



September 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 Starts September 16th
- 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

If you pay careful attention to the prayer of the church during Sunday worship, you might see that we offer prayers related to the sermon, prayers for our members and others, and for our nation and the world. Many times when we pray for peace or society we pray that God would guide our leaders to bring about justice, peace, and a concern for the poor and needy.

Martin Luther wrote on many subjects during his career, and some dealt with the Church and society. A prodigious writer and preacher, Luther penned a tract entitled "Temporal Authority: To what extent it should be obeyed." In this he wrestled with the place of the church and of the state and how they relate to one another. Of course in Luther's day secular authorities were not voted in power, but were believed to have received their position from God by means of royal families and their descendants. The Divine Right of Kings it is called. Hence there were over one hundred kingdoms in the German lands, each with a ruling prince. In this treatise, Luther even gave a little pastoral advice to princes and stated what makes good ones and what makes poor ones.

Here are some quotes of what Luther wrote on good political leaders. There have always been crooked politicians. As you read this, think of our elected leaders and ask yourself how they measure up to Luther's standards.

A ruler must "give consideration and attention to his subjects and really devote himself to it. This he does when he directs his every thought to making himself useful and beneficial to them; when instead of thinking: 'The land and people belong to me, I will do what best pleases me,' he thinks rather, 'I belong to the land and the people, I shall do what is useful and good for them. My concern will be not how to lord it over them and dominate them, but how to protect and maintain them in peace and plenty.' He should picture Christ to himself, and say, 'Behold, Christ, the supreme ruler, came to serve me; he did not seek to gain power, estate, and honor from me, but considered only my need, and directed all things to the end that I should gain power, estate, and honor from him and through him. I will do likewise, seeking from my subjects not my own advantage but theirs. I will use my office to serve and protect them, listen to their problems and defend them, and govern to the sole end that they, not I, may benefit and profit from my rule.' In such manner should a prince in his heart empty himself of his power and authority, and take unto himself the needs of his subjects, dealing with them as though they were his own needs."

Which of our political leaders best fits this description?

To close, Luther later adds a German proverb: "Who is not aware that a prince is a rare prize in heaven?"

_Pr. Paul Burow

Greetings to everyone at Family of God —

We recently experienced some changes here on the church staff. We said goodbye to our wonderful outgoing director of music, Linda Armstrong. (Though we certainly hope she will keep in touch!) The following week, we welcomed Judy Nordgren into that role. Quite a few of you know her from around the community already. If you haven't made her acquaintance, please be sure to chat her up next time you are here!

Since music is on my mind, I wanted to dwell on it a bit here in the newsletter. Our church home is a bit unique in this area. We have an organ that we use every week. Most people associate church services with organ music, but in practice, that's becoming less and less the case. Not every church musician knows how to play and maintain an organ. We are blessed to have had music directors that do.

When I was in seminary, we had a professor who told us the main function of the organ. Its purpose, he said, was to invite the congregation to *sing*. We are Lutherans, part of a tradition that heavily emphasizes the participation of lay-people in worship. The congregation is not an audience, but active participants in the service! The organ encourages this dynamic. It's no wonder it's called "the Queen of Instruments."

Another element of our music sets us apart. We are firmly rooted in traditional Christian hymnody. The music you hear at Family of God is, more often than not, centuries old. This is a good thing, for several reasons! First of all, it unites us with Christians throughout different times and places. The world changes, but our Christian beliefs do not. As the book of Hebrews says, "Christ is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow." Traditional music emphasizes our faith's fixed point at the center of our lives.

There are other reasons to rely on traditional music. These hymns are *theologically correct*. Theology seems like an academically remote field that has little bearing on daily faith practices. However, it informs the way that we understand God. That matters a lot! Not every hymn out there aligns with our understanding of scripture, of God, and of ourselves. If a piece of music is in the hymnal, you can know it's been carefully chosen. These songs reinforce what we know, and additionally, they help teach us! Martin Luther, the forefather of our Christian tradition, strongly urged all people to receive education in the faith. Theologically sound (and beautiful) hymns are a piece of that.

Finally, I enjoy these hymns for a personal reason. Throughout my time as a pastor, I have led regular worship services at long-term care facilities. The residents generally can't attend worship at their own congregations, so local pastors like me (and Pr. Paul) bring it to them. Many of the folks there have memory issues. However, when they hear a hymn like "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," their eyes occasionally clear and they sing along. Music is a fundamental part of the human soul. It stays with us for a long time.

