



# A New Day for God's Beloved

Behold, I am making  
all things new.  
~ Revelation 21:5

## Light of Christ members,

We introduced the 2018 capital campaign saying:

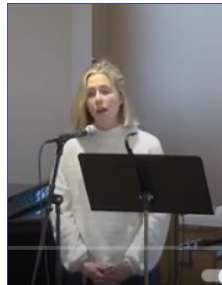
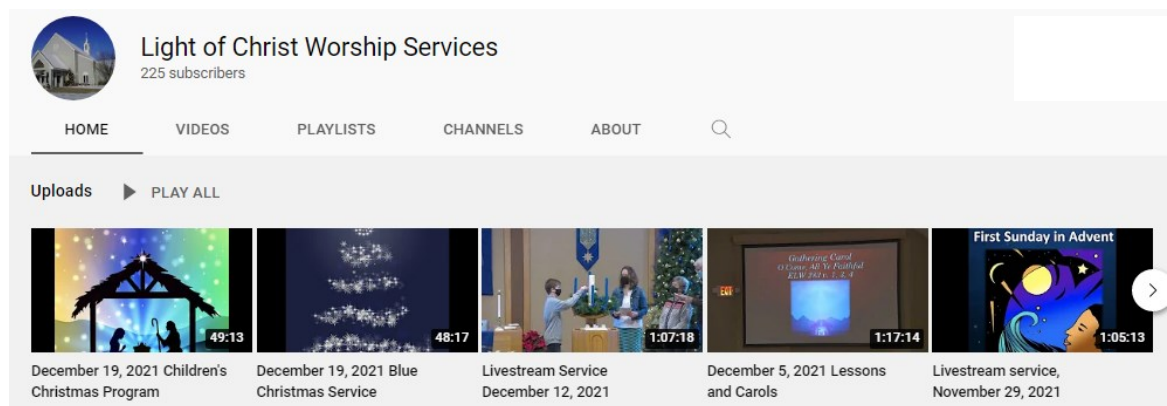
*"It's a new day at Light of Christ.  
We've added new staff, launched a new  
confirmation ministry, welcomed dozens of  
new members, and introduced new worship  
services, songs, and celebrations. And this  
is just the beginning."*

I invite you to page through this booklet of  
2018-2021 accomplishments funded by your  
generous giving. *Thank you* for your faithfulness  
and vision.

***Pastor Bruce Kuenzel***

# Worship & Music

- ♦ Recognizing the impact a variety of quality music has on the worship experience, Light of Christ hired full-time worship and music director Katie Anne Kohler.
- ♦ Responding to ever-changing pandemic protocols, outdoor services and online worship transitioned to livestreamed services via our Facebook page. Recorded services are promptly posted on Light of Christ's YouTube page and website.

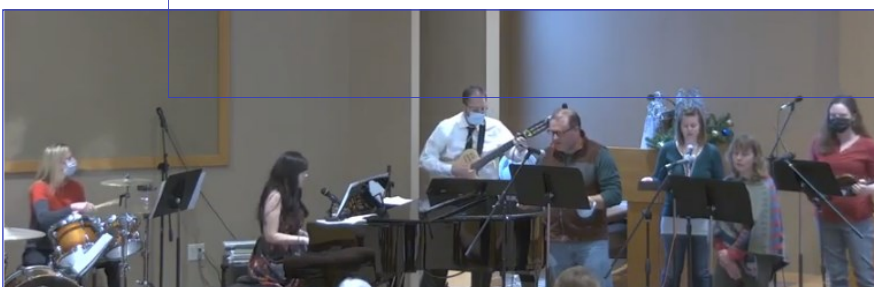


- ♦ Upgraded technology ensures higher-quality viewing, whether in-person or online. Improvements include new sanctuary screens and projectors, new software, and fiber optic cable run to the building



- ♦ Special music soloists, instrumentalists, Praise Band, choirs, lectors, sound board, Altar Guild,

ushers and greeters continue enhancing the worship service. We thank each for sharing these gifts.



## Financial Impact

- ◆ New Day Campaign pledges and special generous gifts allowed us to pay off the \$424,000 education wing mortgage. Eliminating this debt a full ten years early saved almost \$98,000 in interest payments.
- ◆ Light of Christ members voted that 10% of the money raised through the New Day Campaign be applied to outreach efforts. We responded to local pandemic-related needs including:
  - ◇ Launching the Nourishing Hope food distribution ministry. Monthly, our volunteers pack and supply fresh produce and healthy food staples in the parking lot distribution.



**Katie Kohler**

Worship and Music Director



**Kirsten Kelly**

Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries



**LaDonna Ekern**

Director of Children and Family Ministry

The congregation committed to *staff for growth*. With these valuable, skilled staff additions, we are prepared to grow in many ways as a congregation and community resource.



**Debra Johnson**

Financial Administrator



**Tim Johnson**

Shared Ministry Director



- ◇ Serving needy families in the Delano school district



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**The New Day Campaign raised \$560,376 for Light of Christ's growth and ministry.**

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# Strengthening Children, Youth & Family Ministry

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## New Day Goal:

Expand our reach,  
grow program  
excellence, and  
make faith real  
in our homes and  
day-to-day lives.

