



Call Committee Background and Updates

As the Call Committee serving Family of Christ pursues its search for a new pastor, we want to keep the congregation informed every step of the way. This article helps define the overall process in calling a pastor, as it can get complicated. Please contact any of the Call

Committee members whenever you have a question. Let's get started!

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First, Family of Christ Lutheran Church is a member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, and, as such, follows its guidelines, as well as the constitution and bylaws of our congregation when looking to call a pastor.

The key elements in the calling of a pastor include:

- **Development of the Call List**
- **The Divine Call**
- **Call Meeting**

In January members of the church council, elders and the call committee met to review the process for calling a pastor. An initial task as required by the Minnesota South District Office of the LCMS of which this church is a member, required the completion of a church profile. The 15 members of these committees completed the information and sent it to the district prior to the end of January. The profile will be used by the District President to select pastoral candidates for our congregation to consider.

In its first meeting, the calling committee reviewed the demographics of Family of Christ along with current and anticipated future needs of the congregation. Upon prayerful consideration of those elements, the calling committee decided to call a pastor from the field.

Development of the Call List

As part of the development of a call list, nominations were requested from FOC members to nominate any pastor in good standing in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. Forms were available in the church narthex and office. *cont'd p. 2*

FOC Emergency Contacts

As we continue in the pastoral transition phase, please call Kyle Amundson at (715) 531-8315 or Steve Vannatta at (651) 261-8054 if you have a church-related emergency situation. Or call the church office at 715-549-6140.

REMEMBER!

Set your clocks back Sunday, March 12 at 2am. Daylight Savings Time will end November 5.



cont'd from p. 1

It is important to note that nominations submitted by the congregation will be reviewed by the District President, and it does not guarantee the names will be added to our call list.

Sunday, February 19 was the last call for nominations. Completed forms were to be submitted to the church office on the required form in a sealed envelope no later than Thursday, February 23.

Once the nomination period closed, there began a wait of two to four weeks while the District President reviews all candidates submitted by the congregation and developed by his office. Once he completes his review, he submits his list to our circuit visitor who then presents the list to the FOC Call Committee.

The Call Committee will then prayerfully consider all names on the list with the objective of narrowing down the list to those considered to be excellent candidates for this congregation.

Call Meeting and Divine Call

At that point a two-week notice is given to the congregation for a voters' meeting. At the voters' meeting, detailed information will be provided on candidates presented by the Calling Committee. A secret ballot(s) will be held to determine the pastor to be issued the call. A majority of the voters present is required. Once a majority is reached on a candidate, it is a highly recommended and very common practice that we ask for a unanimous vote to show support for the incoming pastor.

The called pastor will be contacted, and details (salary, benefits, etc.) will be mailed to him for consideration. He will usually schedule a visit (at FOC's expense) and will usually make a decision within a month. If he declines, we will repeat the process of reviewing candidates and voting until a pastor accepts the call.

Divine Call definition: This is the agreement between a pastor and a congregation and describes the responsibilities of each. The call, issued through election by the congregation, is not a mere "contract" but an agreement prayerfully entered into by God's people acknowledging the work of God the Holy Spirit in the choice and acceptance.

The Call Committee will keep you updated as we move forward and requests your continuing prayers. Thank you!

Call Committee Members: Randy Stoeckmann, Liz Rome, John Jakubek, Deb Zwiefelhofer & Vic Weyland (Chair)



'Tis the Easter Season

Flowers adorning the altar bring such joy at Easter!

Please watch for a sign-up sheet to order Easter flowers on the bulletin board. And remember **Lenten Wednesdays**, with soup/bread catered by Christian Community Home and Services/Hudson. Please sign up to bring a treat! The sign-up list is on the bulletin board.

Elders' Corner

As your Board of Elders, we are fully engaged in the process for finding pastors to fill our pulpit each week as well as assuring Worship support activities, such as ushers, acolytes, sound room operators and the like. Thank you for all who have been willing to share in this faithful service to their Lord and Savior! It is truly a testimony to the critical nature of the body of Christ embodied in its members, which has many parts and the gift of serving. Romans 12: 4 & 7.

