



# September 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 Pastor

In a world that continues to surprise us, I am sensing that people are looking for solid ground to both stand on and put their trust in. Many of the foundational principles we live by have been challenged or even uprooted while others of us are looking for something else to place our hope in. Even as people that claim ourselves to be “Christian”, we may feel challenged by the definition of those who are trying to politicize such a gift.

As Lutherans in the ELCA, we are a church whose unity is in Jesus Christ. We gather around word and water, wine and bread with forgiveness, grace, and hope as cornerstones of faith. And as we seek to understand our Christian identity, the holy sacrament of baptism can help define what that means and how to live a new life as children of God.

Our baptism sets us out on a lifelong journey that is characterized by our relationship to God, our relationship to our faith community, our relationships in our community and the wider world. Living our baptismal covenant means living a life of growth in the faith practices of discipleship.

As our youth participate in the ritual of Confirmation or new people join our community we turn to our baptismal calling as we affirm our faith. As we become active members of faith we lift up several principles in what it means to be people of faith. In response to God’s love and grace given to us in baptism we promise to;

**to live among God’s faithful people,  
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s supper,  
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,  
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,  
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth**

(Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 236)

This is our response to God’s blessings for us and how we chose to grow our faith. However, as simple as these phrases are they take a lifetime to learn and become.

Join us this fall and throughout the next year as we explore the meaning of our baptismal promises and learn what it means to live as a child of God using the five faith practices we are given both as individuals and as a community seeking to be God in the world.

Peace,

Pastor Brent

## Living Our Baptism: Adult Education

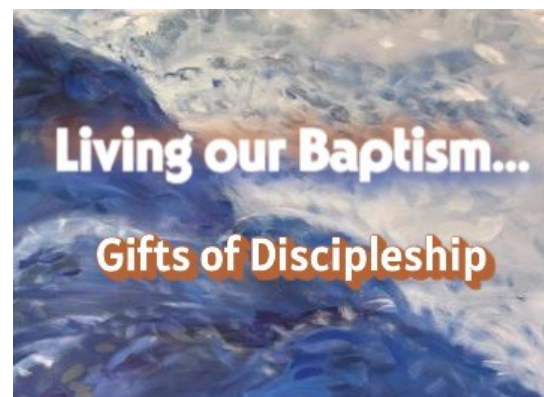
Martin Luther taught we are to daily renew our baptism.

We rise and say, "I am baptized into Christ."

Whether we are young or old, this daily renewal of baptism leads to a practicing of faith and deepening of discipleship. Living our Baptism describes our faith journey as we come from the baptismal waters to live a new life in Christ.

This year our adult ed classes will take the opportunity to engage our faith by looking at Baptism and how we can live as disciples of God in God's promises.

Sundays starting Sept 14th from 10:45-11:30am.



## Community Fall Retreat

Join us for a weekend of fun, service, and growing in faith.

We are planning a fall retreat at Luther Park and invite individuals and families to come join us Nov 14-16.

Contact Dana if you are interested in being a part of this.

All inclusive cost per person is \$100

## 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 Brita if you want more information



## Growing Through Loss

Growing Through Loss (GTL) provides support for adults who have experienced loss, information about the grieving process, caring and support from others who are also grieving and sharing of memories and feelings in a confidential setting.

GTL supports loss of spouse, child, parent, other loved ones, loss through suicide, life transitions such as the loss of job, health, relationships or mid-life changes, multiple losses and provides small group and one-on-one support.

If you or a loved one has experienced loss you are encouraged to come.

The Fall series will take place Thursdays from Sept 11-Oct 9 at Peace Church in Eagan.

Call 651-452-8261 or go to [www.growingthroughlosstcsouth.com](http://www.growingthroughlosstcsouth.com)



## Directory Updates & Photographs

Directory Updates & Photos  
beginning Sunday, Aug. 31st



Stop by the table in the Narthex beginning Sunday, August 31st to verify your Directory Information and to get your picture taken. As we launch My Family of Christ, we need pictures of our congregation and if you are up for it, a video as well. We would like to fill a wall with pictures of our Family of Christ. The videos would be used on social media to help promote the church.

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## Love Thy Neighbor

We are looking for a chance to “Love Thy Neighbor.” 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.



## Casperson Park

On Wednesday, August 6th, around 30 members of the FOC Community gathered at Casperson Park to enjoy music, food and a fellowship.



## Community Picnic and Celebration

Thanks to everyone who came and to those who helped make this night such a success! Special thanks to our council for planning, organizing, and running this special yearly event. It was wonderful to see so many church members enjoy time together. Watch for pictures in upcoming newsletters.

## 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 from 7:40-8:40.
- 4-5 adults to help assist Pastor Brent with 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Confirmation from 6:20-7:40.
- 10 Sunday School Teachers and Assistants

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





### Rally Sunday: September 7th

Join us on September 7<sup>th</sup> as we kick off the fall with our Blessing of the Backpacks, 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 14<sup>th</sup>

Join us during worship on September 14<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.

This is also our first day of Sunday School following worship.

### Blessing of the Backpacks

September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Bring your backpacks to Worship for a special blessing as our children head back to School.



Family of Christ



### Luther Park Summer Camp

Family of Christ sent 16 youth to Luther Park Bible Camp in July. 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.





