

***From the Pastor . . .***

# HOPE

*"May the God of Hope fill us with Joy and Peace as we trust in God, so that we may overflow with Hope." Romans 15:3*

Over the last couple months, we have been looking at words that represent our spiritual journey of faith. Based in the promises of God, the teachings of the scriptures, and the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus we come to know foundational words of life like Love, Grace, Joy, Peace, Service, Acceptance, Humility and Trust. Like the fruits of the spirit these core ideas can lead us into a life of faith that makes room for another word we hold on to; Hope.

We live in a world filled with uncertainty and maybe even despair. Whether that is seen in the news, in our families, or even in ourselves hope is that which allows us to see that the seeds of new life are planted all around us. Hope doesn't necessarily promise immediate change, but it does remind us that things will change, and when we add to this a savior who walks into our darkness, even into death itself, to bring us resurrection hope we can begin to see hope as that which we can hold onto no matter what we may face.

I like how Native American Elder and Episcopal Bishop Steven Charleston describes in practical terms how this foundational hope surround us at all times. He says "Hope lets us literally see the presence and action of the holy in our everyday lives. This is not an imaginary desire viewed through rose-colored glasses. It is the solid evidence of the power of love made visible in abundance." Sometimes, in this troubled world of ours, we forget that hope is all around us. We imagine the worst of other people and withdraw into our own shells. But I invite you to try this simple test. The next time you are in a place where there is a crowd, watch the people around you. Within a very short time, you will begin to see love, and you will see it over and over and over. A young parent talking to her child, a couple laughing together as they walk by, someone holding the door for a stranger—there are small signs of hope everywhere. The more you look, the more you will see. We are surrounded by overflowing Hope. As we look into the future of Family of Christ, I invite you to join us as we as a community look at the Hope of God for us and the world we are part of, because we are all in need of God's Hope.

Start by asking yourself these questions. What gives you Hope? And how have you seen hope lately?

Peace,  
Pastor Brent



In a world full of constant change and uncertainty we are a people of hope. Over the next year our emphasis will be living into the Hope God has given us and sharing that Hope with the world around us as we seek to continue to grow in faith in an ever-changing world we realize that we as a community can make an impact in the lives of those we worship with and in the communities around us.

God works through Family of Christ in powerful and amazing ways. Through your gifts and generosity, we have been able to make an impact in ways that we never planned. This last year, especially in the face of a pandemic and social unrest, we have embraced an ever changing world with God's hope. Those highlights include:

- \* Finding ways to worship creatively, including online, outdoor, and safe in person worship.
- \* Growing our youth programs by beginning to recreate our youth space, starting a new high school youth program, and adding a youth, family, and outreach coordinator.
- \* Continuing the growth of the larger church by lifting up one pastoral leader in Megan Eide and beginning the journey with Amy Vigesaa.
- \* Beginning community outreach like the community picnic that have shared God's love with the community.

God has been good to us in these trying times and through your gifts and generosity we are planning for continued impact in the communities we are part of. In mutual trust and working together, the seeds of God's hope will be planted, watered, and become a harvest of abundance that make a difference in our lives and God's world.

The council has identified four areas for new and expanded ministries in 2022, these include Youth and Family ministries, Community Connection, Outreach, and Sustaining Ministry Excellence. Our overall goal is to expand our gifts and offerings by at least \$38,000 or about \$750 per week.

Please pray for Family of Christ's ministries and about your offering intentions for 2022. Then, plan on dedicating your thanks to God via the 2022 Appeal Card.

**Thank you and God bless!**



### **Men's Tuesday Bible Study In Person and Online**

Starting Tuesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> the Men's Tuesday morning Bible study will again meet in person while continuing to reach out to others online. Join us in the conference room next to the office or on Zoom beginning at 6:30 AM. Start your day off right and join us. Contact Pastor Brent or the office for the zoom link.

**Men's Thursdays Bible Study will remain Online at 9:00am**

### **Women's Bible Study**

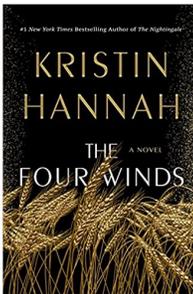
**Monday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00am**

The Women's Bible study will meet monthly at 10am on the first Monday of the month.

