



The Illuminate

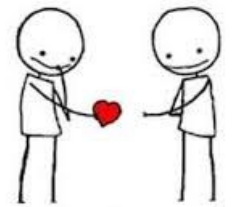
A publication of Family of Christ Lutheran Church

Pastor's Reflection

Greetings Family,

The Lenten season begins with ashen crosses upon our foreheads Wednesday, March 1st. 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. Most will be familiar, and at least one somewhat new. 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* similar to last year, but in a more intimate setting around a cross within the chancel area in the sanctuary. Reflections will take on some of the themes of Luther's Small Catechism in honor of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and the tradition of baptism as the central focus of Lent. To this we will add something new that came to be out of the ponderings of our Worship Ministry Team about how to bring renewal and deeper meaning to our Lenten journey. Their answer, was to invite us to be intentional about our spiritual practices. As we talked about what that would look like, the conversation turned to the need for more kindness in the world. And so, *Offerings of Kindness* and the Kindness Giving Tree came to be. (Learn more on page 3)



What will an *Offering of Kindness* look like? The possibilities are limitless. Use your imagination and make it fun. Just imagine, you are sitting in the line at the coffee shop drive thru and your mind is heavy with the day's tasks and worries. You pull up to the window to find your coffee has been purchased for you by the car ahead. Your day is suddenly brighter! You're a mom in the grocery store juggling fussy children, your hands are full, the kids are screaming and someone comes along side to help or distracts the kids with playfulness or offers a kind word. Life is better. You notice an elderly neighbor has not been out for a while, so you knock on the door. Maybe you plant some surprise flowers in a neighbor's empty flowerbed. Someone is grumpy, you decide to not take it personally and offer a hug and a smile. You get the idea. Simple acts of kindness really can change things.

It's been my experience when we are intentional, the thing we do has a more powerful impact. Intentional meanness cuts deeper than the unintended slight. Likewise, intentional kindness has the power to heal deep wounds. I have to admit, the things I regret most are neglected opportunities to bless, because I was busy, tired, or just self absorbed. But, the things I remember that still live in my heart are those moments when someone was intentionally kind and caring. They still pick me up when I am feeling down.

The journey begins with ashes on March 1st. Oh, but don't feel like you have to wait until then. It's never too soon to start a meaningful spiritual practice like intentional kindness!

Blessings,

Pastor Kit



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

Family Night During Lent Beginning March 8th

- * ♥Soup Supper with Sandwich Fixings, 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.
* 5:30 - 6:15 pm-Youth Ensemble, Let's Sing!
* 5:30 - 6:15 pm-Confirmation with Pastor Kit & Pam Ausman, then head to worship at 6:30 pm.
* Adult Bible Study/Book Group lead by Edie Dietzen will run from 5:30-6:15 so folks can join in worship.
* Lent Series-Prayer Around the Cross, 6:30 pm
* Chancel Choir Rehearsal ~ follows worship service

♥ Sign-up sheets are in the family room for our soup suppers. Sign-up to bring your favorite recipe to share.

March Birthdays

Table with 2 columns: Birthdate and Name. Includes: 2nd Andrew Ness, 16th Don Martin, 4th Kiera Caton, 16th Cassidy Leatherwood, 9th Eric Eisenbarth Jr., 21st Rick Ochsner, 9th Sue Endresen, 22nd Erik Ness, 10th Julia Born, 23rd Fred Smith, 11th Nick Breigenzer, 23th Dan Howe, 13th Bentley Boyle, 26th Jerre Crsip, 13th Bonnie Scogin, 27th Herb Steinmeyer, 15th Carolyn Ness.

March Anniversaries

- 2nd Tom & Sandie Sandeen
6th Harold & Debbie Broers
16th Linda Clark & Traci Rogers
16th Herb & Peg Steinmeyer



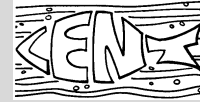
6:30 pm March 1st

Worship service with Imposition of Ashes

Wednesdays in March

Soup Supper & Sandwiches at 5:00 pm

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



Adult Christian Education

Sundays in March, 10 a.m., in the Library: 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 a deep faith, a 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 continues to share about his journey and how he has come to understand Jesus as his role model and mentor for life.

Adult Christian Education Offerings and Small Groups

- † 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 NEW TIME DURING LENT, 5:30-6:15 pm Bible & Book Group led by Edie Dietzen. This group continues to study the book of Matthew.



Sharing Gifts of Kindness

Many people give up things like chocolate or coffee for Lent each year, only to take them up again come Easter morning. One has to wonder if such practices have lasting spiritual value or make any real difference in the world. As we discussed this at a recent Worship Ministry Team meeting, we wondered if adding something in could be more meaningful than giving something up. Our Worship Ministry Team had a brilliant idea! ***Let's make intentional acts of kindness our spiritual practice and theme for Lent this year at Family of Christ!*** We are all invited to offer *Gifts of Kindness* as a new spiritual practice especially during Lent.

