



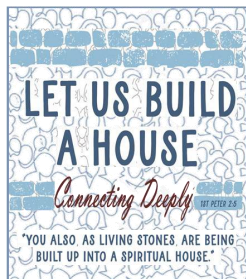
Worship

- In-person worship—**9:30 AM Sundays, with an experimental service at 11AM on 4/13**
- Online worship is live-streamed to our [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#) pages



Church Council 2025

Laurie Brown (sec'y.)
Billie Chock (pres.)
Tim Current (treas.)
Pat Czock
Brandt Dinger
Heidi Goldbeck
Luke Jeseritz
Lisa Krause (v. pres.)
Ryan Tool
Pastor Tim Wheatley



Contact us!

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



LightOfChristLutheran.com
Terri.Reuter@locdelano.com

March Food for Friends Drive

The next step of the food drive after the Voyagers sorted and bagged the donated items, was when the OWLs swooped in and delivered the items to the Delano Helping Hands Food Shelf.



Caring Corner: Strengthening Mental Health Support in Our Church Community

(from Rachel Boyack of the Healing & Wholeness Committee)

For the past five years, the Healing and Wholeness Committee has been committed to raising awareness, providing education, and offering resources to support mental health within our congregation. Through the Caring Corner articles featured in *The Beacon*, our church website, emails, Facebook, and the *Delano Herald Journal*, we have strived to provide valuable information to help navigate mental health challenges.



Recently, we surveyed our Light of Christ members to better understand how these resources are being received and how we can improve. We deeply appreciate everyone who took the time to share their feedback.

What We Learned

- **Content Value:** A majority (53.1%) of respondents rated the Caring Corner articles as helpful, with many finding them a meaningful resource for addressing mental health concerns.
- **Recommendation Potential:** Over half of the respondents (57.5%) said they would likely recommend our resources to someone in need, highlighting their impact in our community.
- **Engagement with The Beacon:** While readership varies, many engage with the Caring Corner articles, with 41.2% reading them occasionally and nearly 30% engaging more regularly.
- **Preferred Formats for Information:** The majority of respondents (74.2%) prefer to receive mental health information through a section in *The Beacon newsletter*, followed by temple talks during church services (54.8%) and guest speakers or workshops (51.6%). Website updates (29%) and bulletin board postings (9.7%) were also mentioned as useful but less preferred formats.
- **Mental Health Topics of Interest:** Anxiety (65.6%), grief and loss (59.4%), faith over fear (46.9%), and stress (46.9%) were among the most requested topics for future resources. Caregiver support and mental wellness were also highly ranked.

Looking Ahead

This feedback will help shape how we continue to support mental health awareness and education in our community. We are exploring ways to enhance our content, including additional resources on stress management, grief, faith-based mental health perspectives, and mindfulness practices.

We also welcome suggestions on how we can make mental health support more accessible and meaningful to you. Whether through workshops, small group discussions, or digital resources, we are committed to walking this journey of healing and wholeness together.

If you have ideas or specific needs, please reach out—we are here for you.

The Healing and Wholeness Committee

We're Growing-Will You Follow Along?

Follow us on social media to stay updated on events, stories, and ways to get involved.



Join Our Social
Communities Here!
bit.ly/loveincsm



Heartland

April Food Distribution

Serve a neighbor in need...help strengthen a ministry...put love and faith into action. Nourishing Hope Food Distribution. **Monday, April 14th**. Two opportunities:

- **10:00 AM** Food box packing. Our Father's Lutheran in Rockford. Sign up here: (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0848A9A72AAAF85-food>)
- **3:30 PM** Food distribution. Here at LOC. Sign up here: (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0848A9A72AAAF85-food1>)



Free Fresh Produce and Dairy

Monday, April 14th

4:00-5:00 pm

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

Rockford

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

Hanover

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

Delano

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

Buffalo

Buffalo Covenant Church
1601 Highway 25 North
Buffalo, MN 55313

Maple Grove

Rice Lake Bible Chapel
8801 Rice Lake Road
Maple Grove, MN 55369

For assistance locating a specific site or for questions, please contact us at

NourishingHOPE is a ministry of Our Father's Lutheran Church, in cooperation with 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

EXTRA SHOES?



Be a part of a good cause
and donate them!



Recycle



Re-use



Raise money

Drop your lightly used sneakers here!

600 million
people don't
even own a
pair of shoes

200 million
pairs of shoes
end up in the
landfill each
year

30-40 years
for shoes to
decompose

Shoe Collection/Recycling!

