



The BEACON

SEPTEMBER 2018

The monthly newsletter of
Light of Christ Lutheran Church,
Delano, MN

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

Welcome!

I am delighted to introduce to you two new members of our staff here at Light of Christ: Kirsten Kelly and David Schneck. Kirsten is our new Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry and David is our new Associate Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry. Let me tell you a little bit about both of them and what they will be doing.

Kirsten comes to Light of Christ from Zion Lutheran Church in Buffalo, where she served for six and a half years as the Director of Children’s Ministry, working primarily with preschool and elementary children and their families. Prior to that she served for twelve years at Trinity Lutheran Church in Long Lake as the Director of Youth and Family Ministry, working primarily with junior and senior high youth and their families. She has a bachelor’s degree in youth and family ministry from Augsburg University and has done some master’s degree work at Luther Seminary. Kirsten and her husband, Dave, have lived in Delano for fourteen years now. They have three sons: Ben, a seventh grader; Alex, a third grader, and Andrew, their newborn.

David grew up in Fergus Falls and graduated from Concordia College in Moorhead this past May with a mathematics degree. David plays several instruments—piano, cello, guitar, and percussion—and played in the Symphonia Orchestra and also sang in the choir at Concordia. He was the captain of the tennis team at Concordia and also started a table tennis club. For the past three summers he has served as a camp counselor at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp in Montana.

In the weeks and months ahead we will plan opportunities for you to meet Kirsten and David and get to know them and have them get to know you. So keep an eye out for those opportunities. Even better, take the initiative and introduce yourself to them.

Kirsten will be working an average of 16 hours per week (more hours during the school year; fewer hours during the summer). Her primary responsibilities will be 1) overseeing our entire Children, Youth and Family ministry; 2) mentoring our Associate Director, David; 3) leading our strategic thinking and planning for our Children, Youth, and Family Ministry; 4) leading our ministry with our preschoolers and elementary age children and their families: Sunday School, Ignite, Sparks, and Vacation Bible School; and 5) Bible camping.

David will be working full-time and he will be focusing primarily on our middle and high school youth and their families. David’s primary responsibilities will be 1) working with me in our confirmation ministry; 2) leading our high school youth fellowship; 3) leading our summer mission trip; 4) taking our youth on retreats and to gatherings; 5) leading our fundraising efforts for the mission trip and other activities; and 6) serving as a role model and mentor for our youth. Both David and Kirsten will collaborate with each other and serve in a support role for each other and work closely with our Children’s Education Committee, our Youth Education Committee, parents, and volunteers.

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I should also let you know that our plan is to “grow” Kirsten’s position. Right now, with a newborn, an average of sixteen hours a week is “doable” for Kirsten and her family. But as Andrew grows older and Kirsten has more time we want to gradually increase Kirsten’s hours until she is working full-time. Ideally we would like to see the day when we have a full-time Director and a full-time Associate Director for Children, Youth, and Family Ministry.

“Growing” Kirsten’s position is part of what it means to “staff for growth.” I believe that congregations staff in three ways: for decline, for maintenance, or for growth. No congregation staffs for decline on purpose but that is the net effect of their staffing decisions. Other congregations staff to maintain the status quo. But the most vital congregations staff for growth, that is, they give staff members “room to grow” in their ministry and to experiment with new and innovative ideas.

As you may recall we have been seeking to fill a very part-time “program coordinator” position. We realized that Rachel’s job description was too big for any one person to do. So we were seeking to help her by hiring someone in this support role. However we didn’t have any success in filling that position. Now that Kirsten is on board that position is “going the way of all flesh” (to quote the Psalmist). The duties we envisioned for the “program coordinator” will be picked up by David, Kirsten, or our Children’s Education or Youth Education Committees.

Once again, I can’t tell you how delighted I am to have both David and Kirsten with us and I look forward to what the Spirit has in store for our Children, Youth, and Family ministry.

Grace and peace always,

BK



Hi, my name is Kirsten Kelly and I’m so excited to join the LOC staff team as the new Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry! My husband (Dave) and I have lived in Delano for 14 years and have 3 boys... Ben (7th grade), Alex (3rd grade) and Drew (4 months). I have my undergrad in Youth and Family Ministry from Augsburg College and have worked in youth/children’s ministry for 20 years. I truly feel called to this work and feel incredibly blessed to have the opportunity to work at LOC! I will be working part-time (about 20 hours/week during the school year and less during the summer) as we transition to being a family of 5. I will predominantly work with Sunday School, VBS and the Sparks (after school) ministry. I look forward to meeting you and your family and partnering in ministry!

