



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](#)



The church office will be
closed today, January 17.

Join us on **Sunday, January 23** at 9 am worship to
celebrate the completion of our newly remodeled Youth
Room! This has been a labor of love by many and we
want to share the journey with you (via photo slide show)
as well as honor those who have given so much to make
it possible. We are calling this new space "**The Living Room**"...it's a place where all



are welcome, where we feel at home, where we are
alive and learn how to **LIVE** in Christ. In John 10:10,
Jesus says, "I have come that you may have life and
have it to the full!" This Bible verse will be the
inspiration of this space to gather and grow and then
go out to live full lives as beloved children of God.
On this day we will also lift up other Children, Youth
& Family ministries such as the 2021 HS Mission
Trip to Denver and the new ministry, Club 5/6. We
hope you can join us for a life-giving celebration and
then a reception in the Living Room following the
service.

Time to Celebrate!

SERVING IS CENTRAL

For Christians, serving is central to our lives. A few verses from Scripture:

"God will not forget your work and **the love you have shown him as you have helped his people** and continue to help them." Hebrews 6:10

"You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, **serve one another humbly in love.**" Galatians 5:13

Jesus said: "**Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be.** My Father will honor the one who serves me." John 12:26

Being God's beloved children means helping and serving within God's beloved community, the church, for the sake of this beloved world that God so loves.

While there are countless ways to live out your faith in service, one of them is to find your place of service within and for God's church. We all have gifts and talents to share. We all have some uniqueness to what our contributions might be. **You have a place where you fit.**

In this new year here at Light of Christ, we will be imagining and discussing how best to be a beloved place of blessing and service. We need to love and care for each other deeply. We need to extend the love and compassion of Christ to those who are hurting outside of our church. This mission invites that **each of us commit to plugging in and serving in some 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

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? 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 for **Monday, February 14:**



- 11:30 am at Our Father's for packing boxes
- 3:30 pm 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.



People Serving People

Fifth Sunday Offering for January – People Serving People in Minneapolis

Our 5th Sunday offering for January will go to support *People Serving People*, the largest and most comprehensive emergency shelter for families experiencing homelessness in Minnesota.

The 99 hotel-style emergency shelter housing units for children and families experiencing homelessness include a bathroom, beds, basic furniture, and a door families can lock behind them to feel safe. Three nutritious meals are served daily in the cafeteria (currently, due to covid-19, meals are delivered to each housing unit), and diapers and other basic necessities are provided free of charge. After immediate basic needs are met, families are provided access to the following comprehensive Engagement Services to move towards stability (among others):

- Early Childhood Development Program
- Family Activities such as movies, board games, bingo or other special events
- Financial Fitness Classes for adults to learn basic financial skills
- K-12 Programs including one-on-one tutoring, homework assistance, and enrichment activities.

For more information you can watch this 2 minute 26 second video: <https://vimeo.com/106210315> OR visit their website at <https://www.peopleservingpeople.org/>

Our Congregation can help in the following ways:

- Donate through Light of Christ [Here](#) to enter your designated Gift and mention *People Serving People Fifth Sunday*
- Donate to People Serving People directly at the following link: <https://www.peopleservingpeople.org/individual-donations/>

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 #3:

Because God invites us to ask, seek and knock (Matthew 7:7), I keep asking, seeking and knocking. I ask for direction on how to help our son. I seek after his healing and wholeness. I knock, expecting mercy to answer. As I pray I am mindful that I implore neither a stingy, grace-hoarding deity nor an impotent wannabe god. Instead I come as one welcomed into the throne room of the Most High God, at the invitation of his generous Spirit, through the door opened by his Son.

Prayer, I have experienced, is an invitation to worshipful confidence.

Also, because my own sins and limitations impede my life every bit as much as mental illness disrupts our son's, I pray for forgiveness and transformation. I see how our son is unaware of the ways mental illness clouds his judgment and blocks his opportunities, so I ask God to reveal my own blind spots.

Prayer, I have begun to understand, is a sacrifice of sincere humility.

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 by Friday, February 4th before noon.**

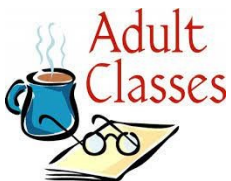
There are two totes available to leave your donations in: one in the narthex and one in the fellowship hall entrance area.



