



foCUS
Newsletter

10970 185th Street West ♦ Lakeville MN 55044 ♦ 952-435-5757 ♦ www.familyofchrist.com

Treasuring and Pondering

While relaxing on the south shore of Lake Superior in a warm cabin on a cold day recently I couldn't help but think about the many joyful things that had happened in my life over the last year and wonder where they were leading me in the future. This reminded me of Mary's journey after all the chaos that had surrounded the birth of Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel we are told that "Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart." *Luke 2:19* But why do we leave this "treasuring and pondering" to one part of the year? What if we lived into these words all the time? And what does it mean for us a community of faith?

As I spent some time looking back at the last year of ministry leading up to the annual meeting, I was blessed to see all the amazing ways God has been at work through our community and through you. Over the last year we have emphasized the future of our youth and families through some deep evaluation and putting best practices in place for a safer future, we have made deeper relationships with our community partners, we supported an amazing mission trip to Jamaica, we reached out in new adventures with the greater church becoming the teaching congregation we hoped to be through our intern Pastor Megan, and we embraced our callings as people of God in a thousand small and big ways. All this, along with former leadership that has built strong foundations for us and new leadership that has begun to take us into the future, is something to be treasured.

However, I hope we can ponder where this is leading us. As our church council president, Josi Hellier, and the rest of our council shared at the annual meeting, God is leading us into the world in some new ways. As we start this month of February, I hope you will join us in pondering exactly where we are going. This month we will embrace some of this journey by inviting you into some conversation with us. To begin with we are embarking on a stewardship journey that will help us tell our story and focus our resources in ways that make a real impact. This is a journey with the larger St. Paul Area Synod and local congregations. If you would like to be a part of this team, please let me know. Secondly, on February 18th we will begin a series of meetings on how we can better connect with our local community and welcome people into our Family. We need to hear your ideas and experiences on how we can engage those around us with God's generous love. Finally, we will be looking at what it means to live as followers of Christ through Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount. These teachings are at the core of who we are and pondering how we are live into them, helps us become who God created us to be.

As we continue in this season of Epiphany and get ready to enter into Lent, I invite you to join me as we do a little "treasuring and pondering" together. We are a blessed people and it's important for us to recognize how blessed we are, but what do we do with those blessings in the future? Let's figure that out together.

Peace,
Pastor Brent

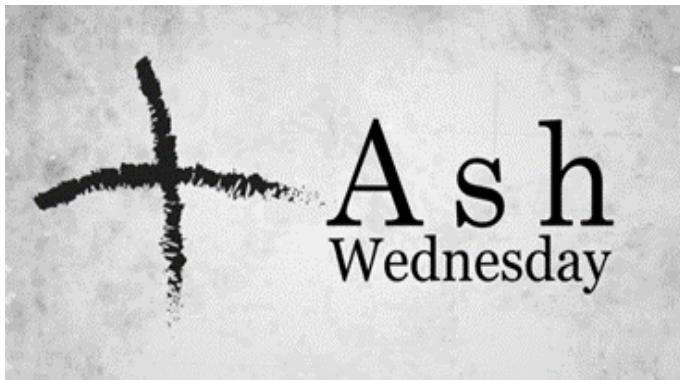


Messy Faith- Adult Ed

Our faith journeys aren't always as cut and dry as we would like them to be and difficult conversations can challenge us as individuals and communities. How do we have these difficult conversations while still growing and not breaking down relationships or communities? In a world that is so often divided by certain issues, how do we have fruitful conversations that help us all grow? Join us after worship on Sundays in February from 10:45am-11:30am.



Following his baptism and temptation in the wilderness, Jesus begins his ministry by teaching. Jesus instructs those listening to live in ways that glorify God and build up the kingdom. In the Sermon on the Mount, followers hear of the qualities that matter most in the kingdom and who they are called to be as disciples of Jesus. Jesus' lessons on prayer and judging others teach us how to build our lives on the rock, creating habits and making decisions that are guided by God's promises. Through Jesus' teaching we learn more about what matters most to God, and the ways we are called to respond as faithful disciples. Join us as we continue to embrace God's promises to us in Jesus.



Ash Wednesday Worship February 26th at 6:40pm

We begin our Lenten journey with Ash Wednesday. This service is an invitation to observe a holy Lent through the practices of prayer, worship, service, the sacraments and community. Join us at 6:40PM on February 26th as we start our journey towards Easter.