Regarding guest pastors, God has blessed us every week with someone willing and able to serve our needs in the pulpit. I, for one, praise and thank God for moving the hearts of these men and their schedules to assist us in this ministry. And thank you, the members of Family of Christ, for understanding our shortage of pastors to fill this void during our vacancy. Our Minnesota District, as well as the Wisconsin District, are extremely short of available pastors. Remember, these are all ordained pastors with a continuing desire to serve the Lord in this way during their retirement years.

At this time, we do have pastors scheduled to fill our pulpit through Easter with a strong candidate to fill the vacancy and get us through Confirmation (May 7) and beyond. We ask for your patience and prayers that God will extend His healing and protective hand upon these pastors to continue to serve God and us during this vacancy. The Call Committee will have a more detailed update in the March newsletter regarding the Call process and where things stand with regard to calling a full-time pastor.

The Altar Committee is looking for people who may be interested in learning the duties of this group and serving occasionally on Sunday mornings to prepare the Altar area for Worship. Of course, training is available, if needed/requested.

The Board wishes to thank Steve Heinecke and Cindy Leonard for continuing to see that we have special music for the upcoming Easter season.

The Board is also developing written guidelines for ushers and acolytes to assure consistency in those Worship functions. Some cursory training has started but we are considering arranging for actual walk through training sessions for those who wish to be trained before volunteering their services. Our website is something that always needs to be updated. So, the Board is encouraging the Council members to regularly review and suggest changes. You can submit suggestions to the Board of Elders by putting your suggestions in the "Vannatta" mailbox at church. Please include your name, in case there are questions or clarifications needed.

For Your Information, you may have noticed in our bulletin that Kyle Amundson and Steve Vannatta have been listed as the first contacts for any short notice emergency (or urgent pastoral-type) needs.

One final update: The Board has, for now, suspended two activities that are defined in our Constitution, a) Liaison assignments to our various Boards and b) our Shepherding ministry. We can still and will support our Boards as needed, but for now, we ask that the director of each board contact one of the Elders directly when needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Smith, Randy Stoeckmann, Steve Vannatta

Youth & Education



The youth had a great time celebrating Pastor Chad and sending him off to his new congregation in Ft Lauderdale, FL. He was a trooper and joined in on the silliness with the kids. They shared a meal, prayed, played fun minute to win it games and wished him and his family well.

Confirmation & Youth Group During Lent March-April 5

Confirmation Times will change from 5-6:00pm During Lent. We will not have Youth Group during Lent, rather the kids will help with soup suppers after confirmation and then will be able to attend service. It's always wonderful to have the kids be part of our community building and service activities, whenever they can.

March

Wednesday, March 1

5:00-6:00pm Confirmation

6:00-6:30pm Soup Suppers

6:30-7:30pm Wednesday Night Lenten Service

Sunday, March 5

9:30-10:30am Worship Service

Wednesday, March 8

5:00-6:00pm Confirmation

6:00-6:30pm Soup Suppers

6:30-7:30pm Wednesday Night Lenten Service

Sunday, March 12

9:30-10:30am Worship Service

Upcoming Events

March

Friday, March 3 3pm CCH

Monday, March 13

8:30am-1:00pm Hudson Food Shelf

Sunday, March 19

11:30am-2:30pm Bowling @ Pinz (Team Building Event)

April

TBD Indoor Mini Golf GNG Hudson (Team Building Event)

TBD Church Garden Cleanup

May

TBD Escape Room Stillwater (Team Building Event)

TBD HWY Cleaning/Education Wing Cleaning

Submitted by Annie McConaughey



From Our Members

Thank You

Our granddaughter, Twila, was released from the NICU and went home on February 6th. She was greeted by some very happy and excited siblings and thankful grandparents. God has worked a miracle for us and we want to thank you for all the prayers that helped bring this about.

The kind thoughts, inquiries, cards and prayers made all the difference during a very tough and trying time. Your gift of Christian fellowship gave hope and affirmation at a time when it was sorely needed.

Thank you for your encouragement and support.

Yours in Christ, Steve and Vickie Vannatta

Resurrection Rolls

from allrecipes submitted by Vannattas

Resurrection rolls are a great Easter recipe that you can make with the kids. Cinnamon-coated marshmallows are wrapped in dough, then baked. When you break them open, they are empty inside, representing Jesus's tomb on Easter morning.

