

From the Pastor . . .

“I am Doing a New Thing” Isaiah 43:19

It was such a blessing to celebrate five years of ministry together last month. To spend some time looking at what God has been doing in and through us as a community and in and through you as people of God has been a real blessing to me. At the same time there have been a couple encounters that have caused me to pause and think about what's next.

One of those I shared when we came together on January 13th. Last fall, while meeting with a group of local churches that were looking to do some of the renewal we had done, I told our story and shared our new vision statement, “Living the Gospel through Faith, Love, and Compassion.” I was proud of the accomplishments we had made and was happy to share it, but one gentleman asked a question that has stuck with me; “But what does that mean?”

At the same time, I have been meeting with a group of church leaders that have been discussing the new book on the future of the church called “Future Faith”, by Wesley Granberg-Michaelson. This book is filled with incite as we live into the vision of the church God has for us, but it has been challenging me. We are proud of our invitation at Family of Christ that “All are Welcome”, but this book asks if this enough. It's great to proclaim that you can come, worship, and join us in what we do, including taking Holy Communion, but are we missing a bigger picture inviting people to be like us? What if we were to expand this concept of welcome to something more like “Everybody is Somebody”? This proclamation invites people in and promises to help them become who God created them to be, but that means we may have to open ourselves to some new ways of being community.

I'd like to invite you to journey with me into the future of our community here at Family of Christ. To walk with me as we move into the action part of our vision and mission, to be open to who might be an active part of a changing church, and to embrace the Grace of God that is showing up in some amazing ways. As God says in Isaiah, “I am doing a new thing.” Let's walk into this new thing together.

Peace,
Pastor Brent



Worship Series This Month—Learning to Follow

Following his baptism and temptation in the wilderness, Jesus begins his ministry by teaching. Jesus instructs those listening to live in ways that glorify God and build up the kingdom. In the Sermon on the Mount, followers hear of the qualities that matter most in the kingdom and who they are called to be as disciples of Jesus. Jesus' lessons on prayer and judging others teach us how to build our lives

on the rock, creating habits and making decisions that are guided by God's promises. Through Jesus' teaching we learn more about what matters most to God, and the ways we are called to respond as faithful disciples. Join us as we continue to embrace God's promises to us in Jesus.

Narrative Lectionary Readings for February

Follow along with us as we continue to look at the Gospel of Matthew. Read one a day or spend a couple hours with a whole week. Each of the readings leads to worship on upcoming Sunday.

January 27 Matthew 5:1-20

Monday, Psalm 1:1-3, *Psalm*

Tuesday, Matthew 5:21-26, *Concerning Anger*

Wednesday, Matthew 5:27-32, *Concerning Adultery and Divorce*

Thursday, Matthew 5:33-42, *Concerning Oaths and Retaliation*

Friday, Matthew 5:43-48, *Love for Enemies*

Saturday, Matthew 6:1-6, *Concerning Almsgiving*

February 3 Matthew 6:7-21

Monday, Psalm 20:7, *Psalm*

Tuesday, Matthew 6:22-24, *Teachings of Jesus*

Wednesday, Matthew 6:25-34, *Teachings of Jesus*

Thursday, Matthew 7:15-20, *Teachings of Jesus*

Friday, Matthew 7:21-23, *Teachings of Jesus*

Saturday, Matthew 8:1-17, *Healings of Jesus*

February 10 Matthew 7:1-14, 24-29

Monday, Psalm 37:16-18, *Psalm*

Tuesday, Matthew 9:9-17, *Call of Matthew*

Wednesday, Matthew 8:18-27, *Miracles of Jesus*

Thursday, Matthew 8:28-9:8, *Healings of Jesus*

Friday, Matthew 9:18-38, *Healings of Jesus*

Saturday, Matthew 10:1-15, *The Twelve Apostles*

February 17 Matthew 13:24-46

Monday, Psalm 84:1-7, *Psalm*

Tuesday, Matthew 10:16-42, *Coming Persecutions*

Wednesday, Matthew 10:26-42, *Coming Persecutions*

Thursday, Matthew 11:1-19, *John the Baptist*

Friday, Matthew 11:20-30, *Woes*

Saturday, Matthew 12:1-8, *Teachings of Jesus*

February 24 Matthew 14:13-33

Monday, Psalm 95:1-5, *Psalm*

Tuesday, Matthew 12:9-21, *Teachings of Jesus*

Wednesday, Matthew 12:22-32, *Teachings of Jesus*

Thursday, Matthew 12:33-45, *Teachings of Jesus*

Friday, Matthew 12:46-50, *Teachings of Jesus*

Saturday, Matthew 13:1-23, *Parables of Jesus*

Faithful Conversations

Adult Ed

Join us for a time of conversation on a variety of life and faith issues. We meet in the conference room at the West end of the building from 10:45-11:30.

