



**foCus**  
**March 2023**



10970 185th Street West ♦ Lakeville MN 55044 ♦ 952-435-5757 ♦ [www.familyofchrist.com](http://www.familyofchrist.com)

## From the Pastor . . .

### **The Sermon Teaching on the Mount**

Who are some of your favorite teachers? There were many people who have helped me become who I am today, but none as memorable as Ms. Meyer. I ran across her first when I was in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and was blessed by her teaching even more when I was in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Although I absorbed all sorts of new information from her instruction of reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic, I never quite got the essentials of spelling. Ms. Meyer's educating was more than simply mastering the basics, because what made her a great teacher for me was that she took the time to understand who I was and helped me to begin the journey to who God had created me to be. It was about accompanying me and using the foundations of life and learning to live. We need these people and their foundational teachings in our lives.

This Lent we will be taking a deeper look at a teaching that is one of the core foundations of what it means to live in a community of faith, Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount". Although we call it a sermon, this important part of the Gospel of Matthew is more about what it means to live the life God calls us to live. This longest teaching of Jesus prepares them to live in this new kingdom of God. It includes many well-known scriptures, including the Beatitudes (5:3-12); the Lord's Prayer (6:9-13); and the Golden Rule (7:12). For the next five weeks, as we journey towards Jerusalem, the cross, and eventually an empty tomb, we will engage the whole of these core foundations, but not in the traditional way we usually learn.

One of the important things for us to remember is not just the teaching itself, but who the teaching is for. Before Jesus took the great crowd up to the side of the mountain, He truly knew them. He helped those that were sick and broken, He sat down in synagogues and markets and listened, and He walked along side the twelve as they began their journey with Him getting to know their deepest needs and desires. So when He began to teach, He did so addressing their greatest struggles and knowing their true gifts with the goal of bringing them the life they truly wanted and more importantly needed. It wasn't simply a goal to be reached, but a way of living in God's grace, love, and community which is "The Kingdom of God".

That's how we should continue to look at this timeless teaching today. God doesn't simply give us a set of instructions to complete and then we become "Good" people or part of some holy family. Instead Jesus, God who knows us personally and intimately, helps us as a community and as individuals, to become who we really are at our core. And instead of after a life long journey to achieve mastery of these concepts in order to be rewarded, this greatest of faith teachings start with us exactly where we are today, calling us blessed and beloved.

We are a blessed and beloved people, loved and forgiven by God, and we have been given another gift. A way to begin to live in that love and grace that creates a kingdom where all people are part of God's community. Join us for these faith and living lessons.

Peace,

Pastor Brent

# RETHINK

## ReThink: A Lenten Journey through the Sermon on the Mount

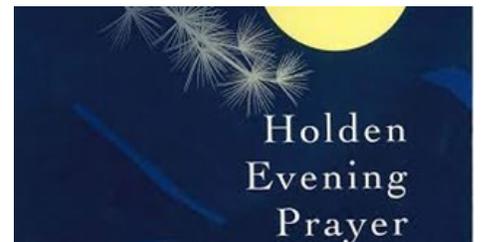
The Sermon on the Mount is arguably the greatest teaching the world has ever known, but what does it say and how does following it change our lives and the world. Join us each Sunday in Lent as we look at another important portion of this foundational instruction for our community. These teachings may lead us to the life we've truly been looking for.



### A Look at the Beatitudes

Join us **Wednesdays during Lent** from 6:40-7:15pm as we take a deeper look at who Jesus says is blessed. We will also use the Holden Evening Prayer as our worship format. This is appropriate for all ages.

Join us Wednesday Nights during Lent as we worship together using the Holden Evening Prayer. This is great chance to worship as a family as we walk towards Easter.



### Lent Suppers Return

We have began the community meal of soup and sandwiches Wednesdays during Lent. Come and bring you family from 6:00-6:30pm as we gather before worship.

We need help with food for the Lent Soup Suppers! Please sign up to bring soup, sandwiches, dessert, or other items on the clipboard in the Narthex or online.

