

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

### **Living In God's Logic**

Since we've started our journey through Brian McLaren's *"We Make the Road By Walking"*, I have had an interesting change in the way I have begun to see things. I don't mean "Minnesota Interesting" which is about questioning how things are; that plaid shirt and striped pant combination is interesting, but one that has me relooking at the motivation behind my faith and way of living.

During the first few weeks we have taken a deep look at the three creation stories, and with them the possible foundations we can build our life on, a new path if you will. The first one put us in the middle of the humble awe and joyful wonder of magnitude of the universe. Next, we saw how this immense God molds and breathes life into each one of us creating us in their image to reflect God's will. Finally, we dwelt in the word, or logic, of God found in the life, teaching, and grace of Jesus, God come to us. All of these stories challenge us to live in a new way as part of God's creative process out of creativity, goodness, and love. So how do we do this in world that draws us to live in a very different way, a way that maybe hasn't worked so well so far?

I have often been intrigued with the story of Abraham and Sarah. These two people of faith who lived with great privilege in a culture that wasn't working for them. They are from a prominent family in the land of Ur in a community that put on a beautiful façade, but showed great division of wealth, power, and control. Its affluence was built on violence, oppression, and exploitation and Abraham and Sarah struggled with their place and purpose in it all. After recognizing that they didn't fit the mold of those around them because they were unable to have a child, God invites them to make a new road by walking away from what they knew, into the promises of hope and grace. God promised that Abraham and Sarah will be blessed and become a new nation, and God promises that through them the whole world will be blessed. So, they choose to step onto this untrodden path.

In this chaotic and often overwhelming world, what would it be like for us to step off the freeway of fear and control into the twisting path of honest, living, and growing faith? Can we like Sara and Abraham trust that we are already blessed just as we are and recognize that our journey of life is to reflect God's image that is already in us and to be a blessing to others? It may seem like an "Interesting" new way to do things, but we have the promises that it will lead us into the life we need to be living.

Peace,  
Pastor Brent

## WE MAKE THE ROAD BY WALKING WORSHIP SERIES

*"To be alive is to imitate God's generous desires... to create, to bless, to help, to serve, to care for, to save, to enjoy... Let us turn toward God, not as rivals who want to play God, but as image bearers who want to imitate and reflect God."*

P. 17, 18 We Make the Road by Walking by Brian McLaren

We are a month in on our new worship series guided by the book We Make the Road by Walking. We are so excited to see many people participating in Learning Circles offered throughout the week.

If you are still interested in participating, you can join at any time. Group times are listed below.

Consider this opportunity to engage in conversation around the readings for the week as we learn from one another and grow in faith.

We are also offering a Zoom link to join Sundays at 10:45am or Tuesdays at 6:30am.

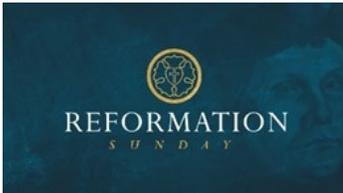
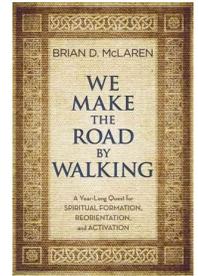
Click on the link in the weekly email or contact the office for the link.

### Learning Circles:

**Sundays 8:15am (in person) & 10:45am (in person & online)**

**Tuesday 6:30am (in person & online)**

**Wednesday 6:30pm (in person)**



## Reformation Sunday/Confirmation Sunday

Join us October 30<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate this important holiday in our Lutheran church. This will also be a day of celebration as several of our youth are blessed in their Confirmation by reaffirming their Baptismal promises.

Worship at 9:30 AM



## Community Meeting

**Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup> after Worship**

The FoC Church Council would like to share updates about important work and invite input into the early stages of the vision-planning process. The goals of Vision Planning is to identify church needs in the short-term, define long-term goals and identify ways for FoC to grow or start new ministries or partnerships. We have been working to collect input from many of you. We are seeking more input while sharing progress that is being made. We need all who are able to attend, as we will also vote on changes to council leadership, which requires congregational attendance.

