



MARCH 2019
 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*

Living into a New Day

Several important decisions were made at our Annual Meeting on January 27th. The first is that we adopted a budget for 2019 that allows us **to seek a full-time Worship and Music Director beginning this summer. This means that we will have to stretch financially to make this position a reality. Our regular, on-going financial giving in 2019 will have to increase significantly over 2018 – by about \$50,000 over 2019, or 10% above 2018.** But the leadership of the congregation believes that this investment will prove to be a great blessing to Light of Christ in the years ahead. So please pray that we rise to this generosity challenge, and pray as well for the Worship and Music Director Search Committee that we will be led to the person the Holy Spirit has in mind for us.

Now that we have been given the green light by the congregation to seek a full-time **Worship and Music Director the Search Committee** is resuming its work. The Committee has started to advertise the position. If you know of any musician that you believe would be a good fit for us here at Light of Christ please let that person know of this opening. Or you may give their name and contact information to someone on the Committee and we can follow up from there. We want to cast as wide a net as possible, so please help in whatever way you can. Our plan is to interview and audition over the winter/spring and hopefully have our new Worship and Music Director come on board sometime this summer. As a Committee we are always interested in hearing your thoughts, concerns, suggestions and questions, so please don't hesitate to contact anyone on the Committee: Laurie Brown, Michelle Bunker, Sue Fink, Bridget Hanson, Marcus Hanson, JoMarie Williamson and myself.

We also approved the recommendation to establish a **Light of Christ Endowment Fund.** The gifts that are given to the Endowment Fund are not spent. They are held in the fund, in perpetuity, and only the interest earned on the principal in the fund is spent. In order to establish the Fund, we transferred \$25,000 from our Mission Investment Fund (which has served as our “savings account/rainy day fund”) into our Endowment Fund. One of the primary ways in which the Endowment Fund will grow is through special one-time gifts from our members. Often these gifts are given as a part of a family’s estate planning. So as you do your financial/estate planning please remember Light of Christ.

To give you one example of the impact our Endowment Fund can have, when I was one of the pastors at Granite Falls Lutheran Church we established an Endowment Fund around 1990. We also began with an initial balance of \$25,000. Today the Granite Falls Lutheran Endowment Fund has a balance of over \$800,000, and the congregation earns between \$30,000 - \$40,000 a year to help fund their mission and ministry. So the immediate impact will not be large but thirty years from now it will be.

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We are also celebrating a milestone in our **New Day for God’s Beloved capital campaign.** We have already started to receive pledges toward the campaign and we hope to receive most of them by March 3rd. But even if you haven’t yet made a gift or a pledge by March 3rd we still encourage you to do so. In fact, we will encourage and receive new gifts and pledges throughout the three-year campaign. So if you haven’t done so already, please prayerfully consider your own gift to this campaign and how you can grow in generosity – in your time, talent, and treasure. And to those who have already made their gift or pledge – thank you!

Grace and peace always,

Pastor K



AUDIO RECORDINGS of Pastor Bruce’s sermons are now available on the church website: www.lightofchristlutheran.com.



2019 CHURCH COUNCIL

- Kylee Amdor
- Brenna Demeules
- Bob Gielau
- Elizabeth Kohlhof
- Dan Langner
- Dennis Lohmann
- John McKisson
- Tom Sebelien
- Dave Wuerger



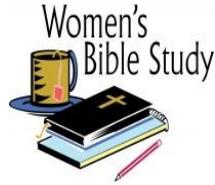
There are defining times in the life of organizations, in the life of churches. Indeed, this is one such time for us here at Light of Christ. Or, perhaps better said, we are at the beginning of a defining time—a New Day—for us as a church. And, indeed, we’ll learn as we go.

As our New Day vision emerges, we know a couple of things. One is that we need each other. Our vision to grow, to strengthen the ministry initiatives which are central to the way forward, cannot be done without each of us being involved.

After all, this vision is the fruit of **your** input, conversations, prayers, with the leading of the Holy Spirit. The second thing we know is that all visions require fuel. They require investment, contribution, resources. And while the ministry we all share needs each of our time, talents and treasures, this appeal is about treasure—financial resources. And our invitation to each and every Light of Christ household is to consider your best gift and/or three-year pledge, over and above your regular giving, for these New Day goals.

