



July 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

Summer is upon us and with it the chance to take a break and relax. This is the time when some of us slow down a bit and take vacations, concentrate on projects, go to reunions and graduations, read lighthearted books and escape for a while. I spent last week at a retreat center learning to connect with nature not through lecture but being guided into communion with it. It's amazing what you learn about the earth, God, and yourself by simply being in a small space for a long period of time. Yet something seems to be different this year. Summer, which for some of us is a time to escape and recharge, seems to be a bit heavier with the weights of our lives and the world around us. The escape doesn't seem to do it like it used to.

Often, we want things to be simple, cut and dry, but the reality is that life is messy, complicated and hard. We use the word “escape” to talk about trips and experiences but that seems to assume our lives are some sort of a prison. Sometimes it feels that way. My struggle is that I've been trying to escape from “what is” for so long that I forget that the “what is” is where I live my life and always get to return to. Whether I like it or not, my life is my life.

What if we decided to embrace our lives as they are and not what they could be? That's what God does for us in Jesus. As much as the Gospel story is about death and resurrection and the promise we will go to heaven when we die, Jesus gives us a way to live now in a different way. It's not an abandonment of our current reality, but more of seeing it in a different way. It's like when Jesus calls the fishermen, he says from now on you will be fishing for people. He doesn't fix their lives but helps them to see their lives differently. That instead of being steeped in the anger, hopelessness, fear, or numbness of a life we want to change, we find ways to acknowledge life as it is, see it as a place we are called to be and realize we have a part to play that is outside our comfort and bigger than we can imagine. The good news is that we have a community and a God that is willing to engage with us in life wherever we may be.

In a world that we cannot escape from, I invite you to join us as we hear some of those promises and begin to see that what we are seeking for isn't always somewhere else, but in us, and in a God and community that we do life with. Join us Sundays in-person or online as we look at some confusing Bible stories that can speak to us in new ways. Participate in one of our community nights as we gather to eat, worship, play and learn to live together. Find ways to see yourself as a gift and important to Family of Christ as our new ministry coordinator, Brita, has conversations with each of you about being a part of ministry and service. Join our new Fix-it team or find ways to get involved with worship and outreach. Look for us online and in social media as we launch our new website and make a commitment to reach out to you more with faith learning throughout the week and upcoming opportunities.

Peace,

Pastor Brent



SUMMER WORSHIP SERIES

The Bible can be a barrier for a lot of people of faith. It's large, intimidating, and can be confusing! Many people are wary to read these texts, carry bruises from their upbringing, or simply don't have enough information for the stories to make any sense.

This summer, we invite you to spend time with us reclaiming the "good" in The Good Book - learning and relearning how ancient stories relate to our stories here and now. This summer series is based around Anna Carter Florence's newest book, *"A is for Alabaster"*.

Welcome!

Brita Hanchek, Ministry Coordinator

Brita is married and has two daughters.

Their family is completed with a dog, Lucy, and a cat, Maze.

Brita graduated from Augsburg University with a degree in Business Administration and spent her years after in various roles running Payroll Departments. She stepped away from the corporate role to stay home with her girls when the family moved to California. This role at Family of Christ is her first since leaving the corporate world almost 10 years ago.

Outside of church you will find Brita supporting her girls in their numerous activities, soccer, theater, marching band, and steel drum band to name a few. When there is any free time outside of these activities you might find her in her craft room sewing, crocheting, reading, or any other idea that jumps into her mind that she wants to try.



Church Directory Updates

Our church directory has not been updated in too long and one of Brita's first tasks is to update it. Please note within the coming weeks she will be reaching out to each family via phone to: introduce herself, update any information that needs it, and learn a little about your family and how you like to serve your church and community.



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.

Summer Community Dinners and Fellowship "Who is my Neighbor?"

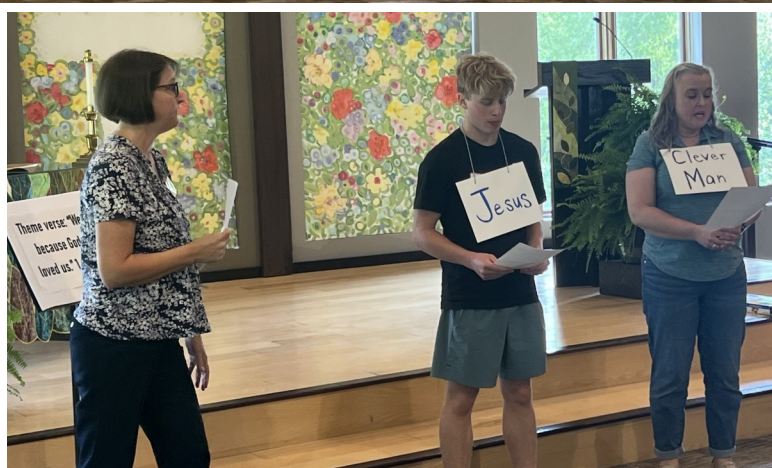
We invite the whole community to join us this summer for our second Summer Community Nights. We will start with an introduction, then a meal, sing some songs, learn a bit, do some activities, and grow in our faith together.

