



**FEBRUARY 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*



**The “Backstory” to Our New Day Campaign**

On February 3<sup>rd</sup> we will launch our New Day for God’s Beloved capital campaign. Our New Day campaign has a “backstory,” which I’d like to share with you. Seventeen years ago the congregation built the Education Wing of the church. The Education Wing of the church was desperately needed. At the time the facility consisted of the Fellowship Hall (which was the original sanctuary); several classrooms off the Fellowship Hall (which are now used for Head Start); the church office; and the sanctuary and narthex. The congregation was growing and the Fellowship Hall doubled as the space for Sunday School classes.

So the congregation decided to embark on its third major building project – a new Education Wing. A capital campaign was conducted and \$256,000 was raised. The Education Wing was built and dedicated. The remainder of the project was funded by taking out a twenty-year mortgage of about \$724,000. The mortgage has been re-financed several times since then. We are now down to a mortgage of about \$435,000.

The upshot of this “backstory” is that our New Day campaign is really not about retiring a mortgage *but finishing paying off the Education Wing*. It’s not about a piece of paper but about the classrooms that we have used in so many ways for the past seventeen years. Building the Education Wing was essential to our growth and life as a congregation. Imagine what life at Light of Christ would be like if we didn’t have the Education Wing. Sunday School, confirmation, Bible School, and youth fellowship would all be much more difficult to do. We couldn’t host many of the community groups that we now do – AA, Scouts, and dance classes. We wouldn’t have a youth room or a choir room. We would be “squeezed” and “cramped.” The Education Wing has been a great blessing to us. Nearly all of us have used it in one way or another.

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Now we need to finish paying for it. Now is the time for several reasons. First, by paying off our existing mortgage in three years we will save between \$80,000 - \$100,000 in interest. Second, it allows us to begin staffing for growth now rather than several years from now. And third, we have over \$500,000 of other capital improvements we need to make in the next three to five years. Before we tackle these other capital improvements it seems wise to pay off the Education Wing first.

So please be as generous as you can in helping to pay off the Education Wing. It is one crucial step forward as we live into a New Day for God’s Beloved here at Light of Christ.

Grace and peace always,

BK



There’s something about something new! Here at Light of Christ, we’re saying that there’s something of a New Day here. If you will, a new chapter.

Over these past several months, we have been listening and exploring and praying about our direction as a congregation. And there have been some discoveries. There are some core, key things about us that make us unique, who we are as a congregation. But there are also some things that we sense God is stirring us to embrace, to more deeply explore, to dive into, if you will.

Now in February, we continue to ponder our sense of calling as God’s beloved—God’s beloved children and as God’s beloved community. Central to that is that God has called us to love the broader world—the creation, our neighbors, those struggling and in need. We are also kicking off our Capital Appeal—yep, an appeal, an ask, for your generosity. Our hope is to raise enough in gifts and/or three-year pledges over and above regular giving, to be able to pay off the remaining debt of our Education Wing.

So very much ministry has and continues to happen in this part of our church. But to take care of this debt, we will be freed to then do so much more!

Be present as messages and inspiration are shared. Receive the materials we have prepared. And pray about your role, your part, in this New Day!



We welcome the newest members of Light of Christ, who are joining on February 3, 2019:

**Dave & Kirsten Kelly Ben, Alex, Drew**  
425 2<sup>nd</sup> St. SW  
Delano, MN 55328 612-220-7464

**Amanda Koethe Leena**  
8331 Linden St., Apt. 107  
Rockford, MN 55373 763-280-2138

**Jerry & Paulette Podratz**  
7460 Maple Ponds Tr.  
Maple Plain, MN 55359 763-479-2366

**Greg & Sarah Thorstad Marshall, Nolan**  
274 Greenway Dr.  
Delano, MN 55328 763-350-2426

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>



The Community Life Committee will serve breakfast after the 8:15 service on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please come for pancakes, eggs, sausage and fellowship, and to welcome LOC's newest members!



