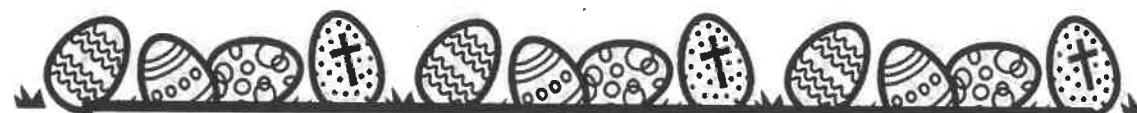




Family of Christ Lutheran Church
285 County Road E
Houlton, Wisconsin 54082



THE FAMILY FOCUS

Family of Christ Lutheran Church

Volume 21 Issue 4

April 2019



HOLY WEEK

Worship Services

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.



9:30am - Worship service
10:45am - Education Hour

Wednesday, April 17 - no service
or confirmation



7:00pm - Maundy Thursday
Service



7:00pm - Good Friday Service



7:00am - Sunrise Worship Service
8:00am - Breakfast
9:30am - Easter Worship Service

What's inside:

- Red Letter Challenge
- Unhurried Time Gathering
- Thank you food shelf Helpers!
- Thank you for Flood Donations

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

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



Pray with me...Lord God, heavenly Father, we find ourselves once again at the crossroads of hearing how Jesus willingly went to the cross. We listen to the Gospel readings that discuss His final week on earth, and how even in His last moments, He took time to teach and care for the lost. Even on the cross in the midst of mocking, and other painful moments, He looked upon the crowd and had compassion, especially on those closest to Him. We even heard how He showered one of the other men on the cross with love and compassion as He promised the thief everlasting life and paradise. Lord we come before You now and pray that You would shower us with Your grace and compassion. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, forgive us of all our sins and grant us faith to live and walk according to Your commands. Where we have done wrong, forgive us; where we have failed, correct us and train us in righteousness; where we have walked on the wrong path, serve as our guide to bring us back into the right direction that you would have us go. In all things Lord, please open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to listen to Your Word, to inwardly digest and meditate on the Passion of Jesus narrative, and to see You leading us. Throughout this month of April and beyond, allow us to cling to the promise of Christ, to live in His death and resurrections, and above all to constantly seek You in all that we think, say, and do. In Jesus name. Amen.

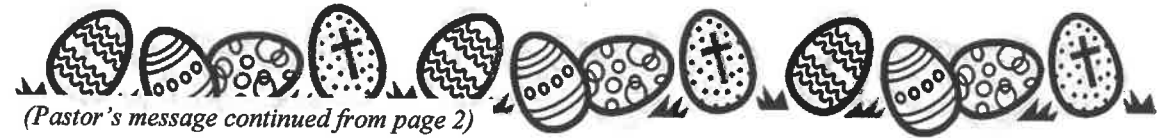
It is Easter again, which includes Holy Week, and all the stuff that we often do not like to listen too. Yes, it is true that we hear the Gospel declaration that Christ lives on Easter Sunday. Yet, many people avoid the passion narrative of Jesus, because of all the suffering that exists between the lines of Scripture. It is true that the Bible states that Jesus suffered, but unless you know history, then the extent of His suffering is often lost.

Reflection point...Lord at times we forget the pain and suffering that Jesus endured for us during this time. Therefore, help us focus and realize what Jesus did FOR US.

Is it fear, is it worry, or what is it exactly that keeps us from truly looking at what Jesus went through for us? We often look at the situation, and just say, "He should have just broken free, and walked away, just like He did in Nazareth." Yet, could He?

Jesus, God in the flesh, promised salvation long ago. He promised that salvation would come and destroy the serpent, that He would come and crush its head. In the midst of His great pain and suffering on the cross, that is what Jesus did. There He crushed the head of the serpent, and won the victory over sin, death, and the power the devil. Yet, how do we live to celebrate this?

