



October 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

As several of our youth get ready to Affirm their Baptism in their confirmation service in October, they like us are asked these questions;

**Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:
to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?**

This month we'll focus on the first promise of the baptismal covenant to live among God's people. It is a promise to participate in the Body of Christ. But what does it mean to "live among God's faithful people?" The picture that best describes this is found in Acts 2:42. We hear that the new followers of Christ "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." There is a Greek word in that sentence that deserves closer study, Koinoia. The word "koinonia" in the New Testament is the gift of the Holy Spirit to the church. It refers first to the relationship we have with God through the Spirit and then to the relationships we have with each other through the Spirit. It refers to the oneness or unity we have in Jesus Christ who prayed for his followers, that they would be one just as He and the Father were one. This unity is a gift of the Spirit, and we encourage it as we form ourselves as a Family of Christ.

What does it mean to live among God's faithful people? Well according to Acts it means that we are in the Word together, learning and practicing the life Jesus taught. We are to come together in fellowship. We are to meet together wherever we do life. We are to help and support each other. We are to worship and pray together being transformed. We are to share our resources for the benefit of others. All of this because the Spirit of God is noticeable in this community, and there is a magnetism that is drawing other people to God through us.

That is a beautiful picture of what it means to live among God's faithful people. We are living in this kind of faith community here at Family of Christ, and I give thanks to God, because this community is a gift to all of us.

Peace,
Pastor Brent

STEWARDSHIP



What is possible for us to do in response to God's lavish generosity? God's gifts come to particular people, in particular places, in particular times. Because we are made in God's image, we, too, uniquely embody God's steadfast abundance, love, and mercy. We are equipped to be generous where we are. Drawn more deeply into the body of Christ, we are reminded of our belovedness, and we can respond with generosity, love, and service on behalf of our neighbors. Look out for resources later in October.

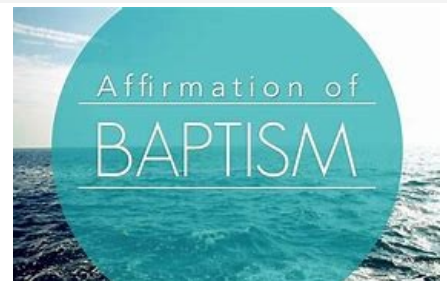
Servant Opportunities

As the season of stewardship is upon us, it is also the time to review what your servant life looks like for 2026. We would appreciate you taking some time to prayerfully consider your time and skills and determine where you might like to serve here at Family of Christ. Once you have considered, please take the time to fill out the form and submit it to the staff in one of two ways, online or by paper form. A link will be sent in the weekly emails and by QR code in the weekly insert in the bulletins. Paper Copies are available in the Narthex and can be returned to the ushers station after worship. Or you can slip them under the door to the church office.

Any questions, feel free to reach out to Brita.

Confirmation Sunday

Join us on **October 12th** as several of our youth Affirm their Baptism as they are confirmed during worship. Come support and encourage our youth and their continued journey in faith.



Adult Ed

“Why Church? Living Among God’s Faithful People”

Join us Sundays after worship from 10:45-11:30 as we look at what it means to be a Christian through our Lutheran tradition. Through the lens of our Baptism we will look at what it means to live among God's faithful people as a community of faith.

Quarterly Maintenance Workdays

Beginning Saturday, October 25th starting at 1pm, we will begin having quarterly Maintenance Workdays.

Any volunteers that are available to join us are welcome.

We will have supplies here that you can use. These days will be for routine maintenance, as well as deep cleaning, painting, yard work, etc. A full list of tasks will be available before the dates arrive.

Contact Brita with any questions.



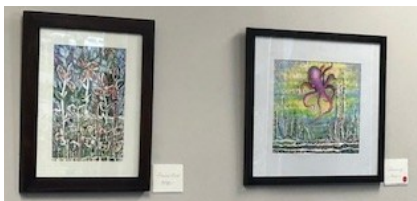


Directory Updates & Photographs

If you haven't already stop by the table in the Narthex to verify your Directory Information and to get your picture taken.

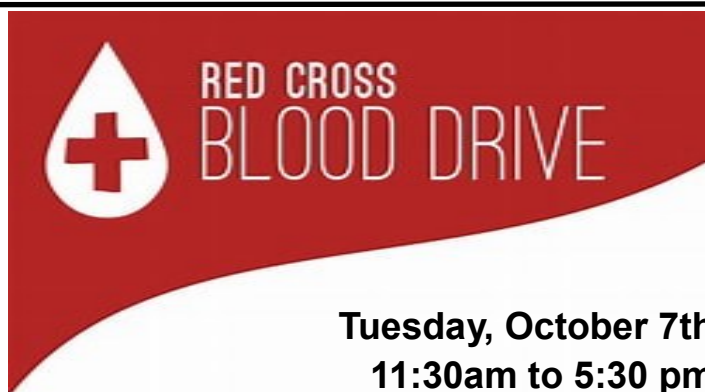
As we launch My Family of Christ, we need pictures of our congregation and if you are up for it, a video as well.

