



# April/May Newsletter 2024

**“Inviting ALL to Live  
the Gospel through  
Faith, Love, and  
Compassion”**

10970 185th Street West ♦ Lakeville MN 55044 ♦ 952-435-5757 ♦ [www.familyofchrist.com](http://www.familyofchrist.com)

## Message from Pastor

I love a good story but sometimes I get stuck because a book or a movie is too long and I can't make it to the ending. Sitting in that uncertainty often leads to late nights or restless sleep, because the ending is so crucial. In many ways we may feel like we've been living in one long and uncertain chapter without knowing where our story and the world's story is going to end, and I have to admit that the uncertainty is a bit overwhelming. As we approach Easter I am always excited to get to the resurrection despite the deep time of contemplation during Lent, but there is one of the Gospels that doesn't have the ending I want.

This year we look at the Easter story according to Mark. After the drama of Holy Week with the last supper and crucifixion we come to that amazing morning with the empty tomb. The women show up to anoint the dead body, the stone is rolled away and an angel speaks to them. "He is not here, he has been raised, go and tell everyone." We are almost there, but then the story ends with the women running away in terror saying nothing to anyone because they were afraid. That's it. The end. There are other endings to Mark in your bible, but those were added much later. It's like the story hasn't ended.

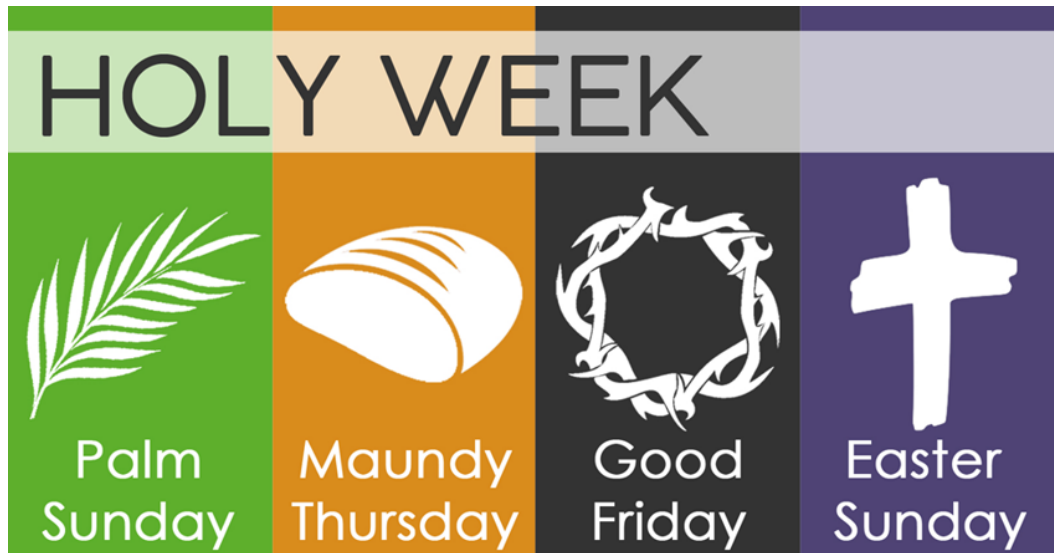
I think that this is exactly what Easter is about. Yes, it's about the new life and hope that the resurrected Christ has for all of us, but it's about a story that hasn't ended yet. This is also an amazing gift because that means that you and I get to be a part of this new life and hope that has broken out in the world. We are part of a story of struggle, fear, and hopelessness that leads to life, grace, and hope, and that story continues to unfold each and every day.

As a community we will continue to step into God's Easter story that unfolds in all sorts of ways. In a place where the world, communities, families, and we ourselves are uncertain about how the story ends, we have a place here at Family of Christ where we can gather together and journey together. A place that proclaims hope, forgiveness, grace, love, and a risen savior that leads to the happiest of endings.

So join us this Easter and come for the hope of a story that includes you and the resurrected Christ.

Happy Easter

Pastor Brent



## **Holy Week Worship**

### **Palm Sunday, March 24th**

**9:30 AM**

Palm Sunday is always a wonderful time of celebration at Family of Christ. We begin our worship with a procession with palms, remembering Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

### **Maundy Thursday, March 28th**

**7:00 PM**

Before Jesus goes to the cross, he spends one last evening with those closest to him. This is where we hear his final words to his followers like us as we face the challenges that life puts in our path.

