

From the Pastor . . .

Growing into Who we are

Who do you want to be? It's a question we ask people when they're little kids and it's something that can consume us as we feel discontent with life. We seem to be reaching and trying to "be" something, but often that isn't about who we authentically are. It's about who others think we should be.

At our annual meeting the Year of Renewal team invited us to embrace two areas for growth this year, "developing our faith" and "developing service opportunities to make an impact." As we begin to embrace the faith development, part of that is discovering who God created us to be. So often we think that it's the world or even religion's job to make us comfortable with who we are, but what our faith journey is really about is helping us find our true gifts, our deepest truths, and the created people God has made us to be. Some people even call this finding your soul.

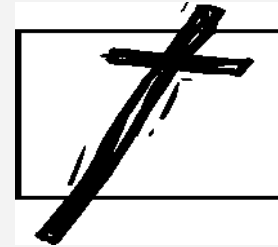
I believe that God has already given us that soul, that is our deepest identity, our true self, and our unique blueprint. We already carry a piece of holy within us, and it is our life's journey to discover it, to choose it, and to live our unique identity to the fullest. To discover who we are in God's eyes is what we are here for.

Our deepest living is who we are in God and who God is in us. We don't have to "make" or "create" it, we only have to discover and live into what is already there. Throughout the bible Jesus took people and who they were, and helped them to live into that life. That's the same thing God continues to do with us today. Yet in order to embrace that identity we need to discover what is already in us.

Over the next couple of months we are going to begin a journey into a discovery of our giftedness and beginning to live into those gifts. We invite you to join us as we embrace the unique combination of talents and opportunities God has given you, to enter into your calling which is what God wants you to do with your life.

We will begin this journey by embracing two different gift inventories, "Living Your Strengths" which uses the Strengths Finder model and is relatively easy to enter into and "Discovering God's Vision for Your Life" which is a more intensive retreat that emphasizes specific spiritual gifts. Join us as we start this journey together and become the person you have been created to be.

Peace,
Pastor Brent



Holy Week Worship

Palm Sunday March 25

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 29 - 7:00 pm

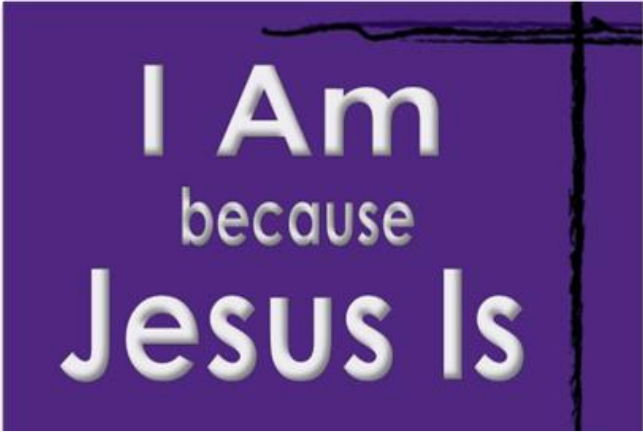
Before Jesus goes to the cross he spends one last evening with those closest to him. This is where we hear his final words to his followers, like us, as we face the challenges that life puts in our path. Worship with Holy Communion.

Good Friday March 30 - 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.

Easter Sunday April 1 - 9:30 and 11:00 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. Worship with communion at 9:30 and 11:00.



I Am because Jesus Is

We proclaim that Jesus is both God and human like us. That humanity both helps us to understand who God is and to help us live as God intended. Throughout John's Gospel Jesus shares his identity with "I Am" statements. I am the bread of life, I am the Light of the world, I am the resurrection and the life all become a part of God's identity, but that identity is also our identity. Join us Sundays in Lent as we look at who Jesus is and how that identity helps us become who we're created to be.

