# The Beacon

**Pastor Bruce Kuenzel** 

June 8, 2020

#### 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

#### **Contact us!**

Light of Christ Lutheran 3976 County Line Road SE Delano, MN 55328 (763) 972-2400







<u>LightOfChristLutheran.com</u> <u>lochrist@frontiernet.net</u>

### Relationships Deserve Our Best Stewardship

"If any of you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness and your night will come like the noonday."

saiah 58:10

Stewardship is not just a financial term. That's been the message of recent Stewardship Committee articles. Perhaps the most important focus is: **Strive to be a good steward of relationships**.

If you need a silver lining from the COVID-19 crisis, consider our increased appreciation, service, empathy, creative teaching and entertaining, and prayer for each other during these months.

Thank you to all the Light of Christ (LOC) members who quietly and safely "spend yourself on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed."

- ♦ We see it in our youth who deliver surprise packages of chocolate/coffee/tea/LOC mugs ordered online as an uplifting gift.
- Food packer and distributor volunteers make LOC a resource for crucial food supplies.
- Our seniors receive personal check-in calls that ensure they remain connected to the congregation.
- The prayer chain activates to pray for and support those who are grieving, facing danger or coping with heavy burdens.
- Community Life Committee is organizing online socials to keep us connected.

Are you seeking to be a better steward of relationships? Consider joining the Zoom bible study focusing on peace. Join it to ground yourself so you have emotional resources to reach out to others. Email <u>Tim Johnson</u> to receive the link for the next Tuesday study from 7-8 p.m.

~Stewardship Committee



# Thank you for your service!

Law enforcement, firefighters, National Guard members and all frontline protectors have

played a critical role in protecting MN lives and property in the last several days and we are incredibly grateful for your service. You put yourself in harms way to protect our freedoms and we are extremely blessed by your strength of character, your commitment to MN and to each one of us.

Light of Christ thanks you! You are in our prayers.

God Bless!



We rejoice as we recently welcomed into our church family through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism:

Cameron John Prickett
Parents: Jeremy & Lori Prickett
Baptized on May 31, 2020

### **Support Second Harvest Heartland**

Last weekend, Second Harvest Heartland reached out to metro neighborhood food shelves, asking what was needed. Since then, 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. If you'd like to support this vital program, especially during this uncertain time of increasing needs, donations may be sent to second harvest Light of Christ designated as "Second HEARTLAND Harvest" or click here to donate directly.

#### Love INC Has Some Great News!

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.

# Light of Christ Social Justice Ministry recommends the following:

#### Anti-racism resources

This document is intended to serve as a resource to white people and parents to deepen anti-racism work. If you haven't engaged in anti-racism work in the past, now is a good time to start. It is our prayer that these tools can help us better understand the systematic racism that has been present for years and what we can do to educate ourselves and our children.

#### bit.ly/ANTIRACISMRESOURCES

Lord, help us to be in an instrument of your peace and love. Amen.

### CARING CORNER

(Created by Light of Christ Healing and Wholeness Ministry)



# Serenity Prayer

God, grant me the Serenity to accept the things I cannot change. The courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time,
enjoying one moment at a time;
Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace;
Taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is;
Not as I would have it;
Trusting that You will make all things right
if I surrender to Your will;

So that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with You forever in the next.



# 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.

# CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS

# **VBS IS COMING!!!**

We're so excited to announce that BOLT VBS is coming to your house July 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>!! If you can't do it that week, don't worry— it can be done anytime that works best for your family. 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 and more info coming soon!!



#### Congratulations to our 2020 graduates, whom we blessed during the June 7<sup>th</sup> online worship service. Light of Christ's high school graduates are:



Jennifer Almquist Charles Mielke Charlotte Beltrand **Jaid Necas** Duncan Bistodeau **Tate Pappas** Annika Reierson Sam Cederberg Olivia Condon Casev Schmidt **Dalton Curtis** Brennan Slipka **Austin Fritz** Jordan Spencer Isabel Johnson **Austin Uecker** Tyson Kroells Briana VanCura Chloe Kuechle Jordan Wiest

Stephanie McClelland

### 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Change for Children offering project to raise money for the ELCA Global Barnyard. 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 <a href="https://goodgifts.elca.org/how-it-works-o">https://goodgifts.elca.org/how-it-works-o</a>.

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"!

# Equal Exchange Online Store with FREE Delivery... order for yourself or brighten someone's day!

Light of Christ (LOC) youth are beginning a new "Online Store" with Equal Exchange items (coffee, chocolate, tea, nuts, etc.) as well as LOC Tumblers. You can order items online (https://forms.gle/Td7By6ugsStCBALW7) and then choose to have them delivered to someone's house to brighten their day (gift wrapping available) or order for yourself and have it delivered to your home! If you order for someone else, we encourage you to include a special note so they know who it is from. Payment for items can be made online or you can mail a check, but items will not be delivered until payment is received. Once the order is complete, a high schooler from LOC will deliver the item/s to the specified address (free within Delano and surrounding communities). We will make sure to follow CDC and social distancing guidelines during the entire process. All proceeds will benefit future youth trips/camp. What a great way to send a "thank you" to your child's teacher, get a gift for a birthday, or just brighten someone's day! (Please note: since we're not sure how popular this will be, we are starting with the inventory that we currently have available. If we find that it goes well, we will order more Equal Exchange items and have them available once they arrive. Thanks for your patience and understanding. And we invite your feedback and input!)



# STAYING CONNECTED

# **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 18**<sup>th</sup>. 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.

# **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 **Terriat the church office** who will coordinate adding it to our directory.





# Church Library Has Church 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: **Contentment.** Are you content? What makes for contentment? What's the opposite? What does the Bible say? What might I do to shift my awareness? Is contentment actually possible in these times?

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

All are welcome!!

# Get Your Daily Devotions

Our weekly devotion schedule is now three days a week –



**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 <u>locworshipmus@gmail.com</u>. You can watch the latest video featuring members' submissions <u>here</u>.



### **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.

# ODDS AND ENDS

#### 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.

Sove Confering

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 <u>locvolunteer@frontier.com</u> 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 <u>www.wccaweb.com</u>.