



# September Newsletter 2024

“Inviting ALL to Live the Gospel through Faith, Love, and Compassion”

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

## Message from Pastor

This summer I did something I haven't done for a while, Nothing. I mean I did do what I was supposed to at church and around the house, but I didn't pack it with trips, adventures, and the normal ferocity I usually consume

the three months of warm we get in Minnesota. Instead, I just simply was. Instead of planning grand adventures with friends and family I simply made time and just sat with them without any agenda. Instead of consuming five national parks and traveling thousands of miles, I drove two hours north and sat in a small shack of a cabin. Instead of searching for the perfect swimming spot, I just went and sat at my local beach with a friend. In fact, one of the best part of my summers was going to a brainless movie and going to sit on a deck with two of my friends last Tuesday. Though I can't say I have checked anything off my bucket list, I have simply made deeper connections with those around me, and I have never been more content. I don't think I will have the regrets I sometimes do as summer comes to an end because of things not done or experienced, because I focused on connection.

Dr Vivek Murthy, Surgeon General of the United States, says that “loneliness and isolation represent profound threats to our health and well-being.” This reality reflects what our faith already teaches us: God created us for connection and community.

As we get ready to start church programming this Fall, I invite you to join us as we examine how connected we are meant to be as individuals, community, and world. We will look at our relationships with God, one another, the community around us, and the larger Christian community. Drawing on the experiences of the early church in scripture, join us as we relearn how God leads us into lives of meaningful relationship with God and one another.

Peace,

Pastor Brent



## Growing Through Loss Sept 12- Oct 10

The Twin Cities' South Suburban Grief Support Coalition is sponsoring a 6 week series providing an opportunity for individuals to obtain information and support for a variety of loss and grief issues.

This time will include;

- Support for adults who have experienced a loss
- Information about the grieving process
- Care and support from others who are also grieving
- Share memories and feelings in a confidential setting
- One-on-one support

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



### Leadership Help Needed

As we grow into the future as a Family of Christ, we are looking for individuals to serve on our leadership team (Council). If you have experience leading groups with a common mission and a love for God's community we need you. We are particularly looking for people with experience in finance, facilities, and organization.

Contact Pastor Brent or David Peterson for more information.

### Tanzania Visit

On October 30<sup>th</sup> we will be sending 3 members of FOC to visit our partners in Tanzania.

Ann Mikiska, Tami Maddio, and Pastor Brent will visit our partner congregation in Usokami, Illulu hospital and the schools our sponsored youth attend.

Look out for opportunities to support this journey in the next couple months.

### Adult Confirmation

Confirmation is a traditional rite of passage in the Lutheran church.

When a person is in early High School they affirm their faith but for most of us that was a long time ago. This year our adult ed classes will take the opportunity to engage with our Lutheran foundations and beliefs in a deeper way. And for those who didn't grow up in the Lutheran tradition this is a chance to go deeper in our understanding and faith.

Sundays starting Sept 15<sup>th</sup> @ 10:45-11:30am



### Love Thy Neighbor

What a success our first "Love Thy Neighbor" was! Eighteen individuals came to help spruce up an elderly gentlemen's yard and home as he has recently moved to an assisted living home and now needs to put his house on the market.

What a gift this was to him. Thanks to all who volunteered your time. Please help keep your eyes and ears open to others in our community that may need a few extra sets of hands.

Reach out to Dana if you know of a recipient in need.





## Vacation Bible School:

What a blast our youth had at Camp Firelight VBS. They learned to always Trust in the Lord. Crafts were made, songs were sung, games were played, and fun was had by all. Thanks to the many volunteers who helped make these special nights happen.



## Community Picnic and Celebration:

Thanks to everyone who came and to those who helped make this night such a success! There are too many to list- but THANK YOU! It was wonderful to see so many church members enjoy time together. Special congratulations to Max Klimpke and Aiden Sahlin on winning the annual water balloon contest!





**Children and Youth Education Parent Meeting:** August 25<sup>th</sup> after worship  
Calling all parents of young children...we will be having a short meeting to discuss our upcoming year. We would love input regarding what works and what we can do better. In addition, we need volunteers to help with our Sunday School program. Come be a part of the conversation!



### Sunday School

Sunday School will kick off another amazing year on September 8<sup>th</sup> following worship with an Open House where our youth will see their classrooms and meet their teachers.

Sunday School is for 3-year-olds - 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

Register online or fill out a hard copy. Suggested fee per child is \$30.

Any questions, reach out to [dana@familyofchrist.com](mailto:dana@familyofchrist.com)



### Rally Sunday: September 8th

Join us September 8<sup>th</sup> as we kick off the fall with Volunteer Opportunities.

Sunday School Open House and Treats.

We will be highlighting and sharing areas within the church where we are looking for volunteers to help support and grow our church programming and community. This is an intergenerational activity so come be a part of this event.

All are welcome!



### Bible Sunday: September 15<sup>th</sup>

Join us during worship on September 15<sup>th</sup> as our new confirmation students receive their new NRSV Bible and our new Sunday School students receive their Spark Children's Bible.



Along with Rally Sunday we will be Blessing the Backpacks on Sunday, September 8th.

Bring your backpack to receive a blessing during the service.

### First Communion

On Saturday, September 28th from 9:00am-12:00pm we will have a first communion class for those 1st grade and older, or those whose parents feel their child is ready. This is a time for both the youth and their parents. First communion will take place on Sunday, September 29th. Please contact Pastor Brent if you are interested in being part of this group.