### **Good Friday, March 29th**

**7:00 PM**

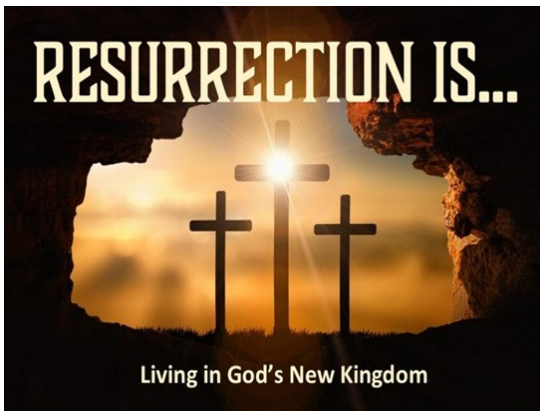
On Good Friday we gather to remember Jesus' suffering and death on the cross. Join us as we understand what God's gift of love was willing to embrace for us through music and art.

### **Easter Sunday, March 31st**

**9:30 AM**

**He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!**

Come and celebrate our risen Savior and our hope for now and the future. Invite friends, family, and neighbors to join us as we celebrate this wonderful promise to all people.



## The theme for the Easter season is "Resurrection is..."

Easter isn't just a onetime event, but it's about becoming something new and claiming our identity in the risen Lord, while preparing for our ministries in the body of Christ. Living in the Resurrection we become renewed people, discover our true gifts, connect with our God-given passion, live in community, and make an impact in the world. Deep down this is exactly who we are called to be both as children of God and a community of faith. Joining a timeless community of Easter people we will walk through the Gospel and Psalms to live into the Resurrection mystery.

---

### 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.

Join us for an informational Supper on Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Pizza Dinner will be served at 5:30

with the informational meeting from 6:00-7:00.

Childcare will be provided.

Contact us at [office@familyofchrist.com](mailto:office@familyofchrist.com) to sign up.



---

### Jazz Worship

April 14th

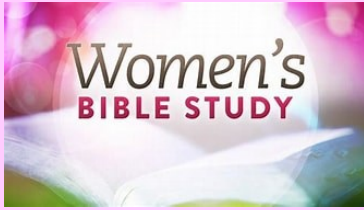
Join us for Worship on April 14<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate the Easter season with Jazz arrangements of favorite songs and hymns. If you wish to play in this service please contact Anne Nyquist or the church office. Otherwise just come and join us for this special worship.



---

### Holy Humor Sunday, May 5th Easter is a Laughing Matter

Join us for a service of laughter and fun celebrating the eternal joke that God pulled on Satan in the resurrection. Satan thought he had won the battle by defeating Jesus in death on the cross, but Jesus rose from the dead, winning the ultimate victory, having the last laugh.



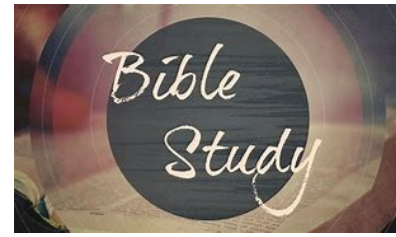
**Women's Bible Study  
Monday, April 8**

**Note change of date**

Women's Bible Study will held at 10:00am on Monday, April 8th at Family of Christ.

For additional information contact Linda Bartz

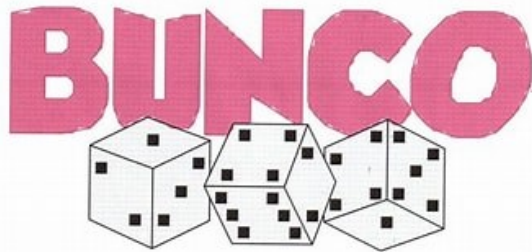
**All women are welcome! Invite a friend.**



**Tuesday Morning Bible Study  
7:00—8:00am**

Join us on Tuesday mornings from 7:00-8:00 AM in the conference room as we share our stories and grow our faith by studying the scriptures.

You can either join us in-person or online. Contact Pastor Brent for the link or just show up.



**Spring Bunco**

**Thursday, April 25th 6:15-7:30pm**

Back by popular demand! It has been a while since we last gathered for fellowship and fun. You do not need to know how to play Bunco, it is easy to learn! You can invite friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc! Donate \$3-5 to play! You can also bring small gifts for prizes. See Clipboard for sign-up or sign-up genius link.

