

From the Pastor . . .

Last month I took some time to go away and do some reflection. It has been a difficult year and a half and after months of living day by day and sometimes moment by moment I needed to gain a little perspective. As I headed to a guided meditative retreat near Lake Michigan, I stopped at Devil's Lake State Park near Baraboo Wisconsin. There is great hiking here and I needed to spend some time in nature. I started my hike around the lake with the goal of getting it done in a couple hours. The first part of the hike was rather steep and somewhat treacherous, so I had to watch my every step, and after a good hour of heading upwards on slippery surfaces I was getting exhausted. There was a bench a few yards in front of me, so I decided to take a break and when I did I was wonderfully overwhelmed. I was surrounded by a most beautiful scene. All around me was a tranquil lake and glacier carved hills that brought a deep sense of peace that I had been longing for. As my huffing and puffing diminished and my heart went back to a normal rhythm, this time of rest opened me up to all that had happened. I began to gain perspective on the last year and the greater journey I was part of. It was time to look at the relationships that grew and those that had faded, it was a chance to see what things I wanted to hold onto as sacred and those I wanted to let go of, it was a time to celebrate love and mourn the loss of so much, but I needed to stop and step out of the chaos in order to see God's hands in my life. I wonder if we don't need to spend some time as people of God and as a community looking over where we have been and where the holy has emerged in our lives before we charge into the future?

As we begin to come together physically as a community and continue with deep world and society changes, I invite you to take some time this summer and see where you are and where you've been. Jesus often went to quiet places and up mountains with a few trusted people in order to pray and prepare himself for what was next. Join me in taking some time to do that in your life and our community. As hard as the last year has been, I have faith that God has been preparing us for something new, and in order to embrace that resurrection kingdom we need to stop, listen, mourn, and celebrate.

That's what much of our summer at Family of Christ will focus on. We will start in June by looking at how Jesus says with faith we can "Move Mountains", but in order to do so we need to understand who God is and who we truly are. In July we will enter in to our own "Summer of Love" by embracing the call to love God and love one another. Finally, we will end the summer, by looking at the world and others through the lens of God in a worship series called "I See You." This invites us to see others as God has created them and how we come to know God even more in the diversity we experience.

Join us in person or online as we look at ourselves and our community. The journey we have been on and the future we enter into are wrapped in God's loving Grace, but sometimes we need to stop, rest, and see it all. Sit awhile with me and enjoy the blessing.

Peace,

Pastor Brent

Summer Worship Series

This is the Summer of Moving Mountains, Love, and Seeing God in our neighbors.
Join us as we worship at 9:30 on Sundays.

June 6th -27th

He answered. "For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." Matthew 17:20
This is a series about harnessing the power of faith in God...if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you can move mountains. How, as we begin to navigate back into society, can you connect with that power?



July 11th- August 1st

We invite you to be part of a summer of love – no, not the 1960s version! 1 John 4:8 says, *"Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love."* But what does that mean? Through this series, we will look at four different ways we can love God and the people around us by following the example and teaching of Jesus. Embrace your inner Hippie!



August 8th -29th

God creates, knows, loves, and sees all of us in our full humanity. But as people, we can fall into the habit of assuming everyone is the same or everyone is like us. While we share a common humanity, these assumptions can be harmful and prevent us from truly seeing other people and listening to their perspectives. By looking at Biblical stories, this series will help us learn how to listen to, respect, affirm, and act for and with others. In doing so, we can also come to know God even more fully.



Outdoor Worship

During the summer months we will be looking to worship outside several times. We are also looking for people to help us plan a more permanent space near the fire pit for outdoor worship. Please let Pastor Brent know if you'd like to help plan this. Our next outdoor worship will be June 20th weather permitting. In case of inclement weather we will worship inside.

Online worship

Online worship will continue throughout the summer. Please join us starting at 9:45AM on Sundays at www.familyofchrist.com.

Family Nights - *Come to the Table*



We invite the whole community to join us every other Wednesday night this summer as we learn that everyone is welcome at God's table! We will explore five Bible stories in this curriculum: explore stories about Jesus from the Gospels that show him eating with unexpected people, providing food for a crowd, demonstrating humility, and extending welcome and forgiveness. Through worship and drama, Bible study, hospitality-themed art projects, and active games, we are welcomed to taste and share at God's table, where there is always enough! *Come to the Table* invites us to see that God loves and welcomes all people and challenges them to share that same love and hospitality in their everyday lives.

