

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



THE FAMILY FOCUS

Family of Christ Lutheran Church

Volume 20 Issue 11
 November 2018



Annual Church ELECTION

Elections Coming Soon! Candidates Needed

Annual elections for office will be coming up at the **Fall Voter's Assembly on November 11, 2018.**

Revisions to our bylaws have established a new election schedule. All elected positions serve 2 year terms, except Elders, who serve for three years. Terms are limited to two consecutive terms (either full or partial). Terms run from January 1 to December 31. Of the 18 elected positions we have, eight positions will be elected each calendar year.

The 2018 fall election will be for the following offices:

- ◆ Vice President
- ◆ Treasurer
- ◆ Financial Secretary
- ◆ Two Elders
- ◆ Two Trustees
- ◆ Chair – Board of Stewardship

As of October 15, we have candidates for some of the offices,

but we need to include more members to serve, as follows:

- ◆ Vice President
- ◆ Elder
- ◆ Trustees
- ◆ Chair of Stewardship Board

If you, or someone you know, is interested in joining a dynamic leadership group, please contact Pastor Chad, Becky Volovsek, any of the current officeholders, or any member of the Nominating Committee (consisting of John Banttari, Al Neuendorf, and Sue Hanson) for more information, or to suggest candidates.

You can make a difference!



What's inside:

- Voter's Meeting
- Pack Shoe boxes
- Hunter's Dinner
- Thanksgiving dinner donations
- Mitten Tree
- Sort food at St. Patrick's church

STAFF

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

CHURCH LEADERS

Becky Volovsek, President
 John Banttari, Vice-President
 Teri Zupancich, Council Secretary
 Karen Heinecke, Treasurer
 Patty Long, Financial Secretary
 Dave Hayenga, Bd. of Trustees
 Al Neuendorf, Bd. of Elders
 Jan Gavin, Bd. of Education
 Debbie Alms, Bd. of Outreach
 Sue Hanson, Bd. of Stewardship

Family of Christ Lutheran Church
 285 County Road E
 Houlton, Wisconsin 54082
 (715)549-6140

E-mail: focoffice@yahoo.com
 www.familyofchristhudson.org

WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Sunday~
 9:30 a.m.—Worship w/Communion
 10:30 a.m.—Refreshments & Fellowship
 10:45 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 6-7)
 6:30 p.m.—Worship w/Communion
 7:15 p.m.—Choir (Sept. - May)
 7:20 p.m.—Confirmation class (Grade 8)

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



Dear Members,

1. According to Merriam-Webster the word Community is defined as "a unified body of individuals."

2. According to Scripture the word Community is defined as "a group of individuals gathered around the Word of God, unified in both mind and spirit for the common cause of teaching/instructing people in the knowledge of Jesus Christ."

3. According to the Purpose/Mission of Family of Christ: "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.

As you read through number 3, my prayer and hope is that you heard the word 'Community' within the Purpose/Mission of the church. In fact, according to the Bible's understanding of the word 'Community', the mission of Family of Christ fits perfectly in line with God's Word. This is an awesome start, and when the church began in 1991, that is exactly what the people depended on. They depended on God's Word, God's promise, prayer, and their faith to believe that God would work through the decision to establish this church.

I want to lay a challenge at your feet! When was the last time you prayed that God would give us faith to trust in where He is leading Family of Christ? If you have not lifted this up in prayer lately, then I challenge you even more to pray that God will guide Family of Christ to be the 'Community' that He desires, and to live out the established Purpose/Mission of the church listed in number 3 above.

Right now, we need the members of this church to come together in mind and spirit to pray that God will guide, direct, and show us the path that He wants us as the 'Community' of Family of Christ to walk.

Prayer is a powerful tool that we as Christians have, and in fact it is a gift from God that allows us to approach Him with our requests. In addition, the Bible talks about where 2 or 3 come together in the name of God then He is in their midst. The Bible also talks about being of like mind, which is why I am asking the members of this church to join together in like mind to ask God for guidance.

I recognize that this is an odd request. However, it is also a simple request to ask for your prayers that God will direct, guide, and lead Family of Christ to carry out the mission of learning God's Word, seeking the need for God, celebrating His presence, and reaching out

Continued on page 3

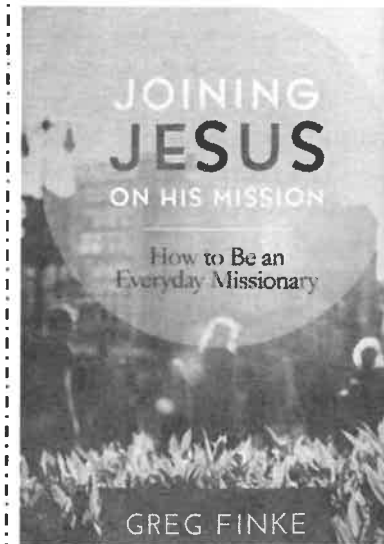


(Pastor's message continued from page 2)

to touch the lives of others. As we strive to live out this Purpose/Mission, I truly believe that God will lead us in the right direction: A community of strong Believers gathered around the Word of God, and set on fire by the Spirit to take God's Word into our day to day lives.