### 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.

### February Service Team families:

Tim & Tammy Allison  
Midge Amend  
Amber Dawn Andrews  
Bev Bauman  
Grant & Elizabeth Benson  
Greg & Sarah Bersie  
Corey & Brenda Black  
Randy & Shannon Durick  
Greg & Melanie Elstad  
Rick & Wendy Haley  
Brian & Kelly Harstad  
Dave & Louise Hauge  
Sean & Caron Ihde  
Shane & Kristen Johnson  
Gary & Amy Kroells  
Ranee & Karen Kyrola  
Rick & Kim Niedzielski  
Scott & Kathy Sandberg  
Doug & Judy Schuette  
Courtney & Melissa Spicer  
Ryan & Maggie Thomas  
Jason & Janie Thompson  
Tim & Heather Vanderlinde  
Joe & Karla Vieau

### Make an Impact at Light of Christ and Beyond!!

(by Kirsten Kelly, Director of Children, Youth & Family)

At each church I've worked at, service events and fundraisers have been a big part of the ministry with children, youth and their families. Light of Christ is no exception! In Sunday School we have Family Events where we do a short service event together (such as Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes or make fleece tie blankets for those in need) and in Confirmation, the students regularly do events to serve and help others and they also have fundraisers to help support youth attending our summer trips/camps. All of these events cost money and require donations or budget support. We couldn't do it without you and wanted to say thanks for your continued support of Light of Christ's ministries!

We also wanted to make sure you knew some important info if you are a Thrivent Member. If you are a Thrivent Member, you can complete a short application (one or two times/year, depending on your membership) and receive an Action Grant which includes a \$250 gift card to be applied towards a service project or fundraiser. It's a super easy process and makes a huge impact on our budget and ministries! The point of letting you know this is two-fold:

- 1) Please let us know if you are a Thrivent member so that we can keep a current list in our office of who we can contact for these Action Grants.
- 2) We hope you'd be willing to complete the short form/process so that Light of Christ (and those we are serving) can benefit from these great Action Grants!

Here is a list of upcoming events that our children, youth and family ministries could use a Thrivent Action Grant for:

- February 10: Fleece Tie Blankets made in Sunday School for many local organizations
- February 10: Youth Silent Auction and Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser
- February 20: Hospice Kits made by Confirmation students for Global Health Ministries
- April 14: Bible Camp Scholarship Fundraiser
- May 12: Spring Sunday School Family Service Event (TBD)
- July 28-31: Vacation Bible School

Thanks again for your support and the ways in which your partner in the ministries at Light of Christ!

*Kirsten Kelly*

### Join us on Thursday, February 28 for Speaker Terrance Talley!

Terrance Talley is coming to the Delano Public Schools on February 28<sup>th</sup>, as part of the school's Suicide Prevention and Awareness Day. He will be speaking with the 7-12 grade students during the school day and then again in the evening at 7:00pm in the Old Middle School Auditorium. We'd love to have you join us for this important event! Go to [www.studentreachmn.com](http://www.studentreachmn.com) to learn more about Mr. Talley.

## CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS

### Shared Leadership Training

All Light of Christ Church Council and Committee members will meet for a combined orientation/training session on **Tuesday March 5, 2019**. The orientation session will run from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM in the Light of Christ Fellowship Hall. Committee meetings regularly scheduled for March 12<sup>th</sup> may want to adjust meeting times to the 5<sup>th</sup> before or after the orientation time.

The training/orientation session will provide a time to introduce new committee and council members. Information and discussion will be helpful in planning priorities for 2019 and beyond. Respective roles of council, committees, staff and congregation will be reviewed as we take a closer look at Shared Leadership at Light of Christ.

All returning and new members serving on church council and all church committees are asked to mark your calendars and plan to attend this important kick-off to 2019!



### Sunday School Family Service Event – Sunday, February 10

Parents and kids are invited to join us in making fleece tie blankets from 9:30-10:30 am on Sunday, February 10. We will begin in the Sanctuary for a short introduction and then spend the rest of the hour making blankets for local organizations that help those in need (such as the fire department and Love, INC). Fleece or monetary donations are welcome. Hope you will join us in service and fellowship!

### Mark Your Calendar!

Sunday School kids will sing in worship on the following days (pay attention to specific ages, dates and times)... hope you can join us!

- Sunday, March 3, both services (you choose one to attend) = K-4<sup>th</sup> grade (singing “Every Move I Make”)
- Sunday, April 14, both services (you choose one to attend) = K-4<sup>th</sup> grade (song TBD)
- Sunday, May 12, 10:45 worship = Preschool (a song for Mother’s Day)



### Upcoming Spark Dates

We have 2 sections of Spark (Wednesday after school ministry) remaining for this school year:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade (Lord’s Prayer) – Wednesdays February 6 – 27
- 4<sup>th</sup> grade (First Communion) – Wednesdays March 20 – April 10

Each group will have a “closing parent program” on their last day to share what they learned with those they love. These take place on February 27 (2<sup>nd</sup> grade) and April 10 (4<sup>th</sup> grade) and include a meal for the families after the sharing time. Register on our website ([www.lightofchrist.com/children-and-youth](http://www.lightofchrist.com/children-and-youth)) and join the fun!



