



From the Pastor.....

Make It Simple

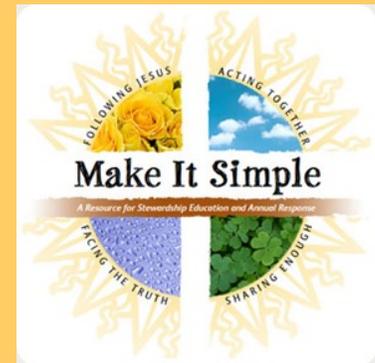
Recently I have been so wrapped up in all the chaos of the world around me that is giving me a message that things aren't going so well. We are told over and over every day through the message of media and others that "You don't have enough...What you have is fragile and could be gone at any moment...You have to go get more!" These messages come from a world focused on scarcity. Yet in 2 Corinthians 9:8 Paul says: "God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work." That's a very different message.

Sometimes I wonder if we struggle to understand ourselves because we struggle to understand our relationship with God. God is creator—we are God's creations. It isn't all that difficult, and often what we need to do is to "Make it Simple." Martin Luther reminds us in his explanation of the First Article of the Apostles' Creed "that God has created me and all that exists. God daily and abundantly provides all the necessities and nourishment for this body and life out of pure, fatherly, and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness of mine at all!" It is in this relationship that we recognize that God has abundantly provided us with all that we need. If we focus on the scarcity, we never have enough, but if we focus on God's abundant blessings, there is more than we can ever imagine. We can be content with what we have because we know that we are blessed by God, and we can live knowing we have everything we need so we too can share abundantly.

I invite you to join us this November as we look at what it means to "Make it Simple". To turn from the fears and frustrations that seem to be an overwhelming part of our lives and instead, to live in the joy and meaning that God has created us to be part of.

Peace,
Pastor Brent

MAKE IT SIMPLE Worship and Stewardship Series



Come join us as we look to focus on simplicity, generous living, and the faithful use of God's abundant blessings.

Nov 4: Following Jesus- We are pieces of God's abundant creation, living in God's world and cherishing God's abundant blessings

Nov. 11: Facing the Truth- The reality of our lives are often disrupted as we face the truth that faithfulness, simplicity, and generosity are not always easy to live out.

Nov. 18: Acting Together- Looking beyond ourselves, we see clearly that we are not alone in living God's will for the world. We are disciples of the body of Christ.

Nov 25: Sharing Enough- Our lives are blessed with the gift of God's "enough" and so we can be satisfied with what we have.

Narrative Lectionary Readings for November

Although we will be concentrating on “Make it Simple” this month we invite you to continue reading through the Old Testament texts. As you read through these scriptures we invite you to ask yourself two questions; what does this text say about God? How does your life relate to this story?

November 4

Sun: 2 Kings 5:1-15a [16-19]

