



August/September Newsletter 2026

**“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

Doesn't it seem like doing life is harder than it used to be? That we long to more connected to community, to purpose, and our own identities in ways that don't serve us all that well in any more. Most of us grew up with the church as a place people voluntarily joined to be part of a group and for 200 years it worked pretty well, but a shift has been taking place in our culture where people are walking away from general volunteer participation and institutions to pursue specific opportunities for individual self expression. This is a huge shift, but its not only in churches but all of society.

To those of us who grew up in the church, we understand that the world and church may be changing, but we long for and sometimes hold onto these meaningful institutions as a place of connection, belonging, and meaning making. And while the church has been a place for immense grace and love for the world it has also done a lot of harm.

It's like we need to keep reforming how we do things. That is what we as Lutherans are made for. Dr. Dwight Zscheile reminds us that there are more ways to be and do church than one size fits all approach, and rather than getting stuck on trying to create a one size fits all place, we begin to think imaginatively as a way to help people grow into disciples while spreading God's love and grace.

Luther Seminary, which trains many of our pastoral leaders in the ELCA, came up with four pivots they believe that each church needs to explore as it moves forward into God's future:

Pivot in Posture: From Fixing to Listening, Discerning, and Experimenting

Move from positions of wanting to fix problems to gestures and practices of wondering together what God is up to and experimenting our way into a new future that addresses problems but also anticipates and develops opportunities.

Pivot in Focus: From Membership to Discipleship

Move from simply wanting more people to living a life faithfully as a follower of Jesus in all aspects of our lives

Pivot in Structure: From One Shape Fits All to a Mixed Ecology

It used to be we wanted everyone to be the same, but we now realize that each of us has specific needs and gifts that should shape and lead our work as a church

Pivot in Leadership: From Pastor-Led/People-Supported to People-Led/Pastor -Supported Ministry

We are the church. God has given gifts to all of us, to everyone in the church, and we need to utilize those gifts together for the maturity of the church, for the work of the ministry.

Join us this Fall as we embrace these pivots and step into God's newness.

Peace,

Pastor Brent

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rally Sunday

Join us -September 13th as we kick off the fall with our Blessing of the Backpacks, Volunteer Opportunities, Pancake Breakfast, and Sunday School Open House. We will be highlighting and sharing areas within the church where we are looking for volunteers to help support and grow our church programming and community. This is an inter-generational activity- so come be a part of this event. All are welcome!



Adult Education; Starts Sep. 20th

Join us after worship from 10:45 - 11:30 as we gather for faith conversation and opportunity for learning. Grab some coffee and a treat and join us in the conference room.

Wednesday, August 19th 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Join us as we celebrate community with a free meal and all-around fun. There will be hot dogs and hamburgers, games, and all sorts of other fun. Come, invite friends and neighbors to check out Family of Christ and get to know your neighbor. Sign-ups are available!

Come and join us. All are welcome!

In case of inclement weather we will move inside.

Listening Sessions

Over the next few months we will be hosting several listening sessions to take the pulse of our congregation. We want your input. Please join us for at least one session or contact Pastor Brent for a one-on-one conversation.

Abundant Goods/Foster Together Update:

We have recently signed a long term contract with Foster Together; Abundant Goods. For the next five years they will share our basement space and renovate the unfinished spaces, including adding new bathrooms. We will celebrate this partnership more in the next few months.

Under Construction

Due to our new partnership with Abundant Goods, there will be some construction happening in the basement. Because of this we will need to do some rearranging of space and stuff. We will need help soon as this is hoping to start Sept. 1st. Please be patient and graceful during this time of excitement.

Youth Room Relocation

As we begin the process of finishing the basement the youth room will be temporarily moved to Pastor Brent's old office. Thank you to our youth for being willing to adjust during this time of transition.



FOC Time at Lakeville's Live at the Lake.

Thanks to everyone who joined us for a fun night!

OPPORTUNITIES

Programming Volunteers

Family of Christ needs volunteers to help us create a great year of youth programming. We are especially looking for adults who do NOT have children in our programming, as well as parents of our youth. Here is what we are hoping for:

2 adults to help assist Dana with Youth Group (10-12th grade) on Wed. nights

4-5 adults to help assist Pastor Brent with 6th-9th Confirmation on Wed. nights

4 more Sunday School Teachers and Assistants

Thank you for considering this! Email Dana@familyofchrist.com

Grant Writer Wanted

As we begin to explore other options for Family of Christ, we recognize that grant writing skills are not the expertise of this staff. We are looking for someone who may have some experience and would have time to help with the process or even write a few for our congregation.

