



## Worship

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
- ✦ Give of my time, talents and resources

## Contact us!

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## Silent Prayer and Meditation in the Sanctuary

**Beginning September 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Light of Christ Sanctuary will be available for prayer and meditation every Wednesday from 4:30 to 6:30 PM and every Thursday from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM beginning September 24<sup>th</sup>.**

Light of Christ has not changed who we are or what we do but pandemic concerns have changed how we live out our vision as a welcoming, accepting and enjoyable place to gather. We continue to find ways to learn and grow together – to be a place where people can bring their joys, their questions, their fears. We continue to be a faith community that finds peace in prayer and meditation.

Each of us has our own way to be close to our Lord in prayer and meditation and for many of us that closeness to God is most felt in our Light of Christ Sanctuary. This fall we want to again provide an opportunity where we can come to the Sanctuary to have private time with our thoughts, our prayers and our personal time with God.

Everyone planning time in the Sanctuary will be asked to utilize a Signup Genius schedule to select dates you choose to use the Sanctuary for personal meditation. Attached to the Signup Genius schedule is a drawing that denotes available Sanctuary seating – please select an available pew seat for your use during time in the Sanctuary.

This time is meant for silent prayer for each person in the Sanctuary and social distancing is to be respected. Masks and COVID-19 compliance are required. Again, this is quiet time for thought, prayer and personal connection with God.



## Patience in Times of Uncertainty

*"But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience."* (Romans 8:25)

As we enter another transition season with the weather, school restarting, and schedules in general, it is a great time to reflect on how patience and perspective can help guide our way. We often talk in our house about who has the most patience. In our discussions the conclusion is that it is relative to the situation. While I would be happy to spend hours sitting in the woods waiting for wildlife to pass by, my patience for crowds and waiting in line is the complete opposite.

Now more than ever we need to exercise our patience in all situations, not just those that come easy for us. As we enter the fall of 2020, there are many unknowns that will require new levels of patience. Kids are returning to school in a format we would have never considered, parents taking on at-home teaching while often still working full time, and kids' activities are cancelled, postponed or look much different than what they had. Not to mention we are still limited in the activities we can do and the places we can go. I know there are many other uncertainties and changes we are all dealing with, but patience is a connecting theme that ties these all together.

While patience can look and feel different from person to person we need to be aware of how our patience and perspective impacts those around us. Be patient, be kind, and when your patience wears a little thin do not be afraid to ask for help! *"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer."* (Romans 12:12)

Jeremiah Werner, Stewardship Committee

## NEW SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

For the past several months Light of Christ has partnered with Our Father's Lutheran Church in Rockford to distribute fresh produce to area residents. This service was spearheaded by NourishingHOPE which is a group from Our Father's that was formed for the purpose of **"creating connections in the community to feed the whole person: body, mind and spirit - seeking to ease food insecurity."** In conjunction with Wright County Community Action (WCCA), NourishingHOPE is now expanding this ministry to include preparation and delivery of frozen meals to senior citizens in our area. Light of Christ has again been invited to partner in this new initiative.

**We are now asking for a person or persons to organize Light of Christ's involvement as we formulate how best to engage in this expanded ministry.**

Startup duties will primarily involve -

- Connecting with the chair of NourishingHOPE to learn in greater detail their vision and how best to incorporate that at Light of Christ
- Determine best ways to communicate this offering to persons in our congregation and community in need of the food deliveries and/or determine potential need in conjunction with other similar services available in this area
- Long range will likely include a need to recruit volunteers to potentially assist in making meals and persons willing to deliver the meals. (commercial freezers at Our Father's will be used to store frozen meals)

Please email Jinnelle Weis at [locvolunteer@frontier.com](mailto:locvolunteer@frontier.com) or call my cell phone, 952-250-5527 if you can help in this new initiative or would like to have more information. Thank you for your service!

## Parent Support Group

Many parents are experiencing feelings of anxiety and uncertainty as we begin this new school year. If you would like to learn more about Light of Christ's Christ-centered parent support group starting this fall, please email our facilitators, MJ Pearson ([mjpearson.msw@gmail.com](mailto:mjpearson.msw@gmail.com)) and Catherine Borman ([catborman@gmail.com](mailto:catborman@gmail.com)). This group will follow social distancing protocol and will meet outside. We will meet in our outdoor worship space so that parents of young children can utilize the playground during our meetings. Please let us know your preference for meeting time whether it be a specific evening during the week, every other Saturday morning or Sunday afternoon.

## Caring Corner

*Created by Light of Christ Healing and Wholeness Ministry*



Hope. As a community of faith, our hope is in God's word, love and faithfulness. Hope keeps us going through tough and challenging times. For people suffering with anxiety, depression or other mental illnesses, their hope can get lost. During September, Suicide Prevention Month, we continue to highlight facts and information to raise awareness. This year's theme is **BeThe1To**: ask, be there, keep them safe, help them stay connected, follow up. You may **"be the one to"** give a friend or loved one hope.

