



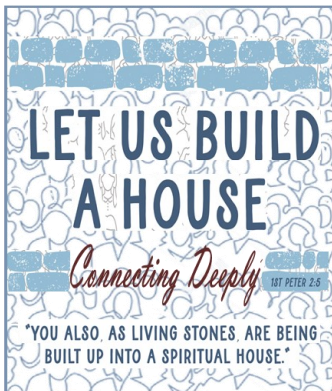
## Worship

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



## Church Council 2023

Mike Boyack  
Laurie Brown  
Billie Chock  
Tim Current (treas.)  
Steven Dickey (pres.)  
Derek Horeis (v. pres.)  
Dan Paulson  
Lisa Spencer (sec'y.)  
Natasha Werner  
Pastor Bruce Kuenzel



## Contact us!

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



[LightOfChristLutheran.com](http://LightOfChristLutheran.com)  
[Terri.Reuter@locdelano.com](mailto:Terri.Reuter@locdelano.com)

There's only a little over **ONE WEEK** left to turn in auction donations for our youth fundraiser on March 5<sup>th</sup>! Donations are due by Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. We truly appreciate your support and help to make this a great event!



NourishingHOPE

## Free Fresh Produce and Dairy

**Monday, February 13th**

**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

For assistance locating a specific site or for questions, please contact us at [nourishinghope.oflc@gmail.com](mailto:nourishinghope.oflc@gmail.com) or Facebook Messenger.

NourishingHOPE is a ministry of Our Father's Lutheran Church, in cooperation with four 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](http://www.ourfatherschurch.org/nourishing-hope.html)

## February Food Distribution

Our food distribution ministry, Nourishing Hope, needs volunteers for **Monday, February 13**. We have two time slots:

- **11:00 am** when we pack hundreds of boxes of food over at Our Father's Lutheran in Rockford. (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0848A9A72AAAF85-food>)
- **3:30 pm** when we distribute about 75 boxes of food right here in our church parking lot. (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0848A9A72AAAF85-food1>)

Or speak with Tim Johnson (952-472-1755) Thank you!



## THANK YOU!

A special *thank you* to all of our members who contributed both financially as well as the much needed items to Agate Housing & Services in Minneapolis. You contributed \$1805 as well as winter clothing and bedding items for those who are struggling with being homeless.

**We can, and did, make a difference!**



We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, straight, gay, confused, well-heeled or down-at-heel. We especially welcome wailing babies and excited toddlers. We welcome you whether you can sing like Beyoncé or just hum quietly to yourself. You're welcome here if you're just browsing, just woken up or just got out of prison. We don't care if you're more Christian than Pope Francis or haven't been to church since Christmas ten years ago. We extend a special welcome to those who are over sixty but not grown up yet and to teenagers who are growing up too fast.

We welcome keep-fit moms, football dads, starving artists, tree huggers, latte sippers, vegetarians, and junk food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems, are down in the dumps or don't like legalistic religion (We're not too keen on it either). We offer welcome to those who think science is cool, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or are here because Grandma is visiting and wanted to bring the grandkids to church. We welcome those who are inked, pierced, both or neither.

We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down their throats as kids or made a wrong turn on Highway 12 and wound up here by mistake. We welcome pilgrims, thinkers, seekers, doubters -- and YOU!

- Adapted from *Canterbury Cathedral, Canterbury, England*

## Caring Corner

(from Lisa Hemmer of the Healing & Wholeness Committee)



### Random Acts of Kindness

In September 2022, the New York Times published an article titled "The Unexpected Power of Random Acts of Kindness – New research shows small gestures matter even more than we may think." The article describes findings published in the Journal of Experimental Psychology, that people who perform a random act of kindness tend to underestimate how much the recipient will appreciate it. And they believe that miscalculation could hold many of us back from doing nice things for others more often. Several experiments were conducted, and the results in all of them confirmed that the people doing the kind things consistently underestimated how much it was actually appreciated.

