



August 2025

FAMILY OF GOD

Monthly Newsletter

“Children by grace, extending Christ’s embrace”

CHURCH NEWS AND EVENTS

WORSHIP & COMMUNION

Sundays at 9:30 am

In-person and
livestreamed on our
website fogchurch.org
Just click on YouTube



THIS MONTH'S REMINDERS

- Bible Study Tuesdays at 9:30 am
- Young Adult Bible Study Tuesdays at 6:30 pm

Family of God Lutheran Church, ELCA
8625 Zane Avenue N, Brooklyn Park, MN 55443 763-424-8625
fogchurch.org

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR...

Pr. Paul Burow

The novel *Frankenstein* was written by Mary Shelley during the Year Without a Summer. The year 1816 was marked by record breaking cold and crop failures, which affected people throughout the Northern Hemisphere. Mary Shelley, her husband Percy, and Lord Byron were spending the summer in Geneva, Switzerland, and the weather was so cold they were forced to stay indoors much of the time. To pass the days, they decided to have a contest on who could write the scariest story, and Mary Shelley, at the age of 18 won with her work *Frankenstein*.

The Year Without a Summer is believed to have been caused by the tremendous eruption of the volcano Tambora in Indonesia the preceding year. The atmosphere was filled with volcanic dust which prevented the sun's rays from fully penetrating to the earth itself.

One of the thrills of summer at our house is to sit out on the deck in the evening and eat outside when the temperature is in the upper 70's and the air is clear and sunny. We have not had that privilege much this year as our air quality has been so horrible owing to the smoke from the Canadian wildfires. You might remember this happened some last year as well.

Why is the clear Canadian air being filled with smoke and fire particulates? Some say climate change. The abnormally warm and dry season results in many fires being started naturally by lightning in the Canadian forests. There are different opinions about climate change--but the question generally is not whether it is changing but what is the cause and what can be done about it.

Of course the issue is clouded by economic and political concerns--some say this is a natural part of the earth's climate cycles, as in a volcanic eruption, while most scientists say it is part of the Greenhouse Effect where human burning of fossil fuels makes the atmosphere warmer and wetter, which has a significant role in our weather.

This is not the best place for such a discussion, but I would like to comment to those who believe climate change is not man-made--what if you are wrong? To not take measures to reduce our effect on the earth's atmosphere is to gamble with our children's and grandchildren's future. Is it really worth the risk of being incorrect, especially if the effect is irreversible damage?

The Bible tells us that Adam and Eve were set in the Garden of Eden and could eat of any fruit in the Garden except the one on the tree in middle of the Garden. Of course that is the one of which they ate, and so sin came into the world. Before the fall, all the first man and woman had to do was to be caretakers of the garden and partake of its riches. But after the fall, the land into which they were driven had hard soil which meant back-breaking labor to make it produce food.

One thing the story of Adam and Eve can teach us is that there is nothing new--the first people made mistakes which changed their carefree living into hard living. The earth was not as fruitful as it was in Eden because of their sin and short-sightedness. Today not much has changed--rainforests are being destroyed which limits the amount of oxygen put into our air, careless and cheap industrial methods destroy wilderness areas, the oceans are filled with plastic particles, the buffalo were butchered almost to extinction, and so the story goes on.

What irony that we people never seem to learn, and that our earth is threatened not by outer space aliens, but by its own inhabitants.

It has been written that a true conservationist is "a man who knows that the world is not given by his fathers but borrowed from his children." -- Audubon Society

God's creation of the earth is given to us as a gift and we are entrusted with preserving and protecting our galactic home.

Greetings to everyone at Family of God —

The summer has been, in some respects, a difficult one for our congregation. We have had a number of members pass away. We've also lost some people connected to the congregation on our prayer list. Others have received concerning diagnoses. Summer is typically a lighthearted time, but I've been feeling the weight of the grief that many of us are experiencing.