## Wednesday Night Programming

6:00 Pizza Dinner (optional)

6:20-7:40 Confirmation (6-9<sup>th</sup>)

7:40-8:40 Youth Group (9-12<sup>th</sup>)



## Sunday School – Spark

Sunday School will kick off another amazing year on September 7<sup>th</sup> following worship with an Open House where our youth will see their classrooms, make a craft, and meet their teachers. Sunday School is for 3-year-olds through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

Register online or fill out a hard copy.

Suggested fee per kid is \$30.

Any questions, reach out to

[dana@familyofchrist.com](mailto:dana@familyofchrist.com)



## Confirmation – “Here We Stand”

All 6th-9th 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.

Our first class will be on Sept 17th.

This year's classes will run from 6:20-7:40pm with pizza supper at 6:00pm.

Register online or fill out a hard copy.

The suggested fee is \$50.



All 9-12th graders are invited to join us Wednesday nights for a time of fun, discovery, and faith. This year we will be concentrating on becoming better leaders and people of God.

Peer Ministry gives youth the relational leadership skills to know how to listen, care, help, when to seek help, welcome, and the very skills needed to love every neighbor. The skills to be a real friend. Each week we will play some games, get to know ourselves and God, and how we are part of a community.

Youth Group will meet Wednesdays from 7:40-8:40pm starting September 17th.



## 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 always opening up their cabin to the youth group.







### September Mission of the Month 360 Communities

360 Communities delivers safety and stability that improves lives in Dakota County. With effective and holistic programming, they leverage community partnerships, build trusting relationships, and break cycles of violence and poverty.

Their Goals are to:

Decrease domestic and sexual violence  
Reduce homelessness  
Prevent child abuse and neglect  
Increase high school graduation rates

Increase family stability  
Increase access to healthy food  
Improve early childhood development  
Raise awareness of community needs

### Mission of the Month Thanks

In July we raised over \$1316 to support Dignity for Daughters. Dignity for Daughters provides reproductive health education and ensures women have reusable menstrual product availability through local sources. Your donations helped 65 girls with period kits.



FOC has a new QR Code that can be used for all media. It directs you to a page that lists all of our online presence: Website, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Signup Genius & On-line Giving.

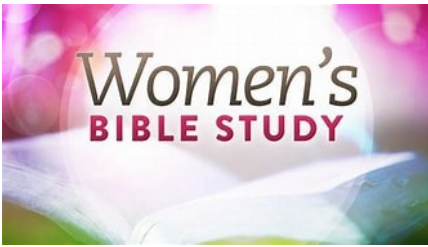
***"FoCus" is a monthly publication of Family of Christ Lutheran Church.  
Please contact the church office to submit items for publication in our newsletter.***

#### Family of Christ Staff Ministry Team:

Lead Pastor:	Pastor Brent Erler
Church Administrator:	Linda Bauer
Children, Family and Outreach Coordinator:	Dana Sahlin
Ministry Coordinator:	Brita Hanchek
Musicians:	Mary Wescott
	Ann Mikiska
	Solveig Englund
	Kim & Steve Wolff
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



Women's Bible Study will begin meeting on the first Monday of each month at 10:00 am at FOC.

Our study this fall is entitled: *"Money, Stewardship, and Generosity"* by Rev. Christa von Zychlin.

All FOC women and guests are welcome.

Note: due to the Labor Day Holiday the September meeting we will be the second **Monday on Sept. 8th.**



### 2025 Lake Traverse, SD Mission Trip

On July 6th, 18 youth and 4 adults set out on a Youthworks mission trip to Lake Traverse Reservation in Sisseton, SD. It was a wonderful week! Each crew was assigned different service opportunities each day. Some of the service assignments were: helping at Twila's home with fixing, painting, beautifying her large property, helping at a community garden, painting decks and playing with youth in a housing project, painting lines in a school parking lot, visiting a nursing home, lots of weeding around church/school/park grounds, and many other projects big and small. 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 have this experience without all of you! Thank you to all who helped us with fundraising, prayed for us, or supported our trip.

Special shout out to Kristin, Nichole, Jeremy and Dana who helped lead.

Peace and Blessings,  
The Youth Mission Team



### Mark your calendar:

Rally Sunday/Sunday School Open House: September 7

First Day of Confirmation/Youth Group: September 17

Fall Youth Retreat: October 3-5

Confirmation Sunday: October 12

Community Retreat at Luther Park: November 14-16

Christmas Program/Trinity Care Ctr Party: December 14



10970 185th Street West  
Lakeville MN 55044

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### **Dates to Remember**

**Wed. Aug 27: EPIC Night (6th-12th Grade)**

**Sun. Sep 7: Worship/Blessing of Backpacks  
Rally Day/Sunday School Open House**

**Wed. Sep 10: Youth Volunteer Meeting**

**Sun. Sep 14: Worship/Sunday/Youth Sunday  
Bible Sunday  
Sunday School starts**

**Wed. Sep 17: Dinner/Conf/Youth Group start**

**Sun. Sep 21: Worship/Sunday School**

**Wed. Sep 24: Dinner/Conf/Youth Group**

**Sun. Sept 28: Worship/Sunday School**

### **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:**

**Faith**

**Acceptance**

**Meaningful relationships**

**Impact**

**Love**

**Youth**