The Bible study from the Gather Magazine will be used again this year.

The fall session will study *The Gift of the Spirit*.

**All women are welcome**



**Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**

(note date change due to Thanksgiving)

**The Four Winds**  
by Kristin Hannah



Texas, 1934. Millions are out of work and a drought has broken the Great Plains. Farmers are fighting to keep their land and their livelihoods as the crops are failing, the water is drying up, and dust threatens to bury them all. One of the darkest periods of the Great Depression, the Dust Bowl era, has arrived with a vengeance.

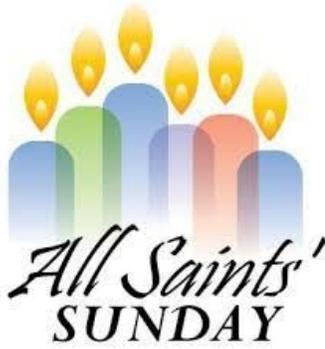
In this uncertain and dangerous time, Elsa Martinelli—like so many of her neighbors—must make an agonizing choice: fight for the land she loves or go west, to California, in search of a better life. *The Four Winds* is an indelible portrait of America and the American Dream, as seen through the eyes of one indomitable woman whose courage and sacrifice will come to define a generation.

**Contact the church office or Sandy Soukup for additional information**

### **Adult Ed Returns**

**November 7th**

Beginning November 7<sup>th</sup> we will again start meeting after worship for conversation, learning, and a chance to grow together in faith. Please join us in the fellowship space near the sanctuary as we come together from 10:30-11:15am



**Dinner and Movie Night  
Friday, November 12th**

Come one, come all to Movie Night at Family of Christ for fellowship and fun. We will be watching a movie (TBD) on Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. Pizza dinner beforehand starting at 6:00...movie will follow at around 6:30. Bring your own chairs, blankets, pillows, comfies, etc. Popcorn will be served as well.

**Serving Overseas**

David Jones, son of Morgan Jones and Laura Porter Jones is serving in Iraq for the next few months. Please lift David and his family up in prayers. He would love cards, Soduko puzzles and amazon packages.

Here is his address:

SPC Jones, David  
1-4 SBCT  
HHC/TF Manchu  
APO AE 09316

**Worship Volunteers NEEDED!**

**Communion Servers  
Greeters**

If you are interested in helping with Communion serving and greeting for our worship services, please contact Linda at [linda@familyofchrist.com](mailto:linda@familyofchrist.com)



Congratulations to the following young people who received their Spark Story Time Bible in October:

- |                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Annie Hellier</b>    | <b>Walter Hellier</b>   |
| <b>Emma Semmler Lee</b> | <b>Ruby Semmler Lee</b> |
| <b>Henry Bock</b>       | <b>Olivia Huus</b>      |
| <b>Huxley Worm</b>      |                         |

May the stories you read bless you and help you grow in your faith.

**Christmas Pageant**  
**Ugly Christmas Sweater**  
**December 19<sup>th</sup> 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. 28:** Practice 10:30-11:30am
- Sunday, Dec. 5:** Practice 10:30-11:30am
- Sunday, Dec. 12:** Practice 10:30-11:30am
- Saturday, Dec. 18:** Dress Rehearsal 9:30 am-11:00am
- Sunday, Dec. 19:** Christmas Pageant 9:30am

**Youth Game Night**  
**Friday, November 12th**

Do you love games and hanging out with friends? Are you a 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grader? If so, then come join the group on Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup> following our movie night (sometime between 8-8:30.) Games are provided: Pit, Exploding Kittens, Taco-Cat-Goat-Cheese-Pizza, One Night Ultimate Werewolf (similar to Mafia, but better!), Grogg and of course Mafia. If it is a warmer night, we can try outside fun too!

Feel free to bring your own favorite games. We will play until 10:30pm.



**Mission Trip**

All youth grades 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> are invited to join us for a mission trip to the Black Hills in June.

Their will be an information meeting at the end of the confirmation class on November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30pm. We would like your youth and an adult to join us for this conversation. We are looking for 3 adults to join us for the trip.

**Youth Room**

After an amazing cleaning event the youth room is well on its way to being ready to better serve our community. Thanks to all who have helped with this process. We are now adding new stuff to the room. We will be looking for volunteers and donations to finish the project.



