



The BEACON

JULY 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

SERVE & SPLASH

Youth who have completed grades 3-12 are invited to join us on Wednesday, July 10 from 8 AM to 5 PM for a day of service and fellowship! We will meet at Light of Christ and take a bus to Feed My Starving Children in Coon Rapids. After serving at FMSC we will go for an afternoon of fun at Bunker Beach water park. Cost is \$20 and **registration deadline is July 3**. We currently have 27 youth signed up and have room for 13 more! We also still need 3-4 adult volunteers for the day, so consider giving your time to this wonderful event! You can find the registration form on the website under the "Upcoming Events" section. Stay connected and serve like Jesus with us this summer!



Light
of
Christ
LUTHERAN CHURCH

3976 County Line Road SE, Delano
#763-972-2400

Find us on 

Check out our website:

www.lightofchristlutheran.com

THANK YOU . . .

Thank you so much for the lovely celebration of the thirty-fifth anniversary of my ordination. Thanks for your prayers, gifts, cards, and kind words. The reception was lovely. Thanks to everyone who made this happen. I have served four congregations over my thirty-five years as a pastor: Lutheran Church of the Master in Edina; Granite Falls Lutheran Church in Granite Falls, MN; Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Los Alamos, NM; and Light of Christ. Each congregation has been wonderful in its own unique way and I count it a privilege and a blessing to serve each one. Thank you for all you do, and even more, for all you are. You are a gift to Cynthia and me. I am profoundly grateful to God. I can say with the psalmist: "My cup runneth over . . ."

STAFFING UPDATE . . .

The Search Committees for our new Worship and Music Director and our new Associate Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries have been hard at work this past month interviewing prospective candidates. We have been pleased with the quality of the candidates who have applied for these positions and we hope to have a decision, and make an offer, sometime in July. Ideally, we'd like to have both of these new staff members on board and at work in August. Please continue to keep the Search Committees, the candidates, the Council, and the congregation as a whole in your prayers, as we seek to discern the will of the Holy Spirit for us as we make these staffing decisions.

FIRST COMMUNION

One of our four major strategic initiatives is to strengthen our worship and music ministry. One of the steps we are planning to take in that regard is to begin lowering the age of First Communion. Right now, our children receive their First Communion in fourth grade. The plan is to have our children receive their First Communion at a significantly younger age. The fundamental reason that we are initiating this change is that we believe that receiving Holy Communion strengthens our faith, no matter what age we happen to be. In the Small Catechism Martin Luther writes that Holy Communion bestows the benefits of "forgiveness, life, and salvation." We want these spiritual blessings to be bestowed upon our children as early as possible.

Before we actually make this change we want to address a number of questions that naturally come up when we talk about First Communion. What is our current practice? Why fourth grade? What has been our history – at Light of Christ, in the Lutheran Church, and in the wider church in general? Why, or why not, commune at a younger age? What is the current practice in the Lutheran Church, and in other churches? What does it mean to be "ready" to receive Holy Communion? What does the Bible say about First Communion? How and when are we going to make this change?

In the months ahead we will be addressing these questions, in addition to any other questions that emerge. We have a First Communion Task Force that is comprised of Aaron Amdor, Melissa Hillmyer, Gina Nee, Kirsten Kelly, our Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry, and me. Please don't hesitate to contact any member of the Task Force with any questions, concerns, or comments you may have. And again, please keep this initiative in your prayers as we seek to strengthen and deepen the faith our children have in our Savior and Lord.

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bruce & Karen".

JOB OPENING – Associate Director of Children, Youth and Family (CYF) Ministries
– Light of Christ Lutheran Church is seeking an authentic and dynamic leader for our Children, Youth and Family (CYF) Ministries. This part-time Associate Director of CYF would work closely with our current CYF Director (also part-time) to lead an engaging ministry that equips children, youth and their families to understand and live out their role as beloved children of God. We are looking for someone with a long-range commitment to ministry along with being a strong team-player and a desire to invest in the families at Light of Christ. Job responsibilities have been discussed, and will be shared in a job-sharing arrangement, but will be determined through the candidate's gifts and passions in collaboration with the CYF Director and the needs of the congregation. Find a copy of the position description on the church website under "**About**" then "**Openings**." If you are interested in applying for this exciting role or would like more information, please contact Rhonda Current at rkcurent1@gmail.com.



