



## Lenten Suppers Begin Feb 22

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See attached PDF

Mark your calendars for Ash Wednesday worship on Feb 22, at 6:30pm. Come for fellowship at 5:30 for a soup supper first! Then plan to come every Wednesday during Lent at the same times for soup, fellowship and worship until Holy Week. Watch the Monday Message for details.

## Family Focus

This month you're seeing a revised version of the new e-newsletter. Of note is the narrow margin design. This design shows more effectively on electronic devices. If you print

this document, it will have wider "blank" margins because the paper is typically 8.5 x 11" and not 5.5 x 11". Also the calendar will come to you as a separate attachment in the same email as the newsletter. That way, if you want to print it, it will print 11 x 8.5" (landscape), as before. Thank you for your patience as we strive to improve the e-newsletter.

## ***FOC Emergency contacts***

As we continue in the transition phase, please call Kyle Amundson (board president) at (715) 531-8315 or Steve Vannatta (lead elder) at (651) 261-8054 if you have an emergency situation. Or call the church office at 715-549-6140 or email: fochoulton@gmail.com

## **New Hot Water Heater Installed**

After keeping a close eye on a failing hot water heater, our Trustees decided it was time to get a new one. It will be installed on Friday, Feb 5. If you use the church during install, be aware they may be limited access to water, until the install is complete. The kitchen will also receive a hot water booster at one of its sinks, similar to those that exist in the rest rooms.

## **FOC Seeks Food Shelf Volunteers**

As March marches closer, we're reminded it's FOC's turn to handle the Hudson Food Shelf for the month. Deb Schouten, coordinator, needs two volunteers per shift, M-Th, from 8:30am to 1pm, during March. No previous experience needed. It's located in the lower level of St. Pat's on Vine Street. Call Deb at 715-377-0107 to sign up.

FROM  
THE  
PASTOR



## Focus on God's Word

Dear Members,

It is never easy to say good-bye, in fact, I have come across people that will never say those words. They use words like “cheerio, aloha, or see you later,” because in their mind “good-bye” is too permanent and painful.

Yet, in the midst of this good-bye, I do not want to focus on the permanence of the term. Instead, I want to focus on what Jesus told His disciples. “This is only temporary,” and we know that anything in this world is temporary. Despite our human intentions to hold on and keep it, we ultimately have no control over God’s plan. Guided by the Spirit, I truly believe this is God’s plan for this moment, and therefore, I firmly believe and trust that God will carry us through. Yes, I fully recognize the challenges of a Call process, and I also understand the heartache of a pastor declining and accepting a Call.

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*“Be sent into this world to share the love of Jesus through your words and actions and share the true message of hope and truth that is given to us through God’s Word.”*

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However, we put our trust in Jesus’ promise that this is only temporary. The ultimate focus is always on God’s Word and serving as hands and feet within His earthly Kingdom.

Today, each of us has the opportunity to utilize this temporary life for service in God’s Kingdom. Isaiah said it best, “Here am I, send me, send me”, today I encourage you to be a “sent one” from God. Be sent into this world to share the love of Jesus through your words and actions. Be sent into this world to love your neighbor as yourself. Be sent into this world to share the true message of hope and truth that is given to us through God’s Word.

Finally, be sent to remember that as you live your life, you were bought, purchased, and won through the suffering and death of Jesus Christ.

Because Jesus sacrificed so much for you, He loves you, will never leave you, and will continue to uphold you in His truth and Spirit. Each day I encourage you to focus on this hope and promise.

Ultimately, in this temporary world that is the only thing that can truly bring hope, because God’s love is ETERNAL! Eternal is what we need to focus on, and in the eternal dwelling of God’s Kingdom we are still working together as one body. No matter the distance between us, we are still working as the Body of Christ to encourage, uplift, and share God’s truth with those around us.

Therefore, “Do not worry or be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God, and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7)

I thank you for the opportunity to serve as your pastor. I thank you for your friendship, and for all of your hard work, effort, and energy over these last seven years. I will miss you, but I will look forward to our continued work in this earthly kingdom as we serve as the Body of Christ and the eternal celebration that one day will be ours through Christ Jesus.

