



Worship

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



Church Council 2021

Steven Dickey
Carmen Hanson
Jennifer Hinker
Jon Holzer
Derek Horeis
Elizabeth Kohlhof
Tom Sebelien
Lisa Spencer
Stacy VanCura
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

Food Distribution for January has been cancelled, due to the cold weather and rising Covid rates.

GIFTED TO SERVE

While God could have chosen a variety of ways to bring goodness, faith, hope and love to this hurting world, **He chose to be about the heart of that work through the Church**—through the sometimes unlikeliness of people like us.

As we step into this new year, some things have not changed. There are still hurting people to minister to (and one might argue those numbers are growing), and you and I are uniquely gifted for this work. You could say that **this is our calling—to make a loving impact for Christ's sake and for the sake of neighbors, near and far, who are in need.**

For us to fulfill the work and ministry of Jesus, we each have a role to play in helping His Church to be as alive, compassionate, and engaged as is possible. A good deal of this work is generated through committees and teams here at Light of Christ. **Perhaps the Holy Spirit is nudging you to serve in this way.**

This new year we are going to be having conversation about how to organize and accomplish ministry more effectively. **Change is needed for us to evolve into new and more creative ways of being about the work of the gospel of Jesus Christ.** Reaching out, gathering, learning, growing, connecting, worshipping, will continue to be central to our ministry. Yet, just how we do some of this work will change.

Will you step in to help serve? Can you help in being a part of some new conversation? Might you offer yourself at this important time and join the many, many members who have done so all along the way?

Our many ministry teams and committees are in need of members to serve. We will be electing these new members at our Annual Meeting at the end of January. If you are interested in serving or in more information, please contact either one of us. **We are grateful for all who serve and will help new folks to get connected!**

Kylee Amdor, Nominating Committee
kylee.amdor@gmail.com

Tim Johnson, Shared Ministry Director
tim.johnson@locdelano.com

Congregational
Meeting



**Congregational Annual Meeting
January 30, 2022 at 10:15 am**

Food Distribution Volunteer Opportunities

Interested in helping folks in and around our Delano community by distributing fresh food from Second Harvest food bank and other food sources? Light of Christ joins with four other west metro churches to help make a difference by distributing boxes of food, free of charge, once a month. Two ways to serve: helping to pack the boxes over at Our Father's Lutheran in Rockford in the morning; or by helping to distribute the boxes here at church later in the afternoon. The next scheduled distribution and need for volunteers is:

Monday, February 14

- 11:30 a.m. at Our Father's for packing boxes
 - 3:30 p.m. here at LOC for distribution of the boxes
- ⇒ **Special need for anyone who can pick up the trailer at Delano Rental and be the transportation point person.**

We also invite prayer requests from those we serve. Let **Tim Johnson** (email or call 952-472-1755) know if you would like to join a group to pray for special needs.



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.



Caring Corner

by Sue Fink with the
Healing and Wholeness Committee)



We're starting out 2022 with a month spent praying together: privately, as a family, and as a congregation. The theme for January will be "31 Days, 31 Ways, 2 Pray 4 Families," from author Catherine P. Downing. She writes from her strong base of Christian faith and a mother whose son has a chronic and serious mental illness.

Her introduction to this exercise explains it best:

"Families who walk alongside their loved ones in the labyrinths of mental illnesses are often hesitant to ask for prayer. They might feel others will judge them or their loved one, offer uninformed advice or initiate the gossip chain. But friends who observe or are aware of their journey don't necessarily need specific details to pray effectively."

Please join us in a daily prayer you will find on the Light of Christ Facebook posts, on our website or in a special personal email. There are printed copies of the entire month of prayers in the Narthex for you to take home, as you desire. This theme will also be featured in our Sunday services.

If you or someone you love lives through the ups and downs of mental illness, we pray for healing and peace that comes from nurturing and being rooted in our faith and trust in our God.

Catherine Downing wrote a blog on sparksofredemptivegrace.com called **Mental Illness, Prayer and Extravagant Grace** in which she shares her four personal prayer principles. We will highlight one each week of the month.