## Video Production

This ministry continues to come alive, but we need your help. We are still looking for a couple people to help run our system on Sunday mornings (No experience and little skill needed), \$800 to purchase equipment to improve the experience, and an iPad or newer laptop.

Please contact the office if you wish to volunteer or donate.



**Thank you**

A big thank you to Kathy Derner and Vickie Heggen for making a beautiful quilt to give to Trinity Care. The Care Center will auction it off and use the earnings to provide bingo prizes to the residents.

**RED CROSS  
BLOODMOBILE**

**Tuesday, October 11  
11:30am to 5:30 pm**

To donate blood, go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org).  
Contact Glenda Lind at 952-239-1420 for more information.



**Socktoberfest**

Join us on Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at Christ Church in Apple Valley (12925 Johnny Cake Ridge Rd) from 11am-2pm for fun while supporting The Drawer and their mission to provide warmth and dignity to those in need by providing new socks and underwear to over 20 local partnerships.

There will be live music, food, silent auction, and games. This year there will be a **BOUNCY HOUSE**, a visit from a school bus, firetruck, and police car! AND Raising Canes is sponsoring the event by providing **FREE** kids meal vouchers to the first 500 kids that attend! Not to mention all of the brand-new stuffed animal prizes you can win courtesy of Animal Adventure in St. Paul! If you can help by volunteering, see our Facebook page for the link .



Bring a pack of socks or underwear for two free tickets!  
Brat and Hot Dog Lunch will be sold as well! See you there!

**Congregational Outreach Event**

Come join us on Sunday, October 30th (after worship) to decorate and fill Halloween treat bags for Trinity Care Residents. All ages are welcome to this outreach event. To help fill the bags, we are collecting bags of candy (no nuts) and small bags of chips.  
**Please bring in donations by Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>.**



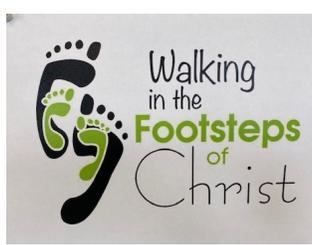
**Interested in Membership at Family of Christ?**

Family of Christ is a very active church with lots of opportunities for all age groups, ranging from toddlers to senior citizens. Membership is not a requirement for involvement, but membership will enhance your experiences here. We are a member-driven congregation where new ideas from members often generate new ministries and opportunities for growth and service.

**Join us for an Information Class on Sunday, October 23rd for additional information.**  
Contact the office at [office@familyofchrist.com](mailto:office@familyofchrist.com) or (952) 435-5757.

## FALL PROGRAMMING:

It has been a fabulous start to the new year with the kickoff of Fall Programming at FOC. We started with a Blessing of the Backpacks where students were blessed and given a laminated prayer tag to keep in their backpack. You could feel the energy on Rally Sunday as the young ones were able to see their classrooms, meet teachers and do an activity. The following Sunday we gave out bibles and blessed our volunteer teachers. **Such a wonderful start to fall!**



## SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Join us Sundays as we continue another great year of Sunday School. We leave worship during the last song. We meet in the “choir room” for a little bit of singing, then break into classes to learn about God’s love for us all. There are 3 classes: PREK, K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade, and 3-5<sup>th</sup> grade.

Children are still able to register online. Classes are from 10:30-11:30.

Sunday School Schedule:

Oct. 2: Adam and Eve

Oct. 9: Noah’s Ark

Oct. 16: Call of Abram

Oct. 23: NO Sunday School

Oct. 30: Outreach Event: Trinity Halloween Bags



## Children in Worship: Pray Ground and Family Lounge

At Family of Christ, as Jesus did, we welcome children of all ages as integral members of the body of Christ. We hope to create a space where littles can quietly engage in worship through play, while others can continue their own faith journeys. At the entrance to the worship space, kids of all ages can pick up activity bags from the ushers. There is a “Pray Ground” located in the front right of the worship space for those 4 and under, supervised by their families, to play quietly. There is also a “Family Lounge”, former cry room, available for kids that have more wiggles or need to be loud. We ask that an adult be with their child at all times.

