



WELCOME FAMILIES!

We are glad that you are
worshiping with your
children and want you to
feel welcome.

There is a “**Pray Ground**”
for quiet play in the front
right of the sanctuary.

We ask that families
stay with their little ones
and try to keep noise to a
minimum.

If you or your little one
needs “a break” or “louder
play”, there is an “**Active
Worship**” room on the
West side of the sanctuary.
You can see and hear the
service from this room.

GATHERING



The Holy Spirit gathers us
together during this time
of worship

September 27, 2026

WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

18th Sunday in Pentecost

Inviting All to Live the Gospel through Faith, Love, and Compassion

Welcome to Family of Christ

You are welcome to participate in worship this morning
the way you feel comfortable.

All Are Welcome, No Exceptions!

Everybody Is Somebody Here

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

GATHERING HYMN

"Come, Now is the Time to Worship"

Chorus:

Come, now is the time to worship
Come, now is the time to give your heart
Come, just as you are, to worship
Come, just as you are, before your God
Come

Verse 1:

One day every tongue will confess
You are God
One day every knee will bow
Still the greatest treasure remains for those
Who gladly choose You now

Verse 2:

Willingly we choose to surrender our lives
Willingly our knees will bow
With all our heart, soul, mind and strength
We gladly choose you now

CONFESSION

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

Compassionate God,
we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.
Creation groans from overuse.
Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.
Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.
Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love
to others.
Turn our hearts back to you.
Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.
Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

FORGIVENESS

SONG OF PRAISE

"Open the Eyes of My Heart"

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You, I want to see You. (repeat whole thing once)

To see You high and lifted up
Shining in the light of your glory
Pour out your power and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy.

Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy
I want to see You.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

FIRST READING:

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

All young and young at heart are invited forward during the Children's time.

THE WORD

God speaks to us through
scripture reading,
preaching, and song.



Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

L: The word of our Lord.

C: Thanks Be to God

GOSPEL READING:

Matthew 21:23-32

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.

L: The Gospel of our Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Pastor Brent Erler

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Seek Ye First"

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God
And His righteousness
And all these things shall be added unto you
Hallelu, Hallelujah

Ask and it shall be given unto you
Seek and ye shall find
Knock and it shall be opened unto you
Hallelu, Hallelujah

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilot,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**
**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOISY OFFERING

OFFERING

"In Christ Alone"

In Christ alone my hope is found;
He is my light, my strength, my song;
this Cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease;
my Comforter, my All in All;
here in the love of Christ I stand.

To support the ministry of
FOC please use the QR
Code below or donate to
the offering plate.



THE MEAL

God feeds us with the
forgiveness and presence of
Christ.

All are invited to receive
these gifts of God.

No Exceptions!

Children are welcome to
come forward and receive
communion or a blessing
and Goldfish Crackers



In Christ alone who took on flesh;
fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness
scorned by the ones He came to save;
'til on that cross as Jesus died
the wrath of God was satisfied;
for ev'ry sin on Him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: Lord in Your Mercy

C: Hear our prayer

HOLY COMMUNION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING

PRAYER OF GOOD COURAGE

Lord God, you have called your servants
to ventures of which we cannot see the ending,
by paths as yet untrodden,
through perils unknown.
Give us faith to go out with good courage,
not knowing where we go,
but only that your hand is leading us
and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen

THE SENDING

We are blessed and sent
out into the world to share
God's Love with all people.



Serving Today

Pastor

Brent Erler

Musician

Ann Mikiska

Sound and Video

Donny Bergquist

Acolyte

Communion Set-Up

Pierre Menard

Communion Servers

Pierre Menard

Carla Passon

Scott Passon

Reader

Kim Menard

Ushers

Chad Specht

Kristin Specht

Fellowship Host

Martha Johnson

*Thanks to all those who
helped make worship
possible.

