



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

Contact us!

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Delano, MN 55328
(763) 972-2400



LightOfChristLutheran.com
lochrist@frontiernet.net



Fifth Sunday Offering Benefits St. Stephen's Ministry

On November 29th, our Fifth Sunday Offering benefited St. Stephen's in Minneapolis. St. Stephen's mission is to support individuals and families experiencing homelessness in achieving permanent, affordable housing. They do this through street outreach, shelter, and housing programs. Like many charities, St. Stephen's has seen an increase in need due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The following video has been provided to learn more:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6YEUuoKvrnU&t=11s>

In addition to a monetary gift, a collection cart has been set up for much needed outdoor gear: rain ponchos, tarps, 1-2 person tents, sleeping bags, and backpacks. Other needed items include emergency blankets, jackets, winter gloves, winter boots, NEW long underwear, etc. A full list of items can be found [Here](#).

Ways we as a congregation can help St. Stephen's end homelessness:

- Donate through Light of Christ [Here](#) to enter your **Designated Gift** and mention **St. Stephen's Fifth Sunday**
- Donate to St. Stephen's directly at the following link:
<https://ststephensmpls.org/donate>.
- Stop by the church Mon-Thurs between 8:30am-1:30pm to leave donated items in the collection cart. The cart is located by the office door entry. Please remember your mask and do your part to social distance.

Items will be accepted through December. **Please submit monetary donations before December 31.**

Charitable Donations in lieu of Poinsettias

Due to logistical difficulties because of COVID-19 restrictions, we are not offering the option for members to purchase poinsettias this year. Instead, we invite you to donate to either Love INC or Second Harvest Heartland. If you would like to learn more about these charities or make your donation directly to them, please visit www.loveinc.org and www.2harvest.org. If you choose to donate using our online site, [click here](#) and please indicate the charity of your choosing in the **Designated Gift** line. If you would like to donate "in memory of" or "in honor of" a loved one, you may indicate that as well. If you run out of room when putting in names, please email the [church office](#) directly with the names of those you would like to honor. If you are mailing a check please make checks payable to **Light of Christ** with the charity of choice in the memo line. You may also indicate if your donation is "in memory of" or "in honor of" a loved one on a separate piece of paper. Please make your donations by **December 15th**.

Please note, these charities are separate from our Fifth Sunday Offering

We thank you for your continued flexibility!

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. Click here for the [Sign Up Genius](#). Drop off times will be **Sunday, December 6th from 1-3 pm**, and **Tuesday, December 6th from 5:30-6:30**. **Adult gifts need to be wrapped, kids gifts are unwrapped, with their family number on all presents.** Any questions about this service event may be directed to Kim Wortz @ locsundayschool19@gmail.com. In addition, if you would like to participate, but are unable to drop off the gifts, you may contact Kim to pick them up instead.

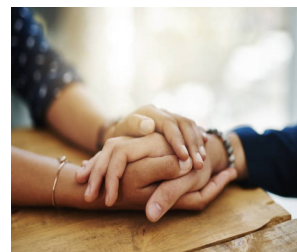
Please keep this great service project in mind when you are thinking about ways you can give back this holiday season. Let's help spread some Christmas cheer for some of our local families in need! Thank you for your generosity!



Caring Corner

(by Sue Fink with LOC
Healing and Wholeness Ministry)

**Our support group for folks with loved ones experiencing mental illness will now be on Zoom, as in-person gatherings have become increasingly risky with the Covid-19 virus. Please contact Sue Fink by phone/text to 612-270-0172 or email: billandsue2931@gmail.com for a Zoom invitation. Our next meeting is scheduled for December 7 at 7:30pm. Please join us!*



Dear friends,

The season of Advent is upon us. Last week this column focused on giving thanks, being grateful for the blessings we have in spite of this difficult year. For Advent, the "Season of Light", let's turn our minds and hearts toward the Light of the World, Jesus Christ, whom God sent to earth during a similar time of strife. When we are in dark times let's light up our homes, inside and out, with twinkling lights. Bring light to others by being kind and sharing God's message of love. Rethink Christmas and its meaning this year and do a reset. It's 2020, why not get back to the basics.

SAD, or Seasonal Affective Disorder, is very common this time of year. Our mental health suffers as we lose hours of daylight. Remember to care for yourself, be gentle and patient and recognize that this season does not bring happiness and joy to everyone. Sometimes light therapy helps lessen the symptoms of SAD as well as talking to someone and not isolating.

Praying God will bring twinkling lights to your soul this Advent season!

Items Needed at Delano Food Shelf

Light of Christ members have asked what items they might donate at this time to the Delano Helping Hands Food Shelf. Ideas include shampoo, conditioner, women's hygiene products, toothpaste, bar, dish and

laundry soap, hand sanitizer, jello, pudding, tea, cake mix, frosting, taco shells and seasoning. Items, as well as monetary contributions, can be dropped off at the food shelf on Thursday afternoons between 1-4 or at JoMarie Williamson's home in Delano (536 Meadow Rose Ct.). Thank you for continuing to support those in need with these essential items!



