

### *From Pastor Brent . . .*

Family Friends,

Grace and peace to you in this time of Advent in which we hope and dream for a time when things will be different. If you are anything like me, I have been both looking forward to Christmas and dreading the way it will be at the same time. This season, which many of us plan for all year, will be different this year. Celebrations will look different, gatherings may not happen and old traditions may be put aside, and this causes grief and sadness. This is not what we dreamed of.

As we enter this time together, I invite you to dream with me - dream with me as we look to the light of God which has and always will bring the hope of a blessed future. If we think of that first Christmas it wasn't all that peaceful either. Joseph and Mary were separated from their families as they travelled because of something they couldn't control, their expectations were upended when there was no room in the inn, and the birth of the savior happened in a stable, not as the joyful songs and peaceful cards would have us believe. Yet maybe we can begin to understand what surrounded that first Christmas a little better this year. This is the time we remember that God first enters into a world where the cracking of foundations, unmet expectations, and hopelessness want to overwhelm us like the darkness of this season. Yet, that's where God shows up bringing with him the light of hope, peace, joy, and love that lead to new life. Join us as we journey into that light together.

Peace,  
Pastor Brent

### ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES



Psalm 126 begins, “When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.” What does it look like to live as those who dream? The prophets, the psalmists, John the Baptist, Mary, Elizabeth, Joseph, Simeon, Anna, the shepherds and the Magi—they were all dreamers. They received, discovered, and responded to God’s dreams for the world. In Advent, we step into the mystery and awe of God’s dreams and pray they shape our reality.

This worship series for Advent and Christmas is for the dreamers in all of us—those who dream of a deeper connection with God and those who dream of a better world. It’s for those who dream of comfort and for those who have given up on their dreams. It’s for those whose dreams have been crushed and for those who show us that dreams take time. Join us as we dream alongside prophets and angels, Mary and the Magi. Join us as we seek and sow God’s dreams for our world.

**Worship will continue to be online  
starting at 9:45AM Sunday Mornings**



## Christmas Eve at Family of Christ Join us Christmas Eve at 4:30 PM, December 24<sup>th</sup>

Online or for a Drive-In Christmas worship.

We may not be able to worship inside, but we can certainly worship together. Online worship will be released the same time that a Drive-In worship will happen in our parking lot. Join us as we tell the story of Jesus' birth, sing Christmas hymns that bring hope and light candles on this silent and holy night. Registration for outdoor worship will be

available in the next couple weeks. If this becomes too full, we will add a second service at 5:30 PM.

We will need all sorts of people to help with this service from hanging lights to building props to ushering cars. Please let us know if you can help.

### What do you dream for? Send in a video by December 3rd

We are looking for people and families to video themselves answering the following words that you would each complete. Just one person in the picture at a time.

1. "I dream of..." (something you personally want, i.e. A new puppy, a new phone, growing taller, anything)
2. "I dream of..." (something for your community, i.e. That we would get back to school, that essential workers would get a break, that we would have a pretty Christmas)
3. "I dream of..." (something for the world, i.e. Peace, that cancer would end, that no one would be homeless)



### Community Lessons and Carols

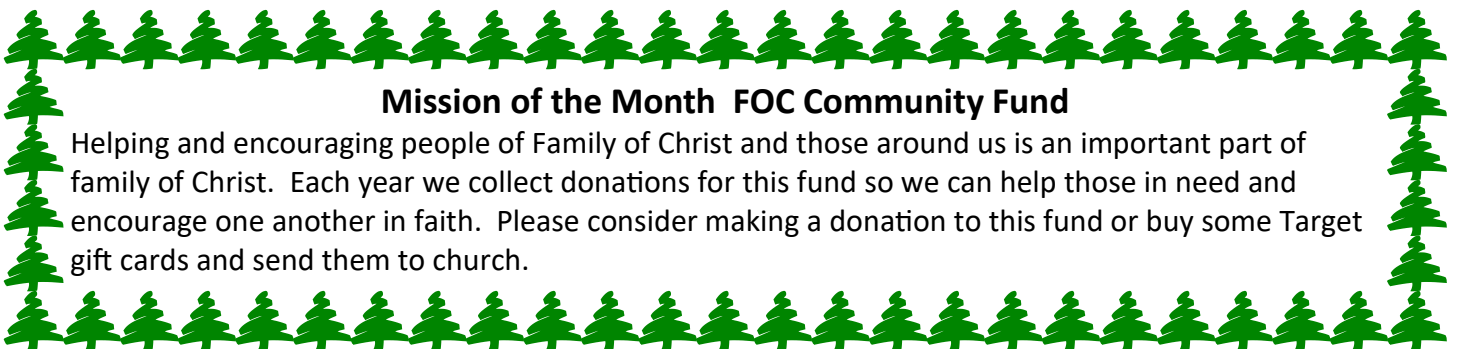
Join us on Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 AM as we celebrate the Christmas season with lessons and carols. This will be a collaboration between 13 Lutheran churches in the South Metro including music from our own community. This is a great chance to hear some amazing music and hear the Christmas story together.



