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

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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)

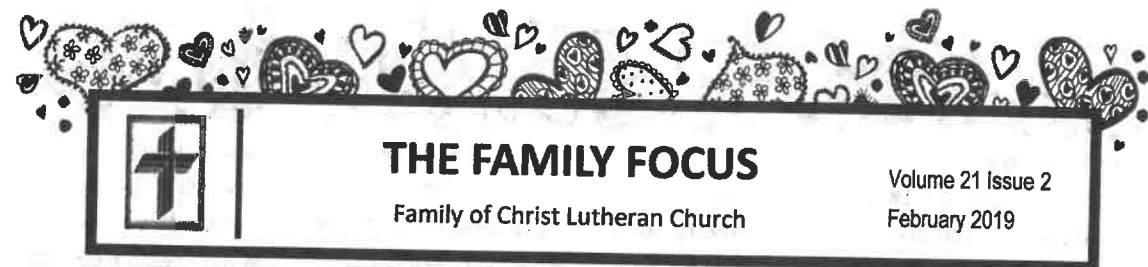
7:20 p.m.—Confirmation class (Grade 8)

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

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.



THE FAMILY FOCUS

Family of Christ Lutheran Church

Volume 21 Issue 2

February 2019

This month the Church Council welcomes new members and says thank you to those departing the Council.

New Council Members

Treasurer - **Deb Zwiefelhofer**

Vice President - **Heather McCutchen**

Stewardship Chair - **Pam Neuendorf**

Trustees Chair - **Jeff Alms**

Elders Chair - **Kyle Amundson**

I warmly welcome all these as they serve Family of Christ in a new way. All of them have been active participants in our church family and appreciate the range of perspectives they bring and their commitment to serving the Lord, this church family, and our community.

I next want to thank **Al Neuendorf**, past Elders Chair and **Dave Hayenga**, former Trustees Chair for their service on Church Council. Both will continue to serve on their respective boards and their leadership, experience, and willingness to take on tasks for the benefit of the congregation and the church property are very much appreciated.

Finally, I would like to recognize the service of **Karen Heinecke**, **Sue Hanson**, and **John Banttari** on Church Council. Karen served as the Treasurer from 2014-2018. Using her professional experience in financial bookkeeping, Karen was the driving force behind a significant update to the church financial records, including adoption of a new accounting software. Our congregation was very fortunate to have Karen's expertise, attention to detail, and diligence applied to our financial resources. We are in an excellent position as we make the transition to a new Treasurer.

Sue Hanson has served on the Council in multiple capacities. Sue brings energy, enthusiasm, and the joy of Jesus to each meeting and opportunity to serve. (story continues on page 3)

What's inside:

- Free babysitting
- Sunday School News
- Pack meals for backpack recipients
-

STAFF

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

CHURCH LEADERS

Becky Volovsek,
President
Heather McCutchen,
Vice-President
Teri Zupancich,
Council Secretary
Deb Zwiefelhofer,
Treasurer
Patty Long,
Financial Secretary
Jeff Alms,
Bd. of Trustees
Kyle Amundson,
Bd. of Elders
Jan Gavin,
Bd. of Education
Debbie Alms,
Bd. of Outreach
Pam Neuendorf,
Bd. of Stewardship



Dear Members,

I first want to start this article by saying thank you for remembering my family and me during the Christmas Season through cards, gifts, and the congregational gift. We appreciated everything. Thank you very much.

It is February! It is the month of Love! At least the month that contains Valentine's Day, which is supposed to be a holiday set aside to display your love towards someone special in your life. Yet, in a world that is walking away from God, how do we actually understand what love is?

If you were to ask a room full of people to define what love is, I bet that you would get quite a few responses. Some of them would be similar, and even one might respond love is what God displays to us through the cross. However, the vast majority would try to define love in human terms. The human form of love is something that you feel towards, or as the dictionary defines it: an intense feeling of deep affection. What does that mean?

What is an intense feeling? I do not understand how anyone is supposed to know what love is according to that definition. As I read it, the definition confuses me more than the word itself. Therefore, what is love and how do you define it?

Truthfully, I am not sure that we can actually define love apart from God, because as the Bible tells us, "God is love." However, does that really help us define love, or at least the love we are called to share with each other?

