

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



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.

Congratulations Confirmands!



What's inside:

- Unhurried Time Gathering
- "Takin' it to the Streets" responses
- Post Office Food Drive
- Bake Sales

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



Dear members,

I want to throw a word at you. It is a word that you hear, not regularly, but it is associated with church. The word is "stewardship"! I want you to think about what that stirs up in your heart, and I am going to write the word again "Stewardship"!

Does the word ignite a sense of Spirit or money? For most of us, when we hear the church mention stewardship, we instantly focus on the following: "So how much does the church want this time?"

It is not about money or even your talents, but for a moment think about the idea of Stewardship from the perspective of the Garden of Eden. God placed Adam and Eve as managers within the Garden to devote their time to caring for and nurturing the animals, plants, etc. He developed and implemented the plan, and then said to Adam and Eve, "go and tend to My Garden." In other words, God sent them out to use their time wisely, and in the midst of that time to find joy in His Garden. Does that change your perspective regarding time, and how you use it each day?

Returning to stewardship for a moment, do you realize that all stewardship stems or develops from a strong relationship with God? Honestly, that is what I am after today. I am not after your money, possessions, or goods. However, in order to develop a stronger relationship with God, I am after your time. Yes, your time is more valuable than anything else. I make this statement, because if your schedule looks anything like mine, then you are running nonstop from morning to night. As a result, there are nights that I lay awake do to over-exhaustion, other nights I

lay awake worrying about what I forgot to accomplish, and then let us talk about the anxiety of failure to accomplish or remember something. Wow, life right now is just difficult, and I wonder why I do it to myself? Why do I put God on the back burner, and only give Him the leftovers? Honestly, the days that I make Him the priority are a million times better. Why do I continue to do this?

Do you have the same thoughts? Honestly, we have allowed everything from corporate America to schools, parent teacher associations to sports organizations, and everything in the middle tell us how we are to use our schedules, eating up over 80 percent of our weekly schedule. Yet, we simply nod, and go along with it. However, what happens if the church asks for more time than one hour per week?

How much time do you spend each week strengthening your relationship with God, volunteering to help your neighbor, etc. Stewardship is about management! Yet, when it comes to managing time, which is a blessing from God, then it must start from something deeper than an understanding of 24 hours per day. It must flow from a strong relationship with God.

Prior to the Fall, Adam and Eve did not care about time, because they were in close proximity to God, they walked with Him, talked with Him, and had a daily personal relationship with Him. I would argue that this is why the Garden was perfect prior to the Fall. Perfection is a close, intimate relationship with God, but that type of a relationship does not develop through one hour a week.

Being a good steward of time starts



with developing a strong relationship with God, and that relationship begins with the Holy Spirit working in our lives through daily devotion, meditation, study, and prayer. All I can do is encourage this type of life, and that is what I want to do right now. I want to encourage you to be with God every day. Share your joys, sorrows, good and bad times, and just sit and talk with the Creator. He died to talk with you!!! He died to restore that type of relationship with you, and He rose again to seal the deal. We have direct access to God, and can go to Him whenever and wherever we are. Therefore, go to Him, be with Him, and live in Him. Let Him guide your decisions on time, on stewardship, on life. To Christ be the glory forever, and ever. He is Risen! He is Risen, indeed, Alleluia!

Pastor Czischke



It's FINALLY spring... For many of us that means digging in the dirt while looking forward to the season ahead when we meet fellow gardeners, partake of leisurely garden tours and hit any/all plant sales we encounter!

Join us for the 2019 Garden Friends 'Plant Sale & More' which will be held Friday June 7th from 3-6pm.

All plants & other garden related items we gather will be available for a free will donation with 100 percent of proceeds going toward some proposed outdoor projects & improvements here at Family of Christ & other mission opportunities yet to be determined. Our youth will be having a bake sale to raise money for their Camp Wapogasset adventure coming up in August so sweet treats will also be available! Last year this event was great fun & well attended making it a worthy outreach opportunity so tell your friends & neighbors and please pray to our loving God for good weather that day!