Death is a part of life, but it's not an easy journey to accept it. During a recent Sunday service, we read from Ecclesiastes. In this book, a teacher (potentially King Solomon, son of David) is imparting wisdom from his life. He's looking for meaning after trying several lifestyles. A lot of goals and accomplishments seem meaningless to him when death is an inevitability. He comes to the conclusion that it's best to appreciate the simple joys and to obey God's commandments. Those two don't guarantee an easy life, but they certainly do help. The teacher also urges his listeners to reject material items that do not last and to let go of fear of things we cannot control.

Coming to terms with our own mortality can be a lifelong process. That's a personal, religious, and philosophical problem we all need to face. We can't do the emotional work for each other. Reading scripture is the best resource. Other books can help, like "Being Mortal" by Atul Gawande, "Everything Happens for a Reason and Other Lies I've Loved" by Kate Bowler, and "When Breath Becomes Air" by Paul Kalanithi. Our congregation doesn't offer grief support groups, but many others do. Those can be beneficial.

I'd also encourage you to think about end-of-life decisions as early as you can. Death is not always predictable, and certain documents can help you have a voice where you otherwise might not. The "Five Wishes" document can help you express choices and values to loved ones. A Power of Attorney form is a legal document, where you designate a person to make decisions on your behalf. You can also share your plans and hopes about quality of life and life-extending measures. A will, especially one written with the help of an attorney, can set your mind at ease. Just remember to inform your loved ones about whatever documentation you may have. If you experience significant life changes, be sure to alter those forms accordingly.

Finally, you may want to write down some wishes regarding your own funeral. You can make choices like: casket or cremation, full funeral or brief memorial service, place of burial, special readings and musical selections for the service, and so forth. Funerals are sometimes planned in a matter of days, and this can be a gift to stressed and grieving loved ones. We are happy to help you with this. Our pastoral staff has a lot of experience we can share with you. Additionally, funeral directors can help with prepaid services to make the process as smooth as possible.

If you are facing a loss or would like to talk for any reason, please contact Pr. Paul or me directly, or call the church office, and we can find a time to get together. For those in a time of grief, please know that I am praying for you.

Blessings to you and your loved ones —

COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

July 17, 2025

Family of God Council Meeting Summary

June 19, 2025

- No council meeting this month. Here's some pictures from our adventures.





Book Club meets the third Monday of the month at 1pm. The following are the books they are reading:

August 18	<u>Just Mercy (Adult Version)</u> Bryan Stevenson
Sept 22	<u>The Zookeeper's Wife</u> Diane Ackerman

New members welcome!

Contact Joan Hermanson with any questions.

LINUS QUILTERS

Back on Monday,
September 15, 2025

"Just for fun" dates in August

**August 3: International
Watermelon Day**

**August 12: Vinyl Record
Day**

**August 20: World Honey-
bee Day**

**August 25: Kiss-and-Make-
Up Day**



Thank you for making the Garage Sale a Success!

Your contribution truly made a difference. Thanks to your support, the sale brought our community together, offered items at affordable prices, and provided clothing for those in need.

We'll be sharing the final numbers from the sale next month-stay tuned!



Sunday Flowers

8/3 David & Rita Loos

8/10 Jeff & Jean Iverson

8/17 AVAILABLE

8/24 Gary Fisher

8/31 AVAILABLE

2025 Flower Chart is posted on the
narthex kiosk.

The cost of the flowers is \$35.



Global Mission Support

8/3— David & Rita Loos

8/17— Davon Stedje

8/10—Linda Broman

8/24— AVAILABLE

8/31—AVAILABLE

2025 Global Mission Support Calendar is posted on the kiosk in the narthex.
Your \$35 weekly donation goes to support Rev. James and Carol Sacks' ministry
work in Japan.

Delayed Newsletter Entry

I want to thank everyone for
their thoughts & prayers, cards & visits after my surgery at Mayo &
during my recovery at the Mayo.

