

Worship

- **Indoor worship—9am
Sundays—Sign-up
required**
- **Outdoor worship—
6:30pm Wednesdays
(starts 6/2)**
- **Online worship will
continue and will be
posted on the church
website.**



Church Council 2021

Carmen Hanson
Jennifer Hinker
Jon Holzer
Derek Horeis
Elizabeth Kohlhof
Tom Sebelien
Lisa Spencer
Stacy VanCura
Pastor Bruce Kuenzel

The Marks of Discipleship

- † **Pray daily**
- † **Worship weekly**
- † **Read the Bible**
- † **Serve at or beyond
Light of Christ**
- † **Relate to others for
spiritual growth**
- † **Give of my time, talents
and resources**

Contact us!

Light of Christ Lutheran
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Delano, MN 55328
(763) 972-2400



LightOfChristLutheran.com
Terri.Reuter@locdelano.com

Gift from Endowment Fund for Youth Camperships

Your Light of Christ Endowment Fund has provided a \$1000 gift to provide camperships for the youth of Light of Christ. These camperships will serve to ensure that the cost of camp is not a reason for kids to miss this amazing, life changing experience.

Please consider supporting Light of Christ's Endowment Fund. The fund is invested with the ELCA Foundation and the growth and interest from the fund is used to support ministry, not only at Light of Christ, but also within our community and out into the world.

Questions? Contact Brian Harstad, Jonathan Ness, Amy Bigot or Pr. Bruce.



EVERY MEAL
FIGHTING CHILD HUNGER

Thank you to all of those who donated to our Sunday school offering. We were able to donate **\$489.48** to Every Meal Fighting Child Hunger. This will help get meals to over 550 schools across MN and close food gaps for children when they are not in school or during the summer. God bless you!

I have so many people to thank as I end my time here at Light of Christ as Assistant Director of Children & Family. My family has been members of LOC for over 13 years. I felt God's call when Kirsten asked me to step into the interim position as the Sunday school coordinator, job sharing with Catherine Borman. I have always had a love for our children here at LOC, being a member of the Children & Family Ministry Committee and a Sunday school teacher for many years.

Thank you to all the Sunday school children and their families, especially this last year with all the challenges it brought. Thank you to the staff—I felt truly blessed to be a part of a wonderful group. Thank you, Pastor Bruce, for the guidance during my time here on staff. Catherine Borman, thank you for being my partner in all of this. Kirsten Kelly, thank you for believing in me and all your patience and guidance over the last 1 ½ years. I might be leaving as staff, but I will continue to be a member and volunteer at Light of Christ.

Kim Wortz



CHURCH NEWS

May 24, 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers at Light of Christ,

On behalf of the Church Council, I'm writing to let you know that at our May meeting last Tuesday, we made the following decisions regarding our worship life as we move into the summer season.



- First, we will continue to follow the recommendations of the CDC and MN Department of Health.

Online

- Second, we will continue to post an **online, YouTube service** each Sunday through the summer.

Indoors

- Third, we will hold an **indoor service in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM beginning on May 30th**. In keeping with the latest recommendations of the MN Department of Health (5/18), we will do the following things:
 - 1) **Social distancing.** Families/pods will be seated at a six-foot distance from one another. This social distancing requirement limits us to a maximum of 72 people per service. Therefore, we will have a SignUp Genius for each service and we'll ask you to sign up **by the Friday before each Sunday service**. This will give us adequate time to put together a seating chart for each service.
 - 2) **Masking.** For those who are fully vaccinated, masks are optional. For those who are not fully vaccinated, masks are required except for children five and under. Because children under the age of 12 cannot get vaccinated at this time, and many teenagers are not yet fully vaccinated, we will be requiring everyone to mask up when we are singing as a congregation.
 - 3) **Holy Communion.** We will celebrate Holy Communion "in place/in the pews."