If you would like to contribute any plants &/or things that would appeal to fellow garden enthusiasts, we will be accepting those items starting at 2pm the day of the sale. Any leftover plants, etc. will be donated elsewhere afterwards.

More info will be posted throughout the month of May as we get closer to sale day and we invite you to visit the bulletin board in fellowship hall for details of our 2018 plant sale experience, where the \$ went, and some photos of those awesome Garden Kids.

Have some things to sell of your own? We encourage you to take advantage of the traffic flow received last year & **consider participating independently** alongside us in FOC's enormous parking lot - what better way to turn your own unwanted stuff into some \$\$\$ for yourself while meeting friends & neighbors from our community?! We just ask that you please take away any of your unsold items when you leave...

Questions? See Michelle Knepfkamp, Jan Gavin, Deb Alms :)





Jason & Anna Wisch
5 on the 12th

Floyd & Judy Patram
7 on the 3rd

Ron & Ruth Flostrand
23 on the 11th

Frank & Pam Greer
27 on the 30th

Jerry & JoAnne Sandahl
30 on the 20th

Mike & Bev Locke
32 on the 30th

Tom & Sheryl Carlson
34 on the 18th

Ron & Sara Burton
37 on the 22nd

Ken & Lori Swenson
38 on the 23rd

Lee & Deb Zwiefelhofer
38 on the 16th

Al & Pam Neuenhof
43 on the 23rd

Jerry & Debbie Schouten
50 on the 10th



- 1 ~ Frank Greer
- 3 ~ Marcus Brown
- 4 ~ Barb McConaughey
- 5 ~ Emma Anderson
- 8 ~ Scott Boumeester
- 10 ~ Randi Erickson
- 12 ~ Brad Palmer
- 13 ~ Jan Gavin
- 14 ~ Katie Carlson
- 14 ~ Patrick Carlson
- 14 ~ Brian Coe
- 14 ~ Bev Locke
- 18 ~ Heather Downs
- 19 ~ Alyssa Renn
- 22 ~ Kennedy Brown
- 22 ~ Tyler Milich
- 23 ~ Judy Kordt
- 25 ~ Alex Downs
- 28 ~ Steve Cyphers
- 28 ~ Tessa Heinecke
- 29 ~ Jeff Brown
- 29 ~ Paul Dwuznik
- 30 ~ Jeff Fanning

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

Sometimes we're so busy adding up our troubles that we forget to count our blessings.

POST OFFICE FOOD SHELF DRIVE SATURDAY, MAY 11

Saturday, May 11 is the annual Mail Carriers Food Drive - one of the two major sources of restocking the food shelves across the country and Hudson's. The Food Shelf generally receives over 15,000 pounds of cans and grocery products that day. **Starting about noon, Food Shelf needs volunteers** to unload boxes and bags when the mail trucks arrive, sort the cans, and carry boxes and put away the groceries. Will you help? Set up is at 9 am, sorting is usually noon to 3 pm or so, when we need many hands to help sort and box up the donations. Thank you for your help, please contact your Food Shelf representative if you have questions.

P S - Help your mail carrier in their effort, leave some groceries by your mail box.



Thank you! Thank you! To all of the volunteers who made our Lenten Soup Suppers exceptionally wonderful! Everyone stepped up like troopers to create relaxing meals of soup and sandwiches each Wednesday evening throughout this Lenten season. **Thank you!** What awesome cooks we have in our midst! I'm already looking forward to next year!



Family of Christ will be open on Thursday May 2, in observance of the **National Day of Prayer**. No formal worship services are planned but Pastor Chad will be available.



