



The Illuminate

September & October 2021

A publication of Family of Christ Lutheran Church

Pastor's Reflection

"Mortal, can these bones live?" Ezekiel 37:3

Filled with Hope,

Dear Family,

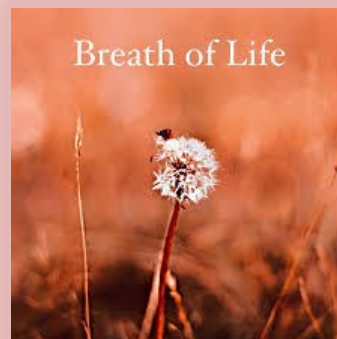
When the pandemic began and we first closed the building, way back in March of 2020, I would never have thought we'd still be talking about pandemic precautions in September 2021. However, here we are, it's September 2021 and we are still in the thick of it. As we begin gathering and the numbers here on Sunday are not what they once were, you may be asking, *"can these bones live?"* Truth be told, it is a challenge; but, at the same time, I know the rest of Ezekiel's vision. Not only did the Lord make those dry old bones stand, the Lord put new flesh and new breath in them and they came to life.

Herein lies the key. God did not put the old flesh back on the bones, nor did God put the old breath into those new lungs. God 'breathed God's breath' into them and they live. This old story of a prophet with a vision for his war devastated folks in exile is a great image for today. We could lament about the parts of Church life that feel like they are gone forever, or we can take a deep long inhale of the Breath of God, and be made new. That's the key. God will put new flesh and breath into the Church and we get to be a part of that. Wow!

I've been amazed and in awe of how adaptive, versatile, and patient folks have been as we've walked together through what has arguably been one of the most difficult times of our modern lives. THANK YOU! Thank you for your faithfulness to the ministry we share. Thank you for your faithfulness to the care of our neighbors. Thank you for your faithfulness to each other. Thank you for your gracious understanding as your leadership have worked hard to keep us all safe and our ministry focused and moving. You are the Church, the Body of Christ in this place!

We've learned a lot over the past couple of years, and we have adapted our practices to optimize safety, while at the same time opening up for gathering in worship and ministry. I appreciate how you've worked with us as things evolve. We need to think out of the box and be very creative as we find new ways to live out our calling as a congregation. We will continue to adapt as circumstances require. Rest assured, God is with us, Christ is leading us, and the Holy Spirit is and will continue to breathe new life coming into the bones of FOC.

Blessings dear People of God,
Pastor Kit





YouTube Bible Reflections

by Pastor Kit ~ Begins September 3rd online every Friday at 5p.m.*

Pastor will begin a new series on the Book of Acts, the Story of the Early Church. Go to YouTube, search Family of Christ Lutheran Church, Vancouver, WA to find our page, or use the YouTube link on our home webpage. Click like and subscribe. Ring the bell to receive an alert as new content is posted. Help us share the Good News of God's Redeeming love by sharing the link! *Available to view anytime after the initial 5 pm posting. (There are lots of earlier reflections available if you have not checked them out yet.)

A Message from Your Council President....

"There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven." Ecclesiastes 3:1

Dear Family,

We are walking together into a new season, in so many ways. During these changes of seasons, it's good to remember that with God as our guiding force in life, we can go where He leads.

Fall at Family of Christ means renewed energy from a summer of vacations and rest. Usually we resume our activities that had just been placed on hold for 2-3 months. This Fall we return to activities and gatherings we had to cancel this last year and a half. In Hebrews 13:8 we hear the promise: "Jesus is the same today and yesterday and forever." That is comforting in a world that appears to be ever changing and up-ended. In Psalm 119:114 David sings to God; "You're my place of quiet retreat; I wait for your Word to renew me" I'm excited for renewal and new starts. I'm excited to see those of you that have had to be absent. I'm excited to resume some schedule of in person gatherings. I'm excited for our on line ministry. I'm excited to see what new things God has in store for Family.

Together, as the body of Christ, we are stronger, bolder, and more powerfully able to affect change. With Christ leading His church, with us coming back together in person, as much as is safe and possible, we can continue to reach out to a world that is hurting and crying for hope. We are that Family that reaches out. Together we make a difference and we ask God to help and guide us. See you all soon! It's time and God is calling us. Isaiah 54:10 gives me renewed hope and strength. God never gives up, never leaves us and always loves us. Let's shout this out to the world in one strong voice!

