

From the Pastor . . .

Happy Easter! He is Risen. He is Risen Indeed

What a blessed journey we have been on these last couple of weeks as Easter has come and with it the reemergence of an amazing Spring. This new life leads us to hope and new vision for the future. It is my hope and prayer that you are finding ways to embrace this love and Grace that we have been proclaiming over these last few weeks and will continue as we move forward as a community. This is a time to remember Jesus' call for each of us as individuals and all of us as a church to continue to live as a resurrection community.

This month we will be concentrating on different ways that we are "Called to Live". This will show up in a variety of opportunities. To begin with we are continuing our journey forward in understanding our Children, Youth, and Family Ministries. On May 5th there will be another community meeting and we need ALL of you, whether you have children in the program or not, to join us after worship for a time of shared learning. Second, that same day we will be listening to the story of our youth and adults as they prepare to go on their mission trip to Jamaica to serve at the Sunbeam Children's home. This is a partnership with the whole community, and we want you to be a part of this. Third, we will begin a journey to become a place where mental health is a part of who we are as people of faith. This will start with Mental Health Awareness Sunday on May 19th and continue as we become a community that is safe and welcoming for all people. Next, we are continuing the renovations of our facility by tackling the exterior of the building. We will need all sorts of help as we continue to provide a place where God's work can be done. Finally, beginning in June we will be hosting a pastoral intern from Luther Seminary for the next 2 years. Megan Eide will be joining us as we seek to do ministry together and become a place that prepares leaders for the future.

We are a resurrection people and making a difference in God's name is who we are called to be. Please join me as we enter into this exciting future. Thank you for your blessings, I look forward to seeing where God is leading us.

Peace,
Pastor Brent



Called to Live

Easter Worship Series May 5 - May 19

As the disciples begin to make sense of their life and calling after Jesus' resurrection, they discover that the gospel message is much larger than any had imagined. Join us as we learn that this good news is for everyone, that we are to take this love and Grace to the world, and that we are to live lives unashamed of this great gift we have been given. Come with us as we embrace our call to live lives in the resurrection hope.

Daily Readings for May

Follow along with us as we live in a post Resurrection world. Read one a day or spend a couple hours with a whole week. Each of the readings leads to worship on upcoming Sunday.

