



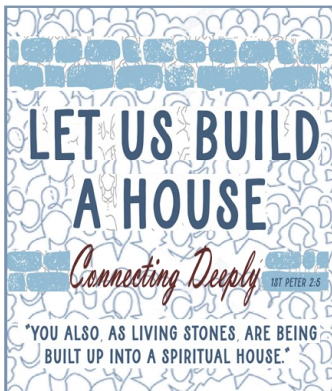
Worship

- In-person worship—**9:00 am Sundays**
- Lenten worship—**7:00 pm Wednesdays**
- 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!

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Light of Christ



Help us to say thanks!

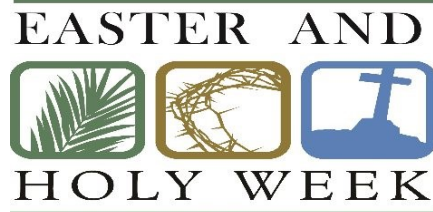
On **Friday, March 24th**, we're hosting a special "Thank You!" for the Delano Elementary School staff who are a part of our Kids Hope initiative.

Kids Hope connects Light of Christ mentors with young people from the primary school for help in their schoolwork while fostering an encouraging and supportive relationship. This is our chance to express our gratitude for the partnership and the important work that is done.

What can you do? Express your personal thanks by signing the big Generosity Project thank you card which will be in the narthex the two weeks previous to the 24th. We'll be purchasing and bringing refreshments that morning, so if you would like to donate toward that, please make a note on your check or envelope: **Generosity Project**.

Who else might we express our gratitude for? Area organizations who would benefit from a small group of Light of Christ folks showing up to say thanks, give them a huge thank you card, bring some treats/refreshments for their gathering or meeting, and otherwise let them know that we value the work they do.

Ideas? Reach out to Tim Johnson – Tim.Johnson@LOCDelano.com – or 952/472-1755



Join us for our Holy Week Services!

- * **Palm Sunday**, April 2nd at 9:00 am
- * **Maundy Thursday**, April 6th at 7:00 pm
Worship with Holy Communion
- * **Good Friday**, April 7th at 7:00 pm
"Service of the Nails," a Tenebrae service with scripture, prayer, meditation, and music
- * **Easter Sunday**, April 9th at 8:30 & 10:30 am
A blend of classic and contemporary worship featuring a variety of music and plenty of celebration!



March is Minnesota FoodShare Month and YOU can help!

The need continues to grow! The food insecurity chart shows that the pandemic, inflation and other factors have increased the difficulty for many families to provide sufficient and good food for themselves. Light of Christ participates every March by “Packing the Pews” with donations for the Delano Helping Hands Food Shelf. As you enter the sanctuary, please look for a sign indicating the pew we hope to pack with donations during the month. Although all donations are welcome, the greatest food shelf needs are the following:

- Coffee & tea
- Healthy oils (olive, canola, coconut)
- Soup that can be a full meal (except chicken noodle & tomato soup, of which we have lots)
- Canned meat (tuna, chicken)
- Gluten-free & low-sodium items
- Canned fruit & applesauce (no sugar or heavy/lite syrups added)
- Barbecue sauce
- Mayonnaise
- Tomato sauce & tomato paste
- Canned pasta sauce
- Pasta (other than elbow & spaghetti)
- Wild rice
- Shampoo/conditioner
- Body soap (liquid or bar)
- Dish soap
- Deodorant
- Laundry detergent
- Paper products (toilet paper, paper towels, tissue & napkins)
- Dog & cat food

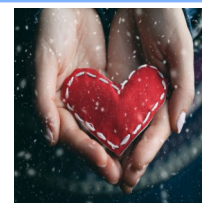
No expired food please.

Checks can be made payable to **Delano Helping Hands** and put in the offering plate. You can also give via our online giving page: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z624/home>. Choose the *March Pack-the-Pews* tile. Financial donations are needed and actually help to purchase more food than you might imagine. Thank you for your generosity and for helping to feed those in need!



Caring Corner

(from Lisa Hemmer of the Healing & Wholeness Committee)



NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) California has an article “Mental Health Benefits of Nature” on its website. The article includes links to numerous studies and key findings. There is a growing body of research showing that time in nature, or enjoying pockets of green in urban settings, is good for our mental health. This is true for both adults and children. Get the story, then get outside for some ‘green’ (or white!) time!

One study, “Green Spaces Aren’t Just for Nature – They Boost Our Mental Health Too” states the evidence of positive effects from nature includes studies on specific psychological conditions such as depression, anxiety and mood disorder. Access to nature has also been found to improve sleep and reduce stress, increase happiness and reduce negative emotions, promote positive social interactions and even help generate a sense of meaning to life. Being in green environments boosts various aspects of thinking, including attention, memory and creativity, in people both with and without depression. “The evidence is very solid,” says psychologist Marc Berman at the University of Chicago.

Other studies linked in the article include “Stanford Researchers Find Mental Health Prescription: Nature,” “Science Confirms You Should Stop and Smell the Roses,” “Research Suggests that Mood Disorders Can be Lifted by Spending More Time Outdoors,” and “Finding Beauty in the Everyday,” among others.