Your generosity is fuel for this ministry. Together, we can eliminate the remaining debt on our Educational Wing, freeing resources to strengthen our mission through our new Ministry Initiatives. Please read or review the New Day materials you have received, and pray about how you can make a difference as we move forward. Sunday, March 3rd is Celebration Sunday—that day when we will share commitments by returning our pledge cards. Everyone has something to give. You are each needed to help make this next chapter of ministry even stronger and more faithful and loving as we share the Light of Christ as God’s beloved. God bless you for your faithfulness and generosity!

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 in Room 101.



ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

March 6, 6:00 & 7:30 pm

with the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion
Supper served from 5:00-7:15 pm

Wednesday evenings during Lent
6:00-6:50 pm Supper in Fellowship Hall
7:00 pm Worship in the Sanctuary

ADULT EDUCATION SUNDAYS, 9:30-10:30, Room 106/107



ADULT EDUCATION - Praying More Like Jesus is the topic of our Sunday morning Bible study throughout Lent. We will study the ways in which Jesus prayed and how we can apply that to our own prayer lives. We will be using Philip Yancey's book on Prayer as our resource book. So please come and join us at 9:30 AM each Sunday in Room 106.

SISTERS of LOC MARCH EVENT

Please join The Sisters of LOC for a night of service to our wonderful Delano Community! We will meet at Love INC in Delano on **Tuesday, March 19th from 6:00-8:00 p.m.** We will help organize, sort, price, and clean the Love INC store. After we volunteer, we will go to the new Brickside Bar & Grill in Delano for appetizers, drinks and fellowship. **RSVP by Monday, March 18th** to Jennifer Grant at 612-226-8181 (call or text) or sunshine41@frontiernet.net.

LENTEN SUPPER SIGN-UP ATTENTION COMMITTEES AND GROUPS: How about serving a Lenten Supper? This is a great opportunity to help the congregation, as well as raise funds for a church-related project (a free-will offering is taken at each meal). A sign-up sheet is posted in the Narthex. **SIGN UP TODAY!**



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.

March Service Team families:

Don & LoyAnn Anderson
Sivian Barfnecht
Bruce & Shannon Beltrand
Tracy Bistodeau
Doug & Helen Campbell
Virginia Dally
Dan & Amber Eichten
Thelma Estby
Mike & Wendy Franklin
Bob & Cheryl Gielau
Mark Goemer
Tristen & Lynne Griffin
Derek & Katie Horeis
Charles & Lona Jose
Sarah Kirchmann
Travis & Kim Knisley
Kara Larson
Bonnie Lotzer
Jim & Cindy Mueller
Patrick & Gina Nee
Scott & Deanna Olson
Vince & Betty Pavik
Paul & MJ Pearson
Andrea Quandt
Krista Reske
Mike & Becky Schluter
Dan & Traci Torgerson
Tim & Tena Ungerman
Sonja Wahl

SHARED LEADERSHIP TRAINING

All Light of Christ Church Council and Committee members will meet in the fellowship hall for a combined orientation/training session on **Tuesday, March 5th from 6:30 to 7:30 PM.** The session will provide time to introduce new committee and council members and provide helpful discussion in planning priorities for 2019 and beyond. All returning and new members serving on church council and all church committees are asked to attend this important kick-off to 2019!

Due to Delano Schools' spring break the 2nd week in March, committee meetings regularly scheduled for March 12th should be rescheduled for March 5th before or after the orientation time.



Quilting

The LOC Quilters meet weekly on Mondays at 10:00 a.m. in Room 106 at the church.

Everyone welcome!



Love INC Opportunities

- Personal Care Item Ministry needs **laundry soap, dish soap, paper towels, toilet paper**
- Fresh Start Program needs **diced tomatoes, cream of mushroom or cream of chicken soup, white or brown sugar, oatmeal, spaghetti sauce**
- Furniture for Howard Lake Thrift Store, please call 763-972-6547 ext.2 for quality guidelines
- Love INC Heartland Gala, Sunday, April 28 at Medina Entertainment Center

CHILDREN & FAMILY NEWS

First Communion Instruction

Kids who are in 4th grade are invited to participate in our First Communion instruction at Light of Christ. See the info below for details about schedule. Registration can be found online on our website at www.lightofchristlutheran.com under the Spark page. Transportation is provided on Spark days from Delano Intermediate School thanks to Stahlke Bus. Older kids who have not yet received the instruction are also invited to participate or talk with staff about an “at home” option. We’re excited to join your family on this next step in your child’s faith journey!

