



June/July Newsletter 2026

“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 here! After what has seemed like a roller-coaster of a winter and spring, the green world has flourished around us and with it some new hope. As the post Easter world emerges in the world it also emerges in our church year. After spending 40 days in Lent and 50 days in Easter, we now emerge into the new world God is seeking to create. For a good six months we have been looking at Jesus; his teaching, healing, philosophy on life, love for all people, and death and resurrection. Now is the chance to focus on us and our journeys of faith in community.

When we celebrated Pentecost last Sunday we heard how God ascended upon those first disciples and used them to spread God's message of love and hope to a very broken world. Next, the disciples were challenged to go out and invite them into this God journey too. As things keep changing around us, we too need to understand how our faith speaks and leads us into the world. Join us this summer and grow both our community and your own faith life.

In order to do this we are embarking on several paths this summer. To begin with, join us in worship. This summer we are spending the 1st half on "Grounding our Faith in Connection". Though some of our faith is very personal, God invites us and all people into community to explore and practice what we've been given. The second half of the summer we will be looking at Henri Nouwen's book "Following Jesus, Finding Our Way in an Age of Anxiety". Come with us as we see that our faith journeys are still relevant, beautiful, intelligent and necessary in an uneasy world.

This summer we would also like to embark on an Appreciative Inquiry process where we will be gathering individuals and groups together to understand the needs and wants of the future of the church. I invite you to come to one of our small group listening sessions or contact me for a one on one conversation. These interview type times will help us build programs and choose paths God is leading us.

Finally, our space needs some TLC and renovation. As we continue to grow our community connections by hosting new groups like Lakeville Area Mutual Aid, our other partnerships keep growing. Part of this is a renovation of some of the basement spaces to better serve the community through Foster Together. This is great stuff, but needs some attention. We need your help re-imagining current spaces and finding ways to create new space. We are looking for designers, organizers, and people to simply do stuff.

Like the world, Family of Christ is in a time of transition. The good news is that we proclaim a message of Hope that God is leading us to places that serve our faith lives but also embraces others with the love and Grace of God for everyone.

Peace,
Pastor Brent



Summer Worship Series (June 7 - July 19)

Relationships are the cornerstone of who we are as people of faith. Our relationships with others are how we learn and grow, and are the primary way we give and receive love and grace. Through a series of well-known Bible stories, we'll explore the joys and challenges of human relationship, community, and living with one another. In the midst of complex human relationships, we will be reminded yet again that God is here, showing us the way of connection, mercy, and grace.



(August 2 - September 7)

Is Christianity still relevant, beautiful, intelligent, and necessary in the modern world? As the world quickly swirls around us, we are invited to follow Jesus in an age of anxiety. Truly following Jesus can help us understand calling and purpose, fear and hope. With so many choices available to the twenty-first-century seeker, join us as we rediscover Jesus's teaching on love. We will also offer warm, insightful, practical habits to help navigate the narrow, sometimes difficult, but ultimately fulfilling road of faith and living. Based around the Henri Nouwen book "Following Jesus; Finding our Way Home in an Age of Anxiety"



With gratitude the Saint Paul Area Synod joyfully announces the election of the Rev. Justin Grimm as our next bishop!

Bishop-Elect Grimm currently serves as the synod's director for evangelical mission and assistant to the bishop for congregational vitality, a position he's held since 2015. He previously served as lead pastor at Advent Lutheran Church in Lake Ann, MI, after first serving as the mission developer. He is a graduate of Northwestern College (Orange City, Iowa) and Luther Seminary. He was ordained in 2005.



Summer Community Meals

Join us each month this summer as we gather for a community meal and time to be together. Join us from 6:00 - 7:00 PM, bring a friend, and something to share. We will provide main, drinks, and supplies. If you have nothing to share, simply come as you are, you are still welcome.

Dates are: June 24 July 15



COMMUNITY DINNER

Please note: we will be looking for people to help set-up and host. Please watch for sign-ups.

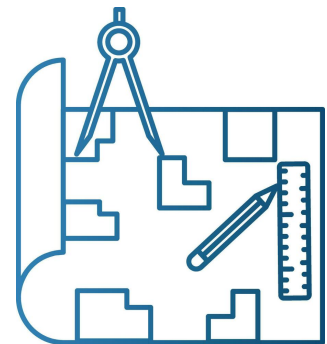


Listening Sessions

As we plan for the future, we want to know you and our community better over the next few months. To do this we will be inviting you and others in the community to join us for small group and one-on-one interviews. Please find one of the times to gather with us throughout the summer or contact Pastor Brent.

Designers Wanted

As we get ready to do some major projects around FOC and grow our community partners, we are looking for people to help us design, re-imagine, and plan decor for the future. This group would come up with ideas and suggestions as we re-imagine our worship, entry, and other spaces. People with design background and great organizational skills, we NEED YOU!



Basement Remodel

Our Foster Together partners are growing. In partnership with FOC, Foster Together is looking to finish the FOC basement space to better serve both groups. Though still in early stages, plans to update the youth space, reorganize storage, and add bathrooms are part of this project. Stay tuned for more updates!

Annual Pan-O-Prog Ice Cream Social & Back to School LAMA Event!

Wednesday, July 8th at St John's Lutheran Church, Lakeville

Come join the fun from 1 - 3 PM with live music from CODA, kids' games brought to you by Highview Hills and St. John's Lutheran. And ice cream! Fun for all ages! And while you're there stop by the Lakeville Area Mutual Aid table to participate in the Back to School Donation Drive! We are looking for: markers, folders, notebooks, scissors (ages 8 and up), and clipboards. Not needed are: Backpacks, crayons, & pencils.



