



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



## THE FAMILY FOCUS

Family of Christ Lutheran Church

Volume 21 Issue 3

March 2019

### Wednesday, March 6 ~ Ash Wednesday



We begin our Lenten journey with a potluck meal. Please look at the sign up sheet on the bulletin board to see if there is something you can contribute to the meal.

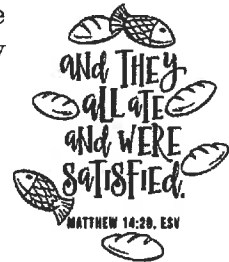
5:30pm ~ Potluck Lenten Supper  
6:20pm ~ Imposition of Ashes will begin  
6:30pm ~ Ash Wednesday worship

### Friday, March 8 ~ Fish Fry



Invite a friend to our annual Fish Fry on Friday, March 8 from 4:30 - 7 pm. This event has become a favorite for our community as we gather to dine on delicious fish and great company. See you there!

We are in need of volunteers to help set-up, cook, and clean-up. And we're also accepting donations of desserts. Please let Debbie Alms know if you are willing to help in any capacity.



#### What's inside:

- Lenten mid-week meals
- "Takin' it to the Streets" - you can still get in on it.
- MITES due March 17

#### 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

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

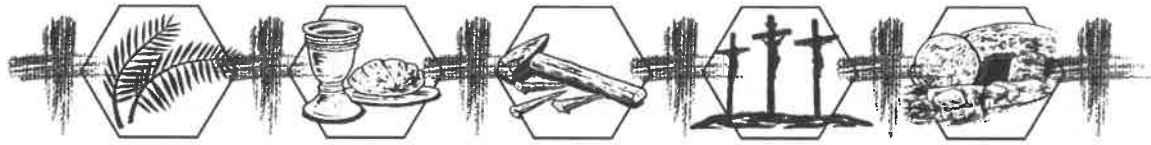
Wednesday~  
5:30 p.m.—Confirmation Class (Grades 6-7)  
6:30 p.m.—Worship w/Communion  
7:15 p.m.—Choir (Sept. - May)  
7:20 p.m.—Confirmation class (Grade 8)

#### 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,

Over that last few months on Sunday mornings, a group of about 25 members have been walking through a book titled "Joining Jesus on His Mission". The premise of this book is to direct our attention towards missions. However, the direction it encourages is that we join Jesus on His mission, and not go out for Jesus. This means that we are to enter the mission field, and open our heart, mind, and soul to see where Jesus is at work. Yet, as we look for Jesus, we are not there to attempt to overpower Him, but simply walk with Him wherever He directs us to go.

The idea sounds awesome, and makes complete sense. It is an idea that actually allows us to relax in the area of missions, because it reminds us that mission is about God and His Holy Spirit; not about us. If you enter the mission field thinking that you have to accomplish something, then you are entering the field with the wrong state of mind. Instead, we are called to walk with Jesus, and allow Him to point us in the right direction where He wants us to work. This could lead to us making a huge impact, or simply a minor impact in the life of one person. Either way, if it is what Jesus had planned for us, then we have done His mission.

Yet, how do we actually look at missions? When we think missions, the first thing that probably comes to mind is numbers!!! We need numbers, we need people in the pews, and we need people to help out to make the church successful. In addition, we need money to help cover the cost of operating a church and sharing God's word of salvation. This is usually the mindset of missions: "We go out, therefore, something should come in." When operating under this assumption we miss the overall point of missions.

Going back to the early church, into the Book of Acts, we see the greatest mission plan; why? We see the greatest mission plan, because they were not worried about numbers, they were not worried about money or number reporting, it was not a worry about, "well did we have enough to make it this week?" No, the mind set for missions in the Book of Acts was simply, "We will go, and allow God to use us and place us where He wants us to be." With this mindset, the apostles went forth and proclaimed the Word of God, they taught the Word of God, and they lived the Word of God. In other words, they went with Jesus on His mission, and look what happened!

The Spirit working when and where it chose brought forth huge numbers. During one encounter the Bible records 3,000, and in another 5,000. Simply put in our terms, that was over 8000 people into the church in a few weeks. That is huge growth, and it would shock any modern church, but why do we not see those kind of numbers anymore?

