



## From the Pastor.....

Over the last ten months we have been looking at what it means to be church in the future. A group of six of us, as the Mission Renewal Team, have been busy sorting through information, listening to your faith journeys, and reaching out to community leaders in order to understand where God is guiding us in the future. As we have spent this deep time listening to and embracing God's story in us I am reminded of Richard Lieder's Power of Purpose. In this simple and profound book he states "I cannot tell you what to do. You need to figure out who you are and then you can figure out what to do." Now that we understand "who we are", we are ready to embrace what God is calling us to do.

So what is God calling us to do? We are called to live the Gospel through faith, love, and compassion. In the Gospel of John the author says "Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he came from God was going to God." (John 13:3) This simple verse reminds us that just as we have an amazing past in the blessings and love of God, that our future also leads to relationship and connection with the one who has and always will love us no matter what we face in this world, and that we are to invite others into this relationship. Even though this is a certainty in our life of faith as a community and individuals we still have to journey to learn what this means. The essence of faith is not finding God, but seeking God.

So join us as we seek God together hoping to grow in our own faith and participate in God's loving work in the world. As we continue this journey we will be using our value statements as a foundation to create specific actions. We will begin with the value of "Faith - Gathering together to grow through worship, learning, stewardship, prayer and action in the world." During the next few months we will develop and begin several tangible programs that will help us grow in this area. My invitation to you is to be open and willing to move into this future.

Peace,  
Pastor Brent



### **Congratulations to our 2017 Confirmands!**

On October 15, four of our youth publicly confessed their faith during a special service of Affirmation of Baptism!

**Angel Gramentz**  
**Sydney King Fenn**  
**Gianna Roy**  
**Cameron Williams**

Please keep our youth in your prayers as they continue on their faith journey

## Narrative Lectionary Readings for November

The Narrative Lectionary will continue this month, but we encourage you to continue with your reading of the Old Testament. As you read through these scriptures we invite you to ask yourself two questions: What does this text say about God? How does your life relate to this story?

### November 5

Sun: 1 Kings 19:1-18, *God Speaks to Elijah*  
Mon: 2 Kings 2:1-12, *Elijah Ascends to Heaven*  
Tues: 2 Kings 2:13-18, *Elisha Succeeds Elijah*  
Wed: 2 Kings 2:19-25, *Elisha Performs Miracles*  
Thurs: 2 Kings 4:1-7, *Elisha and the Widow's Oil*  
Fri: 2 Kings 5:1-19, *Elisha Heals Naaman*  
Sat: 2 Kings 9:30-37, *Jezebel's Violent Death*

### November 12

Sun: Amos 1:1-2; 5:14-15, 21-24, *Amos: Justice Rolls Down*  
Mon: Amos 3:1-8, *Israel's Guilt and Punishment*  
Tues: Amos 5:18-20, *The Day of the Lord a Dark Day*  
Wed: Amos 6:1-8, *Complacent Self-Indulgent Punished*  
Thurs: Amos 6:9-14, *Complacent Self-Indulgent Punished*  
Fri: Amos 7:1-9, *Locusts, Fire, and a Plumb Line*  
Sat: Amos 9:22-25, *The Restoration of David's Kingdom*

### November 19

Sun: Daniel 3:1, 8-30, *Daniel: The Fiery Furnace*  
Mon: Daniel 1:1-21, *Four Israelites at the Babylonian Court*  
Tues: Daniel 2:1-16, *Nebuchadnezzar's Dream*  
Wed: Daniel 2:17-23, *God Reveals Nebuchadnezzar's Dream*  
Thurs: Daniel 2:24-35, *Daniel Interprets the Dream*  
Fri: Daniel 2:36-45, *Daniel Interprets the Dream*  
Sat: Daniel 2:46-49, *Daniel and His Friends Promoted*

### November 26

Sun: Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14, *Jeremiah's Letter to Exiles*  
Mon: Jeremiah 1:4-19, *Jeremiah's Call*  
Tues: Jeremiah 2:1-8, *God Pleads with Israel to Repent*  
Wed: Jeremiah 3:1-5, *Unfaithful Israel*  
Thurs: Jeremiah 30:1-9, *Restoration Promised for Israel and Judah*  
Fri: Jeremiah 31:1-6, *The Joyful Return of the Exiles*  
Sat: Jeremiah 31:31-37, *A New Covenant*

### Art and Faith

We are looking to form a group of people who will help us plan ways to engage our faith with art. We are hoping to create a long term plan for the congregation as well as look at how our own artistic selves can interact with our journey through visual art, poetry, and storytelling. Contact Pastor Brent if interested in being a part of this group.