<p>My Gift of Kindness</p> <hr/> <hr/>
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To help us be intentional, each week you will receive two cards to record what you plan to do as your gift of kindness for that week. It might be a random act of kindness, like paying for a stranger's coffee. It might be volunteering at the Clark County Food Bank or down at Friends of the Carpenter. You might choose to make an extra effort closer to home, by doing something thoughtful for someone near and dear. The possibilities are endless.

One card is for you to keep as a reminder and the other is to hang on the beautiful giving tree that will be placed in the narthex. On Easter morning the cards from the tree will be placed in a basket in front of the altar in the sanctuary. Let's make this Lent truly meaningful and fill the world with kindness!

Klineline Kid's Fishing Event

This event is held on two days:

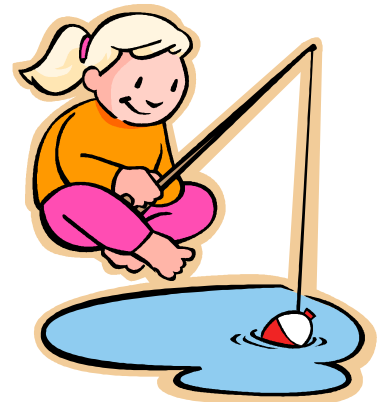
Friday, April 7, for Special Needs Kids and Adults

Saturday, April 8 kids ages 5--14 years old

Cost: \$5.00 per child

Child will receive a ZEBCO Rod & Reel and a T-Shirt

Pick up a registration form here at the church or sign up online
at: www.klineline-kf.org



Fishing sessions are assigned on a first-come, first served basis. Go to www.klineline-kf.org for information. Register by or before April 1, 2017. Sponsored by Klineline Kids Fishing Nonprofit & local businesses. Salmon Creek Regional Park/Klineline pond is located at 1112 NE 117th St. Vancouver, WA.

Registration forms must be received postmarked by April 1st.

“Get More Kids Outside and Fishing More Often”



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



We have another opportunity for FOC to do some hands on volunteer work at the Clark County Food bank on Tuesday, May 9th, mark your calendars, day and evening shifts will be available. When you attend, there will be a brief training and the shifts are 2 hours long. The task is re-packaging food. School-aged children are welcome to come with their parents. Wear closed toed shoes, no heels, and expect to stand a lot. Sign-up sheets will be posted in the family room in the coming weeks. Wear your God's Work, Our Hands" t shirt if you have one.

Social Concerns

Thank you to those individuals who filled the empty shifts at St. Paul for the WHO so the men had a warm, dry, and safe bed in February.

Please Mark Your Calendar--May Day Sale

It's time to think about cleaning closets for our annual rummage sale on Saturday, May 6th. More details on this exciting event in next month's Illuminate!!

Sanctuary: Safe Conversations of LGBT Issues

On Tuesday, March 21, Sanctuary will again explore the issues around Intersex people. This biological/medical condition is getting more societal attention and understanding. We all had a strongly positive response to this presentation a few months ago, and look forward to more of us being able to learn together. Everyone is welcome. Meet @ 7:30, in the Library.



Our million meals in-gathering for February totaled dollars \$746, and \$55 more was sent in memory of Lew-that provides 10,012 lbs of food. We also received \$10,233 from Lew Lardie's Estate for the Million Meals program. With these gifts, we **have now reached two million!** We've now provided 2,064,920 meals since Lew Lardie brought this program to FOC, he would be so proud! Thank you for your generous gifts that help feed the hungry in our community. Now, on to 3 million!

Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars now! Family of Christ Vacation Bible School is coming this summer! Many hands are needed for VBS. Please prayerfully consider helping. Committees will be forming in the coming months.





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



Faith Build

Family of Christ Lutheran Church,

We invite you and your congregation to be present at the creation. Evergreen Habitat for Humanity proposes an exciting new initiative and asks current and former supporters of our mission to help launch it.

Locally, Habitat regularly constructs a Women Build home, with women from various backgrounds and affiliations joining forces in fundraising and building. We propose a **Faith Build** with congregations uniting in the common cause of providing safe and affordable housing for deserving families.

With several homes underway in McKibbin Commons, we have a wonderful chance to collectively construct one of them. However, of the scores of faith communities in Clark County, yours is one of just a handful who have supported Habitat either individually or in a partnership.

We will host an **informational lunch session** for congregations on **Thursday, May 11 at 12:00 pm** at Columbia Presbyterian, with charismatic speaker and first-ever Habitat volunteer Clive Rainey as speaker.