(Continued on page 3)



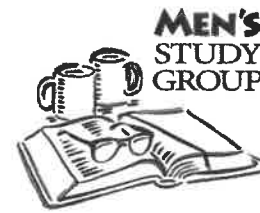
(Pastor's message continued from page 2)

We do not see those numbers, because we have become too worried about numbers. Today, in most situations, mission/outreach has become about numbers. We focus on what it will cost, and we compare a cost vs. return analysis. We have placed human restrictions on God! We have put God in our box, by saying, "God because we do not see the benefit of this mission outreach, then we are not going to get involved." We have put God into our box!

Yet, returning to the book 'Joining Jesus on His mission' the author challenges this mindset, and encourages us to see missions for what they truly are, "God's mission in, with, and through us to carry forth His plan of salvation for us to hear, learn, and trust." How is God calling you into this mission? Did you know that it could be as simple as smiling at someone and saying, "God's blessings on your day"? Or it could be as simple as being the greeter at church, and welcoming someone you have never seen before! I cannot sit here and tell you how Jesus will use you on His mission, but what I am here trying to say, "Open your heart, mind, and soul to allow God to use and guide you to the location that He wants you to be. Allow God to use you on HIS MISSION!"

As we enter the Lent Season, instead of focusing on giving something up, like many people do. I want to encourage you to give up your fears of joining Jesus on His Mission, and pray that God will use you and guide you to where He wants you to be! Over these next two months, go forth and join Jesus, go with Him instead of for Him, and allow Him to work through you to accomplish His mission. That is my prayer for all of you. God show us, lead us, direct us, and allow us to go with You on Your mission, that it would be solely with You, about You, and in Your presence, that more may come to the knowledge of Your Son Jesus Christ.

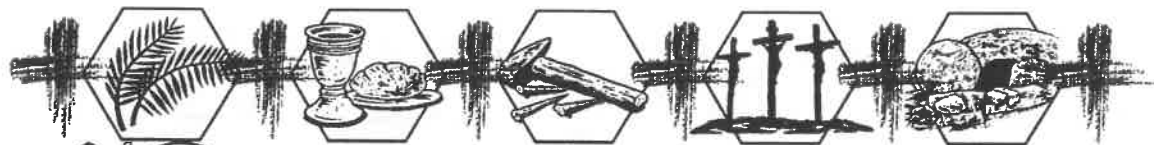
Blessings, Pastor Czischke



**MEN'S  
STUDY  
GROUP**

A new men's Bible study has just begun. All men are invited, as we kick off the Men's Evening Bible Class with a study in the book of Hebrews. "The manliest book in the Bible" The group will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 7:30pm on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. See you March 5th.

**"The most wasted day of all, is the one in which we have not laughed."**



- 3 ~ Michelle Knepelkamp
- 3 ~ Spencer Lindstrom
- 4 ~ Steve Heinecke
- 4 ~ Rita Johnson
- 5 ~ Kyle Amundson
- 6 ~ Les Sass
- 7 ~ Jeff Coe
- 8 ~ Taryn Dornseif
- 8 ~ Kindra Witthus
- 13 ~ Gayle Cyphers

- 13 ~ Jayden Nelson
- 14 ~ Joyce Brown
- 18 ~ Maria Blinkman
- 19 ~ Jason Wisch
- 20 ~ Helen Gubrud
- 20 ~ Floyd Patraw
- 21 ~ Janel Schachtner
- 26 ~ Gwen Anderson
- 26 ~ Lana Lindstrom
- 26 ~ Connor McConaughy
- 27 ~ Sue Hanson
- 28 ~ Melinda Fanning
- 28 ~ Andrea Greer
- 28 ~ Jeff Volovsek

*Tim & Erin Butterfield  
6 on the 2nd*

*Craig & Beth Pierce  
22 on the 6th*

*Ron & Helen Gubrud  
55 on the 20th  
(Helen, you cheated yourself out  
of an extra "holiday" by getting  
married on your birthday)*

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



Midweek Lenten Suppers will be served each Wednesdays from March 6 through April 10 at 5:30pm. We are in need of a family or families that would be willing to cook and serve each week. Please consider providing a portion of one of the meals. Soup and sandwiches are suggested but not mandatory. You may serve whatever you feel like cooking.