April 28

Sunday: Matthew 28:16-20

Monday: Psalm 40:9-10 Psalm

Tuesday: Acts 7:54-8:1, Stoning of Stephen

Wednesday: Acts 8:4-25, Philip Preaches in Samaria

Thursday: Acts 8:26-40, Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

Friday: Acts 9:1-19, The Conversion of Saul

Saturday: Acts 9:36-43, Peter in Lydda and Joppa

May 5

Sunday, Acts 10:1-17, 34-48

Monday, Acts 10:18-23, Peter's Vision

Tuesday, Acts 10:24-33, Peter's Vision

Wednesday, Acts 11:1-18, Peter's Report to the Church at Jerusalem

Thursday, Acts 11:19-30, The Church in Antioch

Friday, Acts 12:1-19, Peter in Prison

Saturday, Acts 12:20-25, The Death of Herod

May 12

Sunday, Acts 13:1-3; 14:8-18

Monday, Acts 13:4-12, The Apostles Preach in Cyprus

Tuesday, Acts 13:13-25, Paul and Barnabas in Antioch of Pisidia

Wednesday, Acts 13:26-35, Paul and Barnabas in Antioch of Pisidia

Thursday, Acts 13:36-52, Paul and Barnabas in Antioch of Pisidia

Friday, Acts 14:1-7, Paul and Barnabas in Iconium

Saturday, Acts 14:8-20, Paul and Barnabas in Lystra and Derbe

May 19

Sunday, Romans 1:1-17

Monday, Matthew 9:10-13, Call of Matthew

Tuesday, Romans 2:17-3:8, The Jews and the Law

Wednesday, Romans 3:9-20, None Is Righteous

Thursday, Romans 3:21-31, Righteousness through Faith

Friday, Romans 4:1-12, The Example of Abraham

Saturday, Romans 4:13-25, God's Promise Realized through Faith

May 26

Sunday, Romans 5:1-11

Monday, Romans 5:12-21, Adam and Christ

Tuesday, Romans 6:15-23, Slaves of Righteousness

Wednesday, Romans 7:1-6, An Analogy of Marriage

Thursday, Romans 7:7-25, The Law and Sin

Friday, Romans 8:1-17, Life in the Spirit

Saturday, Romans 9:1-18, God's Election of Israel

Education this Month

Sunday School Classes will be held on May 5th and 19th

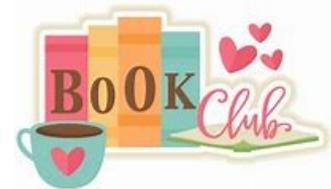
Wednesday Night Classes will be held on May 1st and 8th

Adult Education will held on May 19th

Art in Fellowship Space "God Moves My Brush"

This month the art in our fellowship space is by Gary Holthausen.

Gary is a former member of Family of Christ and in his retirement has honed his skills as an oil painter.



Family of Christ Book Study

May 23 at 7:00pm

Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI

by David Grann

Hosted by Cheryl Wills

Mental Health Awareness Sunday, May 19

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. The magnitude of mental illness in this country is staggering. According to the Surgeon General, one in every five Americans experiences a mental disorder in any given year and half of all Americans have such disorders at some time in their lives. These illnesses of the brain affect all of us, regardless of age, gender, economic status or ethnicity.

Mental illness affects the mind, body and the spirit. It is a real, common and treatable illness. Mental illnesses are far more common than cancer, diabetes, heart disease or arthritis.

Family of Christ can be an important part of the recovery process through education, support and by helping individuals and families feel part of a caring community. On May 19th our worship service will acknowledge this journey that so many of us face and begin the process of becoming a community that is safe and supportive of those who are experiencing mental health. Please contact Pastor Brent if you want to be a part of this important worship service.



Community Garden

Looking to grow your own food this summer? Family of Christ has several plots available for rent in our Community Garden. Plots are 10' x 10' and can be leased at \$25 for one and \$10 for each additional plot. The garden will be ready to plant in the middle of May. Registration and information is available on the bulletin board or in the church office.

Summer Outdoor Renovation



We are a blessed and growing community of Faith, and as we look to our future we are in need of some updates to prepare us for the ministry God has in store for us. We have been blessed with an amazing building and we did an incredible job with the interior. Now its time to do a little exterior work. There is need for basic repair, painting, landscaping, and general other care. Be on the look out for summer work sessions and opportunities. Let's keep this renovation going.



To begin with we are looking for team leaders to oversee the various groups. These include: Landscape Design, Building and Repairs, Landscaping, and Social Support.

Interested in Membership at Family of Christ?

Family of Christ is a very active church with lots of opportunities for all age groups, ranging from toddlers to senior citizens. Membership is not a requirement for involvement but membership will enhance your experiences here. We are a member-driven congregation where new ideas from members often generate new ministries and opportunities for growth and service. Be on the lookout for an informational meeting in late May or early June.

Contact Pastor Brent pastorbrent@familyofchrist.com or 952-435-5757 with any questions regarding our membership process.



We are hosting a Pastoral Intern, Megan Eide

Megan grew up in Bloomington, MN and has been a lifelong member of Mount Olivet Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. In high school, Megan was very active in Mount Olivet's children's and youth ministries as a Sunday School teacher, Vacation Bible School leader, and counselor at Cathedral of the Pines camp, and it was through these experiences that she heard the call to ministry. Megan followed her call to Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN, where she participated in a number of activities, from music to chapel leadership to residential life. One of the highlights of her Gustavus career was completing a full-time ministry internship abroad with the United Methodist Church in Denmark where she learned the ins and outs of being a pastor (and became fluent in Danish!). Megan will graduate top of her class in June as a religion and communication studies double major and film and media minor. Megan's future goals include becoming an ordained ELCA pastor specializing in children's, youth, and family ministry and publishing academic works on the portrayal of religion in children's visual media. In pursuit of these goals, Megan is

thrilled to be a part of the first MDiv accelerated program at Luther Seminary in St. Paul and to serve as an intern for two years with Family of Christ Church. In her spare time, Megan loves traveling, playing the bass clarinet, having family games nights, and fantasizing about moving to Denmark, Tolkien's Middle Earth, or Rowling's Hogwarts. Megan will be starting with us in June and will work with us for two years. Please help us welcome her into our community of faith.