**Let’s help one another worship fully.**

## How can you help welcome families with young children to worship?

- Greet and learn the names of the young children who sit near you in worship
- Offering to read or color with one child during worship, especially if another child in the family is fussy or upset
- Helping preschoolers and elementary-aged kids to navigate the liturgy, locate the hymns, etc. (Children learn to worship by participating!)
- Inviting kids to serve alongside you in worship, as greeters, ushers, etc.



**Wednesday Night Programming**  
**6:00 Pizza Dinner**  
**6:20-7:40 Confirmation**  
**7:40-8:40 Youth Group**

**October Schedule:**

Oct. 5: Dinner, Confirmation, Youth Group  
 Oct. 12: Dinner, Confirmation, Youth Group  
 Oct. 19: No Programming  
 Oct. 26: Dinner, Confirmation, Youth Group

**Confirmation – “Here we Stand”**

All 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to join us for Confirmation and a time to learn more about their faith and daily life. This is a chance to continue to develop faith foundations in a safe environment where our youth can bring their questions, doubts and real selves.

This year’s classes will run from 6:20pm-7:40pm.

Register online or fill out a hard copy (located in the Narthex)



**KEEP CALM AND GO TO YOUTH GROUP**

**Youth Group**

All 9-12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited for a time of fun, discovery and faith. Each week we will play some games, get to know ourselves, God and how we are part of a community. This is a chance to get real and find hope in a world that often tries to push us where we don’t want to go.

Youth Group meets Wednesdays from 7:40pm-8:40pm

**Fall Retreat**

All youth in 6<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> grades are invited to join us Oct. 28-29<sup>th</sup> for some time to have fun, build friendships and grow in faith. We will meet at church at 4:30pm on Friday, Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>, drive over to Spring Lake Lodge in Rosemount and return to church at 9:00pm on Saturday, Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>. Registration is online. Cost is \$25.



**Youth Room Renovation**

As we continue our project, be on the lookout for ways you can help. We are looking for people to help paint and hang shelving on the sheet rock, stretch fabric on panels, hang and wire lights, and other small projects. Contact Pastor Brent or Dana if you can help.

**Bible Sunday:**

Congratulations to the following young people who received either a Spark Storytime Bible or a Confirmation Bible:

- |                        |                           |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Locke Bouley</b>    | <b>Beckam Bryant</b>      |
| <b>Liam Bryant</b>     | <b>Teddy Carlson</b>      |
| <b>Alex Lulloff</b>    | <b>Ellia Strenge</b>      |
| <b>Bea Strenge</b>     | <b>Reese Christiansen</b> |
| <b>Jack Groeller</b>   | <b>Maddie Lulloff</b>     |
| <b>Erik Van Minsel</b> | <b>Hadley Worm</b>        |



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



## **Mission of the Month Tanzania Ministries**

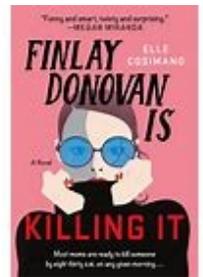
Bega Kwa Bega is the phrase we use to describe our companion synod relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. In English, the phrase means ‘shoulder to shoulder’ and describes the way in which we accompany one another in a spirit of mutuality, inclusivity, and vulnerability. Through the work of this partnership and the leading of God’s Holy Spirit, we envision deeper faith and fuller life, accompanying one another as participants in God’s ongoing mission in both America and Tanzania. Our partnership supports the Illula congregation, secondary school students, medical school scholarship and Iringa Hope micro financing.

**Thursday, October 27, 2022 at 7pm**

*Finlay Donovan Is Killing It* by Elle Cosimano



Fast-paced, deliciously witty, and wholeheartedly authentic in depicting the frustrations and triumphs of motherhood in all its messiness, hilarity, and heartfelt moment, *Finlay Donovan Is Killing It* is the first in a brilliant new series from YA Edgar Award nominee Elle Cosimano.



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

### **Women’s Bible Study**

Women’s Bible Study will meet on Monday, October 3rd at 10:00 a.m. at the church.