The youth are again collecting old sneakers to be recycled and to raise funds for their summer trips. A minimal amount of money is raised, but more importantly, the shoes dropped off are recycled and then don't sit in a landfill! The shoe collection bin is located in the Fellowship Hall area... where it'll be located year-round for collection now. Thanks for supporting our youth and for helping our environment at the same time! This project is being done through [Got Sneakers](#). (Note: this project is being coordinated by Anneka Zaun for her National Honor Society project. Anneka went to Chicago last summer and is attending the N. Shore mission trip this summer!)

MEMBER OPPORTUNITIES



Serve Day... Coming on May 10th!

On **Saturday, May 10th**, Light of Christ will be hosting our first annual Serve Day! On this day, we will all come together to help and support our church and community. Some of the projects may include volunteering at the Delano Food Shelf, Feed My Starving Children, local nursing homes, Love INC, as well as projects around church (light maintenance and cleaning, making cards for military members, outdoor projects, etc.). We know this is a busy weekend (with fishing opener and Mother's Day) but it would be wonderful if we could all come together to serve others and give back! More info (and a sign up link with project times/info) will be coming soon... but save the date! This project is being coordinated by HS youth, Abby Gierke, for her NHS project (along with Kirsten Kelly). Thank you!



Classes for Parents of Youth

As chair of the Healing and Wholeness Committee, I (Sue Fink) want to share some of the great classes offered by NAMI MN (National Alliance on Mental Illness Minnesota). These classes are specific for parents of youth and are ZOOM classes so perhaps you can give these a try from your own home or computer. There is a current calendar with all the classes offered on www.namimn.org and some great education and resources, too.



Lunchbox Talks: 30 minute online conversations

Have you ever wished that someone would give you one solid skill that you could use with your child right now? Well, here it is. Join us for a 30 minute conversation that will focus on one practical skill each month for parents and caregivers that can change the trajectory of your relationship with your child. Included in your time with us, you will receive a brief introduction to the skill, be offered hands-on practice, and be provided resources to support you.

Time: 12:00 – 12:30 PM

- Wed, May 7: The Power of Validation
- Wed, June 4: Empowering Kids through Boundaries
- Wed, July 9: De-escalating Intense Emotions
- Wed, Aug 6: Accepting the Way Things Are
- Wed, Sept 3: Building Family Wellness
- Wed, Oct 1: Supporting Kids Struggling with Executive Functioning
- Wed, Nov 5: Don't Forget About Self-compassion
- Wed, Dec 3: Building your Team

[Click for Zoom registration link](#)

You're the Expert

This class stresses the value of parent engagement and advocacy to ensure the best care and treatment for your child in the doctor's office, the mental health system, and in public education settings. We focus on self care so parents and guardians can effectively advocate for their loved one in all settings.

- Thursday, May 22, 2025: 6:30 – 8:00 PM—[Zoom Registration Link](#)

Lenten Worship

Our last Wednesday Lenten service is on April 9th at 7:00 PM and incorporates the Holden Evening Prayer Service, as well as features the 10th graders' faith statements. The Church Council will serve sloppy joes prior to service, starting at 6:00 PM.



Worship SCHEDULE

Experimental Worship Service

On **Sunday, April 13th** (Palm Sunday), we will hold two services: **9:30 AM & 11:00 AM**. This is another experiment and not a permanent change we will make any time soon. Thank you!



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- ◇ **Palm Sunday, April 13th** at 9:30 & 11:00 AM - Festive worship with a variety of music and musicians, along with First Communion recipients.
- ◇ **Maundy Thursday, April 17th** at 7:00 PM - Worship with Holy Communion.
- ◇ **Good Friday, April 18th** at 7:00 PM - "Service of the Nails," a meditative service with scripture, prayer, and music.
- ◇ **Easter Sunday, April 20th** at 8:30 & 10:30 AM - A blend of classic and contemporary worship with many musicians, music, and plenty of celebration!



New Member/ Partner Sunday

There will be a new member orientation on **Sunday, April 13th** from **5:30-6:30 PM**. If you or someone you know is interested in joining Light

of Christ, please contact the [church office](#) by **April 24th** for more information. Our next reception of new members/partners will be on **May 4th**.

Thank you to
all who have
served the
Lent Suppers!



Our final
Wednesday Lent
Supper is Sloppy
Joes led by the
Church Council.



THE HOOT NEWS from Sue Fink



On **April 24th** (note the change in week due to Holy Week), we are going to have a "Lunch and Learn" event in the Living Room. We'll start at noon with a Subway sandwich lunch and at 1PM we have 2 speakers scheduled. Andrea Karels, with Iten Funeral Home, is going to offer information on end-of-life/funeral planning. She is also enlisting a lawyer-friend from Buffalo who will speak on financial planning, "getting your ducks in a row," so to speak. We'll also have information on LOC's columbarium and new funeral reception guidelines. Should be a very informative day!

