

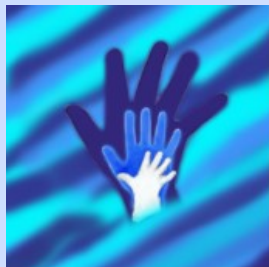


The Illuminate

A publication of Family of Christ Lutheran Church

Family of Christ Vision Statement

Family of Christ is a family of God where all are welcome as we worship and grow in spirit and in life by...



- ~ **Connecting the scriptures** with our Christian faith and life experiences
- ~ **Serving and caring** for our neighbors and communities
- ~ **Building relationships** among people of all ages and walks of life
- ~ **Transforming our world** by teaching love, grace, peace, and kindness
- ~ **Moving purposefully** into God's future and we ask God to help and guide us.

Pastor's Reflection

"When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, Peace be with you."

Just imagine what that moment must have felt like for the bedraggled disciples. Their hearts broken and courage worn threadbare, when suddenly there Jesus stands, an overwhelming presence, a holy incarnation like nothing seen before, and he says, "Peace be with you." What once was a common greeting now shared in the norm of life, was now filled with extraordinary potential. One can only imagine the intensity of the moment. Can't you just hear the disciples catch their breath and try to hold it to somehow hang on to the moment as they both see and hear their Lord say, "Peace be with you!" With the greeting and the breath of God's Holy Spirit, everything changed. Yes, the world remained hostile and dangerous. Yes, poverty and injustice were their everyday challenge. Yes, life remained hard. Amazingly, what had changed was deep inside them. Fully charged in the Spirit their fear evaporated into boldness and they got up, got busy changing the conversation with the Good News of Jesus Christ and God's great love. It was not easy, it cost a great deal, but God did change the

course of history through this tiny band.

People of God, just imagine if we as the Church today could capture the precious gift of this *peace*. Just imagine if we allow ourselves to be carried on the great wind that is God's Spirit. Even as the hard realities of our own time urge us to anxiety, could the intensity of that same peace be the thing that not only holds fear at bay, but carries—no propels—us into God's hurting world with a peace-filled presence and God inspired passion to bring forth a holy incarnation of love, grace, and compassion. As we strive to address the complex issues before us, will we trust that just as God used the disciples then, God will use the disciples of Jesus now? Could it be that simple? Can we turn the tide of our time with a simple greeting?

More than any time I can remember, now is the time for people of faith—for us—fully charged with the Holy Spirit to get up and get busy changing the course of history. With spirit filled voices, let's do the hard work to change the conversation from fear and division to peace, unity and care for the common good. Just imagine the possibilities!

Peace be with you,

Pastor Kit





Labyrinth Meditation Walk
Good Friday, April 14th
10:00am until 5:00pm

For over 400 years Christians have used the labyrinth as a tool for meditation and deepening the spiritual journey. Prayer and meditation while you walk the single path of the labyrinth can be a source of solace, bringing quiet to a distracted or overactive mind. When the stress, challenges and losses of life stir up difficult emotions, walking a labyrinth can help restore your inner peace, and through the quiet meditation give you the spiritual and emotional space to move toward the clarity you seek. As a spiritual tool, the calming and quieting effect and the metaphorical symbolism of the labyrinth combine with your spiritual journey, allowing you to ponder life's greater mysteries.

No matter how you use the labyrinth, its power lies in its ability to provide a disciplined approach to prayerful and reflective meditation and to focus the mind on a short journey with God, even in the midst of the busyness of life.

All Church Work Day

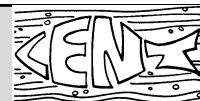
Saturday, April 1st

Come help us spruce up inside and out in preparation for Holy Week and Easter Sunday.

Gather at 9 am. Bring your gloves and tools. Coffee and donuts provided.