### 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



## CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS (continued)

### Bible Camp Registration is Open!

Join us this summer at Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp for a week/end of games, campfires, worship, crafts, time with friends and incredible faith growth! Registration opened January 15 and a limited number of spots are reserved for Light of Christ through **March 15** (or until they are gone) and then after 3/15, all spots are open to the public. Light of Christ staff will be present the whole time our kids are at camp to connect and build relationships with them. Our Light of Christ week/end is June 21-23 (current grades 1-3) and June 23-28 (current 4-12 grades) or kids/families (of any age) are welcome to come experience camp for a day on Wednesday, June 26. Talk to Kirsten or David for more info. **Sign up EARLY** at our specific registration link: <http://lwlbci.com/lochrist>



**Attention 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents:** On Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> we will be having our 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade retreat! We will be spending the day at the Monticello Community Center swimming, playing in their gym, and doing a little rock climbing! This retreat will be a great way for students to reconnect with their 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade classmates in a fun, engaging environment! We will meet at the church at 1 PM for some games before taking off for the community center, and we will return to the church around 5:30 PM. Look for an email soon, or contact David or Kirsten if you are interested!

### Sisters of LOC

#### FEBRUARY EVENT

Please join us for a night of bingo and dinner! We will meet at the Delano Legion on Thursday, Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm and eat dinner and appetizers together. Bingo starts at 6:15 pm, so come when you can. Bingo costs \$14 if you play all 10 games! Who will be the lucky winners from our Sisters group? Please **RSVP by Wednesday, Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>** to Jennifer Grant at 612-226-8181 (call or text) or email [sunshine41@frontiernet.net](mailto:sunshine41@frontiernet.net) so we can reserve tables together.



#### MARCH EVENT

We will do a servant event together this month. Stay tuned for more details.

### Quilting

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

Everyone welcome!  
No quilting experience necessary!!



### Annual Spaghetti Dinner and Dessert Auction

Mark your calendars for the Annual Spaghetti Dinner & Dessert Auction on **Sunday, Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm**. Advance tickets will be available between services on Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>. Prices are: 11 & older: \$10; ages 6-10: \$7; 5 & under eat free.

Proceeds will go towards the LOC Youth. If interested in donating a dessert for the auction, please contact a Community Life Committee member.

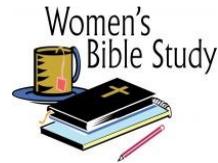


### DONUT SUNDAY

The Community Life Committee will be serving donuts at 9:30 on Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup>.



## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



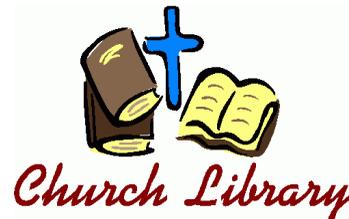
**The Holy Spirit: Past, Present, and Future** is the topic for our Women's Bible Study this year. We will explore questions like "What does the Bible and Christian history teach us about the power and presence of the Holy Spirit? How is the Holy Spirit at work in our lives and our world today? Where 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.

### A Library review by Jan Styve

**A Thousand Splendid Suns** tells an intertwining story of two women, Mariam and Laila, who hope for love and happiness. The book is set in Afghanistan, mostly between 1980 (Soviet invasion) and 2002. The civil unrest remains in the background but does affect the main characters dramatically. What few decisions the women can make in war time leads them to struggle with poverty, abuse, and despair. This is a story of love and hope in times of tragedy. Some of the descriptions that put the reader in the story are:

- The knee-high grass waving in the clearing
- The enclosed feeling of the first-worn burqa
- The head of a young boy leaning against his father's leg

Enjoy this informative, passionate, powerful story. Available at the church library under **Christian Fiction**.



## ADULT EDUCATION

**SUNDAYS, 9:30-10:30,**

**Room 106/107**



*Just Like Jesus.* We will pick up the book we were studying last spring -- *Just Like Jesus* by Max Lucado. Lucado begins the book by saying that Jesus loves us so much that he accepts us just the way we are; and he also loves us so much that he doesn't leave us just the way we are. By his Spirit, the Lord is transforming us, making us more and more like him. The topics that we will be studying include what it means to have a pure heart, a rejoicing heart, a hope-filled heart, and an enduring heart. Come and join Pastor K in Room 106 as we seek to be transformed, continuing on February 10<sup>th</sup>.