Because of your generosity we were able to share over 1800 pairs of socks and underwear and raise over \$500 for the Drawer. Over 100 people also assembled over 8000 packages for those in need in our community. What an amazing gift!

Tanzania Visit

Recently Tom and Sandy Hendrickson visited our sister congregation in Usokami. While there they worked on the micro finance program they are part of called Iringa Hope. They visited the congregation on a Sunday morning where they met Pastor Pasaca Fyaiaga who is leading the community. Pastor Pasaca wished us warm greetings and said that they hoped to see a group from Family of Christ join them in the next year. Tom also recorded a message that he will bring back and share with us.



Sandy Hendrickson presenting the banner we made to our congregation in Tanzania

We are hoping to take a group to Tanzania in the winter of 2020. If you are interested contact Pastor Brent or Vickie Heggen.

VBS | CLAIMED: Wildly Loved by God
Sunday, June 9 - Thursday, June 13 | 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Light meal provided 5:15 - 5:45 p.m.

This year we are partnering with Christus Victor Lutheran in Apple Valley. **Our evening VBS is designed for children ages 3 years old through 4th grade.** (5th-12th grade students are encouraged to volunteer.) Bring your children to learn about their identity in Jesus Christ! Through Scripture, God constantly reminds us that we are God's children, and we are claimed and wildly loved by Jesus. During VBS, we will explore our identity in Christ by studying who God says we are compared to who the world pushes us to be. Six camp counselors from Lake Wapogasset Bible Camp will teach and help facilitate some elements during the evening alongside volunteers from both churches.

Online registration at www.familyofchrist.com

Cost is \$25 per person with a \$70 maximum per family.
Registration due by May 31.

WE NEED YOU: Check the church website for volunteer opportunities through Sign-Up Genius for meals, crafts, age-specific shepherds, etc. Please check the bulletin board area in the hall for **donated items needed** for VBS to drop off in the church office. Thank YOU!



Youth Mission Trip to Sunbeam

We have been busy working on planning activities and meals for the boys of Sunbeam. We will be planning, preparing and serving 5 evening meals that the boys usually don't get. Examples include PB & J, Mac and Cheese. We have also been planning a 30 minute program for each evening. We will lead the boys in music, telling bible stories and playing games. We have also been busy learning about the culture of the boys and Jamaica. Over the next 2 months we will continue to plan and team build. We will be asking for your support through donations along with prayers for our team as we move forward in our mission.

Join us on May 5th as we learn more about the Mission Trip

First Communion

Congratulations to the following individuals who completed First Communion training and took their first Eucharist on Maundy Thursday:

Reese Christiansen
Lauren Hawkins
Ava Specht

Asher Davidson
Archer Hendrickson
Hadley Worm



Mission of the Month -Sunbeam Association for Mission



Sunbeam is a children’s home to serve children and young adults in Jamaica, to provide a safe nurturing environment, and to teach the principles of Christian living. Our youth and others will be traveling to Sunbeam in June to support the home and ministry.