February 3

"Religion, Faith, and the Need to Believe"

February 10

"Creeds and Belief Systems"

February 17

Chili Cook-Off- No Class

February 24

"Borders and Welcoming the Stranger"

All are welcome.



"Waking Up White" with Debby Irving,

February 17, 3:00pm-6:00pm
Gustavus Adolphus Church, Saint Paul.

Come join the Saint Paul Area Synod in welcoming Debby Irving, author of *Waking Up White*. We will focus our time on, *Leveling the Playing Field: Interrupting Patterns of Power and Privilege*; this is an interactive workshop involving mapping power, patterns, and interventions. Cost is \$10 per person. Please read the book before the conference.



Family of Christ's 5th Annual Chili Cook-Off is Sunday February 17th

Do you have the greatest chili recipe EVER?? Think your Chili is better than everyone else? Just love to eat? Sunday, February 17 will be a day NOT to miss. Right after worship, you are invited to stay for the Chili Cook-Off to benefit our youth mission trip to Jamaica. The competition will be HOT as we look to crown our next Chili Champion of Family of Christ. Those who enter their chili recipe will receive instructions prior to the date. All others can participate by buying a ticket.

Tanzania Outreach

Christmas letter from Adilly (Tanzania Medical Student who is sponsored by FOC):

How are you and your Family? On my side I'm continuing well with my studies, Fifth a busy class in Medical school. Time is running fast, my next semester which starts on Mid-March 2019 I will be doing my Senior Medical Rotations for the last two Semesters. I'm so grateful for the of your great Sponsorship and Support on my studies that has remained consistent for years and year. I really appreciate you and everyone at the Family of Christ Lutheran Church. I always pray to our Almighty God including my hard working on my studies so that I can finish my studies well and share my knowledge by helping the Community of Ilula Hospital.

Thank you, a lot, this is a huge wonderful blessing and Miracle to happen in my life. God is Good all the time, I believe He is with me through my studies and my life to become a Medical Doctor. I wish you Happy Merry Christmas and New Year.

Nicholousy (Adilly) Pandila

Medical Student.

Kampala International University-Tanzania

Selling of Christmas & fall table runners, skirts, pillows and along with the addition of t-shirt quilts at Abbott NW Hospital, Allina Clinic raised over \$2000 coupled with the Bachman gift card proceeds (\$579) for a grand total of \$2579 raised in 2018. These funds will be used to support medical scholarships in Tanzania.

Ash Wednesday Worship March 6th

We begin our Lenten journey with Ash Wednesday. This service is an invitation to observe a Holy Lent through the practices of prayer, worship, service, the sacraments and community. Join us at 6:40 on March 6th as we start our Journey towards Easter.

Wednesdays in Lent- God in our Midst, March 13-April 10

We often think we need to look to the church to find God, but God's Grace and love are in all aspects of our lives, including the stuff we watch. Join us as we use short media snippets along with biblical understanding to learn more about our relationship with God and community. After worship will be activities for all ages that continue the discussion from worship. This will be appropriate for all ages. Meals and worship begin March 13th

Soup supper 6:00

Worship 6:40 Holden Evening Prayer

Youth and Small Groups 7:15

Men's Breakfast Creating Space for the Drawer

Join us on Saturday, February 16th from 8:30am-9:30am for a time of egg bakes, baked goods, and good conversation as we spend some time looking at building our Men's ministries and gather to discuss some community projects.

Afterwards, those that wish, can help us clean out a space in the basement for a partnership with "The Drawer", an organization that provides socks and underwear for those in need. All are welcome, come and bring a friend.

We need people to make egg bakes, set up, and bring other breakfast items. Sign up on the bulletin board or contact Pastor Brent.



Conference Assembly February 23

This year's conference assemblies will be held on Saturday, Feb. 23 from 8:00-12:00 at Augustana Lutheran in West St. Paul. This is a time of worship and understanding the work of the greater Lutheran church. Contact Pastor Brent with any questions or if you'd like to go.