Blessings as we enter into Autumn and a new season.

Kay Mueller, Council President

Family of Christ Vision Statement

Family of Christ is a family of God where all are welcome as we worship and grow in spirit and in life by...



- ~ **Connecting the scriptures** with our Christian faith and life experiences
- ~ **Serving** and caring for our neighbors and communities
- ~ **Building** relationships between people of all ages and walks of life
- ~ **Transforming** our world by teaching love, grace, peace, and kindness
- ~ **Moving purposefully** into God's future

and we ask God to help guide us.

Fall Plans

Our **Fall Worship Schedule** begins September 12th: Worship at **9:00 NEW TIME** and 11:00 a.m., with fellowship/education hour in between. Why 9:00 rather than 8:30? The 9:00 a.m. hour will make things easier for our teams that set up for worship and our video equipment for live streaming.



We'll kick off our **Sunday Education hour** on September 12th, with a back to school Sunday Funday. Sunday School will resume in earnest on September 19th.

We are aiming at October 6th for our first **Wednesday Church Night dinner**, Pastor Kit will be cooking!

Both Zoom and in person **Bible Studies** will resume in September, see list below.

Confirmation Class starts Wednesday, September 15th over Zoom at 6 p.m. for September, then meets in person at church in October.

Trunk-n-Treat will be strictly outdoors this year on Wednesday, October 27th.

Serving our Neighbors through Million Meals, Dignity Bags for foster kids, Hope Bags for Seniors, and our Holiday In-Gatherings are all in the works too.

Adult Christian Education Offerings and Small Groups

In building classes resume. For those who choose not to gather in person, Zoom participation will be available for many groups, noted below.

Intergenerational Sunday School Begins with a Sunday Funday Kick-off September 12th at 10:15 a.m. Ages 1-101 meet us in the Family room and come explore ancient Babylon, and learn of the courage of Daniel and his community as they learned to trust God.

Sunday: New Member Class begins September 12th in the FOC Library beginning at 10:15 a.m. We will learn about our congregation, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and explore Luther's Small Catechism as we explore what it means to be Christians in the Lutheran tradition. We will pay special attention to how we walk as followers of Jesus in our time and context.

Wednesday Morning @ 10:00 a.m. In person and ZOOM. – Bible Study with Pastor Kit. Join us as we take on the text for the upcoming Sunday.

2nd & 4th Thursday 6:00-7:30 p.m. in person, church Library and via Zoom. Pastor led Bible and Topical Study is the perfect class for folks with challenging schedules. We meet for one and a half hours twice monthly. It's an easy commitment! We will begin Colossians, Paul's letter to a new congregation finding it's way in tumultuous times. Hmmm, sounds like it might have a word for us today!

1st Thursday 11 a.m. Women's Bible Study/Circle and Brown Bag Lunch will begin meeting in-person in the church Family Room September 2nd and continues via ZOOM. We use the *Gather Magazine* bible study published by the Women of the ELCA (WELCA). Join us for a great time of fellowship, conversation and an inspirational study.

2nd & 4th Friday 8–9 am Men's Breakfast Bible Study will resume in October, location TBA. All men are welcome to join us!

1st & 3rd Prayer breakfast is on hold, watch e-news for updates.

Garden Ministry Update

By Laura Harris

Did you hear that our Garden Bounty Ingathering total passed the 1,000 pounds of produce mark as of August 11? More specifically, that is 1,085 pounds of squash, beans, plums, cucumbers, eggplant, potatoes, peppers, tomatoes, berries, garlic, kohlrabi, beets and apples to feed the hungry! Thanks to generous donations from Pastor Kit and Dan, Judy and Dave and several other church members plus a few neighbors, we believe we can achieve at least ONE TON of fresh produce provided to local food distribution groups by the end of September! We received a donation from Scouts who planned and planted a garden just to feed the hungry. We also received a donation from an amazing 67 year-old woman who rode her bicycle from near Jason Lee Middle School with a backpack full of vegetables. Judy and Dave have graciously delivered our produce each week to Community Kitchen of Fruit Valley, HELP (Healthy Equitable Living Project) at First Presbyterian Church and Martha's Pantry at Vancouver United Church of Christ.

