



Worship

Worship services will be recorded and posted on the church website. 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**
- ✝ **Give of my time, talents and resources**

Fresh Produce Distribution

Light of Christ volunteers, in collaboration with Our Father's Lutheran Church/ NourishingHOPE ministry, again distributed food/produce to area residents. Distribution was possible through the generosity of Second Harvest Heartland, produce from Untiedt Farms and Dave and Heidi Wueger's large contribution of apples from their Apple Tree-O orchard! Distribution took place at Light of Christ on Tuesday, November 10th with the help of Jessie and Wes Aylsworth, Cheri Ashfeld, Amy Bigot, Wendy Caslavka, Steven Dickey, Carolyn Hirsch, Candace Mielke, Joyce Specht, JoMarie Williamson and Jinnelle Weis. The continued help of dedicated volunteers is a blessing and very appreciated! A special thank you to Jessie and Wes Aylsworth for their efforts in pick-up and packing of the produce, and to Wes for his organization and oversight of this event through the spring, summer and fall months. We are also grateful to Aaron Amdor for the continued use of his covered trailer for transportation and storage. Additional volunteers would certainly be welcomed and very needed – please contact locvolunteer@frontier.com if you can help in any way!

Light of Christ is grateful to be included in this ministry - it is heartwarming to experience the willingness of so many to provide resources and assistance needed during this unsettling time. It is also very telling that the need remains great as evidenced by having to turn away a few families once all goods had been given out.



A huge thank you to our Light of Christ volunteers and to all who continue to support community members in so many ways!

Staying Vibrant!

This is our calling as a church.

This is our vision as we envision ministry together on into a new year.

This is God's gift to us as a faith community and as individuals--that we receive and share vibrancy as people of Christ. We are filled with faith, hope, and love as together we are a beacon of light to Delano and beyond.

Thanks to all who have submitted a financial pledge for 2021 ministry, thank you!

While some think that making a pledge or commitment is for the benefit of the church, take a moment to consider how important it is to you as a member or family. Making a weekly or monthly financial pledge helps you:

- to be a part of making a difference outside of your own circle
- to affirm generosity as a primary value for you
- to put your faith to work in tangible ways
- to express the reality that everything you have is entrusted to you from God and that this is your act of good stewardship
- to be a part of something bigger than yourself
- to experience the joy that comes through the act of giving
- to be faithful to God's calling as a Christian

The link below will enable you to make a pledge/commitment for our shared 2021 ministry. Thank you for being an important contributor to our calling to Stay Vibrant together as Light of Christ Lutheran Church!

[Click here for pledge form](#)

Contact us!

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



LightOfChristLutheran.com
lochist@frontiernet.net

Helping Delano Families



This year has been challenging for everyone in different ways, but it has been particularly difficult for those who are struggling financially. Although the Christmas season is a joyous time for many, we must remember that it can actually bring about added stress for parents who desperately want to partake in the tradition of gift-giving, but do not have the financial means to do so. After careful consideration, our Children & Family Ministry has decided to turn our focus towards local families in need. We will be teaming up with a foundation called **Friends for a Cause**, which was started by Jill VanBeusekom, a Delano resident and social worker for Wright County. The foundation's mission statement is "to celebrate that giving is greater than receiving through the connections of community and friendship." This foundation is in partnership with the Delano Area Schools' counselors. Friends for a Cause will help over 50 Delano families and also 113 foster care kids in Wright county. Our CFM team has decided to "adopt" 10 local families. A sign up will be going out in the next week or so and gifts will be **due December 10th**. Please keep this great service project in mind when you are thinking about ways you can give back this holiday season. Let's help spread some Christmas cheer for some of our local families in need!

Food Shelf Volunteer Opportunities

Light of Christ will provide volunteers for the Delano Food Shelf for the months of December, March and June. The hours are 1:45-4:00 pm each Thursday of those months, as well as 4:00-6:00 pm the last Thursday of the month if there are customers. The exception this year is Wednesday, December 23rd which will be the last December date because of Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve falling on Thursdays. Volunteer numbers will be minimized to allow social distancing and masks will be worn. To keep volunteers and customers safe during this Covid time, customers will not be entering the building but will do curbside pickup. If you have not been contacted regarding volunteering and you are interested, please call Lona Jose at 320-241-3943. Thank you!

Call on the Light of Christ Prayer Chain

If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, please feel free to engage the Light of Christ Prayer Chain. Contact the church office either by email, which is preferred (lochrist@frontiernet.net), or phone (763-972-2400; please keep in mind office hours are currently limited to Wednesdays, 9:15-11:30 am) with your request, which remains confidential. The LOC Prayer Chain will pray for you as requested. Feel free to call on this team in your time of need. Anyone wishing to join the Prayer Chain should contact the church office.



