



Worship

- In-person worship—
9:00 am Sundays
- Online worship continues, and will be posted on the [church website](#) and [Facebook](#) page



Church Council 2022

Mike Boyack
Tim Current
Steven Dickey
Carmen Hanson
Jennifer Hinker
Jon Holzer
Derek Horeis
Lisa Spencer
Natasha Werner
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*

2023 HS Service Trip

We are so excited to announce that our HS Service Trip in Summer 2023 will be going to Belize!! Youth in grades 9-12 (and parents) along with any interested adult leaders, are invited to attend an info meeting in October. Here is info:

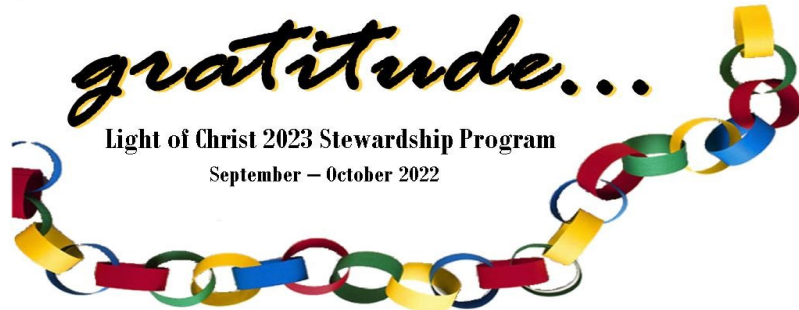
- **Info Meeting** = Wednesday, October 12, 8 pm (Sanctuary)
- **Registration Deadline** = Wednesday, November 16

Talk about it as a family, join us on 10/12 and reach out to Kirsten if you have any questions. Thank you for your prayers as we plan for this incredible adventure!



gratitude...

Light of Christ 2023 Stewardship Program
September – October 2022



So very many things for which we are all grateful! God has supplied and blessed us with life, family, faith, provisions, and gifts & abilities, all of which make for a full life. These next few weeks we are celebrating the ministry we all share here at Light of Christ. And as such we want to lift up and thank the many members who make this a special place.

Our Gratitude Chain is one way to express our thanks. Both for things here at church, but also for people and blessings anywhere and everywhere in our lives. Please use as many of the colored strips of paper in the pews to write out that for which you are grateful, and place them into the offering plate. Watch as we grow an ever-lengthening Gratitude Chain that will encircle the sanctuary!

This is also a time in which we're all invited to pray about our intended financial support for Light of Christ's ministry for 2023. A pledge, a commitment. This might be a weekly amount or a monthly dedicated giving you will make to help this ministry shine Christ's light out well beyond our church.

As well, in this time of Gratitude, think about someone in your life who would be blessed by a note or a phone call, some small act of gratitude. And finally, consider keeping a Gratitude Journal in which you write down the blessings of your life and of your day, each and every day. See what a difference this makes for your faith and well-being. We've been blessed, and we're called to be a blessing to others. Central to that are our lives of gratitude.

Thank you for all you do to make Light of Christ a place that blesses others while giving the praise and glory to God!

Contact us!

Light of Christ Lutheran
3976 County Line Road SE
Delano, MN 55328
(763) 972-2400



LightOfChristLutheran.com
Terri.Reuter@locdelano.com

OUTREACH

Caring Corner

(from Sue Fink of the Healing & Wholeness Committee)



An announcement this month from the Minnesota Dept. of Health:

In observation of *September as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month*, health officials are reminding Minnesotans that suicide is preventable, recovery is possible, and help is available at any time by calling **988**.

Earlier this summer, the U.S. rolled out a nationwide three-digit dialing code – 988 – as a way to access suicide prevention and crisis support. Since switching to 988 on July 16, calls to Minnesota's four call centers have increased 44%. Minnesota has also seen a 173% increase in web chats (since January 2022) and 250% increase in texts to 988. The increase is believed to be in large part because the new 988 dialing option made it easier to remember how to access a trained counselor for suicide support and resources. Minnesota received 33,887 calls, 4,099 chats, and 1,306 texts in 2021.

The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline and Minnesota's four call centers offer support 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

There continues to be a great need for 988 support services as suicide, or death by intentional self-harm, has been steadily rising in Minnesota for the past 20 years. According to preliminary data, there were 777 suicides in 2021, mirroring trends across the United States. This is the seventh straight year in which more than 700 Minnesotans died by suicide. In addition, each year in Minnesota there are more than 10,000 self-harm or suicidal injuries treated by health care providers.

