



The Illuminate

A publication of Family of Christ Lutheran Church

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my words be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I propose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. Isaiah 55:9-11

As I sit in the comfort of my home typing this reflection, the view outside my window is a blanket of the blazing whiteness of the long snow that is now turning to ice. It's been a long cold wait for the thaw. For better or worse this long snow forced us all to slow down.

That is something to be grateful for. Yes, it has been inconvenient, especially for those trying to deal the reality of school closures or pay loss due to the storms. "Winter" has chewed up the majority of January and we are ready for a change!

It is raining at last, and before we know it everything will return to normal and we will all be planning our spring gardens. Rest assured it will happen, it's only a matter of time!

What a great analogy all this winter bliss is for the journey of faith. In faith, we place our trust that the promises of God's new and redeemed creation is right around the corner, but as history marches on and the world seems to be growing colder, we wonder...When?

The ancient people of Israel exiled from their homes, a host of prophets, even the disciples wondered, "When?" Truth be told, God gives no timeline, only words like those we find in Isaiah calling us to trust in the wisdom and timing of God. It seems God's time "Kairos" is no respecter of impatience.

The thing is, the waiting was not meant to be idle, it was meant to be a time of becoming something more. Israel was called to be "light unto the nations." Living in a faithful covenant with God was meant to change things for the better for everyone!

The truly wonderful and amazing thing is when we focus our energy on living into the promise, the *when* becomes less of a mystery, because *Kairos* moments seem to be woven into the fabric of time everywhere. Our sweet brother Lew Lardie used to call them "God winks." People of God, in holy baptism we are given the extraordinary gift of sharing in the very mission of God to love and bless the world, to see our lives as intricately woven not just in the reality of the world, but in the realm of God. We get to grab those Kairos opportunities along the way. So don't get discouraged when it seems that the world is growing colder and winter refuses to yield to spring. As long as we keep leaning into God's promise and grabbing those opportunities to join in the mission, well that new creation becomes only a matter of time.

Blessings,

Pastor Kit





Wednesday Night is “Family Night @ Family of Christ.” Join the excitement!

Take the night off from cooking, and relax and enjoy the fellowship while you enjoy a hot dinner prepared by loving hands. The cost is just \$4 per person, but no family pays more than \$13. There’s plenty for everyone, so come and join us! Oh, and bring a friend—their dinner will be on us! After dinner, join in on one of the scheduled activities.

- * Dinner served between 5-6:30 pm
- * Little Christians for children PreK-5th grade is a night of lots fun, crafts, and fellowship from 6:00-7:00p.m.
- * 6-7 pm-Confirmation with Pastor Kit & Pam Ausman.
- * Adult Bible Study/Book Group lead by Edie Dietzen. 6-7pm. We’ll be studying the Book of Matthew.
- * Chancel Choir Rehearsal ~ 6:30--8:00P.M

Family Night clean-up help is needed from 6:30 to 7 pm .

February Birthdays

1st Cheri Herzog	16th Karen Rossiter
2nd Don Nelson	18th Jeff Wuethrich
3rd John Ferdig	20th Gary Endresen
3rd Dan Neeley Jr.	20th Oliver Evans
8th Ian Caton	23rd Bobbie Fykerud
9th George Hoffman	24th Randi Osborn
10th Sharon Ferdig	25th Carol Hoffman
11th Les Stark	25th Marilyn Howe
14th Dee Berberick	27th Neal Fykerud
14th Riley Caton	28th Lucy Jane Truman
15th Jerry Dietzen	28th Nancy Hilgendorf

February Anniversaries

- 18th Dave & Karen Yankee
- 19th Randy & Randi Osborn
- 23rd Al & Janet Jaffe
- 23rd Andrew & Lila Nollette

Annual Congregational Meeting To Be Rescheduled

Cards and emails will be sent two weeks in advance of the new meeting date.

