

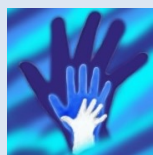


The Illuminate

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 between 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



Happy New Year!

Welcome to 2018



It's 2018 and amazing things are happening here at Family of Christ! We are stretching as we live deeper into the Imagine Renewal covenant. Our ministry and family are growing. It's exciting.

As we look forward, I think it's meaningful to pause to look back, with hearts filled with gratitude for what has gone before. Forty-five years five months ago, on August 20th, 1972 in the Oddfellows Hall on 126th and 36th street in Felida, a group of folks with a vision to be a part of the new thing God was doing gathered for worship. With courage, dedication, the sweat of their brow, a portion of their treasure, and a great deal of faith, this small band gave birth to Family of Christ Lutheran Church. On December 10th that same year, the official charter was signed and FOC became official. WOW! A lot of things have happened over the past forty-five years five months! FOC has seen growth, struggle, renewal, and plenty of the growing pains that come with the growth of mission. There have been celebrations, births, deaths, a denominational merger, two building programs, and enormous neighborhood changes as farms sell to be replaced by neighborhoods. Young and old have learned and experienced the power of God's love as they put their hands together in service, fellowship, and prayer.

Thank you to each and every person that has poured out love through the ministry of Family. Thank you to faithful leaders, servants, and pastors that have woven the living gospel of Jesus into the fabric of who we are as a congregation. Thank you to all who embraced the vision forty-five years five months ago. Most of all, we thank our Lord Jesus Christ for making us God's own people in this place, forming us in grace through baptism and table, and sparking our hearths with the Holy Spirit. As the 6th called pastor of Family of Christ, I want to thank all of you, today's FOC, for your continued courage, dedication, support, and commitment to God's mission in this place as we seek together to be a part of what God is doing now.

2018 promises to be an exciting year as we move purposefully into God's future together!

Happy New Year,

Pastor Kit



It's a Great Time to BE the Church! Way back when the great merger formed the ELCA our first Presiding Bishop, Herbert W. Chilstrom, used to start every assembly or large gathering with this acclamation, "It's a great time to be the Church! It's still true!! It is a great time to be the Church and Family of Christ Lutheran Church is having a blast praising God, following Jesus, and loving and serving our neighbors! **A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU FOR THE AMAZING WAYS YOU STEP UP AND IN!!** YOU brought Christmas joy to 100 children. YOU fed 100 families with food boxes full to the brim. YOU provided for the needs of foster kids in our community. YOU gathered in hats, socks, undies and all kinds of needed items for the homeless in our community. YOU counted the tithes and helped in the office. YOU brought over 1000 drinks of cool water to hot parade goers and Pride participants. YOU responded generously to disasters around the world. YOU showed up at Friends of the Carpenter, Clark County Food Bank, Neighbors Helping Neighbors, The Fishing Derby, Scouts, Sunday School, visiting the sick and homebound, giving FOC folks a helping hand here and there, VBS, Trunk & Treat, painting and gardening at FOC, and serving all around the community with blessings of love and grace. YOU ARE THE CHURCH out there making a difference!

YES, IT'S A GREAT TIME TO BE THE CHURCH!



Annual Meeting January 28th after the 11 am worship service

One of the strengths of our Lutheran tradition is our lay leadership and governance. What that means is that the congregation makes ministry and fiscal decisions together. Our elected representatives, the congregation council and officers, have worked hard to ensure that the ministry of FOC remains strong and vital. All of our ministry teams and volunteers are on the job making every event and service opportunity the best it can be. We are blessed! Our Annual Meeting is a great opportunity for us to express our appreciation for their dedication and service. To prepare for this meeting, our ministry teams will provide written reports on our ministry over the past year. The treasurer will update us on our fiscal status and present a budget that will detail the anticipated mission support needs for 2018. You will be asked to vote on the annual report and budget proposal. The annual report and budget will be available to be picked up the Sunday prior to the meeting. Please join us on January 28th for this important conversation, we'll meet in Family room after the 2nd worship service.