I challenge you for the next 30 days to join me in praying the following prayer: God, Your Word discusses the idea of community, a group of individuals joined together in mind and spirit to learn, study, and live out Your Word in their lives. As they gathered together, they were led by Your Spirit to go out into the streets, and share the good news of salvation with those desperately needing to hear Your truth and promise. Help guide us here at Family of Christ to be like the original Apostles. Help us gain strength from Your Word and Spirit, and give us direction and guidance to recognize Your purpose for us in this place. Strengthen our Community at Family of Christ, that we can become your hands and feet to each other, to those in need, and live our lives according to Your Word, trusting ultimately in your promises for us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Blessings, Pastor Czischke

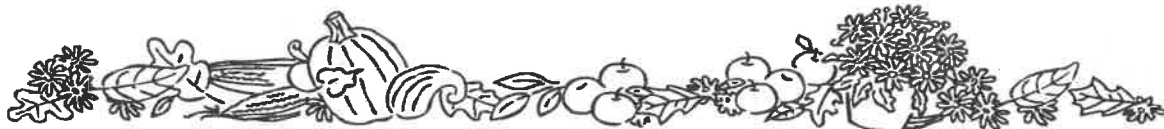


Have you ever wondered, "How can I share the news of Jesus with other people?" Or maybe even caught yourself saying, "I do not understand enough of the Bible to share it with others." Well, there is a book on the market that is revolutionizing the way people look at missions and sharing the good news of salvation. The book 'Joining Jesus on His Mission' by Greg Finke walks you through a new understanding or view about missions.

I would like to start a book study, and instead of looking at the struggles of missions, try to seek a new understanding of what we can do as workers in the harvest field. The study begins on Sunday, December 2, 11:00am.

We will need to order books for this study, and therefore, need to know how many would be interested.

The books cost \$15.99, and would take about a week to arrive. A sign up for the books will be on the bulletin board.



- 5 ~ Patty Long
- 5 ~ Jackson McCutchen
- 5 ~ Thomas McCutchen
- 6 ~ Judy Patraw
- 7 ~ Eleanor Lindstrom
- 8 ~ Mike Lindquist
- 8 ~ Caleb Milich
- 8 ~ Shirley O'Keefe
- 9 ~ Jared Schaaf
- 10 ~ Joyce Banttari

- 12 ~ Jacob Sandquist
- 12 ~ Ryan Sandquist
- 15 ~ Gayle Boumeester
- 15 ~ Jacquelyn Gasmen
- 21 ~ David Sandquist
- 23 ~ Carlie Myers
- 23 ~ Ty Smith
- 24 ~ Jacob Fanning
- 24 ~ Beth McDonald
- 25 ~ Susan Lindstrom
- 25 ~ Virginia Morrell
- 26 ~ John Garden
- 28 ~ Elli Schaaf



Trent & Laura Blinkman
21 on the 28th

John & Barb Garden
22 on the 26th

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



Friday, November 2, about 12 to 2 pm, volunteers are needed at St. Patrick's Church to separate and box the donations of food from the "Stuff-a-Truck" collection last Saturday.

We are very excited to introduce a new video series at 6:45pm on Thursday, bible group to women Nov. 8th at Annie and Keegan McCaughey's home (114 Heritage Trl, Houlton). Our video series is called aRe (C.A.Y.R.) is a Bible group intended for a woman just as you are. Weather you are well versed in the Bible or don't even know where to start, this group is for you. Our hope is to come learn more about each other and who we are as sisters in Christ. We will be launching a



Here are the next few dates:
Thursday, November 8th 6:45pm
Thursday, November 15th 6:45pm
Thursday, December 6th 6:45pm

Men's Group is starting up again. Join us **Saturday, November 17th at 8:00am**. All men are invited. Breakfast will be served.



Shoe Box Project - As in past years, our church will again support this program of giving through Samaritan's Purse. Sue Hanson graciously continues to organize this effort. Look for the display in the Narthex for more information...**Shoebboxes will be packed on Sunday Nov. 4** during Sunday School hour. Everyone is invited to help.



