



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*

Contact us!

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

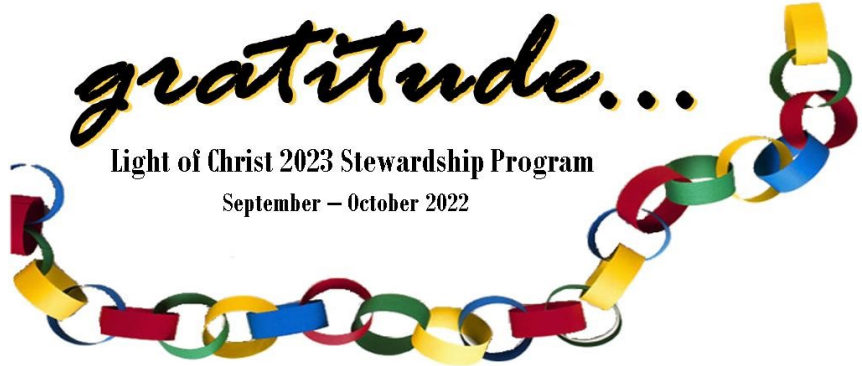


LightOfChristLutheran.com
Terri.Reuter@locdelano.com

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!

First Communion

We will be celebrating First Communion on **Sunday, October 30**. As we welcome all children to the table, it is left to the discretion of parents to determine when their child is ready to receive. First Communion instruction will be in person on Sunday, October 2 or Monday, October 3 from 6-7 (*families choose one*). The 2nd class will be held Sunday, October 9 or Monday, October 10 (*families choose one*). To register your child, click this link: <https://lightofchristdelano.breezechms.com/form/961297>. Please register by **Monday, Sept. 26**.



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 the 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!

Share Your Talents!

Volunteering is not only a great way to put your faith into action, but also an important way that you help make our ministry happen at Light of Christ. As you might imagine, there are many ways to serve. Just a few include helping worship and fellowship to be a blessing to people's lives.

Ushers. Greeters. Prepping Sunday coffee, purchasing/bringing treats. Helping to run the soundboard or online streaming. Altar Guild. Communion assistants. Readers/lectors. Special music. Praise band. Choir.

Training is available for each of these. Links to sign up are below, as well as on the website and usually in the Sunday bulletin. Or for more information, reach out to Tim Johnson at Tim.Johnson@locdelano.com. Thanks for all you do!

Ushers: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0848A9A72AAAF85-spring1>

Greeters: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0848A9A72AAAF85-sunday2>

Hospitality: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0848A9A72AAAF85-sunday1>

Soundboard: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0848A9A72AAAF85-outdoor1>

Communion Asst.: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0848A9A72AAAF85-light>

Lectors: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0848A9A72AAAF85-lectors>



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.

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:

- **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, Sept. 26th 6:30 pm At church
- Monday, Sept. 26th 8:00 pm Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84165177675>)
- Sunday, October 2nd 10:10 am After worship...at church
- 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





**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

New Members will be received on Sunday, October 9th. If you are interested in joining Light of Christ or would like more information, please contact [Terri](#) in the church office before **September 30**.

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!



Stay Informed!

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



**MEETING
MINUTES**



A Light of Christ member has donated a brand new, in-package, boys' size small white baptism suit. If you or someone you know could use this, please contact Terri in the church office.



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

We have 49 children in Sunday School (3-years through 2nd grade). We have 20 children in our afterschool Voyagers group (3rd-4th graders). We have 29 in Club 5-6 (5th-6th graders) for a total of 98 students 3 years – 6th grade.

Thank you to all who have volunteered to be teachers, helpers, assistants, team members. If you would like to help, please contact LaDonna at LaDonna.Ekern@locdelano.com, or call 320-212-2583. One of the most important things everyone can do is to keep these young people and their families in your prayers!



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!

FMSC Service Event

Last Wednesday, 55 youth and adults from Light of Christ packed meals at Feed My Starving Children in Chanhassen. We had a great night of service and fellowship and packed enough meals to feed 80 children for a year! We encourage you to support the ministry of FMSC as they work to fight hunger across the globe.



Feed My Starving Children Service Event