Adult Christian Education Offerings

Sunday: Sunday @ 9:45- January 7th, we finish up our study of By Heart, Conversations with Luther through Luther's Small Catechism with a deep look at the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

January 14th we begin a new book study, *Clutter Free Christianity* by Robert Jeffress. We will go deep

into the challenges and blessings of a lived faith by exploring some of the toughest aspects of things like anger, mistrust, and the power and freedom of living both forgiven and forgiving life. Larry LeFave will join Pastor Kit in leading us. If you like to read in advance, *Clutter Free Christianity is available through Kindle for \$6.99 for the electronic edition.*

January Birthdays	
4th Stephanie Evans	17th Linda Marousek
4th JoAnn Munson	20th Kay Mueller
6th Laura Holmquist	21st Abbie Corlett
10th Teare Caton	22nd Glenn Whearty
11th Kimberly Gonzalez	23rd Lila Nollette
11th Dan Neeley Sr.	23rd Jady Patterson,
11th Rachel Nelson	28th Dylan Terry
13th Steve Godfrey	29th Stephanie Terry

January Anniversaries
19th Dave Humphrey and Peg Carver
31st Mike & Lauren Leonard

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

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

Abe Books also has inexpensive new and used copies. Pastor Kit will have a few copies available for purchase or loan.

Tuesday's at 10:00 A.M. – Tuesday morning Bible Study. Join us as we take on the text for the upcoming Sunday with Pastor Kit, we meet in the library.



Coming in January~ *Building Relationships*

WEDNESDAY NIGHT IS "FAMILY NIGHT @ FAMILY OF CHRIST" JOIN THE EXCITEMENT!

WEDNESDAY FAMILY NIGHT @ FAMILY RESUME JANUARY 3RD THROUGH FEBRUARY 7TH~ LENT POTLUCK SOUP SUPPERS BEGIN FEBRUARY 21ST

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! 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
- * 5:30-6:15 Youth Sing
- * Little Christians for children Pre-K-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. (Beginning Feb. 21st we meet 5:30-6:15 pm)
- * Chancel Choir Rehearsal ~ 6:30--8:00P.M

Dinner Menus

January 3rd-Chicken Tetrizzini, green salad, rolls, dessert.

January 10th-Build your own baked potato bar, salad, rolls, dessert.

January 17th-Pastor Kit's Special Alfredo dinner, salad, garlic bread, dessert. There will be gluten free and non-dairy options available.

January 24th-Chicken & biscuits, salad, dessert.

January 31st-Chili-Cook off! Bring your favorite recipe! Enter to win! There will be prizes! YUM!



February 7th-Spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, and Your Favorite Chocolate Dessert Contest, bring your favorite to share, prizes!

--NEW THIS YEAR--

Tuesday, February 13th-Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner, pancakes and egg casserole will be served from 5-6:30 pm.



Coming in February.....



6:30 pm February 14th

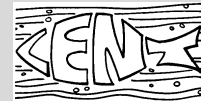
Worship service with imposition of Ashes

Wednesdays February 21st to March 21st

Soup Supper & Sandwiches at 5:00 pm

Midweek Lenten Worship

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



Introducing Lent 2018

The Lenten season begins early this year with ashen crosses upon our foreheads Wednesday, February 14th. This is a time set aside for serious intentionality about not only our faith life, but our life journey as a follower of Jesus. In fact, Lent came to be because of a recognized need for faith renewal within the early church. I think the same observation could be made today. So, I wonder, what would happen if we really took Lent seriously, and put renewed emphasis on intentional faith practices in our daily lives. Would it change anything?

This year at FOC, we will embrace the intentionality of Lent in a few ways. We begin with Ash Wednesday and the imposition of ashes as signs of our mortality and need for God's grace. Our midweek services will be *Prayer Around the Cross*, like last year, we will gather in an intimate setting around a cross within the chancel area in the sanctuary.

It's been my experience when we are intentional, the thing we do has a more powerful impact. So as we enter into Lent, let's be intentional in how we reflect the love of God through Jesus into our most important relationships, and our interaction in the world.

Soup suppers with sandwich fixings during Lent

begins February 21st, 5-6:30 pm. Pot luck style, sign up to bring your favorite soup. Free will offering for sandwich fixings that will be provided.





**CLARK COUNTY
FOOD BANK**

**Clark County Food Bank
Volunteer Opportunity**

We'll have two opportunities for community service re-packaging food on Tuesday, February 13th from 2-4 pm or 5:30-8 pm. School aged children through adults are welcome to help. Wear closed toed shoes and dress warm, warehouses tend to be chilly. The day shift will be just FOC folks, we need at least 10 to sign-up. The evening shift is with other volunteers. Sign up in the family room if you'd like to help.

