



Family of Christ

FAITH, LOVE, and COMPASSION

2025 Annual Report

As I reflected on last year I found it difficult to focus on the past with such a seemingly vague future lying before us. From the forces of the world choosing Minnesota as one of their battle grounds for the future of our country and communities, to the personal struggles we have faced as individuals and families, it has been a year of uncertainty and change. The gift in all this is that many of us have found some place of comfort, sanity, and maybe even direction at Family of Christ. Through the gifts we have shared and the struggles we have faced together we have begun to build and refine our path into the future with God and our faith as a foundation no matter what we will face. We are Easter people who are invited to trust in the promises of God, the teachings of the scriptures, and the reality of the resurrection that always leads to new life. That gift has played out in so many ways through you and the journey we share together.

To begin with it was a year of new. Trying new things in worship like adding spiritual practices and a variety of new musical opportunities. We have hired Brita Hanchek as our Ministry Coordinator who has solidified and grown our online presence, organized volunteers, created a new directory, prepared space for facility improvements, and a million other little tasks that were slipping through the cracks. We began major repairs to our facility and made a plan for the future. We supported our partner ministries at the highest level in years both with resources and volunteer time, and added a new ministry in Dignity for Daughters. We grew our community through regular events and adding new opportunities to come together in service and social events making even more impact in our community. Our youth and family programs continue to be a foundation we build on. We supported one another by proclaiming and showing God's love as four of our members passed away. We have done a lot. Well done good and faithful servants, well done.

As you read through this annual report I'd like you to look at all that God is doing in and through us, and how God is calling us to serve and love in the future. I know it's hard sometimes to recognize what we do matters, but it does. From proclaiming the Gospel through our love and action, to creating a space where "Everyone is Somebody", to helping our neighbors near and far, to community partnerships that lift up the whole community, to coming together for worship and learning following the path our God and savior has set before us, we are set for the uncertain future that is before us. Join us this next year as we build on these foundations and look to new opportunities to practice being people of faith in a world that needs love.

Peace,

Pastor Brent Erler

Our Mission

We are an inviting family embraced by God's Grace, growing in faith, serving and proclaiming Christ's love for all people.

Our Vision

Family of Christ seeks "To be a Grace Filled family of God, inviting all to live the Gospel through faith, love and compassion."

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

Faith—We will gather together to grow through worship, learning, stewardship, prayer and action in the world.

Acceptance—We will be a place where all are welcome and can grow into the people God has created them to be because God can be seen in the faces of all people.

Meaningful relationships—We will care for one another and grow in relationship with God and one another.

Invite—We will open the doors of Family of Christ and actively invite others to a relationship with Christ.

Love—We will provide care, compassion and support for one another and make a difference in the world in Christ's name bringing about change in our lives and community.

Youth—We will create an environment where the young and young at heart can learn and be supported on their faith journeys.

Our 2025 Church Council

President - vacant

Vice President - Ryan Basballe

Secretary - Amy Klimpke

Treasurer - Chuck Halvorson

Financial Secretary - Chad Specht

Member-at- Large - Renee Franklin

Member-at- Large - Emily Huus

Member-at- Large - Michael Maddio

Statistics

Average In-Person Worship - 92

Average On-Line Worship - 16

Baptisms - 1

First Communion - 5

Confirmands - 5

Weddings - 2

Funerals - 4

Our 2025 Church Staff

Pastor - Brent Erler

Office Assistant - Linda Bauer

Youth, Family, and Outreach Minister - Dana Sahlin

Ministry Coordinator - Brita Hanchek

Custodian - Kelly Kritsberg

Musicians - Solveig Englund, Ann Mikiska, Mary Wescott, Kim & Steve Wolff



Building & Technology Updates



2025 brought updates to our building in the following ways. Our Parking Lots were resealed and new lines were painted on. Two windows were replaced in the sanctuary that had been broken. The South Bathrooms were upgraded with new counters and sinks. The cracked sidewalk at the south entrance was replaced. And a new toilet was installed in the nursery bathroom.

In May of 2025, a new role of Ministry Coordinator was added to the staff to focus on projects led by the pastor and our council. This role has focused on the website, our social media presence, our volunteer programs, getting technology up-to-date, and supporting the needs to the congregation.



In the constant change of technology in the world, we upgraded from DSL to Fiber, which stabilized our Live Video streaming. We launched an upgraded Website that matches Family of Christ in its current state. And two new computers were purchased, one for the new staff role of Ministry Coordinator, and one to replace the old computer in the church office that was starting to experience performance issues.



With the addition of a new website, a new opportunity to use it for our congregational needs as well as those that share our space. Our building use form was added to our site as well as a new form for maintenance requests. This gave everyone who notices an issue a way to get the issue addressed timely.

The new website also brought about an opportunity to update our congregational directory with photographs of our members.

All these updates are working to make a more welcoming space.



Children & Youth



Mission Trip 2025

Through the Youthworks Organization, our youth traveled to Lake Traverse Reservation in South Dakota July 6-11th for their summer mission trip. Our 18 youth were placed onto different “crews” that were assigned to a variety of community outreach works. Some of the jobs completed were: painting decks, weeding in community spaces, working at a community garden, fixing resident’s outbuildings, spending time in a senior center. The youth learned about the Native American culture, grew in their faith as our theme was, “Follow Jesus Closely,” as well as enjoyed time at parks, playing lots of four-square, and got to know the other youth from around the country. Our youth held many fundraising events for this mission trip. We thank all who supported our youth!



Children’s Programming

Our young ones (ages 3-grade 5) enjoyed time together at Sunday School throughout the year. They sang in worship a few times and almost all participated in our annual Christmas Advent Program. At FOC, we try to help our youth feel a part of worship. One of our favorite parts of worship is when our young ones collect our noisy offering. Some of our youth attended church camp in the summer and 5 took their first communion this past year.