As autumn arrives, I look forward to seeing everyone back from summer activities and travels. Please keep an eye on the calendar for upcoming events as the program year begins at church. It's not too late to sign up for Sunday school! You can talk with me about confirmation, as well. Additionally, as we join in worship on Rally Day and beyond, I hope you may find a deepened appreciation for our church music.

Blessings to you and your loved ones!

— Pr. Erin Koster

Energy Efficiency (and Cost Savings)

Larry Parson gave an update on the solar panel investigation. It requires too much capital investment and return on investment is very slow. An organization helps non-profits like us. They have resources to help us improve efficiencies in our utilities usage. (We're getting a free fridge for the youth room to replace our inefficient one!)

Personnel Changes

We officially approved the hiring of our new Music Director, Judy Blomgren! We also approved the hiring of Leann Barrick for Interim Administrative Assistant while we are looking for a new assistant.

Other Church-y Business

Council reviewed rental proposals, copier service contracts, and fire inspection results. We're getting bids for carpet cleaning and there is brick work in progress now. We're excited to welcome our young ones back to Sunday School in September





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

Sept 22 [The Zookeeper's Wife](#)
Diane Ackerman

Oct 20 [Gone to the Woods](#)
Gary Paulson

New members welcome!

Contact Joan Hermanson with any questions.

LINUS QUILTERS

Back on Monday,
September 15, 2025

"Just for fun" dates in August

September 1: World Letter Writing Day

September 13: Kids Take over the Kitchen Day

August 19: Talk like a Pirate Day

August 24: National Punctuation Day !!!!



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 beginning on Tuesday, September 16.



A huge effort was made to donate our unsold merchandise instead of putting it in the dumpster. We wanted to pass things along to be reused. All shoes were donated to Show Away Hunger which is part of Good for the Hood. Medical supplies went to Global Health Ministries. Christmas items were given to St. Alphonse's Christmas sale. Books, videos, games and puzzles went to Able Light Thrift Store which supports 17 group homes for mentally challenged adults. Vines & Branches received half of our men's & women's clothing; the other half went to Teen Challenge. Anna Maria Alliance Women's Shelter got all of our sleepwear & mugs. Children's clothing & coats were given to Calvin Presbyterian Church which send items to an Indian reservation in ND. Leftover furniture items went to Habitat for Humanity Restore. The rest was given to Goodwill. Thanks to all who helped with this efforts, we raised over \$12,000.00 at the garage sale.



Sunday Flowers

9/7 Randy & LaDonna Blackorby

9/14 Larry & Nancy Knoell

9/21 Jean Ferguson

9/28 AVAILABLE

2025 Flower Chart is posted on the
narthex kiosk.

The cost of the flowers is \$35.



Global Mission Support

9/7— Jim & Sue Elsass

9/21— Mary Ellen C.

9/14—Jack & Dixie Umland 9/28— Katie Rosenberg

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.

CHURCH WIDE FALL CLEAN UP - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 9am to 12:30pm.

Please bring a bucket and gloves, all supplies will be provided. We hope to do all windows, inside and out, sanctuary pews and wood floors, kitchen, clean up outside plants and trees. Lunch will be provided. The more, the merrier!!

Property Committee.



BIRTHDAYS

Sara Williams 09/01
Steven Oien 09/02
Danny Clink 09/03
Cindy Buesgens 09/04
Doug Behrens 09/04
Darrin Williams 09/05
Gary Carlson 09/06
Olivia Butts 09/06
Joshua Phleger 09/07
Todd Letsche 09/08
Richard Stiller 09/10
Sandra Lenthe 09/13
Julie Strub 09/14
Katherine Bengtson 09/20
Sandra Magnuson 09/23
Scott Luecke 09/23
Jill Stiller 09/23
Norah Haywood 09/24
Kaitlyn Tieman 09/25
Sue Arens 09/26
Miranda Peterson 09/27
Mellanie Balzer 09/27
Alison Sedesky 09/28
Roni Hyatt 09/29

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

ANNIVERSARIES

Gary & Susan Phleger 09/05
Linda & Paul Broman 09/10
Rick & Julie Strub 09/19
Dan & Mary Clink 09/24
Larry & Gloria Carlson 09/27

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

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

Timothy was a young man who became a trusted companion and co-worker of the apostle Paul.
Which of the following statements is *not* accurate?

