



June Worship

All worship services will be recorded and posted on the [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

Healing and Hope

Please join us for an evening service of prayer, healing, self-reflection, and hope as we navigate through these critical times of unrest. The service will be posted online on the **evening of Friday, June 19th**. Our hope is to bring some peace and understanding to those who may be experiencing confusion, anxiety, and despair throughout the tumult we are currently experiencing.



Congratulations!
Class of
2020

Congratulations, Graduates! In case you missed it, click on the [black button](#) in your newsletter email to view the Graduate Sunday recognition insert from June 7th.

Prayer Quilts for Graduates

The warm reassurance of God's love in our lives is both a comfort and a motivation to share that warmth with others. This year, we presented the Light of Christ graduates with a fleece prayer quilt made by families from our congregation. These blankets are a reminder to the grads of God's love and the nurturing of our faith community. We pray that as they embark on new journeys that the quilts will always help them know who they are and whose they are. Thank you to all of the families at Light of Christ that helped to make these quilts!



Check out the next two pages of pictures of Light of Christ families making the quilts and some of the graduates receiving their quilts.

(Not all graduates or families that made the quilts are pictured.)

Contact us!

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



LightOfChristLutheran.com
lochrist@frontiernet.net





2020



Support Second Harvest Heartland

Second Harvest Heartland continues to reach out to metro neighborhood food shelves, asking what is needed. They've distributed baby formula, diapers, emergency food boxes, and produce. They continue to back up food shelf partners around the metro and offer all the additional help and meals they need. They ask that those who want to help to please keep the generosity coming – they need it now more than ever. They will not let the communities affected by the violence face this difficult time hungry. We will be collecting donations for one more week in support of Second Harvest. Donations may be sent to Light of Christ designated as “**Second Harvest**” or you may [click here](#) to donate directly.



Love INC Stores Open with Limited Hours

Love INC- Heartland stores are now open on a limited basis with **safe practices in place**. We would love for you to join our team of volunteers! Our stores are open for business on these days:

- Delano Store, Tuesdays/ Fridays 9-noon
- Howard Lake Store, Wednesdays/Saturdays 9-noon

We welcome volunteers on both business days and non-business days. Please call Love INC- Heartland for more details, 763-972-6547 opt 3.

We are unable to take donations at this time as we are very full in our warehouses. We hope to reopen for donations soon as we implement more volunteers to sort the items. Please bring your own mask to wear.

Our phones at Love INC- Heartland have continued to be on during this time as we support our Neighbors-in-Need during this pandemic. Our Fresh Start program of classes has continued on Zoom. Many families are so grateful for the connections we continue to maintain with them. Thank you to all the churches for your support to Love INC- Heartland.

Call on the Light of Christ Prayer Chain

Then you will call on me and come and pray to me and I will listen to you. Jeremiah 29:12

Are you in need of a prayer during these difficult days? Do you know someone else in need of prayer? If so, please feel free to engage the Light of Christ Prayer Chain. The process is simple and 100% confidential. All you need to do is contact the church office either by email (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. The church office then contacts the group of LOC members ready to 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

(Created by Light of Christ
Healing and Wholeness Ministry)



The sad events of the past few weeks on top of the pandemic uncertainty has put so much additional stress on each of us. If you or a loved one find your mental health struggles intensifying, reach out for help. Call your clinic and make an appointment, talk to a trusted friend, find resources online to get connected with mental health providers and support. We care about you!

**WHEN SOMEONE IS BROKEN DON'T TRY AND FIX THEM.
(YOU CAN'T)**

**WHEN SOMEONE IS HURTING DON'T TRY TO TAKE AWAY THEIR PAIN.
(YOU CAN'T)**

**INSTEAD WALK BESIDE THEM AND LOVE THEM IN THEIR TROUBLED TIMES.
(YOU CAN)**

BECAUSE SOMETIMES ALL THEY NEED IS TO KNOW THEY AREN'T ALONE

Caring Cards

Is there someone you would like to receive a personally written message of support or encouragement from the Light of Christ family? Please complete the information below and send to the church office or email to lochrist@frontiernet.net. A card will be created and sent to the intended recipient.

Please send a card to: **Name:** _____

Address: _____

This person needs support dealing with:

___ grief ___ depression, brokenness
___ illness ___ family discord

optional details: _____

To ensure an age-appropriate message, please indicate the recipient's age.

___ youth-young adult ___ 30-60 ___ 60-100

*This outreach is provided by the
Healing and Wholeness Ministry.*

VBS IS COMING!!!

