



Worship

October 4—Outdoor
Worship at 3:00 pm
Starting October 11—Indoor
Worship at 9:30 am (must
sign up)
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!

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



LightOfChristLutheran.com
lochrist@frontiernet.net

TRUNK OR TREAT!

SAVE THE DATE for Light of Christ's Trunk or Treat Family Event on Sunday, October 25th at church! Be sure to join us for an afternoon of fall fun for kids of all ages. More details to come.



Sunday School Kick-off

We had a great turn out for our Sunday School blessing and kick off celebration on September 20th! Many smiles and laughter from all ages as they participated in the obstacle course. We don't know who had more fun, the kids or parents?





Sisters & Brothers of Light of Christ ~

We hope you have all had the opportunity to participate and engage in the worship options that work for you as we seek to stay vibrant as a congregation despite the virus! We wanted to provide an update of our ministry plans as we know there are questions about worship options such as drive-in and when we may plan to get back to in-person worship. As a church council, we continue to make decisions keeping the health and safety of our congregation, the capacity of our staff, and the resources available to our church as priority factors.

As a result, we are currently prioritizing the following 3 types of weekly ministry options:

1. Online services – to date, online services have been vital to keeping our ministry vibrant despite the virus. They allow us to reach many and provide a flexible option. We will continue online services until we are through the pandemic and it is safe to return to “normal” worship.
2. Outdoor services – our summer outdoor services provided great opportunity to soak up some MN summer sun and see faces we’ve missed the past few months. We hope to hold a few more if we can be blessed with good weather through the fall months! We are planning to hold outdoor worship on Sunday, October 4 at 3 PM followed by Sunday School.
3. Indoor worship – we are currently evaluating a return to indoor worship beginning October 11 abiding by our Covid Preparedness Plan protocols, the state of MN requirements, and the guidance established by the CDC and the MN Department of Health. This means we will hold a 9:30 AM worship service, allowing <75 people in the sanctuary with masking and social distance procedures in place. You can expect to hear more soon!

We also wanted to let you know we have investigated drive-in worship, but our council has determined we will not invest additional resources into further investigation or planning at this time. We have learned there are a lot of factors to consider, making drive-in worship complex and more resource intense to plan. These factors include strict legal requirements in the type of low power part 15 transmitter, power source and proximity to power source, weather, a need for strong WiFi if a wireless transmitter is used, and a long application process to obtain radio licenses.

Thank you for your interest, participation and support as we continue our ministry as beloved children of God!

LOC Church Council

Silent Prayer and Meditation in the Sanctuary

The Light of Christ Sanctuary will be available for prayer and meditation every Wednesday from 4:30-6:30 pm and every Thursday from 11:30 am-1:30 pm.

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** 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.

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

Caring Corner

*Created by Light of Christ
Healing and Wholeness Ministry*



Faith Over Fear

Excerpts from Interfaith Network on Mental Illness website (INMI.us)

(Encouragements from Sept 21, 2020)

Many actors are stoking fear today. For sure, the fear of the virus is out there. But our fears are heightened by those who question the science for treating the virus. We're denied certainty when we need it the most. Our fears are fueled by the rhetoric of law and order. Our fears extend to the health of the planet. The news shows us thousands of acres of land on fire, glaciers melting, and sea level rising. We fear that not enough is being done to address climate change. Many lives have been crushed or are on the brink of chaos. Yet people try to hold on to hope, even as their fears rise.

Fear may be useful in keeping us safe and protected. Yet, contagious fear that now swirls within and around us in our daily lives can paralyze us. Fear can keep us from sleeping well. It can keep us from supporting programs and organizations that help those in need. We turn inward, so that we do not reach out to give or receive help. Fear can keep us so upset that our own health is jeopardized. And fear can contribute to depressing thoughts and even egregious actions may be energized by these fears.

Faith over fear. What can that mean? Faith can mean trust. The question is in what and whom can we invest our trust when fears erode our well-being? We can have faith that we will find positive energy within and around us. We can have faith that our creative drive will renew us. We can have faith in a power greater than ourselves. We can have faith that we, like others, can come through the uncertainty and anguish of these days to stand on the rock of what is true. We can have faith that "this, too, shall pass," and that we can navigate the turbulent waters ahead. This edition of Encouragements focuses on faith over fear and offers ways to see that our fears can be addressed. Fear need not incapacitate us!

Psalm 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble.

- 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 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!

Upcoming Worship Plans!

We will hold one more outdoor service on October 4th. 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 11th 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



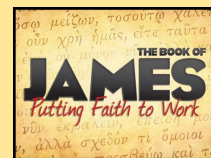
Devotions will now occur on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. Member song requests will be featured in Saturday's devotions instead of Friday's devotions. Click [here](#) for the latest devotional message. If

you would like to submit your favorite hymn and how it has affected your faith journey, email Katie at locworshipmus@gmail.com.

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!



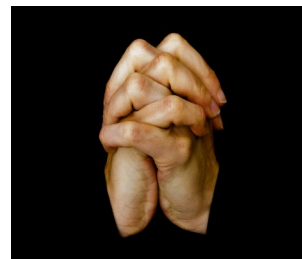
In order to get a Zoom link, email Tim Johnson at tdale57@gmail.com

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.

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), 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.



COME VISIT THE CHURCH LIBRARY



Even as public libraries are reopening, keep in mind that 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 distant!

Spark

Fall Spark for 1st and 2nd grades was a success! We couldn't have asked for better weather and can't wait to reunite for another 2-week session in late spring. We talked about overcoming obstacles with God's help and specifically focused on the story of David and Goliath. The children enjoyed pretending that they were David and got to "take down Goliath" with the help of some rubber bands and water balloons. After completing an obstacle course and playing several highly active games involving pool noodles, it was nice to relax for a bit and do some rock painting. Aside from all the fun and despite the short time we had together, hopefully the kids remember the two messages that we conveyed: 1) God is our greatest treasure and 2) God is our rock who gives us strength. Spark for 3rd grade starts on Tuesday, 9/29 and 4th graders will start on Wednesday, 9/30. Continue to pray for good weather! There is still time to register at

LOC SPARK

Registration 2020-2021.



Sunday School Information

Please join us for 2 more Sunday school lessons outside, October 4th and 11th.

- 4-4:30 pm 3-yr-olds -- 2nd grade (1 parent would need to stay)
- 4:45-5:30 pm 3rd-6th 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.

Please sign up [here](#) if you are able to attend.

Still haven't signed up?? Don't worry - you can still do that [here](#).



Congratulations to Brooks Gabrick, who received his First Communion on Sunday, September 20.

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, October 4** the bonfire will be at **Jennifer and Peter Grant's house**. Please bring your own chair. Hope you can join us!



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



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!



Masks and T-Shirts for Sale

Staff had extra Light of Christ masks and t-shirts made and they are available for sale on our [online store](#). Masks are \$5 each and shirts are \$10. Shirts are available in youth sizes XS through XL. After you place your order, payment can be made [online](#)



or when you pick up the item/s. The office is open Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:30 or Sunday afternoons from 3:30-4.

Change for Children

Our children and youth are organizing the 2nd 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 11th. 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"!