



## Family of Christ Lutheran Church

# FOCUS

*Touching lives with the love of Christ.*

Volume 14, Issue 1  
January, 2019

**Saturday Service Location:**  
**Holy Cross Lutheran Church**  
2703 9<sup>th</sup> Ave NW  
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## Unfrozen

On average January is the coldest month of the year in Rochester with the lowest average highs and the lowest average lows. This may vary from day to day or from week to week, but on average January is the best month to curl up with a good book by the fire while everything else around you is frozen. This month we are going to talk about how everything on the outside might be frozen, but we want our hearts to be unfrozen. Ezekiel 36:26 says “And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.” Our pipes might be frozen, our cars might be frozen, and our hands might be frozen, but God wants our hearts to be unfrozen.

God wants our hearts to be open to him, his plans, and his purposes. God wants our hearts to be unfrozen so that we can have a heart that is sensitive to his leading and responsive to his correction. God wants our hearts to be tender toward him and his word. God desires that we like David are a people after his own heart. We are to have hearts that hate what he hates and love what he loves and hearts that will follow him no matter what the cost.

In the movie Frozen, Elsa the snow queen sings a song called “Let It Go”. In the scene of this song Elsa realizes that she no longer needs to hide her abilities or differences from others that have hindered her since childhood. She rejoices in being able to put her past behind her and “Let It Go” as she embraces her new life. In some ways we will explore this theme throughout the month of January as we learn how to have hearts that are unfrozen toward God and let go of past hurts and hindrances that have held us down and kept us from God’s best for our lives. As Elsa learned, we need to learn to let it

go and let God in order to put our past hurts and hindrances behind us so that we can be everything that God intends us to be.

I'm sure as a kid you played the hot and cold game. The colder you got the further you were away from something and the hotter you got the closer you got to something. My prayer is that this winter with me, you will allow your heart to get closer and closer to God so that no matter how cold it may get outside that your heart will remain toasty warm by the fire of God's love.

*Pastor Jeff*

## **Outreach Funds**

At Family of Christ, we are supporting monthly outreach events. Many of these require some form of funding. As such, we do have a Designated Outreach Fund in Savings set up that members may contribute to at any time in support of upcoming or future outreach events. Gifts to the fund may just be marked for "Outreach".

## **Treasurer's Report – November 2018**

November Income: \$15,353.12 (exc district support)

MN South District Support: \$4,166.00 (September & October Subsidy)

November Expenses: \$15,368.90

Net: \$4,150.22

Checks being held as of Dec 4: None

January-November Income: \$178,637.08

January- November Expenses: \$170,670.64

Net year to date: \$7,966.44

YTD Budget: \$175,822.45

## **January Birthday's & Anniversaries**

None Recorded

**Note: If we have missed a Birthday or Anniversary, our apologizes. I believe our list is getting plenty old and outdated. Please email any additions to [tim.block@charter.net](mailto:tim.block@charter.net). Thank you.**

## **RCLS 2019 Welcome Events**

***January 15, Open House 5:30-7 PM***

A K-8 Info Session will begin at 5:45. Students age 3-grade 2 are invited to a story time. Preschool - Grade 8 tours are ongoing throughout the night. Tour the campus, meet teachers, talk with current parents, and find your child's place at RCLS. Registration is encouraged, but not required.

### ***February 12, Kindergarten Preview 8-9:15 AM***

Kindergarten students and parents are invited to experience an RCLS kindergarten morning. Parents are invited to observe morning meeting then join school administrators in a short Q & A session and a campus tour. Open to 2019-20 enrolled AND prospective kindergarten students. Registration is required.

### ***March 1, Shadow Day 8:00-10:30 AM***

Prospective students, grades 3-8, are invited to “shadow” a same-age peer for the morning. Students will experience part of an RCLS school day by engaging with students and teachers and participating in classroom activities. Registration is required.

### ***March 19, Open House 5:30-7 PM***

#### ***Preview Thursdays, 9-11, Jan-Feb when school is in session.***

Prospective families are welcome to stop in at their convenience for a brief consultation and tour. No appointment necessary.