Service Opportunity: Aug 24th 1-3pm

From 1-3 we will be serving at Every Meal in Roseville where we will be packing 5 different meal kits for families in need. Meet at church at 12:15. For youth going-afterwords we will come back to church for games and pizza at 5:00. Pick up at 5:30. This is open to adults as well and kids 8 and up.

Community Night Meal Committee

At FOC, we are trying something new this year. We hope to gather as a community once a month for a meal together. FOC would provide the main meal, and the rest would be potluck style. We have found these times together often bring connection and fellowship. FOC is looking for 4 volunteers to help lead the meal part of the nights. First one is tentatively scheduled for Oct. 21st. Contact Dana, Brent or Brita if you are interested.

OWL's (Older Wiser Lutherans):

We are looking to better meet the spiritual needs of our more "Mature" disciples at FOC. If you are retired, have open time during the week, want to connect with others in faithful ways, or simply want to see what could be, please join us on Thursday August 27th from 10:00-11:30 for a time of discussion about senior ministries. We're hoping to come up with ideas from bible and book studies, to aging well, to serving, to local trips and events. FREE Coffee and Donuts



FOC Members Serving at Sleep in Heavenly Peace



FOC YOUTH NEWS

Wednesday Night Programming begins September 23rd

We are using a different format this year... 6-7:45pm for all 6th-12th graders

6:00: Pizza Dinner for all 6-12th graders (optional)

6:20-6:45: Music/Message/Game

6:45-7:45 Confirmation (6-9th) and Youth Group (10-12th)



MISSION TRIP NEWS

On June 15-18th, 16 youth and 6 adults gathered at FOC for a wonderful few days of serving locally in the Twin Cities! We served at Union Gospel Mission Men's Homeless Shelter, The Drawer, PRISM Food Shelf, and Mission Outpost. So many ways God's love was shared. Our youth made a difference, formed new relationships, and had fun all the while. We would not have been able to have this experience without all of you! Thank you to all who helped us with fundraising, prayed for us, or supported our trip. Special shout out to Amy Klimpke, Sara Lulloff, Tom Hendrickson, Brent Erler, Ryan Basballe, Solveig England and Dana Sahlin who helped lead, Savang Hendrickson and Kristin Basballe who helped with food, and Tom and Sandy Hendrickson and Josi Hellier and Lisa Cecchini who hosted the crew at their homes.

2027 Mission Trip: Puerto Rico

There will be a Parent/Youth Meeting on Sep. 9th at 6:30 PM

2027 Mission Trip Fundraising Opportunities

Sep. 3: Cub Bagging

Sep. 13: Pancake Breakfast



FINAL EPIC Youth Night is Wednesday, August 26th 6:30 - 8:00 PM. Invite all your friends for a last hurrah!

Confirmation that Connects

All 6th-9th graders are invited to join us for Confirmation and a time to learn more about their faith and daily life. This is a chance to continue to develop faith foundations in a safe environment where our youth can bring their questions, doubts, and real selves.

Our first class will be on Sept 23. This year's classes will run from 6:20-7:45pm with pizza supper at 6:00.

Register online or fill out a hard copy. The suggested fee is \$60.



Youth Group

All 10-12th graders are invited to join us Wednesday nights for a time of fun, discovery, and faith. This year we will be concentrating on becoming better leaders and people of God. Peer Ministry gives youth the relational leadership skills to know how to listen, care, help, when to seek help, welcome, and the very skills needed to love every neighbor. The skills to be a real friend. Each week we will play some games, get to know ourselves and God, and how we are part of a community.

Youth Group will meet Wednesdays from 6:20-7:45 starting September 23rd.



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

Family of Christ sent 8 youth to Luther Park Bible Camp in July. Not only did they grow in their faith, but they had a lot of fun singing, swimming, playing games, and enjoying campfires. Thanks for supporting and praying for our youth.

