



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**

Belonging...and Purpose

These are at the top of the list of what people indicate are the reasons they are a part of a faith community.

We all want to be a part of something bigger than ourselves.

Scripture gives us some language for this. 1st Corinthians 12:27 puts it this way: "You are the body of Christ. Each one of you is a part of it." The Bible goes on to say that just like our bodies have a variety of different parts—like a nose, foot, eye—and each of those parts have a role, a function, that it's the same in the church. Each part fits; each belongs. You belong!

But belonging isn't enough. Belonging finds its fullness in purpose. The eye belongs because of its contribution—sight. Even the big toe belongs – it gives balance and security. And, of course, we know that if one part of the body suffers, other parts of the body compensate, step in, help. But each part has a unique and necessary function, a purpose.

You not only belong, but you have a purpose! You are needed. Without you, we suffer. Others step in and compensate. But it's not the same. There's only one you. And the contribution, the gifts, energy, love, personality, friendship, voice, heart, hands you have are critical expressions of your purpose—your part in the Body—the church. You help to make the Body strong, vibrant, whole, alive, necessary.

This past year and a half have disrupted much. Central to this is our experience of being connected to and with the Body—the church—OUR church—YOUR church. It's caused us to consider in new ways what it means to belong, to have purpose.

Many have begun to worship in person once again. That's felt good! Many have found connecting through online, streaming worship. That's been a blessing! Others have connected with outreach efforts and ministries. That's been a crucial contribution of love. Many have found themselves deeper in prayer, being even more attentive to those in need in their circle of daily life. And that's helped to unleash the healing energy of the Spirit. And others yearn for that sense of belonging, that satisfaction of expressing one's purpose, and feel that the journey there is long and winding. We pray for you. We remind you that your place is within and with the Body, and that your life, your contribution is critical. Let us help you in that discovery.

Newly on staff, my dedication is to help all LOC members be or get connected, and to help you to find or develop your sense of contribution, your gifts, your purpose. Please reach out at any time. I'd love to chat, whether over a cup of coffee, a phone call, an email exchange or a Zoom connection. Being a beloved child of God is to be connected to the beloved community and to find purpose in serving this creation that God so loves.

Tim Johnson
Director of Shared Ministry
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952/472-1755



Contact us!

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Delano, MN 55328
(763) 972-2400



LightOfChristLutheran.com
Terri.Reuter@locdelano.com

Feed My Starving Children Event



The Community Life Committee invites you to join them for fellowship as they gather together to pack life-saving meals at Feed My Starving Children on **Tues-**

day, December 7th from 7:00 PM-8:45 PM. We will meet in the church parking lot at 6:00 PM for those who choose not to drive and would like to carpool. This is a great opportunity for everyone, especially high school kids if you need some volunteering hours for confirmation or for school. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact either Kelly Harstad at 763-227-8246 or Heidi Goldbeck at 612-418-0111. We hope to see you there! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040A4AA5A62CA64-feed>

Help Friends 4 A Cause this Christmas

Light of Christ will be pairing up with **Friends 4 A Cause** for the 2nd year, to help spread Christmas joy to local families who may be going through tough times. They are a local nonprofit with the mission statement "To teach others that giving is greater than receiving through the power of friendship and community." Friends 4 A Cause will be helping over 200 families, mostly from Delano, as well as some from Wright county. Deadline for donations is **December 14.** Please click [here for the sign up genius link](#).

If you would like to donate money but are unable to shop or have any questions, please reach out to Kim Wortz at 952-457-9253 or kimw1517@gmail.com.



Food Shelf Donations

This Christmas season, the Light of Christ Worship and Music Committee is asking for donations to the Delano Helping Hands Food Shelf, in lieu of poinsettias. You are invited to dedicate your donation in memory or in honor of a loved one. Please complete the form below **by December 20th.**

<https://lightofchristdelano.breezechms.com/form/Christmas2021>

Caring Corner

(by Sue Fink with LOC Healing and Wholeness Committee)



Happy Thanksgiving and Advent Season from your Healing and Wholeness Committee: Lona Jose, Cat Borman, Julie Wischmann, Sue Fink and Derek Horeis.

It has been another year of ups and downs, which is pretty much life as usual, I guess. But we have so much to be thankful for, especially our Light of Christ Church Family. As we enter the Advent Season, please remember that this is **YOUR** family and we love and want to serve and support each of you in your times of sadness, difficulties and joys.

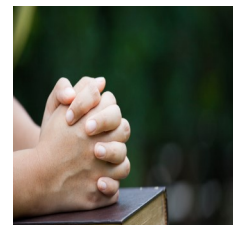
When you're comfortable, please join us for in-person worship and church activities, as the personal connection is vital to getting to know and feel close to one another through our mutual beliefs and God-centered lives.

Remember to access resources for the prayer chain, mental health resources and education found on our website at lightofchristlutheran.com. You can also contact Pastor Bruce or any of the committee members if you need support.

Thank you to all who attended the NAMI event titled "In Our Own Voice" on November 13th. We had a small in-person group of about 20 but over 200 have viewed the recording of the livestream since then. ***It is still available to view on Light of Christ's Facebook page.*** We had two wonderful speakers, Joelle and Sierra, who shared their personal stories with mental illness. They were so amazing and demonstrated that people with mental illness can recover and lead very full and successful lives if they learn how to manage it.