Darlene Peterson

BIRTHDAYS

Chris Carter 08/01
Dan Cragg 08/02
Jill Burow 08/03
Tuatoe Daynuah 08/03
Rita Loos 08/03
Owen Haywood 08/04
Lisa Okray 08/04
Norris Einertson 08/06
Alexandria O'Mara 08/06
Kay Bourgerie 08/06
Hannah Noah 08/06
Andrew Peterson 08/07
Linda Broman 08/10
Ann Schupbach 08/10
Hunter Wick 08/12
Thomas Koster 08/12
Alison Meier 08/15
Leigha Haywood 08/16
Jeff Parupsky 08/17
Lee Billodeau 08/21
Marilyn Engstrom 08/24
Barinee Ntor-ue 08/26
David Jr. Loos 08/27
Dan Rasmussen 08/30
Barisua Ntor-ue 08/31

ANNIVERSARIES

Aaron & Nancy Balzer 08/02
Marlin & Sandra Magnuson 08/4
Jeff & Jean Iverson 08/10
Bill & Ginny Lanctot 08/12
Dave & Rita Loos 08/13
Tuatoe & Mornjay Daynuah 08/16
Cory & Erin Koster 08/17
Gary & Marlys Carlson 08/21

CALLING ALL FOG CRAFTERS!



SUMMER BREAK, RETURN IN THE FALL.

Stephanie Statz 612-850-8220 StephStatz24@gmail.com

LeAnne Tieman 612-508-7921 lrtieman@comcast.net

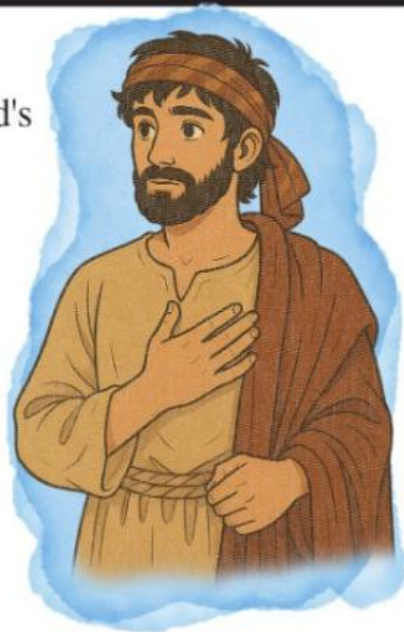
All types of crafters are welcome. We will set up in the Cornerstone Room to utilize the tables. Any questions, please call/text Stephanie Statz at 612-850-8220 or LeAnne Tieman at 612-508-7921.



Bible Quiz

The book of Jonah tells the story of a prophet who ran from God, faced a storm and learned about God's mercy. Which of the following statements is **true**?

- A. Jonah told the sailors he was running from God, and they threw him overboard.
- B. The fish that swallowed Jonah washed up on the shores of Joppa.
- C. Jonah preached in Nineveh for forty days and forty nights.
- D. After the city repented, Jonah rejoiced and built an altar to the Lord.



Answer found on the last page.



Introducing our Music Director



Judy Blomgren received her Bachelors in Music Education degree in 1976 from Mankato State University graduating Cum Laude, and awarded her Masters of Arts in Education from St. Catherines University in 2003. She began her teaching career in the Anoka Hennepin School district at Northdale Junior High in 1978. During her tenure at Northdale, her 8th-9th grade orchestra was selected to perform at the Minnesota Music Educators Convention in 1987. In 1992, she was appointed as the orchestra director at Champlin Park High School. Judy was selected as one of the 20 "TOP" teachers in the Anoka Hennepin District in 2001. She was a finalist for Minnesota Teacher of the year in 2003. In 2009 the Champlin Park Orchestra performed at Carnegie Hall in New York City, after an intensive audition process. After a fruitful teaching career, she retired from Champlin Park High School in May of 2014. Judy was appointed as an adjunct faculty member at North Hennepin Community College in September of 2015, and continues to direct the North Hennepin Community College Orchestra. Judy begins her tenure as music director at Family of God Lutheran in Brooklyn Park on August 1, 2025.



Welcome, Judy!





The
difference
you make
makes
all the
difference

Dear friends,
A heartfelt "thank
you" to my family of
Dad family for their
support, prayers, cards,
memorials, attendance,
preparation and serving of
the luncheon following
Roger's Celebration of Life
service. Each of you are
a special blessing.

