

From the Pastor.....

Guided By God's Promises

I had to laugh last week when I was walking through Target and came across a young boy trying to convince his mother to buy him a new set of Legos. He was begging with all his might and she was using all her motherly tools to ward off his barrage. Finally, in a last ditch effort, he called out from several aisles away "If you get this for me I promise to be good until Christmas." She stopped, turned around and stated with a tinge of disbelief, "And how will you keep your promise for that long?"

Promises are a commitment that in the future something will be done and in some sense the only way to receive them is to believe them. One of the most famous quotes about them is "Promises are meant to be broken" and for most of us that saying is often true. God, on the other hand, makes promises to His people and to all creation. God is faithful in keeping those promises, and believing that can make a difference in how we live.

Early on in the scriptures, after the flood, God promises not to destroy the earth ever again. This promise continues in God's covenant with the Israelites, comes to us in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, and grow in Paul's words that nothing can separate us from the love of God. In between these are all sorts of other promises like; we are made in God's image, we will always be part of God's family, and we are created to make a difference in this world that is given to us. The theme of the scripture is that God keeps promises, even though we often struggle to respond faithfully.

So what if we lived into the promises God gives us? Sometimes the only way to receive a promise is to believe it. Join us this next year as we begin a journey through the Bible and learn what they are, and walk with us as we begin to understand how embracing these promises can lead to new life, not only in us but in our families and communities. Faith in the promises of God gives us the courage to work and speak for justice, to live in hope no matter the circumstances, and to share the good news of Jesus with all people.

I promise you won't regret it!

Peace,
Pastor Brent

Fall Worship Series



God's Promises bring
HOPE

After the flood, God begins a set of promises that affirm God's loving relationship with all people. God promises Abraham and Sarah a different life in which their descendants will be blessed, God promises to be with Joseph in the darkest of moments, and after rescuing the Israelites, God promises to be their God, a covenant which becomes a central theme in the Old Testament. Living in these promises allow us hope in an uncertain future.

Narrative Lectionary Readings for September

The scriptures below are daily suggestions that lead up to Sundays. We are walking through the Old Testament and the readings will help us see the larger picture of God's story for us and God's people. 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?

There will also be weekly devotionals posted online and available in the Sunday's bulletin.

September 9

Sun: Genesis 6:5-22; 8:6-12; 9:8-17

Mon: Genesis 9:18-28, *Noah and His Sons*

Tues: Genesis 10:1-14, *Nations Descended from Noah*

Wed: Genesis 10:15-32, *Nations Descended from Noah*

Thurs: Genesis 11:1-9, *The Tower of Babel*

Fri: Genesis 11:10-26, *Descendants of Shem*

Sat: Genesis 11:27-32, *Descendants of Terah*

September 16

Sun: Genesis 12:1-9

Mon: Genesis 15:1-6, *God's Covenant with Abram*

Tues: Genesis 21:1-7, *The Birth of Isaac*

Wed: Genesis 25:19-28, *The Birth of Esau and Jacob*

Thurs: Genesis 35:16-26, *The Birth of Benjamin and Death of Rachel*

Fri: Genesis 37:1-11, *Joseph Dreams of Greatness*

Sat: Genesis 37:12-36, *Joseph is Sold by His Brothers*

September 23

Sun: Genesis 39:1-23

Mon: Genesis 50:15-21, *Joseph Forgives His Brothers*

Tues: Genesis 50:22-26, *Joseph's Death*

Wed: Exodus 1:1-22, *Oppression of the Israelites*

Thurs: Exodus 3:1-12, *Moses at the Burning Bush*

Fri: Exodus 12:29-32, *The Tenth Plague: Death of the Firstborn*

Sat: Exodus 13:17-22, *The Pillars of Cloud and Fire*

September 30

Sun: Exodus 14:10-14, 21-29

Mon: Exodus 15:1-21, *Songs of Moses and Miriam*

Tues: Exodus 15:22-27, *Bitter Water Made Sweet*

Wed: Exodus 16:1-21, *Bread from Heaven*

Thurs: Exodus 17:1-7, *Water from the Rock*

Fri: Exodus 17:8-16, *Amalek Attacks Israel and Is Defeated*

Sat: Exodus 18:13-27, *Jethro's Advice*

Clipboard Sunday September 9th and 16th

As we begin a new church year we want everyone involved. After worship in early September, we invite you to find places to serve and connect. Descriptions of these opportunities will be in the bulletin and online.



Community Meal and Fun: Game Night!

Join us Sunday, September

30th from 5:00pm- 7:00pm

as we gather to share a time of food, fellowship

and fun. Bring your favorite board game and

food to share. We'll spend the evening eating and playing games. All are welcome to this event so bring a friend or neighbor!