What does it mean that God is love?

The only way to answer this question is to look at God's acts of love within Scripture. However, many people will struggle with defining certain acts of God as acts of love. Yet, even in the midst of God's discipline, I believe He is still acting out of love.

It begins back in the Garden of Eden as God removes Adam and Eve from the Garden. Some might argue that, "God should have just forgiven them and let them stay!" Despite the idea of forgiveness, true love is not allowing us to stay in our sin. Scholars believe that God removed Adam and Eve from the Garden to get them away from the tree of life, because He did not want them living eternally in sin. However, did you ever think that God was getting them away from the other tree? Think about it for a moment! If only one bite destroyed all of creation, then what would have happened if they continued to eat from the tree?

Thinking about our own actions, I wonder what it would be like if we continue to stay in our own sin. If we continue to give in to the same temptation over and over again, then what would happen? I believe the explanation of that action is called addiction. What would have happened if Adam and Eve became addicted to the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? What more could have happened? Yet, God in His infinite wisdom and love removed them from the temptation. This did not remove temptation completely from their lives, but it removed the most severe temptation from their eyes. The removal from the Garden was

Continued on page 3



(Pastor's message continued from page 2)

God's love for them.

Moving forward God continues His acts of love in many different forms to include a flood, wandering in the wilderness, battles, exile, but the greatest gift of love came in a manger and died on a cross. These acts define God's love for us, but they also remind us that love is not always wonderful. At times, it can hurt, at other times it is hard to understand, and ultimately God's love goes completely against the human definition of an intense feeling of deep affection. God looks at love as more than just a feeling. God looks at love as a continuous act. Love is meant to be an ongoing action towards another person, which goes beyond just a feeling. Feelings are simply personal, within

ourselves. Yet, love is meant to be lived out towards others. That is why God is defined as love, because He is always acting towards others, meaning us!

Therefore, this month as you focus on the month of love, I want to encourage you to love as God loves you. Remember He does not share a superficial love, but a sacrificial love. It is sacrificial because He came and died on the cross for our sake, and gave us the greatest gift of all: TRUE LOVE, an ABSOLUTE LOVE. It is more than an intense feeling, but it is an action towards His entire creation. We love because God first loved us, and gave Himself up for us. Therefore, love as God loves you.

Blessings, Pastor Czischke



Continued from cover Sue most recently took on the task of leading the new Board of Stewardship. This was a new board in 2018 and Sue worked with Pastor, the Council, and members of her board to help establish what Stewardship should mean at Family of Christ. Stewardship is about using all our resources, financial, time, talent, and emotional to care for one another and our neighbors. Sue continues to teach Sunday School to our youngest members.

John Banttari steps down as Vice President having led the major initiative to update the congregation's constitution and structuring of the Council. This task was necessitated to keep our congregation's membership in good standing as part of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, Minnesota South District. John's efforts led to the restructuring of the Council allowing us to better administer the work of the congregation. I especially was grateful for John's counsel as I stepped into the role of President last year. John will continue to serve on the Board of Stewardship.

Please join me in recognizing our new Council Members and thanking those that are now serving the congregation in new ways.

Thank you, Becky Volovsek, church council president



THIS MONTH'S
birthdays

- 2 ~ Laura Blinkman
- 7 ~ Jen Dornseif
- 7 ~ Beckett Gehring
- 9 ~ Craig Wotruba
- 11 ~ Mitch Fanning
- 12 ~ Angie Brown
- 14 ~ Scott McConaughy
- 14 ~ Carol Ormston
- 15 ~ Laurie Kietlinski
- 17 ~ Lisa Anderson
- 17 ~ Charity Palmer

- 18 ~ Sue Klatt
- 18 ~ Jeremy Rydeen
- 18 ~ Jenelle Schaaf
- 21 ~ Keegan McConaughy
- 22 ~ Sheryl Carlson
- 23 ~ Pastor Chad
- 25 ~ Sabrina Smith
- 26 ~ RoseMary Hayenga
- 26 ~ Landon Schaaf
- 27 ~ Anna Volovsek
- 28 ~ Cade McDonald
- 28 ~ Riley Schachtner
- 28 ~ Lauren Kordt
- 28 ~ Vic Weyland
- 29 ~ Mike Rivard

THIS MONTH'S
anniversaries

Mike & Elysia Lindquist
7 on the 12th

Erik & Judy Kordt
15 on the 14th

Greg & Connie Gove
24 on the 6th

Russ & Nancy Callender
36 on the 14th

Jenny & Renee Daniels
57 on the 24th

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

Sharing Christ's Love Campaign - Kick Off on Sunday, February 17



During the after church Bible Study time, Pastor Chad has been leading us through the book *Joining Jesus on His Mission*.