You can start small. Gretchen Rubin, author of *The Happiness Project*, has a challenge for 2023 for her podcast listeners: “Go Outside 23 in 23” which challenges participants to go outside for 23 minutes every day in 2023. It can include anything from walking to bird watching; from yardwork to enjoying your morning coffee on your porch – as long as the door closes behind you, it counts! Check out her website or *Happier* app if you are interested.

Some of us also feel close to God in nature and feel blessed and in awe of His wonderful creation. I encourage you to try to make some time to be outdoors and in touch with nature, even when it requires some bundling up!

Luke 12:27: *Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; but I tell you, not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these.*



Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser, April 23!

Join us at Lupine for a fun afternoon supporting some of our youth going to Belize! Hope to see you there!



Wednesday evenings during Lent

7:00 pm in-person worship in the sanctuary or via livestream. Worship incorporates the Holden Evening Prayer service and feature the 10th graders' faith statements. A Lenten supper will be served by the youth at 6:00 pm, preceding each Lenten service. See menu schedule below.

Supper Schedule

- 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!

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS



On Sunday March 26th at our 9 am worship, seven young people will be receiving their first communion. Please keep Ethan Clark, Elena Clark, Ben DeMars, Miles Eichten, Penelope Jaunich, Madison Motzko, and Charlotte Olson in prayer as they prepare for this special event.

High School Fellowship

Join us for nights of fellowship, friends, faith, food and FUN!

On the Wednesdays during Lent (through 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.



Bagging for Tips at Cub in Buffalo!

Grab some groceries at Cub Foods in Buffalo and support our youth going to Belize at the same time! Youth did bagging on 3/12 and will be there again on **Sunday, March 26th from 10 am - 3 pm**. We love seeing friendly faces! Thanks for your support!!



Connecting Deeply with God Through Music

YouTube recordings of the songs are posted every Tuesday



I Love to Tell the Story

Text: Arabella Katherine Hankey (1834-1911)

Tune: William G. Fischer (1835-1912)

What I like to call a “fan favorite,” *I Love to Tell the Story* is a hymn loved by many. Written by Arabella Katherine Hankey in 1866, the lyrics are in first-person language, something that is not always seen in hymns. But when we do see it, this type of language shows a level of intimacy between the writer and their experience with God. Singing lyrics like this also furthers our own connection with the song and with God. One can easily feel as if we are personally telling “the story.” This is one reason why I love this song and might be one of many reasons why it has become such a favorite over the years! The lyrics are as follows:

<p>Verse 1 <i>I love to tell the story of unseen things above, of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love. I love to tell the story, because I know it's true; it satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.</i></p>	<p>Refrain <i>I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.</i></p>	<p>Verse 2 <i>I love to tell the story: how pleasant to repeat what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet! I love to tell the story, for some have never heard the message of salvation from God's own holy word.</i></p>	<p>Verse 3 <i>I love to tell the story, for those who know it best seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest. And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song, I'll sing the old, old story that I have loved so long</i></p>
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Arabella Katherine Hankey was born in Clapham, England in 1834. The daughter of a banker, Hankey began teaching Sunday School at eighteen and started a bible class for girls in London’s West End (Stulken, 1981). She was a member of the Clapham sect of evangelical Anglicans. This group of Christians advocated for the working class, social reform, and worked toward the abolition of slavery and the slave trade (Schroeder, 2022). Hankey’s interest in mission work led her to South Africa where she cared for and brought home her ailing brother. She devoted all her proceeds from writing to mission work (Stulken, 1981).

Hankey became seriously ill when she was thirty. At this time, she wrote a long poem on the life of Christ. This poem was broken up into two sections. The first section was published in January 1866 under the title, “The Story Wanted.” The second section was published in November 1866 under the title, “The Story Told.” The hymn we know and love today, *I Love to Tell the Story*, comes from the second section of the poem. However, the refrain, “I love to tell the story ‘twill be my theme in glory...etc.” was not written by Hankey, but by William G. Fischer in 1869. In fact, Hankey was opposed to adding a refrain (Hawn, 2013).

In 1867, Major General Russell referenced Hankey’s text at a YMCA gathering in Montreal. William Doane, a famous hymn composer who wrote for many of Fanny Crosby’s hymns like, *Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross*, was in the audience. He loved the text and wrote music to go with it. However, Doane’s tune did not stick (Hawn, 2013).

William Gustavus Fischer, born in Baltimore, Maryland in 1835, wrote the musical setting we know today. He taught music at Girard College in Philadelphia for ten years. After that, Fischer established a retail piano business and music house with John E. Gould, another hymn writer. Fischer wrote many gospel tunes throughout his life. He died August 12, 1912, in Philadelphia (Stulken, 1981).

*Sources

Stulken, Marilyn Kay (1981). *Hymnal Companion to Lutheran Book of Worship*. Fortress Press.

Hawn, Michael (2013, June). *History of Hymns: ‘I Love to Tell the Story.’* Discipleship Ministries. <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/history-of-hymns-i-love-to-tell-the-story>

Schroeder, Sylvia (2022, June). *The Powerful Story Behind the Hymn ‘I Love to Tell the Story.’* Christianity.com. <https://www.christianity.com/wiki/christian-life/who-wrote-the-hymn-i-love-to-tell-the-story.html>