Sharing Christ's Love: Takin' It To the Streets stories:

Having spent the past month working at the Hudson Food Shelf there were many opportunities to share my gift card for County Market. I knew when the perfect person appeared I would know this is the one to give extra help to. And it happened when I received a phone call from a homeless family that had been staying at a local motel but had to get out because of lack of money to stay there any longer. They needed help. I mentioned to her that we could help but most of our food needs to be heated and they were going to be living in their car. She confided in me that they owned a small grill and that is how they would heat even their cans of soup. She did come to the food shelf the next day and we loaded her with as much food as we could and then I gave her the gift card. She broke down in tears and was very grateful saying that at one time she also contributed to food shelves and now because of circumstances she was coming to one. Hopefully they will get back on their feet and their lives will improve. We should all count our blessings! - **Deb Scouten**

I used the money to buy vases at the Dollar Store. My friend Judy contacted the Stillwater Cub Food Store about getting flowers with expired used-by dates that they were about to dispose of. They were very generous to us. We collect the flowers on Thursday and take them to the Craft Room at Boutwells where we cut away the bad parts and process them for their new life on the way to brighten the lives of people in Adult Daycare, Memory Care and people confined to wheelchairs. We have even conducted a hands-on flower arrangement class with a group of wheelchair seniors. The money I received has put smiles on the faces of people that have very little joy in their lives. What a great way to spread the love! - **Virginia Morrell**






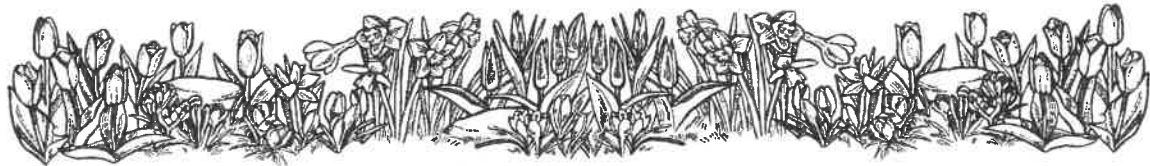
May 2019

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.

April 2019							Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S														
1	2	3	4	5	6				1 5:30pm ~ Confirmation (6-7) 6:30pm ~ Worship 7:15pm ~ Choir	2 <i>National Day of Prayer</i> 12:00pm ~ Unhurried Time Gathering	3		4							
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5 9:30am ~ Worship 10:45am ~ Education hour 2:00pm ~ Schouten's 50th Anniversary Open House	6 9:00am ~ Women's Bible Study 6:00pm ~ Board of Elders	7	8 6:30pm ~ Worship 7:00pm ~ Trustees 7:15pm ~ Choir	9	10 6:45pm ~ C.A.Y.R. Women's Bible Study at McConaughey's	11 9:00am ~ LWML							
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12 <i>Mother's Day</i> 9:30am ~ Worship 10:45am ~ Education hour 	13 8:00am ~ Ruth's Quilters	14 8:30am ~ Men's Bible Study (Stillwater Joseph's)	15 6:30pm ~ Worship 7:15pm ~ Choir	16	17 6:30pm ~ Church Council	18 8:00am ~ Men's Club 9:00am ~ Hwy Clean Up							
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19 coins 9:00am ~ Bake Sale 9:30am ~ Worship 10:45am ~ Education hour	22 9:00am ~ Women's Bible Study	23 7:30pm ~ Men's Group (Hebrews)	24 6:30pm ~ Worship	25 6:45pm ~ C.A.Y.R. Women's Bible Study at McConaughey's	26	27							
28	29	30					26 9:30am ~ Worship	27 <i>Memorial Day</i>  5:30pm ~ Feed Grace Place	28 8:30am ~ Men's Bible Study (Stillwater Joseph's)	29 6:30pm ~ Worship	30 <i>Ascension Day</i> 	31								
														June 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						



**Lutheran
Women
in Mission**

Monthly Bible Study & Fellowship – May 11th

Come join Family of Christ LWML for fellowship and Bible study on Saturday, May 11th beginning at 9:00am as we look at one of the “Nameless Women of the Bible” who made a significant impact but remains a mystery. Our topic is taken from the Spring Lutheran Woman’s Quarterly, page 16, with additional copies available for newcomers. If you have any questions regarding LWML, please contact Joyce Banttari @ 715.247.5248 or 651.434-3261.

