



# The Beacon

March 23, 2020

Pastor Bruce Kuenzel

To increase communication during this time when we are not able to meet face to face, we will be sending out The Beacon newsletter on a weekly basis rather than bi-weekly. We will keep you informed of any important information, as well as share ministry resources for you to access during this time of change.

## Staying Vibrant Despite the Virus Our Response to COVID-19

### Staying Vibrant

This last week has been filled with change—rapid and profound change. So, I want to begin by reminding you of what will change and what will not change, both in our personal and families' lives, and in our life together here at Light of Christ.

What will not change here at Light of Christ is *who we are and what we do*. We are still God's beloved children, living as God's beloved community, and caring for God's beloved creation. We were named and claimed, called and chosen in Baptism. Our identity in Christ is constant amid all life's changes.

As God's beloved children, we still seek to be Christ's living, loving presence in the world. We still seek to love more like Jesus loves: to forgive more like him, to serve more like him, to pray more like him, and to give more like him. That is especially true now, when our faith and our church is as important as ever.

Conversely, we will not be defined by a virus. We need to deal with this virus, but we will not be defined by it. We will not crawl into a hole and hide; we will not put the brakes on our mission and ministry; we will not hide our light under a bushel.

*What is changing, however, is how we live as God's living, loving presence in the world.* We need to think and act creatively, imaginatively, and courageously as we continue to carry out the tasks that the Lord has given to us. The "who" and the "what" is not changing; the "how" is.

Love is always free to improvise. We see that again and again in our Lord's ministry—he had great freedom to love the person in front of him, in any given moment, in whatever way he knew was best. We have the same freedom—to love the Lord and to love one another, especially the most vulnerable, in the way we believe is best for them and most pleasing to the Lord.

### Contact us!

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(763) 972-2400



[LightOfChristLutheran.com](http://LightOfChristLutheran.com)



### April Worship

Sunday and Lenten services will be recorded and posted on the [church website](http://church website) so you can watch and stay connected each week. Online worship will continue until the restrictions for large group gatherings are lifted.



### Church Council 2020

Kylee Amdor  
Wes Aylsworth  
Carmen Hanson  
Jennifer Hinker  
Jon Holzer  
Elizabeth Kohlhof  
Dan Langner  
Tom Sebelien  
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

## Ministry Leadership

- The Church Council met on March 17<sup>th</sup> and decided that **we will follow the recommendations/guidelines set out by the Centers for Disease Control and the MN Department of Health as closely as we can.** That means, at least right now, that we will not hold gatherings of more than ten people and that in any gathering we keep a “social distance” of at least six feet.
- **Virtual Meetings . . .** The Church Council, and our Committees, Task Forces, Staff and all other meetings will be held “virtually” as much as possible. When we do have “in person” meetings we will practice the recommended “social distance”.
- **Zoom . . .** We have purchased a “Zoom” subscription which is intended to be used as the platform for “virtual” meetings throughout our congregational leadership. Please contact Terri in the church office for scheduling and details.
- **Staff Working Remotely . . .** Staff members will be set up to work from home and will do much of their work remotely with my approval and under my supervision. Our office hours, and office presence, will be reduced to Monday-Thursday, 8:00 am-2:00 pm, Friday, 8:00 am-noon. These hours may be adjusted as needed.
- **Communications . . .** We will be using all of our communications platforms to inform you of what is happening in a timely and comprehensive way – the website, our Facebook page, YouTube, email, e-blasts, The Beacon, texts, and telephoning. One change we are making right away is that we will be publishing The Beacon every week now (rather than every two weeks) and we’ll be sending it out on Monday, both by email and by snail mail for those who are not online.

## Worship/Music/Devotions

- **Online Sunday Services . . .** Sunday worship services will be recorded during the week and posted on our website so that you can watch them beginning on Sunday morning. We will continue to do “online worship” until the restrictions on large group gatherings are lifted. Our Sunday services can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLKsWMFGKBf07k9w9MFFrqw>
- **Online Lenten Services . . .** Wednesday night Lenten services will also be recorded and posted on our website so that you can watch them beginning on Wednesday evening of any given week. Our Lenten Services can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLKsWMFGKBf07k9w9MFFrqw>
- **The First Communion Services** scheduled for March 22 and 29 are postponed until the restrictions on large group gatherings are lifted.
- **The Confirmation Day Service** scheduled for April 19<sup>th</sup> may be postponed as well if the restrictions on large group gatherings have not been lifted.
- **The Adult Choir and the Praise Team** will not be rehearsing. Rehearsal will resume once we are told that it is safe for groups larger than ten people to meet.
- **Daily Devotions . . .** Katie Kohler, our Worship and Music Director, and I will be posting a morning devotion five days a week – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday—which you can find on our website. These devotions can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCC9rQjYGEeirQz2YkVtm0Fw/videos>

## Children, Youth, and Family Ministry

- **Sunday School, Spark, and Confirmation** instruction will be held via “distance learning” to the extent that it is possible and feasible for us.
- **Kids Connect Devotions . . .** Kirsten Kelly, Cat Borman, and Kim Wortz will be posting a “Kids Connect” devotion at least five days a week. You will also find this on our website. These devotions can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbFFRPskN3DJkv0KcG4RNcA>
- **High School Fellowship** will not meet in person but will meet “virtually.”