(From NAMI.com):

It's okay to talk about suicide:

- Suicide is the **2<sup>nd</sup>** leading cause of death among people aged 10-34 in the U.S.
- Suicide is the **10<sup>th</sup>** leading cause of death in the U.S.
- The overall suicide rate in the U.S. has increased by **31%** since 2001
- **46%** of people who die by suicide had a diagnosed mental health condition
- **90%** of people who die by suicide had shown symptoms of a mental health condition, according to interviews with family, friends and medical professionals (*also known as psychological autopsy*)
- Lesbian, gay and bisexual youth are **4x** more likely to attempt suicide than straight youth
- **75%** of people who die by suicide are male
- Transgender adults are **nearly 12x** more likely to attempt suicide than the general population
- Annual prevalence of serious thoughts of suicide, by U.S. demographic group:
  - ⇒ **4.3%** of all adults
  - ⇒ **11.0%** of young adults aged 18-25
  - ⇒ **17.2%** of high school students
  - ⇒ **47.7%** of lesbian, gay, and bisexual high school students

***If you or someone you know is in an emergency, call  
The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at  
800-273-TALK (8255) or call 911 immediately.***

Pastor Bruce & the LOC family ~

This card has taken me too long to write. I have been very focused on my treatment and recovery. I am 3 weeks post-treatment and my energy is increasing. I would first like to thank Holly (Caple) for organizing the meal delivery, and all the families that made and delivered food for our family. I love to cook for my family, and it was a blessing to be served and cared for. For the continuous prayers of the church and Pastor Bruce, I am forever grateful! I have had many dark and difficult days. Only my faith and prayer were able to carry me through. With a grateful heart, *Jen Hinker*

*Thank  
You!*

## Upcoming Worship Plans!

We will hold one more outdoor service on October 4<sup>th</sup>. The service will be at 3:00 PM instead of 9:00 AM. As with the other outdoor services, we ask members to sign up beforehand and adhere to all previous COVID guidelines.

We are excited to announce that beginning October 11<sup>th</sup> we will hold one indoor worship service every Sunday! The service will start at **9:30 AM**. A Sign Up Genius will be sent to members. **Members must sign up in order to attend the indoor worship service.** There will be a seating chart attached to the Sign Up Genius and all members will choose seats ahead of time. The chart will be further explained in the Sign Up Genius. The indoor worship will not replace our online services. We will continue to post online worship services as well. As with the outdoor worship service, worship indoors will look a little different than previous indoor services:

- ◇ *In order to comply with COVID-19 guidelines, we cannot accommodate more than 75 people. Make sure to sign up **ASAP** as all spots are first come, first serve!*
- ◇ *We ask all congregation members to please wear a mask. Children ages 3-5 are encouraged to wear masks, but it is not required. Children 2 years and younger are not required to wear masks.*
- ◇ *We ask congregation members to please refrain from singing along with the songs as this is a high-risk activity in group settings. Instead, feel free to hum along or just listen and enjoy!*
- ◇ *We will not participate in group prayer, since speaking together in a large group is also a high-risk activity.*
- ◇ *If you are experiencing COVID-like symptoms or have been exposed to a person diagnosed with COVID, please remain at home.*

We are so excited to begin gathering again! Thank you in advance for your patience and cooperation as we navigate through all these guidelines. The safety of the whole Light of Christ family is and will always be of the utmost importance.

## Start Your Day with Prayer & Music



Devotions will now occur on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. Member song requests will be featured in Saturday's devotions instead of Friday's devotions. Click [here](#) for the latest devotional message. If you would like to submit your favorite hymn

and how it has affected your faith journey, email Katie at [locworshipmus@gmail.com](mailto:locworshipmus@gmail.com).



We were saddened to hear that Worship & Music Director Katie Kohler's grandfather had passed away. Our deepest condolences to Katie and her family.

## 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*

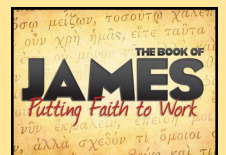
Are you in need of a prayer during these difficult days? Do you know someone else in need of prayer? If so, please feel free to engage the Light of Christ Prayer Chain. The process is simple and 100% confidential. All you need to do is contact the church office either by email, which is preferred—([lochrist@frontiernet.net](mailto:lochrist@frontiernet.net)), 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.



## Connect and Converse during Zoom Bible Study

**Sundays 6:30-7:30 p.m. via Zoom**

Come to explore what God's Word says for life today. Each week we take a portion of Scripture. All are welcome! In order to get a Zoom link, email Tim Johnson at [tdale57@gmail.com](mailto:tdale57@gmail.com)



You may be as active in the discussion as you like. We all learn a little something from each other as we ponder the power and beauty and truth of God's Word.