Matthew 25 Ministries – Pill Bottle Donations

To date, FOC LWML has collected, cleaned, sorted and shipped over 1,165 pill bottles to M25M in Cincinnati, Ohio. In addition to caring for our environment by recycling, we are also finding a meaningful use for these pill bottles which are sent with additional medical supplies to assist in improving medical care in over 60 countries worldwide.

Anyone wishing to assist with this project is asked to remove as much of the labels as possible on PLASTIC Prescription bottles with lids and place in the donation box located near the Sanctuary entrance. THANK YOU again for your mission support!

LWML Quarterly MITE Donations

FOC LWML made the decision to increase our submission of MITE donations to once each quarter, rather than only twice each year to help support the District and National LWML MITE offerings on a more regular and timely basis. Small MITE boxes are always available in the Narthex area, located by the very large MITE box display, and can be returned by the designated deadlines OR anytime throughout the year. In addition to cash and coins, checks may be submitted payable to LWML MN South District. Our next deadline will be June 30th. Please continue to keep the mission work and the upcoming National Convention of the LWML in your prayers.



Concordia University, St. Paul (CSP) invites you to volunteer for “A Minnesota Lumberjack Experience”. From July 10-15, CSP will be hosting nearly 10,000 youth and leaders for District Events during the National Youth Gathering. Joy-filled volunteers are needed for checking people in, serving food, way-finding, and more. Register to volunteer at www.ave.csp.edu/nvgvolunteers.

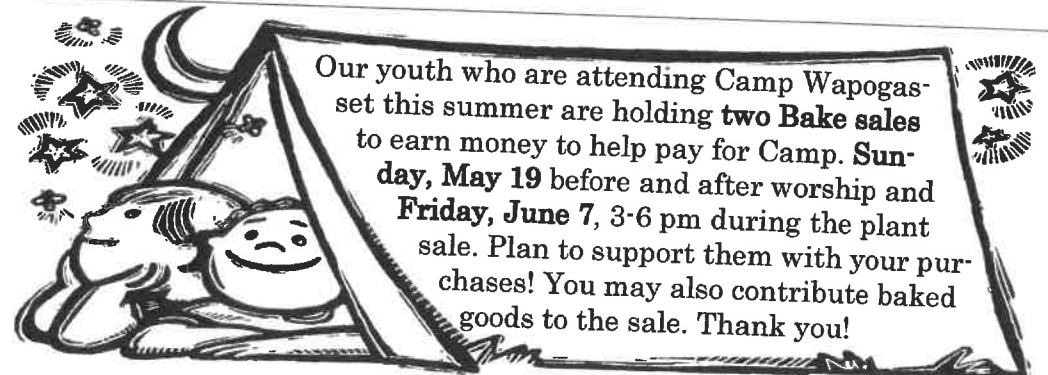
Email questions to districtevents@csp.edu.



Cash Flow Statement

	March 31	Year-to Date
Income – donations	\$ 22,459.25	\$121,273.79
Building fund donations	1,250.00	3,080.00
Fundraiser income	1,452.46	1,452.46
Rent	50.00	350.00
Misc. income	13.49	48.95
Total Income	\$ 25,225.20	\$126,205.20
Less Expenses (includes Int. on Loan)	\$ -33,089.67	\$ -68,005.90
Net income	\$ (7,864.47)	\$ 58,199.30
Less principal loan payments	\$ -1,792.62	\$ -5,355.57
Balance	\$ (9,657.09)	\$ 52,843.73
Building loan balance 01/01/19	\$416,720.45	
Total principal payments year to date	5,355.57	
Loan balance 1/31/19	\$411,364.88	
Loan payments each month are \$ 3,514.11		
Bank balances as of 3/31/19		
General checking	55,233.58	
Unrestricted savings	7,312.36	
	62,545.94	
Restricted savings (& contingency)	93,339.12	
Total cash assets	\$155,885.06	

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



Our youth who are attending Camp Wapogasset this summer are holding **two Bake sales** to earn money to help pay for Camp. **Sunday, May 19** before and after worship and **Friday, June 7, 3-6 pm** during the plant sale. Plan to support them with your purchases! You may also contribute baked goods to the sale. Thank you!