One More Wednesday
April 5th



Soup Supper & Sandwiches at 5:00 pm

Midweek Lenten Worship "Praying Around the Cross" Wed. @ 6:30 pm

Holy Week & Easter Schedule

April 9

Palm Sunday
8:30am & 11:00am



MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 13

Seder Meal 5 pm
Worship 6:30 pm

April 14

10 am to 5 pm Prayer Labyrinth
Good Friday 6:30 pm



April 16

Easter Sunday
8:30am & 11:00am
Breakfast 9:30am
Egg Hunt 10:15am

Adult Christian Education Offerings and Small Groups

There will be no Adult Sunday School on Palm Sunday, April 9th and Easter Sunday, April 16th.

Beginning Sunday, April 23rd at 10:00 A.M – In honor of the upcoming 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, Pastor Kit will lead the first installment of *Exploring the Reformation* a look into the times and issues of Luther and the 15th century Church. For folks that are not cradle Lutherans and even for those born into the Lutheran

Church, exploring the Reformation can provide a deeper understanding of what it means to be Lutheran. Did you know that ours is a church founded on Reform and Renewal! The cast of characters is fascinating, the history is eye opening, and the connection even to our time will amaze you. Join us for this exciting look into our Roots! Meet Pastor Kit in the Library @ 9:45!

Monday Night @ 7:00 – Bible Study at the home of Jerre & Sharon Crisp.

Tuesday 10:00 A.M. – Join us as we take on the text for the upcoming Sunday with Pastor Kit. We meet in Library.

Wednesday 1:00 P.M. – Small Group Bible Study @ Donna Lucky's as we continue our trek through *The Revelation!*

Wednesday Family Night Bible and Book Group led by Edie Dietzen; this group is having a great time and meaningful conversations as they explore the book of Matthew. .



**WEDNESDAY NIGHT IS
"FAMILY NIGHT" @ FAMILY OF CHRIST"**

Family Night Resumes the Last Wednesday in April, April 26th.

- * Family Night Dinner, 5-6:30 pm
- * Kid's Spring Choir, 5:30-6 pm in the Library
- * Little Christians for children PreK-5th grade is a night of lots fun, crafts, and fellowship from 6-7 p.m.
- * Confirmation with Pastor Kit & Pam Ausman, 6 pm
- * Adult Bible Study/Book Group lead by Edie Dietzen , 6-7pm.
- * Choir Rehearsal a ~ 6:30--8:00 p.m.



Tuesday, May 9th, 2-4 pm or 5-7 pm.

We have another opportunity for FOC to do some hands on volunteer work at the Clark County Food bank re-packaging food on Tuesday, May 9th; day and evening shifts are available. School-aged children are welcome to come with their parents. Wear closed toed shoes, no heels, and expect to stand a lot. There is a brief training at the beginning of each shift. Want to help? Sign-up sheets are in the family room.

Wear your "God's Work, Our Hands" t shirt if you have one.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

The ELCA Hunger Appeal is our mission Partner from March 1st through April 30th.

Through your gifts to the ELCA Hunger Appeal you are working around the globe relieving hunger, creating opportunities through sustainable development, investing in agriculture, education, micro loans, and economic opportunities among the world's most vulnerable populations. Along with our global partners, the ELCA Hunger Appeal works to create healthy communities and villages able to provide for the needs of their people. Together we are working to eradicate Malaria, stem the tide of HIV, and end the menace of diseases like Cholera and Ebola. Whether digging wells to providing fresh drinking water to rural communities; establishing fish farms and honey bees in India; planting inner city community Gardens; food pantries, and providing nutrition education in places like Detroit and Chicago, you are making a difference worldwide. Please make your check out to FOC and write Hunger Appeal on the memo line. A single check will be mailed from the congregation to the ELCA Hunger Appeal.