Pastor has been guiding our discussions on following Jesus and what it looks like when we step out in faith and take action. In February the Outreach Committee will offer you the opportunity

to Share Christ's Love by **Takin' it to the Streets**. What does this mean? More details to come on Sunday, February 17!



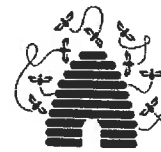
Free Babysitting

Parents are invited to enjoy a night of free babysitting! Bring your kids to Family of Christ on **Friday, February 15** and enjoy an evening out on the town, or just some time of peace and quiet. Childcare will be open from **5:30 - 9:30**. We'll have a light meal for the kids (hotdogs & chips), games, movies & crafts. Please consider bringing an item or two for the food shelf. (Talk to Debbie Alms if you're interested in being a babysitter.)



Our Sunday School Kids recently used \$250 of their "Coins for Missions" to give a gift to Heifer International. After a lively discussion the kids voted to give one llama, two flocks of chicks and 2 beehives to families living in poverty in developing nations.

The llama is a new gift for us - kids chose it because it provides warmth to families living in the High Andes of South America by providing dense, soft wool for clothing and blankets. Families can sell the wool to support their needs and help with their children's education. Llamas are one of the few animals to be able to survive in that harsh climate. Llamas also are sure-footed pack animals for families living in that area.



The gift of bees includes the **bees, hive box and training** in beekeeping techniques. Families can sell the honey, beeswax and pollen to help support themselves. Healthy bee hives can double fruit and vegetable yields on small farms by stimulating pollination.

The gift of **10-50 chicks** includes training to help families care and raise them. Chickens provide eggs and meat for nourishment, require little space and can survive on readily available scraps. Families can sell eggs, making money without spending much. A good hen can lay 200 eggs per year - a steady source of nutrition and income.



Hudson Area Backpack Program - Chili meal assembly



We are looking for 15-20 people to pack the ingredients to make a homemade batch of chili in a kit for Hudson School District backpack delivery. Family of Christ has reserved a spot to pack these meals on **Tuesday, February 26 at 6:00 pm**. This is a local event to support our community. We will spend 45-60 minutes in Hudson putting the kits together for the Backpack program to distribute. Please sign up on the Bulletin Board, or contact Debbie Alms: 612-839-6853, or Debbie.Alms@Oracle.com



Save the Date:
Fish Fry on Friday, March 8






February 2019

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
					1	2
3 9:30am ~ Worship 10:30am ~ Thrivent serve refreshments 10:45am ~ Education hour	4 9:00am ~ Women's Bible Study	5	6 5:30pm ~ Confirmation (6-7) 6:30pm ~ Worship 7:15pm ~ Choir 7:20pm ~ Confirmation (8)	7 6:45pm ~ C.A.Y.R. Women's Bible Study at McConaughy's 7:00pm ~ Board of Trustees	8	9 9:00am ~ LWML
10 9:30am ~ Worship 10:45am ~ Education hour	11 8:00am ~ Ruth's Quilters 9:30am ~ LWML Delegate board mtg 6:30pm ~ Board of Elders	12 8:30am ~ Men's Bible Study (Stillwater Joseph's)	13 5:30pm ~ Confirmation (6-7) 6:30pm ~ Worship 7:00pm ~ Trustees 7:15pm ~ Choir 7:20pm ~ Confirmation (8)	14 	15 5:30pm ~ Free babysitting at church (until 9:30pm)	16 8:00am ~ Men's Group
17 coins for missions 9:30am ~ Worship 10:45am ~ Education hour	18 9:00am ~ Women's Bible Study	19	20 5:30pm ~ Confirmation (6-7) 6:30pm ~ Worship 7:15pm ~ Choir 7:20pm ~ Confirmation (8)	21 6:30pm ~ Church Council	22	23
24 9:30am ~ Worship 10:45am ~ Education hour	25 5:30pm ~ Feed Grace Place	26 8:30am ~ Men's Bible Study (Stillwater Joseph's)	27 5:30pm ~ Confirmation (6-7) 6:30pm ~ Worship 7:15pm ~ Choir 7:20pm ~ Confirmation (8)	28 6:45pm ~ C.A.Y.R. Women's Bible Study at McConaughy's		