Hello and greetings to everyone at Light of Christ Lutheran Church! My name is David Schneck, and I will be your new Associate Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry. I just graduated from Concordia College in Moorhead, MN with a degree in Mathematics and Data Analytics. As a Cobber (Concordia’s mascot is a piece of corn, yes), I played tennis, sang in the choir, played in the orchestra, was an orientation leader, played in many intramural sport leagues, tutored math and chemistry, and most importantly, I helped found the Concordia College Table Tennis Club. I enjoyed all of the opportunities that Concordia presented to me, but I am without a doubt most grateful for it bringing Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp into my life.



For the past three summers, I was a counselor at FLBC in Northwestern Montana right on Flathead Lake. As a counselor, I predominantly led week-long backpacking trips up in the mountains. It was amazing to see campers push themselves both physically and in their faith lives amidst some of God’s most beautiful creation. Other than backpacking, I led onsite cabins, went to various surrounding Montana communities to lead Vacation Bible Schools, and led a service trip for the park service. It was so fulfilling to spend time and form relationships with campers over the past three years and see them grow in the Love of Christ.

I have always cherished balance in my life, and I thoroughly love getting involved in all kinds of different activities. I grew up playing an abundance of sports- tennis, basketball, golf, soccer, baseball, softball, volleyball, badminton, you name it. Besides this, I always loved being involved in music. Growing up I took many years of piano lessons, played the cello in orchestra, was a percussionist in band, and sang my guts out in choir. I also taught myself to play the guitar, the ukulele, and a little bit of the mandolin. I feel that music kind of encompasses my entire being, so you will often catch me humming and singing as I go about my day. I especially love creating music with others, and I am so excited to begin worshipping with you all in your beautiful sanctuary.

That is a quick snapshot of who I am, but I am eager to begin working and growing with the members of Light of Christ. I can’t wait to get to know all of you, and I am so thankful to be a part of such an amazing, welcoming congregation. Peace and Blessings.

David



**SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 9TH**
9:00 am Outdoor Service
with Celebration to follow!

**Light of Christ
Lutheran Church
Delano, MN**

*Cake Walk, Coffee from Bridge House,
Face Painting, Yard Games, Bounce House,
Adult Bean Bag Tournament, Service Project,
Sunday School Registration, and More!!!*

LOC Discernment & Discovery

We would love your input and conversation! Three opportunities to share your thoughts about LOC and how we move forward as a congregation.

Three discoveries of note from the MAP survey that have us wanting to explore together more deeply what we sense God is up to in our midst.

The number one priority that rose to the top of the survey results was this: ***"To explore new and innovative ways of being the church in today's culture."*** We'd simply like to have some conversation together about what this might mean for us.

Two of the five top priorities had to do with growth--growth in membership and increasing our worship attendance. We'd like to explore, ***"What do you think are the most important/fair reasons we feel compelled to grow?"*** ***"What are some effective ways that we can grow as a church?"*** ***"What might we need to do or change to attract and welcome new folks to our church?"*** You get the idea...

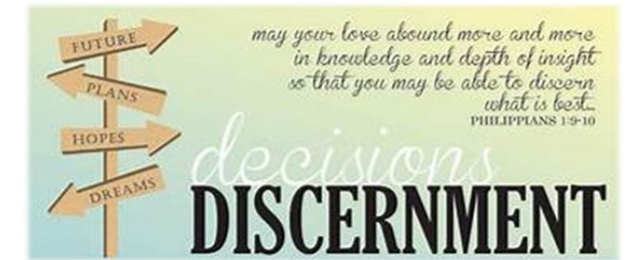
Finally, we'd simply like to hear your ideas about ***what might help you to grow more closely to Christ, to more deeply experience His grace, teachings, wisdom for your life, and to become more like Him?***

No need to sign up. Just show up! Thank you for helping to give shape to the next chapter of life and ministry for Light of Christ!

Monday, Sept. 10th at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 13th at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 16th at noon (we'll have pizza!)



LOC DISCOVERIES. In this time of discovery and discernment, a number of things have risen to catch our attention. The MAP--Missional Assessment Profile--revealed that collectively, our number one congregational priority is "To explore new and innovative ways of being the church in today's culture." Two of the other five priorities have to do with growth--that of increasing worship attendance and attracting more members. "Helping members recognize God at work in all aspects of their lives" was the number three priority. And, "Advocating to improve the situations of those living in poverty within the [broader] community" was the fourth highest, out of fourteen total priority options.

