



## 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
- ✦ 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

## Outdoor Worship Together!

We will once again be worshipping outdoors on **September 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am!** There are a few details we would like to share with the congregation ahead of time. In order to maintain a healthy environment the worship service will look a little different than our normal services:



- ◆ Masks will be required outdoors. We ask that each family remain at least six feet apart on the lawn.
- ◆ We ask congregation members to refrain from singing along with the songs as this is a high-risk activity in group settings.
- ◆ We will not participate in group prayer, since speaking together in a large group also raises the risk level.
- ◆ We will hold communion at the outdoor service. Each congregation member will receive a pre-packaged wafer and pre-packaged wine.
- ◆ We will pre-record a service that will be posted on our [YouTube page](#) as usual for those who cannot attend. There will be no Zoom communion, but we will include communion liturgy in the recorded service.
- ◆ Please bring your own chairs.
- ◆ If you are experiencing Covid-like symptoms or have been exposed to a person diagnosed with Covid, we ask that you remain at home.
- ◆ A Sign Up Genius will be sent out soon. We highly encourage all of you to sign up for the service ahead of time as it is helpful for us to know how many people will be attending so we can plan out spacing, volunteers, etc. Keep in mind that the limit on outdoor gatherings is 250 people.

We are so excited to give everyone the chance to worship together in person! We thank you ahead of time for your flexibility and willingness to follow all the instructions above. Our top priority is making sure our members stay happy and healthy!



## Fresh Produce Distribution

In collaboration with Our Father's Lutheran Church/Nourishing Hope Food Drop and through generosity of Second Harvest Heartland, Light of Christ volunteers again distributed fresh produce to area residents.

Distribution took place at Light of Christ on Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup> with the generous help of Aaron Amdor, Wes Aylsworth, Wendy Caslavka, Heather Dickey, Kirsten and Ben Kelly, John



McClelland and JoMarie Williamson – their continued help is a blessing and very appreciated! We are also grateful to Wes Aylsworth for his organization and overseeing of this event, and to JoMarie Williamson for her efforts in incorporating support of Sheridan Story.

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.

## Love INC Update

- Thrift stores in Delano and Howard Lake are now reopened and **looking for volunteers** for warehouse, merchandise prep, and cashiers. If you would be willing to help, please call Julianne at the Delano location at 763-999-7086 or Alyssa at the Howard Lake location at 763-999-7087.
- Upcoming Event: **Virtual Gala (online) Harvesting Hope** – September 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm. Login to: [www.loveinheartland.org](http://www.loveinheartland.org)

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Offering in August for Karen Anderson, Missionary to Chile

Karen Anderson shared her enthusiasm and passion for her ministry in Chile with the congregation at the outdoor service on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Thank you to all who generously donated to her cause. We raised a total to date of \$445.00. Donations are still welcomed if you were not able to send one in yet. Please be sure to designate it for **"Karen Anderson – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Offering"**.

## Food Shelf Chair or Co-Chairs Needed

With the departure of two wonderful, long-time co-chairs, Jeanie Pilarski and Sandy Kremer, after providing 15 years of amazing leadership, the Delano Food Shelf is now looking for replacements (one person for both positions or two for either) to start on **October 1<sup>st</sup>**. If interested, please call 763-972-4455. Thank you Jeanie and Sandy for all you have done for the Delano community!!



## Be a Star!

Our staff continues to welcome kids, youth, families and/or adults of all ages to help us with our video recording for worship! Parts of worship that we've been looking for include the Lord's Prayer, Apostle's Creed and First Reading. Confirmation youth can use this for Service Hours and HS youth could use this for NHS hours. Contact Kirsten Kelly or Katie Kohler if you'd like to participate and submit a recording!



## Caring Corner

Created by Light of Christ Healing and Wholeness Ministry



Isaiah 41:13. "For I, the Lord your God, will hold your right hand, saying to you, 'Fear not, I will help you'."

Your Healing and Wholeness Ministry is excited to start up two Christ-centered support groups in mid-to-late October.

MJ Pearson and Cat Borman will lead a group for parents who are feeling a lot of stress and anxiety related to the societal upheaval, the virus with all the limits, changes and added responsibility on top of working from home or job loss, as well as trying to help their children deal with their own stress and behavior issues. Whew! See MJ's article below regarding this group.

Lona Jose and Sue Fink will lead a group to support those of us who love someone experiencing mental illness. We plan to meet in person in a large room at church for safe distancing as well as confidentiality. If you're interested in this group contact Sue at [billandsue2931@gmail.com](mailto:billandsue2931@gmail.com) or call 612-270-0172.

We'll each determine what schedule will work for most, likely twice a month, and we welcome your input as to day and time.

In preparation, several of us will be getting certified in Mental Health First Aid, a national training program. If you may also be interested in this training, contact Sue. It will include 2.5 hours of online instruction on your own schedule, then 4.5 hours in-person or Zoom training session. Details to be confirmed soon.

