



Voters Meeting Sept 10 to Call Pastor

The church council has approved the calling committee's request for a voters' meeting to extend a call to a pastor. The meeting will be held following the service on Sept 10. Guiding the congregation in the voting process to extend a divine call will be Pastor Stefan Wismar, Executive Assistant to the President MN South District. **All voting FOC members are urged to attend!**

Vic Weyland, Calling Committee Chair

A Good Recipe ... A Recipe for Good

With September comes the beginning of fall and apple season! Apples make for a pretty good way of explaining the doctrine of the

3-in-1 nature of God (skin-flesh-core / Father-Son-Holy Spirit).

Apples can also make for really great pies like the one you remember coming from the oven of the best cook in the world!

How about God's recipe for good? First, He takes imperfect people like Noah (Genesis 7-9), Joseph (Genesis 37-45), Moses (Exodus), the Israelites, Mary, Saul, you, yours, us. Then He adds His Word (some Law, mostly Gospel).

The Holy Spirit stirs things up and an alchemistic transformation begins.

Just as God took on the flavor of mortality in Christ, a person by grace through faith takes on the flavor of Divine ingredients. And, you have a

slice of the good life; not a fake filled simulated substance kind of life ... a real and good life from God!

What looked like a recipe for disaster with Christ on a cross turned out to be a recipe for success with His resurrection from hell's kitchen. Smell that aroma of loving kindness? It's coming from what God's people have cooking in their hearts and are serving up their hands. Mm-mm, *good!*

Pastor Charles Keogh

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See attached printable PDF

FOC Emergency Contacts

During the transition phase, please call Kyle Amundson at (715) 531-8315 or Steve Vannatta at (651) 261-8054 if you have an emergency situation. Or call the church office at (715) 549-6140.

What Does the Bible Tell Us About Salvation?

We have started an eight-part series that is built around key questions that every believer should be able to answer. The Bible tells us in 1 Peter 3:15b to, "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." This series is not meant to be confrontational, but will explain and hopefully encourage you to contemplate the true meaning of the Gospel for yourself. I pray it will create a fuller appreciation for the great love of God's grace and mercy through His plan of salvation for believers. It is what gives believers such confidence, great joy and peace in knowing their final destiny.



OK, last month's Salvation topic might have left you feeling like a failure. That's because we have **all** failed to meet God's standard from Day 1. So, how **do** we freely gain eternal life?

Well, I need to cover one more topic to make sure you completely understand the

beauty of the Gospel message of the Bible.

What do we know about God? You may say, God is love and He wouldn't destroy me because He loves me. He does love you, but God is also a just and holy God. He must stay true to His Word. He doesn't change, He is perfect and holy. Holy means He is **without** sin. (see Leviticus 19:2)

What happens when we, who are unholy (sinful), come face-to-face with God, who is holy (without sin)? One example we have is from Exodus chapters 33: 18-23, 34:6-7 & 34:29-33, when Moses actually asked to see God face-to-face. God said "... no one may see me and live." (Exodus 33:20)

Do you see our dilemma? (See *Salvation provided elsewhere in this newsletter.*)



New Member Sunday

We welcome two new members on Sept 24 into the FOC family during the worship service.

Take a moment to greet them and introduce yourself. Plus, if you know someone seeking a church home, please invite them to visit FOC, and introduce them to an elder.

Youth & Education

Rally Day

Rally Day is quickly approaching!

Rally Day is a day to celebrate the beginning of our education year and will take place on Sunday, Sept 10. We are excited to get back to Sunday School, Confirmation, Youth Group and Bible Classes.

This is a great time of renewal and growth in our faith. It is also a reflection of where we have been and where Jesus is leading us.

During the church service on September 10, we will have a moment to bless all of our Sunday School students and youth students and their backpacks. All children will receive a blessing bag tag and a goodie bag. After service we will have a potluck picnic (*signup is located on the bulletin board*) and games, such as cornhole, relay races, bubbles, wiffle ball and kickball.