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

Logan Darrel Dickey

Born: February 7, 2019
Baptized: June 23, 2019
Parents: Steven & Heather Dickey
Sponsors: Bean & Heidi Winden

We extend our prayers and sympathy to the family of Carol Galarneau, who died on June 5. Carol's funeral was held at Light of Christ on Wednesday, June 12 at 11:00 am.



THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
July 15-19 while Terri is on vacation. Jinnelle Weis's office hours during that time will be Monday-Thursday, 7:30 – 10:30 am.

2020 OFFERING ENVELOPES

A growing number of members contribute weekly or monthly using electronic giving methods. However, we understand that many prefer placing an offering envelope in the plate. To eliminate the **purchased-but-unclaimed** envelopes that are wasted, we're asking each family that wants pre-printed envelopes to request them from the church office by **AUGUST 1st**. Please email lochrist@frontiernet.net, call 763-972-2400, or stop in and tell Terri Reuter. This "**OPT IN**" method will greatly benefit the office supplies budget. Thank you!

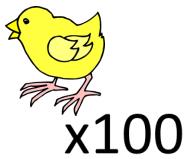
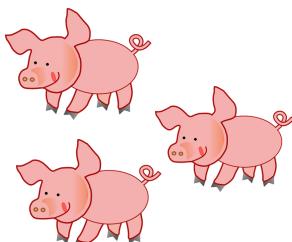
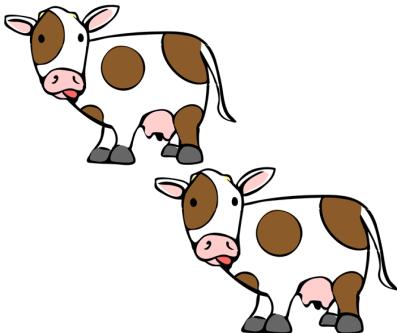


CHILDREN & FAMILY NEWS

SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING PROJECT

We can't thank you enough for your support of our ELCA Global Barnyard Challenge! We blew our goal out of the water and ended up raising a total of **\$1447.97!** These donations allowed us to purchase 2 cows, 3 goats, 3 piglets, 100 chicks, and 4 sets of farming tools for families in need around the world.

\$1,447.97!



x4



CHILDREN & FAMILY NEWS *(continued)*

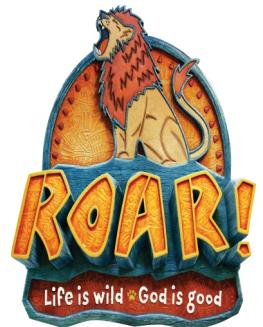
LAKE WAPOGASSET LUTHERAN BIBLE CAMP

42 youth (and friends) from Light of Christ went to summer Bible Camp at Wapo in June and had a fabulous week/end! All of the kids made so many awesome memories, new friends and grew so much in their faith (the theme this year was "Claimed... Wildly Loved by God!"). Thank you to all of the parents for entrusting their kids to our care and to the congregation for all of their prayers and financial support! If you would like to support kids that will be going to camp in future summers, we have a Camp Scholarship Fund set up and would truly appreciate your contribution. For any kids that didn't get a chance to attend this year, we hope you'll join us next year! Registration will begin on January 15, 2020! Follow our Children's Ministry and see more pictures on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/DelanoLocSundaySchool/>.



LAST CHANCE TO SIGN UP FOR VBS!

Join us from July 28-31 (5:30 – 8 pm) for ROAR VBS at Light of Christ where kids will learn about God's goodness and grow a ferocious faith that powers them through this "wild life"! Children ages 3 (by June 1) through current/completed grade 3 are welcome to participate and those currently in grades 4 through adult are strongly encouraged to volunteer... we couldn't do it without you! Registration is on our website and will close on July 24th (\$20/child with a \$40 family max) so that we can plan groups and be prepared for a fun and faith-filled week... hope you'll join us for this awesome adventure!



