



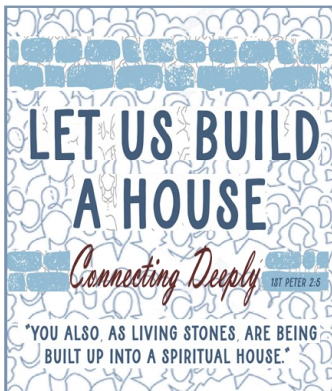
Worship

- 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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Terri.Reuter@locdelano.com

EASTER AND HOLY WEEK



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!

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!

ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF
FUNDRAISER BENEFITING
LOC HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MISSION TRIP

SUNDAY, APRIL 23
1-4PM
**LIVE MUSIC BY
THE ABIDERS**
**PRIZES FOR
THE TOP 3**

FREE TO COMPETE
**\$5 DONATION GETS
YOU UNLIMITED
SAMPLES AND A
VOTE FOR YOUR
FAVORITE**
**248 RIVER ST,
DELANO**



Thank You from the Delano Food Shelf

Thank you to all our Light of Christ members who are donating food items and money during our *Pack the Pews* March food shelf month. Thank you also for those who volunteered at the food shelf this month including Oda and Roland Carlson, Cheri Ashfeld, Ann Bassett, Dave Anderson, Bill Weis, Beata Zerull, Maxine and Lowell Johnson, Dee and Len Beilke, Mary Ann McKay, Paulette Podratz, Randy Hildebrandt, and Charlie and Lona Jose. **June** will be the next LOC month for volunteering at the food shelf, although there are Light of Christ members who assist the managers with tasks throughout the week. Thank you also to our LOC member, JoMarie Williamson, who works with two others to manage the food shelf.

Love INC Heartland - Fresh Start Program Is Growing



The number of participants is growing and growing! Can you help? We need hosts for community dinners, class facilitators, and more. Spring session begins May 1. Contact Lisa Green at 763-999-7085 or lisa@loveinheartland.org

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](mailto:office@locprayerchain.org), 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

(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.*



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

New Members will be received on **Sunday, May 7th**. If you are interested in joining Light of Christ or would like more information, please contact [Pastor Bruce](#) or [Terri](#) in the church office.



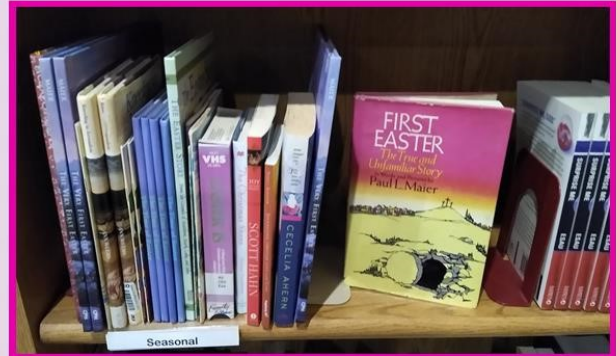
**Wednesday evenings
during Lent**

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

On **March 29th**, the menu includes soup, salad, & breadsticks. There will be gluten free options also available. All proceeds benefit youth going on the summer service trip to Belize. Thanks for your support!



Easter stories available in the library



Parents and Grandparents,

Bring the Easter story home to your little ones.

Check out the shelves marked **SEASONAL** and **CHILDREN'S** (*located in corner by window*).



Connecting Deeply with God Through Music

YouTube recordings of the songs are posted every Tuesday



In the Garden or I Come to the Garden Alone

Text/Tune: C. Austin Miles (1868-1946)

“In the Garden” was written by C. Austin Miles, a former Pharmacist turned Gospel writer. He attended the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and the University of Philadelphia. Miles wrote his first Gospel song in 1892. He became editor and manager of the Hall-Mack publishing company and served them for 37 years (Terry, 2015).