This is a wonderful time to reconnect after a fun and busy summer!

Confirmation and Youth Group kick off on Wednesday, Sept 13 from 5:30-8:00pm.

Sunday School Classes begin on Sunday, Sept 17 from 10:45-11:45am. (*Notice time change.*) Please keep all of the children and our teachers in your prayers, as we look forward to a wonderful year of growing in our faith!

Education Times

Wednesdays

Confirmation 5:30-6:30pm

Supper 6:30-7:00pm

Youth Group 7:00-8:00pm

Sundays

Fellowship Follows Worship Service

Sunday School 10:45-11:45am

Pastor Leads Adult Bible Study
11:00-11:45am

Third Sunday of the Month

Jingle Offering for Samuel

Youth/Sunday School Greeters, Readers

Education Leaders

We are looking for Sunday School teachers and Youth Group leaders!

If you love kids and love sharing your love for Jesus, you are qualified!

Please reach out to Annie McConaughey.

(amcconaughey1@gmail.com) if you are interested!

Trunk or Treat

Trunk or Treat is right around the corner! This will take place the last weekend in October. (TBD) Start planning your trunk decorations and costumes! Please consider giving a helping hand with this fun community event!

Give Yourself a Little CAYR

This fall, the CAYR (Come As You aRe) group will study “The Armor of God,” by Pricilla Shirer. To order, go to [amazon.com/Armor-God-Bible-Study-Access](https://www.amazon.com/Armor-God-Bible-Study-Access).

Please invite your friends, family, neighbors ... all are welcome.

We meet on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. The schedule for the remainder of 2023 is:

Mondays:

Sept 11, Sept 25, Oct 9, Oct 23, Nov 13, Nov 27 and Dec 11.



Be There!

A special meeting of all eligible FOC voters!

Sunday, Sept 10 after the service.

Vote on the committee's recommendation to extend a call to a new pastor!

FOC Plans Bake Sale Fundraiser

As part of the St. Joseph Fall Festival on Sept 16, FOC will hold a bake sale to raise \$ for youth programs and more. This is an opportunity to raise funds and advertise our church. Please bake or make goodies and bring them to the town hall by 10a.m. Sept 16th, Saturday. please price your items. We also need cashiers, tables and a canopy. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board.



There will be many displays, events and vendors so be sure to check out the Fall Festival beginning with the firemen's breakfast at 8am. The festival runs from 10am to 2pm.

Elders' Corner

Worship Services: Pastor Charles Keogh had to terminate his contract with FOC as of July 23 due to family health reasons. Guest pastors have been filling our pulpit in the meantime.

Praise God, the Holy Spirit has moved Pastor Tom Trapp to fill our pulpit, teach Adult Bible class and teach Confirmation thru the end of 2023. Thanks to Steve Heinecke for his help to carry this effort across the finish line.

Special Dates to remember:

- Congregational Call Meeting - Sunday, Sept 10. After worship
- Rally Day - Sunday, Sept 10. After worship and congregational meeting.
- CAYR - begins Monday, Sept 11. 6:30pm
- Confirmation - starts Wednesday, Sept 13. 5:30pm
- St. Joe Bake Sale - Saturday, Sept 16. 10:00am-2:00pm
- First Adult Bible Class - Sunday, Sept 17. 11:00am
- New Member Sunday - Sept 24.
- Men's Bible Study - Tuesday, Sept 26.

Administrative Coordinator: An offer is out for consideration.

Extra Hymnals: We have placed free want ads in two Lutheran publications, the 'Reporter' and 'Lutheran Witness' to secure additional hymnals to match our existing ones. FOC will pay shipping. (To see ads, see the September issues of both publications.)

Visitors' Cards: We completed our review of designs and finalized a proposal for this card. A suggestion was made to have a gift available for visitors who complete the card, such as, the wooden crosses that were used for the Confirmands, a pen with FOC info printed on it or a video "Road to Emmaus." All of these items are available in various quantities. We plan to purchase small clip boards to place in our pew holders to make it easier to complete the visitor card.