We're so excited to announce that **BOLT VBS** is coming to your house on **July 27th-29th**! Don't worry if you can't do it those days, this online program is designed to do when it works best for you. With minimal preparation, easy-to-follow instructions, and a video that leads your family step-by-step through each day, BOLT is designed to bring the fun and faith-formation of VBS to your home. Registration will **open on June 28th and close on July 12th**. If you register during this time, your child will receive a t-shirt and materials needed for VBS. Packet pickup of those items will be on **July 22nd**. If you register after the 12th, you will still get all the online links for BOLT VBS. Look for an email with more details and registration soon. We can't wait to Backyard Bolt towards faith in Jesus!



Summer Ministry Opportunity

Light of Christ staff is looking for families to help with our Sunday worship services by contributing a recording to be a part of the service (such as the Lord's Prayer, scripture lesson, Apostle's Creed, etc). If your family would be willing to help in this way, please contact Kirsten Kelly, Katie Kohler or Pastor Bruce. We are thankful for the work of our entire church family as we continue to find creative ways to grow and connect in faith!

Change for Children

This summer, even though we cannot gather for worship, our children and youth are organizing the 2nd Annual Change for Children offering project to raise money for the **ELCA Global Barnyard**. ([Click HERE to watch a short video about the Global Farm Challenge!](#)) Last spring, this project exceeded our expectations and we raised \$1,447.97! This allowed us to purchase 2 cows, 3 goats, 3 pigs, 100 chicks and 4 sets of seeds and gardening tools (which are given to families around the world to create sustainability and food for their families). To learn more about the ELCA Good Gifts program, go to <https://goodgifts.elca.org/how-it-works-o>.

This year we are setting our goal a bit higher and hope to raise \$1,500 over the summer months! We encourage families to make a Change for Children jar at home and later in the summer we will share details about how you can drop off your donation. Donations can also be made [online on our giving page](#) (make sure to indicate "Change for Children"). Thanks for your support as we collect change and come together to make "Change for Children"!



Why Buy Equal Exchange?

Did you know that most "regular" chocolate you purchase in the store is not fair trade and might possibly support child labor? Do you want to be a "smart consumer" and make sure you are purchasing responsibly? The youth at Light of Christ sell Equal Exchange chocolate, coffee, tea, nuts, and dried fruit, which are all fair trade products. This means the farmers that grow the produce to make the products are paid a fair, living wage and **don't exploit children**. Watch this [short, 2-minute video](#) to learn more about Equal Exchange chocolate. During this time of being apart, you can still order LOC Equal Exchange items online! Proceeds will benefit future summer trips. Order through our online store (<https://forms.gle/Td7By6ugsStCBALW7>) and have them delivered to your house **FOR FREE** (or to a friend to brighten their day)! Thanks for supporting our youth and farmers all over the world!

Virtual Happy Hour Connect

The Community Life Committee and Sisters of LOC are hosting virtual connect events for our members at Light of Christ. The purpose is to create connection and informally give people the chance to connect for some fun conversation and camaraderie.



There is currently another event scheduled for **Thursday, June 18th**. Event will take place from 7-8pm. If you are interested in joining the event, please contact Elizabeth Kohlhof (elizabeth.kohlhof@gmail.com) for the Zoom meeting link.

Stay Informed!

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



Submit Your Family Pictures

Light of Christ Members: don't forget about pictures for the online Church Directory! While we are all staying safe at home, this may be a great time to gather the family members and take a picture of the gang. All you have to do is email your picture to [Terri at the church office](#) who will coordinate adding it to our directory.



Church Library Has Many Resources

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 (currently Wednesdays 9:15-11:30 am) to check it out while still remaining socially distanced!

"Finding Peace in These Times" Tuesday Evening Bible Study/ Conversation



Faith conversation, Bible study, people connections, an opportunity to grow a bit, learn, ponder.

Tuesday Evening Bible Study/Conversation—Open to all! No expertise needed. Participate, share...or just listen in—7-8:00 p.m.

This Week: We will begin to consider our identity in Christ. We have so very many things which vie to define who we are. But who does God say we are? Is there a difference? A battle going on for our identity--our sense of our self. Are we living according to the truth about who we are, or are we sometimes drawn in by the lies about who and whose we are?

Email discussion leader, Tim Johnson, for a Zoom link at tdale57@gmail.com.

Get Your Daily Devotions



Our weekly devotion schedule is now three days a week –

Monday, Wednesday, and

Friday. Members' favorite hymns will be featured in the Friday devotions. If you would like to submit your favorite hymn and how it has affected your faith journey, email Katie Kohler at locworship-mus@gmail.com. You can watch the latest video featuring members' submissions [here](#).

Quick Tip!

