



October 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
7pm
- Young Adult Bible Study Thursday at 6:30 pm

Family of God Lutheran Church, ELCA

8625 Zane Avenue N, Brooklyn Park, MN 55443 763-424-8625

fogchurch.org

Pastor Paul would like to share some quotes from Martin Luther this month:

"We are saved by faith alone, but the faith that saves is never alone."

"So when the devil throws your sins in your face and declares that you deserve death and hell, tell him this: 'I admit that I deserve death and hell, what of it? For I know One who suffered and made satisfaction on my behalf. His name is Jesus Christ, Son of God, and where He is there I shall be also!'"

"Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree."

"This life therefore is not righteousness, but growth in righteousness, not health, but healing, not being but becoming, not rest but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it, the process is not yet finished, but it is going on, this is not the end, but it is the road. All does not yet gleam in glory, but all is being purified."

"The dog is the most faithful of animals and would be much esteemed were it not so common. Our Lord God has made His greatest gifts the commonest."

"My heart, which is so full to overflowing, has often been solaced and refreshed by music when sick and weary."

"True humility does not know that it is humble. If it did, it would be proud from the contemplation of so fine a virtue."

"Everything that is done in this world is done by hope."

"God writes the gospel not in the Bible alone, but on trees and flowers and clouds and stars."

"Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world."

"The heart overflows with gladness, and leaps and dances for the joy it has found in God. In this experience the Holy Spirit is active, and has taught us in the flash of a moment the deep secret of joy. You will have as much joy and laughter in life as you have faith in God."

"This grace of God is a very great, strong, mighty and active thing. It does not lie asleep in the soul. Grace hears, leads, drives, draws, changes, works all in man, and lets itself be distinctly felt and experienced. It is hidden, but its works are evident."

"To be convinced in our hearts that we have forgiveness of sins and peace with God by grace alone is the hardest thing."

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR...

Pr. Erin Koster

Greetings to everyone at Family of God —

A lot of us have returned after being away for summer travels and activities. Now that the church program year is underway, we are spending more time together. This is a wonderful thing! Communities are so important. It's how humans are built. We are social creatures. And this is also a clear expression of what God intends for us. "It is not good for man to be alone," we hear in the book of Genesis. Jesus also says: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I with them."

We see God's face when we look at those around us. That being said, the human spirit doesn't always reflect the divine image! We hurt each other. We don't always get along. We fight and develop grudges. And that is not a wonderful thing. We do have the ability to do something about that, though.

Whenever someone comes to me with an issue involving another member, I ask: "Have you talked with them about this?" I know that direct conversation is easy to think about but often so hard to do. Minnesotans are famously terrified of confrontation. If you want resolution, there really is no way around it. A conflict is like an injury. If you leave it untreated, it can fester into something deeper and more dangerous. Maybe a conflict comes from a simple misunderstanding. Maybe the other person is completely unaware of your feelings. If you don't act, the relationship can't be repaired.

Part of conflict isn't just our words but our attitudes. If you find yourself with negative thoughts about another person at church, I encourage you to begin from a place of curiosity instead of judgment. Martin Luther explained the eighth

commandment like this: "'You are not to bear false witness against your neighbor.' What does this mean? We are to fear and love God, so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors, betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations. Instead we are to come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light." I have seen, too many times, how someone can immediately jump to the worst possible interpretation of another's words or actions. This is extremely unhelpful. A more positive attitude can truly make a difference.

If you have tried approaching someone with kindness in your heart and reconciliation on your mind (not just in word but in truth!), you are certainly welcome to ask one of the pastoral staff to assist you with mediation. Pr. Paul and I both have experience in this area. Sometimes, it helps to have a third party offer a neutral presence to clear the air. Promoting harmony when possible is a part of our call to ministry. We are happy to help when needed.

Kindness, forgiveness, and a focus on community strengthen the body of Christ on earth. Gossiping, forming factions, and undermining one another weaken the body. As we go further into our program year, I look forward to spending time together as a Family of God. May this year be filled with healthy relationships and a sharing of Christ's love.

Blessings to you and your loved ones!

— Pr. Erin Koster

Personnel Changes

We officially approved the hiring of our new Administrative Assistant, Allyson McDonald. We thanked Leann Barrick with a round of applause for all the extra hours she put in as leading the charge to fill our vacancy and for her work serving as Interim Administrative Assistant!

Building Maintenance

Maintenance of our building and grounds is always a subject we discuss at council. A few items discussed this month were:

Resolution of the items from the fire inspection report, upgrade of our lights to energy-saving LEDs throughout much of the building, and upcoming carpet cleaning and refinishing of the kitchen floor.

