have always been a part of our Lutheran identity. The second is an article from the Lutheran Reporter, which is a weekly publication of the LCMS, about a new Crucifix that was dedicated in September at the International center, which is the headquarters of the LCMS. Please read both items.

In the first article it makes clear that having a plain cross or a cross with Christ on it are both acceptable for usage in the church. As a matter of fact we already have a corpus on the processional cross that is between the altar and the pulpit, and of course the banners that were used at the LCMS convention this summer also have a drawing of a crucifix and the scripture verse "We preach Christ and Him crucified" (1 Cor. 1:23). So this is not a question of is it Lutheran to have a crucifix above the altar, but rather do we want to have one at Faith.

One thing that I think is important to remember, which is stated in the first article, is that the plain cross is not a symbol of Christ's resurrection. If Christ had not risen from the dead, the cross would still be the same. No, rather the cross, either plain or with the body of Christ on it is a symbol of the great love that God has for us that He sent His only son to die for us. This is about the incarnation of Christ. This is why a manger scene seems incomplete without baby Jesus in the manger. Jesus was born as a man, like us in every way, so that He as God and man could die for us. His human nature is what made it possible of the Son of God to die to forgive our sins. In that way to see the body of Christ on the cross and are reminded of how much God loves us. This is a tremendous spiritual aid to many.

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His death on the cross is the most important event in the history of mankind and the most important event for our faith. Everything that we do as Christians, both individually and in the Divine service is done because of the death of Christ. Christmas is celebrated on the 25th of December because it was believed that Jesus died on the same day He was conceived, March 25. Easter is celebrated because he rose from the dead. If He had not died we would have nothing to celebrate. His resurrection is proof that He is God and His sacrifice was acceptable to the Father. His ascension into heaven is proof that His death, as a sacrifice for the sins of all mankind, was effective. His sitting at the right hand of God is proof that His death fulfilled the demands of the Law for all humanity and He has the authority over life and death.

When we are Baptized we are Baptized into His death, so that we may have the hope of His resurrection as our own. In the Lord's Supper we eat and drink His body and blood that was shed for us on the cross. When we sing together with all the angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we are proclaiming our confidence that when we die we will be raised again to new life, because His death gives us the hope of everlasting life. It is all about the death of Christ on the cross. This is why the cross, either plain or with the body of Christ on the cross is the central image of Christianity.

If we decide to go ahead with adding the Corpus or if we decide to keep the cross as it is, I pray that what we remember is the great love that God has for us as because of Christ and him crucified.

Use of Crucifixes

Q: *Is the use of crucifixes a Roman Catholic practice? Doesn't the empty cross provide a better symbol for Lutherans? How does the LCMS feel about using a crucifix in church? [Note: A crucifix is a cross with a statue of the crucified Christ on it].*

A: A common misunderstanding among some Lutherans is the opinion that a crucifix, or the use of a crucifix, is a "Roman Catholic" practice. The history of Lutheranism demonstrates that the crucifix was a regular and routine feature of Lutheran worship and devotional life during Luther's lifetime and during the period of Lutheran Orthodoxy. It was also the case among the founding fathers of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. If you were to visit most of the original congregations of the LCMS here in the United States you would find lovely crucifixes adorning their altars, and in addition, beautiful statues on the altar of Christ and the four evangelists, or other such scenes. There is nothing uniquely Roman Catholic about this. Many Lutherans and Lutheran congregations use crucifixes. Crucifixes are used in the chapels of both of our seminaries and our International Center.

Lutheranism has always considered the crucifix to be a powerful reminder of the sacrifice our Lord Jesus made for us and our salvation, on the cross. A crucifix vividly brings to mind the Apostle Paul's divinely inspired words, "We preach Christ and Him crucified" (1 Cor. 1:23).

Interestingly enough, while there is certainly nothing "wrong" with an "empty" cross, the practice of using an "empty cross" on a Lutheran congregation's altar comes more from non-Lutheran sources.

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At the time of the Reformation there was conflict between Lutherans and Reformed Christians over the proper place of pictures, images, statues and the like in the church. Lutherans stood with historic Christendom in realizing that such art in the church was not wrong, and was a great aid for helping to focus devotional thoughts on the truths of the Word of God, no greater truth can be found than the death of Jesus Christ our Lord for the world's salvation.