We will again use the Gather Magazine Bible Study.

The fall sessions are entitled Jesus and Nature: Teachers of Faith.

**All women are welcome! Invite a friend.**

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

#### **Family of Christ Staff Ministry Team:**

Lead Pastor:	Pastor Brent Erler
Pastor Intern:	Amy Vigesaa
Children, Family and Outreach Coordinator:	Dana Sahlin
Musicians:	Mary Wescott, Morgan Jones, Laura Porter-Jones, Rebecca Nystuen, Ann Mikiska, Solveig Englund
Church Administrator:	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

**Come join the celebration & learn more about Family of Christ's Tanzania Ministries including: Secondary Student Scholarships, Medical Scholarship & Iringa Hope Usokami Microfinance**



**Photo** of Usokami scholarship students performing during a meeting with the Bega Kwa Bega program coordinators, Ryan & Astine Bose.

On **Tanzania Sunday, October 9th**, the Tanzania Outreach Group will provide more information concerning sponsorship of Tanzania secondary students, Tanzania Medical Scholarship opportunities and the Iringa Hope Usokami micro-finance project.

Since 2004, FOC members and friends have sponsored 375 Usokami Tanzania Secondary Students. In 2022 there are a total of (15) secondary school age students, including (6) boys and (9) girls who are supported by Family of Christ. Providing scholarship support for these students is a great investment toward a brighter future for them, their community, Tanzania, and Africa. The cost for one secondary scholarship is again \$400 which covers the cost of room, board and education for an entire year. If a full year's scholarship does not work for you, a semester scholarship is \$200. All donations are welcome. Scholarships are **due by October 30**.

Nicholousy (Adili) Saimon has returned to the Ilula Hospital as a Medical Officer. He is also teaching Clinical Officers (Physician Assistants) at Ilula Institute College (within the Hospital). Family of Christ picked up the medical scholarship of Hance Philipo Kikoti in December of 2021. This scholarship covered his clinical medical training from 2019-2022. Upon completion of this training, Hance will be returning to the Ilula Hospital. Hance's father is the Ilula Hospital chaplain and part of the palliative care team. The Tanzania Medical Scholarship team is working with the Ilula Hospital to determine its next greatest need for medical training. To help support the medical scholarships, a craft sale will be held after church on Tanzania Sunday. Stop by and purchase some of our unique, one-of-a-kind craft items. The Medical Scholarship team will also participate in the Harvest Market Craft Sale, Farmington Lutheran, Saturday November 5, 9A-2:30 P and the Eden Prairie Lioness Art & Craft Fair event on Saturday, December 3, 9A-4P at Grace Church in Eden Prairie.

The newest to FOC's Tanzania ministries is a project to raise funds for Usokami Microfinance through Iringa Hope. An affiliate of Bega Kwa Bega, **Iringa Hope (Micro-Finance, Economic Development, Agriculture)**, is dedicated to raising the standard of living in rural Tanzania. Iringa Hope works through the Micro-Finance Institute at the University of Iringa to loan small amounts of money to farmers and shopkeepers. To date Usokami has a total of 40 SACCOS members (Savings and Credit Co-Operative Society are democratic, member driven organizations which provide loan and saving products to their members).

**Please join us on October 9.**



### ***Dates to Remember***

**Sun. Oct 2: Sunday Worship w/Sunday School**

**Wed. Oct 5: Confirmation/Youth Group**

**Sun. Oct 9: Sunday Worship w/Sunday School  
Tanzania Sunday**

**Wed. Oct 12: Confirmation/Youth Group**

**Sun. Oct 16: Sunday Worship w/Sunday School  
Community Meeting**

**Wed. Oct 19: No Confirmation/Youth Group  
MEA Break**

**Sun. Oct 23: Sunday Worship  
No Sunday School**

**Wed. Oct 26: Confirmation/Youth Group**

**Fri. Oct 28—Sat. Oct 29 Fall Retreat**

**Sun. Oct 30: Sunday Worship/Confirmation Sun.  
Community Outreach—TCC bags**

### **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**

**Meaningful relationships**

**Impact**

**Love**

**Youth**