Join us Wednesday, **July 16th** from 5:30 to 7:00 PM for a pot-luck meal and for activities and fun for all ages.

Look for the sign-up genius or clipboard to sign up and to help with food.



A special community night will be on August 6th at Casperson Park, so mark your calendars!





Congratulations to our
HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS.

We were able to bless and celebrate with
some of them on June 1st.

We wish them the best as they begin the
next chapter of their lives.

Let's celebrate these young men
and the people God
has created them to be.

Owen Basballe
Brodie Majewski
Caleb Sahlin

Will Christiansen
Donovan Mann
Gavin Specht



Thanks for supporting the youth
mission trip car wash fundraiser.
They raised over \$800 to go towards
their upcoming trip!
THANK YOU!



**End of Year
Sunday School Celebration**



EPIC Summer Nights: Encouraging People In Christ
 Youth grades 6-12: Wednesday nights!
 Join in for fun, fellowship, and faith formation from 6:30-8:00.
 Bring a friend! July 23rd and July 30th.



Mission Trip to Lake Traverse, SD



Please pray for the 22 youth and adults heading to Lake Traverse Native American Reservation for our summer mission trip from July 6-11th. Thank you for all your support over this past year.

July 2nd: Final Mission Trip Gathering Mtg. 6:30-8:00pm

Youth Cabin Trip

Mark your calendars for August 7-9th!
 Calling all youth grades 6-12th! We have been invited back to Flegel's cabin for a few days of fun, fellowship, games, swimming, faith talks, and more. Watch for the registration form or contact Dana for more info.



July Mission of the Month Dignity for Daughters (DfD)

Dignity for Daughters (DfD) mission is to achieve menstrual equity in Iringa, Tanzania. Sustainability will be accomplished through reproductive health education and ensuring reusable menstrual product availability by establishing local sewing ventures.

Only 1 in 5 girls in Iringa, Tanzania have access to formal menstrual health products, causing up to 5 missed days of school every month. We are dedicated to providing girls and boys with a curriculum that is otherwise absent in secondary education in Iringa. Students are also equipped with reusable pads to help them manage their health with dignity and not miss valuable days of school. We aim to empower young people with the knowledge and resources they need to break the cycle of poverty and build a healthier, brighter future.



"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
Visit us at: www.familyofchrist.com
Telephone: 952-435-5757



FOC FIX-IT TEAM

Are you interested in being a part of the Fix-It Team?
We are looking for a few people who would like to be a part of
and/or lead a Fix-It Team.

Small things like general maintenance, upkeep, technology,
grounds care would be on the list.

Our hope is that we could have one or two people as a point of
contact and then a list of folks that would be willing to share their
skills as issues arise so that the leads could reach out.

If this sounds like something you would like to be a part of please
reach out to Brita at britahanchek@gmail.com.

Once the list is together, we will meet as a team to go through
responsibilities. And also, we can decide if any trainings will be
needed to make this team successful.

Donations

We continue to accept donations of new socks and underwear for The Drawer,
as well as food for the Messiah Lutheran Food Shelf

Summer Camp

Don't forget to sign up for summer camp at Luther Park in Danbury, WI.

A group of our youth are attending the week of July 20-25.

We have this 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 FOC 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.

This is a chance for all youth to make amazing memories
and grow in their faith.

Registration is on their website www.lutherpark.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 the Treehouse



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



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Dates to Remember

Wed. Jul 2: Final Mission Trip Mtg
Sun. Jul 6—Fri., Jul 11: Youth Mission Trip
Wed. Jul 9: No EPIC Night
Sun. Jul 13: Youth Pool Party
Wed. Jul 16: FOC Community Night/Youth Group
Sun. Jul 20—Fri. Jul 25: Luther Park Bible Camp
Wed. Jul 23: EPIC Night (6th-12th Grade)
Wed. Jul 30: EPIC Night (6th-12th Grade)
Wed. Aug 6: Community Night
at Casperson Park
Wed. Aug 13: EPIC Night (6th-12th Grade)
Wed. Aug 20: Annual Community Celebration
Wed. Aug 27: EPIC Night (6th-12th Grade)

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**