FARMINGTON  
HEALTH SERVICES  
*Trinity Campus*

### Trinity Care Christmas Gifts

This year we will again be getting Christmas gifts for the residents of Trinity Care Center. If you and your family would like to purchase and wrap gifts for a resident or two we ask that you go to the church website and click on Trinity Care Gifts. Once you have signed up we will send you a name and some potential gifts. You can also register by contacting the church office. Gifts will need to be to church by Dec 13<sup>th</sup> so they can be delivered. We will also be supporting the staff with gift cards and some treats.



### Mission of the Month FOC Community Fund

Helping and encouraging people of Family of Christ and those around us is an important part of family of Christ. Each year we collect donations for this fund so we can help those in need and encourage one another in faith. Please consider making a donation to this fund or buy some Target gift cards and send them to church.



As we continue our socially distanced education, we will be delivering activities for our younger youth and their families. These boxes are filled with activities that celebrate the season leading up to Christmas. There are several extras available. Contact the church office if you would like one for yourself or someone else.

### Youth Room Update

Thanks to all who helped with the Youth room in the last month. We did a massive cleaning, removed unwanted furniture and organized the rest. The next step is remove the desk unit and to prep the space for painting and design. This space is shaping up!

**Thanks for your generosity.**

### Stewardship! Thanks

Thank you for making your financial commitment to Family of Christ for 2021. We are blessed by your generosity and thank you for the many blessing you continue to share. We have already seen more than \$15,000 in increased pledging. If you haven't filled out an estimate of giving card we invite you to make your estimated pledge for the next year. These commitments help us make decisions for the next year of ministry. Cards can be requested from the church office or you can make your pledge online.

### Financial Update October 2020

Although we are still financially stable and thank you all for your blessings, we are still running behind for the year. Here are the numbers for January through October:

Year to Date Given	\$ 279,569
Year to Date Expenses	\$ 275,774
Year to Date Budgeted	\$ 318,620

\*Please help us end the year strong by increasing your financial gifts this year.

### Year End Giving Statements

Family of Christ will be sending out end of the year Giving Statements by email for all members that have an email address. If there is a particular email address that you would like us to use or if you would prefer to receive paper statements, please contact Linda at [linda@familyofchrist.com](mailto:linda@familyofchrist.com) or by calling church office.

### Thank you for your generosity!

Last month we were able to lift up \$5,200 for Tanzania scholarships and \$1,547 to Iringa Hope Microfinancing. This will go a long way in changing people's lives.



### Gathering and Distribution Box

Need something from the church office? Want to make a donation of food or offerings? There is a new lock box and giving tub located at the office doors. You can donate food, pick up stuff you need, and place your offerings in a secure lock box.

### Family of Christ Staff Ministry Team:

Lead Pastor:	Pastor Brent Eler
Pastoral Intern:	Megan Eide
Administrative Admin:	Linda Bauer
Musicians:	Mary Wescott, Morgan Jones, Laura Porter-Jones, Rebecca Nystuen, Ann Mikiska
Custodian:	Kelly Kritsberg

### Family of Christ Lutheran Church is a member of the ELCA

Email us at: [office@familyofchrist.com](mailto:office@familyofchrist.com)  
Visit us at: [www.familyofchrist.com](http://www.familyofchrist.com)

Telephone: 952-435-5757

*"FoCus" is a monthly publication of Family of Christ Lutheran Church.*



### **Prayer of Good Courage**

Lord God,  
you have called your servants  
to ventures of which we cannot  
see the ending, by paths as yet  
untrodden, through perils  
unknown.

Give us faith to go out with  
good courage, not knowing  
where we go, but only that your  
hand is leading us and your  
love supporting us; through  
Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### **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**eptance  
**Meaningful relationships**  
**Impact**  
**Love**  
**Youth**