### Adult Education - Living Lutheran

Join us on November 5 and 12 as we continue our journey understanding Lutheranism as a way we live. This is a chance to interact with our past as we look to the future.

## *Acceptance...*

### **Year of Renewal Update**

We have finished the planning stages of the year of renewal and now we are on to what's next. For the next year we will be evaluating each of our value statements and coming up with concrete goals to grow our faith and impact the community around us. To begin with we'll be looking at growing our faith as a community through worship, education, and faith practices. If you are interested in helping us set some specific goals please contact Brian Yolitz or Pastor Brent. This process will meet between now and the end of the year.

### **Faith, Sexism, and Justice**

The ELCA is working on a social justice statement on women & justice and would like our thoughts on the statement. Join Pastor Brent for a conversation on this important topic. We will begin our first meeting on Monday, November 6 from 6:30pm-7:30pm. Please RSVP with Pastor Brent so we have enough books.

## *Meaningful Relationships...*

### **"Unpacking the Manger"**

#### **Community Christmas Pageant**

Christmas gets pretty busy and even the old story gets pretty crowded with shepherds, angels, animals and all sorts of other things. Join us as we celebrate Christmas with our annual community Christmas pageant. We will need actors, costume designers, set builders, and helpers of all ages as we get ready for our Christmas celebration on December 17 during worship. Sign up on the Connect and Serve sheet or contact Pastor Brent and Sherry if you want to help.

#### **Advent Orchestra- December 10**

Currently play and instrument? Played one many years ago and want to dust it off and see if you still have it? Then join us as we celebrate the Advent and Christmas season with a Sunday filled with instrumental music. All abilities welcome to join us as we hope to celebrate the coming of our savior. Sign up for information the Connect and Serve Sheet or talk to Pastor Brent and Jeremy Mann.



### ***The Advent Ladies Luncheon*** ***Saturday, December 2***

This year we will have fellowship, a potluck lunch and entertainment. To help finance the entertainment and a local charity contribution we are planning a basket raffle. We are hoping to have about 15 themed baskets such as Movie Night, Made in Minnesota, Game Night, Coffee Lover — the possibilities are endless. The baskets need to be dropped off at church by Nov 15 and will be on display from Nov 19 until the luncheon. These baskets make great gifts for friends, family or yourself. Raffle tickets will be sold after services on Nov 19 and Nov 26 and before the luncheon on Dec 2. Tickets will be \$3 each or 4 tickets for \$10. The raffle is open to all. The drawing will take place during the luncheon.



## Impact...

### Service Event

#### hosted by Confirmation Youth

Join us on November 19 after worship as we create ornaments and other items to sell for our local homeless shelter.

### Mission of the Month Matrix Homeless Shelter

Beginning November 1, local churches will be hosting a rotating homeless shelter serving 50 single adults experiencing homelessness in Dakota County. It costs nearly \$1,300 a night to run the shelter.

### TANZANIA MEDICAL STUDENT:

This is a short email from Family of Christ's Tanzania medical student, Nicholousy Simon Pandila, thanking FOC for his medical sponsorship:

*Thank you very Much for your great sponsorship in my studies through Bega Kwa Bega, I always remind my myself the blessing to have you in this World. I'm doing fine in my studies, I'm so excited and happy to start the 4th year of my studies the coming 3weeks (end of October).*

*I hope to graduate on October or November 2020, then 2021 I'm going to do the Internship, 2022 back to Ilula Hospital to work as a Medical Doctor.*

*I'm working hard to make sure perform well in studies .I have nothing to pay you back for the great love you have to me rather than using well my knowledge I have in taking care of patients.*

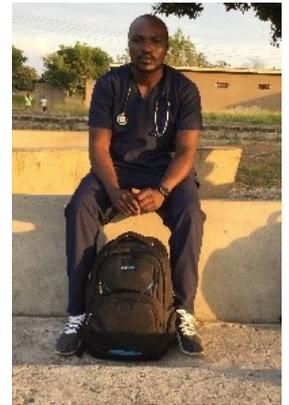
**ASANTE SANA**

**GOD BLESS IN YOUR LIFE EVERY DAY.**

Nicholousy Simon Pandila (Adilly)

Medical Student—Kampala International University, KIU

Dar-es Salaam-Tanzania



### TANZANIA STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS:

School begins with excitement, hopes and dreams no matter where in the world a child lives. The desire to be a nurse, doctor, pastor, teacher or any other professional are dreams that can only be realized through hard work and commitment. These are truly impossible dreams without the help of student scholarships. Family of Christ and the St. Paul Area Synod, in partnership with Bega Kwa Bega, helps students from the Usokami parish go to secondary school. These students face daunting life challenges; loss of parents, home or family crisis and only through scholarship can they hope for a better life. A full scholarship is \$400, which covers cost of room, board and education. However, any amount you care to donate is appreciated. Be sure to specify "Tanzania Scholarship" on your donation.