"We know the last few years have been incredibly challenging mentally, emotionally and physically for many Minnesotans," said Minnesota Commissioner of Health Jan Malcom. "Please take advantage of this awareness month to check in with the people in your life and consider reminding them that the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is available for anyone in need of crisis or mental health support."

Please check out our Light of Christ website (www.lightofchristlutheran.com) and navigate to *Support/ Mental Health/ Education* to access information and support regarding suicide prevention.

Let's have open discussions, brave conversations and lots of prayer to do our part as a Caring Congregation in supporting our members and families in preventing suicide.

"I have called you by name and you are mine", says the Lord. (Isaiah 43:1)
You are God's own precious child and are loved beyond measure.



NourishingHOPE

Free Fresh Produce and Dairy Monday, October 10th 4:00pm-until gone

Boxes of fresh produce and dairy products will be available for drive through pickup on a first come, first serve basis at the following locations:

Corcoran

St. Thomas Catholic Church
20000 County Road 10
Corcoran, MN 55340

Delano

Light of Christ Lutheran Church
3976 County Line Road SE
Delano, MN 55328

Rockford

Our Father's Lutheran
3903 Gilbert Ave SE
Rockford, MN 55373

Buffalo

Buffalo Covenant Church
1601 Highway 25 North
Buffalo, MN 55313

Hanover

Influence Church @ City Hall
11250 5th Street NE
Hanover, MN 55341

For assistance locating a specific site or for questions, please contact us at nourishinghope.oflc@gmail.com or Facebook Messenger.

Monthly Food Distribution

The next distribution will be on **Monday, October 10th**. If you would like more information or would like to sign up to help, please reach out to Tim Johnson.... or click on one of the following links:

- **11:00 am at Our Father's** for packing boxes (register at this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0848A9A72AAAF85-food>)
- **3:30 pm here at LOC** for distribution of the boxes (register at this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0848A9A72AAAF85-food1>)

Thanks to all who help in this ministry!

NourishingHOPE is a ministry of Our Father's Lutheran Church, in cooperation with four area churches. Our vision is to relieve area food insecurity and promote wellness in mind, body, and spirit for people East-Central Wright County. For information on you or your organization partnering with NourishingHOPE, please visit our website at www.ourfatherschurch.org/nourishing-hope.html

Vision Conversation Groups You're Invited!

We have spent much of this year listening, praying, deliberating, and considering how Light of Christ might best step into the next few years of ministry together. There are many ways to go, potential goals to set, priorities to pursue. And yet we sense that the Holy Spirit has revealed some important things for us to focus upon.

As a church family we seek your input and reflections on two main areas: Ministry Initiatives ideas (that will give shape for the next 3 years); and Facilities Opportunities (a variety of things that can help our church continue to be a place for mission and community).

Vision Conversation Groups

One hour guided sessions designed to facilitate learning, conversation, and feedback on our two main areas under consideration. [Click here for a brief video](#) introduction from Pastor Bruce and Tim Johnson.

Ministry Initiatives we'll talk about are listed below. You can also watch a video with more information about the proposed ministry initiatives at this link: <https://youtu.be/NZngN4XeZLY>

- **Deepening Our Connections** – Relationships – large group gatherings. More intimate settings.
- **Growing in Healing/Wholeness** – Our new ministry team has made so many strides. And yet we know there's more to grow and expand.
- **Expanding our Invitation, Welcome & Hospitality** – Delano continues to grow. How will we reach out? How do we best communicate our inclusive and warm welcome?
- **Being a Hybrid Community** – Live-steaming worship...yes! But how else can we grow opportunities for people to connect with ministry and faith? Let's talk!
- **Creation Care** – Being stewards or managers of what God has entrusted to us is a central tenet of our faith. Time, talent and treasure...yes. But what opportunities do we have to become more energy efficient? Utilize some portion of our property for the creation? Other?

Facilities Opportunities we'll talk about:

- Bathrooms refreshes
- Expanded narthex/fellowship area
- Enhanced building security
- Improved digital connection conference room
- Outdoor worship/events area improvements
- Kitchen refresh
- The parking lot
- ...and a bit more

We'll share detailed drawings and estimated costs so that you can give some input/feedback. What feels most important? What might best help us live into our vision and mission?