“In the Garden” is a surprisingly polarizing song. While one of my favorite hymns, “In the Garden” is not recognized as a religious song by many. In fact, I noticed that our current *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal does not include “In the Garden,” nor does the previous Lutheran hymnal, the *Lutheran Book of Worship*. Why the controversy? The answer may lie within the text. The lyrics are as follows:

<p>Verse 1 <i>I come to the garden alone, While the dew is still on the roses; And the voice I hear, falling on my ear, The Son of God discloses.</i></p>	<p>Refrain: <i>And He walks with me, and He talks with me, And He tells me I am His own, And the joy we share as we tarry there, None other has ever known.</i></p>	<p>Verse 2 <i>He speaks, and the sound of His voice Is so sweet the birds hush their singing; And the melody that He gave to me Within my heart is ringing. [Refrain]</i></p>	<p>Verse 3 <i>I'd stay in the garden with Him Tho' the night around me be falling; But He bids me go; thro' the voice of woe, His voice to me is calling. [Refrain]</i></p>
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According to Miles, the text to “In the Garden” was inspired by his favorite bible chapter, John 20:1-18, as well as a vision he experienced while working in his dark room. In Miles’ own words:

“One day in March, 1912, . . . I drew my Bible toward me; it opened at my favorite chapter, John 20 [1-18] . . . That meeting of Jesus and Mary Magdalene had lost none of its power to charm.

As I read it that day, I seemed to be part of the scene. I became a silent witness to that dramatic moment in Mary’s life, when she knelt before her Lord, and cried, “Rabboni!”

My hands were resting in the Bible while I stared at the light blue wall. As the light faded I seemed to be standing at the entrance of a garden, looking down a gently winding path, shaded by olive branches. [The author then describes the arrival of Mary, Peter, and John as they gathered at the tomb, followed by the appearance of Jesus.]

I awakened in full light, gripping the Bible, with muscles tense and nerves vibrating. Under the inspiration of this vision I wrote as quickly as the words could be formed the poem exactly as it has appeared (Hawn, 2019).”

The first aspect of the song people find issue with is the first-person language. Some believe that such a one-sided perspective is not appropriate for a communal song. However, isn’t worship a personal experience as well? Yes, we come together as a community, but we all take away something as individuals from our worship experience. And if we only successfully worship together with more communal songs, then hymn classics like, “Blessed Assurance,” “I Love to Tell the Story,” “Were You There,” “Abide with Me,” and many others told in a first-person narrative would not be appropriate either.

Some people also find issue with the overly embellished descriptions of the atmosphere as well. The lyrics have even been called “erotic;” almost like a love song. But are we not supposed to feel beauty when experiencing an intense moment with God? This is also not the first time such “flowery” speech has occurred in a hymn. Take “Morning Has Broken” for example: “*Morning has broken like the first morning. Blackbird has spoken like the first bird. Praise for the singing, praise for the morning. Praise for them springing fresh from the world...etc.*” While written in 1931, later than “In the Garden,” “Morning Has Broken” has similarly poetic lyrics but is still considered a “credible” hymn/religious song.

The last issue some people have with “In the Garden” lies within the lyric, “*And the joy we share as we tarry there, None other has ever known.*” Some criticize this as a selfish expression. How can we sing about a relationship with the Lord that no one else has experienced? What makes our experience so special? However, according to the author himself, “In the Garden” is a song about Mary Magdalene, encountering the Risen Christ near the empty tomb. So, “None other” in this case would be about the joy of being the first witness to the Resurrection of Jesus. Even without the author’s context, though, this lyric can still be appropriate. Each person’s experience with God is different from another person. So, I do not fully know your personal experience with God, and you do not fully know mine.

With all this being said, a song’s interpretation is personal. “In the Garden” feels appropriately religious to me but may not to you. And that is fine! That is why the subjectiveness of music is so fun. I encourage everyone to discuss this song and any other songs that speak to you!

Sources: Hawn, C. Michael (2019, April). *History of Hymns: I Come to the Garden Alone*. Discipleship Ministries. <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/history-of-hymns-i-come-to-the-garden-alone>

Terry, Lindsay (2015, March). *Story behind the song: 'In the Garden.'* The St. Augustine Record. <https://www.staugustine.com/story/lifestyle/faith/2015/03/05/story-behind-song-garden/16247416007/>

Rachel Kurtz Coming to Light of Christ!

Join us on **Wednesday, May 17th from 6:30-8:00 pm** in the Sanctuary for an awesome night of music, Biblical storytelling and encouragement about how “you are enough”!

