



April 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

Message from Pastor

The End is Just the Beginning

For the last few weeks, we've been looking at the journey and not the destination of Easter. As we approach the empty tomb, there's something else that is part of this story. It's the real reality that it doesn't come to an end.

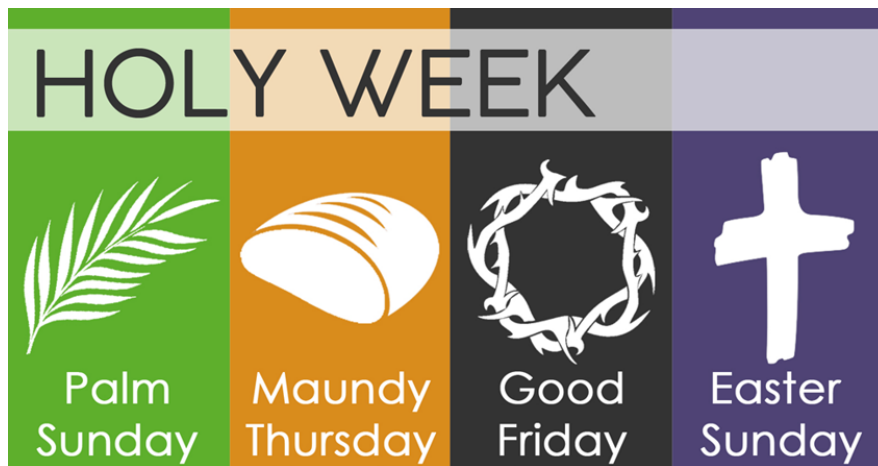
One of my favorite musicals is Stephen Sondheim's *Into the Woods*. The first act is fairy tales that most of us grew up with and it ends with "Happily Ever After!" But it's only half over. The second act is about what comes next and all the messiness of life that leads to a true ever after. In many ways, that's like the life that we lead. The first act of our story is the wonderful gift of Easter, where we realize that the path we travel does not at the end with death. As the women approach the tomb on that Easter morning, expecting to care for Jesus's body, he's not there. Their expectations are that their journey will end at the grave, but God makes it "to be continued."

Part of our human tendency is to seek milestones or arrival points throughout our lives. We feel we need to arrive in this life because death seems like such an ending point. However, this life is not all there is. Through the resurrected Jesus there is new and eternal life beyond the here and now. This is a source of hope in the messy and painful parts of our lives. Consider how God kept showing up for God's people in Egypt, the wilderness, the exile, In the life of Jesus, and now in us.

But if the resurrection isn't the end of our story, what's our next chapter? What if this is just a new beginning? If death is not our final arrival, if Jesus lives and so do we, then let's get moving. We got a lot of living to do, so let's get started.

Peace,

Pastor Brent



Holy Week Worship

Palm Sunday, April 13th 9:30 AM

Palm Sunday is always a wonderful time of celebration at Family of Christ. We begin our worship with a procession with palms, remembering Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

Maundy Thursday, April 17th 6:40 PM

Before Jesus goes to the cross, he spends one last evening with those closest to him. This is where we hear his final words to his followers like us as we face the challenges that life puts in our path.

Good Friday, April 18th 6:40 PM

On Good Friday we gather to remember Jesus' suffering and death on the cross. Join us as we understand what God's gift of love was willing to embrace for us through music and art.

Easter Sunday, April 20th 9:30 AM

He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Come and celebrate our risen Savior and our hope for now and the future. Invite friends, family, and neighbors to join us as we celebrate this wonderful promise to all people.



Wednesdays in Lent

"Come and See: *The Chosen*"

Join us Wednesdays in Lent at 6:40pm for a time of worship and reflection using the video series *The Chosen*. Come and see some of the most well-known stories of Jesus come alive and understand how they are still relevant today.

Appropriate for the whole family come and bring a friend.

Soup Suppers Wednesdays at 6:00pm

We need help with food for our Lenten Soup Suppers! We are looking for people to set up, bring soup, sandwiches, desserts and help clean-up.

Please sign up on the clipboards or on the Sign-Up Genius.

The dates are March 26, April 2 and 9.

We will also be collecting cans of soup for the food shelf!



Are We There Yet? Lent and Easter Worship

Do you ever feel like if you just make it over the next hurdle or reach your next goal that you will have finally arrived in life? Many people do, including our Biblical friends, but guess what? That's called the arrival fallacy, and it can keep us feeling disappointed and unhappy when we get to the "next thing" and find we still haven't arrived at our hoped-for destination. We are still unfailingly human, flawed, broken.

This Lent and Easter, let us learn to savor our uniquely human journey without the pressure of arrival, as we reconnect with the God of Jesus Christ who leads us in the way, providing sustenance, meaning, and hope through all our ups and downs.

