

From the Pastor.....

Devoted to Generosity

Servants of Christ,

The story of Tabitha in Acts 9:36-42 is a powerful one for the church, especially when it is in times of great change. Jesus has returned to heaven, but his power is still at work in the church through the teachings of the Apostles and the presence of the Holy Spirit.

It is important to note that Tabitha, who is given the designation disciple, was dedicated to good works and acts of charity. She has a particular ministry to the widows in her community, and when she dies, the church—especially the widows— experience a crisis. Who will serve them?

We know that the Apostle Peter is summoned and comes at once. He prays for the dead woman. When he finishes, he looks at the body and says, “Tabitha, get up!”, and she does! This is the resurrection power of Jesus still at work in the church, and it is a main point of the story. But there is more. If proving the power of Jesus was still at work through the resurrection of a dead body, well most any body would do just fine. But it isn’t just any body, it is Tabitha’s life that is restored—the one who was dedicated to generosity! Her ministry was so important that the church could not be stopped by her physical death. She is raised back to life to continue her acts of charity.

Generosity is life-giving to us, but even beyond that, we can see that for the church to be the church, it has to be like Tabitha: devoted to generosity. We are at our best when we are filled with the life-giving practices of caring, sharing, and generosity.

We will spend much of November talking about stewardship, but stewardship is about more than the transactions we make with our money. It is a whole-life, relational response to God and God’s abundant generosity. It is intentional and impactful using of the gift of ourselves. It is a way of giving that flows from the heart in concrete ways in response to what God has already done. Being devoted to generosity is life-giving for both us and the ones we give to.

Join me as we look at how the ways we give can affect the way we live in Christ.

Peace,
Pastor Brent



Clipboard Fair and Celebration November 17

Join us after worship on November 17th as we come together for a time of fellowship, celebration, and signing up to help in the community. This will be chance to look at the various ministries of the Church and community, and to find ways you can help. We are a community based on the gifts, talents, and experiences of people like you and we want to find ways to worship and serve in God’s kingdom together. There will be special treats this day.

DEVOTED TO GENEROSITY Worship and Stewardship Series

Come join us as we look to focus on simplicity, generous living, and the faithful use of God's abundant blessings.

November 3 - "Giving is More than a Gift" Luke 18:9-14: Generosity and giving are not about an equation or formula, but generosity is about our heart and desire to know and glorify God. How are you growing in faith and living a blessed life?

November 10 - "God's Generosity" Isaiah 65:17-25: God has blessed us in so many ways and sometimes the hardest part is realizing how blessed we really are. Heaven is not just about some future life, but it is with us now and how we live and give matters.

November 17 "Devoted to Generosity" Acts 9:36-43: One of the things that make us as Christians and as a church who we are is how we give to the world around us. All that we do is an act of giving in response to what we have been given. How can we live with courage and boldness to serve others and grow God's kingdom?

From Our Intern Pastor.....

"Who am I?" This was the theme and focal question of this year's fall youth retreat. "Who are we, individually and collectively, as beloved children of God?" Our youth did an amazing job exploring this question, through silly games like large group Heads Up (where, for the record, I had the honor of being J.K. Rowling!) as well as through contemplative, spiritual practices and vocational discernment.

This month, as we enter into the season of stewardship at Family of Christ, we have the opportunity to ask who are we as a congregation, and how does our stewardship reflect our God-given identity? Personally, when I think of who we are as Family of Christ, I think of a woman named Tabitha from the book of Acts. Tabitha had a heart and moral compass oriented towards God and God's work in the world, and she dedicated her life to using her gifts for care and hospitality to lift up her neighbors in need. I see Family of Christ as a congregation of Tabithas, people who sustain the church and God's missional work through life-giving practices of caring, sharing, and generosity. It never ceases to amaze me, for example, to observe all of the hands at work on Sundays in the kitchen, the sacristy, the choir, offering collection, Sunday School, and everywhere I see smiles and peace passed from one to another. That is what stewardship is all about: our relational response to God and God's generosity through an intentional deployment of our gifts to our neighbors.

Therefore, my hope for us this month is that we continue asking ourselves, as individuals and as a community, who are we? And what does it mean for us to live in relational response to God who loves us unconditionally, where we are just as we are? After all, here at Family of Christ everybody is somebody, and everybody's relational response to God in this community matters, the Tabithas and all.

