



Family of Christ Lutheran Church  
285 County Road E  
Houlton, Wisconsin 54082



## THE FAMILY FOCUS

Family of Christ Lutheran Church

Volume 20 Issue 9

September 2018



### What's inside:

- Stewardship opportunities
- One more teacher needed
- VBS was great!
- LWML fall rally

### STAFF

Chad Czischke,  
Pastor  
Connie Gove,  
Office Secretary  
Cindy Leonard,  
Instrumentalist  
Christine Scheid  
Choir Director  
Greg Gove  
Custodian

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Bd. of Education  
Debbie Alms,  
Bd. of Outreach  
Sue Hanson,  
Bd. of Stewardship

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### WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Sunday~

9:30 a.m.—Worship w/Communion

10:30 a.m.—Refreshments & Fellowship

11:00 a.m.—Education Hour for All Ages;

September—May

Sunday School (age 3—Grade 5)

Youth Group (Grades 6—12)

Adult Bible Class

Wednesday~

5:30 p.m.—Confirmation Class (Grades 6-8)

6:30 p.m.—Worship w/Communion

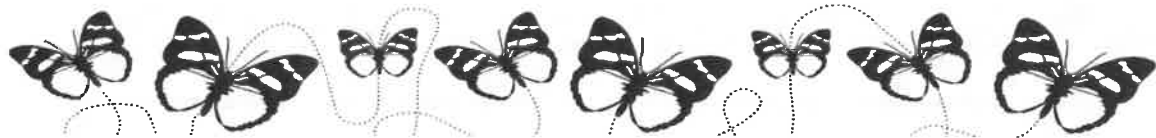
7:15 p.m.—Choir (Sept. - May)

### Our Mission Statement...

We are Christ's family, joined to him and to one another (Eph. 2:19-22, 4:16; 1 Cor. 12:27; John 15:5-8). In following the direction of our Lord Jesus Christ and sharing his love with others (Matt. 28:18-20);

- 1) We are committed to learning, living and teaching the Word.
- 2) We are committed to seeking the need for God in each other.
- 3) We are committed to celebrating His presence in our lives.
- 4) We are committed to reaching out to touch the lives of others with God's love.

**Newsletter Articles Must be Submitted by the 22nd of each Month**



Stewardship, justification, sanctification, eternal, temporal, and many more, are big words often used in more conservative congregations to discuss the Christian Life. Yet, far too often these words are hard to understand, even for the lifelong Christian in the group, but why? Because the words usually get brushed over or quickly discussed, and there is never any in depth study into what they mean for you as a Christian. Well, if you will join me in reading this article, then let us begin this month with Stewardship.

The word itself brings fear to everyone, because it is often used in one direction, or to encourage a greater amount of financial giving. Fortunately, you cannot spell money from the word stewardship so they are actually two different words. Yet, in church, we see the word "STEWARDSHIP" instantly associated with some type of money drive or capital campaign, and we are told if we are good stewards of what God gives us, then we will participate and give.

Well, no one wants to be told what to do with their money, and from another perspective, what about those who do not necessarily understand things. I mean no one wants to admit to be poor stewards of their money. Yet, as we see statistically throughout this country more and more families are living paycheck to paycheck, and barely making ends meet. Why?

The truth is, because we are unwilling to admit that we are not always the best stewards of what God has given us. I look at it from this perspective. I do not have a garden, but I absolutely love fresh fruit and vegetables. However, I do not have a garden, because I am horrible at it. God did not give me the understanding to properly grow one, or maybe because it is due to the

following. First, I do not want to go through the hassle of tilling the ground or building the raised garden beds. Second, I do not want to purchase dirt and fertilizer. Third, I do not want to deal with weeds. Finally, I do not want to have to water constantly. Therefore, I do not have a garden.

When I correlate this to being a good steward, then I start to make choices on what I want to be a steward of. Do I want to be a good steward with money, or just spend it? Do I want to be a good steward of my time, or just make myself so busy that I no longer have to think about it? Do I want to use my recognized talents to help others, or just keep it to myself? When I think about gardening, and how much I love the outcome of a healthy garden, my stomach starts to grumble thinking about the fresh food. Yet, I do not want to put forth all that effort. Instead, I sacrifice the taste of fresh food for store bought, which has probably been on the shelf or in storage for a while.

In the end, I make sacrifices. However, how many sacrifices are too much when it comes to "STEWARDSHIP"? The truth is that no matter how you try and solve the equation, when dealing with stewardship it eventually leads to sacrifice. Yet, what are you willing to sacrifice? This is not an earthly question, but a heavenly one! The truth of stewardship is what are you willing to sacrifice for God?