Conference Assembly, February 22nd

This year's conference assemblies will be held on Saturday, February 22nd from 9:00am-11:00am at Gloria Day Lutheran in St. Paul. This is a time of worship and understanding the work of the greater Lutheran church.

Contact Pastor Brent with any questions or if you'd like to go.





360 Communities®

Changing lives and strengthening
communities to a new degree

One of our main goals this year as a community is to connect deeper with our local community. One of the easiest way we can do that is with 360 Communities. Their mission is to deliver safety and stability that improves lives to our immediate community. This happens through holistic programs that create community partnerships, build relationships, and break the cycle of violence and poverty. They provide safe spaces and support for those survivors of violence, partner with schools for family care, and create spaces where people can get help through resource centers and food shelves. We have been working with them for years through our homeless initiative and our collections for the food shelf, but we want to do more because this serves the people who live around us.

Join us as we grow this ministry to help our neighbors and create better communities in God's name. Watch the bulletin and other communications for more details.



Community Impact Meeting

Tuesday, February 18th @ 6:30PM

We are looking for ways to better serve those in the community around us. Join us for a time of generating ideas on how to better do this. This will be a time of brainstorming and choosing some ways to begin this journey. All are welcome to be a part of this conversation.



Welcoming Others Meeting

Tuesday, February 18th @ 7:30PM

Family of Christ is a great gift to this community, and we are trying to find better ways to invite others to be a part of this community of faith.



Church Council

Meet Your 2020 Council

President- Josi Hellier
VP- Annie Yolitz
Treasurer- Chuck Halvorson
Financial Secretary- Dave Peterson
Secretary- Kirstin Specht
At Large Members:
Youth and Family- Jessica Christiansen
Facilities- Donny Bergquist
Outreach- Kevin Hatlestad

*Special thanks to Kathy Olson for serving as our
Secretary for the last 4 years.*

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, February 15th

8:30am-9:30am

Join us for a time of egg bakes, baked goods, and good conversation as we spend some time looking at building our Men's ministries and gather to discuss some community projects.

All are welcome, come and bring a friend.

Giving Statements have been sent to email addresses on file.

**If you did not receive one or you would like a mailed copy,
please contact Linda at the church office.**

Office Volunteer Needed

We are looking for an office volunteer to come in a few hours a week for two or three days a month to help out. If you are interested, please contact Linda at the church office.



Book Club

**Thursday, February 27th
7:00pm**

We will be discussing
A Conspiracy of Decency: The Rescue of the Danish Jews During World War II
by Emmy Werner

Join us in the Fellowship Space at Family of Christ.
Contact Sandy Soukup or the church office for more information.

RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE

**Tuesday, February 11
11:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.**



**American
Red Cross**

Donors and volunteers are needed.
Contact Glenda Linda if interested.

**First time donors
Always welcome.**

Invite your friends

Children, Youth, and Family Update

- *Our High School youth have booked their mission trip next summer to Chicago. 15 youth and chaperones will be heading there in July.
- *Wednesday night programs continue. Thanks to all those volunteers.
- *Our Sunday School continues to roll along with our new program design and activities. Special thanks to Cary Whittington and all the other volunteers for their help with this.
- *We are continuing to interview for the Director of Youth and Family Ministries.
- *We have started a multigenerational program called “Messy Church” that will be a chance to worship in ways that engage all people in new ways .



Youth Sunday, February 9

Remember that the second Sunday of the month is the day your youth, 5th grade and up, get to volunteer to help with the worship service. Contact Pastor Brent if you want to help. Volunteer opportunities are; acolyte, greeters, ushers, readers, communion servers and a 2-3 minute Faith Talk! These are great ways to involve our youth in worship.

Sunday School Calendar

- February 2:** The Beatitudes
Matthew 5:1-12
- February 9:** Salt and Light
Matthew 5:13-20
- February 16:** Community Event
- February 23:** The Transfiguration
Matthew 17:1-9

Wednesday Night Education Update

Confirmation and Youth Group will meet on February 5th, 12th and 19th. Join us for Ash Wednesday Worship on February 26th.



LUTHER PARK CAMPING OPPORTUNITIES 2020

Attention Family of Christ kids and parents!

We have designated a week at Luther Park for FOC kids to sign up and attend camp with their church friends!

- * June 21-24, 2020: half week for 1-4th graders
- * June 21-26, 2020: full week for 3-6th graders in the Cabins
- * June 21-26, 2020: full week 7-12th graders in The Treehouse

Go to www.lutherpark.com to register.