We also discovered that some 83% of those responding feel that in our congregation, they are a part of something bigger than themselves. And, 70% feel a valued part of LOC (21% being "on the fence"). And, while 72% believe in the mission of our congregation, only 38% believe that "we have a clear sense of our purpose." The matter of "Embracing Change," reveals that 47% believe that we are willing to take risks to fulfill our mission, and almost 60% see challenges are seen as opportunities to grow.

There is much more to share. But it certainly seems evident that this process of Discernment and Discovery is the right thing to be doing as a congregation. We are excited as staffing decisions continue to move us forward, and we encourage you to pray for LOC and to be imagining together an exciting and optimistic future for us as a church!



MONTHLY SERVICE TEAM

Members of Light of Christ are dedicated to serving the Lord by sharing, caring and loving, and do so through the work of Monthly Service Teams, serving at funerals, Sunday morning coffee time and other functions.

September Service Team families:

John & Amber Becker
Roland & Oda Carlson
Jeff & Brenna Demeules
Steve & Anne Farniok
Paul & Carolyn Gallagher
Mike & Stephanie Gallus
Rob & Jana Geistfeld
Peter & Jennifer Grant
Sandy Hartin
Carol Heyen
Jon & Jamie Holzer
Loree Kinney
Jane Lewis
Doug & Jeannie Ludwig
Mike & Kari Magaard
John & Annette McClelland
Tom & MaryAnn McKay
John & Sharon McKisson
Kirk & Britta Reiersen
Jamie & Brianna St. Aubin
Craig & Jeanne Schansberg
Lori Skogman
Jan Styve
Andrew & Samantha Tribble
Kurt & Steffany Truax
Jim & Stacy VanCura
Steve Wachs

Monthly Service Teams to Provide Sunday Morning Hospitality

With our fall worship schedule, we will be asking the monthly service teams to promote LOC hospitality by making coffee available in the narthex between worship services. One or two members from the monthly service group will be asked to recruit/coordinate team members that will facilitate coffee service. The service team members will assume responsibility to make coffee, have it available in the narthex following 1st service and to dispose of extras and clean up at the beginning or end of 2nd service. The service group coordinator will connect with our CYF leader to prevent duplication on Sundays where the youth are providing coffee and/or treats.

With monthly service teams providing Sunday morning coffee it will give all members of the congregation the opportunity to participate in sharing, caring and welcoming their fellow Light of Christ worshipers through a time of hospitality!

Every Light of Christ member is automatically assigned to a service team and asked to participate as needed. Currently we have 13 service teams each with 20 to 25 individual or family units. Service team members express caring and fellowship by serving at funerals and other functions at Light of Christ. Sunday morning hospitality is another perfect place for monthly service teams to share that caring and welcoming attitude.

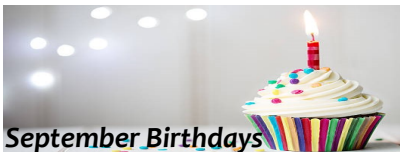
Worship each Sunday brings us closer to God and also closer together as a community of believers. It gives an opportunity to meet, greet and create meaningful relationships within our congregation. We need to encourage everyone to congregate ... to spend time visiting and enjoying one another by sharing a cup of coffee!



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – SEPTEMBER 2018

Worship assistants are now scheduled via SignUpGenius.com. If you have not received an invite via email to sign up, please contact the church office. If you are unable to serve on your assigned day, please arrange for a substitute or notify the church office. Thank you! Telephone: 763-972-2400 Email: lochrist@frontiernet.net