This is where true stewardship becomes difficult. When dealing with a garden, if I want fresh fruit and vegetables then what are my options? The problem in this situation is that I can do something to figure out the problem. I can put in the effort and grow a garden, I can purchase items at the store, I can get items from someone else, or I can go to a farmers market. The problem is



*(Pastor's message continued from page 2)*

that it is all about what I can do to solve the problem. Yet, when dealing with stewardship, if we cannot look at it from God's perspective, then we will never truly understand it. The problem is not what I can do, but instead what does God expect?

Stewardship is a command, and we see this from one of Jesus' parables. The parable of the talent discusses how three individuals received a certain amount from their master. Two of them went out and did well with what they were given, but the other one decided to bury what he had. When I look at this parable I see multiple outcomes. Nothing more severe than what happened to the one that buried it, but what else does it tell us? First, do not bury what you have been given. Second, what you have is not meant for only you. Third, we must go out and put what we have to work. Finally, we must realize that what we have still belongs to the master and He can do what he wants with it.

Stewardship is about taking what we have, and going out into the world to share it. As Christians we have the opportunities to do this in multiple ways. Take for instance our talents/abilities; what would happen if we were great at technology, but never did anything with it? Or what if we had a great knowledge to learn and invent, but we never used it? As Christians we each do different things throughout the day, but during our day we have the opportunity to be good stewards of what God has given us. Even if it is just choosing to do the right thing on that

day, then we have done some of our duty.

Still God expects something in return, and maybe that is where people struggle the most, because we do not understand why God expects something from us. Why should we give back? There is a hymn in our hymnal that says, "We give Thee but Thine own in any gift we bring, all that we have is yours alone a trust from you are King." Everything we have is actually Gods. He blessed us with knowledge, a job, money, etc. in order to get all that we have, and what does God expect in return? He expects that we are good stewards of what He has given us, and that we use our time, talents, and treasures wisely for the furthering of His kingdom here on earth. Ultimately that is our job as Christians! It is a response to what God has given us through Jesus Christ. Not because we expect something better or in return, but simply because Christ died to give us eternal life. Therefore, in faith we return to God what is God's.

Stewardship is not sacrifice when we think in those terms. Instead it is a joyful response to what God has given us. Let us change our view to recognize being a good steward of our time, talents, and treasures is an opportunity for joy, loving our neighbor, and sharing what God has given us. We give God but His own in any gift we bring, all that we have is His alone a trust from God to me. Live those words, live out Christ in your life, and be good stewards of God's blessings.

Pastor Czischke

*"Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisors."*



- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 ~ Julie Coe          | 13 ~ Chuck Ormston    |
| 1 ~ JoAnne Sandahl     | 14 ~ Dan Lindstrom    |
| 2 ~ Ron Bearl          | 14 ~ Patrick Moos     |
| 2 ~ Molli Zupancich    | 16 ~ Kyle McConaughy  |
| 3 ~ Courtney McCutchen | 18 ~ Nathan Gasmen    |
| 4 ~ Sara McConaughy    | 18 ~ Jamie Myers      |
| 5 ~ Austin Hovel       | 19 ~ Alex Renn        |
| 7 ~ Tom Carlson        | 21 ~ Kayla Boumeester |
| 8 ~ Mark Gavin         | 23 ~ Ainsley Czischke |
| 8 ~ Sarah Heinecke     | 23 ~ Vincent Fanning  |
| 8 ~ Scott McConaughy   | 27 ~ Tim Hatch        |
| 8 ~ Jennifer Blair     | 28 ~ John Volovsek    |
| 9 ~ Anna Wisch         | 29 ~ Colton Dornseif  |
| 10 ~ Brian Schousek    | 30 ~ Luke Sandahl     |
| 11 ~ Sharon Kendhammer |                       |

If your special day is missing or incorrect, please notify the office.