Caring Corner

(by Sue Fink with LOC
Healing and Wholeness Ministry)

Important notice: Anyone wanting to join our adult support group for those who love or care about a person experiencing mental illness, we will add a Zoom option for you. We meet the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 7-8:30pm in the church library. If you wish to join us, but are concerned about in-person meetings, please email Sue Fink (billandsue2931@gmail.com) and she will email your Zoom invitation to you.

Preparing for a 2020 Holiday Season

As we move into the last few weeks of 2020, we are quickly approaching the holidays as well as our long and dark Minnesota winter. Some people experience SAD, or seasonal affective disorder. But most of us this year will be feeling at least a bit blue because of the pandemic's effect on our ability to gather in our big traditional ways. But what can we do? Get mentally and spiritually prepared for different celebrations for this year. Remember, it's just for this one year, we can do it!!

For your own mental well-being and that of your loved ones:

- We need to keep each other from getting the virus by limiting our gatherings and using the hygiene practices as the CDC recommends. So keep it up, don't give in to "virus fatigue."
- Think of what is most important about each celebration - Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's - and try to either keep those traditions on a much smaller scale, or perhaps try a whole new 2020 version and do something totally different. The important thing is to prepare that this will be a "different" year so as not to set yourself up for added stress or disappointment.
- Maintain your ability to fight off illness by eating healthy foods, getting adequate sleep, get outside for at least a short time each day, try to take a walk or do an online exercise regimen. Schedule your exercise just as you would an appointment or assignment in your weekly planner.
- Practice gratitude - for what are you thankful each moment of every day? Make a list, journal, share your thoughts of gratitude with your family to boost their morale. Think positive thoughts. Read your Bible and PRAY!
- Start a new hobby or finish a project that's been on your list for a long time. Bake some cookies for a neighbor. Being productive really helps our mental health.
- Make a point of calling distant family and friends. Set up a family Facetime or Zoom event.
- Reach out for help when you need someone to help you. See your doctor or therapist, seek out mental health resources online such as NAMIMN.org or Google mental health for all kinds of resources. Call a friend! Avoid trying to treat your stress, anxiety or sadness with alcohol, food or drugs.
- Be kind to yourself and to one another, keep praying for yourself, your loved ones, your church leaders. Attend church services online and meditate on the devotions prepared by Pastor Bruce and Katie.

GOD IS GOOD....ALL THE TIME!

A Message About In-person Worship:

Dear sisters and brothers of Light of Christ,

We find ourselves in a fluid, dynamic situation in regard to COVID19. The number of people in our Light of Christ community who are quarantining because of a positive COVID test, or an exposure to someone who is positive, continues to grow. This growth is a reflection of the fact that the case counts are increasing rapidly in our county and state. Yesterday, I participated in a webinar for clergy with some officials from the MN Department of Health. They strongly recommend that we meet in person only if it is absolutely necessary. As a result, I've decided that I will follow the recommendation of the Department of Health and not meet or gather in person unless the meeting or gathering is indeed absolutely necessary.

Yesterday, I recommended to the Church Council that we put our Sunday morning, in person worship on hold. The Council agreed with my recommendation, and therefore, we are putting our in-person worship services on hold for the foreseeable future beginning Sunday, November 15th.

At the same time, we are keenly aware of the need to keep worshiping as a faith community. Therefore, we will continue our online, YouTube worship service each week. We will do our best to provide you with services that are edifying and uplifting.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about this. I'm happy to talk further with you.

Take care. God bless. Stay well.

Pastor Bruce Kuenzel

Communion Cups Available for Online Worship

During COVID, Light of Christ has been providing individual, disposable communion cups for Sunday in-person worship. We would like to offer the same communion cups to the many LOC attendees that continue to worship with us through our online recorded worship service. Availability includes wine/wafer, juice/wafer and wine/gluten free wafer.

Beginning Wednesday, November 18th there will be bags of communion cups available for pick up at the church. Pre-packaged bags will be located on a table in the church library and available for pick up on Wednesday mornings during regular office hours (7:30-11:30 AM).

For anyone who is homebound and would like to have the pre-packaged communion cups, please email locvolunteer@frontier.com and we will make arrangements to deliver a supply to you.

Thank you for your continued connection with Light of Christ during these unsettled times – your vibrancy and support for Light of Christ and each other is a blessing!

