



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

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for there is the kingdom of heaven...
Matthew 5

The crisp air and colors of autumn are slowly slipping into the chill of the winter months here in the Pacific North West. We are blessed to get to live in an area where the beauty and splendor of God's creation are so vibrant, and the passing of time so beautifully punctuated by the changing of seasons. There is a gentle and determined rhythm to the change. If you have the leisure to enjoy it, the slow regular changing of the seasons is down right comforting. However, for those who are out in the cold these changes are anything but comforting. The challenges of poverty, lack of affordable housing, and hunger seem somehow more profound when the weather turns cold. For those left outside, survival becomes about finding a warm safe corner. That's why the ministry of the WHO (Winter Hospitality Overflow) is so very important. It

provides safety and warmth—a place out of the cold.

People of God, during these months I am continuously and especially reminded of the depth of heart of all of the family at Family of Christ. You inspire me. I'm encouraged by the partnership we share with other



faith communities that have joined together to make providing that safe warm place their mission. Yes, WHO is only temporary, and it is true that it is not the solution to the larger problem, but on a cold bitter night, it is life.

At Family we have been blessed in many ways and we know blessings are meant to be shared. In our Vision Statement we use the words; *Connecting the scriptures, Serving*

and Caring, Building, Transforming, and Moving purposefully to guide us in seeking the ways we can live that love out together. We understand ourselves as called, gathered and sent by Jesus into the world to embody a certain kind of love—the love of God that leaves no one behind.

Love and a fervent faith that Jesus can take what we do and use it to heal and bring life is all the reason we need to get out there, to do what we do. So, this winter we will staff the WHO, fill 100 holiday food boxes, and provide Christmas to 100 children in need. That's why we've made dignity bags for foster children a mission. That's why we volunteer at Friends of the Carpenter, and help provide food for Dave and Judy to take out in the back of a truck into the homeless camps.

Thank you good and faithful servants of God. Through Christ Jesus our Lord, let the People of God say, Amen.



What is Imagine?

The *Imagine renewal* covenant we entered into last December is a process and a spiritual journey that we take together. We committed ourselves to engage in intentional prayer, bible study, reflection, and conversation around our call as a congregation and the ministry we share, centered on the question, “*What is God calling us to now?*”

Writing a **Vision Statement** is usually part of the process, but we were ahead on that one—we will be making even greater use of our Vision Statement in the months to come.

There is behind the scenes work like ensuring our financial house is in order, and looking at our outreach to the community via social and online media and printed materials and ensuring that our ministries and programs truly reflect our mission and vision statements. I can tell you that work is ongoing.

Acts devotions invite us into reflection with the earliest Christians, to learn from them as we ask, “What is God calling us to now?” Of course, that means we also need to be listening to the Spirit and talking about it!

What's Next?

On November 3rd, our Imagine Team will attend the 4th training workshop. Listening plays a big role in Imagine. Our pastor, council, and Imagine team want to hear from you. Please share your thoughts, dreams and ideas. In the spring, we will do a congregation vitality survey to see how we as a congregation feel we are doing.

How can you be a part of Imagine? It's easy!

- **Pray** for: our brothers and sisters here at FOC, ask the Holy Spirit to fill us with passion for the gospel and the ministry we share. Pray for God to grow God's Church here and throughout the world.
- **Participate** in the worship and life of the congregation. We need each other! Hebrews 10:25 urges us to “not neglect to meet together.” The earliest Christians relied on the strength found in a community that gathers, and from there they changed the world. That's still how it works!
- **Listen and share.** Making a sacred space to listen to the stories of others and to share our faith/life stories has amazing power to bless! Oh I know that one is hard. Our culture has trained us out of faith conversations. Truth is, that's not a good thing on many levels. Creating space where folks can share and be listened to honors their humanity. Sharing our stories can inspire others and help us dig deeper too, so don't be shy. It's a win win!
- **Invite** your neighbors, friends and family. There are many reasons a person will enter a church building. Some are seeking help or a place to find comfort, others a community of mutual values and belief, and still others may simply be lonely. More often than not, folks come because they were invited. It's always ok to invite. We have wonderful introductory materials to help you share about FOC.
- **Support** the ministry we share with your presence, time, talents and treasure as you are able.

