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



THE FAMILY FOCUS

Family of Christ Lutheran Church

Volume 20 Issue 10

October 2018



APPLE FEST

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6

4:00 ~ 7:00 p.m.

Apple-smoked Brisket Sandwiches
 Beans ~ Cole Slaw
 Apple Cider ~ Lemonade
 Apple Bars for dessert

Apple Games ~ Crafts for the kids
 Silent Dessert Auction

Free-will donations benefitting the backpack program.

What's inside:

- Oct. 14 ~ LWML Sunday
- Oct. 28 ~ Bake Sale
- Oct. 28 ~ Trunk or Treat
- Nov. 2 ~ Sort food at St Pat's

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
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 Houlton, Wisconsin 54082
 (715)549-6140

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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~

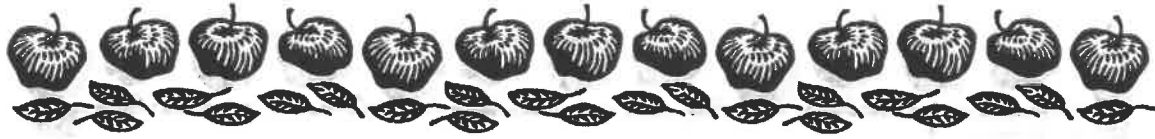
5:30 p.m.—Confirmation Class (Grades 6-8)
 6:30 p.m.—Worship w/Communion
 7:15 p.m.—Choir (Sept. - May)

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



Dear members,

As we catch our breath, and realize that it is already October, we enter a month within the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod that focuses on Stewardship. I know we have focused on this throughout the summer months with both the Sunday morning Bible Class and Sermon focused on Spiritual Gifts, Fruit of the Spirit, and Stewardship. However, we enter another month to reflect on how we devout our time, talents, and treasures to God.

This summer we spent a lot of time reflecting on the heart, and what kind of language is heart language. The problem is that far too often we neglect what we need in order to properly speak from the heart. Heart language is all about understanding Scripture, and what God expects from us, which at times is very difficult, and at others is practically impossible. Finding time in today's life and expectations is far too exhausting, which is why for most of us, we simply stop trying. Yes, I am guilty of this too.

By the time I get home from my day, take care of things at home, and finally settle down about 9 or 10 at night, I do not want to think about God or pick up a Bible. In fact, all I want to do is watch something really dumb on TV, or waste time looking at social media stuff. Days that are just too exhausting lead to absolutely nothing at night. Yet, the problem I have is when I look back and see what I didn't get accomplished, then all I do is get mad at myself.

The truth is that if I looked at my

schedule, took control of my time, and properly planned, then I would be able to accomplish a lot more, to include time with God. Yet, like many others, I let time control me! This actually works in many other areas too! Dave Ramsey, the developer of Financial Peace University, teaches people to be wise with their money, and one of his key statements is, "take control of your money by setting a budget, and establishing guidelines to spending, otherwise your money will control you." He bases this statement on Proverbs 22:7, which states, "The rich rules over the poor; and the borrower is the slave of the lender."

Proverbs is a book that we do not spend much time discussing. Yet, it has a lot of insightful statements to guide us, because it is a book about true wisdom, and what it means to be wise. Here the author states what life is like when we allow someone else to have power over us, which happens in lender/borrower situations. Yet, this also applies to everything else that we allow to be master over us, to include the clock.

Matthew 6:21 takes this further, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Are we mindful of all these things? I ask, because I struggle with this as well. I struggle with keeping my heart focused on the right thing, and often I give in to allowing other things to take over my time, my heart, etc. God calls us into a different life; a life that turns our hearts over to Him, and focuses all that we have first on Him, and then everything else. The joy of this is that He did not

Continued on page 3



(Pastor's message continued from page 2)

set us on this earth to be alone. In fact, we have a great community of support within our own church. However, at times, I think that too gets impacted by our decisions.

