



## 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  
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LightOfChristLutheran.com  
lochrist@frontiernet.net

Thank you for your generous donations for **Friends for a Cause**. We will be brightening the holidays for 10 local Delano families. The response was overwhelming as we filled all the gift "wish lists." Please include these families in your prayers. Blessings to you all!



## December Food Distribution

Through the generosity of Second Harvest Heartland and in collaboration with Our Father's Lutheran Church/NourishingHOPE, Light of Christ volunteers again provided assorted food items to area residents. This month there was an addition of pre-made frozen meals provided through the volunteer efforts of NourishingHOPE. Frozen food entrees were packed on Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup> with the help of Ben Altenhofen, Wes Aylsworth and Bill Weis.



Food distribution took place at Light of Christ on Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> with nourishment being provided to approximately 77 families. This was done with the generous help of Ryan Green and students Bradon Thomas, Max Lotzer, Isabelle Nee, Ally Underhill, Maggie Thompson and Evalyn Green from his confirmation class. Additional volunteers included Wes Aylsworth, Wendy Caslavka, Heidi Goldbeck, Jennifer Grant, Carolyn Hirsch, Grant Horeis, Joyce Specht and JoMarie Williamson. A special thank also to Grant Horeis and Wes Aylsworth for their work in recording video for future sharing with the Light of Christ congregation. The continued help of volunteers dedicated to this necessary ministry is a blessing and very appreciated!

Light of Christ is grateful to be included in these efforts to assist area families in need. It is heartwarming to experience the willingness of so many to provide resources and assistance needed during this unsettling time.

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

## 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!



## Fifth Sunday Offering Benefits St. Stephen's Ministry

The Fifth Sunday Offering for November benefited St. Stephen's in Minneapolis. St. Stephen's mission is to support individuals and families experiencing homelessness in achieving permanent, affordable housing. 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.**



## Caring Corner

(by Sue Fink with LOC  
Healing and Wholeness Ministry)



For some people, the Christmas season is not happy and bright. Especially this year, we think of those who have lost loved ones and feel that loss so deeply in the midst of all the other strife we're feeling related to these times. We pray too, for those for whom older grief pops up unexpectedly at times, brought on by memories of Christmas-es past, the smell of a special cookie, a favorite carol heard, taking out the traditional decorations.

Our church family may be apart physically but God's love bubbles out from each of us and the caring and concern we feel for one another is such a blessing. We are praying and reaching out in support for those in our congregation who are physically or mentally ill, recovering from surgery, struggling financially or in their relationships, dealing with addictions, trying to accept new ways of learning and teaching and working.

Please reach out for prayer and support. You are not alone. See our new webpage at [www.lightofchristlutheran.com](http://www.lightofchristlutheran.com). There you will find links to contact Pastor Bruce, ask for prayer for yourself or others via the Prayer Chain, find help for those in a mental health crisis or with concerning symptoms.

If you or someone you love is struggling with mental illness, please join our virtual spiritual **support group** tonight, December 14<sup>th</sup>, and the second and fourth Mondays each month 7-8:30pm. Email Sue Fink at [billandsue2931@gmail.com](mailto:billandsue2931@gmail.com) for a Zoom invitation.

This beautiful poem was shared by Lona Jose -

*If Christmas is hard, if you've lost someone dear,  
Just look in your heart and you'll know they're still here.*

*The star in the sky, the light-falling snow,  
The robin outside, it seems like they know.*

*If this is a time when you're struggling through,  
Just do what you can for what matters to you.*

*There's no need to be merry. There's no need to be bright.  
Just do what you love and it will be alright.*

**May God's love shine in your heart and bring you peace.**





### 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](http://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.



### Join Us for a Virtual Christmas Eve Celebration!



We will offer two worship services on Christmas Eve. 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!

### 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](mailto:locworshipmus@gmail.com). We're working on a mass choir recording for Christmas so come join the fun!



### Communion Cups Available for Online Worship

We are now providing individual, disposable communion cups for pick-up at the church, which include wine/wafer, juice/wafer and wine/gluten free wafer options. 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 8:00-11:30 AM). For anyone who is homebound and would like to have the pre-packaged communion cups, please email [locvolunteer@frontier.com](mailto:locvolunteer@frontier.com) and we will make arrangements to deliver a supply to you.

### 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](http://www.loveinc.org) and [www.2harvest.org](http://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 **tomorrow, December 15<sup>th</sup>**.

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

**We thank you for your continued flexibility!**

## Upcoming Sunday School Schedule

12/20- Jesus is born

12/27- NO SS (Christmas Break)

1/3- The Magi

## Sunday School

Our LOC kids have been enjoying their online Sunday School lessons via YouTube and Wakelet. Please share the links with friends, neighbors, grandchildren, or contact Kim @ [locsundayschool19@gmail.com](mailto:locsundayschool19@gmail.com) to be added to the SS emails. Let us help spread God's love to all the children, especially during this time when they need to feel it the most.



Penelope Jaunich made an angel for our Sunday school craft. Our kids learned about how Angel Gabriel came down to Mary to tell her that she was going to have a baby, his name would be Jesus and he was going to be the son of God.



## 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](mailto:locsundayschool19@gmail.com).

## HS Fellowship

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

**What:** HS Discussion Group - Topic Based

**When:** Wednesday from 8:30-9:30 pm, December 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 12/16 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:** Wednesday from 8:30-9:30 pm, December 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>

## Donations from 2020 HS Mission Trip

As you know, the HS youth were supposed to go to Denver, CO for their summer 2020 Mission Trip but our trip got canceled due to Covid, which was a huge disappointment. During this difficult time, we strive to look for the silver lining and ways that God is at work. One blessing we want to share with you is that the travel agent that we worked with to plan this trip said she would like us to take the money that we would have paid her and donate it to an organization of our choice. Our Youth & Family Ministry Team chose Love, INC and the Delano Helping Hands Food Shelf. This is a photo of a thank you that came as a result of that gift. We encourage you to support these local organizations that help so many in need. Merry Christmas!

