

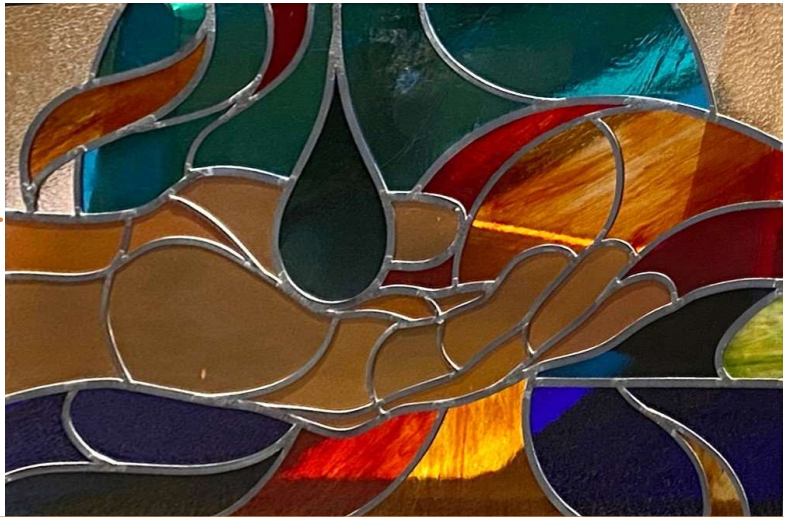


FAMILY OF GOD

"Children by grace, extending Christ's embrace"

Worship and communion Sundays at 9:30 am

In-person and livestreamed from our
Youtube channel, found on our
website fogchurch.org



Announcements

- Young Adult Bible Study Friday at 6:30 pm
- Bible Study Tuesdays at 9:30 am and 7:00 pm
- October 4th Blessing of the Animals 1:00pm
- October 11th Pastor Paul's 25th anniversary cookout 11:00 am
- Trunk or Treat on October 21st 6:00-7:30 pm
- Reformation Sunday October 25th

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

September 2026

In third grade, I remember praying that Jesus wouldn't come back that day, because I felt I didn't have enough faith, and I would be thrown in hell. I don't know where I got that idea, but somehow it became a view I accepted as true, and it made me scared, which is not what Christians should be thinking.

At the end of this month, Sunday, October 25th, we will remember Martin Luther and the Reformation. It is not a time to proclaim we are better than anyone else. But it is a Sunday to sing hymns written by Luther and other Lutheran hymn writers, to hear the freeing words of the Gospel, and to thank God for the untarnished good news of Jesus Christ, which Luther and others proclaimed when the Gospel was being obscured.

The Gospel can be obscured in many ways, because it is not the way the world works. Lutherans speak of God's grace that makes us righteous before God, but it is easy to fall into some significant traps that make grace "ungrace," like what I described about my third grade experience. Faith is a gift of the Holy Spirit and we cannot compare one person's faith with another's. The good news of Jesus does not grade you on how much faith you have—otherwise faith would turn into a good work which nullifies the grace of God.

There are other ways the Gospel can be obscured. Some people teach that grace is infused in us by God so that we can have the ability do good works by which we are judged. In other words, we are saved by grace, but there is still a work that needs to be done to prove our faith before God.

That is salvation by works, and an un-gospel. Others say we have to make a declaration of faith to be a Christian, pray a sinner's prayer, or come down to an altar call, which means that faith is an exercise of

our will, and that our place before God is once again because of a work we do. Some say we are saved by prevenient grace, which is grace given to us before our conversion, and we still have to do something, like pray the sinner's prayer. This is also a work.

There are other traps as well. But as Lutherans, we believe we are saved by grace alone, that is, without anything on our part. In fact, the reformers dared to say that if we had our way, our will would never choose to trust God. That shows the depth of our hopelessness when we rely on ourselves and not God.

Grace is the gift of God, a pure gift, given without strings attached. We trust that God through Jesus has proclaimed us innocent of our sin, which He takes upon himself. And we can do nothing to help this. What a promise! What a gift! Such a gift to be totally free from the conditions which demand we do something of our own free will. I wish I learned that in third grade. In fact, it took me many years for this Good News to sink in.