Therefore, this is a call to Family of Christ! This is a call to all of our members, because the only way we can move forward, is to do just that; MOVE! However, we must move forward in God, and move forward together. As I arrived, I heard how strong of a Family this church was, and I want to build on that family connection. Meeting with the leadership of the church, it was decided to try something to encourage a stronger togetherness atmosphere, and the best part; it is all on your time. After talking with members of the church leadership, we decided to start small group events that could include Bible Study, going out for coffee, dinner, or an adult beverage, a book study, a topic study, etc. The purpose is to start bringing members back together. The best part is that as members decide to form the groups, then they can decide on the best time to meet that fits into

their schedule. I am also going to push to get our recording abilities up and running, so that if you are unable to attend church, then you can at least go online and hear the sermon.

These are some things that I really want to work on developing over the next few months, and the purpose is to rebuild the community. Yet, as always, I need your help. I need help getting the small groups up and running, help with activities or ideas at church, and help with ideas of things that we might be able to implement to help move things forward. For instance, one thought is to change the Wednesday night service to a family service or contemporary service, not a full blown band, but just something different. However, in the midst of ideas, I also need members to pray that God will guide us to move correctly in Him, but also to give us personal insight into our own time, talents, and treasures that all that we have and all that we do is to His glory.

God Bless, Pastor Czischke



BACKPACKS ARE BACK! You will see the rack with the blue reusable shopping bags in the narthex. Please take a bag & return it the following Sunday/Wednesday. A shopping list is in each bag. The items will cost about \$12. Please do not buy glass jars or the extra large applesauce or cereal. I know you want to be generous, but these items are very hard to fit in the backpacks. If you don't have time to shop, monetary donations work too. Just think, if we all take one bag a month, the groceries will be covered. Our congregation has been so generous with this program in the past, so we thank you for your continued support!



- 2 ~ Jeff Amundson
- 2 ~ Parker Gebheim
- 2 ~ Greg Long
- 2 ~ Theresa Schousek
- 4 ~ Gillian Brown
- 4 ~ Ryan Gunderson
- 4 ~ Colin Knefelkamp
- 4 ~ Dean Morrell
- 6 ~ Laurie Wotruba
- 7 ~ Isabel Brown
- 7 ~ Laurie Sandquist
- 8 ~ Hannah Bearl
- 8 ~ Sarah Grezek
- 10 ~ Branden McDonald
- 17 ~ Pam Greer
- 19 ~ Amber Alms
- 19 ~ Jolleen Nichols
- 20 ~ Will McDonald
- 21 ~ Lars Kordt
- 21 ~ Jerry Schouten
- 22 ~ Andrew Kendhammer
- 23 ~ Dan Gavin
- 23 ~ Matt Gavin
- 25 ~ Danielle Gasmen

- Paul & Carrie Dwuznik*
9 on the 3rd
- Keegan & Annie McConaughy*
12 on the 28th
- Greg & Jennifer Blair*
15 on the 11th
- Phil & Jamie Myers*
19 on the 9th
- Jeremy & Lita Grezek*
25 on the 2nd
- Jeff & Melinda Fanning*
25 on the 30th

- Steve & Ben Jacobs*
36 on the 9th
- Dave & RoseMary Hayenga*
39 on the 13th
- Scott & Barb McConaughy*
42 on the 9th
- Mike & Debby Rivard*
45 on the 27th
- Steve & Karen Heinecke*
46 on the 28th

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

Stuff-a-Truck Food Shelf Drive
 "Stuff-a-Truck" is a community-wide food shelf drive sponsored by County Market and assisted by Hudson Schools. Collection boxes are put at each school the last week in October. Students are urged to bring items for the Food Shelf during that week. Saturday, October 27, volunteers will be standing at County Market reminding people of the drive and collecting products from shoppers. This is one of the two major drives each year to help us fill the shelves. Friday, November 2, the boxes will be picked up from the schools and brought to St. Patrick's church for sorting. Sorters are needed between 12 and 2 to box up the donated items.