The "empty cross" is not a symbol of Christ's resurrection, as some say, for the fact is that the cross would have been empty regardless of whether or not Christ had risen from the grave. The point to be kept clear here is that **both an "empty cross" and a crucifix**, symbolize the same thing: the death of Christ our Lord for the salvation of the world. Many feel that the crucifix symbolizes this truth more clearly and strikingly. That has been the traditional opinion of historic Lutheranism, until the last 50 years, due to the influence we will now mention.

Some Lutherans began to move away from crucifixes during the age of Lutheran Pietism, which rejected much of Lutheran doctrine and consequently many Lutheran worship practices. At the time, Lutheran Pietists, contrary to the clear position of Luther and the earlier Lutherans, held that symbols such as the crucifix were wrong. This was never the view of historic Lutheranism. Here in America, Lutherans have always felt a certain pressure to "fit in" with the Reformed Christianity that predominates much of the Protestant church here. Thus, for some Lutherans this meant doing away with things such as crucifixes and vestments, and other traditional forms of Lutheran worship and piety. It is sad when some Lutherans are made to feel embarrassed about their Lutheranism by members of churches that teach the Word of God in error and who do not share Lutheranism's clear confession and practice of the full truth of the Word of God.

Lutheranism has always recognized that the use of any symbol (even the empty cross) can become an idolatrous practice, if in any way people are led to believe there is "power in the cross" or that a picture or representation of a cross has some sort of ability, in itself, to bring us into relationship with Christ and His Gospel. Any of God's good gifts can be turned against Him in this life and become an end in themselves.

Lutherans have never believed that banning or limiting proper artwork in the church is the way to prevent its improper use. Rather, we believe that is the best way, and the way that is in keeping with the gift of freedom we have in Christ to use all things to the glory and honor of God. Thus, many Lutherans use and enjoy the crucifix as a meaningful reminder of our Lord's suffering and death. It might interest you to know that our Synod's president has a beautiful crucifix adorning the wall of his office, constantly reminding him and visitors to his office of the great love of God that is ours in Christ Jesus our Lord.

In short, and this is the most important point of all: **there is nothing contrary to God's Holy Word, or our Lutheran Confessions, about the proper use of the crucifix, just as there is nothing wrong with the proper use of an empty cross, or any other church symbol by which we are reminded of the great things God has done for us.** We need to guard against quickly dismissing out of hand practices that we believe are "too Roman Catholic" before we more adequately explore their use and history in our own church.

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In Christian freedom, we use either the crucifix or an empty cross and should not judge or condemn one another for using either nor not using either symbol of our Lord's sacrifice for our sins.

Usage: We urge you to contact an LCMS pastor in your area for more in-depth discussion.
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New crucifix installed, dedicated at LCMS International Center

The Lutheran Reporter October 9, 2023

During daily chapel on Holy Cross Day, Sept. 14, a new chapel crucifix was dedicated at The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) International Center (IC) chapel in St. Louis. During the same service, Felix Loc was installed as LCMS chief administrative officer.

Christ and Him crucified

The Rev. Paul McCain, former vice-president of publishing for Concordia Publishing House, who died in 2020, once wrote, “The history of Lutheranism demonstrates that the crucifix was a regular and routine feature of Lutheran worship and devotional life during Luther’s lifetime and during the period of Lutheran Orthodoxy. ... A crucifix vividly brings to mind the Apostle Paul’s divinely inspired words, ‘We preach Christ and Him crucified’ (1 Cor. 1:23). ...

“The ‘empty cross’ is not a symbol of Christ’s resurrection, as some say, for the fact is that the cross would have been empty regardless of whether or not Christ had risen from the grave. The point to be kept clear here is that both an ‘empty cross’ and a crucifix symbolize the same thing: the death of Christ our Lord for the salvation of the world.”

In May, a team of workmen used ropes and scaffolding to painstakingly hang the new crucifix.

The crucifix was a gift from Ilona Kuchta in memory of her husband, Dr. Thomas (Tom) W. Kuchta, who served as LCMS chief financial officer from 2001 to 2010. Made in Italy by Demetz Art Studio, the crucifix corpus measures 5 feet tall and is constructed of linden wood. It required six months to carve, prepare and ship across the Atlantic. After arriving in St. Louis, it was delivered to the Rev. Dr. William (Bill) Matzat, who custom made the cross and installed the corpus on it. Matzat, a retired LCMS pastor, runs Dovetail Creations, where he works with stained glass and wood.

Ilona Kuchta said that she did extensive research, comparing crucifixes made in Germany to those made in Italy, and settled with the Italian company Demetz because of the company’s “marvelous reputation” and use of linden wood.