Peace,

Megan Eide, Intern Pastor

New Art Exhibit

We are looking for quilters and others who dabble in the fabric arts to share their creations with Family of Christ in an art exhibit in our Fellowship Space. If you are interested in submitting a piece or two, please contact Pastor Brent. This exhibit will run from late November to Early February.



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.



Christmas Pageant

Jesse's Tree

It's time for Family of Christ's Christmas Pageant. Please let us know if you or your children would like an active role this year. Whether that's through acting, singing, helping with props and costumes, or anything else, we can use your help. We also need some adults to act and to support the practices and events. Contact Pastor Brent if you're interested in helping or participating.

Below is the schedule for this year's Christmas Program:

Sunday, November 24th Practice 10:30-11:30

Sunday, December 1st Practice 10:30-11:30

Sunday, December 8th Practice 10:30-11:30

Saturday, December 14th Dress Rehearsal 9:30 am-11:00

Sunday, December 15th Christmas Pageant 9:30

AUTUMN LUNCHEON & SHOPPING

General Store—Minnetonka - November 16th

Meet at Family of Christ at 9:30am for rideshare

Add your name to the signup sheet to confirm attendance

Hosted by Soul Sisters

2019 Holiday Luncheon December 7th, 2019 at Noon

Raffle Baskets needed between November 1-16th

**Potluck with a \$5.00 donation
Sign Up on the Bulletin Board**

Profits go to 360 Communities

Sponsored by Soul Sisters



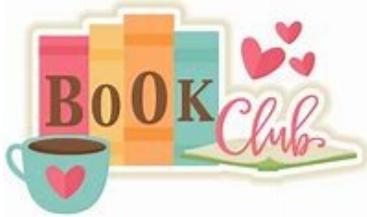


Tanzania Sunday Thank You!

Thank you to all those who participated in our Tanzania Sunday.
 Please let us know if you would still like to support our scholarship or microloan program.
 Special Thanks to all those involved in making it possible.

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.



Book Club

Thursday, Nov. 21st
 7:30pm

(note time change)
 We will be discussing
Missoula by Jon Krakauer.

Join us in the Fellowship Space at Family of Christ.



New Electronic Keyboard

Thanks to all those who donated to the new keyboard and for music. As we grow our music ministry, we thank you for your continued support.

FMSC THANK YOU!

Thank You to All those that participated in our Feed My Starving Children Event.
 It was a blessing to share in serving others with you.



Congratulations to our 2019 Confirmands!

**Ava Broberg
Jenna Cuddigan
Erica Flegel
Morgan King Fenn
Caleb Knudsen
Alex Nelson
Logan Williams**

Special thanks to Kris Olsen and
Pastor Brent for leading
confirmation.



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

Children, Youth, and Family Update

Thank you to all those who have stepped up in our journey to grow our Children, Youth, and Family programs. We have been blessed by many volunteers who have gone through training and new programs that have emerged. We also want to thank Interserve and Amy McGrew for all the work they have done helping us understand the direction we need to go and to put pieces in place to meet these goals. As we move forward, we will be continuing our search for a Director that will help us move even more into the future God has in store for us. Please let us know if you know anyone who may be interested in this position. A revised position description will be posted on our website by mid November.

Sunday School Schedule

November 3: Zacchaeus, Luke 19:1-10
November 10: Sadducees' Question, Luke 20:27-38
November 17: God's Love is Forever, Luke 21:5-19
November 24: Christmas Program Practice
December 1: Christmas Program Practice

Youth Schedule

November 6: Confirmation and Youth Group
November 13: Confirmation and Youth Group
November 20: Confirmation and Youth Group
November 27: No Class—Thanksgiving



Youth Retreat

Thanks to all who helped with our October Youth retreat. It was an amazing success thanks to all your blessings.





MISSION OF THE MONTH

Matrix Housing Services

Beginning November 1st local churches will be hosting a rotating homeless shelter serving 50 single adults experiencing homelessness in Dakota County.

It costs nearly \$1300 a night to run the shelter along with preparing meals for those in need around us.

Matrix was able to feed and shelter 229 people who were experiencing homelessness in Dakota County.