Youth Programming

We're excited to be into our new Sunday School year. Rally Day and Blessing of our Students and School Staff was on Sept 14th. Teachers and students are excited for their Spark curriculum and reading out of the Bible.

CYF Game Night is coming up on October 8th!



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

Oct 20 Gone to the Woods
Gary Paulson

Nov 17 A Gentleman in Moscow
Amor Towles



New members welcome!

Contact Joan Hermanson with any questions.

A visit from the Bishop

Bishop Nagel is joining us for worship on October 26th. Please come and meet with her.

LINUS QUILTERS

Back on Monday,
October 20th, 2025

"Just for fun" dates in October

October 3: World Smile Day

October 5: Do Something Nice Day

October 12: Pastor Appreciation Day

October 14: National Dessert Day

October 21: Pumpkin Cheesecake day

Trunk or Treat

Join us on Wednesday, October 29 for Trunk or Treat! Sign up in the narthex if you'd like to host a trunk. Talk to Terri Anderson-Webb or Pr. Erin if you have questions. Everyone is welcome to enjoy the fun and candy, so please invite friends!



Our Tuesday Bible Study will take a deeper at look at Jesus' parables. We'll look at some of the classic ones such as the Good Samaritan, the Prodigal Son, and several difficult ones to interpret like the Shrewd Manager. Please join us at 9:30 am or 7 pm each Tuesday

FOG game night!

The children, youth, and family committee invites you to a FOG game night! Join us Wednesday, October 8 at 6 pm for pizza and 7 pm for games. Free-will offering accepted! All are welcome!



Sunday Flowers

10/5 Jeff & Connie Young

10/12 Charles & Sandra Lenthe

10/19 Donna Moen

10/26 Rhonda & Richard Withers

2025 Flower Chart is posted on the
narthex kiosk.

The cost of the flowers is \$35.



Global Mission Support

10/5— Rhonda & Richard
Withers

10/19— Myra Madsen

10/26— Ginny Trogan

10/12—Doug & Kathy Behrens

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.

What a super great crew! Many thanks to all who helped the fall church wide cleaning. All of the sanctuary...pews, floors and windows, narthex (especially windows) and some painting, refrigerator cleaned. On Friday, September 26 the carpet in the narthex, cornerstone room and hallway will be cleaned. The kitchen floor will be striped, sanded and coated. A gentle reminder that Family of God is every member's church and we all can do our part to keep it welcoming.

—Property Committee



BIRTHDAYS

Melinda Bilderback 10/01

Samuel Webb 10/03

Matthew Zethren 10/06

Sirlea Daynuah 10/06

Chris Meier 10/06

Ann Lundquist 10/09

Marie Newgard 10/14

Donna Moen 10/15

Paul Zahalan 10/16

Darlene George 10/17

Laura Olson 10/18

Charlie Beggs 10/18

Nick Jorenby 10/23

Mary Ellen Chinander 10/26

Ryan Meyers 10/27

Jane Nelson 10/27

Ron Moe 10/28

Daniel Burow 10/28

Naser Daynuah 10/29

Barb Johnson 10/29

If your birthday does not appear please
bring this to the office attention.

ANNIVERSARIES

Joe & Bev Delaney 10/02

Ryan & Katie Peterson 10/05

Jeff & Connie Young 10/07

Erik & Tessa Beggs 10/08

Charles & Sandra Lenthe 10/08

Mark & Karla Kitoski 10/09

Scott & Tammy Luecke 10/13

Doug & Kathy Behrens 10/15

Larry & Nancy Knoell 10/19

Larry & Nancy Parson 10/29

If your anniversary does not appear
please bring this to the office attention.

CALLING ALL FOG CRAFTERS!



Thursday, October 9. Set up starting at 5:00pm

Friday, October 10. Doors open at 9:00am, craft all day

Saturday, October 11. Doors open at 9:00am, craft until 2:00pm

We will have an Oktoberfest potluck Saturday at noon.

Sign up is in the Narthex. Suggested donation \$30.00.

Contact either Stephanie Statz or LeAnne Tieman with any questions.

FOG Crafters will meet the second Friday and Saturday of each month. Subject to holidays and the church calendar. Scheduled weekends are in the Narthex.

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

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



Bible Quiz



In a parable of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke, someone named Lazarus features prominently while other characters go unnamed.

Who is Lazarus in this story?

- A. a friend Jesus raised from the dead
- B. a rich man dressed in fine linen
- C. a poor beggar at the rich man's gate
- D. the brother of the poor man
- E. an angel who carried the poor man to heaven



Answer found on the last page.



