



Worship

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



Church Council 2021

Steven Dickey
Carmen Hanson
Jennifer Hinker
Jon Holzer
Derek Horeis
Elizabeth Kohlhof
Tom Sebelien
Lisa Spencer
Stacy VanCura
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*

Contact us!

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



LightOfChristLutheran.com
Terri.Reuter@locdelano.com

Congregational Meeting



Congregational Annual Meeting
January 30, 2022 at 10:15 am

Food Distribution Volunteer Opportunities

Interested in helping folks in and around our Delano community by distributing fresh food from Second Harvest food bank and other food sources? Light of Christ joins with four other west metro churches to help make a difference by distributing boxes of food, free of charge, once a month. Two ways to serve: helping to pack the boxes over at Our Father's Lutheran in Rockford in the morning; or by helping to distribute the boxes here at church later in the afternoon.

Monday, January 10th

- 11:30 a.m. at Our Father's for packing boxes
- 3:30 p.m. here at LOC for distribution of the boxes

⇒ ***Special need for anyone who can pick up the trailer at Delano Rental and be the transportation point person.***

We also invite prayer requests from those we serve. Let [Tim Johnson](#) (email or call 952-472-1755) know if you would like to join a group to pray for special needs.



You're Invited!

Weekly worship at Light of Christ at 9:00 am or streaming online via our [Facebook page](#).

**Stay Informed!**

Church Council meeting minutes can be found on the [church website](#).

Stewardship 2022

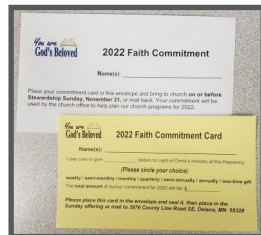
If you haven't already submitted it, you can still **complete** your 2022 pledge online at <https://bit.ly/LOC-Campaign-2022>

OR

Place your yellow pledge card in the offering plate

OR

Mail your pledge card to the church office at 3976 County Line Road SE Delano, MN 55328

**2022 Pledges & Online Giving**

If you need to change your automatic contribution amount due to your 2022 pledge, please log in to your [MyVanco account](#) or contact Terri in the church office to make the change. Your pledge card does not authorize the church to make these changes.

Caring Corner

by Sue Fink with the Healing and Wholeness Committee)



Your Healing and Wholeness Committee wishes you all God's blessings in the New Year!

We're starting out 2022 with a month spent praying together: privately, as a family, and as a congregation. The theme for January will be "31 Days, 31 Ways, 2 Pray 4 Families," from author Catherine P. Downing. She writes from her strong base of Christian faith and a mother whose son has a chronic and serious mental illness.

Her introduction to this exercise explains it best:

"Families who walk alongside their loved ones in the labyrinths of mental illnesses are often hesitant to ask for prayer. They might feel others will judge them or their loved one, offer uninformed advice or initiate the gossip chain. But friends who observe or are aware of their journey don't necessarily need specific details to pray effectively."

Please join us in a daily prayer you will find on the Light of Christ Facebook posts, in a daily email, or on our website. There are printed copies of the entire month of prayers in the Narthex for you to take home, as you desire. This theme will also be featured in our Sunday services.

If you or someone you love lives through the ups and downs of mental illness, we pray for healing and peace that comes from nurturing and being rooted in our faith and trust in our God.

Catherine Downing wrote a blog on sparksofredemptivegrace.com called **Mental Illness, Prayer and Extravagant Grace** in which she shares her four personal prayer principles. We will highlight one each week of the month.

WEEK #1:

- 1) First, because mental illnesses are brain disorders, I pray as I would for any other physical sickness.
- 2) Because God can and does heal bodies, I always pray for healing.
- 3) Because that healing often comes through medical and therapeutic means, I pray for doctors, counselors and chemists.
- 4) Because healing is enhanced by intentional body care, I pray for good rest, nutrition and exercise.
- 5) Because in his providence, God doesn't always cure everyone, I pray for patience, wisdom and enduring faith.
- 6) Prayer, I have learned is an act of open-handed expectation.

