



November 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 Council

“The Joy of Generosity”

Have you ever done something generous and been surprised at the joy this brought into your life? Perhaps you made a generous financial gift. Perhaps you volunteered many hours of your time to a nonprofit organization. Perhaps you shared your talents in a way that benefited another person. Whatever the specifics, you were surprised by how much joy your generosity brought you.

In this experience, you bore witness to the truth of Jesus’ words recorded in Acts 20:35: **“There is more Happiness in Giving than Receiving”**.

Over the next few weeks, we as Family of Christ are going to consider the joy that generosity brings us. First, we will think about the connection between generosity and joy in our personal lives. Then we will celebrate the joy we experience through living in community. Finally, we will reflect on the joy we experience and the joy we give when we as a congregation do God’s work in the world.

As this unfolds, we encourage you to pay extra attention to material that comes your way from the church. Please join in worship, where we will focus on these three aspects of joyful generosity. Finally, we will ask you to reflect on your own life. How have you found generosity and joy to be related?

At the end of these three weeks, we will ask you to consider your giving to FOC for the coming year. You can be confident that your gifts to our congregation will bring joy to others, both inside and outside our community. You can also be confident that your generous gifts will bring you joy. Of that you have Jesus’ promise.

Peace,

Chuck Halvorson, Treasurer

and

Chad Specht, Financial Secretary



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Financial Update

Thank you for your faithful generosity throughout the year. Your gifts make it possible for Family of Christ to carry out its ministry, support our church family, and serve our community in Christ's name.

Through September, Family of Christ has received \$287,000 in giving compared to our budgeted giving goal of \$330,000. While we are grateful for the generosity of our congregation, giving is currently \$43,000 below the level anticipated in this year's budget.

As we enter the final months of the year, we invite you to prayerfully consider whether you can help close this gap through increased giving or a special year-end contribution. Every gift, regardless of size, helps support the ministries and programs that make Family of Christ a vibrant community of faith.

Together, we can finish the year strong and continue the important work God has called us to do.

Community Night: Nov 18th 6-7:30

We will gather as a community for food, faith, and fun!
Our theme is Thanksgiving!

A warm evening of food, friendship, and faith. We will eat, worship, and then do an activity! Bring a dish to share and stay for relaxed community time as we reconnect, laugh, and support one another. Come be part of the joy of growing together. All members are invited. Bring a friend, neighbor, or co-worker! If you are able, sign up to bring an item to the potluck! Thank you!

COMMUNITY NIGHTS



Thank you to all the volunteers who have graciously accepted to help with our Sunday School, Confirmation, or Youth Group this year. Our programming thrives because of you. Thanks for being a shining example of service to others. It has been a great fall, and we look forward to a wonderful year supporting our youth, young and old, on their faith journey. So, a huge shout out to you all!



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The Advent Band wants YOU!



Currently play an instrument? Played on many years ago and want to dust it off to see if you still have it? Then join us as we celebrate the Advent and Christmas season with a Sunday filled with instrumental music. All abilities welcome to join us as we celebrate the coming of our savior on Sunday, December 6th.

Contact Jeremy Mann for additional information.

OPPORTUNITIES

“Unpacking the Manger” Community Christmas Pageant

Christmas gets pretty busy and even the old story gets pretty crowded with shepherds, angels, animals and all sorts of other things. Join us as we celebrate Christmas with our annual community Christmas pageant. We will need actors, costume designers, set builders, and helpers of all ages as we get ready for our Christmas celebration on December 13th during worship. Sign up on the clipboard in worship or contact Pastor Brent and Dana if you want to help. First practice will be after worship on Nov. 22.



Trinity Care Gift Tree and Party

Join us in one or two ways as we support the residents at Trinity Care Nursing Home. Pick a stocking from the gift tree in the narthex, take the name out, write your name next to the resident's name on the sign-up sheet, then buy and wrap a gift/s for that person. Please bring the labeled wrapped gift/s to church by December 6th.

Then join in helping the residents celebrate the season by delivering the presents to them, singing carols at the party, and enjoying refreshments as we get to know the residents on Sunday, December 13th at 1:15. Come dressed in festive wear- all ages welcome. It is a wonderful way to serve together as a family. Please sign up on the clipboard or use the QR Code to the left.