Please prayerfully consider joining the pioneering effort to address one of our area's most pressing needs--affordable housing.

Letter sent from Bruce Armstrong, Board President

NOTE:

A few members have expressed an interest in this proposal. Is this something you'd like to experience? We need someone (or two) to attend the lunch session and come back with more details. Please email the office or talk with Pastor Kit if you'd like to get involved.

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!

Sunday Night Trunk Dinners

Every Sunday Dave Slocum and Judy Enders 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 please let Judy know when you place something in the freezer to share. Thank you to everyone that has been participating in this throughout this past year or longer, this truly is a loving, giving, KIND congregation.

HOLY YOGA

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, (there are some to borrow too) and wear comfortable clothes.



Drop in and check it out at anytime throughout the year.



Preschool

Happy March!

We had our Preschool Open House on Saturday Feb. 11th and were very pleased with the turnout. Registration for the 2017-2018 school year starts March 1st for new families. If you know of any families wanting to enroll their child/ or children please have them call us at 360-546-0731 to set up a tour.

During the Month of February the children learned about Community Helpers. They had the opportunity to listen to a Police officer & Dentist. Miss Jackie & Miss Julie's Am 4's class walked down to the mailbox to mail letters and the Postal Truck just happened to be there picking up mail. They learned about mailing letters, who picks them up, and how they get delivered. The Children also went to the Felida Fire station to see the Fire Trucks, the station, and learn about Firemen's duties. What a great learning experience they had.

Lovin' Sunday School



We've finished our lessons on Fruits of the Spirit and we are amazed at how much the kids can mention all nine of the Fruits of the Spirit and explain what each of them means! We performed a short narrative on the Fruits of the Spirit on February 26th for the Congregation.

Our next and last lesson will be "Palm Sunday to Easter" and we'll perform a short skit on Palm Sunday. This lesson will carry us through April 23 with our final class on May 7th.

We look forward each Sunday to teaching your kids the various stories from the Bible and we have a lot of fun learning through the arts, creative dramas, science, cooking, and games. It's not too late to join us! We meet in Classrooms #5 & #6 at 9:45 for fellowship and begin our lessons at 10:00! We hope to see you then!





Quilters Ministry -- Wednesday, March 1st

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

Moved this year from May to August, mark your calendars for, Saturday the 12th. More to follow.

Ladies Luncheon

WELCA Circles - Thursday, March 2nd

Meetings are the first Thursday of each month at 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. 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. All women are welcome to attend. 1:30 pm is at Sandra Farrell's, 13108 NW 11th Pl. #B, *handicap accessible*. 7 pm is at Marilyn Wilken's, 3106 NE 169th Way, Ridgefield.

Prayer Breakfast Food & Fellowship

→Now Meeting at a New Location←

Come share in community, good food, and a time of prayer at the **Deli inside of Chuck's Produce**, on the corner of 119th and Hwy 99, every 1st and 3rd Monday at 8:30 a.m. Drop in anytime. All are welcome.

Social Concerns March Collection is

March Requested Item: Cooking Oil



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.

March Senior Lunch Bunch

Thursday, March 16

Gather at 11:30 a.m.



McGrath's Fish House Restaurant

12501 SE Second Circle, East of I-205 on Mill Plain

(across from Kaiser)

Please sign up in the family room if you plan to attend

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!



All Church Work Day

Saturday, April 1st (changed from the 8th)

Come help us spruce up inside and out in preparation for Holy

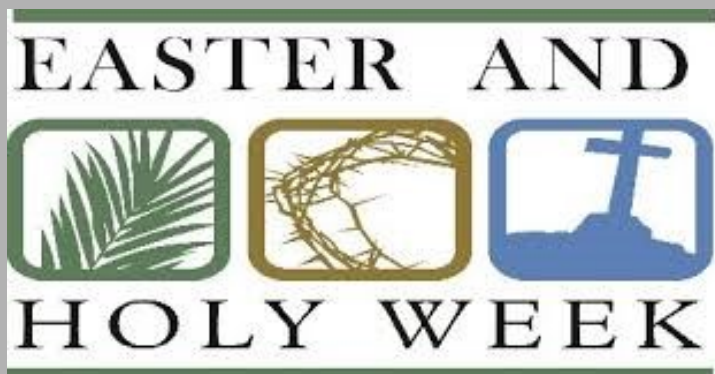


Week and Easter Sunday. Gather at 9 am. Bring your gloves and tools. Coffee and donuts provided.



Looking ahead.....