Feb. 25 *"I Am the Light of the World"*

March 4 *"I Am the Door"*

March 11 *"I Am the Good Shepherd"*

March 18 *"I Am the Resurrection"*



Wednesdays in Lent The Gospel according to Pixar February 21-March 21

We often think we need to look to the church to find God, but God's Grace and love are in all aspects of our lives, including cartoons. Join us as we use Pixar shorts along with biblical understanding to learn more about our faith formation. After worship will be activities for all ages that continue the discussion from worship. This will be appropriate for all ages. Meals and worship begin February 21.

Soup supper 6:00pm

Worship 6:40pm

Youth and Small Groups 7:15pm

Pixar Shorts

Feb. 28 *"Partly Cloudy"*

March 7 *"Boundin"*

March 14 *"Lava"*

March 21 *"La Luna"*



We have been invited by THE DRAWER ministry to join them in their collection of new socks and underwear for those in need by hosting an **Undie Sunday!** You are invited to bring NEW socks and underwear for men, women, and children who are in need by **Sunday March 18**. We will collect and organize our offering of socks and underwear, and to take them to community organization that can distribute them directly to those most in need.

Join with [THE DRAWER](#) in providing NEW items for those in deep need is a natural extension of the incredible work already being done in our food shelf. Please support this ministry by living into our call to clothe those in need, and bring a pack (or more!) of new socks or underwear to worship by this Sunday.

Narrative Lectionary Readings for March

February 25:

Sunday, John 13:1-17: *Jesus Washes Feet*
Monday, John 7:53-8:11: *The Woman Caught in Adultery*
Tuesday, John 8:12-20: *Jesus the Light of the World*
Wednesday, John 8:21-30: *Jesus Foretells His Death*
Thursday, John 8:31-38: *True Disciples*
Friday, John 8:39-59: *Jesus and Abraham*

March 4:

Sunday, John 18:12-27: *Peter's Denial*
Monday, John 11:45-57: *The Plot to Kill Jesus*
Tuesday, John 12:1-8: *Mary Anoints Jesus*
Wednesday, John 12:9-11: *The Plot to Kill Lazarus*
Thursday, John 12:12-19: *Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem*
Friday, John 12:20-26: *Some Greeks Wish to See Jesus*
Saturday, John 12:27-35: *Jesus Speaks about His Death*

March 11:

Sunday, John 18:28-40: *Jesus and Pilate*
Monday, John 12:36-43: *The Unbelief of the People*
Tuesday, John 12:44-50: *Summary of Jesus' Teaching*
Wednesday, John 13:18-30: *Jesus Foretells His Betrayal*
Thursday, John 13:31-35: *The New Commandment*
Friday, John 13:36-38: *Jesus Foretells Peter's Denial*
Saturday, John 14:1-14: *Jesus the Way to the Father*

March 18:

Sunday, John 19:1-16a: *Jesus Condemned*
Monday, John 14:15-31: *The Promise of the Holy Spirit*
Tuesday, John 15:1-17: *Jesus the True Vine*
Wednesday, John 15:18—6:4a: *The World's Hatred*
Thursday, John 16:4b-15: *The Work of the Spirit*
Friday, John 16:16-24: *Sorrow Will Turn into Joy*
Saturday, John 16:25-33: *Peace for the Disciple*

March 25:

Sunday, John 19:16b-22: *The Crucified Messiah*
Monday, John 17:1-19: *Jesus Prays for His Disciples*
Tuesday, John 17:20-26: *Jesus Prays for His Disciples*
Wednesday, John 18:1-11: *The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus*
Thursday, John 19:23-30: *Jesus' Last Words*
Friday, John 19:31-37: *Jesus the Passover Lamb*
Saturday, John 19:38-42: *Passover Lamb*



**"SPRUCE UP"
the
Sanctuary for
Easter!**

**Watch for more
information**



We are looking for a group of people who would like to identify and affirm their talents and begin to use them for growth and service using Strengths Finder. Cost is \$20 and includes the test and a book. If you already know your Strengths Finder themes then there is no cost. Talk to Pastor Brent or Jeremy Mann with questions.