### February Birthdays

- |    |   |    |  |
|----|---|----|--|
| 01 | Tyson Kroells, Emil Medelberg, Tom Sebelien   | 19 | Elizabeth Plafcan, Grace Popp  |
| 02 | Thelma Estby, Josh Hiltner, Barb Russell, Megan Winyinger                                 | 20 | Caleb Hanson, Tucker Hart, Lucas Truax   |
| 03 | Don Anderson, Mike Boyack   | 21 | Lauren Froehle, Michael McAdam   |
| 04 | Jessica Fitch, Cooper Reuter, Wendy Towne, Samantha Tribble                               | 22 | Sarah Anderson, Duncan Bistodeau, Jean Gevik, Molly Hagen, Brandon Mitchell, Jack Paulson, Lori Vatnsdal |
| 05 | Patti Krebsbach, Natalie McClelland, Scott Olson  | 23 | Austin Dickey, Natalie Holmer, Thatcher Larson   |
| 06 | Jessica Binkley   | 24 | Mary Ann McKay, Madison Motzko, Mary Robinson, Autumn Ulferts  |
| 07 | Steve Farniok, Lori Prickett  | 25 | Jeff Fink, Kylee Heinzen, Kara Larson, Emily Lindgren  |
| 08 | Pastor Bruce Kuenzel, Dan Lofrano, Bea Zerull   | 26 | Caleb Checkal, Harry Grant, Sarah Kirchmann, Lee Langner, Rilynn Peterson                                |
| 09 | Sally Prinsen, Anna Schleper, Tammy Schmidt, Jennifer Sprengeler                          | 27 | Lori Checkal, Melanie Gross, Haley Kuechle, Noah Lind, Andrew Rosaaen                                    |
| 10 | Larry Adams, Sandy Parpart, Kurt Radermacher, Olyvia Stahlke, Grace Techam, Ava Winyinger | 28 | Braeden Collings, Kensington Mickolichek   |
| 11 | Bonnie Czanstkowski, Weston Fink  |    |  |
| 12 | Sandy Hartin  |    |  |
| 13 | Lori Anderson, Amy Bigot  |    |  |
| 15 | Ellie Chock, Don Collins, Ashlynn Wortz   |    |  |
| 16 | Ellie Loux, Gavin Popp, Isaac Quandt  |    |  |
| 17 | Greta Hillmyer, Wendy Kohls, Laura Lundquist  |    |  |
| 18 | Paul Ludwig, Michael Mielke, Andrew Palan   |    |  |



### February Anniversaries:

- |    |                          |
|----|--------------------------|
| 02 | Sean & Caron Ihde        |
| 13 | Lee & Michelle Bunker    |
| 14 | Bruce & Shannon Beltrand |
| 15 | Kurt & Carol Lofrano     |
| 18 | Randee & Karen Kyrola    |
| 19 | Brandt & Natalie Dinger  |
| 19 | Jason & Monica Gabrick   |
| 27 | Dave & Louise Hauge      |
| 28 | Del & Carolyn Hirsch     |

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



## Greetings from Grace Place in Montrose!

Thank you, friends in Christ, for letting your light shine into new places! We are excited about the possibilities of how Grace Place and Light of Christ can join together and serve our neighbors. Thank you for your generous gift which will kick-off our new community meals in Montrose! We would love to have you join us and serve together! Preparations start at 4pm each month. All are welcome to participate.

Contact Pastor Cathy to get connected. 763-528-1784

### Save the Date !

Thurs. Jan 17, 2019

Thurs. Feb. 21, 2019

Thurs. March 21, 2019

Serving from 5p -7 p

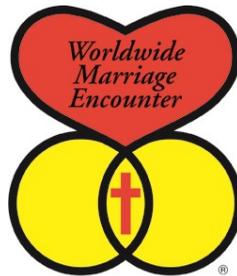
Join us for a Community Dinner

Served fresh, and hot.

~ FREE ~

At the Montrose  
Community Center

Watch for more details  
On the  
Facebook Community Page,  
City Web Page and  
Nextdoor.



### GIVE YOUR SPOUSE THE GIFT OF A LIFETIME – YOU!

Receive the gift of enhanced communication skills with Lutheran Marriage Encounter! The next event is scheduled Feb 15 - 17, 2019 in Brooklyn Center, MN. Apply now at [GodLovesMarriage.org](http://GodLovesMarriage.org), or contact Peter & Phyllis McMahon at [mcmahonp@comcast.net](mailto:mcmahonp@comcast.net) or 763-561-1575 for more information. Special 50% discount off the regular application fee for 2019 events in celebration of Worldwide Marriage Encounter's 50 Years of enhancing marriages! Pre-registration is required – don't miss out!