Call on the Light of Christ Prayer Chain

If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, please feel free to engage the Light of Christ Prayer Chain. [Email the church office](#), which is preferred, or call 763-972-2400 with your request, which remains confidential. The LOC Prayer Chain will pray for you as requested. Feel free to call on this team in your time of need. Anyone wishing to join the Prayer Chain should contact the church office.

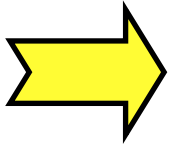




A Service of Lessons and Carols!

Join us for a joyful service of Lessons and Carols on **December 5th**! The service consists of scripture passages from the Christmas story mixed with music provided by Light of Christ musicians. The service will be held in-person and live-streamed at 9:00 AM. We can't wait to see you there!

"Like" us on Facebook to get news, info and updates.



[Click here](#) to visit our Facebook page.

2022 Stewardship Campaign



YOU help make ministry happen! **YOU** ensure that the gospel is preached! **YOU** help to bless children and families in the faith! **YOU** enable Light of Christ to bless and serve the greater Delano community. **YOU** make a difference in the lives of friends in Nigeria, in Chile, in places of hunger all over the globe! Mission and ministry happen because **YOU** give, because **YOU** share.

Thanks to all who have pledged to our shared ministry for 2022! And thank you to you who are pondering, who are considering making a financial commitment or pledge even now. If you are so moved, know that you will help to be a blessing in and through LOC's ministry! You may do so by [clicking here](#) to share your intentions.

And please offer your prayers! It says in 2 Corinthians 1:11, "Join us in this work. Lend us a hand through prayer so that many will give thanks for the gift that comes to us when God answers the prayers of so many." [Click here](#), as well, to offer your prayer for our shared ministry for next year.

Together we are indeed God's Beloved Community. Thank you for doing your part!

2021 Annual Reports are due **before December 10th**. Please submit them to [Terri in the church office](#) when ready. Thank you!



Stay Informed!

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



Columbarium Update

Now that the Columbarium has been approved by the congregation, the Columbarium Committee has now moved on to Phase 2, which includes working with our identified suppliers to prepare for construction to begin in the spring and beginning pre-sales of niches.

If you are interested in learning more, and/or purchasing a niche, please contact Amy Bigot at 763-443-3750 or amybigot@gmail.com. She can answer any questions you may have and can help you initiate the purchase process. The cost to acquire a niche is \$3800, and one niche can hold up to two urns. **A pre-sales discount price of \$3610 is available for niches purchased through 12/31/21.**

We look forward to having a space at Light of Christ to honor our loved ones who have gone before us.



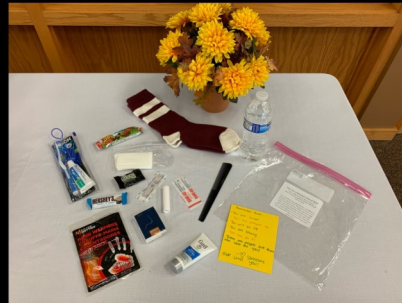
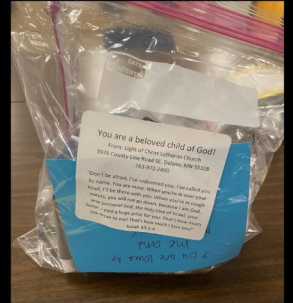
Homeless Kits

During the Wednesdays in November, Confirmation youth assembled 150 bags that will be handed out to those in need this holiday season. Each bag included:

- ◇ Socks
- ◇ Water
- ◇ Kleenex
- ◇ Toothbrush
- ◇ Toothpaste
- ◇ Granola Bars
- ◇ Lotion
- ◇ Band-Aides
- ◇ Lip Balm
- ◇ Hand Warmers
- ◇ Hand Wipes
- ◇ Comb
- ◇ Chocolate

Each bag cost about \$3.75 and we are so happy to announce that we received a total of \$788.00 in donations to cover the cost of the kits! This was more than was needed for the supplies, so the remaining money will be used for our sandwich making project in December. This project was initiated and organized by McKenna Allen, Kaitlyn Malo and Kirsten Kelly as a part of McKenna & Kaitlyn's National Honor Society project. Thank you to everyone who donated to cover the cost of the supplies, and to McKenna & Kaitlyn for their leadership! Many will be blessed by these bags and the words of encouragement included by the youth.

Homeless Kits made by Confirmation youth in November. Each bag cost \$3.75 and will be handed out to those in need over the coming months.



Christmas Program

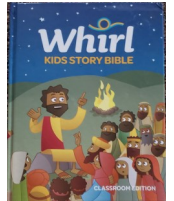
On Sunday, December 5th, our Pre-K through 4th Grade Sunday school classes will be recording the music for the Christmas Program. We know that all good recording artists have recording parties to celebrate, and at Light of Christ, we are no different! We are scheduled for 10:30 - noon with a pizza recording party included!!!



The B-I-B-L-E, Yes, That's the Book for Me!

An invitation to help our young people connect with the whole church family and the Book that is so central for our lives...

Recently our young people received Bibles. I'm working on a project that hopefully helps them see why this book called the Bible is so important. If you would be so kind as to share your favorite Bible passage and briefly state why this verse is so important, I would greatly appreciate it. You can [email it to me](#), text or call me (320-212-2583), or put it in the basket by the Bibles in the church entry way.



Thanks much! *LaDonna*

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, December 5th, 10:10 am**

⇒ **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!