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- ◆ Our new **Living Room** is a gathering space for youth, families and our entire congregation. Check it out!
- ◆ Two highly trained ministry staff focus on children, youth and family ministries.
- ◆ First Communion teaching and experience is offered to children of all ages as we grow in our understanding of grace.
- ◆ New ministries such as Club 5/6, SLICE (Wednesday pizza supper) and Young Adult small group enhance faith formation for youth as they mature.
- ◆ The church offers engaging weekly gatherings for children and youth of all ages!









# Outreach

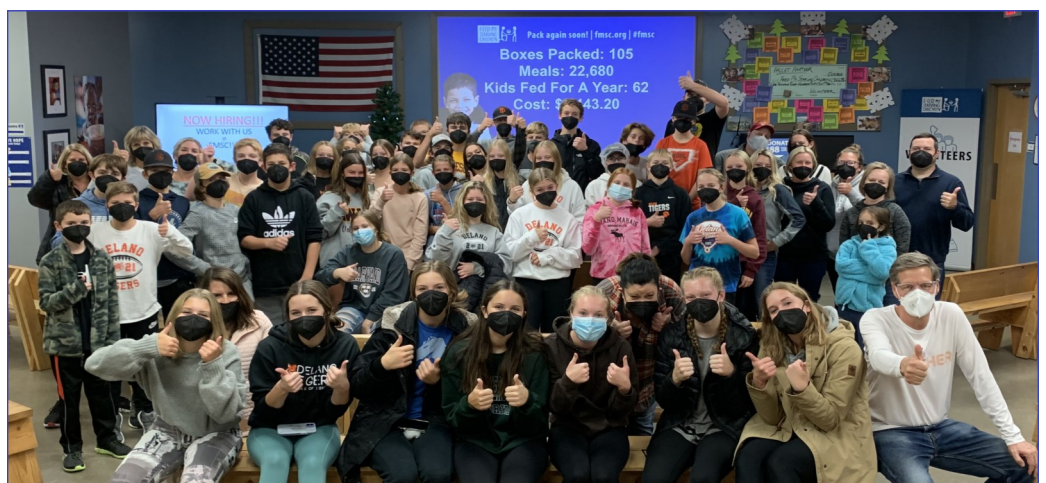
Using New Day funds, we:

- ◆ Partnered with four area churches to launch a monthly food distribution ministry called Nourishing Hope
- ◆ Gave \$7,500 from our campaign tithe to help purchase a refrigerator truck for Nourishing Hope



**Central to our calling as Christ's disciples is that we extend compassion to those in need.**

- ◆ Gave \$9,000 to the Delano School District for social workers to distribute to families for basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, transportation, and mental health care
- ◆ Gave \$10,000 to the Minneapolis Area Synod's campaign to raise \$500,000 within our Synod to launch a Lutheran university in our companion synod in northeast Nigeria
- ◆ Sent youth and adult volunteers to Feed My Starving Children, Delano Helping Hands Food Shelf, Love INC and other ministries to help the least of Jesus' sisters and brothers
- ◆ Funded the Love INC Birthday Ministry with \$750 used for families who cannot afford gifts for their children's birthdays
- ◆ In December 2021, sent \$1,000 to Lutheran Disaster Response for tornado relief in Kentucky and the surrounding area.



# Healing & Wholeness



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**We all need help.**

**We need to be  
connected.**

**We need personal  
relationships.**

**We need to know  
that we are God's  
beloved children.**

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Yet, there are tough times and circumstances that undermine that experience.

To help meet and understand those needs, we:

- ◆ Have a new Healing and Wholeness committee comprised of caring and committed members
- ◆ Communicate regularly to help people find health and wholeness
- ◆ Offer a resource center of print materials conveniently available in the narthex
- ◆ Send supportive Caring Cards to identified youth and adults
- ◆ Post mental health resources on Light of Christ's website
- ◆ Submit Caring Corner articles for each *Beacon* newsletter
- ◆ Hosted two special events at Light of Christ, the most recent being "In Our Own Voice"
- ◆ Provide financial support for an abused women's shelter.



# Visioning for the Future

Staff, committee leaders and the church council are committed to leading Light of Christ into an even stronger service, membership, and financial position.

- ◆ Columbarium construction will ensure a peaceful, reflective place to remember and honor those who have gone before us.



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**Opportunities  
abound in the  
new 2022 year!**

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- ◆ Technology advancements will enhance both digital and printed communication with members and visitors.
- ◆ Table Talks connect members in a personal way, growing relationships and offering encouragement.
- ◆ Congregational participation in a MAP survey will identify needs, perspectives and priorities for the future.
- ◆ Community Leader Gatherings alert ministry staff to issues in the Delano community.
- ◆ Prayer — throughout 2022 — will be that the Holy Spirit leads and guides us into a New Day.