



Family of Christ

*Volume 4, Issue 12.
December, 2009*

Sunday Service Location:
Gibbs Elementary School
5525 56TH Street NW
Rochester, MN 55901

Pastor Henry Biar
424-2902 (office)
2619 9Th Ave NW
Rochester, MN 55901

<http://www.foc-lcms.org>

<http://twitter.com/FamilyofChrist1>

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Rochester-MN/Family-Of-Christ/162914787971?ref=mf>

Family of Christ Lutheran Church

FOC_{us}

Touching lives with the love of Christ.



A Word From Our Pastor

Yesterday, I was reading my daily devotional readings and I read from Proverbs 11. The verses that struck me were vss. 24-25, "One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed." I think it is really interesting that God tells us exactly what will happen when we give up of ourselves and gifts, but we still do not believe Him. I look at my parents and my in-laws and see how they have prospered. It is true that they have saved and made good investments, but I know for a fact they have given over and above in the tithe to God's church. I also know they have been very generous with time and money with their family. I also know that both have also been very generous with charity and gifts to others who they know and do not know. What strikes me is that many people could see the same thing that I see and they still think that holding back is the way to take care of ourselves. I think those who tell God that they can't give away much or nothing at all are those who are miserable, angry, afraid or greedy. It is true they may have more money than others, but their lives are not uplifting or joyful. These people also use money to use people and do not gain healthy and loving relationships with others. I know that when I was a child sometimes when things were tough for our family, God always provided what we needed. I know that even now. I believe that when we look at the physical parts of our lives we should see these as gifts that God has called us to take care of and share, because we are strictly stewards of these gifts, not owners. They can be with us one moment and gone the next. I thank God for all of His gifts to me and to my family and I pray that use them wisely in the future.

Pastor Biar

Lefse, Lefse, Lefse

That wonderful Norwegian potato flatbread. Family of Christ members are busy mixing, rolling and baking in support of our second year of selling lefse. **Over 1000 sheets sold** before Thanksgiving. We have had 100 hours of volunteer help from 15 volunteers thus far. A huge THANK YOU to all our helpers. Get the great flavor for the same 2008 prices. **5 sheets for \$5**. Order as many sheets as you need, order early, order often.. Contact Dan Kluge, 285-5723. Leave a name on the answering machine or e-mail at kluge.daniel@mayo.edu We will be taking orders up until Christmas. Those who order are under no obligation to eat lutefisk with Dan. This is a Thrivent supported event. The funds that we raise will help the education of students at RCLS.



Family of Christ Christmas Program

The Family of Christ Children's Christmas Program will debut at Madonna Towers on Saturday, December 19 at 2:45pm in the chapel in the Nursing Care Wing. The Children's Christmas Program will be repeated for the congregation at Gibbs for the Sunday December 20th worship service at 9:00am.

RCLS Christmas Program

INVITE YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS! The All School Christmas Celebration called "***The Good News Christmas Cruise***" sails on Thursday evening, December 17, at 6:30 pm at John Marshall High School Auditorium. Admission is free. Invite a prospective family. Help them see the blessing of RCLS and our faith family. A free will offering will be taken at the door to help cover the cost of the program and rental of the auditorium. (It will cost approximately \$2,000 for everything involved.) Help people keep Christ at the center of their Christmas.



*Women of
Family of Christ
You are invited to a
Christmas Celebration at
Brenda DeCramer's home
(5823 Shetland Drive NW)*

Tuesday, December 15th @7:00p.m.

*We will be putting together Christmas Bags
To distribute to all of the children in attendance after
The Children's Program Sunday, December 20th.*

*Please plan to bring 35 of something to add to each bag.
(candy, fruit, peanuts, pencils, stickers, erasers, bookmarks,
bracelets, granola bars, etc.)*

*Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share as well.
For Questions, please ask Brenda DeCramer (281-4796)
Or Debbie Pahlkotter (288-5949)*

*We look
Forward
To seeing
You there!*



Carol Festival at Trinity

The Family of Christ Carol Choir is preparing for the annual Carol Festival at Trinity Lutheran Church Sunday Dec 20 at 6:30pm. Consider being a part of this event of song and praise to our Lord. Contact Jeanne Block or just drop in on a practice after any upcoming Sunday service. You don't need to be an accomplished vocalist, just bring a desire to sing praise to the Lord with your fellow FOC members. The group will also look for an evening to bring a bit of Christmas cheer to others with a carol sing in the lobby of St Mary's Hospital in the week leading up to the festival.

Friends of FOC Music

The purchase of a keyboard for FOC has been arranged through private (non-budget) funds. We would like to give all members and friends an opportunity to be a part of this vital part of our ministry and purchase if you would like to do so as a year-end gift.

Consider a contributory gift of \$30 by “purchasing” one (or more) keys of the keyboard.

Agreement has been reached with Gibbs Elementary to allow the school use the keyboard in their music program in exchange for the storage of it for us in their music room. Additionally, the Gibbs Administration and Maintenance teams have agreed to look at setting up storage space for our speakers so that we don't have to worry about climate controlled storage elsewhere for the speakers.