Week #2:

Because "each day has enough trouble of its own" (Matthew 6:34b), I pray every single day for God's favor and grace. Every morning I thank God in anticipation of his presence being with us every single moment - no matter how the day unfolds. At the close of the day, I give thanks for the ways I have seen his goodness and mercy follow us on that particular day (Psalm 23:6). And of course, throughout the day are the ongoing conversations with our Father in heaven who knows our son best and loves him most.

Prayer, I have discovered, is a discipline of unceasing watchfulness.

Psalm 121: 1-2: *"I lift up mine eyes to the hills and I wonder, from whence comes my help? My help comes from the Lord who made the heavens and the earth! He will not let you stumble and fall...indeed he who watches over his people never tires nor sleeps."*

Children's Ministry Community Service Project

The Sunday School classes and Club 5/6 will be putting together hygiene kits for the homeless shelter. The kids will be putting these kits together on Sunday, February 13th & Wednesday, February 16th. We are looking for donations of travel size items or a monetary donation to help purchase the items.

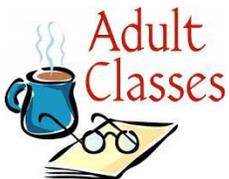
Please consider signing up at this [Sign-up Genius link](#) to help us with this community service project. **We would like to get all donations dropped off at the church office before Friday, February 4th before noon.**



Adult Education in February

The Holy Spirit—Then and Now – The Holy Spirit is probably the least understood person of the Holy Trinity. Yet the Holy Spirit is a vital, vibrant presence in our lives. So, how do we learn to be more aware, more awake, and more in tune to the presence of the Spirit within us and around us and between us? One way is to study the Book of Acts. The full title of Acts is *The Acts of the Apostles*, but it could also be titled *The Acts of the Holy Spirit*. In Acts, we see the Holy Spirit at work transforming lives, communities, and situations.

Pastor Bruce will be leading a four-week series on the Book of Acts. We will meet on **February 6, 13, 20, 27 at 10:15 AM** in the new Living Room (old Youth Room). We will be using the Bible Project videos for the basis for our learning and discussion. No need to register. Just come with your Bible and a mind and heart that is open to the transforming presence of the Holy Spirit.



Word for the Week from Pastor Bruce



Beauty

One of the goals we set for ourselves in our New Day for God's Beloved campaign was to strengthen our worship and music ministry. And one way we do that is to make our services as beautiful as possible. The more beautiful a worship service the better. We are constantly striving to create worship services that are filled with beautiful music, beautiful banners and paraments, beautiful flowers, beautiful words, and beautiful images. Striving for beauty in worship is something that hasn't changed because of the pandemic.

One great addition in this vein are the banners and paraments in our chancel. They are breathtakingly beautiful. What you may not know is that they were conceived and made by one of our own, Maxine Johnson. Thank you, Maxine!

Why is beauty in worship so important? Because beauty draws us closer to Christ. He is the Author of all beauty. Everything beautiful comes from him, and therefore, everything beautiful also draws us closer to him—every beautiful sunrise and sunset; every beautiful mountain and lake; every beautiful piece of music; every beautiful image; every beautiful child. All these things and more bring us closer to Christ.

Fyodor Dostoyevsky was one of the great Russian novelists. He wrote a novel titled *The Idiot*. The protagonist in the novel is a man named Myshkin. He is seen, by nearly everyone, as a simpleton, a fool, an idiot. But in fact, he is the wisest person of all. He is, in the words of St. Paul in the first chapter of 1 Corinthians, a "fool for Christ." And at one point in the novel, he says that "beauty will save the world."

I believe that Dostoyevsky went a bit too far with that statement. Beauty itself will not save us. But it will lead us to the One who does save us: to Jesus Christ, for he is a beautiful Savior—beautiful in love, beautiful in power, and beautiful in grace.

So please pray that the Holy Spirit will grace us so that we can create beauty, and rejoice in beauty, so that in our worship we can be drawn ever deeper into the miracle and the mystery of God's everlasting love for you, for me, and for all.

The Great Thing About Giving...is permission to BRAG

“No one likes a bragger.” “Don’t blow your own horn.” (Uff da, I hear my mother’s voice!)