- Can you help?
- 1) **Saturday, October 27**, volunteers are needed to be at County Market asking for donations and reminding people of the drive. A morning or afternoon shift would be appreciated.
 - 2) **Friday, November 2, about 12 to 2 pm**, volunteers are needed at St. Patrick's Church to separate and box the donations.
 - 3) Have a student? Help the schools fill the boxes the last week of October by donating an item or two.
- Questions? Call Deb Schouten (715) 377-0107



Elections at Voter's Meeting Approaching
 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



NOMINATIONS

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!



Trunk or Treat
Sunday, October 28 ~ 5:00pm - 7:00pm
 Members, community, family and friends are invited to dress up in costume and pass out treats from the trunks of their decorated cars while costumed kids parade around our parking lot to collect the goodies.
 Other activities include: a movie (not scary), moonlight prayer path walk, pumpkin decorating, a bon fire, hot apple cider and chili with cornbread.
 This is a **FREE** community event.
 Invite your friends and bring treats to share!




Men's Group is starting up again. Join us **Saturday, October 20th at 8:00am.** All men are invited. Breakfast will be served.

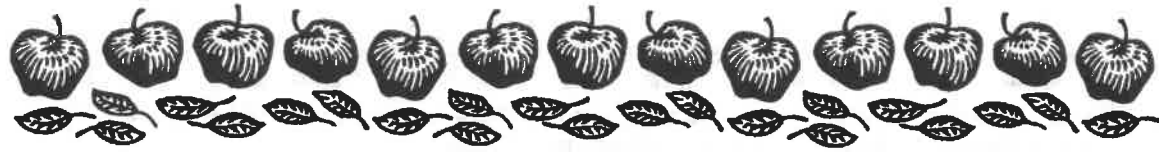


October 2018

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
September 2018 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	1 9:00am ~ Women's Bible Study	2 7:00pm ~ Outreach Mtg. 7:00pm ~ Prayer Bible Study	3 5:30pm ~ Confirmation (6-7) 6:30pm ~ Worship 7:15pm ~ Choir 7:20 ~ Confirmation (8)	4	5	6  4:00 - 7:00pm ~ Apple Fest
7 8:00am ~ Adult Bible Study 9:30am ~ Worship 10:45am ~ Education hour	8 8:00am ~ Ruth's Quilters 6:30pm ~ Board of Elders	9 11:30am ~ Men's Bible Study (Stillwater Joseph's) 7:00pm ~ LWML	10 5:30pm ~ Confirmation (6-7) 6:30pm ~ Worship 7:15pm ~ Choir 7:20 ~ Confirmation (8)	11	12	13
14 LWML Sunday 8:00am ~ Adult Bible Study 9:30am ~ Worship 10:45am ~ Education hour	15 9:00am ~ Women's Bible Study	16 7:00pm ~ Prayer Bible Study	17 5:30pm ~ Confirmation (6-7) 6:30pm ~ Worship 7:15pm ~ Choir 7:20 ~ Confirmation (8)	18 7:00pm ~ Board of Trustees	19	20 8:00am ~ Men's Group
21 coins for missions 8:00am ~ Adult Bible Study 9:30am ~ Worship 10:45am ~ Education hour	22 8:00am ~ Ruth's Quilters 5:30pm ~ Feed Grace Place	23 11:30am ~ Men's Bible Study (Stillwater Joseph's)	24 5:30pm ~ Confirmation (6-7) 6:30pm ~ Worship 7:15pm ~ Choir 7:20 ~ Confirmation (8)	25 6:30pm ~ Church Council	26	27
28 8:00am ~ Adult Bible Study 9:30am ~ Worship 10:45am ~ Education hour 5:00 ~ Trunk or Treat 	29 9:00am ~ Women's Bible Study	30	31 6:30pm ~ Worship 7:15pm ~ Choir  Reformation Day	November 2 12-2 ~ sort food at St Pat's	November 2018 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	



**Lutheran
Women
in Mission**

**LWML Update
Monthly Bible Study & Fellowship**

ALL women are encouraged & welcome to join us on Tuesday, October 9th @ 7pm as we look at how God gives us His peace and how we can practically and actively share that peace with those around us in our study "Peace Mak-

ers" from the FALL Lutheran Women's Quarterly (pages 16-17). Extra copies will be available for newcomers.

