



Family of Christ Lutheran Church

FOCUS

Touching lives with the love of Christ.

Volume 14, Issue 4
April, 2019

Saturday Service Location:
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
2703 9th Ave NW
Rochester, MN 55901

424-2902 (office)
2619 9th Ave NW
Rochester, MN 55901

<http://www.familyofchristrochs.com>

<http://twitter.com/FamilyofChrist1>

<http://www.facebook.com/FamilyOfChrist>



Church & Culture

“Conversations change the world. Abraham’s conversation with an invisible God forever altered human history. Moses’ conversations with a voice emanating from a burning bush initiated the biggest event in Old Testament history. Paul’s conversation with a resurrected Jesus launched the Christian movement as a global phenomenon. And most dramatically, the Word became flesh—the conversation of God with humanity took an unprecedented leap—and the discussion about God has never been the same.” This is the introduction from the resource that we are using for our current sermon series called “The Present Future” by Reggie McNeal. It is a resource in which we are looking at the relationship between church and culture and what that means for us as followers of Christ.

“The issues raised in this study are not just about identifying the next methodological fad. The content is much larger in scope. We want you to have conversations about what God is up to in the world and how you can join him in what he is blessing. The discussion will cause you to examine what you are doing and why. These are questions that every leader and every church should be asking at this critical time.”

In this study we are learning to ask the right questions and the tough questions that lead us to examine our actions, habits, and motives as the church. Questions like how we turn members into missionaries instead of how we turn members into ministers and how do we develop followers of Jesus instead of how we can develop better church members. These questions challenge us and demand that we focus on the items that will build the kingdom of God instead of our own reputation, churches, and agendas. These questions help us to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and to trust in God with all our heart and lean not on our own understanding. When we do then we can move beyond superficial changes in style and preference in order to accommodate or grow and really challenge people to grow in their relationship of following Jesus.

These challenging questions help us to move beyond the superficial and the mundane of playing church to the life changing truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. This truth calls us to come and follow him no matter what the cost. It calls us to take up our cross daily and follow and it calls us to lay down our lives at the foot of the cross. This truth demands repentance, faith, obedience and a heart dedicated to the Lord and to the love of neighbor. These are tough questions that demand tough answers that will lead us to be the people who God intended us to be. They are soul searching questions like when Jesus asked the Pharisees about the baptism of John in Luke 20:3 “Let me ask you a question first,” he replied. “Did John’s authority to baptize come from heaven, or was it merely human?” To answer either way left the Pharisees without excuse and we understand similarly these questions unmask ourselves as well.

Let us ask the difficult questions as a church in order to reshape and redefine our purpose and motives. When we do, we will realize even more our need for God and our dependence upon Him for life change, for the growth of the church, and the direction that we must take. “All the nations you have made will come and bow before you, O Lord, and they will glorify your name. For you are great and perform wonders; you alone are God. Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth. Grant me an undivided heart so that I may fear your name.” Psalm 86:9-11

Pastor Jeff

Early Church Prayer Meetings

For the first week of April, prayer meetings will be held at Roger & Ann Lindahl’s home: 2021 Glendale Hills Drive NE, Rochester. Prayer meetings occur on non-worship days. For the week of April 1, those days will be Mon, Tues, Thurs, and Fri from 8:00-9:00PM. Come together to pray for people you know, their needs, community, country, Holy Cross, FOC, RCLS, HC Call Team, FOC/HC Exploratory Team as the Spirit leads.

Churches Planting Churches Conference For All!

Saturday, May 4, 2019 9:00AM-3:00PM at Holy Cross. This conference, sponsored by the MN South District and the Center for US Missions, will provide a high-quality training to empower established congregations to reach out for Kingdom growth. This may be through daughter churches, multi-site churches, and new gospel outreach ministries that are biblically missional. Register online.

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”.