## Giving

- **Generosity . . .** Please continue to give generously. If you are not using online giving this is a wonderful opportunity to try it out. You can also mail your offering to the church office or drop it off during regular office hours.
- **Contingency planning . . .** Given the potential economic impact of the coronavirus, the Church Council will draw up contingency plans for our spending/expenses for the remainder of the year, for example, if our financial giving is 90%/80%/70% of our projected estimate of giving for 2020.

## Serving

- **Pack the Pews . . .** Please continue to bring groceries for the “Pack the Pews” campaign and drop them off in the Fellowship Hall during normal office hours. Given the economic downturn food insecurity will grow.
- **Fifth Sunday Offering . . .** In addition, please give generously to our Fifth Sunday Offering this month which is being donated to help support the Senior Dining Program at the Delano Senior Center. Since the Seniors cannot eat together at the dining center our donation will be used to help purchase food and meals for the senior adults who normally come to the Senior Center.
- **Medical Vulnerability . . .** We will be paying special attention to our senior adults and provide them with timely written/printed communication (especially if they are not online) and assess whether they have additional needs, such as ordering groceries online, running errands, etc.  
The same will be true of any families we can help, at Light of Christ and in the community, who may be “home bound” because of a coronavirus infection. Please contact the church office if you are in need of help, or if you are available to help those who cannot, or should not, leave their home.
- **Financial Vulnerability . . .** The economic downturn will leave many families struggling financially. We are exploring ways in which we can help these families through a time of underemployment or unemployment.

## Building Usage/Cleanliness

- **Building Usage . . .** As of this writing, none of the outside organizations that use our building will be using it in the foreseeable future. The one exception is AA and Al-Anon. Our one request of them is that they follow the CDC and MN Department of Health guidelines for small group meetings.
- **Building Cleanliness . . .** Paul Gabrelcik, our church custodian, is currently at work to do a deep cleaning of the entire building and all the furniture, with special attention to doorknobs, handles, faucets, and any surface that is repeatedly touched. We will also be asking anyone who comes into the building for any length of time to wash their hands and use hand sanitizer when

## Updates

We will be posting regular updates on the website and Facebook page as this situation unfolds. So please check back regularly to stay up-to-date on the latest information.

Finally, please don't hesitate to contact me, or one of our staff members, or a member of the Church Council with any comments, concerns, or questions you may have. We need to stay as connected as possible as we live Christ's love in the midst of this pandemic. The Lord is with us—he is our strength, our life, and our love in the days ahead.

Grace and peace always,

Pastor Bruce

## Staff Contact Information

Since our staff will be doing much of their work remotely, we want to make sure that you can easily reach us. So here are our work email addresses and preferred phone numbers.

Catherine Borman, Associate Director of Children and Family  
[locfamilies@gmail.com](mailto:locfamilies@gmail.com) 612-423-2616

Paul Gabrelcik, Custodian 612-816-9377

Debbie Johnson, Bookkeeper  
[locfinance@frontier.com](mailto:locfinance@frontier.com) 612-747-7063

Kirsten Kelly, Director of Youth and Family  
[locchildren@gmail.com](mailto:locchildren@gmail.com) 612-220-7464

Katie Kohler, Director of Worship and Music  
[locworshipmus@gmail.com](mailto:locworshipmus@gmail.com) 763-238-5159

Bruce Kuenzel, Pastor  
[locpastor@frontier.com](mailto:locpastor@frontier.com) 505-412-3013

Terri Reuter, Office Administrator  
[lochrist@frontiernet.net](mailto:lochrist@frontiernet.net) 612-419-3272

Jinnelle Weis, Shared Ministry Director  
[locvolunteer@frontier.com](mailto:locvolunteer@frontier.com) 952-250-5527

Kim Wortz, Associate Director of Children and Family  
[Locsundayschool19@gmail.com](mailto:Locsundayschool19@gmail.com) 952-457-9253

## DISCOVER LIGHT OF CHRIST POSTPONEMENT

The **Discover Light of Christ session for Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>** is temporally postponed and currently does not have a date for rescheduling.

For anyone interested in learning more about membership at Light of Christ, please watch for future notices regarding a new date and time for this gathering. Updates will be provided in the Light of Christ Beacon and available on the Light of Christ website. You are also encouraged to call the church office (763-972-2400) if you have questions or want additional information.

Until further notice, Sunday worship services are being recorded and posted on our website for online viewing. New members are tentatively scheduled to be received during both 8:15 and 10:45 worship services on your choice of Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup> or Sunday May 9<sup>th</sup>. Those dates may be subject to change – please watch for further information regarding all reinstatement of Light of Christ onsite worship and programs.

## ONLINE FAITH RESOURCES

We will be updating the church website regularly with online resources that are pertinent during this time. Please feel free to share ideas with our staff as well! We hope these links will support you in faith and help with some ideas during this time at home. Blessings!

- ✝ **Coronavirus Conversations Milestone Moment:** [www.milestoneministry.org](http://www.milestoneministry.org)
- ✝ **Illustrated Ministry** (free, weekly, faith formation resources for all ages): [www.illustratedministry.com](http://www.illustratedministry.com)
- ✝ **Family Ministry Tools:** [www.familyministrytools.org](http://www.familyministrytools.org)

## CHURCH LIBRARY

Just a reminder that even though the public libraries are closed, the church library has many books and resources for members to check out, and for all ages and topics. Just stop in during office hours to check it out!