LWML Pill Bottle Mission Project

The LWML Pumpkin Patch will remain open, while supplies last, to raise funds to help with shipping costs for the ongoing Pill Bottle project. Your support of this mission has been tremendous! To date, we have collected 691 PLASTIC prescription bottles of all sizes that have been thoroughly cleaned, sorted and bagged for shipping to Matthew 25 Ministries who then forwards them with additional medical supplies to over 60 countries. You are not only helping to improve medical care around the world, we are also caring for our environment by recycling and finding a meaningful use for all of these bottles. THANK YOU for your support!

LWML MITE Offerings

"In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, **'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'**" *Acts 20:35*



This passage reminds us that the Gospel is needed in many, many places and unfortunately, LWML MITE donations are currently behind. You can help share God's Word by contributing to the FOC MITE collection that is held semi-annually in the Fall & Spring of each year. The next deadline is fast approaching on **Sunday, October 28th**, so please pick up a small purple MITE box located in the Narthex area and return by the upcoming deadline. MITE offerings of coins, cash or checks (payable to LWML MN South District) are needed to help support the National and District Mission Grants & Goals. Your continued prayers and support are greatly appreciated! If you have any questions regarding LWML, please contact Joyce Banttari @ 715.247.5248 or 651.434-3261

LWML Sunday – October 14th ~ "Our Rest in a Changing World"



Cash Flow Statement

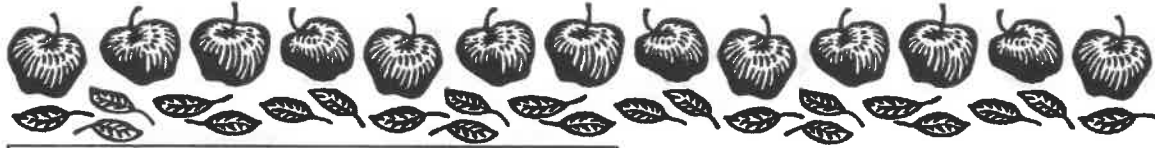
	<u>August 31</u>	<u>Year-to Date</u>
Income – donations	\$ 14,758.80	\$128,408.84
Building fund donations	960.00	9,757.38
Fundraiser income	0.00	2,446.40
Rent	0.00	925.00
Total Income	\$ 15,718.80	\$141,537.62
Less Expenses (includes Int. on Loan)	\$ -19,319.58	\$ -138,599.32
Net income	\$ 3,600.78	\$ 2,938.30
Less principal loan payments	\$ -1,741.20	\$ -13,728.95
Balance	\$ -5,341.98	\$ -10,790.65
Building loan balance 1/1/18	\$437,487.04	
Total principal payments year to date	-13,728.95	
Loan balance 8/31/18	<u>\$423,758.09</u>	
Loan payments each month are \$ 3,514.11		
Bank balances as of 8/31/18		
General checking	3,057.44	
Unrestricted savings	<u>3,375.97</u>	
	6,433.41	
Restricted savings	84,045.28	

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



It's **Samaritan's Purse SHOEBOX time**. The boxes will be filled by the Sunday School Children on **November 11** during the Sunday School hour. We have purchased official boxes this year and will put a pamphlet of suggested articles in the box and put them in the narthex if you would like to fill your own personal box. The postage is \$9 per box so we can always use a financial donation. The soap, washcloths, school supplies, some stuffed animals and 2 size balls have been purchased. We can use Tooth Brushes, small toys and hair combs and clips.

Look for a yummy bake sale on **October 28** put on by the Sunday School children. Either feel free to bring **baked goodies** or purchase lots. The kids will go shopping the following Wednesday for a Wow! item and any other articles that are still needed. Thank you so much for helping us and putting a smile on the face of a child that wouldn't otherwise get a present.