## Love...

**Gift Cards-** We are again collecting gift cards from Target and Cub to support those in need in our community.

As you are out and about please consider picking one up and placing it in the offering.



### Giving Tree

Please make sure to take a look at the Giving Tree in the narthex for a list of needs at Family of Christ. The Giving Tree is a needs list that helps us serve one another better. Take a tag from the tree and make a donation.



## Youth...

### **Box City 2017**

Thank you to the wonderful youth who gave up a night in their own comfortable beds to sleep in boxes on a chilly night in October during their MEA break from school. This was the second year Family of Christ had their own Box City. In 2008 Cardboard Box City was introduced as a fundraiser for MN Homeless. For 8 years, hundreds of youth from Minnesota participated in this fundraiser at the MN State Fairgrounds, including our youth group. In 2016, Project Home and Families Moving Forward decided not to continue organizing a Cardboard box City, so our youth wanted to have their own here at Family of Christ. We play games, do a neighborhood scavenger hunt, watch a video about homelessness, sing around the campfire... and then crawl into our boxes for the night.

They raised over \$500 that will be donated to Matrix Housing Services. Matrix will be organizing the rotating shelter in Dakota County this coming winter. The rotating shelter will be hosted at various local churches, including Grace Lutheran in Apple Valley.



### **Sunday School Station Leaders Needed**

You are a valuable part of our children's ministry! Share your gifts by leading a Sunday School Station in November... January.... February! No experience necessary! It's a lot of fun and the kids love it. Sign up for your station at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f044cabaf2ba2f49-sunday> or talk to Sherry Goodman if you are interested or have any questions.

### **Youth Sunday is November 12**

All 5-12th graders can help lead worship at our once a month Youth Sunday. You can read prayers, scriptures, greet, serve communion or usher! What a blast to connect with other youth and serve in this wonderful way! To sign up, visit <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f044cabaf2ba2f49-fochrist>.

**Thank you to all who helped in October!!**

### **Youth International Mission Trip to Jamaica or Puerto Rico - Two Year Plan**

In October we opened the sign up for the 2 year plan. The group is planning a trip with Sunbeam Mission Association to serve in a boy's home south of Kingston, Jamaica.

#### **YEAR 1:**

During this first year the participants will fundraise as per usual to add money to their mission trip account. Fundraisers scheduled so far are: Cub Foods Grocery Bagging, Egg Roll Sales & Church Coffee Bar. Regular fundraising will continue into the spring. Then in late June or early July of 2018, the participants will plan a camping trip flanked by 2 days of service work or a 3-4 day Christian music fest, also flanked with some service projects before the festival. This will be their "reward" for all their hard work.

#### **YEAR 2:**

Fundraising continues for the international trip. If doing the Sunbeam mission trip, a representative from Sunbeam will visit us occasionally for some training and information sessions. Throughout 2018-19 we will meet to work on our preparations for the mission week experience. All participants must attend these pre-trip meetings.

**PARTICIPANTS** must be presently in 7th grade-12th grade (seniors would need to remember they would be going one year after graduating HS). All participants will need to acquire a US Passport before departure. PLEASE contact Sherry Goodman if you are interested in getting more information. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board.



*Special Thanks to....*

- All those that Helped with the Oktoberfest Celebration
- Jim Jones and others who helped with our new Fellowship Room

**Help Wanted**  
 South Metro Montessori School is looking for a full time person to work varying hours. No experience necessary. Contact Shannon at [oconnor.shannonl@gmail.com](mailto:oconnor.shannonl@gmail.com)



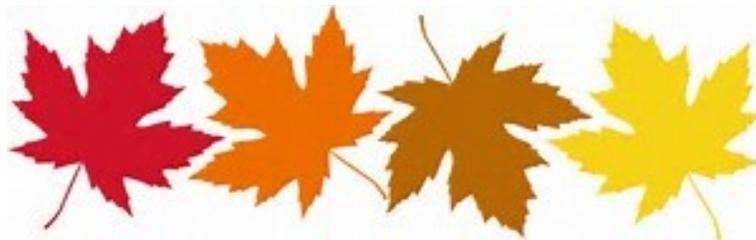
**FINANCIAL UPDATE**

**September 2017**

Total income for the month was \$29,971  
 Total expenses for the month was \$27,682  
 Noisy Offering for the month was \$426  
 (Camp Noah)