Shelter Serving

On the evening of March 27 we will be making and serving a meal at Grace Lutheran in Apple Valley for the new rotating homeless shelter. Please let the office know if you can help prepare and/or serve food.

YOUTH

Wednesday Night Youth Classes Continue During Lent!

All Wednesday night classes will start with soup supper at 6:00pm, worship at 6:40pm and continue with class or youth group from 7:15pm-8:00pm.

Families are invited to join us as we will have activities for all ages during the Wednesday night class times.

Youth will also be leading pieces of the worship and ushering.

MARCH YOUTH SUNDAY & MONTHLY YOUTH GROUP

Youth in grades 5 and up are invited to sign up to help lead worship on Sunday, March 11th. Readers, ushers, greeters, communion servers & an acolyte are all needed!

ALSO

Come downstairs to our Youth Room for snacks, games and conversation. We'd love to get to know you better!



Camp Sign Up

Don't forget to sign up for summer camp at Luther Park.

Did you know we have scholarship money for Summer Bible Camp? All those attending will receive a \$150 scholarship thanks to a new memorial fund.

We have two different weeks set up as "Family of Christ" weeks.

***June 17-20** for 1st-4th Graders who want a taste of being away from home.

***July 8-13** for 5th-12th Graders there will be either cabin camping or tree house camping.

Please go to lutherpark.com for more information and to register!

It will be a week you won't forget. This is a chance for all our youth to make amazing memories and grow in their faith.

We are excited for your kids to check out Luther Park in Danbury, WI!



NIGHT TO REMEMBER (mark your calendars!)



For **God** did not
send his **Son** into the
world to condemn
the world, but to **save**
the world through **him**.

JOHN 3:17, NIV

Our annual Night To Remember will be held on Good Friday: March 30th right after the evening worship service. All youth ages 7-12th grade are invited to walk with Jesus as we follow Him through His final days.



This is a "stay awake" all night event that concludes with our traditional trip to Perkins. The night will be sprinkled with Bible studies, prayer, meditation time, music and games... friends are always welcome! Sign up at the youth table in the hall by the narthex and be prepared for a night that could bring you even closer to Jesus!



WATCH
for more
information for
the
APRIL 15th
CHILI
COOK OFF!

SAVE THE DATE
VBS
July 22-26, 2018





Mission of the Month

“THE DRAWER” collects and distribute NEW socks and underwear to men, women, and children. This grass roots ministry receives donations from community members, non-profits, and faith-based organizations. They also will provide training and support for organizations who wish to provide and distribute in their own ministry.

FINANCIAL UPDATE January 2018

Total income for the month was \$32,706
 Total expenses for the month was \$29,538
 Noisy Offering for the month was \$332
 (FMSC Mobile Pack)

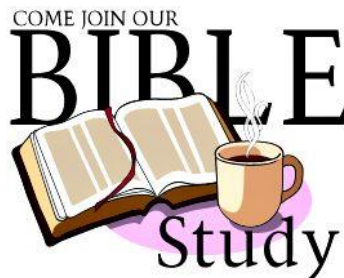
FEBRUARY GIVING TO DATE

Date	Attendance	Sunday Giving	Electronic Giving	GENERAL FUND
02/04/2018	110	\$1,737	\$3,840	\$5,577
02/11/2018	175	\$2,438	\$3,484	\$5,922
02/18/2018	119	\$3,480	\$5,302	\$8,782

Women’s Bible Study

Monday, March 5
 10:00am

Join us the first Monday of each month.



Men's Bible Studies:

Join us on Tuesday and Thursday mornings as we come together for fellowship, food and a chance to look at the scriptures and our lives.

- Tuesdays – 6:30 a.m.
- Thursdays – 8:00 a.m.