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



Wounded Healers

Thornton Wilder once wrote a play titled *The Angel That Troubled the Waters*. The play takes its inspiration from the story in John 5:1-10. In that story, an angel appears at the Pool of Siloam in the Temple complex in Jerusalem and stirs the waters. Surrounding the pool are people who are afflicted with all sorts of ailments because once the angel stirs the waters, whomever gets into the pool first is healed.

One of the people laying near the pool is a man who has been at the pool for thirty-eight years. He has never been first in the pool. In the biblical account, Jesus heals the man of his paralysis.

But in the play, the angel asks the man why he wants to be healed because it is his affliction that gives him his strength and allows him to help and heal others. Then the angel says: "In the service of love only wounded soldiers can serve."

In the service of God's love only wounded can serve. Because it is our wounds that heal the wounds of others. Wounds heal wounds. We see that in AA, in grief support groups, in wounded veterans' groups, in kids fighting cancer, and in many other situations.

Thus, we can all serve because we all are wounded in one way or another and we all carry scars. God did not cause the wounds. God doesn't afflict us with illnesses. But God does use our wounds to heal the wounds of others.

We are wounded healers. In this way, we are only following in the footsteps of our Lord. He is the Wounded Healer. The prophet Isaiah had this to say about the Messiah: "He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities. On him was the chastisement that made us whole. And by his wounds we are healed."

By his wounds we are healed—in body and mind and spirit. By his wounds we are healed—beginning here and now. By his wounds we are healed—finally and forever, in the life to come. So, turn to him. Give him your wounds and let him heal you, so that you, in turn, can be a wounded healer for others.

Watch for Tax Forms!

With our updated church management software, we have the capability to easily email out your contribution statements for 2021.



Watch for an email in the coming weeks with your giving statement attached. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Terri in the church office (terri.reuter@locdelano.com or 763-972-2400)

Thank You

Great job, everyone!

An overdue **thank you** to everyone who helped provide desserts, helped set up, helped serve or helped clean up for our two December funerals. **Thank you**, always, to our behind-the-scenes helper, custodian Paul Gabrelcik.

Sincerely,
Ginny Iverson
Maxine Johnson
Mary Ann McKay

Congregational Meeting



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

Update or initiate online giving for 2022!

<http://bit.ly/LOGiving>



Online Donation

Donations

If you've already created a profile, please "Log In" on the right, otherwise continue.

My Support to My Congregation

-GENERAL FUND:

-A NEW DAY CAPITAL APPEAL:

-BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND:

-ENDOWMENT FUND:

Log In

Email Address:

Password:

Log In

Forgot your Email Address or Password?

Summary Profile Log Off

Online Donation

Add Transaction Edit Account

My Scheduled Transactions

Date	Fund	Amount	Total	Account #	Frequency	Action
01/03/22	GENERAL FUND	(2021 amt)		(xxxx)	Monthly	Edit X

Summary Profile Log Off

Online Donation

Donations

My Support to My Congregation

-GENERAL FUND:

-A NEW DAY CAPITAL APPEAL:

-BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND:

-ENDOWMENT FUND:

Return to our Home Page

Donation Information

For credit or debit card transactions, please consider opting to offset the 2.75% merchant fee normally paid by the receiver by checking the box below your account information. Thank you.

I agree to share non-personal data with ELCA (About Sharing Data) (required)

Account:

I'm not a robot ☒

Save

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.

Light of Christ Church—

Thank you for your most generous donation to Delano Helping Hands Food Shelf. We appreciate your ongoing support of our neighbors who are in need. Your parishioners are an important part of the Delano Food Shelf.

God's Blessings in 2022,
Jeanie Pilarski, Board of DHH President

2022 Pledges & Online Giving

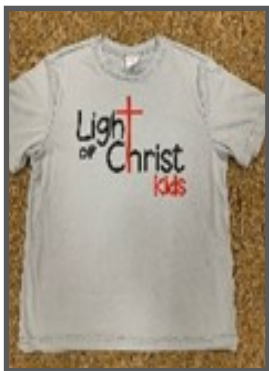
If you need to change your automatic contribution amount due to your 2022 pledge, please log in to your [MyVanco account](#)—instructions on doing so, or for initiating online giving, can be found in the image to the left. You can also contact Terri in the church office to make the change for you. Your 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!