RCLS Blue & White Night

Tickets are on sale (thru April 1) for The Grace Foundation 2019 Blue & White Night, a fundraiser benefiting RCLS. Being the largest fundraising event of the year, this fun evening will be held on Friday, April 12 at the Double Tree Hotel. Back by popular demand, there will be an After-Party at Bleu Duck Kitchen immediately following the event. For questions, contact Jenny Chestolowski at execdir@grace-foundation.org or 951-4321. The Grace Foundation recently launched their new website. Please check it out at www.grace-foundation.org.

RCLS Calendar

April 12: Blue & White Night (ticket sales close on April 1)
April 20: Easter Egg Hunt (hosted by Holy Cross and Family of Christ Lutheran Churches)
April 21: BLESSED EASTER
May 10: Winona Track and Field Day
May 14: Spring Music Concert
May 17: RCLS Field Day
May 24: Awards Day & Kindergarten Graduation
May 28: 8th-grade Graduation
May 31: LAST day of school, 12 noon dismissal (final Chapel begins at 11am)

Litter Bit Better

It's that time of the year again for Litter Bit Better! We invite all Holy Cross and Family of Christ members to participate. Wednesday, May 1st at 6:00PM, we will be picking up litter; the exact location will be announced that day. The bags will be provided; please bring your own gloves. Afterward, a light supper will be offered to those who helped. Please contact Ken or Lorrie Langford for more info: 507-250-8558.

Treasurer's Report – February 2019

February Income: \$10,753.40 (exc district support)
MN South District Support: \$2083.00 (December Subsidy)
February Expenses: \$13,780.34
Net: (\$943.94)
Checks being held as of Mar 11: None

January-February Income: \$25,883.25
January-February Expenses: \$30,726.74
Net year to date: (\$4,843.49)
YTD Budget: \$31,172.48

April Birthday's & Anniversaries

Apr 09	Noah Kuball
Apr 12	Cohen Sample
Apr 28	Barb Jerabek
Apr 29	Levi Trempe
Apr 30	Annie Block

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

FOC Meeting Schedule – April

- Council Mtg – RCLS April 8th 6:00pm
 - Congregational input welcome. Request time by communicating with w/ Mark Halbakken by 4/07 for agenda planning purposes.
- Holy Cross - Family of Christ Exploration Team Meeting Thursday 4/11 at 7:00 (special joint exec council mtg to present initial summary report)
- Holy Cross - Family of Christ Exploration Team Meeting 1st week May (TBD) to review feedback on initial summary report

Holy Cross - Family of Christ Exploration Team March Meetings

- FOC Members: Jeanne Block, Dan Kuball, Tim Block
- Holy Cross Members: Tim Heroff, Cindy Wessel, Jo Dean, Roger Lindahl
- Ex-Officio Members: Mark Halbakken, Mark Matthias, Pastor Jeff NiederstadtI
- March 7, 21, 25 Meetings
 1. Looked at the Continuum of Options and better articulated the ones we wish to flesh out further
 1. Independent, Partnership, Merge Options
 2. Considered high level pros & cons to working together in some capacity
 3. Preparing initial summary report to present to special joint exec council meeting 4/11 and to both congregations 4/13-14.

Family of Christ Council Meeting Minutes March 11th , 2019

(Pre-Approval)

- Attendees: Pastor, Natalie, Rick, Barb, Mark, Tim
- Called to order @ 5:58PM
- Prayer/Opening Devotion Natalie - Luke 11:1-13 Ask, Seek, & Find
- Congregational Input: None
- Approved Feb 11th Council Mtg Minutes
- Reports
 - Treasurer's Report
 - Cash in checking \$53,139.55
 - Paid Feb/March RCLS support end of Feb
 - Tuition discount paid up for current school year