(Continued on page 3)



(Pastor's message continued from page 2)

We celebrate by singing "Jesus Christ is Risen Today"! We celebrate by coming to church on Easter Sunday! We celebrate with breakfast and other family meals and gatherings! Yet, when Monday morning comes, do we still celebrate? How about the end of the first week following Easter, or even the end of the month that Easter falls in; are we still celebrating? The truth is that as Christians we need and should celebrate this every day of our lives, because it is the truth that leads to our salvation. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life, whoever believes in me, even though they die, yet shall they live." This is our salvation, life, and hope. I pray that we will celebrate this every day.

Easter Blessings, Pastor Czischke



Here is a new and healthy challenge for the entire congregation!

The Red Letter Challenge is a 40-day challenge in the Word of God. Throughout the 40 days, we will look at the teachings/words of Jesus. We will closely look at how Jesus' words apply to five areas of daily living.

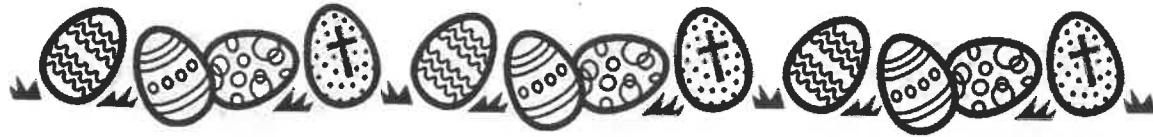
The five areas are

1. Being
2. Forgiving
3. Serving
4. Giving
5. Going



The 40 days will begin the Monday after Easter, and if I counted right, the last day will be May 31. The Adult Bible Class on the Sundays during this Challenge will focus on the applied aspect of the book in our lives. We will discuss the impact on our thinking, life, or faith, and just use the Bible Class time as a time of sharing and prayer.

The cost is \$10 per book, and you can sign up on the board at church, by calling the church office, or by emailing Pastor at chadczychke@gmail.com. Final day to sign up is Sunday, April 7, and the books will be available on Easter Sunday.



- 1 ~ Abby Anderson
- 6 ~ Brianna Johnson
- 7 ~ Dalton Amundson
- 7 ~ Steve Jacobs
- 8 ~ Craig Pierce
- 8 ~ Caitlin Wotruba
- 9 ~ Brandi Boumeester
- 9 ~ Courtney Phillips
- 10 ~ Judy Marty
- 11 ~ Max Butterfield
- 12 ~ Mikayla Robers
- 13 ~ Glenda Brown
- 13 ~ Tom Elbert
- 13 ~ Dave Hayenga
- 13 ~ Phil Myers

- 14 ~ Jeff Alms
- 14 ~ Dale Johnson
- 15 ~ Meghan Zupancich
- 16 ~ Jack Pierce
- 17 ~ Brynn Dwuznik
- 17 ~ Ryan Greer
- 18 ~ Kristie Naber
- 19 ~ Deb Zwiefelhofer
- 20 ~ Erik Kordt
- 23 ~ Ava Brown
- 24 ~ Linda Jerlow
- 25 ~ Alyssa Grezek
- 25 ~ Annie McConaughey
- 26 ~ Mike Anderson
- 26 ~ Kathy Gavin
- 26 ~ Tom Zupancich
- 27 ~ Kristi Rydeen



Chuck & Carol Ormston
11 on the 5th

Tim & Jen Donnscif
20 on the 10th

Kyle & LeAnn Amundson
28 on the 6th

Bob & Judy Marty
55 on the 18th

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

UNHURRIED TIME GATHERING



A new event is being announced by Debbie Alms, Chair of Missions, that will bring members together to enjoy each other's company. During our Sunday morning Bible Study, we have been steered toward Joining Jesus on his Mission- how to be an Everyday Missionary.

Already success has been accomplished through the outreach to people that are outside our church family. Perhaps it is time to activate an event that may bring members closer together. Pastor Chad has taught that UNHURRIED TIME WITH JESUS is key to our happiness.

Now UNHURRIED TIME GATHERING is being planned as a monthly Pot Luck that enables all members who are available to meet for Christian sharing, fun and just relax in unhurried time. The initial event will begin on Thursday, May 2nd at noon at Family of Christ. The original idea is to get together to just share, but may develop into much more than that. More to come in next newsletter.