## Parent Support Group

Many parents are experiencing feelings of anxiety and uncertainty as we plan for the upcoming 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.



# CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS

## More VBS Moments

Summer is coming to a close and we are about to start a new school year. Even though our VBS and summer programs looked different this year, it still made a big impact on our Light of Christ children and families. It is still not too late to join in on the fun. The VBS portal is still open, please let us know if you need that information.

Thank you to the Stahlke family for sharing their VBS pictures and experience with us. Pastor Bruce shared in his sermon last week about the inspirational story from LOC member Steven Dickey. This shows that God speaks to us all in different ways. If you missed his sermon, here is a snippet of the email that Steven sent.

*Good Morning,  
I wanted to share a personal experience I received while teaching my kids VBS at home. I never thought I would learn more than my kids did in this experience. Thank you for continuing to provide great resources in a time of great need. It was very needed and I hope that this story will help others feeling the same pressure.*

(PLEASE GO TO PAGE 6 FOR STEVEN'S COMPLETE STORY)



## CYF MILESTONES



### AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

**Congratulations** to our 10<sup>th</sup> graders who were confirmed on August 23<sup>rd</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>. Please keep them in your prayers: Nick Black, Cody Christenson, Joe Coyle, Justin Dalum, Madeline Engel, Ella Frake, Tate Gallus, Harry Grant, Erin Green, Anna Henry, Austin Kramp, Taylor Kriesel, Emma Lotzer, Gunnar Paulson, Kelly Peterson, Gavin Popp, Alex Schramel, Ethan Thomas, Jack Tuchtenhagen, Autumn Ulferts.

## FIRST COMMUNION

14 children received their 1<sup>st</sup> Communion recently: Norah Berscheid, Ailsa Boyack, Emme Finkelson, Brooks Gabrick, Alice Hanson, Beckett and Braelyn Ludwig, Ellie Stahlke, Grant and Kenzie Szulczewski, Samantha Tool, Ellen and Ethan Ungerman, and Kendall VanLith. Blessings to all our youth and families on their faith journey!



## Sunday School Information



Join us on Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm., for our Blessing and Kick off celebration! We will explain how Sunday School will look this fall, followed by a fun-filled obstacle course. **Click here to sign up** to attend the celebration to help us in the planning process.

\*\*\*Sunday School registration is now open!! Click **here to register for Sunday school!**\*\*\*

We have been working hard on planning what is the safest way to bring our Light of Christ children back. We appreciate your patience, grace, and flexibility as we move into our new school year. We have planned through the fall and will reevaluate what the colder months will look like in October. Here is what we have planned:

- ◇ Sunday School: **September 27<sup>th</sup>, October 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> (18<sup>th</sup> off for MEA)**
- ◇ We would like to take advantage of our nice fall days and be able to meet outside while the weather permits.
  - **4:00-4:30 pm** 3-yr-old-2<sup>nd</sup> grade (1 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 4:00-4:45 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.

## SPARK

Light of Christ's after-school program, SPARK, will be starting soon with some changes from past sessions. One change is that 1<sup>st</sup> graders will now be invited to join in the fun! The second major change will be the schedule. Due to the pandemic, we will first hold 2-week sessions for each grade (1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>) this fall and then resume with more 2-week sessions in late spring. The reasoning behind this is so that we can take advantage of the warmer weather and hold sessions outside (weather permitting). All sessions will still be from 3:00-5:00 p.m., but we are not only having them on Wednesdays, but are now including Tuesday sessions. For more detailed information and to register your child, you may go to the following link: **SPARK Registration 2020-2021.**

## 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 will be meeting 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 has started. Small groups will meet outdoors each week (weather permitting at various locations) beginning the week of September 14 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! Here are some important dates to put on your calendar:

- **Guide Training** (planning to meet outside at church) = Wednesday, Sept. 9, 6:30-7:30 pm
- **Orientation** (for 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade parents and youth - via Zoom) = Sunday, Sept. 13, 7:30-8:30 pm
- **1<sup>st</sup> Night of Small Groups** = Evenings the week of September 14 (day/time determined by Guides/families)
- **Outdoor weekly small group fellowship meetings taking place until MEA**
- **More info to come about after MEA once we get 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!



## HS Kick-Off Bonfire

All high school youth (current grades 9-12) are invited to join us on Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-8:30 for a bonfire to kick-off the fall ministries. Mark your calendar... more details to come!



## Stewardship of Gratitude

Most of us remember one of the first “manners” we were taught when young. That of saying, “Thank you.” Few dispositions are more important to adopt than this. In fact, when giving my son and his bride a few words of wisdom last year when they got married, I shared that saying thank you to your spouse was perhaps the most important practice they could employ. Being grateful. Seeing through the eyes that recognizes life and love and relationship as gifts.

How are you stewarding gratitude? How frequently do you find yourself saying *thanks* to those around you. Big thanks. Small thanks. You know...