- No checks held
- Pastor's Report
 - Sat April 20 3:30pm at RCLS – Easter Egg Hunt
 1. Candy for 3000 eggs
 2. To be purchased: advertising & door hangers for RCLS & Gibbs area, prizes and any additional candy
 - HC is covering cost of joint VBS July 22-26 9-12 “Mission to Mars”
 1. SACC to participate (30-50 kids from SACC) potentially M-W-F
 1. Shirts for leaders and assistants only and not charge any fee for participating children (t-shirt fee for large # students would be prohibitive)
 2. Jeanne leading music, Pastor leading teaching, Carol L from HC leading overall
 - Basketball Camp partnering w/ RCLS Summer Academy at RCLS Gym
 1. Bible theme, T-Shirts, & prizes
 2. Aug 5-9th
 - Nation Youth Gathering & HC Youth Workcamp also this summer
 - FOC primary church driving Churches Planting Churches Conf
 1. Sat May 4th 9am-3pm
 2. \$15 entry per person (will waive fee for FOC members and cover thru our FOC accounts)
 3. District reimbursing lunch
 - Pastor will be off Apr 6th and May 7th services
 1. Pastor Heining will be filling in for both services (honorarium to be provided)
 - Lenten dinner TBD on which date to be covered by FOC
 1. Usual potluck approach
 - Maunday Thur & Good Friday Services in HC Sanctuary
 1. Confirmation Sunday Oct 6th
 2. All confirmands at a Sunday joint service most likely option but will go back and check with individuals
 1. Option: students give their presentations at Sat nite service and have a Sunday morning confirmation service
 - Saturday March 16 will be used to hand write invitations/missing you notes to past members.
 1. 100 blank cards to be purchased and a suggested text will be posted as a template for

members writing up at end of service

- Update on Elders
 - Participating in Jesus Continued study - 6 mo study
- Old Business
 - Update on Welcome Wagon "gifts" to new neighborhood families - Natalie & Barb - Thrivent Funds used for generic gifts
 - Tim gave an Exploratory Committee update
 - Easter Egg Hunt Thrivent Funds Application (Stephanie Halbakken)
 - Jodi to add Easter Egg hunt to "Nextdoor"
 - HC/RCLS use of Peachjar for advertising to neighborhood
 - Using Elton Hills School as the school to post info to for HC area
 - Fee based – do we consider Gibbs &/or Gage or others?
 - FOC vacation package auction item delivered to Blue & White Committee
 - Package value set & this package will be showcased
 - Review table setup for Saturday night service
 - Continue to monitor but no immediate change
 - Best way to reach out to non-attending members
 - Personal notes plans in place starting this week
- New Business
 - Standard Background Check for District for past employee being completed by Mark
 - 2018 Congregational Statistics Report due March 29th
 - 58 Baptized Members & 47 Confirmed Members
 - RCLS-FOC Family Covenant due in May for 2020 school year
 - Reviewed existing Covenant template
 - Pastor to check w/ what other assoc cong are doing
 - Mark to line up a volunteer to apply for thrivent funds for Aug BB Camp
- Future meeting dates
 - Next council mtg April 8, 2019
- Adjourned @ 7:30pm

Family of Christ Voters' Meeting Minutes March 9th, 2019

- Called to order 6:53PM
- Review of RCLS proposed by-law change
 - Erica Trempe presented the proposal from the RCLS BoD
 - Seeking representation on the RCLS Bd of the entire RCLS student body.
 - Two bd members chosen by RCLS BoD from non-association families, each for 3 year term
 - Persons interested complete an application with reviewal by Principal, Chair of BoD and final review by Exec Committee
 - Recommendations get brought to full BoD for approval
 - Non-assoc members will have right to serve on committees except for Exec Committee roles and will have same voting rights as Assoc Bd members with exception to voting relating to doctrine or religious practices as determined by association pastors.
 - Discussion:
 - Current non-assoc non-voting members will need to go thru application process if interested
 - Proposal much pass $\frac{3}{4}$ of assoc churches voters' assemblies and synod approval before taking effect
 - All RCLS board votes have a 2nd reading so religious practices can be determined by pastors ahead of pertinent votes
- Moved & 2nd that FOC support the proposed by-law change
- Voice vote: approved motion.
- Adjourned 7:20PM