- A. Timothy's mother and grandmother taught him the Scriptures.
- B. Paul considered Timothy his spiritual son.
- C. Timothy was born in Rome and raised as a Roman citizen.
- D. Paul wrote two New Testament letters addressed to Timothy.



Answer found on the last page.



Music thoughts

If Paul the Apostle were writing specifically to musicians, he might have worded the first three verses in I Corinthians Chapter 13 a bit differently:

“If I can sing better than Caruso, Pavarotti, Ella Fitzgerald or Paul McCartney but have not love, I am only a re-sounding gong or a clanging cymbal.”

“If I can play piano better than Horowitz, guitar better than Segovia, violin better than Hilary Hahn, drums better than Buddy Rich, cello better than Yo Yo Ma, and if I can compose better than Beethoven, Bach, or Mozart, but have not love, I am nothing.”

“If I have more sales than the Beatles, and have more fans than Elvis, but have not love, I gain nothing.”

Whatever blessings come our way—no matter how wonderful the position or how gold or platinum the recording—whatever we strive for are absolutely nothing compared with God’s love.

In the midst of so much hate and evil around us, may we strive more to know God and to show His unfathomable love to everyone around us.

Thank you for welcoming me so warmly to the church family at FOG. I am truly blessed.

Peace.

Judy Blomgren

FOG Director of Music





It's time for our Women's Group to begin meeting monthly again. We want to welcome all women to our September 11th meeting at 9:30 AM.

There is something for everyone to enjoy at our meetings and activities at other times during the month. We are always in need of volunteers for our service activities that include: soup suppers, funerals, visitation, celebrations, prayer partners and projects that enhance our community and our church.

Please join us for fellowship, a business meeting and an enlightening Bible study.

If you have any questions, please contact one of the offers below. We hope to see you on Thursday September 11th at 9:30 AM in the Sunday School area!

Sandy Lenthe, President	763-416-4362
Dixie Umland, V. President	763-233-2564
Nancy Knoell, Secretary	763-560-6770
Jeanne Ferguson, Treasurer	763-213-9546

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

- ☐ Laundry Detergent
- ☐ Dish Soap*
- ☐ Cleaning Supplies*
- ☐ Dish Rags
- ☐ Small Towels

HYGIENE ITEMS

- ☐ Vaseline*
- ☐ Deodorant*
- ☐ Shampoo*
- ☐ Conditioner*
- ☐ Body Wash*
- ☐ Toothpaste*
- ☐ Toothbrush
- ☐ Dental Floss*
- ☐ Menstrual Products*
- ☐ Lip Balm
- ☐ Lotion*
- ☐ Hand Sanitizer*
- ☐ Comb/Brush
- ☐ Shaving Cream*
- ☐ Razors*
- ☐ Bar Soap*

PROTEIN

- ☐ Canned Chicken*
- ☐ Canned Turkey*
- ☐ Canned Tuna*
- ☐ Canned Sardines*
- ☐ Canned Spam (Halal)
- ☐ Canned Corned Beef
- ☐ Canned Beans
- ☐ Dried Beans
- ☐ Dried Chickpeas

BAKING/COOKING

- ☐ Cooking Oils
(olive/vegetable)*
- ☐ Flour*
- ☐ Sugar

SNACKS

- ☐ Cracker Sandwiches
- ☐ Beef Jerky
- ☐ Applesauce
- ☐ Pudding
- ☐ Fruit Cups
- ☐ Granola Bars*
- ☐ Nuts/Trail Mix*
- ☐ Oatmeal packs
- ☐ Dried Fruit
- ☐ Individually Packaged
Chips/Pretzels/Crackers*
- ☐ Boxed Juice/Milk
- ☐ Pop Tarts
- ☐ Biscuits

CONDIMENTS

- ☐ Peanut Butter*
- ☐ Nut Butters*
- ☐ Honey
- ☐ Jelly
- ☐ Ketchup
- ☐ Mustard
- ☐ Mayo
- ☐ Soy Sauce
- ☐ Hot Sauce
- ☐ Maple Syrup

SPICES

- ☐ Salt
- ☐ Pepper
- ☐ Chili Powder
- ☐ Ground Cinnamon
- ☐ Mixed Herbs
- ☐ Turmeric