"What??? I don't have to do anything?" some say. "That can't be true! I, and I mean I have to do something for God to declare me righteous. You mean I cannot do anything?" Yes. It is true. So preaches Scripture, and we need to be reminded of this, because that is not the way the world works. In the world, we get what we deserve, but that is not the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Many say they have found Jesus, to which some respond: "I never knew He was lost." Humor aside, another hat I saw says "Jesus found me." Ah, there we go. We don't find Jesus, Jesus finds us, like a lost sheep, and claims us, redeems us, and pours out the Holy Spirit on us so that faith in that promise becomes life changing.

Thanks be to God for these words of promise, this Good News of Jesus Christ.

Greetings to everyone at Family of God —

Recently, we had our kickoff for the 2026-2027 confirmation year. If you don't currently have a young person in your family in this class, you probably don't know what we get up to these days. I want to change that! I know that our members are eager to encourage and support our youth. The more we're all in the know about our youth programs, the more we are able to do that.

This year, confirmation will be meeting before worship. This is a schedule we adopted last year. Even though 8:30AM feels awfully early, overall it worked well for everyone. We do one lesson and then wrap up shortly before worship. During worship, every student is required to "pick something" to do. This can be serving as an acolyte, assisting with communion distribution, volunteering at Sunday School, or another appropriate activity. It drives home that we are all not just passive recipients when we are at church, but actively involved in unique ways in our community of faith.

The youth also have to complete sermon notes. I haven't been completely satisfied with the different templates we've had over the years, so I revamped them this year. The students need to choose five of a total of ten potential prompts to answer. They include questions like "if you could ask the pastors to preach on one topic, what would it be and why?" and "I talked with my parent/guardian/other adult about the message after the service today, and here's what we discussed." My hope is that these questions will engage the students and encourage thoughtful responses.

At our kickoff, we also discussed some possible ways to gather outside of the classroom. One of the opportunities I'm excited about is a field trip to other communities of faith. In the past, we've visited a nearby synagogue and the cathedral in St. Paul. It helps to learn that there are other ways of worshipping. Understanding other faith traditions also sheds light on our own. We can learn about what is specific to us and why. So, if you don't see me on a Sunday in the coming months, there's a good chance that our confirmation youth and I are at another congregation for the morning!

We have a lot of fun possibilities for this confirmation year. By no means is this an exhaustive list of everything we'll get up to, but it should give you a sense of what the year will hold. Our confirmation youth are bright individuals who all add something unique to our congregation. I am so thankful to spend time with them and look forward to learning together.

Blessings to you and your loved ones!
- Pr. Erin Koster

Council Meeting summary

Devotions were led by Rick Strub. Meeting was called to order at 7:10pm by Council President David Loos.

Old Business highlights: Quotes are being obtained for cleaning the large sanctuary and Cornerstone Room windows. Other cleaning has been scheduled and is being paid for with Garage Sale funds. New Memorial Garden pavers have been purchased for installation on All Saints Day. The Building Use Policy was reviewed. Some updates to terms and fees are being considered.

New Business highlights: Audio issues with live-streaming have persisted. Troubleshooting in progress;

Treasurer's report was reviewed and approved. Year-to-date spending remains over budget, but August giving trended in a positive direction. The Stewardship Committee will work on communicating the budget shortfall.

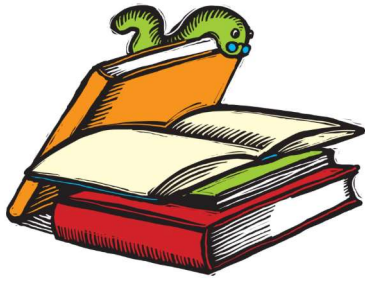
Staff reports were given by Pastor Paul and Pastor Erin. Highlights

include continued Bible Study and pastoral care, website updates, completion of the Grief and Death class, the start of Sunday School and Confirmation, and upcoming Blessing of the Animals and Kingdom Quest activities.

In Committee Updates: Audit plans to meet this fall, the RIC committee provided an update, and Stewardship has developed a fall theme of "Blessed to be a Blessing," with a timeline, letter, Temple Talks, and digital pledge cards planned.

Adjournment was moved by Larry Parson and seconded by Larry Knoell. Motion passed.





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

October 19 None Stood Taller

Peter Turnham

November 15 To Kill a Mockingbird

Harper Lee

New members welcome!

Contact **Joan Hemanson** with any questions

October 11th is the day we are celebrating **Pastor Paul's 25th anniversary at Family of God!** There will be a cookout after the service that morning. We have a sign-up sheet on the narthex kiosk for those who want to bring side dishes and those who want to help with set-up and clean-up.