Keep watering and tending those gardens through this crazy hot summer and bring your produce donations to church on Sunday mornings between 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. through Sunday September 26th, or call the office if you would like to drop off during the week or need a pickup.

“Creator of all things and giver of all life, let your blessings fall upon our seeds and bulbs, our hands and tools, our soil, our gardens and those it feeds. Bless our labor with rain and sunshine, that new life might spring up, that we might be truly at one with the integrity of all creation. Convict us as stewards of your magnificent garden, to stand firm in our conviction to be your appointed custodians. This we pray as your humble servants and stewards of this amazing planet. Amen.”





**Intergenerational Sunday School Begins September 12th
at 10:15 a.m. Family Room**

Come Visit Ancient Babylon with us!

Join us for an *all new intergenerational Sunday School*. This is a collaborative class for ages 1 to 101!

This fall we will revisit ancient Babylon and learn about Daniel and his friends as they learned to trust God. Not only will we learn bible stories, we will sing, play games, do crafts and have tons of fun!

We can't wait to see you there!

Youth and Family BBQ



Families with youth, let's reconnect, have some fun and make plans!

Meet at Pastor Kit and Dan's home for BBQ and a fun afternoon on their farm.

Sunday September 12th

4-6 pm



Invites with more details were mailed to all households with children & youth.

***WE ARE FAMILY OF CHRIST~WE ARE CHURCH TOGETHER SERVING GOD BY
LOVING AND SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS!***

Fall In Gathering Begins ~ Let's Fill Those Dignity Bags for Foster Children!

Back to School sales are in full swing. Now is the time to snatch up the bargains as we bring love to the most vulnerable children in our community on the hardest day of their young lives. By filling a Dignity Bag with those new items they need for the first 24 to 48 hours in foster care, we can make the transition much less painful. Items needed to fill one dignity bag:

- 2 Shirts
- 1 or 2 Pants
- 3 pairs of Socks
- 3 pairs of Underwear
- 1 pair of Pajamas
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, and a comb
- Age appropriate comfort item
- Backpack



Can't shop? We also have a Dignity Bags designated fund if you want to give a donation for the items. Please mark "Dignity Bags" on the memo line of your checks or if you donate electronically, choose *Special Offerings* and type "Dignity Bags" in the memo box. And, If you'd like to be a dignity bag item shopper, call us!

Thank you for all you do to help children in need know someone cares.

Through your gifts, seeds of love and grace are planted.



From our FOC Preschool

We are moving forward this fall with Covid 19 health and safety protocols still in place. We are looking forward to a fun filled school year!

We welcome Karen Rossiter to our staff this fall. Karen will co-teach in our 2 year old's class, filling in for a teacher on leave.

If you know anyone looking for a preschool for their little ones, we still have openings in our 3 year old class.

Call 360-546-0731

Jackie Ochsner, FOC Preschool Director



We are planning our annual fall cleanup day Saturday, September 18th from 9:00 to noon.

For those who are willing and able to work outside, we'll pull weeds, trim shrubs, rake leaves and spread bark dust. Bring work gloves if you have them. We will need wheelbarrows, shovels, brooms, saws and pruning tools. We also need anyone with a truck or trailer to help us haul the debris.

If you have any of these that you can bring, please contact Dale Perry. Come help update the look of our church property!

Choir Practice Resumes

Wednesday September 1st at 6:30 pm

Join us and come make a joyful noise unto the Lord.

Save the Date!

Oktoberfest

Saturday September 25th

4-6 pm at Pastor Kit and Dan's home.

Weather permitting.



We are really in need of people to assist with setting up and cleaning up after communion, it doesn't take long, there are 5 of us at present. We could really stand 3 or 4 new bodies. We like to have 2 available for each Sunday, so one for each service.

Thank-you and Please Contact Marilyn Wilken @ 360 718--7058

Christmas Food Box Turkeys

When the turkeys start on sale, if you want to donate, we have large freezers to store them. Watch for announcements from Social Concerns ministry in our e-news.