**Lutheran
Women
in Mission**

LWML Update ~ Family of Christ LWML invites ALL women & friends to join in our monthly Bible study and fellowship on the **second Saturday of each month beginning at 9:00am**. Our Saturday, February 9th topic will be "Abundant Spiritual Treasures" taken from the FALL Lutheran Woman's Quarterly. If you are interested in

receiving a Quarterly subscription that begins with the Summer 2019 edition, the cost is \$5 and due at the February meeting.

A **sign-up** to attend the **LWML Winter Workshop on Saturday, February 2, 2019** at Eastern Heights Lutheran Church in St. Paul has been posted on the bulletin board. A carpool will leave FOC at 8am and plan to return before noon. The speaker, from Jonathan House, will discuss their ministry of helping people survive and recover from forced displacement by offering shelter and community in the Twin Cities area. A light breakfast will be served with a freewill offering.

The **St. Croix River Zone Spring Delegate Board Meeting** will be hosted at **FOC Monday, February 11, 2019 at 9:30am**. Anyone interested in learning more about LWML, its structure or meet delegates from other congregations within our Zone is welcome to attend.

Any questions regarding LWML, please contact Joyce Banttari @ 715.247.5248 or 651.434-3261

Easy Things That Make You Happier ~ Backed By Science and Jesus

Help Others - 100 hours a year. One of the most counterintuitive pieces of advice is that to make yourself feel happier, you should help others. About two hours a week is the optimal time we should dedicate to helping others in order to enrich our own lives.

Practice Smiling. It alleviates pain. Smiling itself can make us feel better, but it's more effective when we back it up with positive thoughts.

Meditate - rewire your brain for happiness. Meditation is often touted as an important habit for improving focus,

clarity, and attention span, as well as helping to keep you calm. Call it meditation or prayer; Jesus was a prayer warrior. There are many examples in His ministry when Jesus prayed before, during and after activities in His day.

Plan a vacation but don't take one. As opposed to actually taking a holiday, it seems that planning a vacation can improve happiness. A recent study showed that the highest spike in happiness came during the planning stage as people enjoy a sense of anticipation.



Cash Flow Statement

	<u>December 31</u>	<u>Year-to Date</u>
Income - donations	\$ 30,498.24	\$207,119.73
Building fund donations	1,555.00	14,857.38
Fundraiser income	0.00	2,446.40
Rent	0.00	925.00
Total Income	\$ 32,053.24	\$225,348.51
Less Expenses (includes Int. on Loan)	\$ -19,493.13	\$ -204,274.10
Net income	\$ 12,560.11	\$ 21,074.41
Less principal loan payments	\$ -1,763.05	\$ -20,766.59
Balance	\$ 10,797.06	\$ 40.00
Building loan balance 01/01/18	\$437,487.04	
Total principal payments year to date	-20,766.59	
Loan balance 12/31/18	\$416,720.45	
Loan payments each month are \$ 3,514.11		
Bank balances as of 12/31/18		
General checking	11,658.57	
Unrestricted savings	74.93	
	11,733.49	
Restricted savings (contingency)	90,954.11	

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



Grace Place residents were very grateful for the outpouring of love they felt when they received this year's Mitten Tree donations.
Thank you!

Our final count was: 32 scarves, 19 pairs of mittens, 30 pairs of gloves, 16 pairs of socks, 50 hats, 3 sweaters and 9 miscellaneous items. For a total of **150 donated items**. Thank you all for your tremendous generosity.

If you want to make God laugh tell him your plans.