Ruth Flostrand and the Garden Club are, once again, sponsoring a **Mitten Tree** at Family of Christ. The hats, mittens and gloves that are gathered will be given to children who will be spending their Christmas at Grace Place. Ear muffs and scarves are also appreciated but we are really asking that we focus on hats and mittens. (Last year we only got 3 pairs of mittens.) The Mitten Tree will be in the narthex through the first week of December. We want the kids to get their mittens in early December. Thank you.



Thanksgiving Dinners Thanksgiving Feast Each year, Family of Christ adopts two families to help at Christmas time. This year we're going for three. This 'adoption' starts in November with a donation of food for their **Thanksgiving dinners**. Please sign up on the bulletin board to contribute a portion of this meal for either or both of these families. These families are usually chosen from among the families who receive the backpack meals. All donations should be at church by Sunday, November 22th. If you bring your items earlier, please mark them clearly and put them in the fridge or freezer or on the counter next to the freezer. Thank you for your generosity.



All hunters and non-hunters are invited to **Worship on Wednesday, Nov. 15th**.

That's the Wednesday before all the hunters go off on their adventures. To show support for our fellow hunters and wish them well we will have dinner and fellowship before the service where stories of past experiences are sure to be shared. We urge you to show your support for the hunters by wearing camouflage, blaze orange or plaid and don't forget the earflaps! The service will be outside so you'll want to bundle up. This should help to create just the right atmosphere to send our hunters off with blessings for a safe and bountiful hunt.

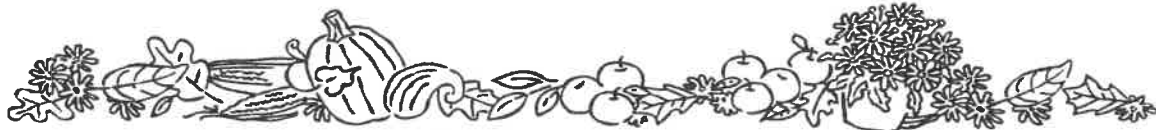


November 2018

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																																																								
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Monthly Bible Study & Fellowship

**Lutheran
Women
in Mission**

“If we don’t know who we are in the eyes of God and that truth does not guide us every day, we are vulnerable to believing falsehoods about who we should be.” ALL women are

invited to join the LWML Bible study discussion on **“Finding Balance in Our Identity”** on **Tuesday, November 13th @ 7pm**. The topic is taken from the FALL Lutheran Women's Quarterly (pages 20-21) with extra copies available for any newcomers.

LWML Pill Bottle Mission Project

Thanks to everyone’s participation and response, the LWML Pill Bottle mission project will continue on an ongoing basis. **PLASTIC prescription bottles** may be left in the designated box located in the Narthex area at any time. We have collected over 750 bottles for Matthew 25 Ministries since we began this project in March.

THANK YOU to all who purchased pumpkins from the LWML Pumpkin Patch. We sold approximately 24 pumpkins and raised \$110 to assist with the shipping costs of the pill bottles.



What is going on with Outreach at Family of Christ?



We have had an exciting year here at Family of Christ, with some amazing Fish Frys, summer parades and picnics and an all new fall Apple Fest! We also continue to bless our community with our monthly meals at Grace Place, support of the Hudson Food Shelf and the Hudson Area Backpack Program. The Outreach Board has also been busy reviewing all of the input provided earlier this year via the church survey, and your suggestions that you have shared throughout the year in order to prepare a plan for 2019. There are SO many opportunities before us. The wonderful news is that with the multitude of ideas, there will be ways for each and every one of us to engage in Outreach in the coming year. Whether big or small, there are opportunities for us all! If you would like to hear more, please contact Debbie Alms – Debbie.Alms@Oracle.com or 612-839-6853.



Cash Flow Statement

	<u>September 30</u>	<u>Year-to Date</u>
Income – donations	\$ 15,335.55	\$143,744.39
Building fund donations	1,625.00	11,382.38
Fundraiser income	0.00	2,446.40
Rent	0.00	925.00
Total Income	<u>\$ 16,960.55</u>	<u>\$158,498.17</u>
Less Expenses (includes Int. on Loan)	<u>\$ -16,139.35</u>	<u>\$ -154,738.67</u>
Net income	<u>\$ 821.20</u>	<u>\$ 3,759.50</u>
Less principal loan payments	<u>\$ -1,748.45</u>	<u>\$ -15,477.40</u>
Balance	<u>\$ -927.25</u>	<u>\$ 40.00</u>
Building loan balance 01/01/18	\$437,487.04	
Total principal payments year to date	<u>-15,477.40</u>	
Loan balance 09/30/18	<u>\$422,009.64</u>	
Loan payments each month are \$ 3,514.11		
Bank balances as of 09/30/18		
General checking	10,726.79	
Unrestricted savings	<u>101.05</u>	
	<u>10,827.84</u>	
Restricted savings (contingency)	78,815.36	

Notes: On Sept. 30 we borrowed \$6,000. from the contingency fund to pay bills. Purchased a new copier for \$3,799. Transferred money from contingency to pay for it.