**Mission of the Month**  
**Lutheran Social Services Refugee Services**

Refugee families are arriving in St. Paul legally after being forced to flee violence and persecution. Once families are here in Minnesota, Lutheran Social Services Refugee Services works to help refugees get established and off to a good start in their new home. LSS works closely with refugees to secure housing, find employment, enroll in English classes, connect to medical care, orient to their new community, and build bridges across cultures. Many of these refugees are being resettled to St. Paul. Join us as we help LSS with our noisy offerings and pack Donation Kits to help our new neighbors.

**See Donation Kit lists on the next page or the insert in your bulletin.**



**Giving Tree is Back**

Throughout the year we are in need of specific items to help the ministry of Family of Christ. Some of these are small and others are big. Please check out the giving tree that will be showing up in November and see how you can support the mission of Family of Christ.



**Tanzania Sunday Thank You**

Thank you to all those who participated in our Tanzania Sunday. Please let us know if you would still like to support our scholarship or microloan program. Special Thanks to all those involved in making it possible

**Family of Christ Staff Ministry Team:**

Lead Pastor:	Pastor Brent Eler
Pastor Intern:	Amy Vigesaa
Children, Family Outreach Coordinator:	Dana Sahlin
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](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.  
 Please contact the church office to submit*



## Refugee Services Donation Kits — Help A Family!

### Cleaning Kit:

Broom/dust pan  
Mop/bucket  
Sponges (2-4)  
Scrub Brushes (1)  
Multi-purpose cleaner (1 bottle)  
Dish Soap (1 large bottle)  
Laundry Soap (1 large bottle)  
Dish Towel and Rag  
Toilet Brush and Plunger  
Multi purpose cleaner

### Toiletry Kit:

**Put items inside a small reusable box or bag:**

1 large bottle shampoo\*  
1 large bottle conditioner\*  
1 large bottle lotion\*  
2 Deodorants (women's or men's)  
1 Bar of Soap \*

*If adult:*

1 large package of feminine pads OR  
1 package of razors and large can shaving cream  
1 regular or children's tube of toothpaste  
Combs

*\*\*Please -- Full-size, not hotel or travel size*

### School Supply Kit:

**Backpack (Place all supplies inside!)**

3 Folders with Pockets  
3 Wide Ruled Notebooks  
#2 Pencils  
1 Eraser  
1 Scissors  
1 Glue Stick  
1 Pencil/Crayon Sharpener (*We always needs lots of these!*)  
1 Box of Crayons  
1 Pencil Bag

### A La Carte Items:

#### Highest priority items

Stew pot / saucepans with lid  
Mop with bucket  
Broom and dust pan  
Garbage can and bags  
Toilet paper  
Electric alarm clock  
Car seats  
Rice Cooker

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#### Other items needed

Frying pan / skillet  
Wok with lid  
Dish soap  
Sponges  
Stovetop teapots  
Toilet brush  
Small wastebaskets  
Bath towels  
Bar Soap – for hands  
Laundry detergent  
Vacuum  
Toys (gender neutral)  
Pressure cooker  
Hand sanitizer  
Face masks

Please email LSS Refugee Services at:  
[refugeeservices@lssmn.org](mailto:refugeeservices@lssmn.org)  
to coordinate drop-offs of your  
Donation Kits at our Minneapolis office  
at 2400 Park Avenue.

**Thank you!**



**November  
Dates to Remember**

- Wed. Nov 3: Confirmation/Youth Gr**
- Sun. Nov 7: All Saints Sunday  
Sunday Worship  
Sunday School**
- Wed. Nov 10: Confirmation/Youth Gr**
- Fri. Nov 12: Movie Night  
Youth Game Night**
- Sun. Nov 14: Sunday Worship  
Sunday School**
- Wed. Nov 17: Confirmation/Youth Gr**
- Sun. Nov 21: Sunday Worship  
Sunday School**
- Wed. Nov 24: NO Confirmation/Youth**
- Sun. Nov 28: Sunday Worship  
Christmas Program Practice**

**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:**

- F Faith**
- A Acceptance**
- M Meaningful relationships**
- I Impact**
- L Love**
- Y Youth**