Thank you to all the families that brought their kids to the Babysitting Night on February 15! We sure had a great time with the kids, and we hope that you enjoyed your night out!



Set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night, March 9th.



A huge thank you to Ken Swenson, Les Sass, Jerry Schouten, Bob O'Brien and Jan Gavin for painting the education wing. It looks great! Jan and Dan Gavin also did a wonderful overhaul on the benches in the coat rooms. Thank you for sharing your amazing talents.



We are **Sharing Christ's Love by Takin' it to the Streets!** If you were not present for the launch of the campaign on February 17, but would like to learn more, grab an "invitation" from the labeled mail slot for information on how to get involved. Throughout the month of March, we are looking forward to seeing your updates as we all participate in this Missions campaign. As you feel called to bless someone with either the finances or a non-monetary gift or blessing, please do update us via email ([FOCoffice@yahoo.com](mailto:FOCoffice@yahoo.com)), Facebook (Contact Courtney Phillips or Debbie Alms to be added to the Private Facebook Group), or use the paper form in the mailbox area. We'll be compiling an update to share at the end of the campaign. Let's see how we are Joining Jesus on His Mission in our community!



**Camp Wapogasset reminder:** The reserved spots for our church youth ages 5th grade to 8th grade for the August 4-9th, 2019 session of Camp Wapogasset expire on March 15, 2019. So far we have 5 youth registered so there are 5 spots remaining to be filled. This is the most popular week at camp so don't delay registration! The youth who attended camp last summer had a great experience and are anxious to return this summer. Questions? Contact Jan Gavin 612-618-3708 Let's send 10 to camp this year!!



FOC members are you ready to experience one of the most rewarding experiences of a lifetime? March is when we are responsible for running the Hudson Food Shelf. **The Hudson Food Shelf** is located in the lower level of St. Pats Church in Hudson. It is run entirely by volunteers. Twelve local churches each take charge for a month and FOC is in charge of March. We need to provide **2 volunteers for each day Mon thru Thurs. The time is 8:30 until 1:00.** Some days are shorter. It depends on how many clients are signed up for the day. Don't worry about not knowing what to do. We will be glad to help you. If you have some physical limitations we can deal with that. No heavy lifting. All you need is a gentle heart. Call Deb Schouten to sign up to help, 715-377-0107. Thank you.

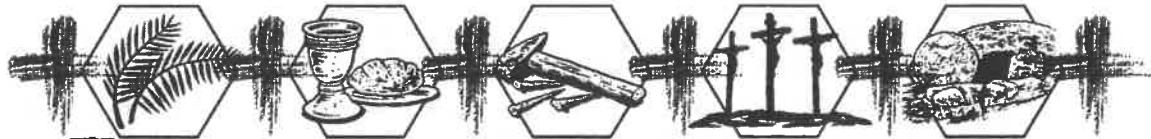


# March 2019

## 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
<b>3</b> 9:30am ~ Worship 10:45am ~ Education hour	<b>4</b> 9:00am ~ Women's Bible Study	<b>5</b> 7:30pm ~ Men's Bible Study (Hebrews)	<b>6</b>  <b>ASH Wednesday</b> 5:30pm - Soup Supper 6:30pm ~ Worship 7:15pm ~ Choir	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 5:30pm - Fish Fry	<b>9</b> 9:00am ~ LWML
<b>10 Spring Ahead</b> 9:30am ~ Worship 10:45am ~ Education hour	<b>11</b> 8:00am ~ Ruth's Quilters 6:30pm ~ Board of Elders	<b>12</b> 8:30am ~ Men's Bible Study (Stillwater Joseph's)	<b>13</b> 5:30pm - Soup Supper 5:30pm ~ Confirmation (6-7) 6:30pm ~ Worship 7:00pm ~ Trustees 7:15pm ~ Choir 7:20pm ~ Confirmation (8)	<b>14</b> 6:45pm ~ C.A.Y.R. Women's Bible Study at McConaughy's	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 8:00am ~ Men's Group
<b>17</b> coins for missions  9:30am ~ Worship 10:45am ~ Education hour	<b>18</b> 9:00am ~ Women's Bible Study	<b>19</b> 7:30pm ~ Men's Bible Study (Hebrews)	<b>20</b> 5:30pm - Soup Supper 5:30pm ~ Confirmation (6-7) 6:30pm ~ Worship 7:15pm ~ Choir 7:20pm ~ Confirmation (8)	<b>21</b> 6:30pm ~ Church Council	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:30am ~ Worship 10:45am ~ Education hour <b>31</b> 9:30am ~ Worship 10:45am ~ Education hour	<b>25</b> 8:00am ~ Ruth's Quilters 5:30pm ~ Feed Grace Place	<b>26</b> 8:30am ~ Men's Bible Study (Stillwater Joseph's)	<b>27</b> 5:30pm - Soup Supper 5:30pm ~ Confirmation (6-7) 6:30pm ~ Worship 7:15pm ~ Choir 7:20pm ~ Confirmation (8)	<b>28</b> 6:45pm ~ C.A.Y.R. Women's Bible Study at McConaughy's	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9:00am - Jan's cooking class