Save the Date: Dec. 19, 2026,

FOC Advent Luncheon and Basket Fundraiser

Come enjoy the Christmas spirit and join in our potluck luncheon, basket raffle, and fellowship time on December 19th at 11:30. Everyone is invited this year (moms, dads, kids, teens, grandparents, cousins, neighbors, and friends too.) It is a potluck with a \$5.00 donation, and 6 cookies if you have some! Sign up on the clipboard and on the sign-up genius when it becomes available closer to the event.

Raffle tickets will be on sale after worship on Dec 6 and Dec 13 and the day of the luncheon. Profits will go to Messiah Lutheran Food Shelf. We are looking for members to help with this event on Dec. 6, Dec. 13, Dec 18, Dec 19. Sign up to volunteer using the QR Code below.



Advent Luncheon Raffle Basket Donations

It is time to start planning a basket to donate. Bring the baskets in any time between now and Dec 2nd if you can. They do not need to be big and extravagant, just something fun! We will also auction off any larger items (event tickets, cabin getaways, etc.) Need an idea?? The options are endless...

- | | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| *Spa Basket | *Date Night Basket | *Fishing Basket | *Baking Basket | *Ice Cream Basket |
| *Gift Wrap Basket | *Kid's Craft Basket | *Book Basket | *Coffee Basket | |
| *Movie Basket | *Chocolate Basket | *Wine Basket | *Lottery Basket | |
| *Money Tree Basket | *Game/Snack Basket | *Puzzle Basket | *Gardening Basket | |





FOC YOUTH NEWS

Youth Programming Wednesday Schedule:

6:00 PM - 6:20 PM Youth Dinner (optional)

6:20 PM - 7:45 PM Confirmation & Youth Group

Mission Trip: Puerto Rico 2027 Updates

Fundraisers:

Pie Bake Sale Fundraiser: We are selling pies for our members to help cover chaperones costs for the mission trip in July. The pies come from Carlson's Orchard. The pies are take and bake pies that come frozen. Flavors are Crust Top Apple, Crumb Top Apple, Apple Crisp, Pumpkin, and Cherry. Pies are \$20. The sign up is in the Narthex.

Cub Bagging: Youth will be bagging groceries at the Cub off Kenwood Trail on Nov. 24th. Youth - you can sign up to work a shift using the QR Code below.

If any of our FOC members have any fundraising ideas, please contact dana@familyofchrist.com.



****And don't forget to sign up to help with worship, next youth Sunday is 11/8 and we need acolytes every week.****



Youth Game Night

Do you love games and hanging out with friends? Are you a 6th-12th grader? If so, then come and join us on Wednesday, November 25th from 6:30-9:00. Feel free to bring caffeine-free drinks to share and/or a snack to share. Bring your favorite games as well. It is also a great opportunity to invite a friend or 2. Adult chaperones are welcome as well.



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Maddie Luloff & Hadley Worm for affirming their baptism on 10/25 during worship.

YOUTH SCHEDULE

Nov. 4: Dinner/Confirmation/Youth Group
 Nov. 8: Youth Sunday
 Nov. 11: Dinner/Confirmation/Youth Group
 Nov. 18: Community Night
 Nov. 24: Mission Trip Fundraiser - Cub Bagging
 Nov. 25: Youth Game Night
 Nov. 29: Meet w/ Foster Together
 Dec. 2 & 9: Dinner/Confirmation/Youth Group

Dec. 12: Full Rehearsal for Christmas Pageant
 9:30 - 11 am
 Dec. 13: Christmas Pageant/Youth Sunday/
 Bake Sale MT Fundraiser
 Dec. 13: Trinity Care Party 1:15 pm
 Dec. 16: Youth Combined Christmas Party
 Dec. 19: Advent Luncheon & Fundraiser
 Dec. 20: Mission Trip Fundraiser - Cub Bagging



FOC KIDS NEWS

Sunday School Schedule:

Nov. 1: Be Humble
 Nov. 8: Youth Sunday (sing), Ten Bridesmaids
 Nov. 15: Christmas Pageant Announcement & Costumes
 Nov. 22: Sheep & Goats
 Nov. 29: Be Ready

Christmas Pageant - "Unpacking the Manger"

December 13th at 9:30am

It's time for the Family of Christ's Christmas Pageant. If you haven't already, please let us know if you (adults welcome) or your children would like to be a part of the program. Whether that's through acting, singing, helping with props and costumes or anything else, we can use your help. Contact Dana or Pastor Brent if you are interested in helping or participating.

Below is the schedule for this year's Christmas Program and Sunday School.