Farewell, Godspeed, and may the Lord bless you and keep you in His grace, mercy, and love.

God’s Blessings, Pastor Chad Czischke

# Elders' Corner

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The current Board of Elders (BoE) wishes to express our gratitude and thanks to Steve Heineke and Al Neuendorf for their service, commitment and dedication to this Board and our family at FOC. Their terms of office were complete as of January 1, 2023. Steve Vannatta stepped into the Chair position of this Board with support from the two remaining Elders, Roger Smith and Randy Stoeckmann and, by the grace of God, our past Elders.

We also wish to express our deepest gratitude and extend our appreciation and love to Pastor Chad Czischke for his service to his Lord and the family of FOC as our Pastor and Shepherd these past 7+ years and for his service to our country in his capacity as Chaplain to members of our Armed Services. May God protect and bless his continued service to God and country!

Upcoming special services include Ash Wednesday, Feb 22, which signals the beginning of our Lenten season with services culminating on Easter Sunday, April 9.


Our January Elder meeting, following a brief devotion from Titus, primarily focused on getting organized as a Board and establishing Elder tasks, priorities and duties associated with Worship and coordinating support of other critical responsibilities. We are looking to set up schedules for Ushers, Readers, Elder Communion assistance, A/V support for recording Worship services, Acolytes, etc, with the expectation of having visibility to these volunteer service ministries a month or more in advance.

Please consider and pray about where the Lord is calling you to serve in one of these ministries, should we contact you. Or, feel free to contact one of your Elders with the area where you might have an interest in how you can serve your Lord in our worship service. We can explain each area and the role and responsibilities associated with each. We're also happy to provide a trial period if you prefer and/or training to assure you are comfortable with the role.

In addition, we discussed a number of business related topics such as, our current software for compiling and distributing our new e-Newsletter and networking all PCs at FOC. A couple Old Business items were brought up that will be carried forward to the Council for future consideration. (i.e.: building security and a possible option to share in providing treats for our fellowship time after worship.) In closing, the members of your elected Board of Elders (BOE) look forward to serving our Lord and the Family of Christ over this next term. May God bless our efforts and this congregation as we move forward together in our God-given purpose - to glorify God and to expand His Kingdom on earth!

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Roger Smith, Randy Stoeckmann, Steve Vannatta*





The youth had a great time celebrating Pastor Chad & 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.

### **Wednesday, February 1**

5:30-6:30pm Confirmation

6:30-6:45pm Supper: *Jakubeks-Lasagna & Garlic Bread*

6:45-7:30pm Youth Group-*All About Lent & Hope*

### **Sunday, February 5**

9:30am Worship Service

### **Wednesday, February 8**

5:30-6:30pm Confirmation

6:30-6:45pm Supper: *McConaugheys-TBD*

6:45-7:30pm Youth Group-*All About Lent & Hope*

### **Sunday, February 12**

9:30am Worship Service

### **Wednesday, February 15**

5:30-6:30pm Confirmation

6:30-6:45pm Supper:

6:45-7:30pm Youth Group-*All About Lent & Hope*

### **Sunday, February 19**

9:15-9:30am Greeting our Church Family (*Service Project*)

9:30am Worship Service

## **Upcoming Events**

We are excited to plan some outside events for our Youth Group. We will get the dates set in stone very soon.

### **February Events**

#### **Saturday, February 18**

Ice Castles New Brighton (team building)

TBD CCH Nursing Home Visit (service project)

### **March Events**

TBD Bowling @ Pinz (team building)

TBD Indoor Mini Golf

### **April Events**

GNG Hudson (team building)

TBD HWY Cleaning/Education Wing Cleaning

### **May Events**

TBD Escape Room

Stillwater (team building event)

TBD Church Garden Cleanup

by Annie McConaughey

# Outreach

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Each of us as members of the body of Christ has different talents, time, and abilities. Just as Jesus called Peter and Andrew to be “fishers of men,” Jesus asks us to do the same. We do this growing through fellowship with one another and by reaching out to the people around us in our daily lives with the love of Jesus. To serve the community as a church family, it doesn’t take a *lot* of work, but it does take *some* work and planning.