Holy Week Worship Schedule



Palm Sunday, April 9th

8:30 a.m. Worship

11:00 a.m. Worship --Sunday School Skit

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

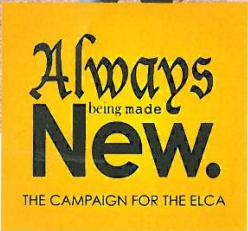
6:30 p.m. Worship

Easter Sunday, April 16th

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast

11 a.m. Easter Sunday



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN LEADERS

Since the beginning of the ELCA, more than 900 individuals have received scholarship support to complete their studies at colleges, universities and seminaries in the United States and around the world through the International Leaders program. As of 2013, less than 30 percent of these recipients were women, a product of a disproportionate number of female applicants and nominees from our global companions.

Launched in 2014, the International Women Leaders initiative, a priority of *The Campaign for the ELCA*, grows out of this well-established program as a way to intensify our efforts to provide opportunities specifically for women from our global companion churches. With a goal of \$4 million, the initiative seeks to provide education and training opportunities for more than 200 women by Jan. 31, 2019.

Already, nearly 100 international women have participated in the program through training, networking and educational opportunities, including special seminars in Wittenberg, Germany. What's more, the 2016-2017 academic year marks the first time in ELCA history that more than 50 percent of International Leaders scholarship recipients are women.

While we have made great strides, together, we can do more. Through the campaign, all of us can step forward in our commitment to gender justice and intensify our efforts to provide educational opportunities for women from around the world. After their studies, the graduates will return to their home countries ready to assume important leadership roles in church and society — from becoming a bishop to winning the Nobel Peace Prize.

International Women's Day is March 8th

Learn more at:

www.internationalwomensday.com



Concordia University's Department of Music Presents the

Spring Concert Series



Instrumental Chamber Ensemble Concert
Friday, March 10, 2017 at 7:00 pm at
Concordia University's Fine Arts Building
Featuring the Concordia University's
Bells of Concordia, Brass Ensemble,
and String Ensemble
Directed by Dr. William Kuhn,
Zeke Fetrow, and Casey Bozell

Choral Ensembles Presentation / Lenten Service
Sunday, March 12, 2017 at 3:00 pm at
St. Michael's Lutheran Church
Featuring the Concordia University
Choral Ensembles
Directed by Kurt Berentsen

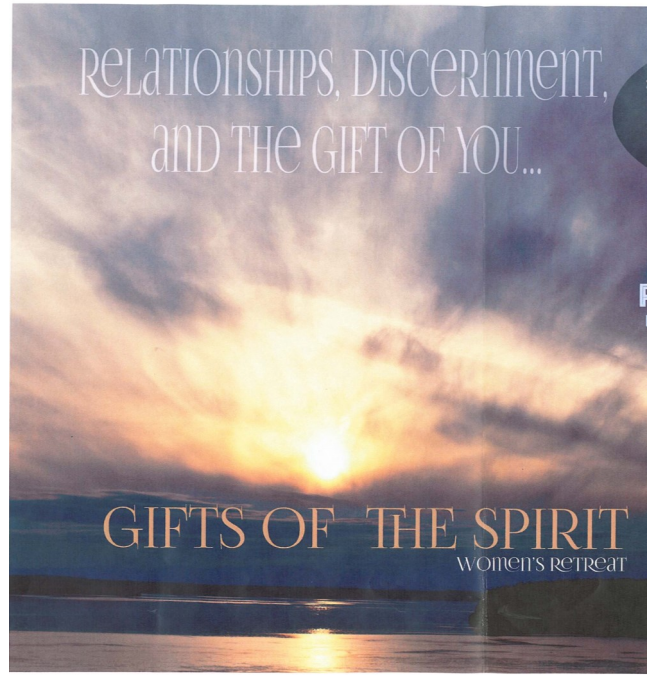
Wind Ensemble Concert
Sunday, March 19, 2017 at 3 pm at
Concordia University's Fine Arts Building
Directed by Dr. William Kuhn

Annual Spring Concert
Sunday, April 23, 2017 at 3:00 pm at St. Michael's Lutheran Church
Featuring all performing ensembles of Concordia University
Directed by Dr. William Kuhn, Kurt Berentsen,
Zeke Fetrow, and Casey Bozell

For more information please visit www.cu-portland.edu/music or call 503-280-8687.
Admission is free. A free-will offering will be received.



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY
PORTLAND • OREGON



There are still openings available. Registration forms are posted in the hallway across from the Family Room, or email the office to request one.

Office@
foclutheranchurch.org

SW WASHINGTON WELCA RETREAT
MAY 19-21, 2017
DUMAS BAY CENTRE,
FEDERAL WAY, WA

 SW WA WELCA

REGISTER EARLY
FOR AN EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT!!
(SEE REGISTRATION FORM FOR DETAILS)



GUEST SPEAKER:
PASTOR MELANIE WALLSCHLAEGER

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 guide us.