	Council Rep	Greeters	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolytes	Lectors	Altar Guild	Soundboard
Sept. 2 9:00		Don & Loyann Anderson	Amber Andrews Ann Bassett Leo Hanson Dorothy Henry	Cynthia Kuenzel John Zerull	Noah Lind	Cynthia Kuenzel	Sally Torfin Bea Zerull	Marcus Hanson
Sept. 9 9:00	Kylee Amdor	Del & Carolyn Hirsch	Paul & Marcie Ludwig family David & Linda Rosaaen		Ella Frake Harry Grant	Bonnie Lotzer	MaryAnn McKay JoMarie Williamson	Cheri Ashfeld
Sept. 16 8:15	Andrea Quandt	Jaunich family Carol Kocina	Harlan Grimm Dennis & Ginny Iverson	Barry Brandstetter Val Donahue	Taylor Kriesel Ethan Thomas	Vikki Brandstetter	Lisa Hemmer DeeAnne Palan	Cheri Ashfeld
Sept. 16 10:45	Brenna Demeules	MaryAnn McKay	Dorothy Henry		Samantha Krampf Lexi Rothstein	Mary Ann McKay	Kylee Amdor	Brad Spencer
Sept. 23 8:15	Dave Wuerger	Len & Dee Beilke	Bob Gielau Loree Kinney	John Zerull		Loree Kinney	Lisa Hemmer Jan Styve	Cheryl Gielau
Sept. 23 10:45			Leo Hanson		Chase Christenson Cody Christenson		Sally Torfin	Marcus Hanson
Sept. 30 8:15				Sue Stahlke			Ginny Iverson Linda Moore	Dave Wuerger
Sept. 30 10:45	Kylee Amdor				Andrew Ihde Ava Reiersen		Cynthia Kuenzel	



September Birthdays

- 1 Mackenzie Fitch, Grant Horeis, Tyler Mielke
- 2 Kristen Johnson, Madelynn Knisley, Kris Lemmerman, Don Palan, Paul Schoborg, Trevor Williams
- 3 Darius Clare, Matt Nohner, Gary Prinsen, Wendy Sleypen
- 4 Helen Campbell, Val Donahue, Sean Droneck, Chris Gross, Mackenzie Motzko, William Nohner
- 5 Hanley Bernick, Paige Froehle, Taylor Hauge, Brooke Lemke, Joe Nelson
- 6 Allen Bawek, Michaela Todd, Dan Torfin
- 7 Greg Elstad, Landon Hiltner, Stephanie Larison, Valerie Nee, Abigail Olson, John Schroedl, Hatty Wahl
- 8 Aaron Amdor, Len Beilke, Eric Palan
- 9 Ben Cederberg, Alexander Ihde, Helayna Schafer
- 10 Stephanie Almquist, Lisa Boecker, Acacia Cordes, Steve Freese, Marcus Hanson, Heidi Wuerger
- 11 Nicholas Cayler, Vicki Noetzelman, Lori Skogman
- 12 Karmen Christenson, Matt Johnson, Tim Ungerman
- 13 Gala Andreassen, Dee Beilke, Carol Henry, Trent Techam
- 15 Harlan Grimm, Kevin Olson
- 16 Laurie Collings, Sam Kirchmann, Bristyl Mickolichuk, Rilie Schmidt, Stacy VanCura
- 17 Kara Emmer, Zachary Fink
- 18 Fran Ceder, Kendall Geistfeld, Amy Halluska, Nora Hillmyer, Maxwell Schmit
- 19 Grace Caple, Matt Coyle, Mike Gallus
- 20 Abby Bauman, Colette Wamre
- 21 Evan Amdor, Wendy Meyer, Jeff VandenEinde
- 22 Jim Burbach, Kinslee Gross, Everley Prickett
- 23 Tiffany Allison, Amber Eichten, Maia Nee, Charlotte Olson, Kianna Ulferts

- 24 Brian Beardsley, McKenzie Cayler, Jason Thompson
- 25 Sean Campbell, Holly Williams
- 26 Brennen Meyer, Philip Radermacher, Devin Russell
- 27 Lauren Goemer, Lona Jose, Carter Peterson, Mya Wahl
- 28 John Bingea, Jana Geistfeld, Greg Krause, Tim Leonard
- 29 Becky Coyle, Brenda Dallmann, Tylor Franklin, Cherie Kuechle, Shayla Nesheim, Sally Thompson, Heather Vanderlinde
- 30 Brenda Black, Jameson Geistfeld, Mya Motzko, Crystal Stahlke



September Anniversaries

- 1 Roger & Janet Swenson
- 2 Dan & Sally Torfin
- 4 Scott & Brenda Dallmann
- 6 Patrick & Leah Custer
- 7 Brad & Heidi Goldbeck
Steve & Tonya Zitzloff
- 8 Janine Holter & John Pususta
Gordon & Eileen Torgerud
- 10 Mike & Sharla Burley
- 11 Scott & Wendy Kohls
- 12 Dan & Rachel Halbersma
Thomas & Kay Klason
- 14 Greg & Melanie Elstad
- 15 John & Wanda Bingea
- 17 Jim & Sarah Gierke
- 20 John & Kristy Cardinal
Randy & Shannon Durick
- 25 Jonathan & Sarah Ness
Jeff & Tara Olson
- 29 Randy & Lisa Hemmer
- 30 Kevin & Laura Jaunich