Tanzania Sunday, September 30

Join us as we celebrate the partnership with our Brothers and Sisters in Tanzania. We will look at our congregation partnership and school scholarship programs. Special guests that day include Rev. Peter Harrits, director of Bega Kwa Bega, our St. Paul Area Synod Tanzania mission with the Iringa Diocese and Enock Ugulumu, Director of Iringa Hope, a micro loan program that is changing the nation.



Tanzania Trip

Interested in visiting Tanzania and our sister congregation in Illula? Join us after worship for some time with the Rev. Peter Harrits, Director of Bega Kwa Bega as he shares his experiences and what it would take for us to do this.

Tanzania Secondary Scholarships

Family of Christ recently received a heart-warming letter from Ajili Mgeyekwa thanking FOC for her secondary scholarship at Pomerin Secondary School (see a copy posted on the bulletin board.) Since 2004, FOC members and friends have sponsored 320 Tanzania secondary students. As fall approaches and school begins children throughout the world have dreams of the future as did Frank Sanga, Ilula Pharmacist, who visited FOC in June. Frank's dream would not have come true, if not for the secondary education he first received.

FOC and the St. Paul Area Synod, in partnership with Bega Kwa Bega, helps students from the Usokami parish go to secondary school. Tanzania students face many life changes: loss of parents, home and family crisis and only through scholarships are many able to attend secondary school.

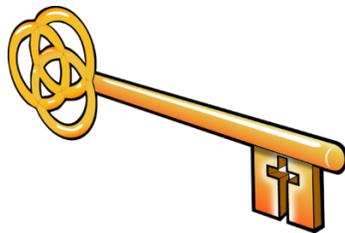
The cost for one secondary scholarship is again \$400 which covers the cost of room, board and education for an entire year. Please consider sponsoring a Usokami secondary scholarship student. If a full year's scholarship does not work for you, a semester scholarship is \$200. Any donation is welcome!

Say "YES" to provide a chance of an education to a Usokami secondary student and change not only the life of that student, but his/her family. As one family member gets an education, that member encourages and promotes other family members to do the same. Scholarships are due by November 1, 2018.

Asante Sana!

New Keys!

As part of our continued security updates our building will be rekeyed on September 10th. If you need a key for a specific ministry please come to the office beginning September 11th. Office hours are Tuesday-Thursday from 8:30am-3:30pm. Also, keys will be available on Saturday, September 15th from 8am to 11am (only).



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 or bring back the item listed.



Women's Bible Study

Monday, September 10 at 10:00 am

Can you believe the fall Bible Study will begin again soon?

Due to the Labor Day holiday we will begin again on September 10th at 10 am rather than the first Monday. Beginning in October, we will meet monthly on the first Monday of the month. Our study in the fall will be on Repentance. September we will look at time for faithful repentance, Turning to God, Time After Time, from the *Gather* magazine. If you need a copy, contact Linda Bartz at lindabartz@charter.net.

All women are welcome.



Youth Camping Trip: Eleven youth and four adults went to Eagle Cliff Campground in Lanesboro, MN for 3 days. Everyone had a fun time floating down the river (twice) and hanging out! Thank you to all who provided meals for the group. Thank you to the adults who came along: Nick Hendrickson, Anton Gilb, Pastor Brent and Sherry Goodman. And especially to all the youth who set up tents, got rained on, laughed a ton and made some awesome friendship bracelets! We will definitely do this again!!

ALL ABOUT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school officially begins on Sunday, September 9th from 10:30-11:30

We will be using the "Rotational Model" once again for our Sunday education program for all children ages 3 years through 4th grade. We will follow along with the sermon stories that Pastor Brent uses during worship, staying for 1 or 2 weeks on each story. Stations will be vary each week between cooking, science, creative drama, art, games & Bible skills.

Each group will have adult or teen shepherd who will be teamed with the younger group or the older group. The shepherds are asked to come to choir with us and then be there when we split up and head off to our first stations. Shepherds are not actually teaching- but leading their group to the stations, helping as needed, encouraging good behavior and building relationships with the children. (like VBS format)

Kids Choir will begin about 10:30 every Sunday. Kids will be excused from worship before the final hymn.

Children will sing for about 10 minutes and then move with their shepherds to the first station.

Snacks will be provided to all children during one of the stations.

Please pick your children up at 11:30 from either the MPR or Room #131

CPR and AED Certification

If you are interested in being certified in CPR and AED for adult, children, and infants, training will be on October 27 from 9:00-12:00. We highly encourage this for our ushers. Cost is \$50 for certification (\$70 if you need an AHA CPR card.) Register at the Clip Board Fair, on the bulletin board, or contact the office.