"Just for fun" days in October

Oct 1: Balloons Around the World Day
Oct 3: Card Making Day
Oct 9: Curious Events Day
Oct 11: It's My Party Day
Oct 16: Dictionary Day
Oct 18: Chocolate Cupcake Day
Oct 23: Mole Day

Galatians/Philippians Bible Study: The Apostle Paul planted many churches during his missionary journeys, and through the years helped to encourage and guide them through his letters. These churches had different issues and had different characters. Join me as we study the Books of Galatians and Philippians. The church at Galatia was one of those difficult churches that the Apostle dealt with in firm and even strident tones—in other words, they were kind of a pain to work with. But the church at Philippi was one of Paul's easiest to deal with and he rejoiced in their ministry. In ten weeks, beginning Tuesday, September 15th we'll study these Biblical books and learn Paul's teachings and practical issues in dealing with these early Christians. Morning study goes from 9:30 – 11 am and the evening class from 7-8 pm. Please join us—no cost—just please bring your Bibles. See you then. There is a sign up sheet on the narthex kiosk.



On Monday, October 31, the world celebrates Halloween. But Protestants will celebrate the birth of the Protestant

Reformation. On October 31, 1517 Martin Luther, "published" his grievances against the Roman Catholic Church's system of indulgences. We celebrate this event not because it divided Protestants from Catholics, but because it recaptured the gospel from the clutches of a corrupt church. The Protestant Reformation believes in the centrality of Christ, the authority of Scripture, and salvation that comes entirely by God's grace through faith.

Before the Reformation, assurance for the individual was impossible, because the person always wondered if they had done enough works to merit God's grace. In God's grace, he raised up Martin Luther and other Reformers to recover the true gospel and to set the church on the foundation of the Word of God.

Reformation Sunday is October 25th at FOG. May God be pleased to bring Reformation again in our hearts, and in our church.

For His glory!!!!

Judy Blomgren

Director of Music

The Ruth Circle Saga Continues

A big thank you to Pastor Paul, Pastor Erin, and **Jane Nelson** who assisted in facilitating my research! Toting large boxes down from the attic is probably not in a pastor's job description, but they did it cheerfully. Jane, again cheerfully, volunteered to help me out.

My quest to determine the origin of Ruth Circle continued August 25th when Jane Nelson and I pored through Family of God newsletters from the late 1970s and early 1980s. My biggest discovery was that the FOG Women's Group was a much larger, earlier organization than Ruth Circle; the group met in the evening, sometimes on Monday, at times on Tuesday, and occasionally on Wednesday. This group preceded Ruth Circle by many years.

On Monday evening, an October 26, 1981, a "Kick-off Salad and Fondue Supper" was

planned with tickets selling for **\$4.50**. The Women's Group also sponsored a February 12, 1982, 6:30 p.m. Sweetheart Dinner, as well as a 6:30 p.m. Father-Son Banquet on March 26. That year continued to be busy as well as versatile. The September calendar noted a 9:30 a.m. "Morning Circle" and a 7:30 p.m. "Evening Circle" on Thursday, the 16th. On October 7, 1982, a Women's Group Salad Supper was in the works, as was a 9:30 "Morning Circle" meeting on the 21st, and a 7:30 p.m. "Evening Circle" on the 28th. In November a joint meeting of the "AM and PM Circles" was scheduled for the 18th at 7:30 p.m. Unfortunately, we do not have notes from what may have been an important meeting. On Thursday, December 16th, the Women's Group participated in a Community Emergency Assistance Program (CEAP) distribution, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

By January of 1983, both Women's Groups met on the third Thursday with one time set for 9:30 a.m. and the other at 7:30 p.m. In February the evening group sponsored a Cooking Class at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, the 17th. No a.m. group time made it onto the FOG calendar. On March 17th, the a.m. Women's Group met at 9:30, and the p.m. Women's Group met at 7:30.

The first time the phrase "**Ruth Circle**" appeared in a FOG calendar was April 1983. The group was scheduled to meet at 9:30 a.m. on the third Thursday, the 21st, with "All Women Welcome." The evening group did not meet that month. On May 19th, 1983, Ruth Circle planned a 10:30 a.m. Pot-Luck Picnic at the home of Marlys Carlson. Traditionally, Ruth Circle has not met during the summer, and by September 1983, the calendar showed a 9:30 a.m. meeting on the second Thursday. Now Ruth Circle is listed first, followed by Women's Group in parentheses, in case anyone was confused by the name. That latter group also had a

6:30 Salad Supper on Monday, the 26th. In October 1983 Ruth Circle met at 9:30 a.m. on the 13th, but the p.m. Women's Group did not meet. In December 1983 Ruth Circle planned to meet at CEAP on the 15th at 9:00. No event for evening Women's Group is listed.