Mon: 2 Kings 2:13-18, *Elisha Succeeds Elijah*

Tues: 2 Kings 2:19-25, *Elisha Performs Miracles*

Wed: 2 Kings 4:1-7, *Elisha and the Widow’s Oil*

Thurs: 2 Kings 4:8-37, *Elisha Raises the Shunammite’s Son*

Fri: 2 Kings 4:38-41 *Elisha Purifies the Pot of Stew*

Sat: 2 Kings 4:42-44 *Elisha Feeds One Hundred Men*

November 11

Sun: Micah [1:3-5]; 5:2-5a; 6:6-8

Mon: Micah 1, *Judgment and Doom*

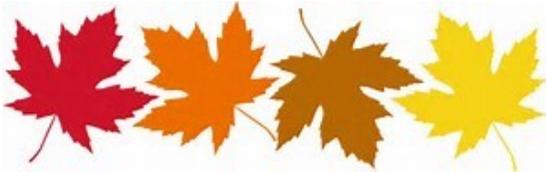
Tues: Micah 2, *Social Evils Denounced*

Wed: Micah 3, *Wicked Rulers*

Thurs: Micah 4, *Peace and Promise*

Fri: Micah 5:1, 5-15; 6:1-5, 9-16, *God’s Challenge*

Sat: Micah 7, *Prophecy of Restoration*



November 18

Sun: Isaiah 36:1-3, 13-20; 37:1-7; then 2:1-4

Mon: Isaiah 36:4-12, *Sennacherib Threatens Jerusalem*

Tues: Isaiah 37:8-13, *Hezekiah Consults Isaiah*

Wed: Isaiah 37:14-29, *Hezekiah’s Prayer*

Thurs: Isaiah 37:30-38, *Sennacherib’s Defeat and Death*

Fri: Isaiah 38:1-22, *Hezekiah’s Illness*

Sat: Isaiah 39:1-8, *Envoys from Babylon Welcomed*

November 25

Sun: Jeremiah 1:4-10; 7:1-11

Mon: Jeremiah 7:16-34, *The People’s Disobedience*

Tues: Jeremiah 8:18-9:11, *The Prophet Mourns for the People*

Wed: Jeremiah 10:1-10, *Idolatry Has Brought Ruin on Israel*

Thurs: Jeremiah 10:11-16, *Idolatry Has Brought Ruin on Israel*

Fri: Jeremiah 10:17-25, *The Coming Exile*

Sat: Jeremiah 11:1-17, *Israel and Judah Have Broken the Covenant*

Christmas Pageant

The Biggest and Best Christmas Present Ever December 16 at 9:30am

It’s time for Family of Christ’s Christmas Pageant. Please let us know if you or your children would like an active role this year. Whether that’s through acting, singing, helping with props and costumes, or anything else, we can use your help. We also need some adults to act and to support the practices and events.

Contact Pastor Brent if you’re interested in helping or participating.

Below is the schedule for this year’s Christmas Program:

Sunday, Nov. 25 Practice 10:30am-11:30am

Sunday, Dec. 2 Practice 10:30am-11:30am

Sunday, Dec. 9 Practice 10:30am-11:30am

Saturday, Dec. 15 Dress Rehearsal 9:30am-11:00am

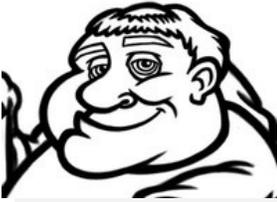
Sunday, Dec. 16 Christmas Pageant 9:30am

Art and Faith

We are looking to form a group of people who will help us plan ways to engage our faith with art. We are hoping to create a long term plan for the congregation as well as look at how our own artistic selves can interact with our journey through visual art, poetry, and storytelling.

Contact Pastor Brent if interested in being a part of this group.





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, November 27 at 7:00pm.

Women's Bible Study Monday, November 5 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.

Acceptance...

Interested in Membership at Family of Christ?

Family of Christ is a very active church with many 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 contact the church office and join us **November 4 at 11:00am** for an Informational/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 with any questions.

We will be receiving members on November 11 during worship.

Meaningful Relationships...

Progressive Potluck, RESCHEDULED

Because of changing needs of community and our need to spend extra time evaluating our way forward, we will reschedule this until January. Thanks for your interest.

Ladies Holiday Luncheon Saturday, December 1

It's time for our Annual Ladies Holiday Luncheon and Basket Raffle!

This year the luncheon will be on Sat., Dec. 1 at 11:30am. All ladies are invited, bring your mothers, daughters, sisters, and friends. This is a wonderful way to start off the holiday season, a delicious lunch, fellowship and music.

We are requesting a \$5 donation to cover the cost of the luncheon. Bring a dish to share—sign up is on the Bulletin Board by the Fellowship Hall.

We will once again be having a Basket Raffle. Bring your Raffle Baskets to church the week of Nov. 5. Raffle tickets are available for sale (One for \$3.00/Four for \$10). All proceeds will benefit 360 Communities. You need not be present to win.

Soul Sisters will be available after church service on Nov. 11, 18 and 25 for registration and buying raffle tickets. Please register by November 26.



Impact...

Mission of the Month- Matrix Homeless Shelter

Beginning November 1 local churches will be hosting a rotating homeless shelter serving 50 single adults experiencing homelessness in Dakota County. It costs nearly \$1300 a night to run the shelter along with preparing meals for those in need around us.