What ever we do in word or in deed, let us do everything in the name of Jesus Christ, and let our holy imaginations roll with the Holy Spirit's fire.

Let's Go Church!



November Social Concerns

Donate Canned Fruit

Because **Neighbors Helping Neighbors** is located in Ridgefield, it really does help our neighbors. Place your donation in the basket by the sanctuary door. Thank you!



Million Meals

Loose change can make a difference.

We're at 2,158,694 meals & counting!

Donate online to Million Meals anytime at:
www.foclutheranchurch.org



Commitment Sunday Nov. 12th

As we prepare for 2018 everyone is invited to share in their estimate of giving by placing your commitment cards on the alter Sunday Nov. 12th or, if you prefer to, drop them in the offering plate anytime.



Commitment Sunday

November Family Nights

Congregational Life Wednesday Family Night Dinners continue on the 1st, 8th and 15th in November.

Sanctuary: Safe Conversations on LGBTQ Issues

Our next gathering will take place on Tuesday, November 21st at 7:30 pm. We'll meet in the library.

The theme will be announced in the upcoming bulletins. We will take a break from meeting in December. We'll gather together again after the holidays on January 16th.

November Birthdays

Kylie Terry 1st	Lorraine Gonazalz 13th
Janet Lundberg 2nd	Ashley Jones 13th
Malinda LeFave 3rd	Breanna Jones 13th
Alysia Neeley 8th	Blake Leatherwood 13th
Sandra Sandeen 8th	Fred Frimberger 14th
Grace Alexander 10th	Geoffrey Hastings 19th
Mathew Hastings 10th	Bev B.Wagner 25th
AJ Rossiter 11th	Al Doud 26
Beth Lowery 11th	Sara Osborn 27th
Kim Lowery 11th	Lily Nollette 30th
AJ Rossiter 11th	

November Anniversaries

AL & Pat Doud 20th
 Jim & Carol Collell 21st
 Larry & Malinda LeFave 24th
 Don & Barbara Martin 25th
 Neal & May May Adolf 28th
 Dan & Alysia Neeley 28th

November 16th

Our next Senior Lunch Bunch Will be Thursday, November 16th, at 11:30 a.m. Meet at Billygan's Roadhouse, 13200 NE Hwy 99. Sign up in family room if you plan to attend.

Turkeys! Watch the November Sales



It's Turkey sales time! Start Watching the ads this month and get Turkeys on sale for our Christmas food boxes in December! Bring them to our big freezers at church.

November 22



6:30pm Worship Service

Join us for worship at 6:30 pm and stay for the pie social after worship. The sign-up sheet to bring pies is in the Family Room.



December Social Concerns



Item requested: Bar Soap
Because **Neighbors Helping Neighbors** is located in Ridgefield, it really does help our neighbors. Please place your donation in the marked basket by the sanctuary door. Thank you for your support.

December 10



During the 11 am service the Sunday School kids will share the Christmas story through their eyes.

December 16th & 17th



Christmas Boxes

Pack & Deliver

We'll meet in our Family Room to assemble the Christmas boxes on Saturday, Dec. 16th starting at 9 a.m.. On Sunday, Dec. 17th after 2nd service we will deliver them to the families. Please sign up in the family room if you can deliver. *See the details on page 6*

December 16

The Longest Night

A special service for those for whom the holidays are especially tender times.



Saturday, December 16th at 3:00pm

December 24



Candlelight Christmas Eve Services

- 6 pm
- 8 pm
- 10 pm

December 6, 13 & 20



Advent Soup Suppers and Worship Services

During Advent, our Wednesday Family Nights @ Family will continue with soup suppers from **5:00pm to 6:15pm** followed by "Holden Evening Prayer ~ The Angels Speak" at **6:30pm**.

December Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1st Jerry Swan | 15th Eric Evans |
| 2nd Josh Wuethrich | 16th Trevor Bloom |
| 3rd Natalie Hastings | 16th Diedrich Eisenbarth |
| 6th John Bearham | 16th Alex Terry |
| 7th Malena Groel | 17th Sabrina Eisenbarth |
| 7th Allan Herzog | 17th Chuck Roll |
| 7th Bobbie Lardie | 18th Thom Brannon |
| 7th Marilyn Wilken | 19th Chris Herzog |
| 10th Lana Hobson | 22nd Elizabeth Beck |
| 12th Judy Enders | 25th Harold Broers |
| 12th Jackie Ochsner | 27th Stephen Herzog |
| 14th Jeff Collell | 27th Gail Sieckman |
| 14th Dale Wilken | 28th Erin Marble |

December Anniversaries

- 1st Ian & Teare Caton
- 6th Chris & Cheri Herzog
- 10th David & Laura Holmquist
- 23rd Dave Slocum & Judy Enders
- 28th Dan & Ann Corlett

Christmas Day

A Christmas Day worship service will be held here at 10 a.m.



Due to it being so close to Christmas, we will not be having a December lunch bunch this year.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT IS

“FAMILY NIGHT @ FAMILY OF CHRIST

Take a deep breath, enjoy a night out among friends, and leave the cooking to us! Folks that can, pitch in and help with clean up. Dinner will be served from 5:00 until 6:30 pm. **The cost is \$4 per person, no family pays more than \$13.** (No one is left out, so if cost is a factor, please talk to Pastor Kit). After dinner, join in on one of the scheduled activities. There will be:

- * *Little Christians* for children PreK-5th grade join together for lots of fun ~ 6:00-7:00 pm.
- * Confirmation with Pastor Kit & Pam Ausman.~ 6:00-7:00 pm. 5:45-6:15 Dec 6, 13, & 20th
- * *Chancel Choir Rehearsal* ~ 6:30-8:00 pm.
- * *Board/card/dice games* will be available for those that wish to focus on fellowship.
- * *Soup Suppers and Holden Evening Prayer* Begin December 6, 13, & 20.

Think you might like to give cooking Wednesday night a try? Talk with Sandi Beems to sign up. It’s easy and we’ll give you all the support you need. “Many hands make the task small,” is an old saying that is so true. We’re also asking for folks to sign up or just jump in to help with cleanup! If you have never joined us for Wednesday Family night, come check it out. You’ll be glad you did!



Remember to turn your clocks back one hour before you go to bed Saturday November 4th

Adult Christian Education

Growing in faith and deepening our spiritual journey begins with the first language of faith, the Holy Scriptures. For many folks, just reading the bible isn’t enough, and can be a bit intimidating. Exploring the scriptures in fellowship with others on the journey helps. There are several Adult Christian Education options for you to choose from.

Sunday Morning @ 10 am meet in the library as we continue our discussion of the book “By Heart”, conversations with Luther’s Small Catechism. Folks are really enjoying this well written book and lively discussion. Come join us anytime.

Monday Night @ 7:00 – Bible Study at the home of Jerre & Sharon Crisp walks us through both Old Testament and New, connecting the sacred texts to daily life.

Tuesday 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. We won’t stop at just the words themselves. We will dig into culture, history, context and lots more and we wrestle with the Word—and who knows, we might even help Pastor with her sermon! Join us, we have great time.

Wednesday 1:00 P.M. – Small Group Ladies Bible Study @ Donna Lucky’s

Men’s Friday Breakfast Bible Study will meet every 2nd and 4th Friday at 8:00 A.M. Pastor Kit and Nancy Hilgendorf will be cooking a scrumptious breakfast! The goal is to make space to foster strong relationships and conversations that focus on the men’s interests, issues and the unique journeys of men in today’s world. This is a great time to connect men of all ages as they walk together growing in faith and in life.

We are currently studying the mysterious often misunderstood book of Revelation. Come join us.