Youth Fellowship

Our youth, grades 6-12th had many opportunities for fellowship in 2025. Our youth have had so much fun this past year. Some of our events were: annual fall retreat, summer cabin weekend, game nights, summer EPIC nights, Luther Park Camp, pool party, parties and more!



Community Events

Outreach Events

At FOC, we strive to offer ways adults and families can impact the community around us. Some of our outreach events in 2025 were: FMSC, Earth Day clean up, Food Shelf Luncheon Fundraiser, Trinity Care gift giving and party for seniors, chili cook-off fundraiser for Luther Park, helping someone move though “Love Thy Neighbor.” Every month at FOC we have a mission of the month that we support. Some of our members have volunteered with Foster Together, which is housed in the downstairs of our church. FOC also hosts the Red Cross Blood Drive 6 times a year.



Ministry

At FOC, we continue to grow in our faith together. We hold weekly men’s bible study, monthly women’s bible study and a retreat, first communion class, adult education classes following worship, youth retreat, Wednesday Lenten services and more. In addition, Pastor Brent recently led the first men’s retreat up at Luther Park.



Fellowship

Besides worshipping weekly together, we believe in coming along side one another by gathering together in fellowship. A few of our fun events this past year include: Bunko Night, Soup Suppers, Potluck and Game Night, Annual Community Picnic, Summer Community Nights- which includes our gathering at “Music in the Park” at Caspersen Park.



By the Numbers:

Feed My Starving Children - 61 attendees
Chili Cook - Off - 76 attendees
Earth Day Clean-Up - 15 Volunteers
Advent Luncheon - 54 attendees
Trinity Care Christmas Party - 50 attendees
Advent Band - 15 members
Bunco/Game Nights - avg. 20 attendees
FOC Community Nights - avg 30 attendees
Soup Suppers - avg. 20 attendees

Partnerships



Lakeville Community Choir



Tanzania Ministries

- Usokami Parish
- Medical Scholarships
- Secondary Scholarships



Financial Statement

Family of Christ Monthly Financial Report						Attendance
2025 Actual / 2026 Proposed Budget						Hybrid
General Fund Income						Services
	Actual 2025	Budgeted 2025	2025 Over / (Under) Budget	2026 Proposed Giving	Increase / (Decrease) over 2025 Actual	Hybrid
Giving	\$ 344,031	\$362,676	(\$18,646)	\$ 389,000	\$ 44,969	Includes \$25,000 matching funds
Building Use	\$ 44,606	\$42,724	\$1,882	\$ 45,000	\$ 394	
Misc.	\$ 5,753	\$5,162	\$591	\$ 6,000	\$ 247	
General Income Total	\$394,390	\$410,563	(\$16,173)	\$440,000	\$ 45,610	

General Fund Expense						
	Actual 2025	Budgeted 2025	YTD (Over) / Under Budget	2026 Proposed Budget	Increase / (Decrease) over	Largest Increases Explanations
BENEVOLENCE	\$12,360	\$12,360	(\$0)	\$12,360	\$0	Salary increase includes MN Family Leave Act contribution and 3% Merit Increases for all.
EDUCATION	\$2,147	\$2,986	\$839	\$2,200	\$53	
FELLOWSHIP	\$1,079	\$486	(\$594)	\$1,000	(\$79)	
FIN/STEWARDSHIP	\$303	\$146	(\$157)	\$500	\$197	
OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$15,035	\$10,311	(\$4,724)	\$15,000	(\$35)	Property Increasing due to increased expenses for lawn care
OFFICE SALARIES	\$222,770	\$231,968	\$9,198	\$237,161	\$14,391	
COMMUNITY OUTREACH	\$727	\$1,560	\$832	\$1,000	\$273	
PROPERTY	\$60,636	\$63,351	\$2,715	\$65,000	\$4,364	
WORSHIP	\$3,182	\$3,359	\$177	\$3,500	\$318	
MISC/PREPAID	\$3,034	\$3,359	\$325	\$3,100	\$66	
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
RESERVES	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
MORTGAGE	\$99,408	\$99,408	\$0	\$99,408	\$0	
Total Expenses	\$420,683	\$429,294	\$8,611	\$440,229	\$19,546	

Non-Budgeted Funds		Savings Accounts			
	2025		Deposits & Interest	Expenses	Balance
2025 Non - Budgeted Benevolence	\$14,613	Reserves	\$26,657	\$20,000	\$64,928
		Capital Improv.	\$5,729	\$21,043	\$36,053
					\$100,981

A Heartfelt THANKS to all of you for your continued contributions that keep our congregation alive. Without your generosity we wouldn't be the successful, influential, loving congregation we are.

Thank You!

2026 Priorities

Sanctuary Enhancements

We will spruce up and modernize our worship space and experience. Projects include HVAC updates, adding a more formal screen and projector, creating an outdoor worship area, and updating our current space.

Welcoming

We will create a more welcoming and inviting space and process. This includes a look at signage, continuing emphasis on technology upgrades, and reimagining our narthex space to better serve those who come to Family of Christ.

Equipping for Care

We will prepare our members to go out and live out their baptismal promises to share God's word, help those in need, and seek to change the world in God's name. This includes bringing in outside resources in mental health and community care, engaging with service opportunities, and finding new ways to support each other and the community around us.

Foundations for the Future

We will seek to build and revisit foundations for doing ministry in the next 3-5 years. We will create a Finance planning team to address changing financial needs and other sources of income. We will Update staff and volunteer positions to align with future paths the Holy Spirit is leading us. We will update current policies including the constitution to be in line with the changing context of ministry and our larger ELCA affiliations.

Thank you for a wonderful year!

Family of Christ
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