If you subscribe to our YouTube channels for devotions and worship services you will automatically receive notifications when a new video is posted. Subscribing also gives you the ability to find the channel directly from your YouTube home page without having to utilize the search engine. To subscribe, simply click the "**subscribe**" button under any of the channel's videos or on the channel's home page.



2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Your regular giving – whether electronic, by checks or one-time gift – has kept Light of Christ's finances stable. **Thank you!** With the Sunday service and communion continuing via YouTube and Zoom, we encourage using electronic options to continue your financial support.



If you recently transitioned to electronic giving **and no longer need the pre-printed annual giving envelopes** you requested last year, please email lochrist@frontiernet.net or call 763-972-2400 by **August 1 to OPT OUT** of this service. Envelopes will be ordered for all others who requested them in 2019.

Vibrant | Connected | Serving

With the Minnesota “Safer at Home” continuing, Light of Christ staff and congregation renew our commitment to staying connected, providing support, and giving assistance within and beyond our congregation. Although some activities have slowly begun to open, we continue to have friends, family and community persons that are vulnerable.

If you or someone you know is in need of support, please email locvolunteer@frontier.com or call Jinnelle Weis at 952-250-5527. If you can **provide** support, please call or email and I will gladly add your name to a list of volunteers. If you have suggestions for additional ways in which we can give a helping hand, please let me know.

Light of Christ members have been active in a multitude of different initiatives. Area residents have benefited by Light of Christ volunteers who have willingly packed and distributed fresh produce in collaboration with Our Father’s Lutheran Church and Second Harvest Heartland. We have connected with a simple “how are you doing” phone call or a personal note of caring or gratitude. We continue saying “thank you” and express our heartfelt gratitude to all those on the front lines – our medical personnel, public and private school educators, grocery store employees and so many more.

Thank you to all our amazing volunteers who have actively participated in nourishing relationships, in caring for each other and in finding ways to stay connected even when we cannot do so face to face. Your hands and feet are doing God’s work in this time of need and we are truly blessed!



WCCA Head Start has openings at multiple centers for the 2020-2021 program year. Head Start offers a **free** comprehensive preschool program for children ages 3-5. Class days and times vary by location.

WCCA also offers Early Head Start for families with infants or toddlers, and expectant parents. Families in Early Head Start receive a home visit each week and two socialization activities each month.

The goal of the Head Start & Early Head Start programs is to provide every family in our program the best start for their children under 5. Services include age appropriate children’s activities; developmental and hearing/vision screening; health and nutrition services; family engagement opportunities; and transportation whenever possible. WCCA provides services to all children, including those with any health, developmental or nutritional needs.

There is **no cost** for the Head Start or Early Head Start program. For more information, please call WCCA at **320-963-6500 x243** or visit us at www.wccaweb.com.



Dear Light of Christ Community,

I'm writing to give you a brief update on what the Church Council has been doing in light of the most recent COVID-19 developments. As you may know, we have decided that the Church Council will be making all the decisions regarding our "living with" the virus as a congregation. The Council wants to hear from our committees, staff, task forces, and congregation as we live with this virus. But we believe it is best for us as a congregation to have the Council make the final decision and not have multiple people or groups making these decisions.

Several weeks ago the Governor issued an Executive Order which allowed congregations to open up our buildings for worship services and other ministries. In response to that Order, the Minnesota Department of Health issued a document titled *Industry Guidance for Safely Reopening: Faith-based Communities, Places of Worship, Weddings, and Funerals*. https://mn.gov/deed/assets/worship-guidance-ACC_tcm1045-433301.pdf

In this document the Department of Health directs congregations to develop and implement a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan before opening our doors. The Health Department then lays out eight pages of policies, procedures and protocols that must be included in the Preparedness Plan.

So for the last three weeks the Council has been hard at work on developing and implementing a Light of Christ Preparedness Plan. The Council has been assisted by our staff members and by a Wellness Task Force made up of seven health care professionals in our congregation. The Task Force members are Luke Borman (Pharmacist), Kelly Harstad (Nurse), Ben Nielsen (Hospital Administrator), Britta Reiersen (Physician and TF Co-Chair), Barb Russell (Occupational Therapist), Stacy VanCura (Mental Health Therapist), and Heidi Wuerger (Physician and TF Co-Chair). Kylee Amdor, our Council President, and I are also on the task force. The task force has been working through the Department of Health guidelines and advising the Council on how we can gather "in-person" for our various services and ministries in as safe and as low-risk a way as possible.

The Council has already approved some parts of our Preparedness Plan and beginning next week we will send you the policies and procedures that have been, and will be, implemented. Please don't hesitate to contact any Council member if you have any questions or concerns or comments about our Preparedness Plan.