Outdoors

- We will also hold an **outdoor service on the church lawn on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM beginning on June 2nd, weather permitting**. Because we have so many children and youth who are not fully vaccinated yet, or can't get vaccinated until the fall, we will be designing this service to be as "kid/youth friendly" as possible and still be a "low risk" service.
 - 1) **Social distancing.** Social distancing is encouraged in order to keep our kids as safe as possible.
 - 2) **Masking.** Masking is optional for everyone.
 - 3) **Holy Communion.** We will celebrate Holy Communion "in place."

Going Forward

- Fifth, as you well know, emerging from the pandemic is a fluid situation and we fully expect the guidance from the CDC and MN Department of Health to change as we move through the summer and into the fall. So at our monthly Council meetings we will review our policies and practices in relation to COVID19 and make the necessary revisions that will allow us to be as open as possible and also as "low-risk" as possible.

Please don't hesitate to contact anyone on the Council with your comments, or concerns, or questions. We look forward to speaking with you.

Peace and joy be with you,

Light of Christ Church Council

Carmen Hanson *Secretary*

Jennifer Hinker

Jon Holzer

Derek Horeis

Elizabeth Kohlhof *Vice-President*

Bruce Kuenzel *Pastor*

Tom Sebelien *Treasurer*

Lisa Spencer

Stacy VanCura *President*

Fifth Sunday Offering (May 30th) Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Minneapolis

Our Fifth Sunday offering in May will be going to support the Justice Fund at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. Since its founding in 1904, Holy Trinity has been a church deeply rooted in the diverse, immigrant-rich Longfellow neighborhood, in an appreciation for learning, in traditional worship, and in a commitment to social justice.

Holy Trinity is located just east of the Minneapolis 3rd Police Precinct, and its neighborhood was where protests sprang up in the hours and days following George Floyd's death. Since that time the Church has seen an increase in the amount of people needing assistance. Pastor Ingrid Arneson Rasmussen has said they are most in need of donations to their Justice Fund to continue its work in the neighborhood. To find out more you can visit <https://htlcmpls.org/>

Ways we as a congregation can help:

- Donate through Light of Christ [Here](#) to enter your **Designated Gift** and mention *Holy Trinity Lutheran Justice Fund Fifth Sunday*
- Donate to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church directly at the following link: <https://htlcmpls.org/donate/> - select *Justice Fund* in the Fund dropdown



Love INC Needs Volunteers

Love INC's Fresh Start group is starting to meet again in person on Monday nights and is in need of adults to help watch children (ages approx. 4-10) while the group meets. Fresh Start is a class series designed to help adults learn new skills and set goals to break the cycle of poverty. Interested folks can contact Doug Stewart (the Executive Director) directly at director@loveincheartland.org.

Caring Corner

(by Lona Jose with LOC
Healing and Wholeness Committee)



Understanding Bipolar Mental Illness

The month of May is Mental Health Awareness Month. The Caring Corner is reaching out to our congregation to provide information and support during this time to those who have a mental health illness and for family and friends who provide support to those individuals. This article provides information about bipolar disorders.

There are different types of bipolar disorders. In the past these illnesses were termed manic depression. During the depressive periods people usually sleep too much, have little energy and have very sad thoughts. While this condition is likely going to continue through a lifetime, medications, therapy, support groups, exercise, healthy eating and drinking, and reaching out to those around you can all help to make life better and quite functional. Julie Wischmann provided excellent mindfulness ideas in her May 17th LOC Caring Corner as well.

A question frequently asked is "how can I help someone who is living with bipolar mental illness?" It is most helpful for you to get educated about the illness and don't assume you know what they are going through. Encourage them to seek professional help as described above and be supportive of their treatment plan. Listen to them and do not judge or try to "fix" their illness. You may not always approve of their actions/ words, but reach out and let them know you are available to talk and listen. Coach them to maintain a schedule. Invite them somewhere outside of their house if they wish, continue inviting but also understand if they request time alone. You could offer to go to a support group with them, reassure them that their lives have meaning and that their illness does not define or limit them. And if you are a care giver, also take care of yourself and consider seeking out a support group to connect with others.