Family of Christ is planning a 2020 Mission Trip to Tanzania. An informational meeting will be held on Sunday, October 28. If you are interested and unable to attend the meeting, please contact Pastor Brent or Vickie Heggen, vlheggen@hotmail.com.

USOKAMI UPDATE

In a recent letter from Pastor Fyataga, Usokami Pastor, the parish reported on the state of affairs in Usokami:

- * Improving the pastor's home, including paint & the installation of toilets.
- * Raising revenue for the church from a 24 acre tree farm and a grinding machine.
- * Planning to build a large hall to be rented for celebrations.
- * Installing pews and painting/plastering at preaching points.
- * Constructing a church at Kilimahewe preaching point.
- * Starting a SACCO this year; there are currently 30 members.

The church itself has 816 members, all of whom extending their love and greetings to their friends at Family of Christ.

Tanzania Secondary Scholarships

The Tanzania Secondary Scholarship donations are due November 1. A full year scholarship cost is \$400, which covers cost of room, board and education. Any donation amount is appreciated. See ushers for scholarship envelopes.

Love...

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.



Giving Tree

Please make sure to take a look at the Giving Tree in the narthex. The Giving Tree is a needs list that helps us serve one another better. Take a tag from the tree and make a donation.



Youth...

Box City 2018

Thank you to the youth who gave up a night in their own comfortable beds to sleep in boxes on a chilly night in October during their MEA break from school. This was the third year Family of Christ had their own Box City.

There were 12 youth and two adults who participated. They played games, watched videos about homelessness, sang around the campfire, and then crawled into their boxes for the night.

The money they raised plus donations from Applebee's will be donated to Matrix Housing Services. Matrix will be organizing the rotating shelter in Dakota County this coming winter. The rotating shelter will be hosted at various local churches, including Grace Lutheran in Apple Valley.

Thank you to all who participated in the "Dining To Donate" fundraiser for Box City held at Applebee's on Tuesday, Oct. 16. Applebee's will be donating 15% back to this cause.



JAMAICA MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISING PLANS

We have 11 youth committed to our trip to Sunbeam Boys home in Jamaica. They are very busy getting ready for the June 2019 mission trip. They have begun their second year of fundraising. The year will be full of monthly planning meetings as well as monthly fundraising events. We want to thank you for purchasing apple crisp in October.

Each participant needs to raise a minimum of \$1500. Following are the upcoming fundraisers for the rest of the year.

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|------------|--|
| NOV | ONGOING: GENESIS COFFEE BAR (serve coffee before and after worship)
EGG ROLL (make & sell)
GROCERY BAGGING AT CUB FOODS Nov. 16 4-8pm(Heritage Ave) |
| DEC | CONGREGATIONAL BREAKFAST
GROCERY BAGGING AT CUB FOODS Dec. 21 4-8pm and Dec. 22 from 10am-8pm |

NOVEMBER'S YOUTH SUNDAY IS THE 11TH

All 5-12th graders can help lead worship at our once a month Youth Sunday. You can read prayers, scriptures, greet, serve communion or usher! What a blast to connect with other youth and serve in this wonderful way! To sign up, visit <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f044cabaf2ba2f49-fochrist>

Thank you to all who helped in October!!



Congratulations to our 2018 Confirmands!

Emma Cook
Nicole Solfest

Please keep our youth in your prayers as they continue on their faith journey.



Celebration of Ministry for Sherry Goodman

Sunday, November 18th

After 19 years of youth and family ministry, Sherry Goodman is embarking on new endeavors. Please join us as we celebrate her time with us and thank her for her many blessings. We will celebrate during worship and after with a reception.

Christmas Program Helpers Needed

We are looking for 3 adult leaders to help us with this important ministry to our youth and families. We need help organizing costumes, helping with large group practice, helping with sets, and other general help. No experience necessary.

Youth and Family Transition Help October 30

Though we will miss Sherry there is still all sorts of amazing ministry to be done. As we spend some time evaluating next steps we need your help. We will need help with Sunday School, Wednesday nights, and the mission trip. Please join us on October 30th for a time of planning and understanding.