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“I wanted the crucifix to be hand carved because it would mean there would not be another one exactly like it,” she said. The wood — from linden trees in the Dolomite Mountains of northern Italy — is well-suited to carving because of its grain and texture, which lend it readily to fine detail. The corpus is stained rather than painted. “I wanted people to see Jesus, not the colors.”

Ilona said Tom would be “humbled and overwhelmed” to hear that she had donated the crucifix in his honor. “It was a labor of love, and I’m happy it’s been so well received. Tom was a wonderful husband. All who knew him knew of his generosity and his integrity. His ‘yes’ meant ‘yes,’ and his ‘no’ meant ‘no.’ But with all his success, nothing meant as much to him as helping the church fulfill its mission.”

Of the crucifix, Ilona said, “It’s a strange juxtaposition of the horrific and the beautiful. It’s horrific to see what our sin did to Jesus, but it’s beautiful to see what He did for us. Where would we be without His work on the cross?”

Proclaiming victory

Former Synod Vice-President Rev. Dr. Daniel Preus preached for the dedication on 1 Corinthians 2:1–2: “And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.”

During his sermon, Preus shared a story about a teaching trip he took to India. During the trip, he and his wife toured a Hindu temple. Invited to ring a bell near a statue, they refused because of the Hindu belief that the purpose of such ringing is to awaken the “god” within the statue so that it can receive worship.

“Today we dedicate a crucifix,” Preus said, “not ... in order that we may pray to the ‘god’ within the crucifix” but because of what the crucifix proclaims: Christ crucified for the sins of the world.

Preus explained that the word “dedicate” comes from the Latin *dedicare*, which means “to proclaim.”

“The nature of that proclamation could not be clearer,” Preus continued. “It is from the cross that Jesus cried out, ‘It is finished.’ [All of history] looks to the same moment ... and we know that, at that moment, all our enemies [were] vanquished ... and we... received victory through Christ, our Savior.”

Speaking after the service, Matzat said that the experience of making this cross was different from any other, and “I have made many crosses.”

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“When I came to attach the corpus to the cross,” Matzat said, “it was more than a Good Friday moment. I have had many of those ... [but] this was different. I was participating in the crucifixion. I was attaching Christ to the cross. It stopped me in my tracks. It was my sins that put Him there. ... It was my sin that caused Him to be forsaken by His father. ...”

“I wish God’s blessings to all of you as you gaze upon this cross, that you realize what we sang in the Te Deum: He who has overcome the sharpness of death has opened the kingdom of heaven to all of us.”

Tom Kuchta died in 2020 at the age of 78. As an IC employee, he regularly attended and spoke of the blessing of daily chapel. Before serving the LCMS, he had a distinguished career in finance, working for the Internal Revenue Service and Price Waterhouse. In Kuchta’s obituary, he is described by LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison as “a rock-ribbed Lutheran, straight as an arrow in matters of business and finance, [with] a heart of pure gold. I’m thankful to have learned much from him and to have called him a friend.”



June's Movie, June 14th at 6pm.

Amazing Grace, a 2006 biographical drama film directed by Michael Apted, about the abolitionist campaign against the slave trade in the British Empire.

In 18th-century England, House of Commons member William Wilberforce (Ioan Gruffudd) and his close friend and a future prime minister, William Pitt (Benedict Cumberbatch), begin a lengthy battle to abolish Great Britain's slave trade. Though Wilberforce's legislation is soundly defeated in 1791, his growing affection for Barbara Spooner (Romola Garai) inspires him to take up the fight once more.

Please sign up on the blue Narthex table if you plan to join us for pizza and popcorn at 5:30 and the movie at 6 pm.



SOCIAL

Come one, come all to a NEW FAMILY WELCOME/BABY SOCIAL! We have two relatively new families in our congregation, who both are expecting! Lacy Lundgren and Sandy Nordbrock are both due in early July.

Please join us for an Ice Cream social to welcome the little ones on the way, and get to know their families, on Sunday, June 9th at 11:30 am. All members of the congregation are welcome; if you could please sign up, it will help us make sure we have enough refreshments.

(Not required, but if you would like to bring a small gift, and need ideas, please contact Lisa Boettcher at ennumbers@hotmail.com or call 586-484-2832 or Gwyn Poock at ps73@outlook.com or call 707-716-7582.)



**America's White Table
A place setting for One, A table for All**



Great Hall table centerpieces show our colors on this Memorial Day.