Olivia Huus, Maddie Bergquist, Betty, Wally and Annie Hellier, Gwen Basballe, Haley Gillis, plus 1 friend!



Bible Sunday

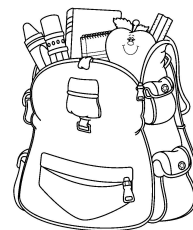
Join us during worship on September 20th as our new confirmation students receive their new NRSV Bible and our new Sunday School students receive their Spark Children's Bible. This is also our first day of Sunday School following worship.

FOC KIDS NEWS

Fall will be here before we know it! We are so looking forward to being together with our young ones once again. Programming begins 9/13, and will run from 10:35 - 11:30 am on Sundays.



Sunday School will kick off another amazing year on September 13th following worship with an Open House where all members will enjoy a pancake breakfast, the kids will see their classrooms, make a craft, and meet their teachers. Sunday School is for 3-year-olds through 5th grade. Register online with this link or fill out a hard copy. Suggested fee per kid is \$30. Any questions, reach out to dana@familyofchrist.com



Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, Sep. 13th during worship we will have our annual Blessing during worship for ALL backpacks.

YOUTH/KIDS SCHEDULE

Aug. 19: Annual Community Picnic
Aug. 24: Every Meal Volunteer Opportunity (ages 8+)
Aug. 26: FINAL EPIC Youth Night
Sept. 13: Blessing of the Backpacks/Sunday School Open House/Pancake Breakfast

Sept. 20: Bible Sunday, Sunday School Begins
Sept. 23: Youth Programming Begins
Sept. 27: Sunday School
Sept. 30: Youth Programming



Foster Together/Abundant Goods August Mission of the Month

Foster Together is a non-profit that exists to walk alongside foster, kinship, and adoptive families with the mission to reduce stress and prevent burnout by providing relational and tangible support. They partner with the community to create opportunities for everyone to get involved. So that foster families can focus on providing the best care for all the children in their home.
To learn more or to help please visit their website at fostertogethernm.org

360 Communities September Mission of the Month



360 Communities delivers safety and stability that improves lives in Dakota County. With effective and holistic programming, they leverage community partnerships, build trusting relationships, and break cycles of violence and poverty.

Their goals are to:

Decrease domestic and sexual violence
Reduce homelessness
Prevent child abuse and neglect
Increase high school graduation rates

Increase food stability
Increase access to healthy food
Improve early childhood development
Raise awareness of community needs

***"FoCus" is a 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:	Brent Erler
Children, Family, & Outreach Coordinator:	Dana Sahlin
Ministry Coordinator:	Brita Hanchek
Musicians:	Solveig Englund Ann Mikiska Mary Wescott Kim & Steve Wolff
Custodian:	Kelly Kritsberg

Family of Christ Lutheran Church is a member of the **ELCA**

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JUNE/JULY RECAP



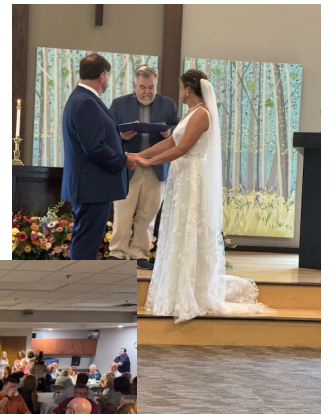
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1. 2026 Mission Trip
2. Feed My Starving Children
3. Summer Camp
4. Cole/Erler Wedding
5. Sleep In Heavenly Peace

Family of Christ
10970 185th Street West
Lakeville, MN 55044

Dates to Remember

Wed. August 19: Annual Community Picnic
Mon. August 24: Every Meal Service Event
Wed. August 26: FINAL EPIC Youth Night
Wed. September 2: Baseball Game Service Event
Mon. September 7: Labor Day - Office Closed
Wed. September 9: Puerto Rico Mission Trip
Parent/Youth Meeting
Sun. September 13: Blessing of the Backpacks/
SS Open House/Pancake Breakfast
Wed. September 16: Youth and Adult Volunteer/
Teacher Training
Sun. September 20: Bible Sunday/ First SS Class/
Adult Education Begins
Wed. September 23: Youth Programming Begins
Wed. September 30: Youth Programming
Fri. October 2 - Sun. October 4: Fall Youth Retreat

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

Impact

Love

Youth