Million Meals Program is a monthly in-gathering of the loose change we accumulate during the course of the month and is dedicated to feeding the hungry. Of course we accept larger donations too. Big or small, 100% of your donations go out each month to the Clark County Food Bank to be given as grants to local agencies that purchase food for distribution to those in need. Agencies purchase food from the food bank for just 8 cents per pound, so our loose change makes a huge difference! We've now provided 2,083,983 meals! Thank you for your generous gifts that help feed the hungry in our community. Now, on to 3 million!

Our next in gathering is April 9th.



Social Concerns April Collection is:

Cereal

Because **Neighbors Helping Neighbors** is located in Ridgefield, it really does help our neighbors. Place your donation in the basket by the north hallway entrance doors.



**PLEASE SAVE THE DATE, May 6th
CLEAR OUT YOUR CLUTTER**

Our huge May rummage sale that funds our Social Concerns Justice Ministry for emergencies within our congregation and charities will be held Saturday, May 6th. Donate items beginning Monday, May 1st, in the Family Room. Please start setting your unwanted stuff* aside to donate to our sale!

*Please note: We cannot take very large furniture, TV's, clothing or baby car seats.



We will need many helpers during the week to clean, price and display items. We will need helpers to cashier the table on Saturday beginning at 8 a.m. and finishing at 3 p.m. and many helpers to help us clean up any leftovers and take them to thrift stores following the sale. We will need people to help clean up and restore the Family Room to its usual self before Sunday morning coffee hour.

If you see a place for yourself to help, please let Judy Enders or Carol Hoffman, or Sandi Sandeen know before the sale.

Ladies Luncheon-Save the Date



Our lunch will be on August 19th this year. Our theme is "A Tea Party" Planning meetings will be announced in the coming bulletins & newsletters. Please keep your secret sister until this date when we will reveal who our sisters are.

Congregational Life News for April

Quilters, Wednesday April 5th, 10 a.m. in the Family Room. Come fellowship with us!

Last Soup Supper in Lent, Wednesday, April 5th. 5-6:15 pm.

No Wednesday Night Dinners, Wed. April 12th & 19th.

Seder Meal, Maundy Thursday, April 13th, 5 pm. \$5. Sign up in the Family Room.

Holy Yoga, Friday 7th & April 28th. \$, 10-11:15 a.m. No class Friday April 14th of 21st.

April Birthdays

- 2nd Lynne Dalleck
- 2nd Pat Shaw
- 6th Karen Yankee
- 6th Sarah Breignezer
- 6th Rich Hilgendorf
- 8th Thomas Koon
- 12th Jim Staub
- 15th Debra Jones
- 15th Maya Bloom
- 18th Cassie McAdams
- 22nd Hazel Olson
- 23rd Jeanne Downing
- 23rd Keith Lowery
- 28th Cleo Norcia

April Anniversary

- 17th Dan & Pastor Kit

GIVE THANKS
Let them give thanks to Lord for His unfailing love and His wonderful deeds for men, for He satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things. Psalm 107: 8-9



Preschool

Open Registration for the 2017-2018 began on March 1st for the new families. If you know of any families wanting to enroll their child/ or children please have them call 360-546-0731 or email us at foccp@comcast.net. to set up a tour, we still have some openings.

On March 16th, 17th and 18th our Preschool Staff attended the ELEA (Evangelical Lutheran Education Association) conference up in Everett, WA. for continuing education hours. The Staff members had a great time, and really enjoyed the bonding experience with the other centers.



Please mark your calendars we will be having our Annual Carnival on Saturday April 22nd from 4-7. This event is open to all families; we will be having a Silent Auction /Class Basket auction, bouncy house, face painting, games, food and all sorts of other fun things. This is a great fundraiser to come out and support. We hope all of you have a wonderful Easter!



Our last session for this season is "Palm Sunday to Easter." We've been learning about what Jesus went through during his last days on earth and what Easter means through the arts, games, cooking, science, and movies.

There will not be any classes on Easter Sunday. Our last class will be May 7th with a celebration/party in our classroom!

Note: The Palm Sunday skit is cancelled this year, however...the kids want to perform a year end skit for the congregation on May 7th!!



