

From Pastor Brent . . .

Dear Family Friends,

In Lent, we're reminded that, again and again, suffering and brokenness find us. We doubt again, we lament again, we mess up again. Again and again, the story of Jesus on the cross repeats—every time lives are taken unjustly, every time the powerful choose corruption and violence, every time individuals forget how to love. With exacerbation we exclaim, "Again?! How long, O God?" And yet, in the midst of the motion blur chaos of our lives, God offers a sacred refrain: "I choose you, I love you, I will lead you to repair." Again and again, God breaks the cycle and offers us a new way forward.

I invite you to join us in a time when much is unclear. Even if worshiping apart, we come to God again and again with our prayers, our dreams, our hopes, and our doubts. Even if from a distance, we will continue to be community to one another—especially when it's hard—by choosing each other over and over again. We will continue to love God with the same persistence God chooses and claims us. Join us this Lent as again and again, we bring all of who we are to God and trust that God will meet us, time and again, along the way.

Peace,
Pastor Brent

Sunday Lent Worship Series Again and Again



Feb 21st

Again & Again, God Meets Us

Feb 28th

Again & Again, We Are Called to Listen

March 7th

Again & Again, We are Shown the Way

March 14th

Again & Again, God Loves First

March 21st

Again & Again, We are Reformed

March 28th Palm Sunday

Again & Again, We call on Courage

Daily Devotions for Lent

This Lent, join us as we go deeper with our daily devotionals. Beginning Ash Wednesday, we invite you to a time of contemplation each day, trusting that it is exactly what you need for that moment. Then read the short scripture, reflection prompts, and prayer. We hope this time will encourage you to come to God in prayer again and again throughout the entire Lenten season. Devotionals will be included in the weekly email, online, and some will be videos on our Facebook page.

Come Worship with Us...

In Person Worship

Beginning February 7th at 9:30 AM we will again have worship services in the sanctuary for a limited number of people. We ask that you register ahead of time on the FOC website or by contacting the church office so we can plan for you. When you register there will be some procedures that we ask you follow that will help keep us safe.

On-line Worship Continues

Online worship will continue to be our main form of worship in this time of pandemic. Please join us online Sundays at 9:45 AM or anytime after that. Online worship can be accessed through the church website.



Ash Wednesday

Lent starts on Ash Wednesday, February 17. Come and join the Lenten drive-thru event on Ash Wednesday from either 12-1 pm or 4:30-6 pm. You will receive your Lenten ashes and a personal prayer, and you can pick up other Lent resources like "Lent in a Box", communion supplies, and daily devotionals. There will be a short online service beginning at 7:00PM. No registration is needed. Just pack up your car with people, wear a mask, and come to church.

Wednesday Nights in Lent

Purple Theory and Holden Evening Prayer



Habits and routines help us stay on track in many areas of our lives – whether it's our physical, mental, or emotional health. They can help us grow in our spiritual lives too. In this series, we will explore several spiritual disciplines, or faithful habits, that can help us deepen our relationship with God. Lent is the perfect time to commit or recommit to a spiritual discipline, as we enter a season of self-examination in preparation for Easter.

Videos will be released at 5:00 PM on Wednesdays.



Mission of the month Community 360 Food Shelf

Join us this February as we support our local community through donating to our local food shelf. One of our families has generously donated their stimulus checks as matching donations up to \$1200. Please donate online or send donations to FOC. We also invite you to collect a bag of groceries throughout the month and bring them to Church on the 28th of February. Here are some high need items. Particular items needed are; basic food staples, "Grab-and-go" kids snacks, simple child friendly prepackaged meals, and pet food.

Lent in a Box

Lent in a Box is a pizza box filled with activities and devotions that families can use to do short faith related activities together. You can do it at your own pace or join Pastor Brent and Megan as they lead us through an activity each week on our Facebook page. Boxes will be delivered to all families with those in 5th grade and younger. For those of you over 5th grade that want to participate please contact the church office to get one.



RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE

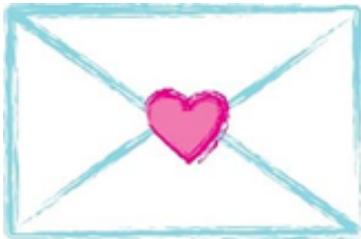
**Tuesday, February 9
11:30 a.m.—5:30 p.m.**



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

**First time donors
Always welcome.**

Invite your friends



Family of Christ Adopt-a-Friend!

*Friends of all ages and genders . . . are you ready to reconnect with folks from Family of Christ? Do you like to get notes and gifts in the mail?
Then Sign Up for Adopt-a-Friend!*

Adopt-a-friend is a way for youth and adults at Family of Christ to develop meaningful, intergenerational connections this spring as we continue to live through pandemic life. This voluntary program pairs one youth from the congregation (K-12th grade) with an adult. From late February to early June, these pairs will exchange communication and/or “gifts,” anything from letters, drawings, and prayer requests to small treats and care packages from the adults to youth if you wish! The goal is simply to each other know that someone from Family of Christ is thinking of you and praying for you.

To participate and be matched with a friend, please contact either the church office or Pastor Megan at pastormegan@familyofchrist.com by **February 14th**. You can also get started by filling out the Adopt-a-Friend questionnaire on the church website.

Family of Christ Staff Ministry Team:

Lead Pastor: Pastor Brent Erler
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
Visit us at: www.familyofchrist.com

Telephone: 952-435-5757

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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
Acceptance
Meaningful relationships
Impact
Love
Youth