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!



Staying Vibrant!

If you haven't already completed your 2021 pledge form, please follow the link below to complete yours today. This helps council in planning and budgeting for next year's ministries. Thank you!

[CLICK HERE FOR PLEDGE FORM](#)



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.

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.

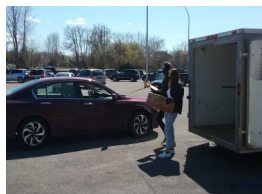


Produce Distribution Volunteers Needed

Light of Christ continues to partner with Our Father's Lutheran Church to distribute food and produce to the community. This ministry is possible only with the help of dedicated volunteers giving of their time to help ease food insecurity. Our next distribution will be on **December 8th** and we have a great need to **expand our list of Light of Christ volunteers available to help with this project.**

The distribution takes place in the Light of Christ parking lot at **3:00 PM on the designated dates. All volunteers should arrive at the church by 2:45 PM** and are required to wear masks and bring gloves.

Please email Jinnelle Weis at locvolunteer@frontier.com or call my cell phone, 952-250-5527 if you can help and/or if you would like additional information. Thank you for your assistance in this extremely important effort to support our Light of Christ neighbors and extended community!



Join Us for a Virtual Christmas Eve Celebration!



We will offer two worship services. The first is a family-friendly service that will incorporate traditional Christmas Eve elements, along with elements geared toward children. This service will host a variety of music styles as well; from boisterous organ music with brass to our children's choir singing beloved Christmas carols. Please note, while the service may be more family friendly, there are elements that everyone can enjoy! The second service is a candlelight service. This service will have a more meditative atmosphere, but will still bring the absolute joy of Christmas. Both services will be posted at 8 AM on Christmas Eve morning so you can watch at your convenience. Christmas blessings to all!



Stay Informed!

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

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 locworship-mus@gmail.com. We're working on a mass choir recording for Christmas so come join the fun!



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 who continue to worship with us through our online recorded worship service. Availability includes wine/wafer, juice/wafer and wine/gluten free wafer.

Pre-packaged bags of communion cups are available for pick up and will be located on a table in the church library on Wednesday mornings during regular office hours (typically 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!



Seasons greetings,
Light of Christ families!
We continue to be
grateful to all the
families who signed up
to participate in this
year's virtual Christmas
Program. Those of you

who will be appearing in the program as readers, singers,
or "costume wearers" will need to have your recordings
and/or pictures emailed to Katie Kohler at
locworshipmus@gmail.com by this coming Friday,
December 4th. We are so excited to see the final product
of all the participants' hard work on Sunday, December
13th! A special thank you goes out to Ms. Katie for helping
make this year's Christmas program still possible.
Blessings to all!



The season of Advent has officially started! We would
love to see some pictures of your family participating in
Advent activities at home! If you are open to having your
photos included in the next Beacon newsletter, you can
email the photos to Catherine Borman at
locfamilies@gmail.com. Blessings to you all as we
enter this holy season!

Sunday School

Sunday school 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. Please
contact Kim Wortz at locsundayschool19@gmail.com if
you would like to receive those private links.



Sunday School Packet Pick Up

SS Packets are ready to be picked up. You can pick
them up anytime Monday-Thursday 8:30-1:30 (during
Head Start class times) by the church office. If you are
not able to pick up during those times please contact
Kim Wortz @ locsundayschool19@gmail.com.

Upcoming Sunday School Schedule

12/6- The Annunciation
12/13- NO SS (Christmas Program)
12/20- Jesus is born
12/27- NO SS (Christmas Break)
1/3- The Magi



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. Thanks for
your support!

HS Fellowship

9th-12th grade youth are invited to join one of our discussion groups over the next four weeks. Here are the details about
each group:

What: HS Discussion Group - Topic Based

When: Wednesdays from 8:30-9:30 pm, December 2 & 16

Details: Join us live on Zoom for a chance to talk about what's going on in life and how we navigate it. On 12/2 our topic
will be Stress/Anxiety; on 12/16 we'll talk about Family - navigating time together at home. We'll also watch some helpful
videos and play some online games. Click on the link below for more info and to sign up.

Sign Up: <https://forms.gle/oLibRZeKETLtJriC6>

What: HS Movie Discussion Group

When: Wednesdays from 8:30-9:30 pm, December 9 & 23

Details: We will all watch a movie on our own ahead of time and then talk about it when we meet. Movies will be
social-justice oriented. Youth must have parent approval before participating. Click on the link below for more info and to
sign up.

Sign Up: <https://forms.gle/7daraGwwEmvoJFzr6>