



# January Newsletter 2025

**“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 Dave, Council President

As we look ahead to the coming year, we have much to be thankful for.

In 2024, like many other years, our community came together in various ways living out Gods word through worship, service, in celebration and through supporting others - both locally and across the globe.

We served 34 families in our first year with Foster Together / Abundant Goods, our youth served the community in Niagara Falls for their summer Mission Trip, more than 50 kids attended youth programs, we welcomed 14 new members and celebrated 7 baptisms in 2024. Our community came together to freshen up our building, which continues to be a blessing for our community as home to the Montessori school, hosting blood drives, AA groups and in many other ways.

Our congregation continues to bless Family of Christ financially, participating in social events, and through volunteering. Over the past 5 years, Family of Christ has been able to operate within our means, managing expenses appropriately to build up our reserves and building funds to over \$110k, and this year we are on track for a budget surplus of \$10k thanks to the generosity of our congregation and effective management of expenses.

The financial blessings we have provide us with the opportunity to further support our Family of Christ staff and grow stronger connections with both our congregation and the broader community at large in 2025. In Mathew 25:14-30 the Parable of the Talents, Jesus teaches us that the gifts we are given should be used responsibly to grow God's Kingdom and not to hide our gifts where they cannot bear fruit.

With all that we have accomplished over the past years, there are many things left undone. Since the end of the Pastoral Intern program in 2023, we have felt the impact of losing that valuable resource. We have not been able to accomplish all that we set out to do in the community with outreach, deepening congregational connections and increasing our social presence to invite and welcome others to Family of Christ.

In our upcoming annual meeting, the council will bring forward a budget that includes a new part-time Project Manager position. This position will lead both day-to-day and longer-term projects to build congregational connections, establish volunteer teams, small groups and lead the update of our website and social presence to invite others to Family of Christ. This role will allow Pastor Brent to devote more time to ministry as we welcome more into our community.

With this position, we expect our 2025 operating budget to show a \$20k deficit. There is a clear path to funding this position by applying the \$10k surplus from 2024 and another \$10k from our reserves account. We believe that God has provided us with the gift to invest in growth and that the addition of this role will pay dividends back to our community in many ways - inviting and welcoming more from our community into Family of Christ.

I pray that you will support the 2025 budget and addition of this position. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or attend our budget meeting on January 19th following Sunday service.

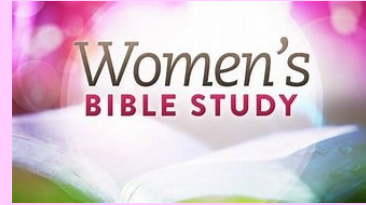
Thank You,

David Peterson  
Church Council President

### Men's Breakfast

**Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am-9:30am**

Join us for a time of egg bakes, baked goods, and good conversation as we spend some time looking at building our Men's ministries and gather to discuss some community projects. **All are Welcome, come and bring a friend.**



The FOC Women's Bible Study will meet **Monday, Jan. 6th at 10:00am** at Family of Christ. We will be studying *Faithfulness* by Cindy Novak **All our Welcome!**

### Community Dinner Fundraiser & Game Night Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 6pm

Come one, come all to our Mission Trip Dinner Fundraiser and Game Night. Save the date and bring your whole family for a yummy dinner. Stick around for games! More details to come.

### Adult ED

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 Jan 12<sup>th</sup> @ 10:45-11:30am



### Family of Christ Annual Meeting January 26th @ 10:45am

Join us on January 26th as we celebrate the blessings and challenges God has brought us through in the last year and make decisions about the future. All are encouraged to be at this meeting and help us look at the direction God is leading us.

### 2025 Budget Presentation January 19th @10:45am

Join us on January 19th after worship if you are interested in seeing the 2025 budget proposal. Our council finance people will be available to answer any questions and process any suggestions. We will meet in the front of the sanctuary.

### 2025 Statement of Intent Pledge Cards:

If you have not already turned in your pledge card for 2025 they are available from the church office.

Please contact Linda at [linda@familyofchrist.com](mailto:linda@familyofchrist.com).

### DEADLINE FOR 2024 GIVING:

Please note all gifts for 2024 need to be received in the office **by Monday, December 30th.**

**Thank you for all your gifts to Family of Christ.**



## January Mission of the Month Feed My Starving Children

Family of Christ will be joining other churches in the South Metro to be a part of Feed My Starving Children's Mobile Pack to make 2 Million meals from February 3rd-8<sup>th</sup>. We hope to have 50 volunteers over several shifts and to raise \$1200 to feed 20 kids for a year, that's 20,000 meals. Please be on the lookout for volunteer and donation opportunities. We will have several opportunities to sign up for shifts. This year's Mobile Pack will be at Shepherd of the Lake, Prior Lake.

### Sunday School Calendar

Jan 5: Sunday School – Jesus the Word  
Jan. 12: Sunday School – Baptism of our Lord  
Jan 19: NO SS  
Jan 26: Sunday School/Annual Meeting  
Activities with older youth

### Youth Schedule

Jan 8: Dinner, Confirmation, Youth Group  
Jan 15: Dinner, Confirmation, Youth Group  
Jan 22: Dinner, Confirmation, Youth Group  
Jan. 29: Dinner, Confirmation, Youth Group  
Feb. 5: Feed My Starving Children

### Volunteer Thanks

Special "Thanks" to all those that helped or participated in our Advent and Christmas worship this year. From the Holden Worship, to the Advent Community Band, to the Christmas Pageant, to the Christmas Eve Service, we have been doing community together, all thanks to you. You are all so appreciated.



### Trinity Care Center—Thanks

Thanks to all who participated in and gave gifts to Trinity Care Center. It was fabulous to have such a big crowd. We sang songs and delivered and opened gifts for more than 70 residents. Thanks to Kristin Cuddigan for organizing.

### Tanzania Update: Thank you for your support of our Tanzania Ministries

Family of Christ continues to support our Tanzania Ministries in the following ways:

\$8,405 for secondary scholarships

(will be awarded to Usokami secondary students for the 2025 school year)

\$3,000 for Medical Scholarships.

\$1,255 for Iringa Hope

The FOC October noisy offering raised \$519 (used for Outreach)

\* Stay Tuned for our report from those that visited our partner congregation in Tanzania.

Special thanks for all your generosity in the last year. Through your gifts of treasure, time, and talent we have done amazing things in God's name. Come and Join us for the annual meeting to see exactly what we did.





**Dates to Remember**

**Sun. Dec 29: Stories & Songs Service**  
**Wed. Jan 1: No Youth Programming**  
**Sun. Jan 5: Worship and Sunday School**  
**Wed. Jan 8: Confirmation/Youth Group**  
**Sat. Jan 11: Men's Breakfast**  
**Sun. Jan 12 : Worship and Sunday School**  
**Wed. Jan 15: Confirmation/Youth Group**  
**Sun. Jan 19 : Worship and Sunday School  
Budget Meeting**  
**Wed. Jan 22: Confirmation/Youth Group**  
**Fri. Jan 24: Dinner Fundraiser & Game Night**  
**Sun. Jan 26: Worship and Sunday School  
Annual Meeting**  
**Wed. Jan 29: Confirmation/Youth Group**

**Vision Statement**

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



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

**Fait**  
**Acc**  
**Meaningful relationships**  
**Imp**  
**Love**  
**Youth**