



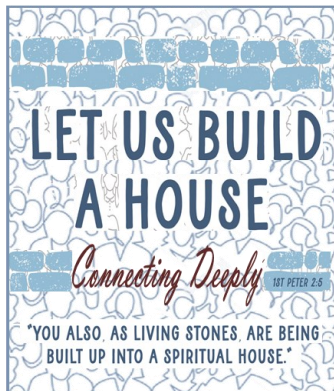
Worship

- In-person worship—
9:30 AM Sundays
- Online worship continues, and is live-streamed to our [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#) pages



Church Council 2024

Mike Boyack (vice pres.)
Laurie Brown (sec'y.)
Billie Chock
Tim Current (treas.)
Heidi Goldbeck
Luke Jeseritz
Lisa Krause
Natasha Werner (pres.)
Jon Wissink



Contact us!

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



LightOfChristLutheran.com
Terri.Reuter@locdelano.com

RALLY DAY 2024!

If a picture paints a thousand words these pictures say it all! What a fantastic start of another year of Children's ministry. Thanks to all who made this ministry possible!



See page
6 for more
photos
from Rally
Sunday

Caring Corner

(from Sue Fink of the Healing & Wholeness Committee)

Resources for Suicide Prevention



Another year has passed and once again it is National Suicide Prevention Month. Levels of suicide deaths have gradually increased over the past 20 years with a peak during the Covid isolation. This month we raise awareness and opportunities for education to help and support loved ones in the midst of depression and suicidal thoughts. *Hope is the antidote to suicide.* Connectedness brings hope for those who are depressed and lonely, which is a priority goal of LOC's Healing and Wholeness Ministry.

September often increases stress with new starts, full schedules, feeling overwhelmed. Please read articles published about stress, anxiety, and depression on the [Mental Health tab of the LOC website](#) (under *Support/Mental Health/Education*). We encourage open and hard conversations with friends and family when mental health struggles get in the way of living the lives we hoped for. Talking about suicide will not put the idea into someone's mind, but instead gives them the opening to talk and lets them know you are concerned. When you become aware of someone's suffering, there are many ways to support them and help them get the help needed to prevent suicide.

If you are concerned about yourself or someone else, know that you are not alone.

If the person is in imminent danger call 911 and request mental health crisis intervention.

Call or text **988** Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: The number has trained staff to answer calls from individuals at risk for suicide as well as those experiencing other mental health and substance use-related emergencies. Specialized services are available for veterans, LGBTQ+ individuals, and other groups.

Call your county mental health crisis number:

Adults -

- Carver-Chaska 952-442-7601
- Hennepin-Minneapolis 612-596-1223
- Wright-Buffalo 800-635-8008

Children under 18 -

- Carver-Chaska 952-442-7601
- Hennepin-Minneapolis 612-596-1223
- Wright-Buffalo 800-635-8008

The Trevor Project Lifeline (suicide prevention for LGBTQ youth): 1-866-488-7386

Minnesota Warmline- Mental Health Minnesota 651-288-0400 – Provides a peer-to-peer approach to mental health recovery, support and wellness. Connect with people who are here to listen 7 days a week; call 9am to 9pm or text “Support” to **85511**. Online chat is available on their website: mentalhealthmn.org.

Support Resources: see lightofchristlutheran.com/support/mental_health under *Resources*



September Fifth Sunday Contributions

For the Fifth Sunday in September, we will be collecting contributions to help buy a van for Pastor Kebin's church in Belize. We have set up a link on the [online giving page](#) for you to contribute to the September Fifth Sunday offering, or you can designate your offering for the van in the offering plate, or you can also send a check to Terri at the office. Thanks for supporting all the efforts Pastor Kebin and his team do to support those in Belize.

KIDS HOPE USA

Light of Christ has been partnering with an exciting program called KIDS HOPE USA and Delano Elementary the last two school years and it has been VERY successful. We are excited to have most of last year's volunteer mentors return and are also hoping to add a few more mentors. Volunteer LOC mentors spend **one hour mentoring one child, one day a week at the elementary school during the school year and we do our best to work with your schedule.** Delano Elementary staff selects the students. The primary goal of this one hour is **building a friendship relationship with the student, having fun, and to help the child feel more comfortable in their school setting.** We are happy to tell you more about the program if you are interested in joining us. This very successful program has been helping kids for over 25 years and is located in more than 40 states including MN. We look forward to talking with you about Kids Hope. If you are interested, please talk to Terri at the LOC office and she will connect you with us. Thank you!



Attention LOC Gardeners!