I'm also forwarding to you an email from our Minneapolis Area Synod Bishop, Ann Svennungsen (see next page) about the wisdom of conducting in-person worship right now.

Finally, please continue to hold Light of Christ, our Delano community, and the wider nation and world in your prayers as we seek to stay as vibrant as we can despite this virus.

Peace and joy always,

Pastor Bruce Kuenzel

A message about in-person worship and COVID testing from Bishop Ann Svenningsen

“Today, Phase III of Stay Safe MN goes into effect, permitting in-person worship with 50% capacity, no more than 250 people, and strict adherence to protocols for disease prevention.

Today, with the support of the Synod Council Executive Committee, I urge you to refrain from indoor, in-person worship until the number of new cases declines to April levels.

As in every season, we live with a deep, God-given need **to be together**, to share the peace of Christ with a handshake or hug, and to gather together around table and font (and coffee pot). I praise God for that yearning. And, I know we will need to grow ever more creative in providing the spiritual encouragement and pastoral care that are needed as we respond to the pandemics of COVID-19 and systemic racism.

However, I do not believe we are ready for indoor, in-person worship.

Rather, let us make June 10 the day in which we can say that every one of our 145 congregations has formed a “Pandemic Preparedness Team,” a group of diverse individuals who vigorously commit to study and keep up-to-date with accurate information from medicine and public health; a group that brings wisdom needed to guide us for that time we return to indoor, in-person worship.

I know that several congregations already have such a team in place, and that some congregations have found ways to safely gather for outdoor or drive-in worship. Yet, each congregational context is unique. And our planning will be ongoing. The ELCA has excellent materials to guide us.

Our synod staff is now preparing protocols to allow a maximum of 5 staff members to return to the synod office at a future date. Even those protocols are exhausting to compile. Imagine preparing for 250 people, while your leaders are still exhausted from the learning curves of preparing online worship services and building online networks for care and encouragement.

Consistently, we hear that COVID-19 spread is dependent upon three variables:

- Time spent together
- Distance between people
- The unpredictability of the environment

When I think of in-person worship, I am especially mindful of the third variable. The habits of welcome and affection when we gather are almost impossible to resist. This was especially apparent to me while participating in the Clergy March last week.

There is much we are still learning about this virus. I urge you to watch [Living in a COVID-19 World](#). Presented by the Federal Reserve Bank of Minnesota, it features ELCA member, Michael Osterholm, as well as Neel Kashkari, Sir Jeremy Farrar, Julie Gerberding, Larry Sommers, and others, and is moderated by Tom Brokaw. It addresses not only medical realities but economic issues.

I also urge everyone who participated in a march or mass gathering to protest the killing of George Floyd or in food distribution efforts in affected communities to get tested this week (or between 5 and 7 days after your participation). Testing is key to preventing the spread of COVID-19.

We are church together. And, we are doing the work of the church, even while physically distancing. We are worshiping and praying together, serving the neighbor, caring for the sick, and advocating for justice. We continue this vital work – always guided by the centrality of Jesus’ call to love God and neighbor, especially the most vulnerable among us.

Rev. Ann M. Svenningsen
Bishop





Beloved Children

Beloved Community

Beloved Creation

In light of all that has happened in the past two weeks, we believe that as the elected leaders of the Light of Christ family we need to reaffirm several of our core beliefs as a community of faith.

We believe we are all God's beloved children, without exception. God loves us all equally regardless of the color of our skin or the origin of our ancestors. The ground is truly level at the foot of the cross.

We believe God is at work to fashion the human family into God's beloved community in which everyone, without exception, is equally welcomed, accepted, and loved, and that in the beloved community the Holy Spirit is transforming us so that we can love more like Christ.

We believe we have been entrusted with the divinely given responsibility to care for God's beloved creation so that all God's children can flourish and rise up to our full stature as the children of God.

We believe this is God's dream for the human family. Therefore, in this defining historical moment, we recommit ourselves to do all we can to make God's dream come true, and we stand with, and are ready to work with, everyone who also seeks to make that dream come true. At the same time, we reject every belief or behavior that keeps God's dream from coming to fulfillment, beginning with those that we find in ourselves.

Finally, we pray for the presence and power of the Holy Spirit so that we may have the wisdom, the courage, and the grace to live the Love in which we believe.

Light of Christ Church Council

Kylee Amdor, President

Wes Aylsworth

Carmen Hanson

Jennifer Hinker

Jon Holzer

Elizabeth Kolhoff, Secretary

Bruce Kuenzel, Pastor

Dan Langner, Vice-President

Tom Sebelien, Treasurer

Stacy Vancura

June 11, 2020