Adult Christian Education

Sunday, February 5th at 10 a.m.: Sharing our faith story can be hard, especially if your journey has taken you through seasons of struggle and doubt. For some, the orthodox teachings of the church don’t exactly fit where they are today, and yet they hold in their heart and deep faith, passionate love of Jesus, and a strong commitment to their faith community. Yet, if asked “what do you believe, and why”, it becomes an anxiety producing event with the fear of being outside of the “traditional” norms. Faith is a journey that will take many turns over the space of a lifetime. At Family of Christ, creating that safe place where we can explore, question and even challenge long held ideas is an important part of our ministry of faith formation. Larry Lefave is one among us who has deeply mined the scriptures, scholarship and tradition along his faith journey. While some of the ancient doctrines may challenge him, his strong faith and commitment to live in the way of Jesus is inspiring. Larry’s scholarship and mastery of many of the theological conversations down through history is excellent. Larry will share a bit about his journey and how he has come to understand Jesus as his role model and mentor for life.

***February 12th**—We will look at a few of the characters in the genealogies of Jesus. You will be surprised and maybe even delighted by this mixed bag of very human characters!

***February 19th**— Pastor Kit will begin a series on *Shaking Things Up Jesus Style* looking at the controversies of the four gospels and the pressing issues of our current time from the local to the global.

***Classes may be rescheduled if annual meeting is scheduled**

Adult Christian Education Offerings and Small Groups

- † **Sunday: Monday Night @ 7:00** – Bible Study at the home of Jerre & Sharon Crisp.
- † **Tuesday 10:00 A.M.** – Tuesday morning Bible Study. Join us as we take on the text for the upcoming Sunday led by Pastor Kit. Meet in the library.
- † **Wednesday 1:00 P.M.** – Ladies Bible Study @ Donna Lucky’s.
- † **Wednesday Family Night 6-7 pm** Bible & Book Group led by Edie Dietzen. This group is studying the book of Matthew.



Social Justice Ministry

Thank you so much to Dave Humphrey and Jim and Carol Collell for volunteering at St. Paul's men's shelter the first week of January. We are desperately in need of volunteers during January and February, so if anyone can help, please call me and I'll hook you up. Judy Enders

Thank you for all the cold weather items donated this past month Also, thanks for food donated as well as cash to purchase winter items needed.

Your Social Justice Ministry

The ELCA Hunger Appeal is our mission Partner from February 1st through March 31st. 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 Ebola epidemic. From fish farms and honey bees in India, to inner city community Gardens, food pantries, and nutrition education in places like Detroit and Chicago, you are making a difference worldwide. Please make your check out the FOC and write Hunger Appeal on the memo line. A single check will be mailed from the congregation to the ELCA Hunger Appeal.

HUNGER FACTS (from ELCA website)

- 795 million people around the world – that's 1 in 10 – can't access the food they need to live active, healthy lives.
- 1 billion people live in extreme poverty on less than \$1.25 per day. That's 14.5% of the world's population.
- At some point in 2014, more than 48 million people in the United States were unsure where their next meal might come from.
- 46.7 million Americans were living in poverty in 2014. For a family of four, this means their annual household income was below \$23,850.

Sunday Night Trunk Dinners

Every Sunday Dave Slocum, Judy Enders, and Lauren Leonard go out and feed a hot meal to the homeless men and women in our community. Several members often prepare and donate food as well as Judy and Dave 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!

The best meals would be easy to re-heat and softer to chew, as many homeless folks have dental issues. Casseroles, desserts, mac and cheese, spaghetti; talk with Judy to get more ideas. Please label and date your donations and bring them by during office hours or Sunday and let Judy know when you place something in the freezer to share.

Are you looking for a meaningful way to be a blessing? Here are two great opportunities!

Winter Hospitality Overflow "WHO" needs our help. This year the WHO team has had a difficult time filling all the needed shifts at both the St. Andrew and St. Paul WHO shelters. If you can help staff one or more shifts, please see Judy Enders and she will connect you with the shelter supervisor. The WHO must be fully staffed to operate. The shelter is vital for the men, women and children that shelter there over the cold months and needs to remain open through March.