Further exploration of newsletters from 1984 onward may be needed to see if the evening Women's Group continued. We have Ruth Circle minutes beginning in January 1987. If anyone knows who might be hoarding Circle minutes from April 1983 to January 1987, please notify the proper authorities. Those would be Ruth President Joanne Frankena, Pastor Paul, or yours truly.

Myra
Madsen



LADIES: SAVE THE DATE!

Ladies of FOG, please add Saturday, December 5, 10:30 a.m. to your calendar. That is the date Annual Women's Holiday Brunch. The theme this year will be "Holiday Traditions." Stay tuned for more information but you can expect the usual fun, food, music—and more!

If you have questions or input, please contact Jeanne Ferguson at 763-213-9546, Nancy Knoell at 763-560-6770, or Myra Madsen at 763-425-7494.





Sunday Flowers

2026 Flower Chart is posted
on the
narthex kiosk.

The cost of the flowers is \$35.

10/4 Chuck and Sandy Lenthe

10/11 Donna Moen

10/18 Rick and Rhonda Withers

10/25 Nanci and Larry Parson



Global Mission Support

**2026 Global Mission Support
Calendar** is posted on the kiosk in
the narthex. Your \$35 weekly
donation goes to support Megan Tee
and Tee Sieng's ministry work in
Japan.

10/4 Joann Frankena

10/11 Doug and Kathy Behrens

10/18 Ginny Trogan

10/25 Larry and Nancy Knoell

FOG Crafters will be meeting again starting October 22 - 24. Theme for the kickoff event is Sleepover. Wear your cozy PJ's and slippers while watching old movies and snacking on junk food and pizza. We will have a special community project, we will be making cards for hospitalized kids. More information will be sent through the bulletins and will be posted at the church. Join us for all three days or just for a few hours for fellowship and fun.

-Steph & LeAnne-

Birthdays

Melinda Bilderback 10/01
Samuel Webb 10/03
Maren Petras 10/03
Allyson McDonald 10/04
Sirlea Daynuah 10/06
Samantha Johnson 10/06
Clara Johnson 10/06
Meredith Turner 10/07
Ann Lundquist 10/09
Marie Newgard 10/14
Donna Moen 10/15
Paul Zahalan 10/16
Darlene George 10/17
Donald Petras 10/19
Anthony Sedesky 10/23
Nick Jorenby 10/23
Mary Ellen Chinander 10/26
Jane Nelson 10/27
Ryan Meyers 10/27
Ron Moe 10/28
Daniel A Burow 10/28
Barb Johnson 10/29
Naser Daynuah 10/29

Anniversaries

Ryan & Katie Peterson 10/05
Jeff & Connie Young 10/07
Charles & Sandra Lenthe 10/08
Mark & Karla Kitoski 10/09
Doug & Kathy Behrens 10/15
Larry & Nancy Knoell 10/19
Larry & Nanci Parson 10/29

If your birthday or anniversary does not appear, please bring this to the office's attention.

Recent Happenings



Blood drive on September 28th



Reconciling in Christ committee meeting

September 13th



Rally day on September 13th



Death and Dying
Medical Decision
Making Class hosted
by Sue Arens



A huge **THANK YOU** to all who made Garage Sale 2026 a huge success

After expenses, we cleared \$14,861.44.

Outreach projects we plan to fund:

Lutheran Social Service Center - Changing lives program in Minneapolis and St. Paul. \$1,500



Local Food Shelves - supplement congregational giving to NHCC, CPHS, Park Center and Osseo high schools \$500 (each)

CEAP - holiday food programs and Metro Food Share \$1000

Mitten Tree - \$750



Every Meal Back Packs - fall payment, additional amount may be needed to supplement congregational giving for spring payment \$2000

Little Library and Drop Everything and Read Event - \$1,000

FOG Crafters - Community Service Projects \$500

Cards for Cards for Hospitalized Kids

Prayer Shawls for Love is a Hug

Quilts for Quilts for Kids



Trunk or treat - \$500



Additionally, we will pay church's electricity for the month of July- \$1,163.77 and badly needed carpet cleaning \$800-1,000

Please submit additional outreach suggestions or church needs to be considered.