CHECK YOUR 2020 PLEDGE STATUS

The 2021 Stewardship Campaign is now underway. Just a reminder that members can check the status of their pledges for 2020 by logging in to the online member portal (<https://servantkeeper.com/member-portal/lightofchristlutheran/login>). You can also access the portal log in page from the Light of Christ website (www.lightofchristlutheran.com) by clicking the “Member Portal” icon on the top toolbar. If you need assistance or if you need another “invitation link” emailed to you to create your sign in, please contact Terri in the church office. Invitation links expire after 2 weeks.



2021 PLEDGES & ONLINE GIVING

If you need to change your Simply Giving contribution amount due to your 2021 pledge, please log in to your [MyVanco account](#) or contact Terri in the church office to make the change. Your pledge card does not authorize the church to make these changes.

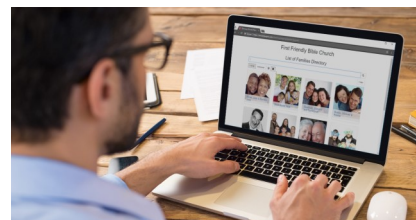
Choir Update!

Good news! Light of Christ adult choir is meeting two Mondays a month, 6-7 pm via Zoom. If you're interested in joining, contact Katie at locworshipmus@gmail.com. We're working on a mass choir recording for Christmas so come join the fun!



Help Keep Our Online Member Directory Up to Date!

Light of Christ Members: let's stay connected while having to be apart from one another! Don't forget about pictures for the online Church Directory. All you have to do is email your picture to [Terri at the church office](#) who will coordinate adding it to our directory.





Mark your calendars for Sunday, Dec. 13th! Our Light of Christ children will be appearing in their first (and hopefully last) virtual Christmas Program. Instead of watching a live play as has been done in previous years, you will get to watch a recording of the children's performance in the comfort of your own home. You will see the children taking turns reading parts of The Christmas Story as well as singing a few Christmas songs. You will even get to see the children dressed up in some familiar Christmas costumes. So, make sure to grab a cup of hot chocolate and snuggle up with some loved ones to watch LOC's Christmas Program online!



Thank you to the Dickey family for sharing the picture of the excitement of their son Austin watching his Sunday school lesson online.

Sunday School

Sunday lessons are available on our YouTube channel for the 3-year-olds through 2nd graders. Our 3rd—6th graders are using the Wakelet platform to view their Sunday school lessons. These lessons will be emailed out with the link to participate. You can watch the YouTube lesson when it is most convenient for you throughout the week starting at 8:00 am Sunday mornings. We hope that you will take this opportunity to sit down with your child(ren) and help them to grow in their faith by participating as a family. We want to stay as connected" as possible with your child(ren) and their Light of Christ friends. We will continually work on coming up with ideas for gathering together safely during the colder months. Thank you for your support and understanding as we continue to walk with you and your family among uncharted territory. Please email Kim at (locsundayschool19@gmail.com) if you would like to sign up.



Sunday School Packet Pick Up

If you still have not picked up your supplies please contact Kim at locsundayschool19@gmail.com to schedule a pick-up time.



The Children & Family Ministry Team is excited for the fact that over 50 families will be picking up materials to help celebrate the Advent season! We are disappointed that we could not hold the Advent Family Event at church this year, but we hope the children still enjoy their "goody bags" at home. Those who signed up to receive the Advent materials may pick up their individual bags by the church's front office on Tuesday, Nov. 24th between 1:00 and 5:00 p.m. Please let Catherine Borman know if this time slot does not work. Blessings to all!

Basketball Hoop

The basketball hoop that we have at church is very old and needs an update. If anyone has something they could donate (backboard with a rim and net) or is interested in making a donation, please talk to Kirsten. Our youth will benefit from this even in the winter months, since we're doing so much outdoor ministry lately. Thanks for your support!

HS Fellowship

During the cold winter months, HS Fellowship will be taking many different forms. We will be having some online discussion groups (one that will be topic-related and the other based on movies with a social-justice theme) but when the weather is "nicer" we plan to meet outdoors at church. Those outdoor meetings will be announced the week that they're taking place since we'll have to watch the weather. But we'll normally plan to meet on Wednesday nights (unless it's a "special event" like a ski trip or sledding). So watch your email for more info and sign-ups (for the discussion groups). And if there's anything specific you'd like to see happen, please let us know!

Christmas Shopping with Heart

As you think about gifts for family and friends this Christmas, we invite you to consider giving Equal Exchange items such as coffee, tea, chocolate or nuts as a gift. They make great stocking stuffers or teacher gifts and also really help small farmers around the world. A small amount of proceeds also help our youth raise funds for summer trips such as Mission trips and Bible Camp. Order through our [online store](#). Thanks for your support!