If your garden is overflowing with goodness, the Delano Helping Hands Food Shelf is happy to take any extra produce off your hands! You can drop off produce

at the Food Shelf between 5-6 on Tuesdays or 9-11 on Thursdays. If those times don't work for you, call us at 763-972-4455 and leave a message. We will get back to you to schedule another drop off time. Or, text Jo Williamson at 602-501-7903 to make arrangements.

Volunteer in Love INC Heartland Thrift Stores

It takes many hands to support our Thrift Stores. Curious to learn more? **Fill out an interest form today:** bit.ly/loveincvolunteer



Serve a Meal at Love INC Heartland

Build community by serving (or financially sponsoring) a meal at our Fresh Start Program beginning in September! Fresh Start is a series of life skills courses we offer to our neighbors in need. Before each class, we serve a meal to promote a sense of family. **Sign Up Today:** bit.ly/fsmealtrain

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.



THE HOOT



September 2024 Newsletter for the OWLS (Older Wiser Lutherans) by Sue Fink

The cooler fall weather is upon us and with it some fun and interesting outings/offerings:

- ♦ **Thursday, September 19th** we head to the Hemker Zoo in Freeport, a 1 hr. and 20-minute drive. We'll meet at LOC at **9 AM** and carpool so please consider whether you will drive. The cost is \$19.25 per person unless we have 15 people or more, then it's \$16. We'll stop for lunch on the way home at Up the Creek Grill and Bar in Silver Creek. **Please RSVP so we know how many to plan for.**
- ♦ **October 17th** we head to Carlson Orchard near Winsted to purchase apples, pies, and gifts, and have lunch at their newly owned restaurant. Details to follow.
- ♦ Bible Study resumed **September 15th** after Sunday service. We'll skip September 29th for Pastor Bruce and Cynthia's farewell celebration. We continue our study of *Growing Older and Wiser*, Lesson 5. Please invite others and contact Sue Fink if you need a book or lesson copies.

Thanks to Jinnelle, Lona, and Jewel who have volunteered to help plan our monthly gatherings. Please share any ideas you have with them.

I encourage you to check our bulletin board by the Fellowship Hall for events and services announced in the Delano Senior Center Newsletter. Please consider attending a NAMI Class – "Understanding Anxiety in Older Adults" on **Tuesday, September 24th** at 10-11:30 AM.



Women's Bible Study Resumes Tonight!



Attention Women! As life and schedules get busy for the fall, please consider taking time out for yourself and joining us for the women's bible study starting in September. Participating in a bible study is a great way to dive deeper into the word and gain new insights that strengthen our faith.

The women's bible study **will meet the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month, 6:30 – 8:00 PM at LOC. The first Monday of the month we will meet in the Living Room. The third Monday of the month we will meet in room 106. If you need to leave by 7:30 that is okay. We will use the last 30 minutes for social time if people want to spend some time visiting. We will meet September – April 7. We will not meet in December. The first meeting will be September 16. If you can't make it every time that is okay! We want you to come when you can.**

The study we will be doing for this session is "Meeting the Spirit" by Douglas Connelly. Below is a summary of the study. Source: [Meeting the Spirit, LifeGuide Topical Bible Studies: Douglas Connelly: 9780830830688 - Christianbook.com](https://www.christianbook.com/9780830830688)

"Who is the Holy Spirit? How does he change our lives? How does he work in the world? These ten studies will help you examine these and other critical questions. The Spirit of God is eager to work in your life and draw you to God. These studies cover the specific aspects of the Spirit, including "The Spirit Invades" and "The Spirit Transforms." Come and meet the Spirit."

If you are interested in participating, please respond to Lindsay Lindall at lindsay.lindall@gmail.com

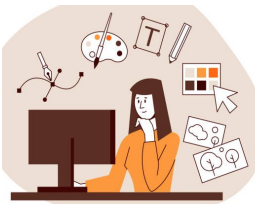
Farewell Party

Come celebrate our beloved Pastor Bruce on Sunday, September 29th 9:30 AM

Let's all join and worship together at 9:30 AM. Pastor Bruce will give the sermon, there will be lots of music and we will share pictures/moments of his 8 years at Light of Christ. Join us after the service for a brunch & comedy roast, you won't want to miss. We will be serving a brunch that includes egg bakes, cheesy hashbrowns, homemade baked goods, yogurt parfait bar and drinks. Please see the Sign-Up Genius link below to sign up to help either make food or help serve. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040A4AA5A62CA64-51146165-pastor>



We also have a special gift book for Pastor Bruce. Each person/family is invited to fill out a page with a special message/drawing, etc. Pages may be picked up at the church office or by contacting Kirsten. Please have pages returned **no later than Friday, Sept. 27th at noon**. Let's pack our church and give thanks to Pastor Bruce and Cynthia for the blessing they have been to Light of Christ.