This year, our Sunday School staff will be hosting an Easter Egg hunt for kids of all ages! We'll meet at 10:15 in the Family Room to go over some rules and hints. Bring your baskets and be ready to go on the hunt!!

If you would like to donate candies/treats for the egg hunt, please place them in the basket located outside of Office C. If you're so inclined to help 'stuff' them, let Cheri Herzog know and she will give you some plastic eggs!!

We have plenty of plastic eggs; we do not need any more!



You can help Family of Christ earn donations



Just by Shopping with your

FRED MEYER

Rewards card!

Fred Meyer is donating \$2.5 million per year to non-profits in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, based on where their customers tell them to give. Here's how the program works:

- Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to Family of Christ at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards
 1. Under "Are you a Fred Meyers Customer?" click "Link your rewards card now".
 2. Below "Sign In" it will say "New to Fred Meyer? Create an account." Click "Create an Account".
 3. Complete the "Create an Account" section and then select the preferred store address 800 NE Tenney Rd, Vancouver WA 98685
 4. At the bottom of that page, select the button "Create Account". This will take you to a page where you will type in your Fred Meyer rewards number or phone number and our store, non-profit number 81689.
- Then, every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you are helping Family of Christ earn a donation, we put this money into our building maintenance fund.
- **You still earn your Rewards Points, Fuel Points, and Rebates**, just as you do today.
- If you do not have a Rewards card, there is no cost to sign up and they are available at the Customer Service desk of any Fred Meyer Store.

Come to the office if you need help, Traci has helped many folks sign-up easily and she can help you too.

Last year we received close to \$600. Sign up today!

Sunday Night Trunk Dinners

Every Sunday Judy Enders, Dave Slocum and Lauren Leonard go out and feed a hot meal to the homeless folks in our community. Several FOC members often prepare and donate food as well as Judy, Dave & Lauren providing it. If this is something you'd like to be a part of **we have a large freezer that can hold many prepared meals so we might as well use it!** Please label and date your donations and bring them in during office hours or on Sunday.



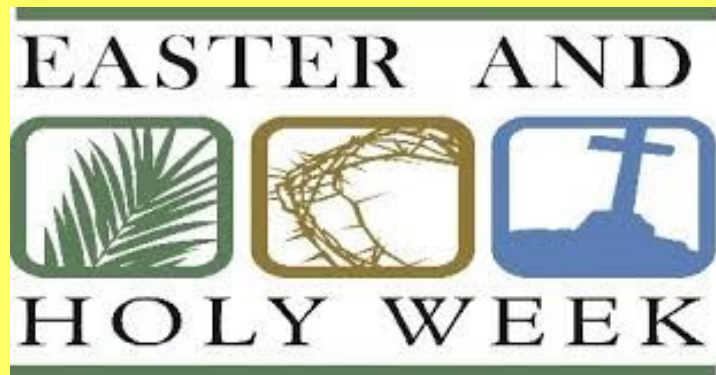
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/91-0928556>

Support Family of Christ when you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates.

This link above will take you directly to smile.amazon.com in support of FOC, so you don't have to search for us when you shop.



Holy Week Worship Schedule



Palm Sunday, April 9th

8:30 a.m. Worship

11:00 a.m. Worship

Maundy Thursday, April 13th

Seder Meal, 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Worship

Good Friday, April 14th

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Prayer Labyrinth

6:30 p.m. Worship



Easter Sunday, April 16th

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast

10:15 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt

11 a.m. Worship



Women ^{of the} **ELCA**

Fort
Vancouver
Spring Cluster
Event



THE REFORMATION

WITH BISHOP JAECH

DEVOTIONS: PASTOR ADRIENNE STREHLOW

REGISTRATION 9:30 BRUNCH 10:00

APRIL 22, 2017

BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH-12513 SE MILL PLAIN

In kind offering benefits The Free Clinic and Council for the Homeless
ziplock sandwich bags, chips, lunch bags, cookies, hats, scarves, etc.

