



February Newsletter 2025

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

10970 185th Street West ♦ Lakeville MN 55044 ♦ 952-435-5757 ♦ www.familyofchrist.com

Message from Pastor

Ordinary Faith

Well, we are firmly in the throes of a new year and for the next couple of months as we weather the cold and dark life gets a bit, well, ordinary and in worship we are in such a time. Ordinary Time in the church year is more than marking time between Christmas and Easter. It is a way of walking with Jesus and growing into our faith as we are making and being made into disciples. Since we aren't planning for big festivities in our lives or the world, these next few weeks we invite you to join us and to look at where you are – as individuals and as a community. Jesus and His journey into ministry is something for us to take some time with, because just as Jesus built foundations for life we too need to go back and secure our own cornerstones.

Jesus' journey in Luke helps us to do just that. We begin with what is familiar, what we see every day and what we do week by week—the familiar, and maybe the over-familiar. Having considered the familiar where we are, we now raise our vision to the horizon and ask, “Where are we going?” Perhaps a better question is, “Who are we becoming?” Living in the light of the epiphany of the incarnated Christ, we are called to become more—more as individuals certainly but also more as a community.

What does it mean to be the loving community we are at Family of Christ? Join us as we take a look at aspects of this beloved community and consider if this describes who we are and who we want to be. Some of this is within our grasp already, and we celebrate our strengths. We'd love you to join us on January 26th as we share some of these stories at the annual meeting. But some of it lies beyond what we can see, like a far horizon, as we seek the Spirit's strength to grow into our calling as the body of Christ.

Why do we struggle so much with the word “Ordinary”? I know I personally love big adventures, fancy experiences, and once in a life time events, but that's not where I spend 95% of my life. My life is spent in relationships, community, and trying to make a difference; rather ordinary stuff. Yet that's where my faith really becomes a part of my life, and that's where God shows up.

Come and join us as we travel this ordinary life together and be ready for a rather extra ordinary Savior who shows us how to live.

Peace,

Pastor Brent



Ordinary Time is more than marking the weeks until Lent and Easter. It is a way of walking with Jesus and growing into our faith as we are making and being made into disciples. This Ordinary Time, you are invited to look at where you are – as individuals and as a community. We begin with what is familiar, what we see every day, and what we do week by week—the familiar, and maybe the over-familiar. We need to look at what we’ve seen so much that we don’t see it anymore. But we need to look; we need to see because this is where we are.

Adult Ed | Foundations of Faith


Join us as we continue to look at foundational faith beliefs and practices and how they have and continue to shape our Christian journey today. Adult Ed meets at 10:45 AM after worship in the conference room.



- Feb 2: God | Faith a Quest**
- Feb 9: No class**
- Feb 16: Religion | Spirituality is not enough**
- Feb 23: Jesus | The revolution of Love**

**Family of Christ Annual Meeting
January 26th @ 10:45am**

Join us on January 26th as we celebrate the blessings and challenges God has brought us through in the last year and make decisions about the future. All are encouraged to be at this meeting and help us look at the direction God is leading us.





Council Thanks

Thanks to all those who served as leaders in our community on the church council in 2024:

<p>David Peterson Amy Klimpke Chuck Halverson Scott Passon</p>	<p>Ryan Basballe Brian Knudsen Kirstin Specht Susan Semmler</p>
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Women's Ministry

Thanks to all who participated in the Women's Advent Luncheon. We had a fabulous time for a good cause. Your generosity raised over \$1500 to give to the local food shelf! Combine the \$781 from our November Mission of the Month/yearly donations and we were able to donate over \$2300! What a blessing! Special thanks to those who donated baskets, helped set up, sold tickets, cleared the tables, washed dishes, brought food, etc. It takes a village to hold such an event- so thanks.

The 2025 Advent Luncheon will be an all-member event!



Youth Schedule:

Feb 5: All-Member Feed My Starving Children
Feb. 9: Youth Sunday
Feb 12: Dinner, Confirmation, Youth Group
Feb. 19: Dinner, Confirmation, Youth Group
Feb. 22: Community Potluck Dinner and Game Night
Feb. 26: Dinner, Confirmation, Youth Group
March 5: Ash Wednesday

Sunday School Schedule

Feb 2: Sunday School-Jeremiah
Feb. 9: Youth Sunday (sing) and Sunday School-The Disciples
Feb 16: NO SS
Feb. 22: Community Potluck Dinner and Game Night
Feb. 23: Sunday School-Joseph Feeds His Family
March 2: Chili Cook Off



Mission Trip Updates

If you haven't officially registered for our trip to Lake Traverse, please use the Sign-up Genius link to register.