Artistic? Graphics your thing? All ages!

Our Stewardship Team is looking for someone to create a logo for our upcoming fall stewardship campaign. The theme is, ***Together We Thrive: Time, Talents and Treasure***. So, all of those words need to be in there. The first words could be displayed a bit larger than the next three.

We're going to be emphasizing a growing theme, so preferably something that has leaves or shows growth. Deadline for submission is **September 25th**. Please send to committee chairperson Tim Johnson at tdale57@gmail.com. Thank you for sharing your talents!!

Light of Christ is turning 40!

2025 is the 40th anniversary of Light of Christ. The Church Council is planning to appoint a 40th Anniversary Committee of four to six people to spearhead our celebration. We'd like to have an anniversary committee that reflects the make-up of the congregation: male and female, different ages, long-time members/partners and newer members/partners, and so forth. If you'd like to be considered to serve on this committee, please let a member of the Church Council know of your willingness to serve. Thank you!



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

If you or someone you know is interested in joining Light of Christ, please contact the [church office](#) for more information, or watch for information on our next reception of new members/partners later this fall.

Adult Choir has resumed

Adult choir rehearsals began last week. All levels are welcome. We rehearse every Tuesday, 6:30-7:30. Attendance at all rehearsals is not mandatory. We will sing Sunday, September 29th at Pastor Bruce's farewell service as well. If you are interested in being a part of choir in general or just that performance, come to the first rehearsal! Contact Katie with any questions.



More smiles from Rally Day activities



Explorers

Explorers are our 3-year-olds -- 2nd graders that are dismissed from Sunday worship service following the Children's Message. They gather for approximately 20 minutes for an age-appropriate Bible story and activity. We have several dedicated people who have agreed to take the lead teacher position for Explorers. Keeping with our Safe Sanctuary policy to keep kids safe, we do need a second adult to be present with the class and to assist as needed. Please sign up to help keep our Explorers exploring God's Word. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F48A4AB22A4FCCF8-50886125-explorers>

First Communion

We will be offering First Communion this fall on **October 27** (*Preparing for First Communion on October 6 and 13 from 6-7 PM*).

We will also be offering First Communion in the spring on **April 13** (*Preparing for First Communion on March 30 and April 6 from 6-7 PM*). Please register at <https://lightofchristdelano.breezechms.com/form/3dbef5>



God's Global Barnyard

Global Barnyard is part of the ELCA Good Gifts program. An animal can make a world of difference for a family in need. Some animals provide food to eat, fertilizer to grow crops, wool to make clothes, and offspring to sell at the market. With one gift you can help a family escape the cycle of hunger and poverty for good.

Last year the children of Light of Christ, with your help and support, raised **\$1524.52** for the Global Barnyard. There are several ways you can help.

- ⇒ **PIGGY BANKS:** Take a piggy bank – fill it and bring it back **October 27**.
- ⇒ **GIVE ONLINE:** Go to [Light of Christ's home page](#) – click the **GIVE** tab – it will take you to the link to give online.
- ⇒ **NOISY OFFERING:** Save up those coins and bring them on **Sunday, October 27** for our Noisy Offering! What a treat to help others get out of poverty!



Confirmation Corner

Welcome to a new year! We had our Confirmation Orientation last Wednesday and are excited to begin a new school year with our 7th-9th grade youth! This year we have 60 youth in our Confirmation ministry (along with 21 adult Guides/Subs and many HS Junior Guides!). We also have a great group of 10th graders that are going through their Mentoring sessions before being confirmed next spring. *Thank you for keeping these ministries, volunteers, youth and their families in your daily prayers throughout the year!* If you are reading this and want to support the youth and families involved in this ministry we ALWAYS welcome donations to our scholarship fund... this mainly helps with more expensive things like retreats, camps and trips. **THANK YOU** for your partnership in ministry (and support of our youth)!

New to Confirmation this year!