Offering: ½ WELCA, ½ Free Clinic



Imagine

Congregational Covenant for Renewal and Revitalization

With joy and hope-filled excitement for the future, Family of Christ entered into the Imagine covenant on December 11th, 2016. Through this process we are partnering with the ELCA and the SW Washington Synod as we work intentionally to strengthen, focus, and energize for mission long into the future. Creating a Vision, identifying our missional purpose, and defining the guiding principles for the ministry we share are key components of that process. Thanks to the Visioning process we completed in 2014 we are one jump ahead. Now it's time to take our Vision Statement and Guiding Principles and go deep! . New ministries and those we've shared will all be looked at to see how they connect. If the connection is weak, we will have to ask, "Is this what God is calling us to now?" If the answer is "No," we will make adjustments or wind it down. If the answer is "Yes" then we will ask how we can deepen that connection and mobilize with strength.

Who is involved in the Imagine Program? With the Holy Spirit at the helm, every member and participating friend of FOC is a part of our Imagine Team! It takes all of us sharing our gifts of time, talents and treasure to make FOC all God plans for it to be. A team from our council; Luran Leonard, Pam Ausman, Tanya Odarich, Cecilia Shepard, Edie Dietzen and Pastor Kit have participated in 2 of 6 workshops designed to equip our leaders and members for mission. The workshops have focused on: using prayer and bible study as the anchor and energy for our meetings, creating a welcoming congregation where genuine listening and faith sharing become natural, Visioning, purpose and guiding principles. In the second workshop, we were encouraged to have a congregation wide study of the Book of Acts connecting the energy and movement of the Holy Spirit in the early Church with our own. Keep an eye out for an announcement soon about how we at Family will dive into this exciting Bible Study.

Imagine the possibilities! Invite your neighbors and friends to join the Family of God at FOC!

Vacation Bible School

It's April—Let's organize for VBS

Time to get rocking and rolling for VBS. Let's get our act together. We will not have Susan Dollinger with us this year. All positions need to be filled.

We need a leadership coordinator or coordinator team. 2-3 people

We'll need station leads/youth helpers. 6-8 people

We need logistics, volunteer managers, 2 people.

Help us get ahead of the VBS ball. Contact pastor Kit asap.

Pastor@foclutheranchurch.org

Is your Child Ready for First Holy Communion?

The first time a child receives the sacrament of Holy Communion is a milestone along their journey of faith that should be marked with special family celebration, joy and deepening family commitment to the life of faith. To make it very special, we will celebrate First Communion on Maundy Thursday services following the Seder supper. If your young one would like to begin receiving Holy Communion, please contact Pastor Kit.





Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

South Sudan Relief

Right now, more than seven million people need humanitarian assistance in South Sudan. The ELCA is poised to respond to this need. Through our long-standing relationships in the region, we are prepared to accompany communities through food distribution, water and sanitation, and psychosocial support. Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response are critical to implementing this work. Together, we can provide life-saving aid to our brothers and sisters in South Sudan when they need it most.



UNICEF estimates that 1 million children are acutely malnourished in South Sudan

The ELCA is committed to its ongoing work in South Sudan to help cultivate peace and a sustainable future for millions affected by civil war and famine. We are working together with others to deliver **immediate famine relief**, which forms one of our three focus areas in the region. The other two, sustainable food security and sustained ministry, center around the church's long-term commitment to the people of South Sudan to build resilient and empowered communities.

Help us bring hope and healing to our neighbors in need.

Gifts designated for *South Sudan Relief* will be used in full (100%) to assist our response. Go to the ELCA.org website to give online,

or *Make checks payable to Lutheran Disaster Response. Write "South Sudan Relief" on your check's memo line and send to:*

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

If you want to give through our congregation, make your check out to **FOC** and put "South Sudan" in the memo line.