Wednesday Night Youth Programs BEGIN!

All 5th grade youth and older are invited to join us on **September 26th** for an evening of food, fun, learning and worship. Pizza meal begins at 6:00pm with classes and worship from 6:30pm-8:00pm.

Confirmation 2018-2019

As a people of God and families of faith we are to help our youth learn to take on their own faith journeys. This year we are taking on a program that will connect the stories of God to the heart of our faith. Students experience a connection between our classes and their own lives. Through peer interaction, biblical study, and family connections our goal is to help our youth develop their own faith journeys.

Confirmation is for youth grades 7th – 9th grade who wish to be a part of learning about and developing their faith. Classes begin Wednesday, September 26th at 6:30pm. Contact Pastor Brent with any questions. Confirmation classes will be held Wednesday nights from 6:30pm-8:00pm.

**Orientation will be held
Wednesday, September 12th at 6:30pm.
Parents are asked to attend.**

ATTENTION: 10th Graders being confirmed this year please plan on being part of the youth group from 6:30-8:00 PM during that time.

M & M Night

Second Wednesday of The Month

M & M (mentors & mentees) Night has been a part of Family of Christ for many years. We involve all the Wednesday night youth in grades 5-12. They will be put into small groups with adult and high school leaders for team building games, discussions, prayer, and deep conversations.

Adults who would like the chance to get to know some of our youth, please talk to Sherry Goodman to become one of our M & M Small Group Leaders.

UPCOMING YOUTH RELATED DATES

Sept. 5- Wednesday @6pm- Peer Leaders/
Youth Leaders: First meeting of the new

school year. Pizza will be provided.

High school Wed.night class (AGAPE) starts on
Wed. Sept 12th at 6:30 (no pizza).

Annual Youth Fall Retreat!

WHO CAN GO? All 6-12th Graders are invited and encouraged to attend our annual fall retreat!

WHY SHOULD I ATTEND? Our Fall Retreat gets students out of their normal routine, away from their daily distractions, unplugged from media, and ready to focus. It's a powerful time of spiritual growth, and community building. We love gathering after a summer away to rebuild our friendships with one another!!

WHERE? The retreat will be held at Spring Lake Park Retreat Center in Rosemount. We will meet in the youth room Friday, Oct. 5th at 6:00 pm for pizza and try to be on the road by 7:00pm. The group will return to the church Sunday morning between 11:00—11:30am.

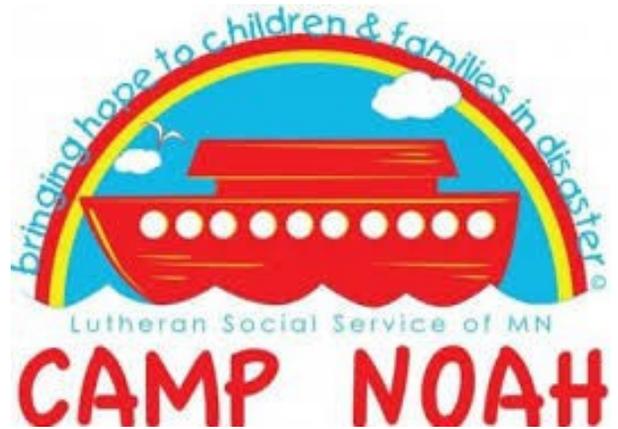
I WANNA GO- NOW WHAT? Sign up on the bulletin board in the hall. The cost is only \$25 per person. IF students have Friday night activities, please talk to Sherry Goodman. We will try to arrange a ride for them to come on Saturday.

HEY PARENTS and OTHERS!! We'd love it if you'd provide one of our meals for us! You can even come and eat with us, it's not too far! Let Sherry Goodman know.

MISSION OF THE MONTH CAMP NOAH

In September, our noisy offering will go to support Camp Noah, a fun-filled, faith-based, weeklong day camp for children who have experienced disaster or trauma. Camp Noah offers structure, connectedness and play to children in first through sixth grades, to build resiliency and hope.

Our noisy offering goes to support local, regional and international missions. Thank you for your generosity.



FINANCIAL UPDATE

July 2018

Total giving for the month was \$34,488

Total expenses for the month was \$28,244

YTD Given: \$219,602—YTD Budgeted: \$225,232
(as of July 31, 2018)

AUGUST GIVING TO DATE

Date	Attendance	Sunday	Electronic	GENERAL
		Giving	Giving	FUND
8/05/2018	104	\$2,085	\$4,124	\$6,209
8/12/2018	98	\$2,879	\$3,556	\$6,435
8/19/2018	102	\$3,722	\$5,712	\$9,434
8/27/2018	123	\$2,439	\$1,529	\$3,968

WORSHIP WITH US
Sundays at
9:30

Men's Morning Bible Studies:

Join us on Tuesday and Thursday mornings as we come together for fellowship, food and a chance to look at the scriptures and our lives.