CLOSING HYMN

“How Great is Our God”

Verse 1: The splendour of a King
Clothed in Majesty
Let all the earth rejoice
All the earth rejoice
He wraps Himself in light
And darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice
And Trembles at His voice

Chorus: How great is our God
Sing with me, how great is our God
And all will see how great
How great is our God

Verse 2: Age to age, He stands
And time is in His hands
Beginning and the end
Beginning and the end
The Godhead, three in one
Father, Spirit, Son
The Lion and the Lamb
Lion and the Lamb

Bridge: Name above all names
Worthy of all praise
My heart will sing, how great is our God
You're the name above all names (all name)
You are worthy of all praise (all praise)
And my heart will sing, how great is our God

SENDING

POSTLUDE

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FamilyofChrist
FAITH, LOVE, and COMPASSION

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Mission Partners with Usokami Parish, Iringa, Tanzania

Hearing Assistance devices are available at the soundboard
Radio frequency for hearing assistance on 72.9 MHz on the FM band

September 27, 2026



September Mission of the Month 360 Communities

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 & 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

Weekly Education Opportunities have started for the 2026 - 2027 Year!

Adult Education Hour

Adult Education continues today. Join Pastor Brent in the conference room beginning at 10:45, wrapping up at 11:30. All are welcome any Sunday following worship to jump in and learn more as you continue on your spiritual journey.

Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible Study continues to meet on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 AM. You can come in person or via an on-line link. Contact Pastor Brent for more information.

FOC Kids & Youth

Sunday School is every Sunday at 10:35 unless noted.

Confirmation & Youth Group meets every Wednesday beginning at 6 PM

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study continues on the first Monday of the month at 10 AM. Next session is 10/5. Study will be on Hagar, Ruth, and Mary Magdalene. Contact Linda Bartz with any questions.

Together Night: Food, Fellowship, & Community

Wednesday, October 21: A warm evening of food, friendship, and faith. Bring a dish to share and stay for relaxed community time as we reconnect, laugh, and support one another. Everyone is welcome -come be part of the joy of growing together. All members are invited. Bring a friend, neighbor or co-worker! If you are able, sign up to bring an item to the potluck! Thank you!

COMMUNITY NIGHTS



<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4CAFAD2EA3F58-65991489-community#/>



Youth Fall Retreat Fri. Oct. 2 - Sun. Oct 4

Our Fall Youth Retreat for all 6th-12th graders will be here before we know it! Come join in on a fun-filled and faith-filled weekend. It is a great way to get to know other church youth kids- it is often where the best connections happen! It can also be a way to introduce a friend to Family of Christ! The dates are Oct 2, 3, and 4th and will be in Rosemount at Spring Lake Park Retreat Building.

We will meet at church on Friday, Oct 2 at 5:45 (we need to leave by 6:00).

Dana will send a packing list and sign-up genius to help with food sometime next week. Sign-up can be found here: <https://familyofchristlakeville.breezechms.com/form/FallRetreat>

Tanzania Quilt Raffle

The pictured quilt will be raffled off on Tanzania Sunday, October 11th. Tickets will be sold after worship. Tickets are \$5 for one or \$20 for five. You do not have to be present to win.

All proceeds will be donated to Dignity for Daughters.



FOC Kids

Sunday School starts at 10:35 in the MPR, grab a treat from the Fellowship area and head down to start with some music!

Plan Ahead: FOC Kids will be singing for the first time in worship on October 11th.

FOC Youth

Youth Programming continues this week, Wednesday, September 30. Head to the narthex for pizza or into the Sanctuary if you don't come for dinner.

Next Youth Sunday: October 11th, are you signed up to volunteer?
Confirmation Sunday is October 25th.



Dates to Remember

Sunday, September 27: Worship w/ Sunday School & Adult Education
Tuesday, September 29: Men's Bible Study 7:30 AM
Wednesday, September 30: Youth Programming
Friday, October 2 - Sunday, October 4: Youth Fall Retreat
Sunday, October 11: Tanzania Sunday