Microsoft PC Acct: Work has started to upgrade to one license for both MS365 and PC security software across all FOC PCs. We expect the process to be complete during September.

Fellowship Treats: The Board and Council thank all who stepped up to cover the Fellowship time after our worship service each week during the summer months. We had very good participation! Thanks to all!

Salvation: What is our dilemma? God is holy (without sin) and we are not perfect, but unholy (sinful). We have no hope of saving ourselves. The Bible tells us ... "this is **not** from yourselves ... **not** by works, so that no one can boast." (See Ephesians 2:8 and 9) (*Works are our deeds, accomplishments or what we did on earth that we thought was good.*) (See page 8.)



Trustees

Board of Trustees, Lee Zwiefelhofer

Outside Altar Area

The outside altar area received a complete tree and shrub trimming, and power washing of altar and the rocks behind it. The water feature float was repaired, and the water feature is again running 24/7. The flowers, plants and shrubs are beautiful right now. If you haven't been out there in a while, check it out. It's a great place to reflect and relax.



Lawn Maintenance

Thistles were sprayed in the area west of Donna's vegetable garden. And we plan to aerate the lawn in areas that are cut toward the end of September.

Men's Bible Study Returns

The Men's Bible Study resumes on Tuesday, September 26 at Perkins in Stillwater at 8:30am. We'll continue to meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays each month as before. 2 Peter will be the focus of our first study.

We look forward to discussing this letter by the Apostle Peter and the fellowship time we will share.

Lutheran Women in Mission Update

LWML Bible Study and Fellowship Thursday, Sept 14, 1:00pm

ALL women and friends are WELCOME and encouraged to mark your calendars on the second Thursday afternoon of each month to join us, as your schedule allows, for a new Bible study every month, fellowship and an occasional brief meeting. 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.



Lutheran
Women
in Mission

Women's Monday Morning Bible Study

Following a summer break, the Monday morning Bible study group invites you to consider joining us on **September 18th at 9:30am** as we will meet to decide what our new study will be and place orders, if needed. All are welcome to bring suggestions. We will resume our regular schedule in October meeting at church on the first, third, and fifth Monday of each month.

FOC Quarterly MITE Offerings: Due October 1

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” Each of us can be a missionary! If we are unable to personally travel to do His work, we have the opportunity to support those who are able through our quarterly MITE donations. Small MITE boxes, cash, coins or checks (payable to LWML MN So District) may be returned to the large MITE Box located on the display cabinet in the Narthex area ANYTIME throughout the year. FOC LWML forwards these offerings to the District and National LWML on a quarterly basis to support the **\$2,350,000** in mission grants. Our next quarterly deadline is **October 1**.

Ongoing Pill Bottle Mission Project

THANK YOU for your continued support of the Pill Bottle Project for Matthew 25 Ministries (M25M) which helps to improve medical care worldwide as well as caring for our environment by recycling. Just a reminder that they only accept **PRESCRIPTION bottles** – no over-the-counter bottles. Donations may be left in the marked box located in the Narthex area at any time.

Save the Date – LWML Lyndale Conference Rally

SE Suburban LWML Zone will host the Fall Conference Rally on **Saturday, October 21**, at Christ Lutheran Church in Eagan, MN. More details and a sign-up will be posted soon.

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.

2023 Council Members

Kyle Amundson, Karen Heinecke, Annie McConaughey, Becky Volovsek,
Lee Zwiefelhofer, Judy Patraw, Steve Vannatta

Worship Services

Family of Christ Lutheran Church, LCMS

Worship Services

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

10:45am Fellowship



Education for All Ages (Sept-May)

Sundays: 10:45am Sunday School, Youth Group
11:00am Adult Bible Study

Wednesdays: 5:30pm Confirmation
7:00pm Youth Programming

Family of Christ Lutheran Church, LCMS

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