When?

- Monday, October 3rd 6:30 pm At church
- Monday, October 3rd 8:00 pm Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84165177675>)
- Sunday, October 9th 10:10 am After worship...at church
- More options coming....

More information? Reach out to Tim Johnson at Tim.Johnson@locdelano.com or 952-472-1755



Jesus said, "I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also."

JOHN 14:3

Funeral Ministry Serving the Bereaved

Helping people in their time of need is central to what we do as a church. And, most certainly, when there is a death, this is one of those important times. There is pastoral care extended, members reach out to offer condolences and love, a celebration of life service is planned, and often there is a reception that follows so that the family can spend some extra time with their guests.

All of this takes a group of dedicated members to help each time there is a funeral/reception. Generally, specific arrangements have been previously made, and most food items (if there is a lunch) are delivered to the church beforehand. So, Funeral Ministry Team Members show up early, help to set the tables, get food and beverages arranged, provide hospitality (even some direction-giving if needed), and then serve the food/desserts/beverages when guests arrive.

Generally, family will have decided upon either a light meal (most of that food delivered by Coborn's) or desserts and beverage. In both of those cases we invite Light of Christ members to make and deliver to the church a variety of desserts.

Dishes are cleared and run through the dishwasher, dried and put away. Tables are wiped clean. Other items put back in place.

The number of Funeral Ministry Team members varies depending upon the size of the funeral, but generally between 6 and 10 people are needed.

Our hope is to include new folks in this ministry and these tasks. So, please pray about serving at some point. Ginny Iverson has been the long-time coordinator of this ministry. And she would like to train in someone new to take the reins.

Please reach out to Ginny (763-972-3591 or dennygin@charter.net) or Tim Johnson (952-472-1755 or Tim.Johnson@locdelano.com) at any time for more information. And watch for opportunities to serve people in their time of need. This is a wonderful expression of your faith active in love!



Trunk or Treat Volunteer

The past few years, Light of Christ has held a Trunk or Treat event where youth/families decorate their vehicles and then kids come to Trick or Treat in our parking lot. Due to limited staff hours, in order to host the event this year, we'd need a volunteer to take ownership of the event. If you are interested, please talk to Kirsten. It's not a huge commitment and is a lot of fun!



Connecting Parents and Youth for Babysitting Opportunities

Are you a youth looking for some new babysitting or nanny/manny opportunities? Are you a parent looking for responsible, reliable babysitters (or after-school care)? Complete this [short online form](#) to indicate your interest (if you are a youth) or what childcare needs you have (if you are a parent) and Kirsten will work to get you paired up a good fit!

HS Youth Sunday

We were blessed to have the youth that went on the 2022 HS Service Trip to the North Shore lead worship on Sunday, September 25th! They did a great job as we shared stories, songs, photos and led other parts of worship. Here is a link to the slide show from the trip: <https://youtu.be/V6zBkOESb3w>.

Thanks to the youth for their leadership and ministry!



What's happening in Children's Ministry? Thanks for asking!

We have 51 children in Sunday School (3-years through 2nd grade). We have 22 children in our after-school Voyagers group (3rd-4th graders) and 33 in Club 5-6 (5th-6th graders) for a total of **106** students 3 years-6th grade.

Thank you to all who have volunteered to be teachers, helpers, assistants, team member, we can always use more! If you would like to help, please contact LaDonna LaDonna.Ekern@locdelano.com or call 320-212-2583

We will also be offering our 1st and 2nd graders a 4-week afterschool time called **SPARK** on October 12th, 26th, Nov 2nd, and 9th. We currently have 12 students registered. There is still time to register: <https://lightofchristdelano.breezechms.com/form/Spark202194>

A couple of areas where we could use help:

- ⇒ **DONATIONS:** Store-bought snacks (chips, fruit snacks, cookies, fruit, veggies, lemonade, juice) for our afterschool program. We can always use fresh fruit/vegetables, store-bought dessert, lemonade, juice for our Club 5-6 group/ Confirmation youth.
- ⇒ **TIME:** We would like to have people willing to spend a ½ hour (2:45 – 3:15) to set up/serve/clean up afterschool snack for our Voyagers/ Spark group.

If you would like to help, please contact LaDonna Ekern at LaDonna.Ekern@locdelano.com or call/text to 320-212-2583.