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



Advent by Candlelight is an opportunity for women of all ages to set aside the hustle and bustle of holiday preparation and focus their minds and hearts on the birth of Christ. Family of Christ is hosting this event on Sunday, December 2 at 6:00 pm. Table Hostesses will decorate their table and provide a dessert for their guests to enjoy. Attendees will enjoy a program of Jesus’ light to the world and us, as we celebrate Advent. Sign up on the bulletin board to either be a Table Hostess or attendee. Please contact Debbie Alms with any questions (Debbie.alm@oracle.com or 612-839-6853)

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”

- Helen Keller

I THREATEN TO DIVIDE A BABY AND I'M A SAGE. I SUGGEST WE SPLIT A SANDWICH AND I'M A CHEAPSKATE. I DON'T GET IT.



My dinner with Solomon

The story goes that a certain court jester went too far one day and insulted his king. The king became so infuriated that he sentenced the jester to be executed. His court prayed upon the king to have mercy for this man who had served him well for so many years. After a time, the king relented only enough to give the jester his "choice" as to how he would like to die. True to form, the jester replied, "if it's all the same to you my Lord, I'd like to die of old age."

Sometimes people don't like it when pastors talk about stewardship. For some, it hits too close to home. It is easier to talk about bad people in Washington, in history, or overseas than it is to think about what our daily life in Christ is supposed to look like – how we are supposed to love our neighbor.

The fact that we don't like hearing about stewardship certainly means we ought to face it. Here are a few simple and practical realities.

God calls us to first-fruits, sacrificial giving. This means we should give off the top. We should set a percentage of our income as a deliberate gift for the work of the Church and give that first. We write the check to the Lord's work in the Church before we pay the mortgage or pay for our medicine or pay for anything else.

We don't pay for all the stuff we need, and think we need, and then give from what is left over. That is the first-fruits idea. It is hard because we think we need all sorts of other things first. But that is the point of "sacrificial."

Next, how could the starting point for Christian generosity and sacrifice really be anything less than a tithe – 10 percent? The ceremonial law of the Old Testament was never arbitrary. In the Old Testament, the Levites received this tithe so they could be full-time ministers.

Does the New Testament have a ministry that is larger or smaller? It is far larger: "Make disciples of all nations" (Matt. 28:19).

And we are still to have a full-time ministry: "The Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14).

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So, if 10 percent was needed in the Old Testament, and we have a bigger mission need in the New Testament, how can we expect the Lord's work to be done on less than a tithe?

First-fruits, sacrificial, generous giving – that's the way. We shouldn't fool ourselves into thinking that we've out-given God's goodness or that we've given plenty.

We might be tempted to think so but consider – no one in the Church has given plenty because no one has given all. No one has died for his sins. Only the sinless Son of God did that.

Or, as St. Paul said, bringing the Good News of Jesus into the discussion of our giving to support the Lord's work in the Church:

"I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich" (2 Cor. 8:8-9).

As you can see, what the Bible commands about our stewardship can sting. It's law, and the law shows our sins. It calls us to repentance.

The law is meant to expose and accuse for the sake of showing us Christ and His fulfillment of the law. If first-fruits, sacrificial giving has you squirming, that's the point.

In Mark's account of the feeding of the

5,000, Jesus took the disciples' five loaves and two fish and blessed them. It was nothing among so many, but, of course, it was plenty. Jesus makes something from nothing.

Mark doesn't say that all the disciples gave Jesus all the bread they had. It is quite possible some of them held something back. But even if they did, that didn't stop Jesus from blessing them. Jesus makes something out of nothing.

He, who fed His people in the desert with Manna every morning, doesn't need their bread. But they need to give it. And what they give, however little it might be, however grudgingly they do so, He blesses it.

He not only blesses those whom He feeds with it, but He blesses them, the givers – not just in that they wind up with (a basket full for each loaf) but that they learned to trust and rejoice in Him.

The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away. The Lord gives abundantly or asks us to fast. We do not know what will happen. Blessed be the Name of the Lord.

He does all things well and works all things together for good. The disciples don't give their bread to Jesus because it is a good investment. They give it because He is good, they love Him, and they trust Him. Let us go and do likewise.