

From the Pastor.....

A couple weeks ago my wife, Molly and I decided that a restful vacation was climbing part of Mt. Rainier in Washington State. It was a crisp cloudless day and the summit of 14,000 feet loomed in front of us. We couldn't hike to the top, but a very fit friend suggested we hike the Skyline Trail. He said it would be easy, however the first mile and its 2000 ft. elevation gain seemed a little bit overwhelming for this flat lander. Yet we were bound and determined to complete the loop that was supposed to take us most of the day and we began by trudging up the mountain one foot at a time.



The endpoint looked so far away and so impossible, but we had the encouragement of one another and all sorts of hikers who were looking to conquer the same or at least a similar path. We rested when we needed to, we laughed when things seemed a bit hopeless, and when we encountered 3 inches of wet snow near the top that made us want to turn back we depended on each other to make it through the difficult journey one step at a time focusing on the grander vision of completing this difficult hike. When we made it to our goal, one of the lower peaks of Mt. Rainier, we were overwhelmed at the beauty and magnificence of the mountain that loomed in front of us, but even more than Rainier was the view behind us. We were surrounded by a vision of the Cascades that was breathtaking. The broken Mt. St. Helens and the flat-topped Mt. Adams stood magnificently in the distance while all sorts of other peaks and valleys dotted the horizon with a grandeur that only the creator could have made. If we hadn't made this difficult journey we would never have experienced this gift. We even felt pride as we looked down on the visitor center several miles below and realized how far we had come.

In many ways faith and life are like this little journey. We are blessed by the promises of God that loom before us, but we need to take a step into those promises to truly experience the wonder that God has in store for us. Our vision as a community of faith is to "Live the Gospel through Faith, Love, and Compassion" and as we continue to journey up the mountain that is in front of us to become the people God has in store for us, we are bound to face some intense challenges. Growing deeper in our faith, creating intentional community that blesses one another and those around us, inviting others on this journey, and changing the world in God's name are lofty ambitions that seem a long way away, maybe even out of reach, but we will do this together one step at a time with the promises of God's love and Grace around us, the gift of community that encourages us, and the hope of a savior always in front of us.

Join me this month as we look at what it means to life faithfully in God's promise and begin to climb the mountain in front of us. We can already see the amazing work God has done in and through us, but there is more in front of us than we could ever imagine.

Peace,
Pastor Brent

God gives us some pretty big promises; to bless us, to give us purpose, to be with us in the times of struggles, and hope in the uncertainty of an often broken world, but what do we do with these promises? In the Old Testament we have stories of people that help us to live faithfully in God's promises, but we also see what happens when we struggle to live in the ways God desires. Still, no matter what we do, God is always faithful, and always offers forgiveness and love.



Narrative Lectionary Readings for October

Follow along with us as we continue to look at the story of the bible. Read one a day or spend a couple hours with a whole week. Each of the readings relates to the Sunday story the week before. Grab a bible and learn God's story.

September 30

Sunday, Exodus 14:10-14, 21-29
 Monday, Exodus 15:1-21, *Songs of Moses and Miriam*
 Tuesday, Exodus 15:22-27, *Bitter Water Made Sweet*
 Wednesday, Exodus 16:1-21, *Bread from Heaven*
 Thursday, Exodus 17:1-7, *Water from the Rock*
 Friday, Exodus 17:8-16, *Amalek Attacks Israel and Is Defeated*
 Saturday, Exodus 18:13-27, *Jethro's Advice*

October 7

Sunday, Exodus 19:3-7; 20:1-17
 Monday, Deuteronomy 34:1-12, *Moses Dies*
 Tuesday, Joshua 1:1-9, *God's Commission to Joshua*
 Wednesday, Joshua 2:1-21, *Spies Sent to Jericho*
 Thursday, Joshua 3:1-17, *Israel Crosses the Jordan*
 Friday, Joshua 6:1-14, *Jericho Taken and Destroyed*
 Saturday, Joshua 6:15-27, *Jericho Destroyed and Rahab Spared*

October 14

Sunday, Joshua 24:1-15 [16-26]
 Monday, 1 Samuel 1:1-28, *Samuel's Birth and Dedication*
 Tuesday, 1 Samuel 3:1-18, *Samuel's Calling and Prophecies*
 Wednesday, 1 Samuel 7:3-15, *Samuel as Judge*
 Thursday, 1 Samuel 8:1-22, *Israel Demands a King*
 Friday, 1 Samuel 9:27—10:8, *Saul Anointed as King*
 Saturday, 1 Samuel 16:1-13, *David Anointed as King*