MISSION OF THE MONTH



Join us in supporting our Camp partners. We know that Camping Ministry is one of the most important opportunities in the growth of a child's faith.

Join us as we support this important ministry and think about sending a kid or grandkid to camp this year.

Women's Bible Study

Mon., February 3 at 10:00am

For more information contact Linda Bartz or the church office at office@familyofchrist.com.



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.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

December 2019

Total income for the month was \$41,705

Total expenses for the month was \$29,247

YTD Given: \$342,936 YTD Budgeted: \$405,618
(as of December 31st, 2019)

JANUARY GIVING TO DATE

Date	Attendance	Sunday	Electronic	GENERAL
		Giving	Giving	FUND
01/05/2020	145	\$3,950	\$4,391	\$8,341
01/12/2020	141	\$2,536	\$2,454	\$4,990
01/19/2020	104	\$512	\$5,496	\$6,008
01/26/2020	137	\$5,639	\$1,544	\$7,183

Family of Christ Staff Ministry Team:

Lead Pastor:	Pastor Brent Erler
Pastoral Intern:	Megan Eide
Interim Children's Minister:	Cary Whittington
Musicians:	Mary Wescott, Morgan Jones, Laura Porter-Jones, Jessica Christensen
Choir:	Debra Capener
Administrative Asst:	Linda Bauer
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

February Family of Christ Servants

<u>Sunday</u> <u>02/02/20</u>	<u>Sunday</u> <u>02/09/20</u>	<u>Sunday</u> <u>02/16/20</u>	<u>Sunday</u> <u>02/23/20</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> Lisa Cecchini	<u>Closer</u> Kevin Hatlestad	<u>Closer</u> Chuck Halvorson	<u>Closer</u> Lisa Cecchini
<u>Communion Servers</u> Rhonda Arnold Linda Bartz Maury Bartz Jackie Knudsen	<u>Communion Servers</u> Karen Agee Mike Anderson Jean Bakken Kathy Derner	<u>Communion Servers</u> Josi Hellier Luke Hellier Kris Olsen Kathy Olson	<u>Communion Servers</u> Ed Hellier Sandy Soukup Annie Yolitz Brian Yolitz
<u>Communion Setup</u> Audrey Carlson	<u>Communion Setup</u> Jenn Hatlestad	<u>Communion Setup</u> Chad Specht	<u>Communion Setup</u> Kathy Derner
<u>Fellowship</u> Cheryl Wills Gerry Wills	<u>Fellowship</u> Martha Johnson Kathy Olson	<u>Fellowship</u> Nancy Johnson Betty Peterson	<u>Fellowship</u> Audrey Carlson Jenn Hatlestad
<u>Greeters</u> Betty Peterson Marshall Peterson	<u>Greeters</u> Youth Youth	<u>Greeters</u> Dave Olson Kathy Olson	<u>Greeters</u> Glenda Lind Terry Lind
<u>Offering Count</u> Kris Smith Kirstin Specht	<u>Offering Count</u> Ryan Basballe Kevin Hatlestad	<u>Offering Count</u> Chuck Halvorson Jim Schiprett	<u>Offering Count</u> Amie Hoffman Duane Hoffman
<u>Opener</u> Gerry Wills	<u>Opener</u> Gerry Wills	<u>Opener</u> Gerry Wills	<u>Opener</u> Kevin Hatlestad
<u>Reader</u> Anna Simon	<u>Reader</u> Youth	<u>Reader</u> Kris Smith	<u>Reader</u> Sandy Soukup
<u>Ushers</u> Chad Specht Kirstin Specht	<u>Ushers</u> Kevin Hatlestad 2 Youth	<u>Ushers</u> Annie Yolitz Brian Yolitz	<u>Ushers</u> Anna Simon Kris Smith

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



Dates to Remember

- February 1 - FMSC Mobile Pack
- February 2 - Sunday Worship and Education
- February 5 - Confirmation/Youth Programs
- February 9 – Sunday Worship and Education
- February 12 - Confirmation/Youth Programs
- February 15 - Men's Breakfast
- February 16 - Sunday Worship
Community Event
- February 19 - Confirmation/Youth Programs
- February 23 - Sunday Worship and Education
- February 26 - Ash Wednesday Services

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:

- Faith
- Acceptance
- Meaningful relationships
- Impact
- Love
- Youth