Feeding the Hungry

Our next in-Gathering is Sunday, January 14th

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 have **provided** 2,200,807 since Lew Lardie brought this program to FOC! Thank you for your gift of generosity and giving.

**Social Concerns January Collection is
Oatmeal**



Because **Neighbors Helping Neighbors** is located in Ridgefield, and they serve the Felida Salmon creek neighborhoods as well, so it really does help our neighbors.



February Requested food is **canned soup**.

Place your donation in the basket by the back

Sanctuary: Safe Conversations on LGBT Issues

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 16th starting at 7:30 pm. We meet in the Library. Our program is still to be determined.

Our Sanctuary Group Also invites you to...RIC Sunday, Community Celebration of Welcome, January 28th @ 6-8 pm. St. Luke Lutheran Church, 4595 SW California St., Portland, Oregon, 97219.

What is RIC? ReconcilingWorks NW supports ELCA Lutheran communities in Oregon and SW Washington that publicly welcome lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender believers. We work for policies to include all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

You Are Invited!

**Lutheran Choral Association
Christmas/Epiphany Concert**

Sunday, Jan 7th, 4 pm

Peace Lutheran Church

2201 N. Rosa Parks , Portland OR 97217



After the holiday rush, we keep the Christmas Spirit alive with the a program of joyous Christmas music, including opportunities for you to sing along!

Reception following

Free will offering invited

Sunday Night Trunk Dinners Continues

Every Sunday Dave Slocum, Judy Enders, & Lauren Leonard go out and feed a hot meal to the homeless folks in our community. Several FOC people 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!** Casseroles and soft foods are preferred, however we have no way to serve soup. If you'd like to contribute food, please label and date your donations and bring them in on Sunday or during office hours. Call Judy Enders for suggestions or if you have any questions, 360-573-5120.

Do you like to bake? A popular and easy to serve food we can use many of is sheet cakes! We serve over 75 people each Sunday, and they love the treats!

Prayer Breakfast Food & Fellowship

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

Chucks is located at 2302 NE 117th on the corner of 117th and NE Hwy 99.

Just a note to let you know that I moved to Highgate Senior Living.

My new address is:
Charlotte Doyle New Phone #: 360-828-7033
9803 NE Hazel Dell Ave # 221
Vancouver, WA 98685



Preschool News

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We hope all of you had a wonderful holiday. We had such a busy month in December preparing for our Christmas Program. The children enjoyed making all the props & practicing the songs. It was cold outside but we loved seeing the sunshine and being able to play outside. We want to say Thank you to everyone that donated to the Giving Tree & the Holiday Dinner Baskets. We really appreciate your kindness.

Santa breakfast was also a huge hit; we had about 180 in attendance this year. We are so lucky that Santa & his Elves came to visit, and the families were able to get their pictures taken with them.



During the month of January we will be having a pajama day for all of the 4 yr. old class rooms. This is a day we have each year so they can wear their

pajamas, eat popcorn and make pancakes as they talk about the letter P. We will be having a family game night so our families can come and play games in the upstairs family room too.

February we get to enjoy Valentine's Day, and we will have a 4 day weekend for Presidents day. Open enrollment for Preschool will also start in February.



Little Christians

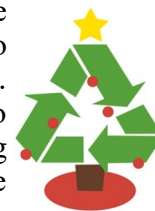
It's been slightly over six years since this youth group was formed.

It started out as a monthly gathering with the Sunday school kids and their friends so they can have the opportunity to get to know each other better outside of Sunday School.

We meet each Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:00 for crafts, activities, devotions and fellowship. All kids from preschool-5th grades are invited to participate!

For more information or to learn about how you can help, get in touch with Jamie Leatherwood or Tiffany Alexander...they would love to have extra help from time to time!

Our Boy Scouts Troop 479 will be in the Felida/Lakeshore areas on January 6th to pick up your Christmas tree to be recycled. A small donation is requested as it helps to support their campouts and camping expenses. Please have your tree by the curbside by 8:00 am!



Our Cub Scout Pack 494 will be in the Salmon Creek areas to pick up your trees as well. We hope you will support them!



Holy Yoga is a spiritual experience (and some great exercise). This is gentle breathe, stretch and release class for all ability levels. Our instructor Debbie will tailor each class to fit your physical needs.