We would like to fill a wall with pictures of our Family of Christ. The videos would be used on social media to help promote the church.



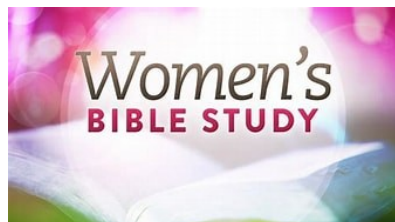
Art Show: Nature of Things

Local Artist Kitty Soderberg has put over a dozen pieces of Art in our Fellowship space. Come and see her gift of art in October and November. All pieces have been donated to our Tanzania ministries and can be purchased for a suggested donation of \$100. Contact the office if interested in purchase.



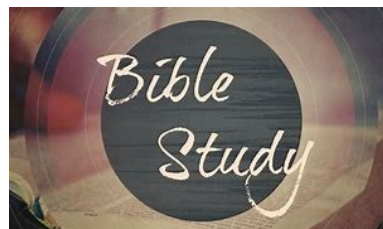
**Tuesday, October 7th
11:30am to 5:30 pm**

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



Women's Bible Study Monday, October 6

Our study this fall is entitled:
"Money, Stewardship, and Generosity"
by Rev. Christa von Zychlin.
We will meet at FOC at 10am.
All FOC women and guests are welcome.



Tuesday Morning Bible Studies

Join us on Tuesday mornings from 7:30-8:30 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. Note that the time has moved 30 minutes later than before.



Mark your calendar:

Fall Youth Retreat: October 3-5
Tanzania Sunday: October 5
Red Cross Blood Drive: October 7
Confirmation Sunday: October 12
Reformation Sunday: October 26
Community Advent Luncheon: December 6
Christmas Program/Trinity Care Ctr Party: December 14



Youth Updates

It has been a fabulous start to the new year with the kickoff of Fall Programming at FOC. We started with a Blessing of the Backpacks where all students were blessed and given a keychain with special message.

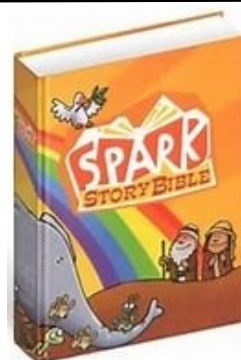
Rally Sunday was held as the young ones were able to see their classrooms, meet teachers, and help decorate their rooms. The following Sunday we gave out bibles to our new PREK and new confirmation youth. Such a wonderful start to fall!

Bible Sunday

Congratulations to the following young people who received either a Spark Storytime Bible or a Confirmation Bible:

Maclan Meyers	Murphy Meyers
Brody Franklin	Liam Bryant
Tanner Klimpke	Hensley Worm

May the stories you read bless you and help you grow in your faith.



Interested in Becoming a Part of Family of Christ?

We are starting a new member program this Fall. If you and your family are interested in becoming a bigger part of this community we ask that you contact the office or Pastor Brent. He will meet with you and share about our community and learn more about you and then connect you with hosts from the community.

Pray Ground/Listening Room Reminders

We love having children at worship, and we have a few things in place to help young ones during our worship time. We have a "pray ground" made for those kindergarten and younger with some quiet activities near the front right of the sanctuary. If you have little ones who like to talk more than the occasional comment, we ask that you bring them and yourself to our listening room where you can still watch and listen to the service. Finally, there are activity bags for children available from the ushers.

Amazon Wish Lists

We have created a wish list of items to help stock up on items our youth have requested.

Please see the weekly email for links to the Pray Ground or Youth wish lists or contact Dana.

Thanks in advance if you can donate!





Wednesday Night Programming

6:00 Pizza Dinner (optional)

6:20-7:40 Confirmation (6-9th)

7:40-8:40 Youth Group (9-12th)



Confirmation:

Oct. 1: NO Wednesday Programming

Oct. 3-5: Fall Retreat

Oct. 8: Dinner, Confirmation, Youth Group

Oct. 15: Dinner, Confirmation, Youth Group

Oct. 22: NO Wednesday Programming

Oct. 29: Dinner, Confirmation, Youth Group

Sunday School:

Join us Sundays as we continue another great year of Sunday School. After enjoying a treat we meet in the MPR for a little bit of singing, dancing, and bible story video, then break into classes to learn about our bible story and that we are all loved by God. There are 3 classes: PREK-K, 1-2nd grade, and 3-5th grade. Children are still able to register online. Classes are from 10:35-11:30. The 2nd Sunday of the month is Youth Sunday. The kids will sing a song during worship on Oct. 12th. Our first song will be "My God is So Great".