Did you have a God Sighting today? If you had a child in VBS you probably know what they are. The theme for Vacation Bible School was Shipwrecked. Our main mast blew off and was full of holes. The only way we could fix it was with patches with God Sightings on them. A God sighting is when you see something in your day that reminds you of God and say, "Thank you God." Each day the kids would come all excited to tell us about their sightings. There were a lot of animal sightings; Yellow Butterfly, Doe, 12 point buck, fawn, Dogs/pets, bird nest, wild flowers, and even a momma bird plucking a worm out of the ground and feeding it to her babies. Of course there were sightings of love from their brother or sister, mom or dad, Grandma and

grandpas and play dates with friends. They all love food surprises. Ice cream was the most favorite plus candy from Knoke's, and the fabulous Pizza Party on the last day. My two favorites were; 1) Great time at VBS, and 2) this is more fun than Sunday School. Thank you to the amazing God Sighting Helpers; Jan, Michelle, Annie, Heather, Madison, Sue, Pastor Chad, Molli, Angie, Isabelle, Gillian, Ava, Connie, Mason, Amber, Erin, Katie, Nevaeh, Taryn, Deb, John, Becky and Jeff. We couldn't have done it without all of your help, love, energy and enthusiasm. We also thank the parents who sent 24 of God's Little Children for us to teach and share the love Jesus with. Thank you for making VBS 2018 a great success! Sue Hanson



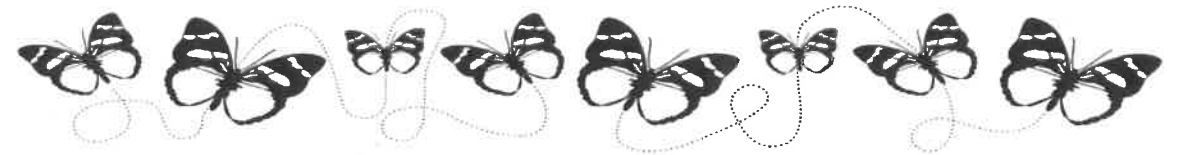
*Mindy & Scott Milich*  
9 on the 26th

*Jeremy & Amy Miller*  
20 on the 12th

*Jeff & Jeanette Amundson*  
24 on the 24th

*Dan & Jan Gavin*  
38 on the 13th

*John & Joyce Bantari*  
45 on the 29th



**You Can Teach!** Sunday school 2018 - 2019 will begin on Sunday, September 16. Still needed are teachers for the 3rd - 5th grade class and one more person to lead a 6 - 7 - 8th grade class. Team teaching is our goal, so two teachers at every level are needed. The curriculum we use is very easy to use, and fun to teach as well. Please consider this opportunity to grow and share your faith. Contact Jan Gavin for more information - 612-618-3708.

Thank you for all the school supplies that were donated during Vacation Bible school and \$232.38 to purchase seeds for the people of Haiti to grow their own food.

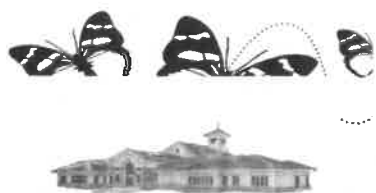


**Time, Talents and Treasures.** God has Blessed each and everyone of us in different ways. For instance, some have more time, and they can share that by spreading God's love through different actions and activities, to include visiting people, preparing meals, helping someone with house or yard work, prayer, and the list could go on. Others have the ability to support God's work through financial treasures. Still others, have the ability to help through specific talents, for instance music, instruments, computer knowledge, etc. We all have at least one talent or Spiritual Gift; the question is do you recognize how you can help?

Some people are gifted with the ability to teach, lead, usher, serve as a reader or greeter, help prepare and serve refreshments, and there are many more. The point is that we each have been blessed by God with certain abilities to extend the hands and feet of God both here at church and beyond. Are you ready and willing to be good stewards of what God has gifted you with?

The Board of Stewardship is asking that you would prayerfully consider serving here at Family of Christ. We are in need of ushers, readers, counters, nursery attendants, greeters, Sunday School teachers, and the list goes on. Also as the Fall approaches, the election of officers will soon be upon us, and there are a few key positions that we need to fill. Please prayerfully consider helping out your family at Family of Christ.

— "The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us." —

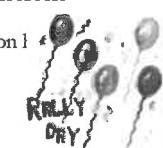



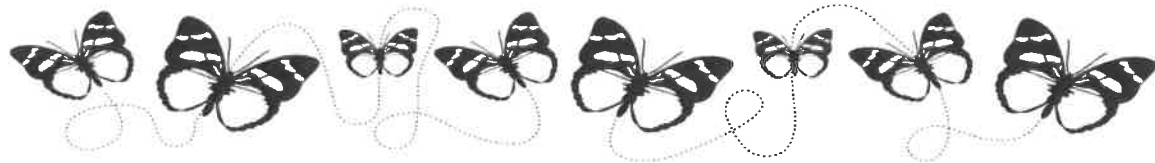
# September 2018

Family of Christ Lutheran Church



- Please note there is always the possibility of meetings and events being cancelled and/or added. Be sure to check the weekly bulletin for changes.
- To have events and meetings included on this calendar page, they must be noted on the calendar in the office before the 22nd of every month.