—Tuesdays – 6:30 a.m.

—Thursdays – 8:00 a.m.

Family of Christ Staff Ministry Team:

Pastor: Brent Erler, 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: Kelly Kritsberg

Family of Christ Lutheran Church is a member of the ELCA

Email us at: office@familyofchrist.com
 Visit us at: 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.*

September Family of Christ Servants

<u>Sunday</u> <u>9/2/18</u>	<u>Sunday</u> <u>9/09/18</u>	<u>Sunday</u> <u>9/16/18</u>	<u>Sunday</u> <u>9/23/18</u>	<u>Sunday</u> <u>9/30/18</u>
<u>AV Tech</u> Nathan Blilie	<u>AV Tech</u> Ken Davidson	<u>AV Tech</u> Jeremy Mann	<u>AV Tech</u> Kris Smith	<u>AV Tech</u> Ken Davidson
<u>Closer</u> Mark Warner	<u>Closer</u> Sherry Goodman	<u>Closer</u> David/Vicki Lind	<u>Closer</u> Gerry Wills	<u>Closer</u> Mark Warner
<u>Communion</u> <u>Server</u> Linda Bartz Maury Bartz Lisa Cecchini Sandy Soukup	<u>Communion</u> <u>Server</u> Lisa Cecchini Vickie Heggen Ed Hellier Luke Hellier Sandy Soukup	<u>Communion</u> <u>Server</u> Kris Olsen Kris Smith Chad Specht Kirstin Specht Doug Windhorn	<u>Communion</u> <u>Server</u> Pete Nelson Kathy Olson Carla Passon Scott Passon Sandy Soukup	<u>Communion</u> <u>Server</u> Vickie Heggen Paul Nadon Betty Peterson Doris Reiners Beth Wacholz
<u>Communion Setup</u> Kevin Hatlestad	<u>Communion Setup</u> Chad Specht	<u>Communion Setup</u> Kirstin Specht	<u>Communion Setup</u> Lori Knoke	<u>Communion Setup</u> Doris Reiners
<u>Fellowship</u> Cheryl Wills Gerry Wills	<u>Fellowship</u> Barb Buswell Betty Peterson	<u>Fellowship</u> Audrey Carlson Cheryl Wills	<u>Fellowship</u> Amy Hellier Martha Johnson	<u>Fellowship</u> Tanzania Outreach Group
<u>Greeter</u> Glenda Lind Terry Lind	<u>Greeter</u> Charlie Johnson Nancy Johnson	<u>Greeter</u> Jeanne Miller Miles Miller	<u>Greeter</u> Paul Nadon Pete Nelson	<u>Greeter</u> Becky Nystuen Ron Nystuen
<u>Offering Count</u> Shirlee Benson Sandy Soukup	<u>Offering Count</u> Lisa Cecchini Kris Smith	<u>Offering Count</u> Chuck Halvorson Miles Miller	<u>Offering Count</u> Jeanne Miller Miles Miller	<u>Offering Count</u> Amie Hoffman Duane Hoffman
<u>Opener</u> Mark Warner	<u>Opener</u> Gerry Wills	<u>Opener</u> Sherry Goodman	<u>Opener</u> Mark Warner	<u>Opener</u> Sherry Goodman
<u>Reader</u> Betty Peterson	<u>Reader</u> Anna Simon	<u>Reader</u> Kris Smith	<u>Reader</u> Sandy Soukup	<u>Reader</u> Scott Passon
<u>Usher</u> Kris Olsen Dave Olson	<u>Usher</u> Chad Specht Kirstin Specht	<u>Usher</u> Carla Passon Scott Passon	<u>Usher</u> Beth Wacholz John Wacholz	<u>Usher</u> Debbie Warner Mark Warner

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

If you would like to volunteer at worship, please contact Linda Bauer at the church office or linda@familyofchrist.com.



Dates to Remember

- September 2 - Worship
- September 5—Peer Leaders/Youth Leaders Mtg.
- September 9 – Sunday Worship
Kickoff and Clipboard Sunday
- September 12 - Youth Programming and
Confirmation Orientation
- September 16 - Worship and Education
Clipboard Sunday
- September 19 - NO Programs
- September 23 - Sunday Worship and Education
- September 26 - Confirmation/Youth Programs
- September 30 - Worship and Education
Tanzania Sunday
Community Meal & Game Night

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**
- Acc**
- Meaningful relationships**
- Impact**
- Love**
- Youth**