I recently ran across this story on Instagram:

Several years ago, I invited a Buddhist monk to speak to my Senior elective class, and quite interestingly, as he entered the room, he didn't say a word (that caught everyone's attention). He just walked to the board and wrote this: "EVERYONE WANTS TO SAVE THE WORLD, BUT NO ONE WANTS TO HELP MOM DO THE DISHES." We all laughed. But then he went on to say this to my students:

"Statistically, it's highly unlikely that any of you will ever have the opportunity to run into a burning orphanage and rescue an infant. But, in the smallest gesture of kindness—a warm smile, holding the door for the person behind you, shoveling the driveway of the elderly person next door—you have committed an act of immeasurable profundity, because to each of us, our life is our universe."

This is my hope for you in the New Year—that by your smallest acts of kindness, you will save another's world.

The NY Times article concludes with this:

If you are not already in the habit of performing random kind acts—or if it does not come naturally to you—Dr. Franco said to start by thinking about what you like to do.

"It's not about you being like, 'Oh man, now I have to learn how to bake cookies in order to be nice,'" she said. "It's about: What skills and talents do you already have? And how can you turn that into an offering for other people?"

There are lots of small things all of us can do that don't require any special talent. So, maybe consider helping with the dishes.

Colossians 3:12: *Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.*

## Auction Donations Needed!

We'd love your help to make our fundraiser on Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup> a HUGE success! One way you can do that is by thinking of items for auction donations. We encourage you to be creative and think outside the box... maybe you have a cabin or are willing to host a boat/ dinner cruise? Do you have sporting tickets that you're willing to donate? Maybe you have a business or make awesome items that could be a great addition to our event... or maybe you have some things at home that have great value that you don't want or need any longer. This isn't a garage sale, but often there are items in our own homes that are new or *gently* used that would be great for our event! If you have questions, please contact Kirsten Kelly, Jennifer Slipka or Lesley Berscheid. **Donations are due by Ash Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Thank you SO MUCH for your support!

## Belize Fundraiser

March 5, 2023

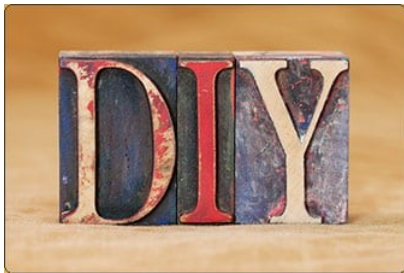
-Auction = 3-5 pm

(begins online at 10 am)

-Spaghetti Dinner = 5-7 pm

(tickets go on sale beginning 1/ 29)

-Live Dessert Auction = 6:30 pm



## Sisters of LOC February Event

Please join the Sisters of LOC for a night of custom candle making and fellowship on Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6:30-8:30 PM in the Living Room (youth room). The cost is \$30 per candle and can be paid for by check to Kelly Harstad or Venmo @Kelly-Harstad. You may choose your own scent and customize your candle label. Refreshments will be provided. We hope you can make it! Sign up at this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040A4AA5A62CA64-candle>

In need of a night OFF or a night OUT? You're in luck! Drop your kiddo(s) off for a night of fun at Light of Christ on

**Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>**, where they'll enjoy food and fun with senior high youth. Deadline to register is **Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Scan the code below for details and to reserve your spot(s):





Join us for Ash Wednesday Worship on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. A meal will be served starting at 6 PM, with the service beginning at 7 PM, held in-person and live-streamed. There are options for you to participate in the imposition of ashes at home. If you would prefer “pre-made” ashes, we will have a limited supply available for pick-up at the church on Ash Wednesday, between 7:30 AM and 1:30 PM. We will also hold weekly Wednesday services beginning on March 1<sup>st</sup>. These services begin at 7 PM and incorporate the Holden Evening Prayer service. Supper will be served by the youth at 6 PM, preceding each Lenten service. They will continue through the season of Lent.