Little known fact about the Catholic Church in Las Vegas:
 There are more churches in Las Vegas than casinos. During Sunday services at the offertory, some worshippers contribute casino chips as opposed to cash. Some are sharing their winnings - some are hoping to win. Since they get chips from so many different casinos, and they are worth money, the Catholic churches are required to send all the chips into the diocese for sorting. Once sorted into the respective casino chips, one junior priest takes the chips and makes the rounds to the casinos turning chips into cash. He, of course, is known as "The Chip Monk."

- AMEN:** The only part of a prayer that everyone knows.
- BULLETIN:** Your receipt for attending Mass.
- CHOIR:** A group of people whose singing allows the rest of the Parish to lip-sync.
- HOLY WATER:** A liquid whose chemical formula is H2OLY.
- HYMN:** A song of praise usually sung in a key three octaves higher than that of the congregation's range.
- JONAH:** The original 'Jaws' story.
- JUSTICE:** When kids have kids of their own.
- KYRIE ELEISON:** The only Greek words that most Catholics can recognize besides gyros and baklava. (for you non-Catholics it means Lord have mercy)
- MAGI:** The most famous trio to attend a baby shower.
- MANGER:** Where Mary gave birth to Jesus because Joseph wasn't covered

- by an HMO. (Bible's way of showing us that holiday travel has always been rough.)
- PEW:** A medieval torture device still found in most churches.
- PROCESSION:** The ceremonial formation at the beginning of the service consisting of altar servers, the celebrant, and late parishioners looking for seats.
- RECESSIONAL:** The ceremonial procession at the conclusion of the service led by parishioners trying to beat the crowd to the parking lot.
- RELICS:** People who have been attending for so long, they actually know when to sit and stand.
- TEN COMMANDMENTS:** The most important Top Ten list not given by David Letterman.
- USHERS:** The only people in the parish who don't know the seating capacity of a pew.

The season of Epiphany focuses on how God was made manifest in the flesh of Jesus. The church spends time hearing of the miracles, the signs and wonders, of Jesus in the world. And this made plain to all that Jesus was who He said He was: He was the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the only-begotten Son of the Father, in the flesh. For "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14).

It is revealed for all the world to see that Jesus is God in the flesh. It is made manifest by His words and His work, by what He said and by what He did. And these belong together, for "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us."

Jesus is the Word and will of God in the flesh, that is, He is the walking, talking, enactment of God's Word.

It is no different for us. We are called not just to believe in God in hearts, but also to trust in God in word and deed.

As James wrote: "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves" (James 1:22), and again, "What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? ... So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ... Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ... For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead" (James 2:14, 17-18, 26).

Our faith is lived out in works for our neighbor. Our trust in the Word and will of God is lived out not in word only, but also in deed and in truth.

In other words, the Epiphany of the Lord creates in us an epiphany of our faith in our works of obedience to God who commanded them. By this, our faith is made manifest to the world. It is, as Luther wrote of faith:

- "Faith is a divine work in us. It changes us and makes us to be born anew of God (John 1). It kills the old Adam and makes altogether different people, in heart and spirit and mind and powers, and it brings with it the Holy Spirit.
- "Oh, it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith. And so it is impossible for it not to do good works incessantly. It does not ask whether there are good works to do, but before the question rises, it has already done them, and is always at the doing of them.
- "He who does not these works is a faithless man. He gropes and looks about after faith and good works and knows neither what faith is nor what good works are, though he talks and talks, with many words about faith and good works.
- "Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that a man would stake his life on it a thousand times. This confidence in God's grace and knowledge of it makes men glad and bold and happy in dealing with God and all His creatures.
- "And this is the work of the Holy Spirit in faith. Hence a man is ready and glad, without compulsion, to do good to everyone, to serve everyone, to suffer everything, in love and praise to God, who has shown him this grace.
- "And thus it is impossible to separate works from faith, quite as impossible as to separate burning and shining from fire. Beware, therefore, of your own false notions and of the idle talkers, who would be wise enough to make decisions about faith and good works, and yet are the greatest fools." (*Preface to the Book of Romans*)

So, then, let our faith be active by God's power in the Word through the Holy Spirit. And let then our faith be made manifest to the world by what this faith does: serving our neighbor — in church, in the family, and society — with the works of faith in time, talents, and treasures.