Faith Lutheran is always honored to recognize the brave men and women of our armed services who sacrificed their lives in service to our Country. These courageous individuals have given everything they had to defend our freedoms and way of life. So we hope everyone enjoyed a beautiful Memorial Day and took time to thank those who fought for our Freedom.



June 9, 2024, Ascension Day is observed in the United States on the 39/40th day of Easter. It commemorates Jesus Christ's ascension into heaven. It occurs 10 days before Pentecost and always falls on a Thursday.

Please note:

We have discontinued the online Church Directory. It did not seem to be serving the needs of our congregation and it was costly. We do have paper Church Directories for anyone wishing one. If you would like a copy, please see one of the secretaries.



June 30th is the fifth Sunday of the month when Faith typically has one service for the week to try and bring all parishioners together for fellowship and a meal.

This means there will only be one Divine Service at 10:30 that week. NO 8:00 Divine Service or Wednesday service or Bible Studies. It has been decided to have a Congregational Voters meeting following the 10:30 service with that followed by a fifth Sunday fried chicken meal. Fellowship and volunteers normally provide the meal and look forward to lots of good food and fellowship. This month at 12:30 Fellowship will be providing a fried chicken entrée luncheon.



Please remember to sign up on the blue Narthex table if you plan to join us so we have an idea of how much food to prepare. As always, we look forward to volunteers helping us out. We will need a few potato/pasta and vegetable dishes (remember we have warmers that will help keep warm foods warm) as well as salads, rolls, and dessert. If you can help out, please indicate that when you sign up.



Fellowship hour Coffee Bites and good fellowship will be provided each Sunday following the 10:30 am Divine Service and everyone is welcome. We are very grateful to our volunteers who bring in the sweet treats for our Coffee Bites.

PLEASE NOTE: There is NO Coffee Bites on June 9th.

Free will offerings help Fellowship to continue providing a variety of Keurig hot drinks and paper products needed.

Since June is a five Sunday month, there will only be one service the week of June 30th and that will be Sunday at 10:30 am. NO Wednesday Service or Bible Study on July 3rd.

Fellowship invites you to attend a summer luncheon of fried chicken at 12:30 am. on June 30, 2024 following the Congregational voting meeting at 11:30 am.



A huge thank you to everyone who contributes items for our Food Barrel every week. What a blessing it is for the less fortunate families in Manatee County that we can help them in this small way. Items of priority at this time are: paper towels, toilet tissue, canned fruit, bottles of fruit juice, and peanut butter. Thanks to you and to Larry Colton who sees that all your donations are delivered to the United Methodist Church here in Parrish.



Remember -
our fallen heroes.
They are the reason
that we are free.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

May 14, 2024

Present: President Glen Collier, VP Greg Wissner, Financial Secretary John Niemi, Recording Secretary Jean Roehrs, Head Elder Tony Bowen, Trustee David Benson and Pastor Pock. **Guests:** Elder Jack Conte, Margaret Greenslade, Martha Riedl, Teena Ross, and Rick Ross. **Absent:** Treasurer Barbara Wikel and Outreach Caleb Pock.

The President called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. A quorum was established. Pastor opened the meeting with a devotional based on Acts 1:9 asking 'what if Jesus didn't rise? He is our advocate.'

The minutes of April 9, 2024 were approved as printed.

Financial Secretary and Treasurer's reports were filed. \$1760 has been donated to the Congregational Assistance Fund.

President: No report. VP: No report.

ELDERS: The elders will be making a presentation during services in June on behalf of Khner Cambodia, dedicated to Pastor Pock.

LWML: The LWML season has ended until September; however, they will continue to have lunch out during the summer on their regular meeting day.

TRUSTEE: The exit lights have been replaced. Efforts are underway to lower the existing lighted sign and upgrade it.

New Business:

ALTAR GUILD: Eloise presented information re the Altar Guild, asking about budgets, etc. She was told that the Altar Guild expenses fall under the Elders and that if supplies are needed to present the bill to the elders. For major purchases, bring a request to the council for consideration. She is also interested in replacing some of the banners and having a banner for each segment of the church year.

Unfinished Business

SANCTUARY CHRISPUS: Jack presented an article from the Lutheran Witness re the presence of a Christus in a sanctuary and how it can enhance the worship experience. He also had a small Christus to show what was available. Pastor explained the history of the Christus in the Lutheran Church. Tony **MOVED** that a special meeting be held to present this issue to the voters' assembly on the 3rd Sunday in June (June 16, 2024) following the 10:30 service.