A little boy was afraid of the dark. One night his mother told him to go out to the back porch and bring her the broom. The little boy turned to his mother and said, "Mama, I don't want to go out there. It's dark."

The mother smiled reassuringly at her son. "You don't have to be afraid of the dark," she explained. "Jesus is out there. He'll look after you and protect you."

The little boy looked at his mother real hard and asked, "Are you sure he's out there?" "Yes, I 'm sure. He is everywhere, and he is always ready to help you when you need him," she said.

The little boy thought about that for a minute and then went to the back door and cracked it a little. Peering out into the darkness, he called, "Jesus? If you're out there, would you please hand me the broom?"

George W. Bush, in an airport lobby, noticed a man in a long flowing white robe with a long white beard and flowing white hair. The man had a staff in one hand and some stone tablets under the other arm.

George W. approached the man and inquired, "Aren't you Moses?" The man ignored George W. and stared at the ceiling.

George W. positioned himself more directly in the man's view and asked again, "Aren't you Moses?" The man continued to peruse the ceiling.

George W. tugged at the man's sleeve and asked once again, "Aren't you Moses?" The man finally responded in an irritated voice, "Yes I am."

George W. asked him why he was so uppity, and the man replied, "The last time I spoke to a Bush I had to spend forty years in the desert."

A picture is worth a thousand words, but it uses up three thousand times the memory.

Good judgment comes from experience. Experience comes from bad judgment.

Being "over the hill" is much better than being under it.

Why do we give? Is it simply because God the Father's grace and mercy, His generosity in commanding us to? Or is there more to it? To be sure, the instruction and Word of God in the Bible says we should give, and this is sufficient to encourage us to give (Luke 6:38; Acts 20:35; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 8:7; Gal 6:6).

But there's more to it than just obligation. We're not just trying to fulfill a work of the Law. We are bearing fruits of the Spirit given to us by our Father in heaven through His Son our Lord Jesus Christ. In other words, we're not just doing what our Father said, we're also doing what He did.

Children emulate their parents. When they grow up they often carry many of the same mannerisms and characteristics as their parents, but there is more to it than that. Children copy their parents even on a more mundane level. They watch how their parents cross their legs, how they fold their hands, how they stand and sit and walk, how they do and say most everything.

And children try to copy it, which can be quite humorous when parents wish they wouldn't. It can be uncomfortable and embarrassing if a child copies or repeats something less than polite that they learned from a parent. Sitcoms thrive on these situations. It only happens because children emulate their parents because they want to be like them.

We are the children of God, by grace, through faith. In Holy Baptism, God the Father declares of us what He declared of Jesus at His Baptism in the Jordan: "You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." God the Father claims us as His own. He takes away all our sins, and in exchange He gives us His righteousness, His purity, His holiness, and His Spirit, by which we cry out, "Abba, Father."

We are born again, born from above, born of water and the Spirit, to a new life in Christ as His children. We are sons of God in Christ, through Baptism. And since we are sons, we are heirs – heirs who share in the glory of the Son of God. The inheritance is ours because of

the Father's grace and mercy, His generosity in sending His Son in time to save us for all eternity.

And this is why we give generously of our income to the work of the church. We want to be like our heavenly Father. We want to emulate His generosity by being generous ourselves. We give to the work of the Church because we have witnessed the generous giving of our Father in heaven.

More than that, we are recipients of it. It is because we have received God our Father's gifts that we desire to give ourselves. And His gifts are not just spiritual. They are temporal and earthly as well. As the Small Catechism teaches in the Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer:

"Give us this day our daily bread." *What does this mean?* God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving. *What is meant by daily bread?* Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like."

In other words, God gives us everything we need for the care of both body and soul. His generosity knows no bounds. Therefore, we sit down at the beginning of the year, the beginning of the month, or the beginning of the week to set aside a generous portion of God's daily bread for His work in the Church.

We don't do this simply because He has commanded us so to do; it is because we, as His children by grace, want to emulate His generosity in our own lives. He is our Father; we are His children. And children want to be like their parents.