How about volunteering at the Friends of the Carpenter Second Chance Thrift Store! Second Chance is in need of volunteers! Due to illness and changing circumstances, Second Chance has lost a few of their regular volunteers. Over the past several months, they have had to reduce hours of operation, especially on Saturday. This means fewer sales and reduced income that goes to support Friends of the Carpenter's Friendship Center ministries. Do you have a few hours to give? Stop by Second Chance and fill out a volunteer application. While you're at it, go shopping. They have lots of wonderful items available!

HOLY YOGA RESUMES FRIDAY FEBRUARY 24TH



Holy Yoga is held here most Fridays throughout the year. The cost is only \$5. Our instructor, Debbie Lenihan leads a gentle stretch, breathe, and release class that is suitable for all skill levels. Bring a mat if you have one, and wear comfortable clothes. This class will resume on February 24, 2017 and continue weekly thereafter.



Preschool

We hope all of you had a wonderful New Year & survived the major Snow storm of 2017!

The 4year old classrooms enjoyed having Pajama Day on Jan. 23rd. They had fun celebrating the letter P by wearing their pajamas to school, making pink piggies, eating pancakes, popcorn and watching Paw Patrol.

Saturday, February 11th, we will be having a Preschool Open House from 10 am -2 pm. If you know of any new families wanting to enroll their child/children for the fall of 2017 please pass this information on. We will be starting Preschool Registration for returning families February 10th and on March 1st for new families interested in enrolling in the fall of 2017.



Picture of our playground taken on January 11, 2017



For the month of February, we will be learning the meaning behind 'Fruit of the Spirit' through arts, biblical activities, and creative drama.

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT



On February 26th, the Sunday school kids will perform a short narrative during the 11:00 worship.

We begin gathering each Sunday morning at 9:45 for fellowship in classrooms 5 & 6, and then dive into our lesson activities!

We welcome preschool (4 yrs.) - 5th grades. Come & join us!



Malena Goerl heads up our High School/Youth Group on Sunday mornings and she is looking forward to making this ministry the best it can be! It's not too late to join us and we hope you will come by and check us out! We begin gathering at 10:00 each Sunday morning! See you then!



Quilters Ministry

Question - Can you tie a knot? Yes or No?

If you answered YES, then you qualify to be in the Quilters Ministry! We especially need people to tie knots so that we can move our quilts along in their final stages onto blessing then presentation. Come for a fun time, once a month on the first Wednesday from 10am to Noon in the Family/Fellowship room.

Ladies Luncheon Planning Meeting

Tuesday, February 28th, 12 Noon in the family room. Come join us in planning this annual event to be held on May 20th! Contact Lauren Leonard for more information. (360) 904-4350.



Coffee Hospitality Ministry Needs YOU!

We are looking for more folks to help with coffee hour on Sundays. *It's simple to do.* You provide some basic treats, fruit, baked goods, etc.,(reimbursement available if requested) and set out the coffee and tea the church provides. Talk to Sandie Beems if you want more information.

Prayer Breakfast Food & Fellowship

Come share in community, good food and a time of prayer at Jollies restaurant every 1st and 3rd Monday at 8:30 a.m. Drop in anytime. All are welcome.



Social Concerns February Collection is Canned Soup

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.

Chocolate Dessert Contest



Wednesday February 15th During Wednesday Family Night dinner time, 5-6:30pm. Come with your favorite chocolate dessert and delight our taste testers! Prizes awarded for the top 3 winners!

Online Giving and Credit and Debit Card Processing

It's been two years now since we first launched our online giving program and many of you now enjoy the convenience of it. For those that haven't tried it, giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the Internet. Contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account **or processed using your credit or debit card.** Our electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

Simply follow these easy steps:

Visit the church website at www.foclutheranchurch.org

Click on the button,



Click on the **Create Profile** button, then

Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contributions.

Even Faster! Scan this QR code with your smart phone and it will take you directly to our secure online giving link!



Sanctuary: Safe Conversations on LGBT Issues

Meets Tuesday February 21st at 7:30 p.m. in the Library.