Motion seconded and **carried** with all voting yes.

On-site Home School: Pastor further explained how the school would meet Mon., Tues., and Thursdays. They would provide all needed supplies and clean up after themselves. They are fully insured. He views this as an outreach opportunity. Doubts were raised by the trustee who feels the school would interfere with his work to maintain the facility. Margaret also voiced concern as well as Rick and Teena Ross. Tony **MOVED** the question be presented to the voters' assembly, along with the question of the Corpus, on June 16, 2024. **Motion** seconded and **carried** with all voting yes.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Jean E. Roehrs

Jean E Roehrs, Recording Secretary



Altar Guild service for the Lord is ongoing no matter the time and place. We are in urgent need for more willing volunteers for one week a month to help in setting up the Altar for our Lord's House. There are openings for persons dedicated to this prayerful work. If you are of the 'priesthood of the baptized', contact Eloise Schwarz for more information today at 414-807-4373 or email eloise6376@gmail.com Thank you.



GriefShare sessions are continuing every Monday at 6:30 pm. We are delighted to have 11 people who trust us and want to share in these grief share sessions. We pray, watch a video and then have a discussion with the Pastor. Our guests can share in the discussions, ask questions or just sit quietly. Anyone seeking help with their grief is welcome to join us at any time.

Anyone interested in helping as a facilitator is always welcome. Just let the church office or Pastor know your intentions.



LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION

MITE BOXES

Please continue to bring in your mite boxes to leave on the LWML table or drop them in the large MITE box. Please remember: NO foreign coins or half dollars. They jam the coin counting machines. Thanks to all who help to keep the Mite box heavy with their contributions.



The LWML Bible Study, meeting, and Taco luncheon was held on Thursday, May 9th with a total of 15 ladies attending. We will have a total of 6 ladies attending the FL-GA LWML District Convention, Sept 13-15, 2024, in Orlando. We enjoyed a yummy taco luncheon provided by LWML ladies with all the trimmings and refried beans brought in by Toni McCarty. It was a great way to end our LWML year.

The next Regular meeting will be in October.

During June, July and August, LWML ladies are invited to come for lunch on the second Thursday of each month to fellowship and enjoy a meal at a local restaurant.

On June 13th, we will meet at Riviera Dunes Marina, 102 Riviera Dunes Way, Palmetto, or if you need a ride, we can meet at Church at 11:00 and car pool. Please let Marilyn Howard (941-773-0309) know your intentions by June 11th as she must make reservations.

July 11th and August 8th restaurants have not yet been decided upon, but please mark your calendars for these dates.

All Faith Church ladies are encouraged to join us.

The officers and any other interested members are invited to meet at the church, June 5, 2024, at 10 am to plan for the 2024-2025 season.



This Month's Privileged Servants



Altar Guild

Wednesdays, 5 pm.

June 5 Eloise Schwarz
 June 12 Eloise Schwarz
 June 19 Eloise Schwarz
 June 26 Monica Carezza

Sundays, 8 am.

June 2 Meta Green
 June 9 Martha Riedl
 June 16 Meta Green
 June 23 Martha Riedl

Sundays, 10:30 am.

June 2 Chris Stisser
 June 9 Gwyn Pook
 June 16 Pat Barlow
 June 23 Nancy Niemi
 June 30 Meta Green/Pat Barlow

Elders

Wednesdays, 5 pm.

June 5 Mert Janovec
 June 12 Tony Bowen
 June 19 Mert Janovec
 June 26 Tony Bowen

Worship Assistant

Jeff Sattanno
 Curt McCarty
 David Barber
 Jeff Sattanno

Sundays, 8:00 am.

June 2 Dennis Steinke
 June 9 Tom Weiss
 June 16 Dennis Steinke
 June 23 Tom Weiss
 June 30 NO Service

Sundays, 10:30 am.

Jack Conte
 Tom Barlow
 Jack Conte
 Tom Barlow
 Jack Conte

Worship Assistant

Alex Boettcher
 Caleb Pook
 Alex Boettcher
 Caleb Pook
 Alex Boettcher

Offering Counters

June 3 John Niemi, Carol Schreiber, Tom Barlow
 June 10 John Niemi, Judy Sattanno, Stu Lindberg
 June 17 Marilyn Howard, Marti Katterhenry, Bonnie Wright
 June 24 Larry Colton, Jean Roehrs

Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Renee Kaczmarek
- 2 Ray Gilbert
- 3 Mildred Edney, Greg Gasper
- 5 Verna Barber, Steve Yuras
- 6 Janie Zanella
- 7 Paul Schander
- 9 Uwe Porth
- 12 Richard Burgbacker
- 13 Kimberly Carezza
- 14 Gloria Calvelo-LiBrizzi, Stuart Lindberg
- 15 Nancy Niemi, Terry Jones, Kitty Flourndy
- 20 Monica Carezza
- 21 Karen Meyer
- 22 Don Sanguedolce, Carli Zygowicz
- 25 Marilyn Marion
- 28 Diana Manning
- 30 Debbie Horbus



- 7 Curt & Toni McCarty (59 years)
- 16 Andy & Lacy Lundgren (18 years)
- 18 Jack & Carol Dressel (58 years)
- 20 Roy & Susan Heflin (44 years), David & Lisa Ladwig (37 years)
- 21 John & Nancy Niemi (49 years), Brad & Pixie Reay (55 years)
- 21 Paul & Sandy Nordbrock (6 years)
- 26 Ralph & Norma Grotelueschen (59 years)
- 26 Tom & Pat Barlow (65 years)
- 29 Jeff & Judy Sattanno (39 years)
- 30 Tony & Alice Bowen (40 years),
- 31 De Witt & Barbara Gorman (56 years)



Women of Faith

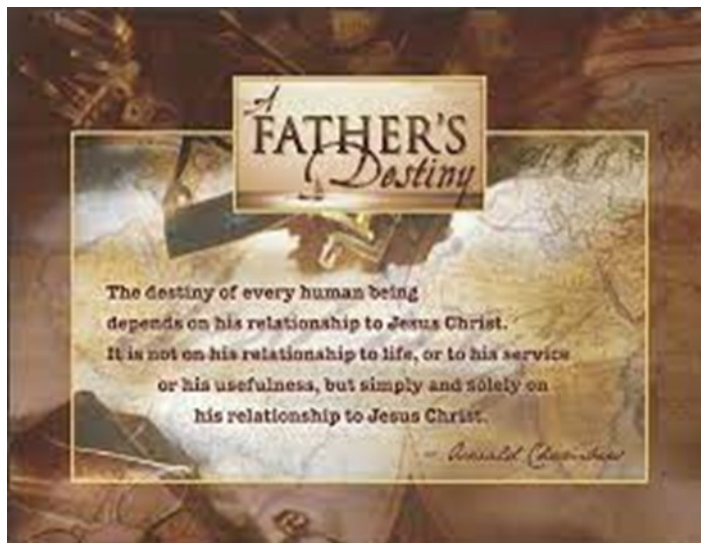
Women of Faith bid farewell to snowbird, Sandy Otto, who had done almost all of the embroidery needed on quilts. She also tied quilts, frequently taking several to do at home. She will be missed. We, therefore, are in need of helping hands. We meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of every month, 9 – 11:30 am. Please consider joining us.

For questions or concerns, please contact Marjorie Weiss at 941-757-7307.



FAITH PRAYER MINISTRY

Even in his anguish, Job knew where to turn for assistance crying out, *Even now, behold, my witness is in heaven, and he who testifies for me is on high.* (Job 16:19) Jesus is our advocate also, and will testify for us on high if we just call on His name. If you have prayer needs please make them known to the Church office or to the prayer chairman and your requests/needs will be shared with the Prayer Partners who have joined the Faith Prayer Ministry. To be a member of this vital ministry, send an email to Jean Roehrs at jroehrs27@gmail.com and prayer requests will be sent to you via email. Thank you!





Fellowship honored our Mothers and their spouses with Ice Cream Sundaes on May 12th. We are so blessed to have so many wonderful mothers.



JUNE 14, 2024, is FLAG DAY

On May 30, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a presidential proclamation establishing a national Flag Day on June 14. Many Americans celebrate Flag Day by displaying the Red, White and Blue in front of homes and businesses. The day commemorates the adoption of the Stars and Stripes as the official flag of the United States.

Do you know the flag's history?

According to American legend, in June 1776, George Washington commissioned Betsy Ross, a Philadelphia seamstress to create a flag for the new nation in anticipation of a declaration of its independence.

On June 14, 1777, John Adams spoke about the flag at a meeting of the Continental Congress in Philadelphia., He said, "Resolved, that the flag of the thirteen United States shall be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the Union be thirteen constellation." There have been twenty-seven official versions of the flag so far; stars have been added to it as states have entered the Union. The current version dates to July 4, 1960, when Hawaii became the 50th state.