**Lutheran Women in Mission**

**Monthly Bible Study & Fellowship – March 9th**  
 Family of Christ LWML meets on the second Saturday of each month beginning at 9:00am. Our next Bible study and fellowship will be on Saturday, March 9th. A new topic is taken from the Lutheran Woman's Quarterly each month so ALL women & friends are welcome to join us as your schedule allows.

**MITE Offering Deadline – March 17th**

Family of Christ continues to collect MITE offerings to support the National and District LWML Mission Goals. Only a few weeks remain before the Sunday, March 17th deadline to contribute towards the \$300,500 needed by the end of March to reach the Biennium goal of \$2,075,000. MITE offerings of coins, cash or checks (payable to LWML MN South District) may be placed in the large MITE box located on the cabinet in the Narthex area. Your continued prayers and support for this LWML mission is greatly appreciated!



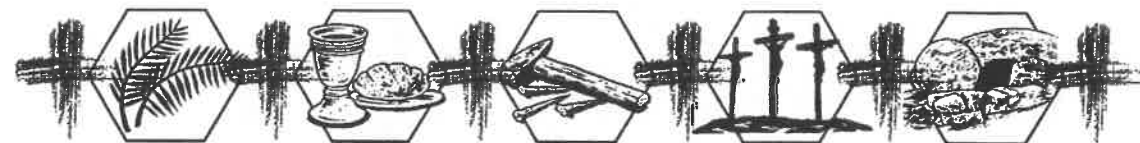
**LWML Spring Rally – April 6th**

Watch for all the details and sign-up in March to attend the LWML Spring Rally on Saturday, April 6th, at Rose of Sharon Lutheran Church in Cottage Grove. We plan to carpool together from FOC in the morning and return following the noon meal.

The speaker will be Rev. Ben Griffin from LINC Twin Cities. LINC is an organization that works to restore communities to Christ by training disciples of Jesus, plant new churches and work to transform their own communities through the power of the Gospel lived out in service to their neighbors motivated by the love of God, and the Great Commission of Jesus to make disciples of all nations.

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER**

Only Jesus, the Savior, on Whose suffering, death, and resurrection we focus during this time of Lent, can meet all our needs. His love for us and the salvation He has earned for us draw us away from the pull of the world, away from our own selfish desires, away from that which leads to sin and death. His love draws us to Himself, to service to others, to using our gifts as we have been blessed in the building up of the Church. *“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”* (Ephesians 2:10).



**Cash Flow Statement**

	<u>January 31</u>	<u>Year-to Date</u>
Income – donations	\$ 84,442.79	\$ 84,442.79
Building fund donations	455.00	455.00
Fundraiser income	0.00	2,446.40
Rent	300.00	300.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 85,221.60</b>	<b>\$ 85,221.60</b>
Less Expenses (includes Int. on Loan)	\$ -16,353.71	\$ -16,353.71
<b>Net income</b>	<b>\$ 68,867.89</b>	<b>\$ 68,867.89</b>
Less principal loan payments	\$ -1,777.77	\$ -17,777.77
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$ 67,090.12</b>	<b>\$ 67,090.12</b>
Building loan balance 01/01/19	\$416,720.45	
Total principal payments year to date	-1,777.77	
Loan balance 1/31/19	\$414,942.68	
Loan payments each month are \$ 3,514.11		
Bank balances as of 1/31/19		
General checking	77,971.13	
Unrestricted savings	2,075.78	
	80,046.91	
Restricted savings (contingency)	90,566.23	
<b>Total cash assets</b>	<b>\$170,613.14</b>	