The special messages we are spreading this month and beyond is that mental illness is not a choice but an illness. Please join us in spreading these messages, "**Walk a Mile in My Shoes,**" "**Break the Stigma,**" "**I Cannot Do It Alone,**" "**You Are not Alone, I'm with You,**" "**You Are a Beloved Child of God,**" and "**God Is There for You.**" And as Psalm 139 says, "**I am fearfully and wonderfully made.**"

A special thank you for all who supported our LOC walk to spread these messages!! Let's keep walking!!



- ✦ **May 30th**—Sunday indoor worship at 9:00 am begins—sign-up required
- ✦ **June 2nd**—Wednesday evening outdoor worship at 6:30 pm begins



Light of Christ Annual Summer Picnic

Tuesday, June 8th 6:00 PM – LOC Parking Lot

This is going to be tailgate style, so please bring your own lawn chairs. All food will be catered, and beverages and dessert will be provided. **Please RSVP no later than June 1st** at this [SignUp Genius link](#), indicating your choice of boxed lunch. You'll have a choice of a 2-piece fried chicken dinner, a 2-piece grilled chicken dinner, a vegetarian or a gluten free option.

Free-will donations will be collected to be used for the youth mission trip. We will also be assigning prayer partners with the youth group as well.

We hope you can make it, so pray for good weather! If you prefer not to RSVP via SignUp Genius, you may RSVP to Heidi Goldbeck at heidigold100@gmail.com or you may call her at 612-418-0111.

Thank you! Your giving, your offerings to Light of Christ help make our children's ministry a fantastic ministry to, with, and for our kids! Your generosity helps to provide staffing, materials, organization, and more to help kids and families grow in faith. Thank you!

stewardship

Free Items!

As we remodel the Youth Room space, we have several items that are available for free if you, or anyone you know, are interested. Currently, we have two heavy doors (interior) and a small TV stand. If you would like more information, please contact Kirsten Kelly.



2022 Offering Envelopes

A growing number of members contribute weekly or monthly using electronic giving methods. However, we understand that many prefer placing an offering envelope in the plate. To eliminate the **purchased-but-unclaimed** envelopes that are wasted, we're asking each family that **wants** pre-printed envelopes to request them from the church office by **AUGUST 1st**. Email Terri.Reuter@locdelano.com or call 763-972-2400. This "OPT IN" method will greatly benefit the office supplies budget. Thank you!



We are asking for our Light of Christ members to help us come up with a new name for the youth room! The vision for this room, once it is completed, is to be a community room for us all to use. If you have any great name ideas, please send

them to either Kirsten or Kim at Kirtsten.Kelly@locdelano.com or Kim.Wortz@locdelano.com. We are excited to hear the creativity from our members!

Stay Informed!

Church Council meeting minutes can be found on the [church website](#).



JOB VACANCY

Light of Christ Lutheran Church is seeking a Shared Ministry Coordinator to help build and coordinate a spiritual gifts ministry where peoples' gifts and areas of interest are matched with opportunities for service and ministry. If you can see yourself supporting our congregational membership process by actively connecting visitors and members with the life of the congregation and engaging people in their areas of giftedness and passion, please contact Jo Williamson at lohvil@msn.com with your interest. The full job description is available through the church office (Terri.Reuter@locdelano.com), or on the [church website](#).

Final Sunday School Session

We ended the Sunday School year with beautiful weather (finally)!! We had a small group but that didn't stop us from having fun. The kids learned about the Holy Spirit and Pentecost. They read Acts 2: 1-21, made pinwheels, learned how to sign the Holy Spirit, and ended the hour with keeping a balloon up in the air with a pool noodle. Thank you to all the families that have participated in outdoor worship, it has been really great to see their smiling faces and energy.