Prep: 10 mins Cook: 15 mins Total: 25 mins 8 servings 8 rolls

INGREDIENTS

1 (10 ounce) can refrigerated crescent dinner rolls

2 tablespoons white sugar

2 tablespoons ground cinnamon

8 large marshmallows

1/8 cup melted butter



- Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C). Lightly grease a baking sheet.
- Separate crescent rolls into individual triangles.
- Mix sugar and cinnamon together in a small bowl.
- Dip a marshmallow into melted butter, then roll in sugar mixture. Place marshmallow into the center of a dough triangle.
- Carefully wrap dough around marshmallow. Pinch the seams together tightly to seal in marshmallow as it melts. Place roll on a baking sheet; repeat.
- Bake in the preheated oven until golden brown, about 8-10 minutes.

Women at Bethel

Women's Bible Study – 1st, 3rd, 5th Mondays @ 9:30am in FOC Fellowship Room

Join us for a new Bible study topic based on Philippians 4:8-9 -

“Whatever . . . Keeping Your Heart in Tune with Whatever Life Brings.”

In addition to looking at God's Word, there is opportunity for personal reflection and practical ideas to incorporate into our lives.

Lesson One: Whatever is True – *Allowing God's truth to humble our hearts and live in awe of Him and His counsel and grace.*

Lesson Two: Whatever is Noble, Whatever is Right – *Considering Whose voice will influence and guide our daily lives.*

Lesson Three: Whatever is Pure – *Inviting God to recreate purity on a daily basis.*

Lesson Four: Whatever is Lovely – *Cultivating a beautiful spirit.*

Lesson Five: Whatever is Admirable – *Looking to women who are living life well.*

Lesson Six: Whatever is Excellent or Praiseworthy – *Praising our excellent God in good and hard times.*

Additional copies will be available at our next meeting on **Monday, March 6 at 9:30am.**

Lutheran Women in Mission Update

LWML Bible Study & Fellowship Thursday, March 9-1pm

ALL women and friends of FOC are invited to join us for Bible study and Christian fellowship. Our March topic is **“Making Lent an Opportunity.”** Rather than “giving up” something for Lent, let's refocus ourselves and redirect the eyes of our hearts on “giving to” others for Christ. If you need a ride or have any questions regarding LWML, please contact a member of our Governing Board: Joyce Banttari at 651-434-3261, Dorothy Markling at 320-260-5204 or Judy Patraw at 612-723-7839.



LWML Quarterly MITE Offering

March 26 is the deadline to contribute to the FOC Quarterly MITE mission offering that is submitted for the MN South District and the National LWML Mission Grants. Small MITE boxes of coins, cash donations, or checks (payable to MN SO District LWML) may be placed into the large MITE Box located on the display cabinet in the Narthex area. Thank you for your continued support!

SAVE THE DATE: LWML Spring Rally

Saturday, April 22 St. John Lutheran Church, Woodbury

Guest Speaker will be Meagan Struck from **The Dwelling Place** – a Christ-centered ministry providing healing and hope to victims of domestic abuse through supportive services and a safe, transitional place to call home.

Watch for more details and a sign-up posted on the LWML bulletin board.

ALL are welcome!

Submitted by Joyce Banttari

Our Family of Christ Mission Statement

We are Christ's family, joined to him and to one another.
(*Ephesians 2:19-22, 4:16; 1 Corinthians 12:27; John 15:5-8*)

In following the direction of our Lord Jesus Christ and sharing his love with others (*Matthew 28:18-20*):

We are committed to ...

- learning, living and teaching the Word.
- seeking the need for God in each other.
- celebrating His presence in our lives.
- reaching out to touch the lives of others with God's love.

Worship Services



Family of Christ Lutheran Church, LCMS

Sunday ~ 9:30 am - Worship with Communion
on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month

10:45am - Education Hour for All Ages

September - May

Sunday School (age 3 - Grade 5)

Youth Group (Grades 6 - 12)

Adult Bible Class

Wednesday ~ 5:30pm Confirmation Class (Grades 6-7-8)
(5:00pm during Lent)

~ 6:30pm Youth Programming

If you no longer want to receive this newsletter via email, please respond to this email your wish for a paper copy or to have your name removed from the email list.

Family of Christ Lutheran Church, LCMS

285 Co Road E

Houlton, WI 54082

familyofchristhoulton.org

fochoulton@gmail.com

715.549.6140