Family of Christ Staff Ministry Team:

Pastor: Brent Erler, Pastor, Ext. 202
 Faith Formation: Sherry Goodman, Ext. 206
 Musicians: Mary Wescott, Laura Porter-Jones, Morgan Jones, Jessica Christensen
 Choir: Debra Capener
 Administrative Asst: Linda Bauer
 Custodian: Dan Benson

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
 Office Hours: 9:00-3:30 Tues—Thurs
 Closed Monday & Friday

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

March Family of Christ Servants

<u>Sunday</u> <u>03/04/18</u>	<u>Sunday</u> <u>03/11/18</u>	<u>Sunday</u> <u>03/18/18</u>	<u>Sunday</u> <u>03/25/18</u>
<u>AV Tech</u> Ken Davidson	<u>AV Tech</u> Jeremy Mann	<u>AV Tech</u> Nathan Blilie	<u>AV Tech</u> Kris Smith
<u>Closer</u> Gerry Wills	<u>Closer</u> Sherry Goodman	<u>Closer</u> Mark Warner	<u>Closer</u> David/Vicki Lind
<u>Communion</u> <u>Server</u> Kevin Hatlestad Ed Hellier Luke Hellier Brian Knoke Lori Knoke	<u>Communion</u> <u>Server</u> Youth Youth Youth Youth Youth	<u>Communion</u> <u>Server</u> Sherry Goodman Josi Hellier Jackie Knudson Pete Nelson Kris Olsen	<u>Communion</u> <u>Server</u> Carla Passon Scott Passon Betty Peterson Doris Reiners Kris Smith
<u>Communion Setup</u> Chad Specht	<u>Communion Setup</u> Kirstin Specht	<u>Communion Setup</u> Gerry Wills	<u>Communion Setup</u> Doris Reiners
<u>Fellowship</u> Cheryl Wills Gerry Wills	<u>Fellowship</u> Karen Agee Angie Korsa	<u>Fellowship</u> Barb Buswell Kathy Olson	<u>Fellowship</u> Cheryl Wills Gerry Wills
<u>Greeter</u> Betty Peterson Marshall Peterson	<u>Greeter</u> Youth Youth	<u>Greeter</u> Anna Simon Brad Simon	<u>Greeter</u> Linda Bartz Maury Bartz
<u>Offering Count</u> Jeanne Miller Miles Miller	<u>Offering Count</u> Jim Schiprett Gerry Wills	<u>Offering Count</u> Angie Korsa Sandy Soukup	<u>Offering Count</u> Amie Hoffman Duane Hoffman
<u>Opener</u> Sherry Goodman	<u>Opener</u> Mark Warner	<u>Opener</u> Gerry Wills	<u>Opener</u> Sherry Goodman
<u>Reader</u> Kirstin Specht	<u>Reader</u> Youth	<u>Reader</u> Doug Windhorn	<u>Reader</u> Josi Hellier
<u>Usher</u> Jean Bakken Dan Benson	<u>Usher</u> Kirstin Specht 2 Youth	<u>Usher</u> Cindy Carlson Jim Carlson	<u>Usher</u> Ed Hellier Josi Hellier

You will receive a reminder email from signup.com on the Monday & Friday before your volunteer spot. If you are not currently receiving these emails, please contact Linda at the church office.



Family of Christ Lutheran Church

ELCA
10970 185th St W
Lakeville MN 55044
www.familyofchrist.com



Dates to Remember

- March 4 - Sunday Worship and Education
- March 7 - Soup Meal/Lenten Service
Youth & Small Group Classes
- March 11 - Sunday Worship and Education
- March 14 - Soup Meal/Lenten Service
Youth & Small Group Classes
- March 18 - Sunday Worship and Education
- March 21 - Soup Meal/Lenten Service
Youth & Small Group Classes
- March 25 - Sunday Worship and Education
- March 29 - Maundy Thursday Service
- March 30 - Good Friday Service & NTR
- April 1 - Easter Worship

Vision Statement

Family of Christ seeks to be a Grace filled family of God, living the Gospel through faith, love and compassion.



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

- Fait
- Acc
- Meaningful relationships
- Impact
- Love
- Youth