Wednesday Evenings During Advent

Holden Evening Prayer

An Angel Sent from God

With the quiet darkness of winter settling in all around us we are invited this Advent Season to take 40 minutes or so each Wednesday night beginning December 6th. We will gather for the beautiful musical liturgy of Holden Evening Prayer and short vignettes that will allow us to imagine the words of angels sent by God to comfort and encourage the likes of Zachariah the doubtful, father of John the Baptist who would prepare the way for Jesus; Mary the young maid chosen by God to be the mother of a savior; Joseph a simple carpenter expected to raise a king; and the shepherds who have longed for years for the world to change in their favor. Join for Advent soup suppers at 5-6:15 pm and then Holden Evening Prayer ~ An Angel Sent From God at 6:30 pm.

Mark Your Calendar

Advent Festival

During Family Night

Wednesday, November 29th

Sing-a-long, crafts and fellowship. Wear your favorite ugly Christmas Sweaters or attire.

In our Family room from 5:30-6:15 pm.



Women's Small Groups

Wednesday 1:00 P.M. – Ladies Small Group Bible Study @ Donna Lucky's joins together for prayer and bible study.

Single Women's small group meets for fellowship, laughter and activities on the **4th Thursday** of most months. However, in November we will be meeting at an alternate time due to the holidays. We won't have a meeting in December this year. Watch your bulletins and emails for specifics.

WELCA Circles bring women together once per month for bible study using *Gather Magazine*, fellowship, and sharing. Each group picks a special way to serve and bless according to their interests and gifts. WELCA circles gather on the first Thursday of the month. The next meeting, November 2nd 1 p.m., Mary Elizabeth Circle gathers at Sandra Farrell's, and 7 p.m., Phoebe Circle gathers at Marilyn Wilken's. (addresses in church directory or call the office)



Coming in November

"Giving Tree"



The Giving Tree will be put up soon with gift tags that have suggestions and ages of recipients. These gifts will be distributed to families in need through "Neighbors Helping Neighbors." Suggested gift total is *around* \$30-35.

If you choose to participate in our Giving Tree program, please take a tag off the giving tree (you may take more than one) and **return** it/them attached to **the unwrapped gift(s) no later than Thursday, Dec. 7th.**

More details and instructions on how to participate will be posted when the tree is up.

Have you signed up for Online Giving?

Electronic Giving is a convenient way to automate your offering. It's a great way to practice first fruits giving and to stay on track with your support of our shared ministry.

Collection basket offerings fluctuate significantly from week to week, but when contributions are automated, the church receives the funds it needs to operate on a steady, uninterrupted basis. Once you sign-up, you can edit or cancel at anytime.

It is easy to get started! Sign-up on our website; or contact our Financial Secretary, Eric Evans. finsecretary@foclutheranchurch.org



Shopping for a Christmas tree? Boy Scout Troop 479 chartered by Family of Christ Lutheran church will be selling Christmas trees at Filbin's Ace Hardware located at 809 NE Minnehaha St. from Dec. 2-17th. This is a great way to help support our Scouts! Thank You!

Come & join us on December 10th as we tell the Christmas Story through the eyes of our children. This takes place during a portion of the 11:00 worship. There will be a nice luncheon afterwards to celebrate the kids and all who helped put this together!



We wish you all a wonderful Christmas filled with much love & peace.



News from the Preschool~

October was a very busy month for us!

We would like to say "Thank You" to everyone that donated to the annual trike/trek a thon this year, we really appreciate your donations. We need to replace one of the outdoor climbers, so the money raised will be going towards the purchase of a new one.

Our field trip to Bizi-Farms was fun; it was muddy but dry so we had the best of both worlds being able to stomp in the mud puddles, enjoy a hayride, and pick out our pumpkins.

November 15th we will be celebrating with our 4 yr. old classrooms our Annual Pumpkin Pie/ Popcorn Feast with their one special guest of choice.

December 9th will be our Santa Breakfast from 9:00-11:00. We will enjoy pancakes, sausage & fruit, do crafts, and get pictures with Santa. We are also looking forward to participating in the Giving Tree and Holiday Baskets this year.

On December 13th & 14th will be having our Annual Christmas Program for the classrooms. Holiday Break will start on December 15th.

We hope all of you have a Wonderful, Healthy, and Safe Holiday.



Turkey Time is Almost Here

One of our traditions at Family is gathering turkeys and all the trimmings for a Christmas dinner for needy families.