Join us Wednesday June 16th and 30th from 6:00-6:30PM for a meal and 6:30-7:30PM for activities and fun for all ages. Registration will be available soon.

We will need volunteers to help with leading stations, helping with organization and prep, and walking with the groups. Contact Pastor Brent or be on the lookout for opportunities to help.

*This is in lieu of one week of VBS



6th-12th Grade Youth

We invite all those youth who have completed 6th-12th grade to join us this summer for times of fun, fellowship and camp fires.



Wednesday Night Youth Group

Join us Wednesdays from 7:30-8:30PM as we gather together to play some volleyball, have a campfire, and talk a little faith. Some weeks will include special activities like FMSC, Laser Tag, and other service events. We will start June 9th.



Since we were unable to do a longer mission trip this summer, we are looking to plan a youth camping trip in August. We will need lots of help in this wonderful opportunity. Please let us know if you can help us plan this event.

Covid Update

Family of Christ COVID Response

Thank you for faithfully walking through this journey of COVID-19 with us. Thanks to strong leadership from our church council and our Covid Response Team we continue to make the best decisions we can based on the information we have been given and the needs of the community.

In accordance with MN Department of Health and following CDC guidelines, Family of Christ will no longer require vaccinated individuals to wear masks while onsite for worship or other activities. We strongly encourage that those who are unvaccinated continue to wear a mask and we encourage anyone who wishes to continue to wear masks to do so at their discretion.

During worship we will continue to encourage social distancing by limiting the number of chairs in the sanctuary, but pre-registration will no longer be required. All services will continue to be as “touchless” as possible. To minimize touch points we will not be using hymnals, we encourage online giving, and we invite you to take a portable communion kit with you as you enter worship. Please know that online worship will continue in the future.

Here are some key highlights for worship and other church gatherings;

If you or someone from your family does not feel well please stay home.

We continue to encourage social distancing.

Family of Christ will no longer require vaccinated individuals to wear masks while onsite for worship or other activities.

We strongly encourage that those who are unvaccinated continue to wear a mask.

We encourage those that wish to continue to wear masks to do so.

Pre-registration is no longer required for worship.



Altar Flowers

We will once again be doing altar flowers.

Remember a loved one or special occasion
with flowers.

Please see the bulletin board for sign-up schedule
and payment envelopes.

RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE

Tuesday, June 15th

11:30 a.m.—5:30 p.m.



**American
Red Cross**

Donors and volunteers are needed.

Contact Glenda Lind if interested.

**First time donors
Always welcome.**

Invite your friends

Welcoming our New Intern Amy Vigessa

Beginning June 20th we welcome our new intern.

Please join us for outdoor worship as we begin our journey together and bless Amy.



Hi, I'm Amy Vigessa. I grew up in Hastings, MN. I attended college at UW-Eau Claire for my first 2 years then transferred to Wartburg College in Waverly, IA. I am a new student at Luther Seminary in the MDivX Program. Prior to coming to Family of Christ, I worked at Easter Lutheran Church in Eagan, MN, as the Director of Adult Ministry and also as a Worship Leader for the Contemporary Worship Services. I am married to Hans Vigessa, a rostered Deacon in the ELCA, and we have 5 children: 4 boys and 1 girl, ages 10-20. We also have a lovable 90 lb. lap dog named Ollie and an anti-social hedgehog named June. I love music, art and writing. I sing as well as play piano and some guitar. I enjoy being out in nature, hiking or going for walks with our dog. I am so excited to meet all of you and to share in ministry over the next 2 years.

First Communion Class

All youth 1st grade and older are invited to join us June 2nd from 6:00pm-8:00pm for First Communion Class. We ask that a parent or guardian join with in this time of learning and preparing for receiving the gift of Holy Communion.

Please register with Pastor Brent.



First Communion

On June 13th during our 9:30 AM worship, several of our youth will be receiving their First Communion. Come and help us celebrate this important time in our community and the lives of these youth.

THANK YOU from Luther Park Camping and Retreat Center:

Dear Partners in Ministry,

Thank you for your Member Contribution gift of \$1,000, along with the additional gift of \$988 from your "Noisy" offering and your members. Thanks, also, for your ongoing ministry partnership. We could not be more grateful in this year of challenge. Your support will go a long way in sharing God's love and grace with the next generations.