THANK
You
SO VERY
much

**Thank you to all who made
Pastor Brent's 5th Anniversary
Celebration special.
Special thanks goes to
Martha Johnson
for overseeing this event.**

Meet Your New Council

President- Josi Hellier
VP- Annie Yolitz
Treasurer- Chuck Halvorson
Financial Secretary- Dave Peterson
Secretary- Kathy Olson
At Large Members
Youth and Family- Jessica Christiansen
Facilities- Donny Bergquist
Outreach- Kevin Hattlestad

Special thanks to:

*Lisa Tulisaari, Ed Hellier, Miles Miller,
Chad Specht, Kathy Olsen Martha Johnson,
Donny Bergquist, and Brian Yolitz
for serving last year*

RED CROSS BLOOMOBILE

**Tuesday, February 5
11:30 a.m.—5:30 p.m.**



**American
Red Cross**

Donors and volunteers are needed. Sign up to help from 10:30-2:00 or 2:00-5:30—or BOTH if possible!

Call Glenda, 952-239-1420. You can work registration or canteen/refreshment area.

Both are easy and fun!

**First time donors
Always welcome.**

Invite your friends

Pastor Brent and his family would like to say a special thanks to Family of Christ for all the support and generosity they have received over the last five years. You have blessed us in so many ways and the celebration last month was a testament to the love and grace of God we share. Thank You all.

Children, Youth, and Family Update

In this time of transition, we would like to keep you informed of what's happening in this ministry.

*The airline tickets have been purchased for Jamaica and Mel Harmon, representative from Sunbeam Mission will be joining our group.

*Wednesday night programs continue. Thanks to all those volunteers.

*Cary Whittington has organized and is now leading our Sunday School programming. We have gone to a classroom model. Thanks to all the new volunteers who are part of this reorganized program.

*The following individuals are serving on our Transition Team; Shannon Flegel, Cary Whittington, Susan Semmler, Donna Williams, Dana Sahlin, Ryan Basballe, Steve Klimpke, and Erica Flegel.

*We have continued our conversation with Interserve, a youth and family organization. Beginning the middle of February, they will serve as a part time youth and family minister while walking us through the transition process.

Game Night Rescheduled

Join us on Sunday, February 10th from 5:00pm-7:00pm as we come together and play games and eat some food. Bring a favorite treat to share, a game, and a friend. We will order pizza and have some fun.

Interim Youth and Family - Amy McGrew

Beginning mid-February we will have an Interim Youth and Family Minister from InterServe. Amy will help us lead youth activities and assess our program helping us move into the future. She will also work with our Children, Youth and Family Transition team, council, staff and youth.

Youth Sunday February 10

Remember that the second Sunday of the month is the day your youth, 5th grade and up, get to volunteer to help with the worship service. Sign up at our sign-up genius page or on the bulletin board.

Volunteer opportunities are: acolyte, greeters, ushers, readers, communion servers and a 2-3 minute Faith Talk! These are great ways to involve our youth in worship.

LUTHER PARK CAMPING OPPORTUNITIES 2019

Attention Family of Christ kids and parents!

We have designated two special weeks at Luther Park for FOC kids to sign up and attend camp with their church friends!

- * June 21-24, 2019: half week for 1-4th graders
- * July 21-26, 2019: full week for 3-6th in the Cabins
- * July 21-26, 2019: full week 7-12th graders in The Treehouse

Go to www.lutherpark.com to register.

\$150 scholarship will be given to each camper.

Camp Sunday, February 3: Come and hear a representative from Luther Park share more information about summer camp ministry.



MISSION OF THE MONTH Luther Park Bible Camp



Join us in supporting our Camp partners. We know that Camping Ministry is one of the most important opportunities in the growth of a child's faith. Join us as we support this important ministry and think about sending a kid or grandkid to camp this year.



FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN Family of Christ will be joining other churches in the South Metro to be a part of Feed My Starving Children's Mobile Pack! We will need at least 60 volunteers over several shifts and hope to raise \$1000 to feed 20 kids for a year, that's 20,000 meals. This year's Mega Pack will take place at the Berean Baptist in Burnsville just east of 35E and County Road 42.

Family of Christ's designated time slots are:
Tues., Feb. 5th - 6:00pm to 8:30pm and Sat., Feb. 9th - 11:00am to 1:00pm.
Sign up on the bulletin board or contact Pastor Brent.