March 30th No Going Back | Ezra 3:10-13

Sometimes we think that everything will be fine if we can just go back to the way things were, but the present will never be the past. The good news is that God is in what was, what is, and what will be.

April 6th The Fake Out | John 2:13-25

Just when we think we have it all figured out – the right job, the right routine, the right way of doing things – Jesus comes in and upends our certainty, always moving us into deeper truth, justice, and relationship.

April 13th (Palm/Passion Sunday): Staying Power | Luke 19:28-40

Everyone loves a parade but what happens when the party is over? Real hope is built in daily acts of showing up – in times of celebration, in times of challenge, and in the ordinary in-between.

April 17th Holy/Maundy Thursday: Detour Ahead | John 13:1-17, 33-35

The disciples thought they knew where they were going but Jesus says, "Where I am going, you cannot come." Instead, he gives them instructions for a detour, "Love one another." How do we love one another on the roadway to God?

April 18th Good Friday: Holding On When the Cross Feels Final | Matthew 26 & 27

Jesus' cross feels like the worst kind of arrival; it bears the finality of death. When "arriving" means there is nowhere left to go, Jesus remains with us holding the promise that even this is not our final stop.

Easter Sunday: Setting Out Again | Matthew 28:1-10, 16-20

Death is not our final arrival. Jesus lives and so do we. He sends us out on the journey anew and promises to be with us the whole way.



Holy Humor Sunday, May 11th

Easter is a Laughing Matter

Join us for a service of laughter and fun celebrating the eternal joke that God pulled on Satan in the resurrection. Satan thought he had won the battle by defeating Jesus in death on the cross, but Jesus rose from the dead, winning the ultimate victory, having the last laugh.

Synod Convention

Family of Christ is looking for two individuals to attend the synod convention on May 16 and 17.

This is a chance to see what's happening in the larger church, worship in amazing ways and help build God's kingdom.

No experience necessary and FOC will pay for your registration.

Contact Pastor Brent if interested.





Earth Day Clean Up Saturday, April 26th 10:30-11:30am

Come join us in helping clean up around the church and along 185th St. Celebrate afterwards by attending the Lakeville Earth Day Celebration at the Central Maintenance Facility.

Enjoy lunch and all the activities.

Free shirt for all who participate! See Clipboard for sign-up.

Spring Bunco Date Thursday, May 1st

6:15-7:45pm

Back by popular demand!

Come join us for a night playing Bunco. All members and ages invited!

It has been a while since we last gathered for fellowship and fun.

You do not need to know how to play Bunco, it is easy to learn!

You can invite friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc. Donate \$3-5 to play.

You can also bring small gifts for bunco prizes.

See Clipboard for sign-up or sign-up genius link.

If you want to help with prizes or snacks,

email dana@familyofchrist.com



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 informational supper on Monday, May 5th. Pizza Dinner will be served at 5:30pm with the informational meeting will be from 6:00-7:00pm.

Childcare will be provided.



Cultivating Good Soil Through Prayer Ministry in Your Congregation

Saturday, April 5th, 9 a.m.-12 noon

Gustavus Adolphus, St. Paul

As people of God, we are rooted and connected in prayer. Our congregations are fertile places for uniting in prayer and deepening our spiritual practices. Join Pastor Brent and others as we seek to build our prayer ministry team.

Participants will:

- reflect on why prayer matters
- learn about different models of prayer ministries
- experience a variety of spiritual practices

Contact Pastor Brent if you want to join him. Cost is \$10 but will be picked up by FOC.



Wednesday Youth Schedule

April 2: Soup Supper, Lenten Service, Class

April 9: Soup Supper, Lenten Service, Class

Holy Week: No class on Wednesday

Worship Maundy Thursday and Good Friday

Sunday, April 20: Easter Sunday- Mission Trip Bake Sale

April 23: Event at Luther Seminary for grades 6-12.

Meet at church at 5:30 (no dinner)

April 30: 6:00 Pizza. 6:20 Confirmation 7:40: Youth Group



Sunday School Schedule:

March 23: Sunday School: Parable of the Fig Tree

March 30: NO SS – Spring Break

April 6: Sunday School: Mary Anoints Jesus

April 13: Sunday School: Holy Week

April 20: No SS: Easter

April 27: Sunday School: Doubting Thomas

May 4: Final Sunday School Celebration

First Communion Class

On **Saturday, April 12th** 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 Thursday, April 17th at 6:40pm during our Maundy Thursday worship when Jesus gave this gift to his disciples.

Please contact Pastor Brent if you are interested in being part of this group.



Luther Park Camping Opportunities 2025

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. FOC Youth Members 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

July 20-23, 2025: Half week for 1-4th graders

July 20-25, 2025: Full week for 3-6th graders

July 20-25, 2025: Full week for 7-12th graders in Treehouse



Mission Trip News

Hard to believe we are about 3 months away from our mission trip to South Dakota.

If you haven't done so already, please register your youth officially through Youthworks (link was in an email).