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

**The following is an excerpt from a story written by Ben Stein and recited by him on CBS Sunday Morning Commentary.**

Billy Graham's daughter was interviewed on the Early Show and Jane Clayson asked her 'How could God let something like this happen?' (regarding the recent hurricane). Anne Graham gave an extremely profound and insightful response. She said, 'I believe God is deeply saddened by this, just as we are, but for years we've been telling God to get out of our schools, to get out of our government and to get out of our lives. And being the gentleman He is, I believe He has calmly backed out. How can we expect God to give us His blessing and His protection if we demand He leave us alone?'



Funny how simple it is for people to trash God and then wonder why the world's going to hell. Funny how we believe what the newspapers say, but question what the Bible says. Funny how you can send 'jokes' through e-mail and they spread like wildfire, but when you start sending messages regarding the Lord, people think twice about sharing. Funny how lewd, crude, vulgar and obscene articles pass freely through cyberspace, but public discussion of God is suppressed in the school and workplace. Funny how we can be more worried about what other people think of us than what God thinks of us.

Everything we have and everything we are is a gift of God's providential care. We understand that we're not islands unto ourselves. We could not exist without those who have gone before us and those who walk alongside us. God has given us forefathers in family, country, and faith. We are recipients of what God worked through them. We know God provides for our well-being through these means.

He gives us farmers and ranchers so we can eat. But more than that, God created and gave us all the things those farmers and ranchers cultivate. He gave us the corn, the beans, the wheat, the cows for milking, the steers for grilling. He gave each of those things for our nourishment and sustenance. Without God creating and instilling in those things their taste, their nutritional value, etc., we would not exist.

God gives us doctors, surgeons, nurses, and hospitals. He gives us medicine and medical instruments, and, of course, He gave us everything to make those medicines and medical instruments. He instilled in those things the properties to be utilized for those purposes. Without God creating and instilling healing properties into those things – and without God creating the ability within man to learn this and implement it to serve our medical needs – we would not enjoy the health we do now. But there's more. He gives us gainful employment through our employers and provides for the necessities of life through the labor of our hands:



Continued from page 10

"Then Moses said to the people of Israel, 'See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold and silver and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, for work in every skilled craft. And he has inspired him to teach, both him and Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan.' " (Exodus 35:30-34)

And one step back from that, He has created and given us hands, and attached to hands are arms with strength. He created us with minds to make those arms and hands move and accomplish the work set before us. And with that mind, He has given us reason and senses.

That mind, because of the reason God has instilled in it, is able to work through difficult problems before we press those arms and hands into labor. It allows us to grapple with concepts and run through scenarios instead of having to experience every situation personally. It allows us to learn from the mistakes, as well as from the accomplishments, of ourselves and others. This can be done for our entire body, all our skills and talents, everything that makes us ... us.

So, everything we have and everything we are is a gift from Him. This is what we confess in the First Article of the Creed when we say that we "believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth."

But that is just the First Article of the Creed. We confess two more articles that deal with God's provision for our spiritual well-being. He sent his Son to die and be raised on the third day for our justification. He delivers that justification through the means of grace (baptism, preaching and the Word of God, and the Lord's Supper). And to give you those means of grace, He gives pastors and teachers, etc. Literally everything we have and everything we are in this life – and the next – is an inexpressible gift from God.

And it is for this, all of this, that we give thanks. And that is what stewardship is all about — giving thanks for God's provision for us. To give thanks is more than having an attitude of gratitude, more than just a feeling in our hearts.

It is an action. It begins in the heart, but it doesn't stay there. It works its way out through the mouth in praise for God's gifts and in love and charity through the hands to our neighbors in family, country, and church.

"For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey him" (*The Small Catechism*, 16).

So give thanks to God for His inexpressible gifts — for everything we have and everything we are. Do this not only in word but also in deed.