GARAGE SALE 2027 WILL BE JULY 28, 29, 30 & 31ST

Social Ministry Corner

In the month of October, Social Ministry is collecting items to benefit students at Osseo Senior High and Park Center High School. Items that they need most are listed below.

Please note all clothing must be new items.

- gender neutral items with all sizes and colors (sweatshirts, t-shirts, sweatpants)
- gift cards (gas, groceries, clothing stores (Walmart or Target),
- reusable water bottles (so kiddos can fill vs. handing out water bottles)
- good quality backpacks,
- natural hair products-For curly textured hair,
- snacks (granola bars, snack size packs of cheez it/goldfish, no chips please)
- toothpaste
- toothbrushes
- feminine hygiene (pads)
- highlighters
- bottled water
- black leggings (all sizes)
- women's underwear – all sizes
- black yoga pants – all sizes
- men's shorts – all sizes
- socks – all sizes

If you prefer to donate money and have us do the shopping for you, please make note on your envelope and/or check that you want funds to go towards items for Park Center and Osseo Senior High Schools.

If you have any questions about items/sizes, please see Kathy Behrens or Terri Anderson-Webb.

Thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration of these requests.

The Social Ministry Committee



We are hosting our annual trunk or treat on October 21st!

Sign up to host a trunk in the narthex.

If you are hosting a trunk please be in place no later than 5:45pm to ensure the safety of our Trunk or Treaters! FOG provides the candy and pizza for our volunteers. Trunk or Treating begins at 6:00 pm and ends at 7:30 pm.

A big thank you to all who contributed to the North Hennipen Community College drive and those who gave monetary donations to the Every Meal backpack program!



October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Riverlyn AA 7 pm	2 YA Bible Study 6:30PM	3
4 8:30 am confirmation 9:30 am Worship Sunday School 12pm Christ Chapel Int 1pm blessing of animals	5	6 Bible Study 9:30 am & 7 pm No Bull AA 7 pm	7 Connie's Quilters 11 am Choir 7:00 pm	8 Ruth Circle at 9:30 am Craft Group 5pm Riverlyn AA 7 pm	9 YA Bible Study 6:30PM	10 <i>Elife family day</i>
11 8:30 am confirmation 9:30 am Worship Sunday School Pastor Paul's 25th Anniversary Cookout 12pm Christ Chapel Int	12	13 Bible Study 9:30 am & 7 pm No Bull AA 7 pm	14 Connie's Quilters 11 am Choir 7:00 pm	15 Riverlyn AA 7 pm Council Meeting	16 Confirmation lock in starts 7pm YA Bible Study 6:30PM	17 Confirmation lock in ends 8 am Men's Breakfast at 8:30 am
18 8:30 am confirmation 9:30 am Worship NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 12pm Christ Chapel Int	19 Linus Quilters 10 am Book club 1 pm	20 Bible Study 9:30 am & 7 pm No Bull AA 7 pm	21 Connie's Quilters 11 am Choir 7:00 pm	22 Craft Group Riverlyn AA 7 pm	23 YA Bible Study 6:30PM 	24
25 8:30 am confirmation 9:30 am Worship Sunday School 12pm Christ Chapel Int ELife anniversary event Peterson event 3-9pm	26	27 Bible Study 9:30 am & 7 pm No Bull AA 7 pm	28 Connie's Quilters 11 am Choir 7:00 pm	29 Riverlyn AA 7 pm	30 YA Bible Study 6:30PM	31

October Worship Helpers

Lectors

4 Andrew Peterson _____

11 Ginny Trogen _____

18 LaDonna Blackorby _____

25 Ali O'Mara _____

Ushers

4 _____

11 Gary & Mel _____

18 Randy Blackorby _____

25 _____



Nursery Care

4 Claudia _____

11 Claudia _____

18 Claudia _____

25 _____

Refreshments

4 Withers _____

11 _____

18 _____

25 _____

Greeters

4 Nancy Knoell _____

11 Julie Johnson _____

18 _____

25 _____

Altar Care

4 Withers _____

11 Cindy Buesgens _____

18 Elsass _____

25 Davon Stedje _____

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

odrtine@ogchurch.org

SO A MASTER LIST CAN BE KEPT AND SO A REMINDER CARD CAN BE SENT. THANK YOU!***

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