We begin by getting names of families from 4 local schools. Next, we ask our congregation to watch for specials on turkeys, usually a week or two before Thanksgiving. When you have your bird, bring it to church and sign the sheet on top of our freezer in the Family Room. That way we have an inventory of turkeys since our goal is 100, 25 per school.

Our shelves go up in the Family Room early in November so you can see what goes into the dinner box. We ask that you stay within our suggestions so all boxes are uniform in content.

On Saturday, December 16 at 9 a.m. anyone who wants to pack the dinner boxes should meet at the Family Room. Then on Sunday, the 17th after second service, we will meet to divide up and deliver the turkeys and dinner boxes. This is a wonderful holiday activity, one that we hope will become a tradition for your family.

Thank you for your generosity.

Judy Enders, Social Justice Concerns Ministry

To learn more, please come to our meeting in the Family room at 6 pm Wednesday, Nov. 1st

Questions: Judy Enders 573-5120

Social Justice Concerns Meeting

It's time to plan! Come to our **Social Concerns meeting on Wednesday, November 1st at 6 pm.** We'll discuss our Christmas food box program and ways everyone can help. Everyone is welcome to attend, we'd love to see more folks get involved.

WHO St. Andrew

The Winter Hospitality Overflow or WHO is opening November 1 at St. Andrew and St. Paul Lutheran churches.

This is the 15th year of operation and once again, I'm asking for your help volunteering at these wonderful places.

We will partner again with All Saints Episcopal and Bethel Lutheran so that means we have only a few shifts to fill for Family of Christ.

Our dates at St. Andrew family shelter will be Friday morning, Dec.1 through Sunday morning, December 3. That's only 7 shifts and only 2 overnights.

There are many families with children able to stay warm and safe because of your generosity in helping take care of them.

The sign-up sheet is on the wall next to the kitchen door in the hall. Be sure to check your calendar and sign up early to get your favorite spot. You'll get a reminder call the days before your shift. We'll also need food for our shifts so a sign-up sheet will go up for that also.



Quick Facts

- St. Andrew has a bed capacity of 50 for single women, couples and families.
- St. Paul has a bed capacity of 24 for single men.
- Each WHO shelter is staffed with professional Share case managers who help guests work toward self-sufficiency.
- More than 50 faith congregations and community organizations have donated time and talent to ensure each WHO site is open for five full months!

The Advent Soup Suppers are fast approaching!



Join us for Advent Wednesday Soup Suppers are on Wednesday's and Dec. 6th, 13th, and 20th. During Advent, our Family Night cooks will be turning the kitchen over to the congregation for our annual Potluck Soup Suppers with sandwich fixings. Please bring a pot of your favorite soup to share. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the Family Room.

During Advent our normal Family Night activities will continue in a somewhat abbreviated form to allow for us to share in the Holden Evening Worship.

WHO St. Paul Men's Shelter

We'll have a really easy shift at St. Paul for the men's shelter this year. We will partner with All Saints and Bethel again and have only Saturday evening Dec.30, overnight, and Sunday morning, Dec. 31 to fill.

The sign-up sheet will go up as soon as we finish our duties at St. Andrew family shelter so nobody gets confused. If you want your favorite spot, call me early and I'll sign you up or I'll be calling to harass you!

St. Paul is a very easy place to work as the men do all the work and are so happy to have us there. Please consider helping. You'll be happy you did.

Share the Holidays with

"Family"

Thanksgiving Eve. Worship
Wednesday Nov. 22nd, 6:30 pm
Pie-fest follows worship

Advent Mid-Week Services
Holden Evening Prayer
Wednesdays Dec. 6th, 13th, and 20th
6:30 pm

The Longest Night
A Service of light in shadows of darkness
Saturday Dec. 16th, 3 pm

Christmas Eve Candle Light Services
6 pm Family Focus
8 pm Bell Choirs
10 pm Chancel Choir

Christmas Day, 10 am

Family of Christ Lutheran Church
3500 NW 129th St.
Vancouver, WA 98685
360.573.5031



Please pass this along to your family, neighbors and friends!