- **New Schedule:** Confirmation will now start on Wednesdays at **6:15 pm** (and still go until 8:00 pm). We will just begin our games 15 minutes earlier in order to allow more time for small groups. This also means that SLICE will be earlier (from 5:45-6:15 pm each night that we meet). This change came from feedback from our Guides and we're excited to see how it positively impacts our relationships and Confirmation ministry!
- **7th and 8th grade Mission Trip!** In Summer 2025 we will have our first mission trip for completed grades 7 and 8. This trip will take place in the Twin Cities from a Sunday-Thursday (dates TBD). Watch for more details coming soon and plan to attend our Info Meeting on Wednesday, October 30th (8-9 pm)! This is also the day that registration will open.
- **HS Jr. Guides:** This year our HS Jr. Guides will have a little different schedule... they will begin in the Living Room at 6:45 each week with Heidi Wuerger (and one additional adult) to have fellowship time and talk about the night. Then, the HS youth will join Confirmation groups during small group time from 7:20-8:00 pm. We invite all HS youth to join us!

Fall Confirmation Retreat!

We are SO excited to have a fall Confirmation retreat again this year (after not being able to find dates that worked last year). All youth (grades 7-10) are expected to attend (and truly won't want to miss out!). Here are the details:

When? 5:30 pm, Friday, November 1st – 1:00 pm, Sunday, November 3rd

Where? Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp in Amery, WI

Who? Grades 7-10 and adult volunteers from LOC

What? An incredible faith and relationship-building weekend filled with campfires, games, important conversations, time with friends and lots of good food 😊

Why? We know that these longer times together provide a unique opportunity to grow deeper together in our friendships and relationship with God. We love our Wednesday nights, and yet these retreats are often "where the magic" happens – that so many youth talk about in their Faith Statements when they are confirmed! For that reason, we say that these retreats are "required" for all Confirmation youth, because we know how important and significant they are! Please put it on your calendar and make it a priority... you'll be glad you did.

Cost? \$225/youth – this covers the retreat fee (\$185), transportation, supplies, snacks and adult costs (our adults attend free). If this fee is prohibitive, **PLEASE** reach out to Kirsten. We want all youth to attend, no matter what. Partial or full scholarships are available!!!

Join us on October 2nd... all are welcome!

On Wednesday, October 2nd we will be having a special event to raise awareness for Mental Health. We encourage all Confirmation youth and their families to participate before Confirmation that night! Here's the schedule for that day:

- **5:00 pm** - Meet in the Sanctuary at Light of Christ for a short presentation
- **5:15 pm** - Leave LOC for the "Walk a Mile in my Shoes" event (to raise awareness and support for mental health). We will walk the sidewalk from LOC to the cemetery down County Line Road and back. Each participant will receive some fun things and snacks!!
- **5:45 pm** - Pizza and fellowship (pizza is free this night – paid for by our Healing and Wholeness Team)
- **6:15-8:00 pm** - Confirmation Teaching Night (topic will be mental health)

Other notes:

- All are welcome but we strongly encourage Confirmation youth and families to attend before Confirmation that night!
- This will be the activity that night for Pathfinders (4th-6th grade). Parents are encouraged to stay and participate!!
- [Sign up here to register for pizza that night!](#)

Confirmation Calendar

(All events are 6:15-8:00 pm unless noted otherwise. See more details included on this page.)

9/18 = Small Group Night (6:30-8:00 pm)

9/25 = Feed My Starving Children, Chanhassen (6:00-9:30 pm)

10/2 = Teaching Night & Walk A Mile Event (see article for more info)

10/9 = Teaching Night

10/16 = No Confirmation

10/23 = Teaching Night

10/30 = Teaching Night (and Mission Trip Info Meeting/Registration Opens!)

11/1-11/3 = Fall Retreat for grades 7-10!



CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS



Trunk or Treat this Fall!!

We are looking at hosting Trunk or Treat at Light of Christ again this fall! This is a fun, family event where kids of all ages can dress up and go “trunk to trunk” to get a treat and have fun at church! Right now we are considering Sunday, October 27th from 3-5 pm. We would be looking for people/families to put together a theme-based trunk and would also need donations to hang out (candy, pencils, snacks, etc). If you are interested in this event or possibly even working with Kirsten on some of the details, please contact her at

Kirsten.Kelly@locdelano.com!

Help Fill the Fridge!!!

As we all know, “Food is Fellowship!” And this includes having snacks and drinks for the youth as we gather throughout the year. We invite any donations of drinks or snacks for the Living Room that can be available to our youth when we gather on Wednesdays or for special events. Whether it’s leftover soda or juice boxes from this summer (or grad parties) or something you’re willing to purchase... we’d love to have our fridge and cupboards filled with drinks/snacks for upcoming Wednesday nights! Donations can be dropped off in the Living Room anytime. If you would like a charitable donation receipt, please contact Kirsten. Thanks for your partnership in ministry!