If you want to help with prizes or snacks,

Email: [dana@familyofchrist.com](mailto:dana@familyofchrist.com)

**Earth Day Clean Up**

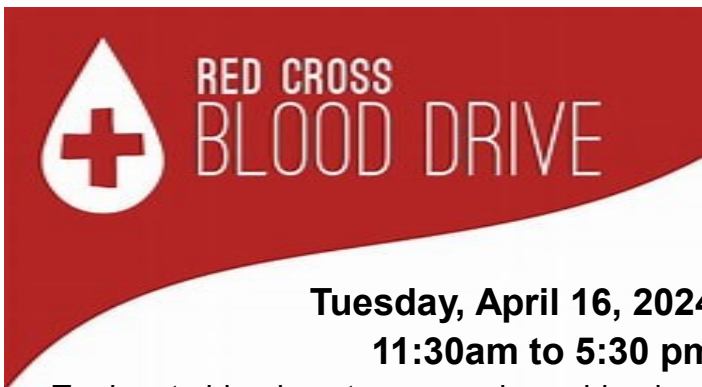
**Saturday, April 20<sup>nd</sup> 10:30-11:30am**

Come join us in helping clean up around the church and along 185<sup>th</sup> Street Celebrate afterwards by attending the Lakeville Earth Day Celebration at the Central Maintenance Facility.

Enjoy lunch and all the activities.

Free shirt for all who participate!

See Clipboard for sign-up.



**Tuesday, April 16, 2024**

**11:30am to 5:30 pm**

To donate blood, go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)  
Contact Glenda Lind for more information.



The church office is will be **CLOSED**  
**Tuesday, March 26st to Monday, April 1st.**

Please contact Pastor Brent if you need to assistance.



### Youth Schedule:

Mar 27: Holy Week: No class  
 Mar 31: Easter Sunday- Mission Trip Bake Sale  
 Apr 3: NO WED PROGRAMMING  
 Apr 10: 6:00 Pizza 6:20 Confirmation  
           7:40 Youth Group  
 Apr 17: 6:00 Pizza 6:20 Confirmation  
           7:40 Youth Group  
 Apr 24: 6:00 Pizza. 6:20 Confirmation  
           7:40: Youth Group  
 May 1: 6:00 Pizza. 6:20 Confirmation  
           7:40: Youth Group  
 May 8: 6:00 Pizza. 6:20 Confirmation  
           7:40: Youth Group  
 May 15: Combined Confirmation/Youth Group  
           Celebration

### Mission Trip News

Hard to believe we are about 3 months away from our mission trip to New York. Please register your youth officially through Youthworks (link was in an email), if you haven't done so already. Please help pray for our youth who head to New York on July 13-20<sup>th</sup>.

- Sun. March 31: Easter Bake Sale Fundraiser  
bring in baked goods at 9:00am
- Sun. April 14: Cub Foods Bagging
- Wed. May 22: 7:00-8:30 Mission Trip Youth Gathering
- Wed. May 29: 7:00-8:30 Mission Trip Youth Gathering

### Youth Mission Trip Bake Sale Easter Sunday

Our Annual Mission Trip Easter Bake Sale is fast approaching. We will be selling baked goods on March 31st before and after worship. Help support our youth heading to New York in July by purchasing yummy treats to enjoy on Easter. Cash and check donations accepted!

**BAKE SALE  
FUNDRAISER**



### Sunday School Calendar

- April 7: Sunday School: Doubting Thomas
- April 14: Sunday School: The Great Commission
- April 21: Sunday School: The Good Shepherd
- April 28: NO SS: Chili Feed (Leah M here from Luther Park Camp)
- May 5: Final Sunday School Celebration
- May 12: Mother's Day Activity
- May 19: Undie Sunday: Bundling Socks and Underwear

## Outreach Opportunities at Trinity Care

The Trinity Activities team is on the lookout for volunteers! They are looking for folks who can volunteer consistently and reliably on a weekly basis.

First question you may have is, "for what events?" Here are some options.

- \*Morning-reading current events out loud  
(and finding some positive stories as well!!)
- \*Afternoon Card Games
- \*Afternoon Board Games
- \*Afternoon Happy Hours
- \*Weekend or weeknight manicures
- \*Sunday afternoon Bingo
- \*Monday night Bingo
- \*Thursday afternoon Bingo
- \*Warm weather bike rides
- \*Movie time in the evening
- \*Church or Bible studies anytime!