## How to participate in the imposition of ashes at home:

If you choose to use ashes, it isn't necessary to find palm fronds to burn – just be aware of what kind of ashes you are using and make certain there isn't anything in them that will react badly with the skin. For safety, mix the ashes with oil before use. **Do not mix the ashes with water. A mixture of water and ash on skin can often lead to irritation and burns.**

**Please use caution whenever burning anything to make ashes.**

Follow these steps once you have created your own ashes or picked palm ashes up from church.

- **Step 1:** Add one or two drops of olive oil to the ashes in the bowl and mix with a teaspoon. Mix the ash and oil until the ash begins to stick together, the mix should have a paste-like consistency. Add oil or ash until the mixture is right.
- **Step 2:** Cover the ash and oil paste with plastic wrap until ready to use to prevent anything from falling in and contaminating the mixture.

## Lenten Supper Schedule

2/22 = Pulled Pork Sandwiches  
3/1 = Pasta Bar  
3/8 = Baked Potato Bar  
3/15 = Chili Dogs  
3/22 = Tacos  
3/29 = Soup, Salad & Breadsticks



\*There will be gluten free options at each meal. All proceeds benefit youth going on the summer service trip to Belize. Thanks for your support!

## New Invitation Team is forming!

This might be your opportunity to be involved. Here's some of what we'll be focusing upon:

- **Creating an outreach plan** to get the word out more effectively *into the community* about our church. As more and more people move into the Delano area, we want to have a strategy to connect with and invite our new neighbors. Think: publicity, mailings, social media, signs, flyers, and the like.
- While we need to create an outreach/invitation plan, we also want to focus on our own **personal invitations**, as well. Think: knowing one's own story, why you might invite someone, who you might want to engage, how to best reach out to someone.
- And when folks arrive, our team will oversee **exceptional hospitality**. Think: how our guests and members are greeted, how our after-worship hospitality best connects people, being genuinely welcoming of all.
- **Visitor follow-up** communicates that we know you were here. Think: how to best meet our guests' needs, how to best connect them with our church's programs and ministries, how we say thank you for being here...we'd love to see you again, what can we do for you?



If you're interested in more information or in serving on this new team, please contact Tim Johnson, [tim.johnson@locdelano.com](mailto:tim.johnson@locdelano.com).

# CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS

**Bible Story Time is off to a good start with an average of 21 students, 3 years through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.**



## Camp Wapo

### Sign Up for Bible Camp!

*Light of Christ spots reserved for dates listed until **February 15***

Congregation Registration Link:

<http://lwlbc.com/loc-delano>

#### **CHILDREN Kindergarten-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade**

WAPO 1-DAY: K – 2<sup>nd</sup> June 28<sup>th</sup>

Registration paid by LOC

#### **CHILDREN Grades 1-3**

WAPO SEEDS: Grades 1-3 June 23-25

LOC provides \$50

#### **CHILDREN 4<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Grade**

WAPO YOUTH: June 25-30, Aug 13-19

LOC provides \$100

#### **GRANDPARENTS/GRANDKIDS**

Grandparent Camp: July 18-21

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CAMP WAPO**

<https://lakewapo.org>

### High School Fellowship

Join us for nights of fellowship, friends, faith, food and FUN! Here is our upcoming schedule (Wednesdays from 7:30-8:45 at LOC):

- **Feb. 15—Spaghetti Dinner Placemats**

On the Wednesdays during Lent (2/22 – 3/29), the Living Room will be open after worship for any youth that want to connect and hang out but we won't have any scheduled plans. We hope you'll join us for worship each week at 7 pm and connect with friends afterwards.



## Ladies of Light Girl's Retreat

We had a great event on Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> with the 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade girls at Light of Christ! We talked about the question of "What is true beauty?" and had time to think about our own beauty through 6 different prayer stations. This event was organized by Kirsten and 3 HS girls (McKenna Allen, Kaitlyn Malo & Ava Reiersen) for a National Honor Society project. We had 18 youth and 3 adults attend and we had a ton of fun! We charged a small fee for this event but it didn't fully cover all of the expenses, so we appreciate your gifts which help make events like this possible!