- **Wednesday, March 20** – Child Instruction at Spark, 3-5 pm
- **Wednesday, March 20** – Parent/child Info Meeting, 5-5:30 pm
- **Wednesday, March 27** – Child Instruction at Spark, 3-5 pm
- **Wednesday, April 3** – Child Instruction at Spark, 3-5 pm
- **Wednesday, April 10** – Child Instruction at Spark, 3-5 pm
- **Wednesday, April 10** – Parent/child Info Meeting, 5-5:30 pm
- **Wednesday, April 10** – Fellowship Meal (Lenten fish fry) for families, 5:30-6:30 pm
- **Thursday, April 18** – First Communion at Maundy Thursday worship, 7 pm

First Communion Task Force

Staff at Light of Christ are looking for 3-5 people from the congregation that would be interested in being on a task force to discuss and explore the age that kids receive their First Communion at Light of Christ. If you have a passion for kids and their faith journey and/or the Sacrament of Holy Communion, please talk with Kirsten to find out more. This will be a short-term commitment over the next 4-6 months.



YOUTH NEWS

Spaghetti Dinner Feed Success!

Grace and Peace to you,

This past month on Sunday, February 10th we held our annual Spaghetti Dinner Feed & Silent Auction at Light of Christ for our Summer youth trips. The night was a total and complete success! From the dinner to the silent auction, everything was spectacularly well-done. Through the support of our congregation and our community members we managed to raise about \$7,000 for our youth program! This money will greatly help reduce the costs of both trips that youth are going on, so I want to say a very sincere thank you to everyone who helped make the night a success.

With your support, our youth will be going on one of two different trips this summer. In mid-July we are having our Mission Trip at Outlaw Ranch in South Dakota. We will be spending the week working with the forest and park service and many local nonprofit organizations dedicated to helping the impoverished in the area. Outlaw Ranch is in the Custer State Park area of South Dakota, so we will be in one of the most beautiful places in the Dakotas! After working all day, the youth will have the chance to join camp activities at Outlaw Ranch with other youth their age. We will also have a day built in to explore some of the area hiking, mountain biking, or kayaking! It will be an amazing time for our youth to serve the less fortunate and live out their faith lives in an active, beautiful setting.

Our other trip this summer is our High Adventure Trip! We will be traveling out to northwestern Montana to learn, play, and explore in some of God’s most beautiful creation (in my opinion). We will be spending the week camping in remote wilderness areas, rock climbing, and kayaking learning about faith, creation, and how to be the best stewards of this planet we can be! We are also planning on doing some hiking in the gorgeous Glacier National Park as an added bonus! I’m very excited to share this part of the country and this part of my life with the youth on this trip. Spending time out in the wilderness in Montana has been one of the most influential experiences in my faith life, and I know the youth will experience the same!

I’m excited to see the ways in which these trips will help the youth along their faith journeys and to see how God’s love is showing in our world today. Again, I’m so very grateful for the support that Light of Christ has for its youth initiatives, and I’m excited to learn and grow alongside them on these trips and experiences.

In Peace,

David Schneck

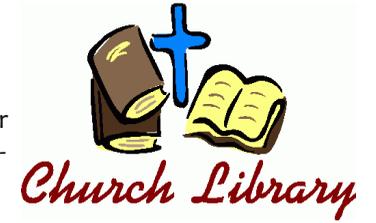




LIBRARY FOOTNOTES

A Book Review on "And The Mountains Echoed" by Khaled Hosseini

This is one of four new books by this Author that we now have in our Church Library. We are trying to introduce new authors with a multicultural background in order that through reading some of their books, we too can broaden our understanding of different cultures and life-styles.



This book is set in Kabul, Afghanistan and spreads outward to other parts of the World. It follows the lives of a 10-yr old boy Abdullah and his beloved 4-year old sister Pari as they accompany their Father on foot through the desert from their poverty-stricken village to the "City" to a wealthy home where their Uncle works. Unbeknownst to the children, the little girl Pari is going to be sold to the childless wealthy couple who lives there and the story moves on from there. Their own mother has died and there is a new stepmother but the poverty in the village and family is so great that in order for them all to survive, Pari is sold to the wealthy family who will give her a good life. Abdullah is broken-hearted when this happens and they return to their Village without her. The story follows these characters and their extended families over the years and somehow there is an unshakable element of "FAMILY" that continues through the book and through their lives. It is a powerful and complex story that leaves the reader emotionally involved --and wondering how it is all going to end!