Food needs to be here by 5:45pm  
All are welcome to sign up.



## COFFEETALK



### WITH PASTOR BRENT

Join Pastor Brent every Thursday between 12:00-1:30 for conversation at Caribou across from the church. Stop by for a moment or stay for some deep conversation. This is a chance to discuss profound theological conversations or to talk about the weather. Bring your questions, concerns, or just come to hang out.

## ACTORS NEEDED

We are looking for people to help do some dramatic reading during our Holy Week Worship.

The commitment would be to get very familiar with the script and come in for at least one rehearsal.

Please contact Pastor Brent if you are interested.

### Family of Christ's Chili Cook-Off RESCHEDULED

Do you have the greatest chili recipe EVER?? Think your Chili is better than everyone else? Just love to eat? Sunday, March 19 will be a day NOT to miss. Right after worship, you are invited to stay for the Chili Cook-Off to benefit The Drawer. The competition will be HOT as we look to crown our next Chili Champion of Family of Christ. Those who enter their chili recipe will receive instructions prior to the date.

Special Cornbread competition.

All others can participate by buying a ticket.



### Women's Bible Study

March Bible Study cancelled.

Watch for information for the April Bible Study



**Book Club**  
Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 7pm

For additional information contact Sandy Soukup or the church office.



## Mission of the Month The Drawer

“THE DRAWER” collects and distributes NEW socks and underwear to men, women and children.

This local nonprofit organization is a grass roots ministry that began 8 years ago. It receives donations from community members, local businesses, nonprofits and faith-based organizations.

Besides monetary donations, we will be collecting new socks and underwear all month,

**See additional opportunities to participate below:**



### Undie Sunday March 26th

We will end our socks and underwear collection for our Mission of the Month by holding an Undie Sunday on March 26<sup>th</sup>, where we will be bringing up our donations to the altar. We will also be having Sundaes after worship.



### Bundling Session April 2<sup>nd</sup> after worship

After we have collected new socks and underwear all month, we will have a bundling session for The Drawer. We will put together 100's of bundles of new socks and underwear that will go to community groups to distribute. As Max was quoted last year after the event, “I wish we could do this every day!” We also agree with The Drawer’s motto, “Providing Warmth and Dignity,” so we hope to see lots of our members there to help out.

**HELLO  
MY NAME IS**

New Nametags  
Are Here!

### NEW NAMETAGS

In an attempt to get to know one another better and to welcome visitors we ask that all of us make a more permanent name tag. There will be a table in the narthex to create your nametag and Lanyards with our special FOC logo. We will then have a place to pick up your nametag each week.

## Youth Schedule:



Beginning March 1<sup>st</sup>, Confirmation class will start with worship at 6:40 and continue with class from 7:15-8:15, and then youth group or a mission trip gathering from 8:15-9:15.

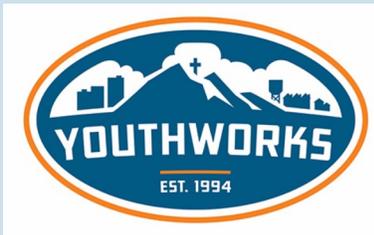
**March 1:** Dinner: 6:00 Lent Service 6:40-7:15 Confirmation 7:15-8:15 YG- 8:15-9:15

**March 8:** Dinner: 6:00 Lent Service 6:40-7:15 Confirmation 7:15-8:15 **Mission Trip-** 8:15-9:15

**March 15:** Dinner: 6:00 Lent Service 6:40-7:15 Confirmation 7:15-8:15 YG- 8:15-9:15

**March 22:** Dinner: 6:00 Lent Service 6:40-7:15 and Confirmation 7:15-8:15 **Mission Trip-** 8:15-9:15

**March 29:** Dinner: 6:00 Lent Service 6:40-7:15 and Confirmation 7:15-8:15 YG- 8:15-9:15



### Mission Trip Updates

If you haven't officially registered for our trip to Indianapolis, please find the link (sent in an email) and fill out the form. Our next fundraising opportunity is on **Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at Cub Foods** on Kenwood Trail in Lakeville. See sign-up genius to select a shift.