Happy Birthday To You!
**Celebrating birthday's in
September**

- 7th Emily Hoffman
- 8th Tiffany Alexander
- 8th Susie Koeser
- 9th Sharon Crisp
- 9th Dave Yankee
- 13th Tom Sandeen
- 13th Beth Stark
- 15th Marty Alexander
- 15th Geoffrey Hastings
- 16th Lillian Poe
- 17th Jennifer Beems
- 17th Melinda Staub
- 18th Linda Stringer
- 20th Dale Perry
- 25th Elaine Felt
- 28th Rebecca Harris
- 29th Krya Schottmuller
- 29th Dean Uriarte

**Celebrating birthday's in
October**

- 1st Travis Marble
- 8th Izabella Sosa
- 8th Chris Connolly
- 13th Alina Staub
- 14th Teresa Marble
- 15th Ann Corlett
- 16th CheChe Luckini
- 17th Christien Born
- 18th Pat Doud
- 20th Cecilia Shepard
- 21st Pam Ausman
- 22nd Dan Corlett
- 25th Bob Best
- 29th Carol Collell

Anniversaries in September

- 15th Bill & Linda Czech
- 24th Eric & Sabrina Eisenbarth

Anniversaries in October

- 2nd Marty & Tiffany Alexander
- 2nd Neil & Bobbie Fykerud
- 10th Sara & Cassie Osborn
- 16th Larry & Linda Clifton
- 20th Al & Pat Doud
- 20th Nick & Jennifer Neville
- 30th Greg & Pat Shaw



Our prayers are with:

Laura Harris mother Carol battling ovarian cancer and facing major surgery Sept. 1st .Susie Koeser's son Devon-complications from Diabetes. Tonya Aronson friends, the Beston Family, 20 year old son, bad motorcycle accident. Kay Muellers biological mother Marlene, nearing end of life, pray for peace & gentle passing. Young friend of the Lefave's, Tess Lund, prayers for successful treatment as she battles an aggressive leukemia. Cayden, Al & Janet Jaffe grandson, eye procedure for rare coats disease went well, next one mid-September. Alysia Neeley's father George, possible prostate cancer. Mike Endresen, cancer. Pam Ausman, cancer. Robert, Erica and Zoey Whitaker. Barbara Martins sister-in-law Janet, breast cancer. Mike Bena's sister Lisa, Crohn's disease.

Prayers of Thanksgiving

It's a boy! Stephanie and Eric Evans welcomed their new baby Luke Anthony, 8 lbs 6 oz, on August 16th.



Opportunities to support the ministry of Family of Christ

Online Giving

GivePlus online by Vanco makes first fruits giving easy! By automatically transferring the amount you specify from your account to Family, your planned giving stays current whether you are in worship on Sunday or on the road. Consider the benefits! Budgeting is made easy with Electronic Giving Give Plus by Vanco, for your family and Family of Christ! Your giving always remains confidential.



It's Easy to Get Started. Go to our webpage www.foclutheranchurch.org, in the footer select "Donate" on our ways to give, click the green "Online Giving" button or the GivePlus Logo to log on. Once you create a secure account you can:

- Designate the amounts: General Fund, Mortgage Fund, Million Meals, Mission Partner, etc.
- Choose the frequency of your gift: monthly, semi-monthly, weekly.
- Decide which account you want to use.

Remember, you can change the amount or stop at anytime and **there is no fee for you.**

Ready to get started? www.foclutheranchurch.org

Or, Vanco has a mobile app.

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Anytime, anywhere donations

- Safe and secure giving
- One-time or recurring gifts

Easy account management



Are you a Fred Meyer Customer? Select Us to Receive "Community Rewards" Donations



You are able to link your Rewards Card to Family of Christ by following the link below. Whenever you use your Rewards Card when shopping at Freddy's, you will be helping that FOC earn a donation from Fred Meyer. If you do not have a Rewards Card, you can sign up for one at the Customer Service Desk of any Fred Meyer store.

Family of Christ's # is KK879

<https://www.fredmeyer.com/signin?redirectUrl=/account/communityrewards/>

Support Family of Christ when you shop at Amazon Smile.

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Smile.Amazon.com search for Family of Christ, Vancouver WA