Spark Wraps Up

Spark finished up for the school year with 1st and 2nd graders. The theme that we focused on was “**Bee** like Jesus”. The children learned that one way we can be like Jesus is to try our best and work well with others for a common goal. The first game we played consisted of teams of two “bees” working together to quickly gather the most “pollen” for their nest. It was very fast-paced and the busy “bees” were quite exhausted after 3 rounds. The children then made a cute, bee craft using clothes pins, pipe cleaners, googly eyes, paper, and markers. The second game was also pretty active and consisted of 2 teams racing to find the most flowers for their team in one-minute intervals. The children then met with Pastor Bruce for a lesson about more ways that we can all be like Jesus, during which groups took turns performing skits. Lastly, each child got to take home a booklet that they were supposed to complete with their parents about specific ways they can be more like Jesus. Once again, thank you to all our LOC parents and their children for their flexibility and understanding with all the changes we had to make this year. Spark will resume again in the fall and go back to 4-week sessions for each grade from 1st-6th. If your child has not participated in the program before, we highly recommend including it in your child's faith journey!





Where is
FLAT JESUS?

Flat Jesus!

This summer, bring Flat Jesus with you on your adventures – to the park, your camping trip, family vacations, and even to the pool! Take a picture of you with Flat Jesus and share them with us. You can send the pictures to Terri.Reuter@locdelano.com or LaDonna.Ekern@locdelano.com. We would like to extend this invitation out to all members of the congregation, young and old. You can pick up your Flat Jesus before any worship service. We are excited to see your adventures this summer!

VBS Is Coming Soon!

Spring is here and summer will follow soon enough! **Parents of current preschoolers-4th graders:** look at your calendar and set aside the 3rd week of July for Light of Christ's Vacation Bible School! Although VBS had to be done virtually last summer and will be running a little differently this summer as well, LOC is excited to welcome back the children in-person. We hope you will keep LOC in mind as you make your summer plans. More details about each program and access to registration links are given below:

LOC's Preschool VBS is for children who turn 3-years-old by July 20th up to those entering kindergarten in the fall of 2021. The theme for this camp is "Through Life's Ups and Downs, Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through". It is taken from the Rocky Railway VBS program that LOC was supposed to do last summer but was unable to due to the pandemic. This program will run daily from 4:00 pm-5:00 pm Tuesday, July 20th-Thursday, July 22nd and will be led by Kirsten Kelly. More details can be found and registration may be completed at [LOC Preschool VBS](#). There are currently 16 children enrolled.

LOC's VBS led by Shetek Lutheran Ministries is for children who will be entering grades 1st-5th in the fall of 2021 and will be led by Shetek Lutheran Ministries. The theme for this camp is "Dwell Faithfully" based upon the bible verse *As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love*-John 15:9. This program will run daily from 9:00 am-2:30 pm Monday, July 19th-Thursday, July 22nd. More details can be found at [LOC VBS led by Shetek Lutheran Ministries](#). There are currently 21 children enrolled for this program.



Register for Summer Camp!

Join us at camp this summer! We encourage you to invite a friend and sign up for *any* week that works for your family!

Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp (<https://lakewapo.org/>)

So far, we have 15 youth signed up to attend Wapo this summer. Wapo is welcoming church staff to visit kids for at least a day. So, if that helps you feel more comfortable to register your child, know that we will be there at least one day to check in and give you an update!

- **June 27-July 2:** completed grades 4-12
- **July 25-30:** completed grades 4-12
- **July 21-23 (Wapo Seeds):** completed grades 1-3

Green Lake Lutheran Ministries (<https://www.gllm.org/>) - Currently, we do not have any LOC youth registered at GLBC.

LOC will offer scholarships again to any youth who attends Bible camp (\$100 for week-long and \$50 for the "abbreviated" camp). Families are encouraged to register for the camps even if it means getting on a wait list since they are hoping to open up more spaces for each week at camp as it gets closer to summer. Please contact our staff with any questions you have.