6:30pm-7:30pm: PreK - 4th Grade

7:30pm-8:30pm: 5th Grade – High School

(High School youth are encouraged to attend this second meeting)

****Help us make this transition the best we can****

FINANCIAL UPDATE

September 2018

Total income for the month was \$33,612

Total expenses for the month was \$29,229

YTD Given: \$282,407 - YTD Budgeted: \$289,584
(as of September 30, 2018)

OCTOBER GIVING TO DATE

Date	Attendance	Sunday Giving	Electronic Giving	GENERAL FUND
10/07/2018	159	\$3,081	\$4,953	\$8,034
10/14/2018	137	\$3,406	\$1,654	\$5,060
10/21/2018	144	\$4,157	\$4,681	\$8,838

Family of Christ Staff Ministry Team:

Pastor: Brent Eler, 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.***

November Family of Christ Servants

<u>Sunday</u> <u>11/4/17</u>	<u>Sunday</u> <u>11/11/17</u>	<u>Sunday</u> <u>11/18/17</u>	<u>Sunday</u> <u>11/25/17</u>
<u>AV Tech</u> Kris Smith	<u>AV Tech</u> Nathan Blilie	<u>AV Tech</u> Chris Flegel	<u>AV Tech</u> Donny Bergquist
<u>Closer</u> Sherry Goodman	<u>Closer</u> Mark Warner	<u>Closer</u> David /Vicki Lind	<u>Closer</u> David /Vicki Lind
<u>Communion</u>	<u>Communion</u>	<u>Communion</u>	<u>Communion</u>
<u>Server</u> Josi Hellier Brian Knoke Lori Knoke Jackie Knudsen Paul Nadon	<u>Server</u> Youth Youth Youth Youth Youth	<u>Server</u> Karen Agee Mike Anderson Rhonda Arnold Jean Bakken Kathy Derner	<u>Server</u> Dan Benson Kris Olsen Betty Peterson Doris Reiners Kris Smith
<u>Communion Setup</u> Kathy Derner	<u>Communion Setup</u> Jenn Hatlestad	<u>Communion Setup</u> Rhonda Arnold	<u>Communion Setup</u> Karen Agee
<u>Fellowship</u> Cheryl Wills Gerry Wills	<u>Fellowship</u> Audrey Carlson Kathy Olson	<u>Fellowship</u> Martha Johnson Betty Peterson	<u>Fellowship</u> Karen Agee Barb Buswell
<u>Greeter</u> Jane Wegleitner Annie Yolitz	<u>Greeter</u> Youth Youth	<u>Greeter</u> Karen Agee Jean Bakken	<u>Greeter</u> Linda Bartz Maury Bartz
<u>Offering Count</u> Shirlee Benson Chuck Halvorson	<u>Offering Count</u> Angie Korsa Kris Smith	<u>Offering Count</u> Jeanne Miller Miles Miller	<u>Offering Count</u> Jim Schiprett Sandy Soukup
<u>Opener</u> Gerry Wills	<u>Opener</u> Sherry Goodman	<u>Opener</u> Mark Warner	<u>Opener</u> Gerry Wills
<u>Reader</u> Josi Hellier	<u>Reader</u> Youth	<u>Reader</u> Emma Johnson	<u>Reader</u> Charlie Johnson
<u>Usher</u> Lisa Cecchini Ed Hellier	<u>Usher</u> Youth Youth Mark Warner	<u>Usher</u> Janeen Immerfall Chuck Halvorson	<u>Usher</u> Luke Hellier Charlie Johnson

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



October 30 - Youth & Family Special Meeting
October 31 - No Confirmation/Youth Programs
November 4- Sunday Worship and Education
November 7 - Confirmation/Youth Programs
November 11 – Sunday Worship and Education
November 14 - Confirmation/Youth Programs
November 18 - Sunday Worship and Education
Sherry Goodman Celebration
November 21—NO YOUTH CLASSES
November 25 - Sunday Worship
first Christmas Pageant practice
November 27 - Theology Pub

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
Accptance
Meaningful relationships
Impact
Love
Youth