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

FINANCIAL UPDATE

March 2019

Total income for the month was \$37,245

Total expenses for the month was \$32,309

YTD Giving: \$ 96,063 - Budgeted YTD: \$101,406
(as of March 31, 2019)

April GIVING TO DATE

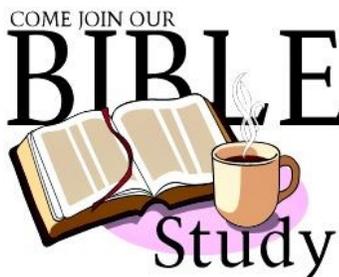
Date	Attendance	Sunday Giving	Electronic Giving	GENERAL FUND
04/07/2019	159	\$3,288	\$4,007	\$7,295
04/14/2019	191	\$4,477	\$1,967	\$6,444
04/21/2019	217/141	\$4,100	\$6,446	\$10,546

Women’s Bible Study

Monday, May 6

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
 Interim Youth & Family Minister: Amy McGrew
 Interim Children’s Minister: Cary Whittington
 Musicians: Mary Wescott, Morgan Jones, Laura Porter-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.

May Family of Christ Servants

<u>Sunday</u> <u>05/05/18</u>	<u>Sunday</u> <u>05/12/18</u>	<u>Sunday</u> <u>05/19/18</u>	<u>Sunday</u> <u>05/26/18</u>
<u>AV Tech</u> Ken Davidson	<u>AV Tech</u> Chris Flegel	<u>AV Tech</u> Kris Smith	<u>AV Tech</u> Jeremy Mann
<u>Closer</u> Brian Boroff	<u>Closer</u> Lisa Cecchini	<u>Closer</u> Brian Boroff	<u>Closer</u> Mark Warner
<u>Communion Server</u> Dan Benson Cindy Carlson Jim Carlson Becky Donner Paul Donner	<u>Communion Server</u> Mike Anderson Rhonda Arnold Jean Bakken Kathy Derner Vickie Heggen	<u>Communion Server</u> Josi Hellier Luke Hellier Jackie Knudsen Jeanne Miller Miles Miller	<u>Communion Server</u> Kevin Hatlestad Ed Hellier Pete Nelson Kris Olsen Kris Smith
<u>Communion Setup</u> Barb Buswell	<u>Communion Setup</u> Janet Delperdang	<u>Communion Setup</u> Vickie Heggen	<u>Communion Setup</u> Kathy Derner
<u>Fellowship</u> Jenn Hatlestad Angie Korsaa	<u>Fellowship</u> Vickie Heggen Betty Peterson	<u>Fellowship</u> Audrey Carlson Martha Johnson	<u>Fellowship</u> Barb Buswell Amy Hellier
<u>Greeter</u> Linda Bartz Maury Bart	<u>Greeter</u> Youth Youth	<u>Greeter</u> Dana Sahlin Jon Sahlin	<u>Greeter</u> Glenda Lind Terry Lind
<u>Offering Count</u> Amie Hoffman Duane Hoffman	<u>Offering Count</u> Shirlee Benson Chuck Halvorson	<u>Offering Count</u> Jeanne Miller Miles Miller	<u>Offering Count</u> Ryan Basballe Kevin Hatlestad
<u>Opener</u> Gerry Wills	<u>Opener</u> Brian Boroff	<u>Opener</u> Mark Warner	<u>Opener</u> Gerry Wills
<u>Reader</u> Jim Korsaa	<u>Reader</u> Youth	<u>Reader</u> Rebecca Nystuen	<u>Reader</u> Kris Olsen
<u>Usher</u> Jean Bakken Luke Hellier	<u>Usher</u> 2 Youth Chuck Halvorson	<u>Usher</u> Ryan Basballe Mark Warner	<u>Usher</u> Betty Peterson Marshall Peterson

If you make any changes to the schedule, please contact Linda at office@familyofchrist.com



Family of Christ Lutheran Church
ELCA
10970 185th St W
Lakeville MN 55044
www.familyofchrist.com



Dates to Remember

- May 1 - Confirmation/Youth Programs**
- May 5 - Sunday Worship and Education
Congregational Learning & Listening**
- May 8 - Confirmation/Youth Programs**
- May 12- Sunday Worship—Mother's Day**
- May 15 - Confirmation/Youth Programs**
- May 19 - Sunday Worship and Education**
- May 26 - Sunday Worship**

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**