Sharing in God's love,
The family of Roger Tripp.



Hello Kathy,


On behalf of the entire Every Meal team, we want to express our sincere gratitude for your partnership during the 2024-2025 school year! This amazing work would not have been possible without the support of each and every one of you with your dedication to fighting child hunger.

Here is just a snapshot of the many people it takes to help fight child hunger in MN, and YOU are an essential piece of that!





August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					¹ MB 6-10 Garage Sale 9 am	² MB 10-6 Garage Sale 9 am to 12 pm
³ 9:30 am Worship 12pm Christ Chapel Int	⁴	⁵ Bible Study 9:30 am 6:30 pm YABS 7 pm No Bull AA	⁶	⁷ 7pm Riverlyn AA	⁸ Bonfire 7pm	⁹
¹⁰ 9:30 am Worship INSIDE 12pm Christ Chapel Int Rainbow Con. Mtg	¹¹	¹² Bible Study 9:30 am 6:30 pm YABS 7 pm No Bull AA Polling/Election at FOG	¹³ 11 am Connie's Quilters	¹⁴ 7pm Riverlyn AA Council mtg	¹⁵ MB 6-9	¹⁶ MB 9-12
¹⁷ 9:30 am Worship OUTSIDE 12pm Christ Chapel Int	¹⁸ Book club 1 pm	¹⁹ Bible Study 9:30 am 6:30 pm YABS 7 pm No Bull AA	²⁰ 11 am Connie's Quilters	²¹ 7pm Riverlyn AA	²² MB 6-9	²³ MBI Marching Band 10 am—5 pm
²⁴ 9:30 am Worship INSIDE 12pm Christ Chapel Int	²⁵	²⁶ Bible Study 9:30 am 6:30 pm YABS 7 pm No Bull AA	²⁷ 11 am Connie's Quilters	²⁸ 7pm Riverlyn AA 7pm Lynx Game 	²⁹ MBI Marching Band 6 pm—9 pm	³⁰
³¹ 9:30 am Worship OUTSIDE 12pm Christ Chapel Int						

August worship helpers

Lectors

3 Paul Geske
10 Andrew Peterson
17
24
31

Refreshments

3 Rita & David Loos
10 Craft Group
17
24
31

Altar Care

3 Elsass
10 Withers
17
24 Cindy Buesgens
31 Elsass

Ushers

3
10
17
24 Mel & Gary
31

Greeters

3
10 Nancy & Joe
17
24 Diane Tripp
31 Julie Johnson

Nursery Care

3 outdoor
10 madison
17 outdoor
24 claudia
31 outdoor



If you are unable to serve on a Sunday you have signed up for, please inform the church office as soon as possible. Thanks!

**** IF YOU CAN FILL IN A BLANK SPOT PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO admin@fogchurch.org SO A MASTER LIST CAN BE KEPT AND SO A REMINDER CARD CAN BE SENT. THANK YOU!****

July 16, 2025

As requested, I have now received the Family of God Monthly Newsletter, and hope to get them each month. I am a member and attended church for a number of years, belonging to Ruth Circle. I no longer drive.

I am enclosing a check in the amount of \$20. to help with postage.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Tommerdahl
3100 - 85th Ave. N. - Apt. 125
Brooklyn Park, MN 55443

P.S. I might be your oldest member.
I will be 101 years on 9-29-25.

This is being shared so you can mail her a 101st birthday card if you would like. If you prefer to drop off a card at the church we will mail a batch to her the first week in September. What a great way to show FOG love to our family.

Answer: A (See Jonah 1:9-15).

Family of God Lutheran Church

8625 Zane Ave North
Brooklyn Park, MN 55443

Change Service Requested

Rev. Paul Burow, Senior Pastor
pburow@fogchurch.org

Rev. Erin Koster, Associate Pastor
Perin@fogchurch.org

Admin Assistant
admin@fogchurch.org

Judy Blomgren, Music Director
judyb305@gmail.com

Claudia Peterson & Madison Benton, Nursery

Office Hours

Monday – Thursday
9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Website: www.fogchurch.org