Our next fundraising opportunity is the CMA luncheon on Saturday, February 8th. See sign-up genius.

Contact Dana for additional information

Family of Christ Monthly Financial Report

2024 Financial Review/2025 Budget

	2024 General Fund Income			2025 General Fund Income		
	2024 Finish	2024 Budget	YTD Over / (Under) Budget	2025 Proposed Income	Variance to 2024	Percent Increase/Decrease
Giving	\$ 362,676	\$ 364,726	\$ (2,050)	\$ 362,676	\$ -	0.0%
Building Use	\$ 41,723	\$ 36,675	\$ 5,048	\$ 42,724	\$ 1,001	2.4%
Misc	\$ 5,162	\$ 4,148	\$ 1,014	\$ 5,162	\$ -	0.0%
General Income Total	\$ 409,561	\$ 405,549	\$ 4,012	\$ 410,563	\$ 1,001	0.2%

	2024 General Fund Expenses			2025 General Fund Expenses		
	2024 Finish	2024 Budget	YTD Under / (Over) Budget	2025 Proposed Expenses	Variance to 2024	Percent Increase/Decrease
BENEVOLENCE	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	\$ -	\$ 12,360	\$ 360	3.0%
EDUCATION	\$ 2,899	\$ 3,737	\$ 838	\$ 2,986	\$ 87	3.0%
FELLOWSHIP	\$ 472	\$ 1,008	\$ 536	\$ 486	\$ 14	3.0%
FIN/STEWARDSHIP	\$ 142	\$ 142	\$ (0)	\$ 146	\$ 4	3.0%
OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$ 10,011	\$ 11,735	\$ 1,724	\$ 10,311	\$ 300	3.0%
OFFICE SALARIES	\$ 197,925	\$ 206,269	\$ 8,344	\$ 231,968	\$ 34,043	17.2%
COMMUNITY OUTREACH	\$ 1,444	\$ 3,697	\$ 2,253	\$ 1,560	\$ 116	8.0%
PROPERTY	\$ 51,090	\$ 59,555	\$ 8,465	\$ 63,351	\$ 12,262	24.0%
WORSHIP	\$ 6,107	\$ 3,908	\$ (2,199)	\$ 6,290	\$ 183	3.0%
MISC/PREPAID	\$ 3,293	\$ 3,982	\$ 689	\$ 3,359	\$ 66	2.0%
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%
RESERVES	\$ -	\$ 109	\$ 109	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%
MORTGAGE	\$ 99,408	\$ 99,408	\$ -	\$ 99,408	\$ -	0.0%
General Expenses Total	\$ 384,790	\$ 405,550	\$ 20,760	\$ 432,225	\$ 47,435	12.3%

Total	\$ 24,771	\$ (21,662)
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Non-Budgeted FOC Income and Giving	
Non-Budgeted Income	\$ 49,179
Non-Budgeted Expense (Giving)	\$ 44,224
Planned Benevolence Giving	\$ 12,360
Total Giving	\$ 56,584
Increase/Decrease vs. 2023	-1.5%

Capital Improvement and Reserves				
	Beginning Balance	+	-	Ending Balance
Capital Improvement	\$ 48,924.00	\$ 3,890	\$ -	\$ 52,814
Reserves	\$ 56,401.00	\$ 1,812	\$ -	\$ 58,213
Total				\$ 111,027

Checking	
General Fund Checking	\$ 65,160

Total Liquid Reserves	
General Fund Checking	\$ 65,160
Reserves and Cap. Improvement	\$ 111,027
Total	\$ 176,187
Increase/Decrease vs. 2023	31%



Advent Luncheon



Pastor-10 Years



The Drawer



Mission Trip



Chili Cook-off



Christmas Program



VBS

Trinity Care Center

**2025
IN
REVIEW**



Summer Picnic



Baptism



Tanzania



Camp



First Communion



Confirmation



Sunday School



February Mission of the Month Lutheran Disaster Response

Lutheran Disaster Response shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we as a larger ELCA stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need

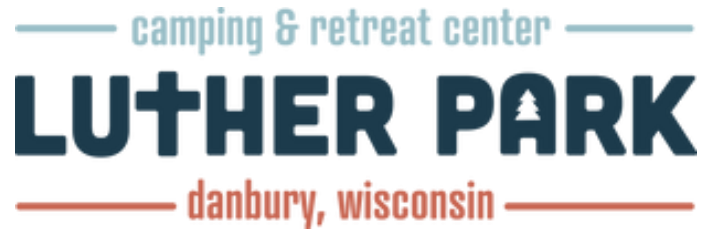
Our larger national church is coordinating with the Southwest California Synod, Pacifica Synod and other partners to assess the needs of people impacted by the wildfires.