FLOOD RELIEF

Thank you for all the last minute donations that were sent to Nebraska with Lizzie Schousek to help those impacted by the flood. Through your generosity they received a whole truckload of supplies from us. What giving hearts you have! Thank you!



Takin' It To the Streets

Family of Christ members rose to the occasion and have really been busy Sharing Christ's Love with others! We've been hearing updates of so many ways including supporting several families through the Houlton School and Food Shelf, as well as buying flowers to brighten someone's day. The Outreach team is working to compile the report of the many ways that we all felt called to Join Jesus on His Mission over the past several weeks. Watch for the report in the May newsletter with the updates.

Easter Outreach

Easter can be one of the busiest times of the year for the Church. It is also one of our largest outreach opportunities, with conversations that come up about the meaning of Easter and why Christians celebrate this important holiday, as well as visitors coming to church services. There are also the ever important Easter Egg Hunts! We hope to see you on Easter Sunday where everyone will be receiving a very special Easter Egg (or 2), and you won't even have to go hunting to get them!



Food Shelf



A great big thank you is due to all those members of Family Of Christ that helped at the food shelf in March. There was a total of 22 of us. We helped to feed 69 children---113 18-64 and 65 and older a total of 40. Our total number of people was 222.and 92 households. Everyone that came for food has a story and many of those stories were quite touching. We all played a part in their story by talking to them and giving them food. We did in that time period have 3 homeless families. We did once again hear a lot of Bless You's !!! Thanks again to all of God's helpers. Vic Weyland, Dennis Bradford, Heather McCutchen, Dean Morrell, Donna Davis, Michelle Knepelkamp, Les Sass, Cheryl Sass, Dan Gavin, Jan Gavin, Lori Swenson, Bob Marty, Judy Marty, Cassie Bliven, Heidi Sandquist, Joyce Banttari, Deb Alms, Amber Alms, Emily Alms, Deb Zwiefelhofer, Jerry Schouten, Deb Schouten. All the Sunday School kids that made the cute dog and cat treat bags !!!!



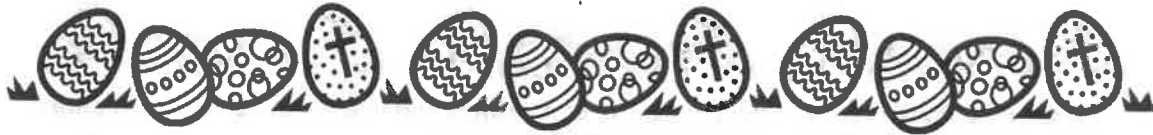
April 2019

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
March 2019	1 9:00am ~ Women's Bible Study	2	3 5:30pm - Soup Supper 5:30pm ~ Confirmation (6-7) 6:30pm ~ Worship 7:15pm ~ Choir 7:20pm ~ Confirmation (8)	4	5	6 9:00am ~ LWML Spring Rally 9:00am ~ Spring Cleaning	
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 31	7 9:30am ~ Worship 10:45am ~ Education hour	8 8:00am ~ Ruth's Quilters 6:00pm ~ Board of Elders	9 8:30am ~ Men's Bible Study (Stillwater Joseph's)	10 5:30pm - Soup Supper 5:30pm ~ Confirmation (6-7) 6:30pm ~ Worship 7:15pm ~ Choir 7:20pm ~ Confirmation (8)	11 6:45pm ~ C.A.Y.R. Women's Bible Study at McConaughy's	12	13 9:00am ~ LWML
14 Palm Sunday 9:30am ~ Worship 10:45am ~ Education hour	15 9:00am ~ Women's Bible Study	16 6:30pm ~ Church Council	17	18 7:00pm ~ Maundy Thursday Service	19 7:00pm - Good Friday Service	20	
21 Easter 7:00am ~ Sunrise Worship 8:00am ~ Breakfast 9:30am ~ Worship	22 Earth Day 8:00am ~ Ruth's Quilters 5:30pm ~ Feed Grace Place	23 8:30am ~ Men's Bible Study (Stillwater Joseph's)	24 5:30pm ~ Confirmation (6-7) 6:30pm ~ Worship 7:15pm ~ Choir 7:20pm ~ Confirmation (8)	25 6:45pm ~ C.A.Y.R. Women's Bible Study at McConaughy's	26 Arbor Day	27	
28 Confirmation 9:30am ~ Worship 10:45am ~ Education	29 6:00pm ~ Cemetery Committee	30					May 2019
							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 31