We also welcome families to schedule a private tour and consultation.

## **FOC Meeting Schedule – January**

- Council Mtg – RCLS Jan 14<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm
  - Congregational input welcome. Request time by communicating with w/ Mark Halbakken by 1/13 for agenda planning purposes.

## **Family of Christ Council Meeting Minutes Dec 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

(Pre-Approval)

- Attendees: Mark, Pastor, Rick, Barb, Natalie, Tim
- Called to order @ 6:00PM
- Prayer/Opening Devotion: Natalie – *The Last Straw* ... Book story of a Family with 3 children and the building of a manger w/ soft bed for Jesus. Doing something kind for someone this Christmas season even if not high on your friendship list.
- Congregational Input: None
  - Suggested to announce opportunity for input at previous week’s Church Service
- Approved Nov 12th Council Mtg Minutes
- Reports
  - Treasurer's Report

- Checking balance \$54,962.47
- Accountant fees for 2019 will go from \$150 to \$200/month
- Checks being held as of 12/04: none
- Pastor's Report
  - Alpha Program completed 12/02
  - Discipleship course of some form 6-8 weeks to start early 2019
    - Associated workbook cost – perhaps cover w/ Thivent funds
  - 125 meals served at UMR outreach on Saturday 12/01
  - Advent dinner – FOC nite is 12/19 (potluck via sign up genie)
  - Christmas at Mayo
    - More caroling books ordered
    - Mark Mathias will accompany with piano
  - Brighter Tomorrow gifts delivered today 12/04
  - District Meeting Tuesday 12/18
    - HC Executive Council, FOC Council, Paid Staff, District Reps
  - Snow Plow fees re: 12/01 snow
    - Contracted Service charge per trip to clean \$1000 (unconfirmed) but covered under our contract relationship with HC (i.e., no fee to FOC at this point)
      - We'll do our part to minimize need for these service trips by the contracted service – e.g., patience if small amounts not shoveled in lot and we do sidewalks or ...
  - Preview of FOC Congregational Meeting re: relationship with HC
  - February outreach – Valentine Marriage Conference (different material than 2018)
- Update on Elders
  - Elders met in Nov and finished study series – new series study to start in January
  - Suggested topic from Council: what is the role of Elders as seen by District and Synod for future roles & responsibilities
- Old Business
  - Update on Welcome Wagon "gifts" to new neighborhood families
    - Oh hold until Jan but Thivent funds have been requested

- Holy Cross "Facilities Use Agreement" (snow removal costs covered above)
- New Business
  - Reviewed 2019 proposed budget (included updated 2019 RCLS support numbers)
  - Thrivent Team Action support for any Christmas event/s planned (Tim - Approved)
  - UMR lunch event (Dec 1st) – complete, see above
  - Dr Utech & Woodford mtg with FOC & HC personnel on Dec 18<sup>th</sup> – discussed under Pastor input
  - 2019 National LCMS Convention voter certification
    - FOC to certify a lay member for upcoming National Convention
  - January outreach event
    - HC/FOC Staff - 21 day of prayer & fasting
    - 1<sup>st</sup> month of the year dedicated to the Lord then move to outreach activities for each month
  - Christ Lutheran Church recent member transfers - none to FOC
- Future meeting dates
  - Next Council meeting Jan 14th, 2019
- Adjourned 7:30PM

### **FOC Voters' Meeting Dec 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

- Meeting called to order by President Mark H 6:51pm
- Opening prayer by Pastor Jeff
- Welcome to any new voting members (Rachael Jerabek)
- Thank you's to Rick E for Budget work and Jeanne B for Agenda/Budget publication work
- Election of Officers
  1. Call for nominations from floor
    1. None – Nominations closed (current serving members agreed to stay on ballot)
    2. Ballot accepted unanimously by voice vote
  2. Offices up for election (2 year terms ending Feb 2019)
    1. President – Mark Halbakken
    2. Secretary – Tim Block
    3. Elder – Rob Olander
- Budget presentation by Mark H
  1. Mark presented changes to 2019 budget from 2018 budget
    1. Cong support remains at \$160,800
    2. Facilities rent & trailer storage reduction reduced to 9 mo
    3. Pastor salary increase 3% based on LCMS guidelines
    4. Pastor tuition benefit increase
    5. RCLS discount and support reductions