On October 31, 1517 in Wittenberg Germany, Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church. His ideas advocated for a personal relationship with God over reliance on priests. Luther stated that he “would allow no man to preach or teach God’s people without a proper knowledge of the use and power of sacred song. Next to the word of God, music deserves the highest praise.”

As a German monk and theologian, Luther saw many serious problems in the church. Leaders were selling documents called indulgences that promised to forgive people’s sins in exchange for money. Luther wanted people to know they could find salvation through faith in Jesus Christ alone.

Church leaders did not welcome Luther’s message, kicked him out of the church declaring him an outlaw. Luther stood firm, and wrote the hymn A Mighty Fortress Is Our God inspired by Psalm 46. The psalm states that God is our shelter, and speaks of God’s power to protect his people against all enemies seen and unseen.

A Mighty Fortress is our God became known as the Battle Hymn of the Reformation, because it gave courage to persecuted protestant believers. Our congregation will join with churches throughout the world singing this hymn of strength and grace on October 26th.

See you in church!

**Judy Blomgren
FOG Music Director**



To Err Is Human, To Forgive Divine

This past summer while driving on 85th Avenue North in Brooklyn Park, I came upon four motor vehicle accident scenes. These were followed by a recent crash at Brooklyn Boulevard and Northland Drive. Three of the five accidents were so recent that emergency vehicles had not yet arrived. Of the accidents along 85th, one was at Hwy. 169, one at Regent, another at Xerxes, and a fourth at Hwy. 252. All the individuals standing near their cars or vans or pick-ups looked stunned and unhappy, though no overt anger was evident. My impression was that no one was seriously injured.

What could have happened? Someone ran a red light, drove too fast, or misjudged the speed of another vehicle. Perhaps there was a distraction such as geese on the road or a cellphone in someone's hand. A mistake had been made by at least five of the drivers involved in these crashes.

Mistakes happen all the time. In 1711, English poet Alexander Pope wrote, "To err is human, to forgive divine." While his words are not precisely a biblical quote, the Bible provides many references to forgiveness.

In chapters 37-50 of Genesis, the touching story of Joseph holds the reader's attention. Joseph's jealous brothers plot against him and sell him into slavery. Many years pass and Joseph becomes a respected, influential leader who chooses to forgive his brothers.

Moving to the New Testament, the

Prodigal Son story in Luke 15 focuses on a young man who squanders his inheritance and returns home chastened. His father welcomes him with forgiving arms. Though the brother in this tale is unhappy, the father's kindness prevails.

Ruth Circle



Ephesians 4:32 is unequivocal in giving advice. "Be ye kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

(King James Version)

In Matthew 18:21-22, Peter asks Jesus how often he is expected to forgive those who have sinned against him in some way. "Seven times?" Peter asks. "No," states Christ, "Seventy times seven times." Additionally, Christ says on the cross, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

It is doubtful that any of the accident scenes included a motorist asking for forgiveness of another driver. But in self-reproach they may be thinking, "How could I have been so careless?"

Perhaps drivers, passengers, and witnesses need to dwell on the idea of forgiveness. Forgiveness leads to many positives: peace of mind, harmonious relationships with others, and a deep understanding of others.

Pope's words are worth dwelling on and repeating, especially when the focus is on forgiveness.

Myra Madsen

Social Ministry Corner

Thank you to all who contributed to our North Hennepin Community College school supply/food drive. It was much appreciated.

For October, we will be doing a collection for Champlin Park High's, The Shelf. Every school has different needs. CPHS has requested they are in need of dark colored pants in sizes Med-2xl. Stretch, wide leg and sweatpants would be much appreciated. They also need crew socks in white or black. One additional item, cough drops, are always requested.

There are some examples of these items in our shopping cart. They were purchased at Costco, Fleet Farm & Walmart.