Each class costs \$5 and takes place on Friday mornings from 10:00-11:15, our next class is January 5th. During that time you will do many yoga positions, hear scripture and prayers, and receive a time of purposeful rest. This is a great way to fulfill that New Year's Resolution to take care of yourself better. Wear loose clothes and bring a yoga mat (and yoga brick and strap, if you have them.) There are some supplies available to borrow through the instructor. **Invite a friend!**



A Note From Your Treasurer

I'm writing this before year's end in order to get it into the Illuminate on time so I don't know all our figures for December giving and expenses, but I'd like to thank you good and generous members for all you do for our church each year. We have so many worthwhile requests to spend our money on and yet you remember to honor your financial commitment each month as well. We in the financial end of the ministry thank you for that. In January we will have our year-end figures and be able to form a budget for the coming year. Once again thank you.

Judy Enders, Treasurer

Online Giving and Credit and Debit Card Processing

Family of Christ continues to offers online giving. 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.

☒ This secure transaction platform is administered by Vanco Payment Solutions, and is compliant with Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard requirements.

Thanks to each and every one that supports this congregation financially.

Here are a couple of requests on behalf of the volunteer counters who come in each week to count and record the contributions received on Sunday. **Many of us designate our offerings to multiple funds, the General Fund, Building Fund, Million Meals, and others. When you do this, it will help us a lot if you will write a separate check for each fund you contribute to, and indicate the fund on the check.** That makes it easier to record and reconcile deposit totals by fund and by individual envelope number. **Please keep in mind that the counters have no access to pledge information, so they can't refer to your pledge card to see how you intend for your gifts to be used.**

We are not distributing offering envelopes for 2018 with pre-printed numbers on them. Here's the reason. As more families have chosen to use online giving to make automated transfers from their bank accounts, fewer people are using envelopes, and we know a lot of them get thrown away. Envelopes cost a lot, so to reduce costs, we provided generic envelopes. **Therefore, it will be important that you write your envelope/giving number on your check or envelope so we can make sure you get proper credit for your gifts.** (If you don't know your number, call the church office.)

Lastly, please keep in mind the option to use Online Giving. This secure transaction platform is administered by Vanco Payment Solutions, and is compliant with Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard requirements. You can set up your own transactions online and change them or stop them as you wish. Nobody at FOC will be able to see your full bank account number. If you would like help stepping through the process, call the church office.

There are several clear benefits to this process. You need not write checks. Your funds transfer directly from bank to bank based on your instructions. There's nearly no chance for anyone to make a mistake in recording your contribution. And of course, it simplifies the administrative process for the church. Please don't get me wrong, we'll never complain about receiving checks. We appreciate them immensely! Just know that if you think automatic transfers might work for you, we'll be happy to show you how to get it done

Note From New Member Krista About Online Giving

"I was very happy to see that FOC has online giving when I recently joined the church. I like that I don't have to remember to write a check every week or month. I also like that I get airline miles by using my credit card. It's really a great convenience!"



Sunday school

(ages 4.5-12)



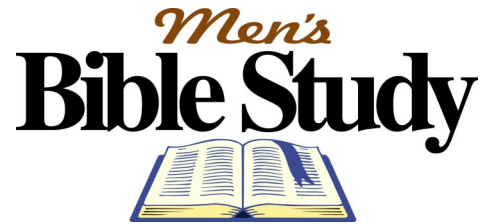
What a wonderful Christmas program that was put on by our youth last month! They did a terrific job reenacting the Christmas story with the Birth of Jesus. Thank you to Sandi Beems for coordinating the nice luncheon afterwards and to all of those who helped to make this special.

When we return back to our Sunday School ministries on January 7th, we will be focusing on how we respond to Jesus' love for us as we explore our relationship with Him. We will also be learning the story about 'The Good Samaritan,' and how we can be inspired to be good Samaritans to others. We'll follow this story with a skit that we hope to perform for the congregation on February 11th during a portion of the 11:00 worship.

As we enter into the New Year, we will continue to keep our goal of calling all of God's children into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and continue to nurture their faith and support each other as friends in Christ Jesus. Our teachers are ready and excited to teach each Sunday and we are blessed to have their love and devotion each week!