Please help pray for our youth who head to Lake Traverse, SD on July 6-11th.

Reminder Easter Bake Sale Fundraiser on April 20th.

Please have your baked goods to church by 9:00am





THE DRAWER

**April 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 9 years ago.

It receives donations from community members, local businesses, nonprofits, and faith-based organizations.

We agree with The Drawer’s motto, “Providing Warmth and Dignity,”
Besides monetary donations, we will be collecting new socks and underwear all month.

Undie Sunday and Bundling Session—May 18th

We will end our socks and underwear collection for our Mission of the Month by holding an Undie Sunday on May 18th after worship. We will gather all the socks and underwear donated in April and hold a bundling session after worship on the 18th.

Putting together 100’s of bundles of new socks and underwear that will go to community groups to distribute takes volunteers. All ages welcome!

HELP WANTED! Project Coordinator

Family of Christ is looking for a part time project coordinator. The Project Coordinator is responsible for organizing, managing, and coordinating tasks and projects to ensure they are completed within scope, quality, time, and cost constraints. This part-time, paid position involves coordinating volunteer programs and internal projects.

If you or someone else is interested in this position, contact Pastor Brent or Renee Franklin.

Job descriptions are available in the entry.



*“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**

Email us at:
office@familyofchrist.com
Visit us at: www.familyofchrist.com
Telephone: 952-435-5757

Faith Forum (Formerly Adult Ed)

Join us as we continue to look at foundational faith beliefs and practices and how they have and continue to shape our Christian journey today. Faith Forum meets at 10:45am after worship in the conference room.

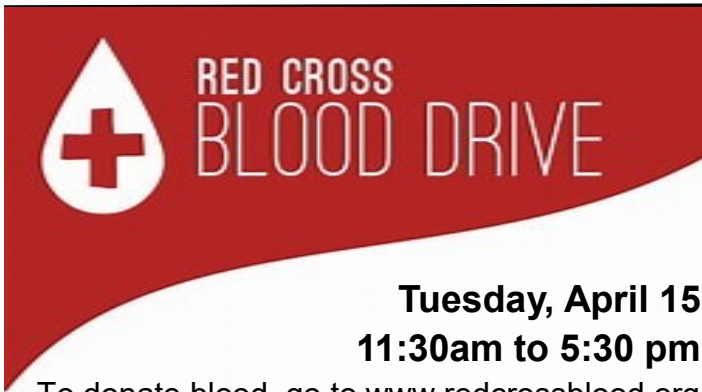


Youth Mission Trip Bake Sale Easter Sunday

Our Annual Mission Trip Easter Bake Sale is fast approaching.

We will be selling baked goods on April 20th before and after worship.

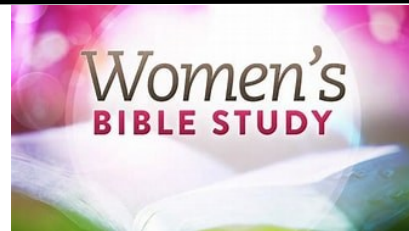
Help support our youth heading to Lake Traverse, SD in July by purchasing yummy treats to enjoy on Easter. Cash and check donations accepted!



Tuesday, April 15

11:30am to 5:30 pm

To donate blood, go to www.redcrossblood.org
Contact Glenda Lind for more information.



Women's Bible Study

Monday, April 7

Women's Bible Study will held at 10:00am on Monday, April 7 at Family of Christ.

For additional information contact Linda Bartz
All women are welcome! Invite a friend.

Mark Your Calendars: Upcoming Events

- April 12: First Communion Class
- April 15: Blood Drive
- April 17: First Communion/Maundy Thursday
- April 20: Mission Trip Bake Sale
- April 26: Earth Day Clean Up
- May 1: Bunco Fellowship Night
- May 4: Final Sunday School/Teacher Appreciation
- May 5: New Member Class
- May 11: Holy Humor Sunday
- May 14: Youth Celebration
- May 18: Bundling Session with The Drawer
- June 1: Graduation Sunday
- June 8: Mission Trip Car Wash Fundraiser
- June 11: Youth Summer EPIC Nights start
- June 15-18: VBS





Dates to Remember

Wed. Mar 26: Soup Supper/Worship/Conf & YG

Sun. Mar 30: No Sunday School—Spring Break

Wed. Apr 2: Soup Supper/Worship/Conf & YG

Wed. Apr 9: Soup Supper/Worship/Conf & YG

Sun. Apr 13: Palm Sunday Worship

Tues. Apr 15: Blood Drive

Wed. Apr 16: No Conf/Youth Group

Thur. Apr 17: Maundy Thursday Worship

Fri., Apr 18: Good Friday Worship

**Sun., Apr 20: Easter Worship Service
No Sunday School**

Sat., Apr 26: Earth Day Clean-up

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
Impact
Love
Youth**