In 2023, each month throughout the year will focus on a theme of fellowship with one another in our church family, alternating with a theme of service and love to people around us. We are asking each member to prayerfully consider how they might choose one month or activity to lead and plan for the church.

You can see some months don’t have an idea yet. We also need many eyes to look and consider where Family of Christ could directly help people in our community. One suggestion is some sort of service at the trailer park in Houlton.

If you feel called by the Holy Spirit to serve for one of these activities and/or to propose an activity that you might lead, please notify Becky Volovsek (bvolovsek@gmail.com or mobile 651-728-0900). Together we can grow in love for one another and love for our community.

**February – Fellowship** – Family dinners with other member families.



**March – Service** – Hudson Area Food Shelf  
**Leader:** Deb Schouten

**April – Fellowship**

– Could we host a Saturday Breakfast and Egg hunt for the community?

– Could we have a Fish Fry (might be late March)?

**Leader:** We need a small team to plan one of these events.

**May – Service** – Highway Clean-Up **Leader:**

**June** – Service and Fellowship – Vacation Bible School

**Leader:** Annie McConaughy

**July – Fellowship**

**August – Service** – Service Project at the Trailer Park in Houlton

**Leader:**

**September – Fellowship**

**October – Fellowship and Service** – Trunk or Treat **Leader:**

**November – Service** – Feed My Starving Children **Leader:**

– **Service** – Operation Help Families (Thanksgiving and Christmas)

**Leader:**

**December** – **Fellowship** – Advent by Candlelight **Leader:**

– **Service** – Heifer Project Mission **Leader:**

by Becky Volovsek

# LWML Update

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## LWML National MITE Mission Goal Met

THANKS be to God and to the support from MITE donations throughout the nation, the 2021-23 Mission Goal of **\$2,150,000** has been met. MITE offerings continue to be collected for the 2022-23 MN So District LWML Goal of **\$270,000** as well as the new National Goal that will be set this June in Milwaukee. Those “MIGHTY MITES” definitely multiply and add up quickly to truly make a difference both near and far! Family of Christ members may drop their donations into the large MITE Box located on the display cabinet in the Narthex area anytime before our next Quarterly deadline of **March 26**.

*Thank you for your continued support!*



## LWML Winter Worship – Saturday, Feb 4, 9 - 11am

Carpool leaves FOC at **8:30am** for Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 655 Forest St. N., St. Paul, MN 55106. Presenter: Rev. Dr. Joshua Hollmann, Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, Concordia University.

**Topic** “For Such a Time as This: Lessons from Esther on Living as Christians in a Post-Christian Age” Suggested donation is \$5.

*Remember to bring your Bible.*

**ALL women are invited** to sign-up on the LWML bulletin board corner to RSVP and arrange carpools but if you have any questions or last minute change of plans, please contact Joyce Banttari at 651-434-3261.

## LWML Bible Study & Fellowship – Thursday, Feb 9 - 1pm

FOC LWML group continues to meet on the second Thursday of each month for Bible study led by one of our members followed by Christian fellowship. Newcomers are ALWAYS welcome as your schedule allows! 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.

## FOC LWML Pill Bottle Update

Our group has had another record year of processing pill bottles for Matthew25Ministries to assist with worldwide medical care AND helping our environment. Thanks to the donations from FOC members, our group has shipped just over 1,500 bottles in 2022 with financial assistance from Thrivent as an Action Team project! Much appreciation to all our member volunteers who have invested over 56 hours cleaning, sorting, packaging and shipping! *Prescription* pill bottles may be left in the designated box in the Narthex area anytime.

*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 ~ 5:30 pm Confirmation Class (Grades 6-7-8)

~ 6:30 pm Youth Programming

### Family of Christ Council Members

President: Kyle Amundson

Vice President: Eleanor Smith

Treasurer: Karen Heinecke

Secretary: Judy Patraw

Elders: Steve Vannatta

Outreach: Becky Volovsek

Education: Annie McConaughy

Trustees: Lee Zwiefelhofer

### Family of Christ Lutheran Church, LCMS

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