Sun							Mon							Tue							Wed							Thu							Fri							Sat						
August 2018							October 2018																																									
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																			
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26 27 28 29 30 31							28 29 30 31																																									
2 9:30am ~ Worship							3 <b>LABOR Day</b>							4 7:00pm ~ Outreach Mtg. 7:30pm ~ Men's Bible Study							5 6:30pm ~ Worship							6							7							8						
9 9:30am ~ Worship							10 8:00am ~ Ruth's Quilters 6:30pm ~ Board of Elders							11 11:30am ~ Men's Bible Study (Stillwater Joseph's) 7:00pm ~ LWML <b>PATRIOT DAY</b>							12 5:15pm ~ Confirmation (6-7) 6:30pm ~ Worship 7:15 ~ Confirmation (8)							13							14							15						
16 coins for missions 9:30am ~ Worship 10:45am ~ Education I 							17 9:00am ~ Women's Bible Study							18 7:30pm ~ Men's Bible Study							19 5:15pm ~ Confirmation (6-7) 6:30pm ~ Worship 7:15pm ~ Choir 7:15 ~ Confirmation (8)							20 6:30pm ~ Church Council							21							22 						
23 9:30am ~ Worship 10:45am ~ Education hr.							24 8:00am ~ Ruth's Quilters 5:30pm ~ Feed Grace Place							25 11:30am ~ Men's Bible Study (Stillwater Joseph's)							26 5:15pm ~ Confirmation (6-7) 6:30pm ~ Worship 7:15pm ~ Choir 7:15 ~ Confirmation (8)							27							28							29						
30 9:30am ~ Worship 10:45am ~ Education hr.																																																



### Monthly Bible Study

**Lutheran Women** ALL women & friends at Family of Christ are invited to join us on the **second Tuesday evening of each month** for fellowship in Mission ship and Bible study as your schedule allows. Following our summer break, we look forward to resuming our time together on **Tuesday, September 11th @ 7pm**. Our study will be taken from the Spring Lutheran Women's Quarterly (pages 20-22) "**Prayer Gives My Life Balance**". If you have any questions, please contact Joyce Banttari @ 715.247.5248 or 651.434-3261.

### Upcoming LWML Fall Rally - Saturday, September 29th

New Life Lutheran Church – Hugo

Guest Speaker: Pastor Tim Heinecke

"Sharing the Faith: A Fresh Approach to Confirmation"

Cost: \$10 which includes lunch

A sign-up has been posted on the bulletin board for anyone interested in attending and learn more about this topic being presented. The Carpool will leave FOC at 8:00am and return, following the luncheon, approximately 12:45pm. All participants are asked to bring nonperishable food items for the Hugo Good Neighbors Food Shelf as the Ingathering.

### LWML MITE Offerings



The deadline for the FOC semi-annual (Fall & Spring) collection of MITE donations will be **Sunday, October 28th**. Small purple MITE boxes are available and should be returned to the large MITE box located in the Narthex area. MITE offerings of coins, cash or checks (payable to LWML MN South District) are needed to help support the National and District Mission Goals. Your continued prayers and support of this vital LCMS auxiliary is greatly appreciated!

Faith and thanksgiving go together. How could they not go together? Our Lord gave Himself for us, and we trust Him and His every Word. Once we have this faith, we want to say thank you – it's only natural. And thus our stewardship is only a natural part of the Christian faith – we thank the Lord with our gifts which enable the Church to reach more with the Good News of Christ.



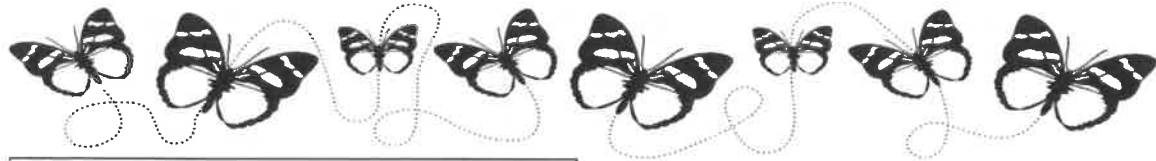
### Cash Flow Statement

	July 31	Year-to Date
Income – donations	\$ 15,916.98	\$113,650.04
Building fund donations	1,660.00	8,797.38
Fundraiser income	0.00	2,446.40
Rent	300.00	925.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 17,876.98</b>	<b>\$125,818.82</b>
Less Expenses (includes Int. on Loan)	\$ -14,451.16	\$ -119,344.74
<b>Net income</b>	<b>\$ 3,425.82</b>	<b>\$ 6,474.08</b>
Less principal loan payments	\$ -1,733.97	\$ -11,987.75
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$ 1,691.85</b>	<b>\$ -5,513.67</b>
Building loan balance 1/1/18	\$437,487.04	
Total principal payments year to date	-11,987.75	
Loan balance 7/31/18	\$425,499.29	
Loan payments each month are \$ 3,514.11		
Bank balances as of 7/31/18		
General checking	7,681.39	
Unrestricted savings	856.81	
	8,538.20	
Restricted savings	87,183.95	