I will admit that this book was sometimes difficult to read. In part, it is set in a World totally different from ours with cultural differences and the complexity of relationships --but the strong ties and importance of FAMILY comes through. Names and places are also new and strange so I had to keep reminding myself that instead of recognizable names like Mary, John, Sue and Joe--you have to learn to follow Abdullah, Pari, Saboor, Parwana, Masooma, Baba, Thalia -- but they were all people, with interrelated complex problems and the shared bond of extended Family, love and loyalty. You have to read this book with an open mind and the intention of learning something new about a different Culture. The same is true of the other three books we now have by this same Author -- Give them a try! You'll find them in our Church Library on a shelf labeled "Multicultural Stories."

THRIVENT MEMBERS - If you're an eligible Thrivent Financial member and have Choice Dollars® available to direct, please keep us in mind. The deadline to direct your 2018 Choice Dollars is **March 31, 2019**. For more info or to direct Choice Dollars, call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice." Or follow this link: <http://bit.ly/XJrPZN>.





March Birthdays

- 01 Lee Bunker, Evan Lemmerman, Aidan Quandt, Melissa Sandberg, Lexi Thomas
- 02 Bev Bauman, Katie Bernick Friehl, Toby Ingebrigtsen, Betty Pavik, Cheryl Schleper
- 03 Grace Beltrand, Gloria Schuette, Samantha VanCura, Steve Zitzloff
- 04 Peter Grant
- 05 Matt Kirchmann
- 06 James Henry, Addison Kirchmann, Tyler Kyrola, David Motzko, Adam Wortz
- 07 Mathea Schafer, Taylor Williams
- 08 Allison Goldbeck
- 09 Rhonda Almquist, Megan Burgstaler, Sam Cederberg, Cheryl Collins, Annette McClelland, Dan Torgerson
- 10 Meagan Boecker
- 11 Carol Anderson, Denise Mitchell, Marissa Ricke, Carissa Rootes, Loren Rumpza
- 12 Brenna Durick, Amanda Krampf, Kelly Thompson
- 13 Sophia Grant, Vern Lange, Lisa Maschino, Gretchen Ness, Ashley Simenson
- 14 Wendy Franklin, Rosalie Grant, Calin Graunke
- 15 Sean Peterson
- 16 Billie Chock, Katie Henson, Mallory Suska

- 17 Shannon Beltrand, Melanie Elstad, Nora Slipka, Tory Spanier
- 18 Jeff Olson, Britta Reierson
- 19 Carol Bruhn, Elisabeth Lofrano, Katherine Lofrano, Grace Maschino, Aidan Schrein
- 20 Allison Bauman, Greg Johnson, Liam Langner, Nicole Rubertus
- 21 Cole Wiyninger
- 24 Dave Henson, Andrew Ihde
- 25 Jeff Demeules, Kay Klason, Hattie Savage, Jerry Untiedt
- 26 Alaina Grant, Kurt Lofrano, Lynda Pavlovich, Alexis Svien, Kelsey Svien
- 27 Lisa Hemmer, Emily Lind
- 28 Midge Amend, LoyAnn Anderson, Kirsten Kelly, Alisha Klason, Bonnie Lotzer, Troy Malo, Austin Wallace, Alex Williams, John Zerull
- 29 John Cardinal, Grace Nohner
- 30 Nathan Donley, Linda Rosaaen
- 31 Amber Dawn Andrews, Mike Heinzen, Nicole Kimball, DeeAnne Palan



March Anniversaries

- 05 Paul & Nan Schoborg
- 08 Lori & Dale Skogman
- 18 Lowell & Maxine Johnson
- 18 Rod & Tammy Schmidt
- 19 Don & LoyAnn Anderson
- 20 Michael & Kari Magaard
- 21 Nate & Jen Peterson
- 24 Doug & Becky Schaust

If you are celebrating a birthday or anniversary in March, and your name is not listed, please contact the church office so that we may update our records.
Thank you!