Capsule Sermons

- Experience is the hardest kind of teacher; it gives you the test first and the lesson afterward.
- Forget mistakes, forget failures, forget everything except what you're going to do now, and do it.
- You cannot do a kindness too soon because you never know how soon it will be too late.
- Swallowing angry words is much better than having to eat them.
- When opportunity knocks, don't get bogged down complaining about the noise.
- A lie has speed but the truth has endurance.
- The real measure of your worth is what you would be worth if you lost all your money
- Timely good deeds are better than after thoughts.
- The world would be wonderful if we all did what we expect to do tomorrow.
- If the going gets too easy, you may be going downhill.
- Good examples have twice the value of good advice.
- The best way to judge an individual is observing how he treats people who can do him absolutely no good.

You cannot do a kindness too soon, because you never know how soon it will be too late.

God's words are worth much and cost little.

Adam was walking around the Garden of Eden feeling very lonely, causing God to ask, "What's wrong with you, Adam?"

Adam replied that he didn't have anyone to talk to. So God announced that he was going to give him a companion - a woman.

"A woman?" Adam asked. Then God described her, "She will be someone to cook for you and wash your clothes. She will always agree with every decision you make. She will bear your children and never ask you to get up in the middle of the night to care for them. This woman will not nag you and will always be the first to admit when she is wrong. She will never have a headache and will freely give you love and compassion whenever you need it."

"What is she going to cost me, God?" Adam asked.

"An arm and a leg," God responded. Adam thought a moment and asked, "What can I get for a rib?"

The rest is history.

You can always spot a well-informed man. His views coincide with yours.

Youth looks ahead, old age looks back, and middle age, well, just looks tired.

If ignorance is bliss, why aren't more people happy?

In trying times, don't quit trying.



Stewardship is not just about giving money to the church. It includes this, to be sure, but it is not limited to it. Stewardship involves our whole life – everything we have and everything we are.

Let us not, though, fall into the trap of thinking that because we give of ourselves in one area we can neglect giving in another. Stewardship is not stealing from Peter to pay Paul. It is not a game we play whereby we justify ourselves in not giving a tenth of our income because we have given in some other way. This is why our Lord warns:

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others." *Matthew 23:23*

We are given to do both – tithe of ourselves and what we have. And so it is that St. Paul makes his appeal to us:

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." *Romans 12:1-2*

We are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God. We are not to have the mind of the world, where we exchange equal weight of this for an equal weight of that, and then think that we have done what God has required.

Our whole life is given over for service in and for the Church of God. This is to be done in

thanksgiving for what God in Christ has accomplished for us. This is our spiritual worship, the reasonable response to what He has done for us – not one for the other, but all in all.

But what does this look like? St. Paul never lays down a general principle without also giving us some practical application of what shape that principle is to take concretely. He gives the general principle that our bodies are to be living sacrifices to God, and, after admonishing those who have been given particular gifts of grace to serve the church, St. Paul then speaks generally of what is expected of all. He says:

"Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality." *Romans 12:9-13*

This is what it looks like to present your bodies as living sacrifices. This is how we live out the grace of God here in time.

Let us then heed the apostle's teaching. Let us present our bodies – everything that we have and everything that we are – as living sacrifices to God, our reasonable response to what God in Christ Jesus accomplished for us by His death and resurrection.

Through this we have forgiveness of sins, a new life in Christ, and eternal salvation. And through this worship, the grace of God is made manifest in His saints – for the church and the world.