Full financial statements are available in the Church office and a copy is on the bulletin board. Karen Heinecke, treasurer



King Solomon wrote, "*Whoever trusts in his riches will fall . . .*" (Proverbs 11:28). Satan wants us to trust in our money and believe that we need to keep and hoard it. Money is possibly Satan's most effective tool, and he loves to use it against us. He knows the powerful influence that money can have on our lives. Satan wants to deceive us into believing that money gives us lasting happiness and security. He wants us to place our trust in money and the things money can buy, rather than in God. When we face temptation, we need to remember that we belong to God, not to Satan. Satan gives us nothing. Because of God's presence in our lives, we are given the strength to overcome Satan's lies and deception. God has shown His tremendous love for us by having sent His Son as a sacrifice for our sins. He promises never to leave us, and He empowers us to follow His ways rather than the ways of Satan.



"I won't enumerate my trespasses - you know my work."

Six-year-old Lisa and her four-year-old brother Tim were sitting with their parents in church, when Tim started giggling and talking out loud. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church!"

"Why? Who's going to stop me?" Tim asked.

Lisa pointed to the back of the room and said, "See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers."

A little boy was listening to a long and tedious musical presentation by the church choir. Suddenly the red votive light by the altar caught his eye.

Tugging his father's sleeve, he asked, "Daddy, when the light turns green can we go?"

If Mary gave birth to Jesus and Jesus is the lamb of God. Did Mary have a little lamb?

God: Done, yet?

Noah: Yea

God: What's this?

Noah: A swing set!

God: You to built a park. I asked for an ark.

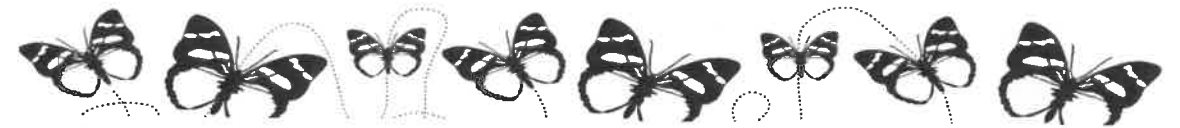
Noah: What?

God: A boat.

Noah: Say boat, then.

Absence makes the heart grow fonder. If that is so, a huge bunch of people sure love their church.

Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisors.



It's September, and everything is in full swing again: back to school and back to church attendance after vacations and weekends away. And since everything is back into full swing, it's a perfect time to get back to basics, back to the foundation.

At the end of the first of his chapters on the virtue of faith in *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis provides a helpful reminder, by way of analogy, for the foundation of stewardship. He wrote:

Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already. So then,

when we talk of a man doing anything for God or giving anything to God, I will tell you what it is really like. It is like a small child going to its father and saying, "Daddy, give me six pence to buy you a birthday present." Of course, the father does, and he is pleased with the child's present. It is all very nice and proper, but only an idiot would think that the father is six-pence to the good on the transaction. When a man has made these two discoveries God can really get to work. It is after this that real life begins. (128-129).

This is the first thing we are given to confess about stewardship, and it has to do with ownership. God owns everything, and we are simply managers — stewards

— acting on His behalf. This is true not only of all that we have in this life (Deuteronomy 8:17-18), but also all that we are in this life (1 Corinthians 6:20).

The rest flows from here. Since we are stewards, or managers, of what belongs to God, entrusted to make use of it according to His will, there is an expectation of responsibility and accountability. For the Lord said, "Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more" (Luke 12:48b).

And from this comes blessing and reward: "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master" (Matthew 25:21).

We have everything we need to support this body and life from our God's fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us. We have everything we need for our spiritual life also from His merciful hands.

On account of the sacrifice of His Son, our Lord Jesus, through the preaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments, we have the forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and everlasting salvation delivered to us with absolute certainty that it is ours — not as stewards but as sons (Galatians 4:1-7).

Let us then, as His own sons, press all that He gives to us into the service of His church and to His glory.