Lights, camera, MYSTERY! The FOG Drama Ministry is teaming up with South Santiago Lutheran Church in Clear Lake, MN to host another Mystery Dinner Theater production, and this time we're putting on "Suspect Hollywood" by Nancy Bond. This show follows a director as some "famous" actors and actresses audition for this new movie. He has made numerous false promises, so how will the stars react when they are betrayed? And will one of them stoop to murdering the scoundrel? There are a total of 9-12 roles of varying caricatures, and we would love to see you audition. As this is a joint production, all auditions, rehearsal, and performances will be held at both FOG in Brooklyn Park AND South Santiago in Clear Lake, so please keep that in mind when auditioning! More info will be provided at auditions. Auditions will be held Sunday, October 19th at South Santiago Lutheran Church, and Sunday, October 26th at FOG Lutheran Church, from 1pm-4pm both days. Sides will be provided at the time of auditions for cold reads, and plan on being there for the entirety of the audition block. Thank you for your interest, and we can't wait to see what you hope to bring to "Suspect Hollywood!" If you have any questions please email Director Jackson Peterson at mediafreak21@gmail.com or talk to stage manager Claudia Peterson.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i> Connie's Quilters 11 am Choir 7:00 pm	<i>2</i> Young Adult Bible Study 6:30pm Riverlyn AA 7 pm	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>5</i> 9:30 am Worship Sunday School 11am Crossways Bible Study 12pm ELIFE Church	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i> Bible Study 9:30 am & 7 pm No Bull AA 7 pm	<i>8</i> Connie's Quilters 11 am Game night 6pm Choir 7:00 pm	<i>9</i> Young Adult Bible Study 6:30pm Ruth Circle at 9:30 am Craft Group 5pm Riverlyn AA 7 pm	<i>10</i> Craft Group 5 pm Fri & 9 am to 4 pm Sat	<i>11</i>
<i>12</i> 9:30 am Worship Sunday School 11am Crossways Bible Study 12pm ELIFE Church	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i> Bible Study 9:30 am & 7 pm No Bull AA 7 pm	<i>15</i> Connie's Quilters 11 am Choir 7:00 pm	<i>16</i> Young Adult Bible Study 6:30pm Riverlyn AA 7 pm	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i> Men's Breakfast at 8:30 am
<i>19</i> 9:30 am Worship NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 11am Crossways Bible Study 11am RIC discussion 12pm ELIFE Church	<i>20</i> Linus Quilters 10 am Book club 1 pm	<i>21</i> Bible Study 9:30 am & 7 pm No Bull AA 7 pm	<i>22</i> Connie's Quilt- ers 11 am Choir 7:00 pm	<i>23</i> Young Adult Bible Study 6:30pm Riverlyn AA 7 pm	<i>24</i> ELIFE 4pm-8pm 	<i>25</i> ELIFE 2pm-8pm 11 am RIC Discussion
<i>26</i> Bishop at wor- ship 9:30 am Worship Sunday School 11am Crossways Bible Study 12pm ELIFE Church	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i> Bible Study 9:30 am & 7 pm No Bull AA 7 pm	<i>29</i> Connie's Quilters 11 am Trunk or Treat Choir 7:00 pm	<i>30</i> Young Adult Bible Study 6:30pm	<i>31</i>	

October worship helpers

Lectors

5 _____

12 LaDonna

19 Andrew Peterson

26 Mary Lou Gorres

Refreshments

5 Lenthes

12 Nancy + Joe

19 Withers

26 _____

Altar Care

5 Elsass

12 Cindy Buesgens

19 Withers

26 Balzer

Ushers

5 Chuck L

12 Randy Blackorbay

19 _____

26 _____

Greeters

5 _____

12 _____

19 _____

26 Julie Johnson

Nursery Care

5 Claudia

12 Madison

19 Claudia

26 Madison



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!!**

Dear Family of God members,

You may have seen our electronic sign out front as it scrolls through different messages. One of them reads "All are Welcome." Extending the love of Christ has always been a value of this congregation. We have been discussing, both among the staff and with members, how we can more deeply and intentionally offer that welcome.

At FOG, we have an opportunity to do just that. You may be aware of a ministry called ReconcilingWorks. This is an organization that works with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (and Canada). In their own words: "ReconcilingWorks advocates for the acceptance, full participation, and liberation of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions within the Lutheran Church."

They offer an educational program called Reconciling in Christ (RIC). In essence, this RIC designation that congregations can earn is a sign to people in the LGBTQ+ community that we have done the work to be a safe place for them. Recently, our church council voted to authorize formal discussions in our congregation regarding our potential start in this program. We intend to hold multiple sessions in the coming months so the congregation can have as much information as possible on this topic. You are also welcome to share your thoughts at these gatherings. We will discuss what the program entails, why we are considering it, how long it would take, what is expected of us, and much more.

You likely have many questions about this development! We welcome your presence at one of our events:

Sunday, 10/19 at 11AM

Saturday, 10/25 at 11AM

Thursday, 11/6 at 7PM

Wednesday, 11/12 at 7PM

You are also encouraged to visit reconcilingworks.org for more information in the meantime. Once our gatherings are complete, we will hold a vote at our annual meeting on Sunday, January 25 after worship. At that time, we will decide as a congregation whether to begin the RIC process or not.

We look forward to talking more with you and all members of our faith community. Blessings to you in this exciting time!

— Prs. Paul Burow and Erin Koster

Answer: C (See Luke 16:19-31.)

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

Allyson McDonald, 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

Friday
9:00 am—1:00 pm

Website: www.fogchurch.org