Upcoming Mission Trip Youth Gatherings: Calling all mission trip attendees. We will gather in the youth room after confirmation class to talk about the trip, learn about what it means to serve, and get to know one another.

**Wed. March 8<sup>th</sup>: 8:15-9:15**  
**Wed. March 22<sup>nd</sup>: 8:15-9:15**



### Luther Park Camping Opportunities 2023

Attention Family of Christ youth, parents, adults and grandparents! Leah McDougall, the Executive Director of Luther Park will be visiting our church and speaking to us about all that Luther Park Camping & Retreat Center has to offer. Watch for more information on the date.

We have a designated week at Luther Park for FOC youth to sign up and attend camp with church friends. But know that you can sign up for any week that works for you. All those attending for a week receive a \$150 scholarship thanks to a memorial fund. They also offer family weekend getaways. See the website for details and to register for camp.

[www.luthercamp.com](http://www.luthercamp.com)

July 23-26, 2023: Half week for 1-4<sup>th</sup> graders

July 23-28, 2023: Full week for 3-6<sup>th</sup> graders

July 23-28, 2023: Full week for 7-12<sup>th</sup> graders in the Treehouse



### Sunday School Schedule:

March 5: Sunday School – Teaches about Anger

March 12: Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser

March 19: Sunday School- Lord's Prayer

March 26: Sunday School- House on the Rock

April 2: Community Bundling Sessions- all ages

## Dinner and Game/Movie Night Success

We had a fun night of food and fellowship!  
It felt like a night of what “doing church together” can feel like.  
Thank you to those who participated and helped out!



## Women's Ministry

Ladies Bunco Night was a Big Hit!  
Hoping to do it again before summer begins

Watch for more information on this and other Women's Ministry Events



## Community Food Shelf Needs

The food shelf continues to be very busy. Our schedules are full most days. With the rising needs and the rising costs, we truly appreciate your partnerships. The list below contains our most needed items for March...

### Food Items

1. Peanut butter
2. Canned meats - i.e. chicken, SPAM
3. Ready made soups - Progresso
4. White rice
5. Ramen - esp. Beef & flavors other than chicken
6. Canned vegetables - especially mixed vegetables
7. Canned fruits - especially pineapple
8. Mac-n-cheese
9. Pasta
10. Coffee/tea/shelf stable juice

### Non-food Items Needed

1. Shampoo/Conditioner
2. Laundry detergent
3. Body Wash
4. Body Lotion
5. Tooth paste/tooth brushes



We always are in need of Brown paper bags and/or reusable bags.

Thanks for your continued support. Together we are serving the needs of our community.



## Worship Volunteers needed!

Sign up online or by scanning the QR Code



### Family of Christ Mugs

Celebrate Family of Christ by purchasing a 20 oz tumbler.

Mugs are \$20 and available in the church entry or office.

***"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
Office Administrator:	Linda Bauer
Pastor Intern:	Amy Vigesaa
Children, Family and Outreach Coordinator:	Dana Sahlin
Musicians:	Mary Wescott, Morgan Jones, Laura Porter-Jones, Solveig Englund, 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



## Dates to Remember

Sun. Mar 5: Worship

Wed. March 8 Lent Soup Supper  
Holden Evening Worship  
Confirmation/Youth Grp

Sun. Mar 12: Worship  
Chili Cook-off

Wed. March 15 Lent Soup Supper  
Holden Evening Worship  
Confirmation/Youth Grp

Sun. Mar 19: Worship

Wed. March 22 Lent Soup Supper  
Holden Evening Worship  
Confirmation/Youth Grp

Sun. Mar 26: Worship  
Undie Sunday

Wed. March 29 Lent Soup Supper  
Holden Evening Worship  
Confirmation/Youth Grp

## 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:

Faith

Acceptance

Meaningful relationships

Impact

Love

Youth