6. Youth support increase for National Youth Gathering chaperone
  7. Special outreach events increased
  8. POBLO International increase
  9. Music materials increase
  10. 2019 Accountant firm fee increase
2. No discussion items from the floor
  3. Motion made & seconded to accept as proposed
- Mark gave update on Regedahl Donation
    1. \$61,266 in four LCEF CDs
    2. \$34,832 in US Bank account
  - Lay delegate to vote (remotely) for LCMS Synodical Officers
    1. Mark H volunteered, seconded and approved unanimously by voice vote
  - Open Discussion about attitudes toward how the FOC/HC shared pastoral agreement & facility is working
    1. Pastor introduced high level Holy Cross call procedures, near term time-table and upcoming District meeting with FOC/HC execs
      1. How does FOC feel about Pastor being on HC call list if it comes up in HC planning
    2. Would we continue Saturday services if there was a merger
      1. Pastor's view is yes. Gives FOC members a continued identity, gives people options
    3. Are we considering possible merge or a dual congregation, each with own identity?
    4. If Pastor on call list, do we still have both options listed above?
      1. Pastor: Depends on nature of the call so would have to address as part of the HC call. Advantages to each. May want a transition committee to analyze the pros/cons of each option.
    5. If dual congregation, is there a 50% funding expectation from each congregation?
      1. Pastor: Not the normal merger of two similar sized congregations so must be a combined discussion.
    6. If we merge, do we have similar visions?
      1. Outreach
      2. Church plant
      3. RCLS
      4. Pastor: HC appreciates FOC passion for outreach. RCLS perspective is different and needs to be addressed as FOC members passionate about RCLS and must be resolved as FOC will not give up on the RCLS relationship.
    7. How does a merger differ from dissolution of FOC?
      1. Pastor: that is a challenge to be worked thru – transition team task, maintaining identity & focus. What are the things that FOC can't give up on, are not negotiable.
      2. FOC losing things already (e.g., education hour) vs benefits of facility.
      3. Support or lack thereof for National Youth Gathering
        1. Can be influenced by leadership
      4. Needs to be good for both parties.
    8. What is HC debt/finance situation?
      1. Pastor: (speculative) not a lot of debt but not financially strong
    9. Is FOC happy with Saturday nite worship and present HC facility for worship?
      1. Some decisions must be made in Jan/Feb on this if we want to relaunch FOC as a fresh congregation in March (i.e. Easter as the optimal relaunch Sunday)
      2. HC timetable is not being rushed so do we consider request for some extension of current arrangement ... and does that influence the District relationship regarding subsidy.

3. Form a “transition team” to start addressing all of the decisions and consequences of same irrespective of the HC relationship.
4. Even if a call and merge of some form, we could consider a separate facility, maintain a separate identity, and continue to send a message of outreach to the Northwest
10. How do the responsibilities between FOC & HC work for Pastor?
  1. Pastor: Probably difficult to maintain servicing to appropriate level FOC and HC if FOC was a distinct facility, each with a different vision might not be healthy for Pastor.
11. HC space is more intimate ... tables and small space feels more family.
  1. If we move to new facility, we should look for “family” space similar to what we have currently at HC
12. FOC wants to be sure Pastor and his family are not overtaxed – concern for Pastor’s well-being and his family with respect to vacation, time away ...
  1. More difficult for FOC to monitor this with consideration to the current HC support.
13. Next step for FOC is really waiting for the outcome of the Dec 18<sup>th</sup> face to face meeting with Holy Cross, FOC, and District.
14. Motion made and seconded to adjourn
15. Pastor led a prayer for FOC plans and decisions moving forward.

For any members who were not able to attend, if you have any thoughts and inputs to add to the discussion above, please provide that input to one of the FOC Council members prior to the Dec 18<sup>th</sup> FOC Council meeting with Holy Cross Council reps and District representatives (District President and District Missions Exec).