Lutheran Women in Mission

LWML Spring Rally – April 6th

A sign-up has been posted for anyone interested in attending the April 6th LWML Spring Rally at Rose of Sharon in Cottage Grove. The speaker will be Rev. Ben Griffin from LINC Twin Cities - an organization that works to re-

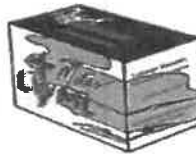
store communities to Christ by training disciples of Jesus, plant new churches and work to transform their own communities through the power of the Gospel. The suggested donation is \$10 which includes morning social treats and lunch. A carpool will leave FOC at 8:30am and return following lunch. If you have any questions regarding LWML, please contact Joyce Banttari @ 715.247.5248 or 651.434-3261.

Monthly Bible Study & Fellowship – April 13th, 9:00am

ALL women & friends are welcome to join Family of Christ LWML for our next Bible study and fellowship on Saturday, April 13th, 9:00am. Our topic will be taken from the Winter Lutheran Woman's Quarterly, pages 22-23, entitled "Lord, I Can't Handle This!"

MITE Offering Update

As of this date, only \$28,077 was still needed to meet the LWML Mite Mission Goal. Over the past month, nearly \$300,000 was submitted towards reaching the \$2,075,000 goal! When we pool our gifts from God together, we can see just how quickly a collection of coins can add up to such an impressive total. Special THANKS to the Sunday School children for supporting the LWML missions the past few months, as a combination of jingle coin offerings, MITE boxes and other donations collected, FOC was able to contribute a total of \$279 for their spring offerings.



Progressive Dinner

Several people have shared that Family of Christ has done Progressive Dinners in the past, and that these were very fun events. Based on the overwhelming positive feedback, we are planning a Progressive Dinner for May. Watch the bulletins for more details, coming soon!

"I have held many things on my hands and have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess." ~ Martin Luther



Cash Flow Statement

	<u>February 28</u>	<u>Year-to Date</u>
Income – donations	\$ 14,846.75	\$ 98,814.54
Building fund donations	900.00	1,830.00
Coins - SS Missions	52.11	121.44
Fundraiser income	0.00	0.00
Rent	0.00	300.00
Misc. income	82.06	105.87
Total Income	\$ 15,880.92	\$101,171.85
Less Expenses (includes Int. on Loan)	\$ -18,948.53	\$ -35,818.36
Net income	\$ (3,067.61)	\$ 65,353.49
Less principal loan payments	\$ -1,785.18	\$ 3,535.95
Balance	\$ (4,852.79)	\$ 68,889.44
Building loan balance 01/01/19	\$416,720.45	
Total principal payments year to date	3,535.95	
Loan balance 1/31/19	\$413,184.50	
Loan payments each month are \$ 3,514.11		
Bank balances as of 1/31/19		
General checking	68,223.24	
Unrestricted savings	4,308.55	
	72,531.79	
Restricted savings (contingency)	94,032.55	
Total cash assets	\$166,564.34	

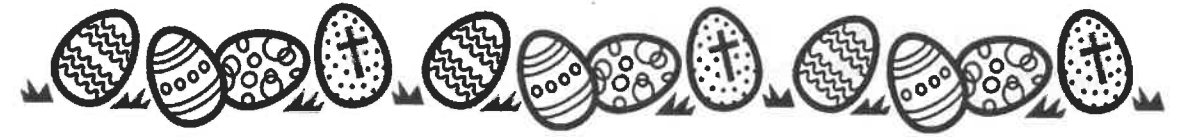
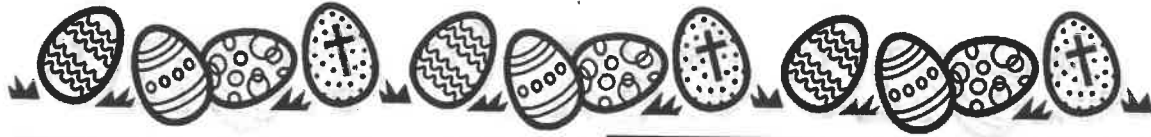
Full financial statements are available in the Church office and a copy is on the bulletin board. Deb Zwiefelhofer, treasurer