ADULT EDUCATION SUNDAYS, 9:30-10:30, Room 106



Being a Twenty-First Century Church will be the topic of our Sunday morning adult education hour this fall. Light of Christ was founded in 1984, which is the same year that I (Pastor K) was ordained. Much has changed in the intervening thirty-four years. Being a pastor is not the same as it was in 1984 and being a thriving congregation is not the same either. What has changed in these last three decades? How did we get to where we are at today both as a congregation and as a larger church body? What is the path forward for us as a congregation? How do we hold on to the things that are worth keeping and at the same time embrace the new things the Spirit is doing? Join us on Sunday mornings this fall from 9:30 - 10:30 for prayer, study, and conversation around these questions.

"CLOSE ENCOUNTERS" PRAYER NIGHTS

continue on Sunday evenings from 7-8 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Everyone is welcome to join us for a time of prayer and then conversation, seeking to be sensitive and open for where we sense God is leading us as a congregation. In times of transition, we believe God stirs and moves and calls us in special ways. This is about praying, listening, sharing, and having hope and eagerness for our future. Please join us. Come as you are, as some of our faith family gathers.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



The Holy Spirit: Past, Present, and Future is the topic for our Women's Bible Study this year. We will explore questions like "What does the Bible and Christian history teach us about the power and presence of the Holy Spirit? How is the Holy Spirit at work in our lives and our world today? Where is the Holy Spirit leading us as we move into a new future?" Come and join us for prayer, study, and conversation about the least known and least understood person of the Holy Trinity. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 AM.



QUILTING

**Begins Monday, Sept. 10th
@ 10:00 am** in Room 106.

Join in the fun and fellowship while making quilts for several organizations! No quilting experience necessary!

New Member Sunday

October 28, 2018

New members will be received on Sunday, October 28. A *Discover Light of Christ* session will be held for new members, or for those exploring the possibility of membership, on Sunday, September 30 at 4:00 pm. Anyone interested in joining is invited to contact the church office at 763-972-2400 or lochrist@frontiernet.net.



SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED!

Light of Christ Sunday School thrives because of the commitment of the many adults and young adults who have discovered the opportunity for joyful service to God and to our children through teaching Sunday School! We are getting ready for our 2018-2019 Sunday School year and are looking for individuals who enjoy working with children and love sharing the Word of God- No teaching experience is required! You will co-teach in teams of four and can pick your Sundays through Sign Up Genius and are only required to commit to approximately 2 Sundays a month! We have a great, easy to use, engaging curriculum. Please contact Laura Jaunich at kljaunich@gmail.com or 507-227-7811 or Tara Olson at tolson@wealthenhancement.com or 763-218-7617 to sign up or if you have any questions!



BIBLE MILESTONE

The 3-year-olds & 3rd graders will be receiving Bibles on Sunday, Sept. 16th. What a joy for parents to be a part of placing the Bible in their child's hands, just as promised in baptism.



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

Evelyn Rose Lindgren
Born: January 13, 2018
Baptized: August 19, 2018
Parents: Gregory & Emily Lindgren
Sponsors: Catherine Rose
Betty Syverson

Dear LOC ~
I want to express my most heartfelt gratitude for the wonderful service and reception on Sunday, August 12th, as well as for the generous gifts. That send-off was more than I could have ever dreamed. I am so happy that God led me to LOC—I was truly blessed being able to work with such loving, genuine, and kind people. I will miss you all and this community so much! Bless you!
With love,
Rachel



Book Study and discussion presented by the Social Justice Ministry

Join us on November 4th at 9:30am as we discuss the book *Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism*, by Drew Hart. We will meet in the Adult Education room (106). Copies of the book are available in the church library or you can borrow from the public library system. Refreshments provided. All are welcome!

September Sisters of LOC event at Apple Jack Orchards

Back by popular demand!

Women/girls of all ages welcome! Mark your calendar for this fun-filled event with other Sisters of LOC!

Sunday, September 30th
Apple Jack Orchards
2-4 p.m.

Cost is \$8 per person (money will be collected at event). Includes wagon ride through orchard, apple pie, apple cider, & touring around the orchard. Meet at the picnic shelter.

Please RSVP by Friday, Sept. 21st to Jennifer Grant 612-226-8181 (text or call) or email at sunshine41@frontiernet.net.

Other orchard activities include corn maze, pony rides, corn pit, jumping pillow, cow train, & gift shop. These would be at an additional cost.