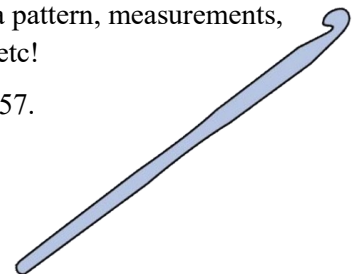
Help Needed!

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Do you like to knit or crochet? You may want to consider helping out in this ministry. The handiwork is done on your own time with finished shawls being blessed then presented.

Contact Jeanne Downing, and she can "hook" you up with a pattern, measurements, instructions, etc!

(360) 573-5657.





Dear FOC Friends & Pastor Kit:

We are deeply saddened by Lew's passing and we continue to be grateful for the ongoing support you have provided for the Million Meals program. We know how passionate he was about caring for hungry families. What a legacy he left and you have so wonderfully supported. Much thanks.

Your friends at Clark County Food Bank.

In loving memory of
Lew Lardie

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! In January we sent the food bank \$ 4197 dollars to feed the hungry in loving memory of our brother-in-Christ, Lew Lardie. Another 10k to come from the Lew Lardie estate will make a huge impact! We have provided *1,918,959 meals since Lew Lardie brought this program to FOC! . Thank you for your gift of generosity and giving. Our next in gathering is February 12th.
*at time of printing.

February Serving Schedule

	February 5		February 12		February 19		February 26	
	8:30 am	11:00 am	8:30 am	11:00 am	8:30 am	11:00 am	8:30 am	11:00 am
Greeters	Jerry & Edie Dietzen 953-0169	Jerry & Edie Dietzen	Randy & Randi Osborn 904-4551	Gary & Sue Endresen 503-819-3525	Dave & Karen Yankee 573-5783	Andrew Ness 609-8932	Greg & Pat Shaw 571-2981	Jim & Alina Staub 546-2962
Ushers	Les & Beth Stark 693-9379	Jerry Dietzen 953-0169	Cliff Benjamin 573-0880 Bill Czech 798-6966	Tom & Sandra Sandeen 907-1199	Don & Barbara Martin 524-3245	Andrew Ness 609-8932 Kim Koon 721-8500	George & Carol Hoffman 887-3338	Gary Endresen 503-819-3525
Acolytes	Kylie Terry 546-1029	Valerie Patterson 213-8270	Hannah McAdams 971-998-2106	Kiera Caton 921-3647	Geoffrey Hastings 971-570-0528	Christien Born 433-9252	Trevor Bloom 603-682-2063	Emma Hoffman 909-5020
Assisting Ministers	Gail Sieckman 576-4410	Don Nelson 673-2122	Ian Caton 901-9028	Dave Holmquist 723-8737	Gail Sieckman 576-4410	Pam Ausman 256-9422	Neal Adolf 573-2890	Linda Marousek 576-4410
Cantors	Randy Osborn 904-4551	Don Nelson	Ian Caton 901-9028	Dave Holmquist	Randy Osborn 904-4551	Pam Ausman	Neal Adolf	Randy Osborn 904-4551
Readers	Teresa Marble 693-4248	Dave Holmquist 723-8737	Bill Czech 798-6966	Kim Koon 721-8500	Stephanie/Dylan Terry 546-1029	Dale Wilken 718-7058	Cecilia Shepard 450-8448	Pam Ausman 256-9422
Communion Hosts	Sandie Beems 989-4168	Dale & Marilyn Wilken 718-7058	Randy & Randi Osborn 904-4551	Jim & Carol Collel 576-0620	Al & Pat Doud 573-5119	Ian & Teare Caton 921-3647	Dave & Karen Yankee 573-5783	Harold & Debbie Broers 573-0405
Coffee Hour	Jennifer Beems 513-7393	Jim & Carol Collel 576-0620	Dale & Betty Perry 576-0557	Andrew & Carolyn Ness 609-8942	Randy & Randi Osborn 904-4551	Bill & Linda Czech 798-1773	Hazel Olson 574-7769	Broers 573-0405 & Kinder 576-5031