John 17:33: (Jesus) "I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world." Amen!



Word for the Week from Pastor Bruce

The Work of Christmas

Howard Thurman was the dean of the chapel at Howard University and then at Boston University back in the middle part of the last century. He was also a poet, a theologian, a pastor, and teacher. He was one of the leading lights of the Civil Rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s and he also served a mentor to Martin Luther King, Jr.

He once wrote a poem titled *The Work of Christmas Begins*. It is one of my favorite Christmas poems.

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.

Thurman draws an intimate connection between our Christmas celebration and our Christian service. We rightly celebrate the Incarnation and rejoice in the stories of the angels, the stars, the shepherds and the magi. But once our Christmas celebration is over it is then time to begin again doing the work of Christmas: to find the lost, the heal the broken, to feed the hungry and so on.

Our Christmas celebration is meant to fuel our Christian service. Our worship in the sanctuary is meant to strengthen our service in the world. We praise the Christ Child in the liturgy so that we may serve him in daily life, especially among the least of his sisters and brothers.

So, thank you! Thank you for doing the work of Christmas. Thank you for doing the work of Christmas this past year. Thank you for doing the work of Christmas throughout this pandemic. And I pray that the Holy Spirit will strengthen us in the year ahead so that we can continue doing the work of Christmas in the joy and the hope of the Christ Child.

Children's ministries resume this week!

The young men and women of Club 5-6 will meet on **Wednesday, January 5th**. With the start of the Winter Olympics a month away we will begin the new year using the Olympic motto, "*Together for a shared future.*"

"*Together for a Shared Future*" is the official motto of the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, Beijing 2022. The motto represents the power of the Games to overcome global challenges as a community, with a shared future for humankind.

Looking forward to a new year of Club 5-6!



Sunday school resumes **Sunday, January 9th** at 10:10! I can't wait to start a new year with the fabulous 3-year-olds through 4th graders of Light of Christ! *LaDonna*



“Buy with Heart” this season

We invite you to visit our Equal Exchange (fair trade) table in the Narthex or click [HERE](#) for our online store for some great gift options! Items for sale include:

- Chocolate
- Coffee
- Tea
- Cashews
- LOC coffee mugs
- LOC masks

All sales support our summer youth trips as well as small farmers around the world! These items make great gifts for teachers, friends or stocking stuffers. Our Light of Christ kids shirts are also available for \$10 each and would make a great gift for your kids, if they don't already have one! Items can also be delivered for free around the Delano area and you can include a note and even gift wrapping. Thanks for your support and for “shopping with heart” this Christmas.



Summer 2022 HS Trip... Save the Dates!

We hope you can join us for a special trip this summer for HS youth... we will be attending the [National Lutheran Youth Gathering on July 24-28, 2022!](#) This gathering takes place every 3 years and rotates to different cities around the US... this summer it is taking place in Minneapolis at US Bank Stadium! Kirsten is working to arrange some service days following the trip so we'll most likely be gone from July 24-30, but more details will be coming soon! For now, put the dates on your calendar and talk to any LOC friends! Official registration will open on Sunday, January 23... which is when we will be sharing about our Summer 2021 Denver Trip in worship at 9 am. Thanks for your interest and support of our youth ministries!



High School Ministries

- **Donuts & Discussion** – We have started a new Bible study for HS youth called Donuts & Discussion (D&D). We will meet once/month on Sunday mornings, typically the first Sunday of the month, at 10:10 am in the newly remodeled space (The Living Room). We had originally planned to join the Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study group but changed this and now will be meeting just as a HS group. These mornings will be a chance to hang out, talk about our highs and lows (faith and life) and have donuts. We hope you can join us for this great opportunity!

⇒ **Sunday, January 9th, 10:10 am**

- **HS Fellowship** – Each week our 9th-12th grade youth will meet as a group on Wednesday nights from 7:30-8:45 pm (but come when you are able) in the new Living Room space to share time with friends, have food, fellowship and fun! Bring a friend and enjoy some time in a safe space where all are welcome!

⇒ **Wednesday, January 5th, 7:30 pm**