### Wednesday Night Schedule: Beginning Sept. 18th

- 6:00pm: Pizza Dinner
- 6:20 - 7:40pm: Confirmation
- 7:40 - 8:40pm: Youth Group



### Confirmation

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 connect with others.

Confirmation meets Wednesday nights from 6:20-7:40pm starting September 18<sup>th</sup>.

Register online or fill out a hard copy. The suggested fee is \$50.

### 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 and 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 will meet Wednesdays from 7:40-8:40pm starting September 18th.



### Programming Volunteers

Family of Christ needs volunteers to help us create a great year of youth programming. We are especially looking for adults who do NOT have children in our programming, as well as parents of our youth. Here is what we are hoping for:

- 2 adults to help assist with Youth Group (9-12<sup>th</sup> grade) on Wednesday nights.
- 3-4 adults to help Pastor Brent with 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Confirmation
- 10 Sunday School Teachers and Assistants

Thank you for considering this! Email: [Dana@familyofchrist.com](mailto:Dana@familyofchrist.com)

### Summer Camp

Family of Christ sent 12 youth to Luther Park Bible Camp this summer. Not only did they grow in their faith but they had a lot of fun singing, swimming, playing games and enjoying campfires.

Thanks for supporting and praying for our youth.

Maddie Bergquist, Nicole, Tanner, and Max Klimpke,  
Calvin VanMinsel, Betty and Annie Hellier,  
Gwen Basballe, Aiden Sahlin, plus 3 friends!



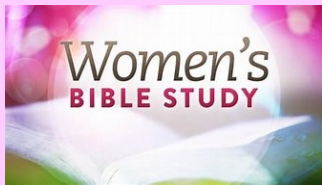


### September Mission of the Month Foster Together/Abundant Goods

Foster Together is a non-profit that exists to walk alongside foster, kinship, and adoptive families with the mission to reduce stress and prevent burnout by providing relational and tangible support. They partner with the community to create opportunities to *come alongside* parents so that foster families can focus on providing the best care for all the children in their home.

To learn more or to help please visit their website at <https://www.fostertogethermn.org/>

**Abundant Goods is collecting new winter gear in September and October.**  
Watch for donation boxes and more information



The FOC Women's Bible Study will meet **Monday, Sept. 9th at 10:00am.**

Our fall Bible Study will be from *Ephesians, Receiving Grace*, by Heidi Haverkamp. Session 1 is entitled: Is Grace Real?

We will continue monthly meetings at 10:00am on the first Monday of the month at Family of Christ.



The Church Office is open  
Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays  
8:30am to 3:00pm.



If you are looking for additional information  
be sure to check out the Church calendar  
on our website.



### Family of Christ Blood Drive Milestone:

Congratulations to Family of Christ and our bi-monthly blood drives with The Red Cross. We were recognized recently by the Red Cross as a Premier Blood Donor Partner. In 2023, 477 units of blood were collected. A special pin and certificate were received and are on display in the hallway.

Congratulations to all who volunteer for the blood drive and for those who donate.

**"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  
Church Administrator: Linda Bauer  
Children, Family and Outreach Coordinator: Dana Sahlin  
Musicians: Mary Wescott  
Ann Mikiska  
Solveig Englund  
Kim & Steve Wolff  
Custodian: Kelly Kritsberg

**Family of Christ Lutheran Church**  
is a member of the **ELCA**

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## 2024 Niagara Falls Mission Trip

On July 12th, twelve youth and four adults set out on a mission trip to Youthworks in Niagara Falls, NY. It was a wonderful week! Each crew was assigned different service opportunities each day. Some of the service assignments were helping at a men's homeless shelter, distributing meals to low-income apartments, working with school-aged kids at their summer program through the Salvation Army, organizing and stocking at food shelves, working at individual homes for people in need, volunteering at the arts center and more. So many ways God's love was shared. Our Youth made a difference, formed new relationships, and had fun all the while. We would not have been able to complete this journey without all of you! Thank you to all who helped us fundraise, prayed for, and supported the trip. Special shout out to Ryan Basballe, Nick Hendrickson, Suzie Bergquist, and Dana Sahlin who helped lead. Peace and Blessings from The Niagara Falls, NY Mission Team



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## Youth Cabin Trip

Seventeen of our youth had yet another wonderful time up at the cabin on Miller Lake! It was an amazing chance to swim in the lake, fish, jump off the pontoon, play games, get to know one another and grow in our faith. Thanks to the Flegels for once again opening up their cabin to the youth group.





### Dates to Remember

Sun. Aug 25: Sunday School Parent Mtg

Wed. Aug 28: EPIC Youth Night

Sun. Sept 8: Blessing of the Backpacks  
Rally Sunday  
Sunday School Open House

Wed. Sept 11: Youth & Adult Volunteer Training

Sun. Sept 15: Youth Sunday  
Bible Sunday  
First Sunday School Class

Wed. Sept 18: Confirmation/Youth Group Starts

Sat. Sept 28: First Communion Class

Sun. Sept 29: First Communion during service

Fri. Oct 4 - Sun. Oct 6: Youth Retreat

Sun. Oct. 6: Tanzania Sunday

### **Vision Statement**

*Family of Christ invites ALL to Live the  
Gospel through Faith, Love, and  
Compassion*



### **Our Core Values F-A-M-I-L-Y:**

**Fait**

**Acc**

**Meaningful relationships**

**In**

**Love**

**Youth**