Rachel is a national singer/songwriter based out of Minneapolis and she'll be coming for our Family Matters Night (required for all Confirmation youth but OPEN TO ALL!). The Light of Christ sophomores heard and got to know Rachel at the 10th grade Confirmation retreat last fall (at Wapo in Amery, WI). We fell in love with her there and are SO excited to have her at Light of Christ for a night! A remarkable vocalist and magnetic stage presence, Kurtz has released a new 13-song collection of original soul, Americana, and blues tracks backed by some of Minneapolis' finest session musicians. This event is sponsored by the LOC Healing & Wholeness Committee, but free will offering will be accepted to help cover the costs. We hope you'll tell your friends and join us – you don't want to miss it!

Check out more about Rachel here: <https://www.rachelkurtz.com/about>



High School Fellowship

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

HS Fellowship Schedule

- ⇒ **March 29** = Living Room open after Lent Worship
- ⇒ **April 5** = No HS Fellowship (Holy Week/ Spring Break)
- ⇒ **April 12** = Trivia Night
- ⇒ **April 19** = Just Dance & Other Games
- ⇒ **April 26** = Belize Update Meeting
- ⇒ **May 3** = Fleece Tie Blankets for Grads
- ⇒ **May 10** = Confirmation Retreat Prep
- ⇒ **May 17** = Rachel Kurtz, Family Matters (6:30-8 pm)



Spring Confirmation Retreat!

We're excited to be going on our Spring Confirmation Retreat to Wapo this May! This overnight retreat will largely be fellowship time but we'll also have campfire worship and great discussions. There will be awesome time with friends, great food and hopefully lots of time outdoors (where we can see the incredible stars at night)! This retreat is *expected* for all Confirmation youth and we also encourage Jr. Guides (or other HS youth that want to help lead games) to attend! We will also need several adult leaders, so please talk to Kirsten if you're interested in attending this awesome weekend! Here is more info:

Who: Confirmation youth, grades 7-9 (Jr. Guides and adult leaders too!)

What: Overnight Retreat – Faith, Fellowship, Food and FUN!

Where: Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp in Amery, WI (about 2 hours east of Delano)

When: Friday, May 12 (5:30 pm) – Saturday, May 13 (5:30 pm)

Lodging: In the Cross Fire building at Wapo (rooms with 4-5 bunkbeds, each with their own bathroom & showers)

Cost/Person: \$100 – covers transportation, food, lodging and a bit to help cover the cost of adults/Jr. Guides

Registration: Emailed out to all Confirmation families



Jesus said, "I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also." JOHN 14:3

Funeral Ministry Serving the Bereaved



Helping people in their time of need is central to what we do as a church. And, most certainly, when there is a death, this is one of those important times. There is pastoral care extended, members reach out to offer condolences and love, a celebration of life service is planned, and often there is a reception that follows so that the family can spend some extra time with their guests.

All of this takes a group of dedicated members to help each time there is a funeral/reception. Generally, specific arrangements have been previously made, and most food items (if there is a lunch) are delivered to the church beforehand. So, Funeral Ministry Team Members show up early, help to set the tables, get food and beverages arranged, provide hospitality (even some direction-giving if needed), and then serve the

food, desserts, or beverages when guests arrive.

Generally, family will have decided upon either a light meal (most of that food delivered by Coborn's) or desserts and beverage. In both of those cases we invite Light of Christ members to make and deliver to the church a variety of desserts.

Dishes are cleared and run through the dishwasher, dried and put away. Tables are wiped clean. Other items put back in place.

The number of Funeral Ministry Team members varies depending upon the size of the funeral, but generally between 6 and 10 people are needed.

Our hope is to include new folks in this ministry and these tasks. So, please pray about serving at some point. Ginny Iverson has been the long-time coordinator of this ministry. And she would like to train in someone new to take the reins.

Please reach out to Ginny (763-972-3591 or dennygin@charter.net) or Tim Johnson (952-472-1755 or Tim.Johnson@locdelano.com) at any time for more information. And watch for opportunities to serve people in their time of need. This is a wonderful expression of your faith active in love!