In May we will have our *first summer outing* (yay!) -- either a fun show or field trip, *to be determined soon*. If you have any fun ideas, please let your OWLS planning committee members know: Lona Jose, Jewel Ekern, Laurie Grimm, Sue and Bill Fink.

Hebrews 10:24-25 "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day of the Lord drawing near."

Navigating Anxiety in an Unsettled Culture

From personal stress to cultural uncertainty, anxiety can feel like it's everywhere. This week, we'll discuss how our faith gives us a steady foundation, no matter what's happening around us. If you've ever wrestled with worry about the future—whether for yourself, your family, or the world—this session will offer both biblical wisdom and practical encouragement. No need to have attended previous sessions—just come!

Thursday at 9:30 AM or 7:00 PM

SESSION THREE from our Unshaken Bible Study is available for you. Contact the church office for a copy.

Everyone is invited to participate by attending our Thursday 9:30 AM session here at church or our 7:00 PM study session, also here at LOC.



CFM Position Will Open upon Retirement

OPEN POSITION

The "countdown to retirement" is both exciting and bittersweet. Light of Christ members and staff feel these same emotions for LaDonna Ekern as she anticipates her final workday as our Director of Children & Family Ministry on May 11th. Mark your calendars for an after-service celebration with LaDonna and Jewel on Sunday, May 11th.

The Personnel Committee has posted this 20 hr/week position on the [LOC website](#). Do you know strong candidates who should apply? Our kids deserve a leader with high energy and a huge heart — just what LaDonna has dedicated to the youngsters for the past 4 years.



Follow Us on Instagram!

Check out our new Instagram page! Our handle is [@delanolightofchrist](#). Scan the QR code to get directly to the page.

Centralized Sign Up



We have a new way of sharing volunteer sign-ups... all in one spot! Scan this QR code or go to this link (www.linktr.ee/lightofchristvolunteers) to view the new *LOC Volunteer Sign Up*

Page. We hope this will make it easier to find the sign-ups and to volunteer!

Planning to move?

Phone # or email address changed? Have you cancelled your landline? Please help us keep our records up-to-date by notifying [Terri in the church](#) office of any changes. Thank you!



Sign Up for Summer Bible Camp and VBS!

Registration for camp at Camp Wapo! Scholarships will be provided again this year! Invite a friend and join us for a life-changing week at camp this summer!

- **Seeds (Grades 1-3): June 20-22**
- **Wapo Youth (Grades 4-8): June 22-27 and July 27-August 1**
- **Wapo One-Day (Grades 1 & up): June 25**

LOC Specific Registration Link: <https://lwlbc.com/loc-delano>

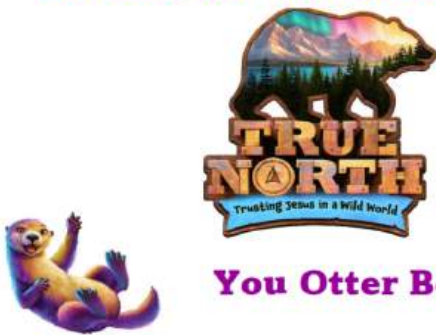


Bible Study/Discussion Group for Mom's of Pre-Teens/Teens

As we work to be a community where all feel connected and cared for, we are trying a new time/group for moms of pre-teens and teens. Join us on Thursday, April 17th from 8:15-9:30 am (right after school drop-off ☐) to meet with some other moms and talk about life, faith and parenting. This will be very laid back with zero prep or expectation. Coffee, creamer and treats provided. We'll discuss future meetings & times with those who attend or express interest... so email Kirsten if you're interested but cannot attend on 4/17. Please also contact Kirsten about any specific food needs/requests. Hope to see you there!



Looking for Mountains of Fun?



You Otter Be Here!

◆ New Friends ◆ Amazing Experiments ◆ Creative Games ◆ Super-Fun Snacks
◆ Surprising Adventures ◆ Incredible Music

Light of Christ Lutheran Church

Sunday, July 13th – Wednesday, July 16th

5:00PM – 7:15PM

Register online:

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

April Friday Night Lights

Our next Friday Night Lights for youth in grades 7-12 will be on **April 25th**! But get ready for an off-site adventure, because Kirsten is planning something different! More details will be coming soon but talk to your friends, save the date and don't miss it! Note: this event might be a longer time frame (possibly 5 or 6 pm to 10 pm), so plan accordingly.