GRAINS

- ☐ Rice Bags/Boxes (Small)
- ☐ Pasta Noodles
- ☐ Ramen Noodles
- ☐ Cereal*

ETHNIC FOODS

- ☐ FuFu*
- ☐ Palm Oil*
- ☐ Attieke
- ☐ Couscous
- ☐ Menudo Mix
- ☐ Fish sauce*

FRUITS/VEGETABLES

- ☐ Canned Tomatoes*
- ☐ Canned Carrots
- ☐ Freeze-Dried Veggies
- ☐ Canned Mixed Fruit*
- ☐ Canned Pineapple*
- ☐ Canned Peaches*
- ☐ Canned Mandarins*
- ☐ Dried Fruits*

MEAL ITEMS

- ☐ Canned Chili/Soup
- ☐ Dry Soup Mixes
- ☐ Mashed Potatoes
- ☐ Pasta Sauce*
- ☐ Ramen Noodle Cups*

BEVERAGES

- ☐ Tea Bags
- ☐ Hot Cocoa Mix
- ☐ Shelf-Stable Boxed Milk*

BABY ITEMS

- ☐ Diapers (Sizes
2/3/4/5/6)*
- ☐ Baby Wipes*
- ☐ Baby Food/Formula*

New/Gently Used WINTER

CLOTHING (Not part of competition)

- ☐ Winter Jackets (any size)
- ☐ Winter boots (any size)
- ☐ Gloves (any size)
- ☐ New Socks

These are the items that are needed at the food shelf. The recommendations for the backpacks are listed below if you want to purchase any item directly.

Needed School Supplies for NHCC:

Pens
Notebooks
Folders
Highlighters
3-Ring Binders
Erasers
Pencil Sharpeners
Backpacks
Calculators
Rulers
Pencil Pouches
Crayons
Markers
Colored Pencils
Pencils (Wood or Mechanical)



September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		No Bull AA 7 pm	Connie's Quilters 11 am Choir Practice 7pm	Youth Bible Study 6:30pm Riverlyn AA 7 pm		
7 Blessing Backpacks 9:30 am Worship Crossway BS 11 am 12pm Christ Chapel Int	8	9 No Bull AA 7 pm	10 Connie's Quilters 11 am Choir Practice 7pm	11 Youth Bible Study 6:30pm Riverlyn AA 7 pm Ruth Circle Meeting	12	13
14 Sunday School Starts. Blessing 9:30 am Crossway Bible Study at 11 am 12pm Christ Chapel Int	15 FOG Book Club 1pm Linus Quilters 10 am	16 Bible Study 9:30 am & 7 pm No Bull AA 7 pm	17 Connie's Quilters 11 am Choir 7:pm	18 Youth Bible Study 6:30pm Riverlyn AA 7 pm Fire Reinspection 7pm Council mtg	19	20 FALL CLEANUP. Churchwide. 9 -1
21 9:30 am Crossway Sunday School Bible Study at 11 am 12pm Christ Chapel Int	22 	23 Bible Study 9:30 am & 7 pm No Bull AA 7 pm	24 Connie's Quilters 11 am Choir 7:pm	25 Youth Bible Study 6:30pm Riverlyn AA 7 pm	26 Carpet Cleaning 8am.	27 Men's Breakfast 8:30 am
28 9:30 am Crossway Sunday School Bible Study at 11 am 12pm Christ Chapel Int	29 Blood Drive 1-7 pm	30 Bible Study 9:30 am & 7 pm No Bull AA 7 pm				

September worship helpers



Lectors

7 _____
14 Andrew Peterson
21 Ginny Trogen
28 _____

Refreshments

7 _____
14 _____
21 _____
28 _____

Altar Care

7 _____
14 Elsass
21 Cindy Buesgens
28 _____

Ushers

7 _____
14 _____
21 Mel & Gary
28 _____

Greeters

7 _____
14 _____
21 _____
28 _____

Nursery Care

7 Claudia
14 Claudia
21 Claudia
28 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! **



I know, it seems like only yesterday, but it been almost six months since the last FOG Red Cross Blood Drive! We have a date, Sept 29, 2025 from 1-7pm.

Just like last around, I'll soon be putting our volunteer signup sheets, and making Sunday morning announcements.

So . . . if you are able, mark your calendars now for this very date for FOG to make a difference.

It's who we are, it's what we do!!!



Answer: C (See Acts 16:1-3; 2 Timothy 1:5; 1 Timothy 1:2)

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

Friday

9:00 am—1:00 pm

Website: www.fogchurch.org