Upcoming SS schedule:

Oct. 5: A Seed of Faith

Oct. 12: Youth Sunday (sing), Ten Men Healed

Oct. 19: NO SS

Oct. 26: The Pharisee and the Tax Collector



Youth Fall Retreat October 3rd- 5th

All youth in 6th-12th grades are invited to join us Oct. 3-5th for some time to have fun, build friendships, and grow in faith.

We will meet at church at 5:15pm on Friday, Oct. 3rd.

We will drive the van over to Spring Lake Lodge in Rosemount.

We will return to church at 10:45am on Sunday, Oct. 5th.

Registration is online. Cost is \$30.

Mission Trip Meeting October 8th

Calling all parents of our 6th-12th Graders.

We will be having a short mission trip meeting on Oct. 8th from 7:30-7:45pm.

This is for parents and youth.

We will be discussing our mission trip options for both summer of 2026 and 2027, as well as discussing fundraising ideas.

This meeting will be held in between confirmation and youth group. Come join us!



October Mission of the Month Tanzania Ministries

Bega Kwa Bega is the phrase we use to describe our companion synod relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. In English, the phrase means 'shoulder to shoulder' and describes the way in which we accompany one another in a spirit of mutuality, inclusivity, and vulnerability. Through the work of this partnership and the leading of God's Holy Spirit, we envision deeper faith and fuller life, accompanying one another as participants in God's ongoing mission in both America and Tanzania. Our partnership supports the Illula congregation, secondary school students, medical school scholarship, Dignity for Daughters, and Iringa Hope micro financing.

Financial Update

As our church year continues, we want to thank you for your financial generosity. As we approach the last quarter, we ask that you prayerfully consider keeping up with your pledged giving and if possible share even more with FOC. With the addition of new staff and some unexpected expenses we need your generosity. Current statements will be emailed in early October.

Pledged Giving YTD (as of August 30th):	Actual	Budgeted
	\$235,799	\$242,268



FOC has a new QR Code that can be used for all media. It directs you to a page that lists all of our online presence:
Website, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube,
Signup Genius & On-line Giving.

***"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
Ministry Coordinator:	Brita Hanchek
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
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Tanzania Sunday- October 5th

Come join the celebration & learn more about Family of Christ's Tanzania Ministries including: our Usokami Partnership, Secondary Student Scholarships, Medical Scholarships, Dignity for Daughters, and Iringa Hope Microfinance. We will also see memories of our trip to Tanzania last November.

Secondary Student Scholarships

Since 2004, Family of Christ members and friends have sponsored 415 Usokami secondary students. During the current school year there are a total of fourteen Usokami secondary school age students shown on the Bega Kwa Bega report including six boys and eight girls. Providing scholarship support for these students is a great investment toward a brighter future for them, their community, Tanzania, and Africa. FOC sponsored students will be attending Lutheran private schools. These schools are owned by the ELCA of Tanzania and have a good environment for study as the students are living away from home and can concentrate on their studies.

The 2026 FOC scholarship goal is again to raise \$8400.

The cost of room, board and education for an entire year is \$615. Any size donation will help reach the \$8400 financial goal and is such a generous gift.

Scholarship donations are due by October 26.



Iringa Hope Micro-Finance Project

In 2019 We began to partner with Iringa Hope, an organization that raises funds and administrates microfinance loans.

Iringa Hope uses a unique model to deliver agricultural financing, marketing, and training to smallholder farmers in Tanzania. The organization develops self-governed and self-sustaining member owned and operated cooperative societies that help to alleviate poverty and empower entrepreneurs. Microfinance loans are made to small businesses and farms with an average loan of \$300. The repayment rate of the loans is 98% so our donations continue to be loaned out year after year.

Envelopes for the Tanzania ministries are available on the Tanzania display table or from the ushers.



Medical Scholarship

The Tanzania Medical Scholarship team is sponsoring two medical students:

- Justice Bwisco who is in his 4th year of radiography training at Makerere University in Uganda and will return to the Ilula Hospital after completion of his studies.
- Magreth Mgeyekwa starting a Bachelor of Science in Midwifery.

To help support these medical scholarships, a craft sale will be held after church on Tanzania Sunday, October 5. Stop by and purchase some of our unique, one-of-a-kind craft items. The Medical Scholarship team will also participate in other area craft fairs.





Dates to Remember

Sun. Sept 28: Worship/Sunday School
Congregational Mtg

Wed. Oct 1: No Wednesday Programming

Sun. Oct 5: Worship/Sunday School
Tanzania Sunday

Wed. Oct 8: Dinner/Conf/Youth Group
Mission Trip Mtg

Sun. Oct 12: Worship/Confirmation Sunday
Sunday School

Wed. Oct 15: No Youth Programming

Sun. Oct 19: Worship/No Sunday School

Wed. Oct 22: Dinner/Conf/Youth Group

Sun. Oct 26: Worship/Sunday School
Reformation Sunday

Wed. Oct 29: Dinner/Conf/Youth Group

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