## Unwanted School Supplies

I was having a conversation recently with some parents about what they do with leftover/extra school supplies. I know we all have a lot of opened or partially used supplies at home that could still be used instead of thrown away (notecards, markers, pens, colored pencils - however, we do not need any crayons). Please keep us in mind and email our CYF staff if you have something that you think could be donated. Thanks for your partnership in ministry!

-Kirsten Kelly



## Spark

Light of Christ's after-school program, **Spark**, started for 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grades on 9/15 & 9/16. The two different groups played several games including a chasing game called "Mr. Fox, What Time Is It?". On Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> Graders got to work in teams to play a time-sensitive game called "Snakes & Worms" which involves finding and putting together hidden pipe cleaners. Both teams ended up tying at the last second. Because of the smaller group on Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders played a modified version of the game and competed as individuals. Congratulations to Ellie Stahlke for bringing in the win! Another activity where the kids showed excellent teamwork was a treasure hunt. They worked together to solve clues which led them to a treasure chest filled with "Hugs & Kisses" from God (for He is our greatest treasure). Thank you to Hershey's chocolate for making that symbolism possible and a bunch of kiddos extremely happy! After some free time on the playground, Pastor Bruce joined us and told the children about the Parable of the Hidden Treasure (Matthew 13:44). It was wonderful witnessing their creativity when they proceeded to act out the story with Pastor. Overall, it was a great start for Spark! There is still time to register at **SPARK Registration 2020-2021**. Please continue to pray for the health and well-being of our LOC children.

## Sunday School Information

**There is still time to sign up for Sunday school!** We would like to take advantage of our nice fall days and meet outside while the weather permits—those dates are listed below.

Please **[click here to register for Sunday School](#)**.

**Sunday School September 27<sup>th</sup>, October 4<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> (off for MEA on the 18<sup>th</sup>)**

- ✦ 4-4:30 pm 3-yr-olds-2<sup>nd</sup> grade (one parent would need to stay)
- ✦ 4:45-5:30 pm 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade (can be dropped off, no parent needed)
- ✦ Meet in the church parking lot, distancing ourselves. If the weather does not permit us to be outside, then we would host a Zoom call from 4-4:45 pm for all grades. An email will be sent out either Saturday night or Sunday morning with the Zoom link. Face masks will be optional while we are outside.



## Change for Children

Our children and youth are organizing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Change for Children to raise money for the **ELCA Global Barnyard**. (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, 10 chicks and 2 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**.

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 you can bring that change when you attend Sunday school. The last day to drop off your change will be Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. 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"!

## Weekly HS Bonfires

Youth in grades 9-12 are invited to join us for weekly bonfires on Sunday evenings from 7:00-8:30 pm until it's too cold to meet outside. Locations will vary, so watch your email for updates! Kirsten also has a Snap Chat group



which she uses to update the HS youth. Let her know if you want to be added to this group! Next Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, we'll meet at church. Please bring your own chair. Hope you can join us!

## How You Spend Your Money Makes a Difference!

Do you drink coffee or tea? Eat chocolate, nuts or dried fruit? Did you know that the Light of Christ high school youth sell Equal Exchange products, even during COVID? If you've never heard of Equal Exchange (EE), here is a [short video](#) about why EE purchases are important. Each purchase supports small farmers around the world (and now more than ever, we need to be supporting these small family-owned farms, which are struggling to survive) as well as our youth right here at Light of Christ! Order through our [online store](#) and have them delivered to your house **FOR FREE** (or to a friend to brighten their day)! You can make difference with your purchases!



**Confirmation small groups began meeting last week, taking advantage of the nice weather.**



## Important Confirmation Dates and Information

Although Confirmation will look very different this year, we are planning to do the best we can while keeping our youth, Guides, and staff all safe. We met with the Wellness Task Force to talk about how we can conduct Confirmation, SS, and Spark in a low risk fashion. That being said, we appreciate your flexibility, understanding, and grace as we navigate this school year. For safety reasons (and space restrictions), we are not planning to do any "in person" large groups this year with all 3 grades. Instead, Pastor Bruce and Kirsten will record their large group teaching, and then videos will be shared in the small groups. We may have some grade-specific events once we have a chance to assess how the school year is going. Small groups have started to meet and will continue to meet outdoors each week (weather permitting, at various locations) through MEA. We are still looking for adults to be Confirmation Co-Guides (co-lead a small group of 6-8 kids), so please contact Pastor Bruce or Kirsten if you are interested!



- **Outdoor weekly small group fellowship meetings taking place until MEA**
- **More info to come about after MEA now that we are underway with the school year**

Confirmation youth should continue to work on Worship Notes and Service Hours and complete the [online forms on our website](#).

Please feel free to contact us with any questions, ideas, or feedback. We are all in this together and we appreciate your partnership!