YOUTH NEWS

July is a busy month for our youth here at Light of Christ! Amidst weekly bonfires and other fellowship events, we are heading off on our Mission Trip and our High-Adventure Wilderness Trip! These trips are designed to bring our youth closer to God through service and experiences in creation, and for many, they prove to be the highlight of their summers!

A group of nine 9th-12th grade girls are heading out to Custer, SD July 14th-19th for the annual Light of Christ Mission Trip. We will be staying at Outlaw Ranch Camp and partnering with the Forest Service and other non-profits in the area to work on trail maintenance, building projects, and food security issues. Alongside our service work, we will have a day to explore the Black Hills area by hiking up Black Elk Peak (formerly known as Harney Peak)! We will be working for around 8 hours each day, and in the evenings we'll have bible study, devotions, campfires, and camp games/activities! We're unbelievably excited to serve a community in need and grow closer to each other and God in our week out in South Dakota.

Our High-Adventure Wilderness Trip will be in northwestern Montana this year! We'll be taking a group of six high school boys out to Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp for a week of rock climbing, kayaking, white-water rafting, and hiking in and around Glacier National Park! Spending time in nature creates an appreciation for all of God's rich blessings, and I'm so excited to share this wonderful part of the country with our youth. We'll literally be walking in faith with each other, and I can't wait to see the growth that occurs from spending time in God's creation.

If you're interested in hearing more about these trips and other opportunities for our youth, or if you'd like to get involved with our youth programming here at Light of Christ, please reach out to myself, Kirsten Kelly, or the church office! We're always grateful for our time spent with youth and can't wait for the growth and experiences that will come from these summer trips!

In Peace,
David Schneck





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.

July Service Team families:

Ben Altenhofen
Aaron & Kylee Amdor
Michael & Rachel Boyack
Brad & Carol Bruhn
Tim & Erin Johnson
Tom & Kay Klason
Jonathan & Sarah Ness
Matt & Grace Nohner
Jerry & Paulette Podratz
Dave & Mary Robinson
Dale & Janelle Russenberger
Mike & Becky Schluter
Fred & Jennifer Schmitt
Joe & Stacey Schramel
Doug & Judy Schuette
Dan & Sally Torfin
Anton & Wendy Towne
Tim & Amy Underhill
Kevin & Heidi Voss
Brad & Megan Wininger
John & Bea Zerull

LOVE INC OPPORTUNITIES

Are you a person who has love and kindness to share? Love INC - Heartland is hiring for full or part time staff to manage the Howard Lake store and its volunteers. Please email your resume to info@loveinheartland.org. Please join us in praying for the person God is preparing to join our ministry team at Love INC. Skills in marketing, retail, or managing are preferred but not necessary. At Love INC we help churches help people. Our proven programs help people move beyond their struggles toward self-sufficiency. To volunteer, contact us at 763-972-6547 ext 3.



ELCA MISSIONARY

Light of Christ and the ELCA financially support Karen Anderson, ELCA Missionary to Chile and Director and Founder of the International Training Program, helping poor communities in Chile gain more control over their lives as well as training hundreds of health workers. Karen invites our members to the churches she will be visiting in MN this summer: July 7th at Trinity Lutheran Church in Mpls. and August 25th at Mount Olive in Mpls. The 5th Sunday offering for June will support her amazing efforts in Chile.



YOU CAN DO SOUND BOARD!

The sound board's lights and levels look imposing. But YOU can be a successful sound board volunteer! The skill needed is **much more focus than finesse!** If you can stay attuned to the service and not be distracted by active toddlers or late-arrivals, you can do this! Come sit in the booth for a service. Watch. Ask questions. Get a feel for how we accommodate music, kids, recordings and sound levels within each service. Training is both hands-on and with an Light of Christ booklet. Contact sound board lead Cheri Ashfeld (cheri_n_lee@hotmail.com or 763-477-5412) or just arrive early for a service and observe with the volunteer. Thank you!



The July Birthday Celebration for The Estates of Delano Care Center

hosted by the Women of Light of Christ will take place on Monday, July 8th at 2:30 pm. The more the merrier, come and join the party. Call Ginny Iverson if you can help 763-972-3591.



DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

Join members of Light of Christ on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month for a hot dog/brat grill-out before the 7 pm worship service! Come for fellowship, food, and yard games/activities for members of all ages! This is a great way to feed the family and stay connected with other Light of Christ members throughout the summer. Food will be served from 6:15 up until the start of the service. If inclement weather, activities will move inside to the fellowship hall. Come one, come all to our first summer of Dog Days!



VOLUNTEER for ROAR VBS!

We are still in need of many volunteers to make Vacation Bible School successful later this month. Join the fun as a Crew Leader (no prep, just one training) or Assistant Station Leader and help children at Light of Christ learn that when **"Life is Wild... God is Good!"** We also need help with decorations and other prep. Talk to Kirsten Kelly for more info or make her day by signing up at www.lightofchristlutheran.com under the **Children & Youth** tab.





July Birthdays

- 1 Cora Boyack, Colton Kettenacker, Stephanie McClelland, Isabel Mielke, Deanna Olson, Annika Reierson
- 2 Kim Haley, Matt Noetzelman, Mitch Rue
- 3 Kayla Banick, Ryan Cardinal, Joshua Holzer, Lilly Holzer, Jason Thompson, Kim Wortz
- 4 Austin Uecker
- 6 Tate Gallus, Angie Malo
- 7 Sam Fink, Sam Haley, Chris Meyer, Kim Niedzielski
- 8 Devin Garrett, Henrik Hillmyer, Spencer Nelson, Cody Thompson
- 9 Ryan Anderson
- 10 Taran Allison, Henry Becker, Brandon Kohls
- 11 Justin Elstad, Brantley Fritz, Janine Holter, Anne Rothstein, Lillian Walters
- 12 Kiera Grant, Mike Magaard
- 13 Chris Andrews, Jeff Caple, Abby Coyle, Jodie Schluter
- 14 Jenna Bunker, Alexandra Hagen, Jan Lemke, Holly Mikkelsen, Tara Olson, Bob Stabnow
- 15 Penny Bailey, Kristen Cayler, Madeline Engel, Dan Halbersma
- 16 Laurie Brown
- 17 Gracie Peterson
- 18 Mark Anderson, Paul Henry, Ava Peterson, Seth Wiest
- 19 Jonathan Ceder, Kayla Myhre, Melissa VanCura
- 20 Kevin Rothstein, Melissa Sorensen, Theresa Wallace
- 21 Michelle Droneck, Gordon Torgerud
- 22 Dorothy Henry
- 23 Elizabeth Kohlhof, Patrick Nee
- 24 Krista Garrett, Maggie Klasen, Tamara Schafer, Alex Schramel

- 25 Becky Arneson, Nicholas Holmer, Rick Schmit
- 25 August Jaunich
- 27 Carolyn Gallagher, Jordan Lemmerman, Ethan Underhill
- 28 Eileen Huetteman, Grant Prinsen
- 29 Sue Fink, Tate Olson, Marie Techam, Julie Wischmann
- 30 Jessica Allaire, Marc Kohlhof, Nathen Will
- 31 Bill Fink, Pete Halluska, Melissa Hillmyer, Ava Werner, Mya Werner



July Anniversaries

- 02 Paul & Marcie Ludwig, Greg & Lisa Maschino
- 07 Lon & Michelle Droneck, Dan & Amber Eichten, John & Tracy Magner
- 08 Dave & Linda Rosaaen
- 09 Jamey & Lisa Boecker, Steve & Lori Checkal, Craig & Jeanne Schansberg
- 11 Jake & Erin Olson
- 13 Joe & Cheryl Schleper
- 15 Jeff & Lori Graunke, Rick & Kim Niedzielski, Adam & Kim Wortz
- 16 Tory & Sarah Spanier
- 18 Matt & Grace Nohner, Jason & Diane Schmidt
- 20 Ryan & Angie Green
- 22 Chris & Andrea Anderson, Sean & Kristin Peterson
- 24 Kevin & Holly Mikkelsen
- 25 Jeremy & Lori Prickett
- 26 Dan & Melanie Paulson
- 28 Mike & Stephanie Gallus, Dale & Nicole Kimball, Mike & Candace Mielke
- 29 Peter & Amy Halluska