October 21

Sunday, 2 Samuel [11:1-5, 26-27]; 12:1-9
 Monday, 2 Samuel 12:15b-23, *Bathsheba's Child Dies*
 Tuesday, 2 Samuel 12:24-25, *Solomon Is Born*
 Wednesday, 1 Kings 1:1-21, *The Struggle for Succession*
 Thursday, 1 Kings 1:22-27, *The Struggle for the Succession*
 Friday, 1 Kings 1:28-53, *The Accession of Solomon*
 Saturday, 1 Kings 2:13-25, *Solomon Consolidates His Reign*

October 28

Sunday, 1 Kings 3:4-9, (10-15), 16-28
 Monday, 1 Kings 6:1-22, *Solomon Builds the Temple*
 Tuesday, 1 Kings 8:1-13, *Dedication of the Temple*
 Wednesday, 1 Kings 8:54-61, *Solomon Blesses the Assembly*
 Thursday, 1 Kings 10:1-13, *Visit of the Queen of Sheba*
 Friday, 1 Kings 10:14-29, *Visit of the Queen of Sheba*
 Saturday, 1 Kings 11:1-13, *Solomon's Errors*

WORSHIP WITH US
Sundays at
9:30

**Women's Bible Study
Monday, October 1 at 10am**

Our study in the fall will be on Repentance from the *Gather* magazine. If you need a copy, contact Linda Bartz at lindabartz@charter.net.

All women are welcome.

Adult Education

Join us after worship on October 7th and 14th from 10:45-11:30 for a time of learning and socialization. All are welcome.

Men's Morning 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.



Theology Pub

Theology on Tap is a great opportunity for us to meet in a comfortable setting to explore faith, ask questions and have a

great time. Come and get your fill of food and beverage and engage in some wonderful conversation. We'll meet just down the road at Green Mill on Tuesday, October 30th at 7:00 pm.

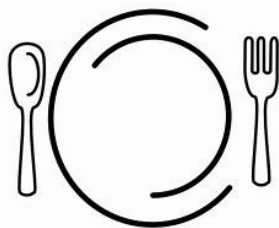
Acceptance...

Interested in Membership at Family of Christ?

Family of Christ is a very active church with lots of opportunities for all age groups, ranging from toddlers to senior citizens. Membership is not a requirement for involvement but membership will enhance your experiences here. We are a member-driven congregation where new ideas from members often generate new ministries and opportunities for growth and service. If you are interested we invite you to join us **November 11th at 11:00am** for a new member brunch. During this time we will share information about Family of Christ, Lutheranism and how you can get more involved. Contact Pastor Brent or the church office with any questions.

Meaningful Relationships...

Progressive Potluck Sunday, October 14



Last month we saw that many of you wanted to be part of a dinner group to get to know others here at Family of Christ. Join us on Sunday, October 14th at 5:00 pm as we share a meal and discuss how this program will

work. Come and bring a dish to share. Sign up on the bulletin insert.

**Beer & Hymn
Sing**



Join us on Monday, October 15 from 7-9 pm at the Angry Inch Brewery in Lakeville as we sing songs of faith. Come and join us for a Beer or Root Beer as we join with other local Lutheran congregations for this time of celebration and remembering.

Impact...



Mission of the Month

Bega Kwa Bega, 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, and a medical school scholarship.

TANZANIA STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

School begins with excitement, hopes and dreams no matter where in the world a child lives. The desire to be a nurse, doctor, pastor, teacher or any other professional are dreams that that can only be realized through hard work and commitment. These are truly impossible dreams without the help of student scholarships. Family of Christ and the St. Paul Area Synod, in partnership with Bega Kwa Bega, helps students from the Usokami parish go to secondary school. These students face daunting life challenges; loss of parents, home or family crisis and only through scholarship can they hope for a better life. The scholarship cost is \$400, which covers cost of room, board and education. Scholarships due by November 1st.