We welcome everyone and it's never too late to join us! We gather about 9:45 for a little fellowship & snacks and begin our lessons from 10:00-10:45 in classroom #1. Come & see what it's all about!!

Happy New Year and God's Peace and Love to all.....~Cheri Herzog, *Sunday School Coordinator*



WELCA Circles

The women's circles meetings are the first Thursday of each month at 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Each circle has a name: Mary Elizabeth for the afternoon circle and Phoebe for the evening group. In January, Mary Elizabeth circle will meet on the 4th, at 1:30 pm, at Sandra Farrell's home, which is handicap accessible. Phoebe circle will meet starting in February (2/1). They meet in the evening at 7 pm, at the home of Marilyn Wilken. Each meeting lasts about 1 1/2 to 2 hours with Bible study and fellowship on the agenda. The Bible studies are from the WELCA Gather magazine. For subscription information, call Traci at the church office. Every woman is invited to become a part of a WELCA circle - to grow in faith and to get to know other women in our congregation. Come and join us. It's fun, it's formative, it's inspiring and it's Christ filled! Questions? Call Marilyn Wilken (360) 718-7058 or Jeanne Downing (360) 573-5657

2nd & 4th Friday Men's Breakfast Bible Study

Gentlemen, if you are interested in a deepening faith while connecting with other guys around a good home cooked meal, have I got a deal for you! Come join our FOC Men's Breakfast every 2nd and 4th Friday at 8 a.m. in the Family room here at FOC.

There is plenty of room around the table, so come join us as we did deep into the Word! Using N.T. Wright's "The Revelation for everyone," conversations have been rich, as we're having a great time exploring the scariest book in the bible, *Revelation!* Would it surprise you to know *Revelation* is a book of hope? Even while it deals with the brokenness that challenges humanity, it promises hope in God's promises fulfilled through Jesus Christ. These texts are both ancient and amazingly relevant and timely. Join us on January 12th at 7:30 for good food, conversation and Chapter

A special thank you to Nancy Hilgendorf for those scrumptious breakfast!



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

The ELCA Hunger Appeal is our mission Partner January & February

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 the FOC and write "Hunger Appeal" on the memo line. A single check will be mailed from the congregation to the ELCA Hunger Appeal.

MISSION INVESTMENT FUND

A FINANCIAL MINISTRY OF THE ELCA

About MIF

When you invest with the Mission Investment Fund you help advance the ministry of our church, even as you save for your future. That's because we use the money you invest to fund building and renovation loans for ELCA congregations and ministries. Not only do your investments earn you a competitive rate of return, they replace sagging church roofs, expand Sunday school classrooms, and build brand new church buildings from the ground up. Plus, MIF is well capitalized and prudently managed.

Why borrow with us? MIF specializes in church building projects, so we understand the unique needs of congregations and ministries. We provide special expertise in church building and fundraising. We offer competitive rates and terms. But the most beautiful part of borrowing with MIF is knowing that the interest you pay on your loan helps fund the loans of other ELCA congregations, so that they can share God's love, too. Check them out at: www.mif.elca.org

Social Concerns Thanks You

Many thanks to all who volunteered to work at St. Andrew Winter Hospitality Overflow the first week of December for the family shelter and for all who donated food.

Every year more and more families with children and single moms with children access the shelter from November to March because of no place else to live. Your help guarantees them a warm, safe "home" for several months.

Thanks also to those who served at St. Paul Lutheran men's shelter the end of December. The 24 men are always so appreciative of your help.

Our biggest thank you goes to our whole congregation and our preschool staff and families for the outpouring of generosity in filling and delivering 103 Christmas turkey dinner boxes to needy families in Vancouver. 428 people were served by your kindness. Jeanne Downing, Cleo Norcia, Lorraine Gonzales, and Cecilia Shepard worked as our callers and spent many hours coordinating delivery of the boxes. Thank you ladies! Hoffman's brought tons of potatoes and extras for the boxes and Sandeen's coordinated the addresses for easier delivery.

Thank you again for this holiday tradition here at Family of Christ.

Another Social Concerns Opportunity

Did you know...every year our annual May rummage sale proceeds get distributed to several social service agencies both local and abroad? Your trash really can be a treasure for others!

Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 5th, for our annual sale and start setting aside your no longer needed items. (We don't take clothes though, sorry.) The New Year is a great time to clean out the clutter and free up your space.