But because the Bible teaches us to be generous – to provide for those in need – to give sacrificially – to find joy in giving – then **today is a day to brag** about the results of your giving to Light of Christ! For instance:

- Personal giving nearly fulfilled the church budget during a second year of pandemic-limiting worship and service opportunities.
- Staff positions transitioned and solidified with LaDonna Ekern and Tim Johnson coming onboard during 2021.
- Technology purchases keep at-home members connected via livestreamed services.
- Major personal donations helped pay down the mortgage, funded The Living Room, and offset some of the columbarium construction cost.

Thank you for all you’ve done through your faithful giving! Feel proud. Feel accomplished. Feel motivated. Feel appreciated. Feel blessed to be a Beloved Child of God in Light of Christ’s church family.

--Cheri Ashfeld, Stewardship Committee

Update or initiate online giving for 2022!

<http://bit.ly/LOGiving>

The screenshot shows the 'Online Donation' page for Light of Christ Lutheran Church. It includes a 'Log In' section with fields for Email Address and Password, and a 'My Scheduled Transactions' table. The table has columns for Date, Fund, Amount, Total, Account #, Frequency, and Action. An arrow points to the 'Edit' link in the Action column. Below the table are 'Donations' and 'Donation Information' sections with various input fields and checkboxes.

1. Log in

2. Click **Edit** and update appropriate fields.

3. Indicate dollar amount for your fund choice(s).

4. Check required:
- Yes/No answer
 - Account field
 - Not a robot
 - Save
 - Log off.

You will immediately receive a confirmation email from eservicepayments.com.

2022 Pledges & Online Giving

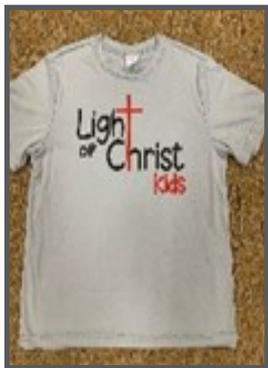
If you need to change your automatic contribution amount due to your 2022 pledge, please log in to your [MyVanco account](#)—instructions on doing so, or for initiating online giving, can be found in the image to the left. You can also contact Terri in the church office to make the change for you. Your pledge card does not authorize the church to make changes to your online giving.

Online Store—Support Our Youth

We invite you to visit our Equal Exchange (fair trade) table in the Narthex or click [HERE](#) for our online store for some great gift options! Items for sale include:

- Chocolate
- Coffee
- Tea
- Cashews
- LOC coffee mugs
- LOC masks

All sales support our summer youth trips as well as small farmers around the world! These items make great gifts for teachers or friends. Our Light of Christ kids shirts are also available for \$10 each and would make a great gift for your kids, if they don't already have one! Items can also be delivered for free around the Delano area and you can include a note and even gift wrapping. Thanks for your support of our LOC Youth!



Summer 2022 HS Trip... Save the Dates!

We hope you can join us for a special trip this summer for HS youth... we will be attending the [National Lutheran Youth Gathering on July 24-28, 2022!](#) This gathering takes place every 3 years and rotates to different cities around the US... this summer it is taking place in Minneapolis at US Bank Stadium! Kirsten is working to arrange some service days following the trip so we'll most likely be gone from July 24-30, but more details will be coming soon! For now, put the dates on your calendar and talk to any LOC friends! Official registration will open on Sunday, January 23... which is when we will be sharing about our Summer 2021 Denver Trip in worship at 9 am. Thanks for your interest and support of our youth ministries!



High School Ministries

- **Donuts & Discussion** – We have started a new Bible study for HS youth called Donuts & Discussion (D&D). We will meet once/month on Sunday mornings, typically the first Sunday of the month, at 10:10 am in the newly remodeled space (The Living Room). We had originally planned to join the Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study group but changed this and now will be meeting just as a HS group. These mornings will be a chance to hang out, talk about our highs and lows (faith and life) and have donuts. We hope you can join us for this great opportunity!
 - ⇒ **Sunday, February 6th, 10:10 am**
 - ⇒ **Sunday, March 6th, 10:10 am**
- **HS Fellowship** – Each week our 9th-12th grade youth will meet as a group on Wednesday nights from 7:30-8:45 pm (but come when you are able) in the new Living Room space to share time with friends, have food, fellowship and fun! Bring a friend and enjoy some time in a safe space where all are welcome!