Here's a two-part challenge. In the coming week, challenge Part A is to think of at least two people in your life to whom you might express your gratitude for their being a part of your life. For them being who they are. For something they've done for you or someone else. For the joy they bring you. For the gifts they bear. Just because.

Challenge Part B. Write it down and give it or send it to them. You know...old fashioned pen and paper. Or a card. Mail it. Hand it to them. Drop it off. Phone calls are good; emails are fine. But there's something about having a tangible in-hand thanks to read, to hold, to look at, to ponder.

God has placed many folks into your life. Who might benefit from a simple but profound word of gratitude for their simple but precious existence? We all need this. I can promise you they do.

Two people. In the next week. Share the challenge and spread the joy.

- Tim Johnson, Stewardship Committee

## 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. Anyone wishing to join the Prayer Chain should contact the church office.



## Snap a Family Picture for the Online Directory

Light of Christ

Members: don't forget

about pictures for the online Church Directory! While we are all spending more time 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.

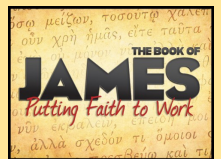


## Connect and Converse during Tuesday Bible Study

**Tuesdays 7-8:00 p.m. via Zoom**

The Tuesday evening bible study group is now studying the book of James. It's the perfect time to join!

Email Tim Johnson [tdale57@gmail.com](mailto:tdale57@gmail.com) for a Zoom link. Everyone is welcome!



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.

## Start Your Day with Prayer & Music



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 at ([locworshipmus@gmail.com](mailto:locworshipmus@gmail.com)). You can watch the latest video featuring members' submissions [here](#).



Good Morning,

I wanted to share a personal experience I received while teaching my kids VBS at home. I never thought I would learn more than my kids did in this experience. Thank you for continuing to provide great resources in a time of great need. It was very needed and I hope that this story will help others feeling the same pressure.

It's no doubt that this current world we live in is beyond difficult. Some people are handling it better than others. I used to think I was handling it well until the past month. I guess since having kids I've naturally become a more cautious person and noticed dangers I may have otherwise ignored. Lately these feelings have begun to multiply. I blame the media partially and myself for not seeing through it. I like to describe it as when you see a series of lottery winners on the TV every day, you are more likely to go buy a lottery ticket even though your odds of winning are no different than if they never reported on it. By showing it to you every day it feels real and when it happens to someone you know, then it's even more real. Again, all of that stuff doesn't change the odds of it happening to you. The sickness they are putting on TV these days is having the same effect on people in other ways – anxiety is going up, more visits to the Dr. for mild reasons and so on. I handled this well until lately where my worries just started to mount. My anxiety has been 100x worse than it was a month ago and I've even tried meds which in the first shot they went horribly bad. I've been really self-centered and not present with my family – it's been a bad few weeks.

That all changed today. After a bad day, then a worse day on meds, then a slightly better day off meds but still not a good start to the day, little sleep and constant nausea, I found myself reading a bible verse to my son for his bible study class Heather signed him up for. The scripture talked about when Jesus walked on water and Peter said to him "Lord, if that is you call me out" so Jesus did and Peter began to walk on water. Then he was distracted by the wind and started to worry and began to sink. "Help me Lord!" Peter cried out. Jesus said reaching out his hand, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When I read that verse to my son I nearly broke down in tears. I realized that I had lost my faith and that was why I was sinking. I stopped trusting in the Lord and tried to figure things out on my own as if I knew better, ha! What was I thinking? No wonder I've felt so awful lately. I lost trust. "Why do you doubt?" Those words were being spoken right at me today and I almost instantly felt better after hours of agony this morning. I excused myself in the back room and cried more than I have cried in years. Heather didn't know what was wrong, she thought I was having another "episode" of anxiety like I've had many for the last three days. After composing myself I came back for the rest of the teaching and to top it off, God driving his point home, in case I didn't get it the first time. The verse we recited was Proverbs 3:5 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, don't depend on your own understanding." It was then when it sunk in with Heather why I got so worked up reading the verse. That is exactly what I was doing! I was obsessed with trying to figure everything out myself and I should have just trusted in the Lord with my heart and not "trusting" him like a slacker. I was slowly sinking like Peter for a while now, I just didn't realize it until I was gasping for air. I pray now that I will notice the "sinking" feeling earlier and return my trust in him. This is going to be something I consistently deal with. Jesus is amazing, no doubt, but he just doesn't say "Bam! you're healed" and let you move on. He wants you to work on it because if you don't you will find yourself sinking all over again.

It is more than just a coincidence that Heather signed Austin up for this virtual bible study class for me to read the exact verse I needed to read in the depths of my worst days. That was God doing his work. It's so crazy how it works out sometimes. It works too, this is the best I've felt in over a week! Its great! I feel called to share this story to so many others who are likely experiencing the same. Remember what God said to Peter as he was sinking "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" Matthew 14:31

Verses to remember:

Matthew 14:22-32

Matthew 7:25-34 (Jesus teaches us about worry)

Proverbs 3:5

*Steven Dickey*