Women's Bible Study

Monday, November 4 at 10:00 am

We meet on the first Monday of the month. Hope to see you there. Any questions, contact Linda Bartz at lindabartz@charter.net.

All women are welcome.

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.



FINANCIAL UPDATE

September 2019

Total income for the month was \$32,379

Total expenses for the month was \$27,765

YTD Given: \$ 278,716- YTD Budgeted: \$304,212
(as of September 30, 2019)

OCTOBER GIVING TO DATE

Date	Attendance	Sunday Giving	Electronic Giving	GENERAL FUND
10/06/2019	110	\$3,141	\$3,998	\$7,139
10/13/2019	131	\$2,255	\$2,553	\$4,808
10/20/2019	104	\$1,598	\$6,393	\$7,991
10/27/2019	202	\$4,143	\$1,769	\$5,912

Family of Christ Staff Ministry Team:

Pastor: Pastor Brent Erler
 Pastoral Intern: Megan Eide, Intern Pastor
 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

November Family of Christ Servants

<u>Sunday</u> <u>11/3/19</u>	<u>Sunday</u> <u>11/10/19</u>	<u>Sunday</u> <u>11/17/19</u>	<u>Sunday</u> <u>11/24/19</u>
<u>AV Tech</u> Chris Flegel	<u>AV Tech</u> Nathan Blilie	<u>AV Tech</u> Ken Davidson	<u>AV Tech</u> Jeremy Mann
<u>Closer</u> Lisa Cecchini	<u>Closer</u> Kevin Hatlestad	<u>Closer</u> Gerry Wills	<u>Closer</u> Lisa Cecchini
<u>Communion</u> <u>Server</u> Mike Anderson Rhonda Arnold Jean Bakken Kathy Derner	<u>Communion</u> <u>Server</u> Linda Bartz Maury Bartz Dan Benson Ed Hellier	<u>Communion</u> <u>Server</u> Becky Donner Paul Donner Jackie Knudsen Kathy Olson	<u>Communion</u> <u>Server</u> Pete Nelson Carla Passon Scott Passon Sandy Soukup
<u>Communion Setup</u> Audrey Carlson	<u>Communion Setup</u> Jean Bakken	<u>Communion Setup</u> Rhonda Arnold	<u>Communion Setup</u> Kathy Derner
<u>Fellowship</u> Barb Buswell Jenn Hatlestad	<u>Fellowship</u> Martha Johnson Betty Peterson	<u>Fellowship</u> Kathy Olson Angie Korsaa	<u>Fellowship</u> Audrey Carlson Nancy Johnson
<u>Greeter</u> Betty Peterson Marshall Peterson	<u>Greeter</u> Dana Sahlin Jon Sahlin	<u>Greeter</u> Pete Nelson Annie Yolitz	<u>Greeter</u> Linda Bartz Maury Bartz
<u>Offering Count</u> Ryan Basballe Lisa Cecchini	<u>Offering Count</u> Kevin Hatlestad Angie Korsaa	<u>Offering Count</u> Kristin Specht Gerry Wills	<u>Offering Count</u> Jim Schiprett Kris Smith
<u>Opener</u> Kevin Hatlestad	<u>Opener</u> Lisa Cecchini	<u>Opener</u> Kevin Hatlestad	<u>Opener</u> Gerry Wills
<u>Reader</u> Sheila Ehrlich	<u>Reader</u> Josi Hellier	<u>Reader</u> Emma Johnson	<u>Reader</u> Charlie Johnson
<u>Usher</u> Charlie Johnson Jim Korsaa	<u>Usher</u> Carla Passon Scott Passon	<u>Usher</u> Dave Olson Anna Simon	<u>Usher</u> Barb Martin Kris Olsen

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



November 3- Sunday Worship and Education
November 6 - Confirmation/Youth Programs
November 10 – Sunday Worship and Education
November 13 - Confirmation/Youth Programs
November 17 - Sunday Worship and Education
November 20—Confirmation/Youth Programs
November 24 - Sunday Worship
first Christmas Pageant practice
November 27 - NO YOUTH CLASSES
December 1 - Sunday Worship
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:

Faith
Acceptance
Meaningful relationships
Impact
Love
Youth