Volunteer for the 2019 Youth Gathering

The 2019 LCMS National Youth Gathering is in 100 days! Register today to be a local volunteer!

We are looking for dedicated volunteers in the broader Twin Cities area (congregations in the Minnesota South and North, South and North Wisconsin Districts) who are willing to serve before, during, and after the Gathering to bless all who will be celebrating our Real. Present. God. Volunteer applications are open now through April! Visit the gathering website: 2019 LCMS Youth Gathering.



On cable TV they have a weather channel - 24 hours of weather. We had something like that when I was growing up. We called it a window.

When you give a lesson in meanness to a critter or a person, don't be surprised if they learn their lesson.

Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

Laughter is like changing a baby's diaper - it doesn't permanently solve any problems, but it makes things more acceptable for a while.

Trust only those who stand to lose as much as you when things go wrong.

When God shuts a door, he opens a window.

A bad attitude is like a flat tire. You can't go anywhere until you change it.

The car's weakest part is the nut holding the steering wheel.

The trouble with getting to work on time is that it makes the day so long.

Forgive your enemies. It messes with their heads.

Don't judge folks by their relatives.

A mother was struggling to get the ketchup out of the bottle when the phone rang. She asked her 4-year-old daughter to answer it. She heard her daughter say, "Mommy can't come to the phone right now. She's hitting the bottle."

Why does someone believe you when you say there are 4 billion stars, but check when you say the paint is wet?

Hospitality: making your guests feel like they're at home, even when you wish they were.

Smith goes to see his supervisor in the front office. "Boss," he says, "we're doing some heavy housecleaning at home tomorrow, and my wife needs me to help with the attic and garage, moving and hauling stuff."
"We're short handed, Smith," the boss replies. "I can't give you the day off."
"Thanks, boss." Says Smith, "I knew I could count on you!"

"Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out" (Deut 28:3-6).

This is God's promise to the Israelites as they stood beyond the Jordan outside of the Promised Land. He promises blessing to His people. He will make them prosper, whether they are in the city or the field. He will make their fruit of their work to prosper, whether from the ground or their wombs, their flocks or their herds. He will make them to prosper in all things, whether upon their coming in or their going out.

But there's a catch. He would do this for Israel only "if you obey the voice of the Lord your God" (Deut 28:2b). If they did that, He would cause that "all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you" (Deut 28:2a).

If they didn't obey the voice of the Lord, if they didn't keep the commandments of the Lord and walk in His ways (Deut 28:9), they would be met with curse and woe. The blessings would be replaced with curses. Everything that the Lord promised to prosper and bless would be

cursed and fail.

Thanks be to God that our Lord Jesus Christ has come into our flesh, fulfilled the law for us - in our place and for our benefit; died for us - in our place and for our benefit; and is risen from the dead for us - in our place and for our benefit.

By this we have justification before God. We are forgiven, clean, holy, and righteous. The blessing of God is promised to us in Christ Jesus. It depends upon His work and not ours.

All this is ours in Holy Baptism. For in Holy Baptism, God claims us as His own, makes us His children, His heirs, His holy people. And so it is that the work of our hands and its fruit is holy because we are holy in Christ. It is pressed into His service, and thereby it becomes a blessing to us and to our neighbor.

For this great gift, our reception of the blessings of God because of Christ Jesus our Lord, it is our duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is not in order to receive blessings but because in Christ we already have.

It is with this in mind that we sit down on the first day of the week and set aside as He has prospered us to give to His church for His work of blessing in our midst (1 Cor. 16:2).