TANZANIA CRAFT SALE

On Tanzania Sunday the Tanzania Outreach team will have craft items available for purchase. Craft tables will be set up in the narthex with craft items available for purchase. New this year, the team will be taking orders for t-shirt memory quilts/body pillow shams. Stop by the craft table and pick up t-shirt quilt information and have the Tanzania Outreach team make a 2019 graduation gift that will be cherished for years. Or, for that sports minded person, t-shirt quilts can be made featuring a favorite team. All proceeds will go to the Illula Hospital Medical Scholarship Fund.

RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE

**Tuesday, October 9
11:30am to 5:30 pm**

Donors and volunteers are needed. To volunteer, sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway. To donate blood, go to www.redcrossblood.org. Contact Glenda Lind at 952-239-1420 for more information.



Love...

Thrivent Action Grants If you are a Thrivent member you may be eligible for grants of up to \$250. As we plan for fall activities and mission outreach this can help make an impact.



Gift Cards- We are again collecting gift cards from Target and Cub to support those in need in our community. As you are out and about please consider picking one up and placing it in the offering.

Prayer Team We are looking for more people to be part of our prayer ministry. This consists of a weekly prayer email and quarterly prayer opportunities. Contact Pastor Brent.

Youth...

Second Wednesday of The Month is... M & M Night

M & M (mentors & mentees) Night has been a part of Family of Christ for many years. We involve all the Wednesday night youth in grades 5-12. They will be put into small groups with adult and high school leaders for team building games, discussions, prayer, and deep conversations.

Second Sunday of The Month is...Youth Sunday, beginning in October!

We are excited to bring back our Youth Sundays once a month, giving all youth in grades 5th -12th the opportunity to be involved in worship. This will be encouraged as part of the confirmation program, but also available for all youth- both confirmed and younger. Sign up to light candles, read, help with music, usher, etc. To sign up go to signupgenius.com or on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

Confirmation Sunday October 28



Join us as three of our youth celebrate their Affirmation of Baptism on October 28th during worship. This is a wonderful rite of passage in which these young men and women continue to take on their own faith development while becoming recognized adults in the congregation. Please keep our youth in your prayers as we prepare for this special day.

Mission Trip Meeting in October

On Sunday, October 14th at 11:40am we will have our first Jamaica mission trip meeting of the new school year. Mel Harmon, of Sunbeam Missions in Jamaica, will be with us to answer our questions. All participants and at least one parent needs to attend this meeting. We will also be deciding on the fundraising activities for the year as well as the Tshirt design for the participants. If you are still on the fence about going on the trip, you are welcome to come and hear more.

Cardboard Box City & Dining To Donate!

Our youth will be sleeping in boxes on Thursday Oct. 18th to raise awareness and money for homelessness in Dakota County. This will be our 3rd Annual CBC where we host this on our church campus. For 8 years we participated in the CBC event at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds, along with about 400 other teens! That particular event was discontinued so we just started our own. We figure that homelessness isn't going away today - so neither will Cardboard Box City for our youth!

If you would like to donate to help the homelessness in Dakota County, please drop an envelope in the offering basket with CBC on the outside OR grab an Applebee's flyer. Applebee's is giving us a DINING TO DONATE shift at the Lakeville Applebee's.

Bring the flyer in and give it to your server on Tuesday, October 16th between the hours of 4pm and 9pm. They will donate 15% of your food total. We really appreciate it!

Calling all Sunday School Parents!

Our Sunday School program can only be successful if we have volunteers each week and we need your help! The past few weeks we have not had the number of volunteers needed.



In the future we will be assigning **ALL** parents of children, who participate in Sunday school, to the schedule on signupgenius.com. If you would like to choose your Sunday and your volunteer position, please log in and sign up. Everyone will receive email notifications as to their dates and volunteer jobs. If you are unable to volunteer on the day you are scheduled, please find a substitute to make sure your Sunday is covered.

We provide all volunteers with everything needed to lead a station and be a shepherd. The lessons are emailed to all the volunteers about mid-week before their scheduled Sunday. It is not complicated or difficult.

And... Calling all high school youth and adults!

You too can volunteer to help with Sunday school! It's fun to get to know the children in our church, they are easy to love and the stations are really fun. Please go to signupgenius.com and choose Sundays when you are available!! THANK YOU!