We will work with them to provide for immediate needs and recovery amid the widespread destruction.

Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to accompanying recovering communities for months and years to come.

Luther Park Opportunities 2025

On March 9, Leah McDougall, the Executive Director of Luther Park, will be visiting our church and speaking to us during worship. She will share all that Luther Park Camping & Retreat Center has to offer. Come to worship on March 9th to find out more.



The donations from the Chili Feed after worship on March 2nd 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. FOC 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.

July 20-23 Grades 1-4 Half Week Cabin Camp

July 20-25 Grades 3-6 Full Week Cabin Camp

July 20-25 Grades 7-12 Full Week Treehouse Camp

Go to www.lutherpark.com to register

***"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
Visit us at: www.familyofchrist.com
Telephone: 952-435-5757

Feed My Starving Children

Come join us on February 5th at our all-member outreach event at Feed My Starving Children.
It is a serving opportunity for all FOC members.

The location has changed to the regular Eagan location.
990 Lone Oak Road, Suite 136, Eagan, MN 55121
Our session is from 7:00pm-8:30pm.

You can meet us in Eagan or be part of a caravan of cars leaving church.
We will meet at 6:15pm on Feb. 5th at church, hoping to leave by 6:25pm.
We have reserved 70 spots-So please sign up soon!



Community Potluck Dinner and Game Night Saturday, February 22nd



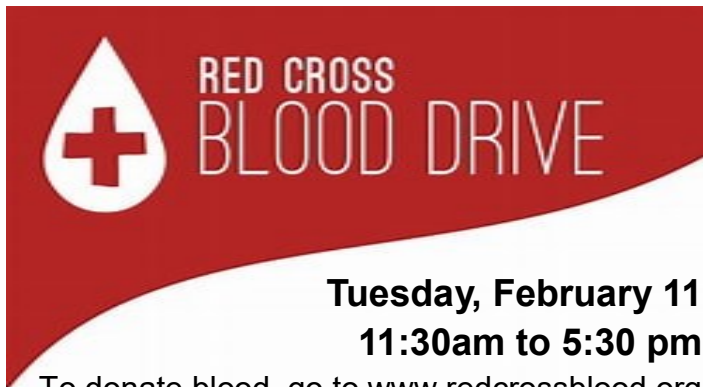
Come one, come all to an All-Ages Game Night at Family of Christ for fellowship and fun.

We will be playing games in the MPR on Saturday, Feb 22nd.

Dinner beforehand starting at 5:30pm...games will follow at around 6pm.

Bring your own games if you want. Popcorn will be served as well.

See clipboard or sign-up genius to help with the dinner.



**Tuesday, February 11
11:30am to 5:30 pm**

To donate blood, go to www.redcrossblood.org
Contact Glenda Lind for more information.

Women's Bible Study Monday, February 3

Women's Bible Study will held
at 10:00am on Monday, February 3rd
at Family of Christ.

For additional information contact
Linda Bartz

All women are welcome! Invite a friend.

Mark Your Calendars:



Do you have the greatest chili recipe EVER??
Think your Chili is better than everyone else?
Just love to eat? Join us Sunday, March 2nd
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 FOC.

Special Cornbread competition.

We also need volunteers.

Please see the clipboard or Sign-up Genius



Dates to Remember

- Sun. Jan 26: Worship/Sunday School Activities Annual Meeting**
- Wed. Jan 29: Confirmation/Youth Group**
- Sun. Feb 2: Worship/Sunday School**
- Wed. Feb 5: FMSC Community Event**
- Sun. Feb 9 : Worship-Youth Sing/Sunday School**
- Tue. Feb 11: Red Cross Blood Drive**
- Wed. Feb 12: Confirmation/Youth Group**
- Sun. Feb 16: Worship/ No Sunday School**
- Wed. Feb 19: Confirmation/Youth Grp**
- Sat. Feb 22: Community Dinner & Game Night**
- Sun. Feb 23: Worship/Sunday School**
- Wed. Feb 26: Confirmation/Youth Group**
- Sun. Mar 2: Worship/Sunday School Chili Cook-off**
- Wed. Mar 5: Ash Wed/No Youth Programs**

Vision Statement

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



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

- F Faith**
- A Acceptance**
- M Meaningful relationships**
- I Impact**
- L Love**
- Y Youth**