**October GIVING TO DATE**

Date	Attendance	Sunday Giving	Electronic Giving	GENERAL FUND
10/01/2017	98	\$2,175	\$1,570	\$3,745
10/08/2017	150	\$4,846	\$4,715	\$9,561
10/15/2017	179	\$3,070	\$1,404	\$4,474
10/22/2017	114	\$2,567	\$5,412	\$7,979



**Family of Christ Staff Ministry Team:**

Pastor: Brent Eler, Pastor, Ext. 202  
 Faith Formation: Sherry Goodman, Ext. 206  
 Musicians: Mary Wescott, Laura Porter-Jones, Morgan Jones, Jessica Christensen  
 Choir: Debra Capener  
 Administrative Asst: Linda Bauer Ext. 203  
 Custodian: Dan Benson

**Family of Christ Lutheran Church**  
 is a member of the **ELCA**

Email us at: [office@familyofchrist.com](mailto:office@familyofchrist.com)  
 Visit us at: [www.familyofchrist.com](http://www.familyofchrist.com)  
 Telephone: 952-435-5757  
 Office Hours: 9:00-3:30 Tues—Thurs  
 Closed Monday & Friday

***“FoCus” is a monthly publication of Family of Christ Lutheran Church.  
 Please contact the church office to submit items for publication in our newsletter.***

# November Family of Christ Servants

<u>Sunday</u> <u>11/5/17</u>	<u>Sunday</u> <u>11/12/17</u>	<u>Sunday</u> <u>11/19/17</u>	<u>Sunday</u> <u>11/26/17</u>
<u>AV Tech</u> Jeremy Mann	<u>AV Tech</u> Kris Smith	<u>AV Tech</u> Chris Flegel	<u>AV Tech</u> Donny Bergquist
<u>Closer</u> Mark Warner	<u>Closer</u> David /Vicki Lind	<u>Closer</u> Gerry Wills	<u>Closer</u> David /Vicki Lind
<u>Communion</u> <u>Server</u> Jean Bakken Linda Bartz Maury Bartz Kelly Benning Dan Benson	<u>Communion</u> <u>Server</u> Youth Youth Youth Youth Youth	<u>Communion</u> <u>Server</u> Cindy Carlson Jim Carlson Lisa Cecchini Kathy Derner Kevin Hatlestad	<u>Communion</u> <u>Server</u> Becky Donner Paul Donner Sherry Goodman Ed Hellier Josi Hellier
<u>Communion Setup</u> Lori Knoke	<u>Communion Setup</u> Doris Reiners	<u>Communion Setup</u> Chad Specht	<u>Communion Setup</u> John Wicklund
<u>Fellowship</u> Audrey Carlson Betty Peterson	<u>Fellowship</u> Angie Korsa Amy Hellier	<u>Fellowship</u> Martha Johnson Angie Korsa	<u>Fellowship</u> Karen Agee Kathy Olson
<u>Greeter</u> Linda Bartz Maury Bartz	<u>Greeter</u> Tabetha Mann Donovan Mann	<u>Greeter</u> Glen Benson Shirlee Benson	<u>Greeter</u> Audrey Carlson Lisa Cecchini
<u>Offering Count</u> Lisa Cecchini Angie Korsa	<u>Offering Count</u> Chuck Halvorson Sandy Soukup	<u>Offering Count</u> Kris Smith Gerry Wills	<u>Offering Count</u> Jeanne Miller Miles Miller
<u>Opener</u> Gerry Wills	<u>Opener</u> Sherry Goodman	<u>Opener</u> Mark Warner	<u>Opener</u> Sherry Goodman
<u>Reader</u> Becky Nystuen	<u>Reader</u> Anika Mann	<u>Reader</u> David Olson	<u>Reader</u> Carla Passon
<u>Usher</u> Luke Hellier Janeen Immerfall	<u>Usher</u> Charlie Johnson Alex Nelson	<u>Usher</u> Cindy Carlson Jim Carlson	<u>Usher</u> Brian Knoke Lori Knoke

Please notify Linda at the church office if you make changes to the schedule. THANK YOU!!!



**November 1 - Confirmation/Youth Programs**  
**November 5- Sunday Worship and Education**  
**November 8 - Confirmation/Youth Programs**  
**November 12 – Sunday Worship and Education**  
**November 15 - Confirmation/Youth Programs**  
**November 19 - Sunday Worship and Education**  
**Service Event hosted by Youth**  
**November 22—NO YOUTH CLASSES**  
**November 26 - Sunday Worship**  
**first Christmas Pageant practice**

## Vision Statement

Family of Christ seeks to be a Grace filled family of God, living the Gospel through faith, love and compassion.



## Our Core Values F-A-M-I-L-Y:

Fait  
Acceptance  
Meaningful relationships  
Impact  
Love  
Youth