CPR and AED Certification



If you are interested in being certified in CPR and AED for adult, children and infants, training will be on October 27th from 9:00-12:00. We highly encourage this training for our ushers. Cost is \$50 for certification (\$70 if you need an AHA CPR card.) Register at the on the bulletin board or contact the church office.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

August 2018

Total giving for the month was \$29,192

Total expenses for the month was \$35,835

YTD Given: \$248,794—YTD Budgeted: \$257,408
(as of August 31, 2018)

September GIVING TO DATE

Date	Attendance	Sunday Giving	Electronic Giving	GENERAL FUND
9/02/2018	104	\$2,527	\$1,705	\$4,232
9/09/2018	138	\$2,669	\$5,425	\$8,094
9/16/2018	154	\$4,914	\$1,657	\$6,571
9/23/2018	130	\$3,114	\$5,689	\$8,803

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 Ext. 201
- 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

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.

October Family of Christ Servants

<u>Sunday</u> <u>10/07/18</u>	<u>Sunday</u> <u>10/14/18</u>	<u>Sunday</u> <u>10/21/18</u>	<u>Sunday</u> <u>10/28/18</u>
<u>AV Tech</u> Jeremy Mann	<u>AV Tech</u> Donny Bergquist	<u>AV Tech</u> Chris Flegel	<u>AV Tech</u> Jeremy Mann
<u>Closer</u> Mark Warner	<u>Closer</u> Sherry Goodman	<u>Closer</u> Vicki/David Lind	<u>Closer</u> Vicki/David Lind
<u>Communion</u> <u>Server</u> Pete Nelson Kathy Olson Carla Passon Scott Passon Sandy Soukup	<u>Communion</u> <u>Server</u> Youth Youth Youth Youth Youth	<u>Communion</u> <u>Server</u> Linda Bartz Maury Bartz Lisa Cecchini Becky Donner Paul Donner	<u>Communion</u> <u>Server</u> Kevin Hatlestad Vickie Heggen Ed Hellier Jeanne Miller Miles Miller
<u>Communion Setup</u> Barb Buswell	<u>Communion Setup</u> Vickie Heggen	<u>Communion Setup</u> Audrey Carlson	<u>Communion Setup</u> Janet Delperdang
<u>Fellowship</u> Audrey Carlson Kathy Olson	<u>Fellowship</u> Karen Agee Betty Peterson	<u>Fellowship</u> Barb Buswell Amy Hellier	<u>Fellowship</u> Vickie Heggen Angie Korsaa
<u>Greeter</u> Betty Peterson Marshall Peterson	<u>Greeter</u> Youth Youth	<u>Greeter</u> Kris Olsen Anna Simon	<u>Greeter</u> Dave Olson Kathy Olson
<u>Offering Count</u> Jim Schiprett Sandy Soukup	<u>Offering Count</u> Jeanne Miller Miles Miller	<u>Offering Count</u> Chuck Halvorson Kris Smith	<u>Offering Count</u> Lisa Cecchini Gerry Wills
<u>Opener</u> Gerry Wills	<u>Opener</u> Gerry Wills	<u>Opener</u> Sherry Goodman	<u>Opener</u> Mark Warner
<u>Reader</u> Jim Carlson	<u>Reader</u> Youth	<u>Reader</u> Sheila Ehrich	<u>Reader</u> Bill Goodman
<u>Usher</u> Brian Knoke Lori Knoke	<u>Usher</u> Youth Youth Doug Windhorn	<u>Usher</u> Jean Bakken Dan Benson	<u>Usher</u> Cindy Carlson Jim Carlson

Please notify Linda at the church office if you make changes to the schedule. THANK YOU!!!

If you would like to volunteer at worship, please contact Linda Bauer at the church office or linda@familyofchrist.com.



Dates to Remember

- October 1 - Women's Bible Study
- October 3 - Confirmation/Youth Programs
- October 5 - October 6 - Youth Fall Retreat
- October 7 - Sunday Worship and Education
- October 10 - Confirmation/Youth Programs
- October 14 - Sunday Worship and Education
Progressive Potluck
- October 15 - Beer & Hymn Sing (Angry Inch Brewery)
- October 17 - NO Programs
- October 21 - Sunday Worship and Education
- October 24 - Confirmation/Youth Programs
- October 27 - CPR & AED Training
- October 28 - Sunday Worship and Education
Confirmation Sunday
- October 30 - Theology Pub (Green Mill)
- October 31 - Confirmation/Youth Programs

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**
- Imp**
- Love**
- Youth**