A Word From Our President **“A Year of Change”**

The year 2009 has become a year of change for FOC. We are seeing growth in membership and attendance and have changed worship location. The Holy Spirit is indeed at work. Of course new opportunities present us with new challenges. We will need to make sure we have opportunities for spiritual growth and involvement of new members. We will need to look at the way we do some things to make sure we can accommodate new and existing member needs. We will need to make adjustments as a result of our new facilities.

A couple of areas we are or need to start thinking about:

- At what point in our ministry will we need to support at least part time staffing for one or more

- areas – secretarial, music, youth, or
- Council makeup – striving for good representation of all ages and interests.
- New facility – we are working on sound adjustments, storage, efficiencies of setup and teardown.
- Additional roles and responsibilities – example, would be nice to have folks involved in sound equipment setup and adjustment.

Just a few things to think about and work through. Step forward with your ideas or look for ways you can and would like to be involved.

Thank you to all the members and friends of Family of Christ for investing you time, talents, and treasures in God's work this year at FOC. We are continually blessed by and through your efforts as we focus on touching the lives of our neighbors with whom we want to share the joy of the relationship we have with Jesus Christ. Especially at this time of year, we want to be focused on sharing this spiritual peace with our friends and neighbors through the celebration of the birth of the Christ child.

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." Luke 2:14

Tim Block

FOC & Pizza Hut

See Bob Trempe regarding coupons for Pizza Hut that will be a part of our support of RCLS through the Christian Education Association of FOC. The next Thursday to take advantage of this opportunity will be Dec 10th. The dates for this opportunity will be the second Thursday each month:

Thurs. Dec. 10th
 Thurs. Jan. 7th
 Thurs. February 11th
 Thurs. March 11th
 Thurs. April 8th
 Thurs. May 6th

The coupon you receive can be used to give RCLS(FOC) 20% of your expenditure each of these days, all day long. FOC will benefit an additional 10% if you use Pizza Hut Scrip in addition to the coupon.

FOC Council Meetings

The upcoming FOC Council meeting schedule is as follows:

- Monday December 14 7:00pm RCLS
- Monday January 11 7:00pm RCLS

As a reminder to congregational members, one of the first orders of business on each Council Meeting Agenda is for "Congregational Input". If you have an item of interest that you wish to bring to the attention of the Council, please feel free to contact Tim Block regarding time on the agenda.

Elders Minutes **November 16, 2009**

Meeting was called to order by Ken DeCramer at 7:00. Pastor was at a Police call and was running late.

The elder schedule was discussed for December. There will be Advent Services in December with Family home Studies

The Elders discussed the storage for the trailer. We have two possibilities for a secured fence. Rich is working on some rolling storage units that will fit on the trailer. Rich, Ken and Jim will work on this issue. Tim Block will be contacted to discuss the insurance of the trailer. It was decided that the screen for the projector needs to be kept in a warm place so it does not crack.

The Elders discussed how things were going at Gibb's. The School District is going to add some sound controlling devices in the gym to take away some of the echoing.

Pastor arrived at 7:45 and we prayed for the family of a suicide victim.

The Elders discussed some further Outreach Projects for the Gibb's area but decided to try some things after Christmas, but to encourage members to invite people to Gibb's for Christmas Services.

Jim Link is looking into adopting a Park in NW Rochester to get the FOC name out.

The elders discussed moving the Elder Meeting night to another night because Monday's always seem so busy. Ken will survey the Elders and see what night works the best.

The Elders prayed for Families going through economic stress and job market issues. We also prayed for RCLS, Association Churches and Christ Lutheran Church for their needs.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00.

Council Minutes **November 9, 2009**

The September Treasurer's report and October Elder's reports were reviewed and approved. Under new business, the first few weeks at Gibbs were assessed and the first walk-thru of the 2010 budget proposal was conducted. The following resolution was passed:

2009-02 FOC Trailer Purchase For Storage

WHEREAS, Family of Christ Lutheran Church currently has no or insufficient designated storage space at Gibbs Elementary for FOC worship service equipment; and

WHEREAS, FOC equipment storage requirements have grown beyond what one or two families can transport or store at personal residences; and

WHEREAS, setup and tear down each Sunday could be made seemingly less complex by providing a single mobile storage unit with appropriate associated cabinetry; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the FOC Council will support the purchase of a new 6' x 12' enclosed trailer from Gander Mountain with the following terms:

Original price: 3499.99

Sale Price: 2499.99

Negotiated discount: 449.99
Transfer fee: 50.00

Final Cost to FOC (no sales tax) \$2100.99

Funds to be earmarked from and within bounds of 2009 Budget lines:

Contingency \$1000

Office \$1100.99

Treasurer's Report – October 2009

Income:	<u>(October 2009)</u>	<u>(October 2008)</u>
Congregational Support	\$8,627.66	6,152.34
Interest Income	0.04	0.02
Dividend Income	24.00	53.74
Support from other Churches	500.00	3040.00
Script Income	35.51	137.52
Misc. Income	0.00	1095.00
Total Income	\$9,187.21	\$10,478.62
Total Expenses	\$10,715.70	\$8,755.04
Total Checking/Savings	\$32,156.54	\$29,055.20

December Birthday's & Anniversaries

Dec Christina Block
07

Dec Sandy Henslin
14

Dec Noel Berthiaume
20

Dec Kris Biar
31

Dec John & Melinda Rud
30