This list is just ideas. You may have your own ideas and they welcome that! They need you and it is a wonderful way to share God's love!! Email: [jlauterbach@trinity.sfhs.org](mailto:jlauterbach@trinity.sfhs.org)



### May Mission of the Month The Drawer

"THE DRAWER" collects and distributes NEW socks and underwear to men, women, and children. This local nonprofit organization is a grass roots ministry that began 9 years ago. It receives donations from community members, local businesses, nonprofits, and faith-based organizations.

Besides monetary donations, we will be collecting new socks and underwear all month.

### Undie Sunday and Bundling Session Sunday, May 19th after worship

We will end our socks and underwear collection for our Mission of the Month by holding an Undie Sunday on **May 19<sup>th</sup>**. We will gather all the socks and underwear donated in May and hold a bundling session after worship on the 19th. Putting together 100's of bundles of new socks and underwear that will go to community groups to distribute takes volunteers- all ages welcome!

We agree with The Drawer's motto, "Providing Warmth and Dignity," so we hope to see lots of our members on May 19th to help in this outreach event.

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

#### Family of Christ Staff Ministry Team:

Lead Pastor: Pastor Brent Erler  
Church Administrator: Linda Bauer  
Children, Family and  
Outreach Coordinator: Dana Sahlin  
Musicians: Mary Wescott  
Ann Mikiska  
Solveig Englund  
Kim & Steve Wolff  
Custodian: Kelly Kritsberg

**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

— camping & retreat center —  
**LUTHER PARK**  
— danbury, wisconsin —

**April Mission of the Month  
Luther Park Camp**

This month our noisy offering will go to support our bible camp Luther Park in Danbury, WI. We know what an impact this camp has made on our community and as they seek to continue to do ministry this summer in new and unique ways we can support them.

**Luther Park Opportunities 2024**

On **April 28th**, Leah McDougall, the Executive Director of Luther Park, will be visiting our church and leading us in worship. She will also share all that Luther Park Camping & Retreat Center has to offer. Come to worship on the 28th to find out more. The donations from the Chili Feed afterward worship will benefit Luther Park.

We have a designated week at Luther Park for FOC youth to sign up and attend camp with church friends. But know that you can sign up for any week that works for you. Youth Members attending for a week receive a \$150 scholarship thanks to a memorial fund. They also offer family weekend getaways.

See the website for details and to register for camp at [www.luthercamp.com](http://www.luthercamp.com):

July 21-24, 2024: Half week for 1-4<sup>th</sup> graders

July 21-26, 2024: Full week for 3-6<sup>th</sup> graders

July 21-26, 2024: Full week for 7-12<sup>th</sup> graders in the Treehouse



**Family of Christ's Chili Cook-Off April 28th**

Do you have the greatest chili recipe EVER?? Think your Chili is better than everyone else? Just love to eat? Join us Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> after worship for the Chili Cook-Off to benefit Luther Park Bible Camp. 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.

Special Cornbread competition.

Suggested donation of \$10 per person or \$30 per family



### Dates to Remember

Sun. Mar 24: Worship/Sunday School  
Wed. Mar 27: No programming  
Thu. Mar 28: Maundy Thursday Service  
Fri. Mar 29: Good Friday Service  
Sun. Mar 31: Easter Sunday Service  
Youth Bake Sale Fundraiser  
Wed. Apr 3: No programming  
Sun. Apr 7: Worship/Sunday School  
Wed. Apr 10: Confirmation/Youth Grp  
Sun. Apr 14: Worship—Jazz/Sunday School  
Wed. Apr 17: Confirmation/Youth Grp  
Sat. Apr 20: Earth Day Cleanup  
Sun. Apr 21: Worship/Sunday School  
Mon. Apr 22: New Member Meeting  
Wed. Apr 24: Confirmation/Youth Grp  
Sun. Apr 28: Worship/Sunday School  
Luther Park Sunday/Chili Feed

### **Vision Statement**

*Family of Christ invites ALL to Live the  
Gospel through Faith, Love, and  
Compassion*



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

Faith  
Acceptance  
Meaningful relationships  
Invoke  
Love  
Youth