Ice Cream sponsored by Dairy Delite & Unbakeable



MISSION TRIP NEWS

Our Local Mission Trip is approaching fast. We have 3 jam packed days of both service and fun planned. We will be sleeping at the church all 3 nights (Wed. night is optional). Please fill out the official registration form. Link is below. Both deposits of \$50 are past due.

<https://familyofchristlakeville.breezechms/form/LocalMissionTrip2026>

Wed. June 3: Potential MT Meeting if needed



MT Car Wash Fundraiser

Bring your dirty cars to worship on June 7th and stay after to have the FOC Youth wash and vacuum your car for a free will donation. Proceeds will go towards the mission trip in 2026 & 2027.

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 PM. Bring a friend! The first one is June 10th!



GRADUATION SUNDAY June 7, 2026

Join us as we recognize our HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS and give them a blessing as they continue with the next chapter of their lives. Let's celebrate our graduates and the people God has created them to be.

Congratulations to Ava Bryant!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

June 7: Graduation Sunday / Car Wash Fundraiser

June 10: 6:30 - 8:00 PM EPIC Night

June 14: Youth Sunday

June 15 - 18: Local Mission Trip

June 24: 6:00 - 7:00 PM - Comm. Night

7:00 - 8:00 - EPIC Night

July 1: 6:30 - 8:00 PM EPIC Night

July 8: 6:30 - 8:00 PM EPIC Night

July 12: Youth Sunday

July 15: 6:00 - 7:00 PM - Comm. Night

7:00 - 8:00 - EPIC Night

July 19 - 24: FOC Youth at Luther Park

July 22: 6:30 - 8:00 PM EPIC Night

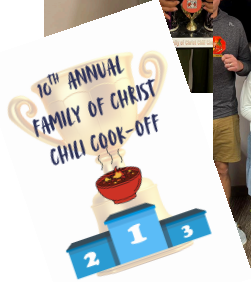
July 29: 6:30 - 8:00 PM EPIC Night



Thank you!

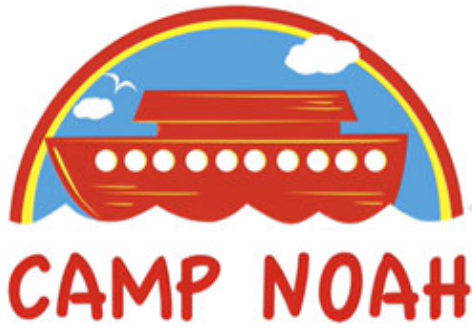
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To everyone who participated in any event, Thank YOU! You all make a difference!



Welcome, New Members





CAMP NOAH **June Mission of the Month**

Camp Noah is a nationally acclaimed program where children in communities impacted by disaster can experience the power of hope and healing through a proven resiliency curriculum that includes creative activities and play. While Camp Noah usually takes place over five days, its impact on a child can last a lifetime.

DIGNITY FOR DAUGHTERS **July Mission of the Month**

Dignity for Daughters (DfD) mission is to achieve menstrual equality 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 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 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:	Brent Erler
Children, Family, & Outreach Coordinator:	Dana Sahlin
Ministry Coordinator:	Brita Hanchek
Musicians:	Solveig Englund Ann Mikiska Mary Wescott Kim & Steve Wolff
Custodian:	Kelly Kritsberg

Family of Christ Lutheran Church is a member of the **ELCA**

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YouTube: [@familyofchristlutheranchur5351](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfamilyofchristlutheranchur5351)
or Call us at: 952-435-5757



**Tuesday, June 9, 2026
11:30 am to 5:30 pm**

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



Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study is on a break for June & July. But save the date for Monday, August 3rd for the annual retreat. Contact Linda Bartz for more information.

YOU ARE
Invited

Pastor Brent and Jennie Cole invite you to join them as they celebrate their wedding at Family of Christ. They would like to invite you to join them on July 24th at 5:30 pm for a ceremony followed by cake and beverages. As Pr. Brent & Jennie make their vows before God and their community, they would love for you to be a part of this.



Men's Tuesday AM Bible Study

Men's Bible Study meets every Tuesday at 7:30 AM. Come and join us as we gather to study the scriptures and share our journeys. All are invited. Join us in person or online. Contact Pastor Brent with any questions.

Thank You!

Special thanks to all those who helped with our youth this year. You are a blessing to so many!

SS Lead Teachers: Emily Huus, Kelly Hellier, Susan Semmler, Nathan Strenge, & Jaime Worm

SS Assistants: Roz Bergquist, Danielle Iseda, Jessica Bock, Gretchen Philpot, Sara Lulloff, Linda Burman, Betty Hellier, & Maddie Lulloff

Confirmation: Kristin Basballe, Nichole Van Minsel, Donny Bergquist, & Linda Burman

SS Music: Audrey Hanchek & Brita Hanchek

Family of Christ
10970 185th Street West
Lakeville, MN 55044

Dates to Remember

Sun. June 7: Worship/Graduation Sunday/MT
Car Wash Fundraiser
Wed. June 10: EPIC Night
Sun. June 14: Worship
June 15 - 18: Local Mission Trip
Sun. June 21: Worship & Father's Day
Wed. June 24: Community Meal/EPIC Night
Sun. June 28: Worship
Wed. July 1: EPIC Night
Sun. July 5: Worship
Wed. July 8: EPIC Night
Sun. July 12: Worship
Wed. July 15: Community Meal/EPIC Night
Sun. July 19: Worship
July 19 - July 24: Youth @ Luther Park
Wed. July 22: EPIC Night
Sun. July 26: Worship
Wed. July 29: EPIC Night

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:

Ffaith
AAcceptance
MMeaningful relationships
IImpact
LLove
YYouth