Luther Park is excited to welcome all ages for summer camp on-site or at home, retreats and safe getaways for families and church groups. We hope you consider coming up sometime (in a safe COVID friendly way) and enjoy God's great outdoors. We are ready to host you!

Our prayer for our world is that our pandemic would cease and peace and health will triumph in 2021. Thank you for partnering with Luther Park and supporting Bible camp ministry. You are so valued and appreciated. God bless you.

Sincerely

Joel D. Legred

Executive Director

Mission of the Month
Saint Paul Area Synod “Planting Hope”

The Saint Paul Area Synod has begun a financial campaign to build on the call of the 110 Lutheran congregations of the Twin Cities. This 3 year campaign offers an opportunity to contribute to the collective involvement of 120,000 Lutherans of this synod in four areas. They include:

- Invite** neighbors into life in Christ,
- Renew** the congregations of the synod;
- Raise Up** the next generations of leaders;
- Invest** in a transformation project on the East Side of St. Paul with other community partners.



Outdoor Planning

We need help organizing and planning possible outside projects that will better use our church grounds. We are hoping to create an outdoor space for worship, a playground for youth, and a nature trail. Help us visualize our future. Talk to Pastor Brent or Josi if you want to help.

Handyperson

We are looking for someone to do ongoing repair work and facility upkeep for a few hours a month. If you or anyone you know is interested, please contact the church office.

Worship Volunteers NEEDED:

THANKS to all that have helped with In-person, outdoor worship and online worship. If you would like to help with ushering, reading or other parts of the worship service please contact Linda at the church office.



Family of Christ Staff Ministry Team:

Lead Pastor: Pastor Brent Erler
 Musicians: Mary Wescott, Morgan Jones, Laura Porter-Jones, Rebecca Nystuen, Ann Mikiska
 Administrative Admin: 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

*“FoCus” is a monthly publication of Family of Christ Lutheran Church.
 Please contact the church office to submit items*

Internship Thanks

We have made it a priority as a community to be a teaching congregation. Over the last two years we have continued that journey by hosting Megan Eide as a pastoral intern. Thank you to all of you that were part of that journey. A special Thanks goes to all those that were part of the internship team;

Anne Yolitz- Team Leader

Carla Passon

Terry Lind

Shelli Mann

Nate Carlson

Gretchen Philpot

* Special thanks to Carla Passon and Martha Johnson for organizing Megan's sending celebration



Message from 360 Communities Food Shelf

Community Partners,

Thank you for all your giving during the last few months! Since we've reopened January 19th we have served just over 650 individuals! We have expanded our FS hours to the first and third Saturday of each month from 9-12, Tuesdays from 10-3pm, and Thursdays from 12-6pm. Our first Saturday experience went well and the appointments were full. Families will also have access to our Farmer's Market on those Saturdays during the summer and fall months. Thanks again!

The food shelf could use the following items:

shelf stable milk alternatives, almond or soy milks
canned meats- salmon or spam (not tuna or chicken)
cake and brownie mixes
Tuna Helper
Poptarts
crackers, saltines and/or snack crackers
chocolate chips
spices
BBQ sauce
mustard
hand lotion
laundry detergent

shelf stable juice
frosting
dried beans
granola bars
dried fruit
baking soda
salt/pepper
salad dressings
ketchup
shampoo
body wash
dog/cat food only in small bags or cans

Tanzania Update:



Nicholousy Adilly Simon, FOC's sponsored Tanzanian medical student has completed 8 months of his 12 month internship at the Mbeya Zonal Referral Hospital located in a city in the Southern part of Tanzania. Adilly just finished his rotation in the Emergency Department and has moved to the Psychiatric & Mental Health Department. In December he will take his post internship examination and return to the Ilula Hospital.



JUNE

Schedule at a Glance

- June 2**—*First Communion Class*
- June 6**—*In Person & Online Worship*
- June 9**—*Wednesday Night Youth Group*
- June 13**— *In Person & Online Worship*
First Communion Service
- June 16**—*Family Night, Come to the Table*
Wednesday Night Youth Group
- June 20**— *Outdoor & Online Worship*
Welcome Intern Pastor Amy
- June 23**—*Wednesday Night Youth Group*
- June 27**—*In Person & Online Worship*
- June 30**—*Family Night, Come to the Table*
Wednesday Night Youth Group

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