Sunday, Nov. 22	10:30-11:30 Practice program and SS
Sunday, Nov. 29	10:30-11:30 Practice program and SS
Sunday, Dec. 6	10:30-11:30 Practice program and SS
Saturday, Dec. 12	Dress Rehearsal 9:30-11:00am for all
Sunday, Dec. 13	Christmas Pageant 9:30am – Arrive by 9:00am (Trinity Party at 1:15)

Christmas Songs the youth will sing with the Pageant if you want to help them get ready:

O come, all ye faithful
 Joy to the world
 Silent night, holy night
 Hark! The herald angels sing
 Angels we have heard on high
 Go tell it on the mountain



KIDS SCHEDULE

Nov. 1: Sunday School
 Nov. 8: SS Kids Sing @ Worship/Sunday School
 Nov. 15: Christmas Pageant Role
 Announcements & Costume Distribution
 Nov. 18: Community Night
 Nov. 22: Sunday School/Pageant Rehearsal
 Nov. 29: Sunday School/Pageant Rehearsal

Dec. 6: Sunday School/Pageant Rehearsal
 Dec. 12: Full Rehearsal - Christmas
 Pageant 9:30 - 11:00 am
 Dec. 13: Christmas Pageant/Youth
 Sunday/Bake Sale
 Dec. 13: Trinity Care Party 1:15 pm
 Dec. 19: Advent Luncheon/Fundraiser

Messiah Community Food Shelf November Mission of the Month

As a community food shelf, we are committed to providing, healthy, nourishing food to our customers to promote strong, thriving, wholesome families. Together, Messiah Community Food Shelf and 360 Communities provide support to our local community to promote long-term self-sufficiency. Our food shelf offers a wide variety of healthy food options like fresh produce and whole grains as items that are low in fat, sodium, and sugar. These offerings help meet clients' nutritional needs and contribute to better community health overall. We currently serve around 4,000 people a year, approximately 88,000 pounds of food.

Donations and volunteers are always welcome!

There are so many ways to serve at the food shelf.

If you're interested in volunteering, please reach out to us.



Current LAMA Needs:

- Winter Gear for Elementary/Middle School students
- Cleaning supplies
- School Snacks
- Ready-made meals (Dinty Moore Stew, Chef Boyardee, Hormel Compleats, etc.)
- Elementary sized Clothes & Shoes

'tis the season

TO BE GIVING



&



360 Communities.
Help in the moment. Hope for the future.

INVITE YOU TO A HOLIDAY
GIFT DRIVE

SAT. DEC 5TH, 2026

FROM 11 - 1

HELP US GATHER GIFTS FOR
FAMILIES IN NEED IN OUR
COMMUNITY THIS HOLIDAY
SEASON

DROP OFF AT FAMILY OF CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH
10970 185TH ST W, LAKEVILLE

GIFT IDEAS

- PAJAMAS, ALL SIZES & GENDERS
- KITS (CRAFTS, ART, MAKEUP, SCIENCE, NAIL, HYGIENE, SLIME)
- BARBIES/DOLLS
- ACTION FIGURES
- SPORTING ITEMS (NERF BALLS, FRISBEES, WIFFLE BATS, ETC)
- THROWS
- FIDGETS/SQUISHIES
- BOARD GAMES
- \$10 GIFT CARDS FOR FAST FOOD/COFFEE (TEEN GIFTS)



SCAN HERE TO
DONATE FUNDS
INSTEAD

"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
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Ann Mikiska
Mary Wescott
Kim & Steve Wolff
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Family of Christ Lutheran Church

is a member of the ELCA



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OCTOBER RECAP



Confirmation 2026



Fall Youth Retreat



Community Night 10/21 w/ Kindness Rocks

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

Dates to Remember

Sun. November 1: Daylight Saving Time Ends/All Saints Sunday
Mon. November 2: Women's Bible Study
Wed. November 18: Community/Together Night
Tues. November 24: Cub Bagging - Youth Fundraiser
Wed. November 25: Youth Game Night
Sun. November 29: Advent Begins
Tues. December 1: Blood Drive
Sat. December 5: LAMA Holiday Gift Drive
Sun. December 6: Advent Band in worship
Mon. December 7: Women's Bible Study
Sat. December 12: Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
Sun. December 13: Christmas Pageant, Bake Sale Fundraiser & Trinity Care Christmas Party
Fri. December 18: Carols Sing-a-Long at the Englund's
Sat. December 19: Advent Luncheon
Sun. December 20: Longest Night Worship
Thu. December 24: Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship

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