FINANCIAL UPDATE December 2018

Total income for the month was \$49,864.60*
Total expenses for the month was \$26,339.59*
YTD Given: \$393,860-YTD Budgeted: \$386,107
*these amounts now include Youth Funds

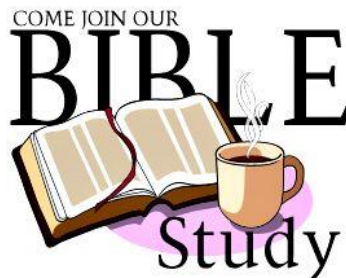
JANUARY GIVING TO DATE

Date	Attendance	Sunday Giving	Electronic Giving	GENERAL FUND
01/06/2019	139	\$2,728	\$3,567	\$6,295
01/13/2019	182	\$4,509	\$2,463	\$6,972
01/20/2019	147	\$2,206	\$6,440	\$8646
01/27/2019				

Women's Bible Study

Monday, February 4
10:00am

Join us the first Monday of each month.



Men's 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
Interim Children's Minister: Cary Whittington
Musicians: Mary Wescott, Laura Porter-Jones, Morgan Jones, Jessica Christensen
Choir: Debra Capener
Administrative Asst: Linda Bauer
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.*

February Family of Christ Servants

<u>Sunday</u> <u>02/03/19</u>	<u>Sunday</u> <u>02/10/19</u>	<u>Sunday</u> <u>02/17/19</u>	<u>Sunday</u> <u>02/24/19</u>
<u>AV Tech</u> Jeremy Mann	<u>AV Tech</u> Chris Flegel	<u>AV Tech</u> Chris Flegel	<u>AV Tech</u> Jeremy Mann
<u>Closer</u> Vicki/David Lind	<u>Closer</u> Lisa Cecchini	<u>Closer</u> Vicki/David Lind	<u>Closer</u> Mark Warner
<u>Communion</u> <u>Server</u> Betty Peterson Kris Smith Sandy Soukup Chad Specht Kirsten Specht	<u>Communion</u> <u>Server</u> Kelly Benning Dan Benson Beth Wacholz Debbie Warner Mark Warner	<u>Communion</u> <u>Server</u> Karen Agee Jean Bakken Gerry Wills Annie Yolitz Brian Yolitz	<u>Communion</u> <u>Server</u> Mike Anderson Rhonda Arnold Cindy Carlson Jim Carlson Lisa Cecchini
<u>Communion Setup</u> Gerry Wills	<u>Communion Setup</u> Janet Delperdang	<u>Communion Setup</u> Kathy Derner	<u>Communion Setup</u> Jenn Hatlestad
<u>Fellowship</u> Karen Agee Barb Buswell	<u>Fellowship</u> Angie Korsaa Jessica Christianson	<u>Fellowship</u> Jenn Hatlestad Angie Korsaa	<u>Fellowship</u> Martha Johnson Nancy Johnson
<u>Greeter</u> Kevin Gilmore Tammy Gilmore	<u>Greeter</u> Youth Youth	<u>Greeter</u> Ryan Basballe Kristin Basballe	<u>Greeter</u> Betty Peterson Marshall Peterson
<u>Offering Count</u> Gerry Wills Kirsten Specht	<u>Offering Count</u> Shirlee Benson Lisa Cecchini	<u>Offering Count</u> Chuck Halvorson Jim Schiprett	<u>Offering Count</u> Amie Hoffman Duane Hoffman
<u>Opener</u> Mark Warner	<u>Opener</u> Gerry Wills	<u>Opener</u> Mark Warner	<u>Opener</u> Lisa Cecchini
<u>Reader</u> Sandy Soukup	<u>Reader</u> Youth	<u>Reader</u> Becky Nystuen	<u>Reader</u> Chad Specht
<u>Usher</u> Janeen Immerfall Charlie Johnson	<u>Usher</u> Brian Knoke 2 Youth	<u>Usher</u> Jim Korsaa Ron Nystuen	<u>Usher</u> Kris Olsen Dave Olson

You will receive a reminder email from signup.com on the before your volunteer spot. If you are not currently receiving these emails, please contact Linda at the church office.



Family of Christ Lutheran Church

ELCA

10970 185th St W
Lakeville MN 55044
www.familyofchrist.com
www.familyofchrist.com



Dates to Remember

February 3 - Sunday Worship and Education
February 5 - FMSC MobilePack
February 6 - Confirmation/Youth Programs
February 9 - FMSC MobilePack
February 10 - Sunday Worship and Education
February 13 - Confirmation/Youth Programs
February 16 - Men's Breakfast
February 17 - Sunday Worship and Education
Chili Cook-off
February 20 - Confirmation/Youth Programs
February 24 - Sunday Worship and Education
February 27 - Confirmation/Youth Programs

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