



Worship

- In-person worship—
9:00 am Sundays
- 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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EASTER AND HOLY WEEK

Join us for our Holy Week Services!

- * **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!

Our Fifth Sunday in April will go to the Delano Senior Center

The Friends of the Delano Senior Center is seeking donations to go directly towards the purchase of a 14-passenger lift-equipped van. The current van is a 2009 model and is showing its age.

The Senior Center offers a variety of shopping and day trips for area seniors. In 2022, the center provided van service on **more than 100 occasions**, serving **more than 200 individuals** with a total of **more than 700 rides**. They provide a mix of basic, essential services and education/recreation trips:

For example....

- Shopping in Monticello, Ridgedale, Eden Prairie, Hutchinson, Maple Grove, and more!
- Transportation to and from our daily lunch program
- Educational trips to museums, cultural centers, etc.
- Fun and recreation – restaurants, performances, sports games, and more!

- ⇒ Total cost of new vehicle and lettering: **\$119,367.00**
- ⇒ City of Delano Senior Center Capital Fund Budget - **\$18,600.00**
- ⇒ Contribution from Gwen Kittock Memorial Fund (gift from a Delano resident who died in 2013) - **\$35,000.00**.
- ⇒ Estimated trade-in value of existing van - **\$12,500.00**.
- ⇒ Donations they need to solicit from senior center users and charitable organizations: **\$53,267.00** *They have raised \$22,000+ of the \$53,267 thus far!*

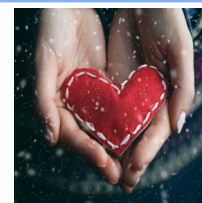
2022 Statistics:

2022 Trips Provided: 107
2022 Riders (total, including duplicates): 721
2022 Riders (individuals): 203
2022 Total Registered Senior Center Participants: 1,142
They serve many more people above and beyond this number at public events and via phone and email referrals.

Our monetary gifts from Light of Christ will go directly towards the purchase of this new vehicle. You can donate at church (please designate on your check or envelope "**April Fifth Sunday**") or on the [LOC website](#) by clicking on the **Give** tab and then "**Click here to Give.**" Thank you for helping the Delano Senior Center!!

Caring Corner

(from Lona Jose of the Healing & Wholeness Committee)



April Is Alcohol Awareness Month

April is Alcohol Awareness Month. It is a public health program that started in 1987 organized by the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence as a way of increasing outreach and education regarding the dangers of alcoholism and issues related to alcohol. It has since become a national movement to draw more attention to the causes and effects of alcoholism as well as how to help families and communities deal with drinking problems.

An estimated 14.4 million Americans ages 18 and older had an alcohol use disorder (AUD) in 2020 according to NSDUH. Across the nation, 24% of individuals 18 and older reported that they engaged in binge drinking in the past month while 9.6% engaged in heavy alcohol use. A small percentage of these seek out treatment. Each year in America, an estimated 385 people die every day from alcohol with 141,000 people dying from excessive use of alcohol every year. Over 10,000 people die every year from alcohol-related road accidents. There is also concern that alcohol consumption increased during COVID lock downs.

The Importance of Alcohol Awareness Month

A big part of the work of Alcohol Awareness Month is to point out the stigma that still surrounds alcoholism and substance abuse in general. For many, denial is a common trait among those struggling with alcohol abuse. They often underestimate the amount they drink, the duration of their drinking problem, the impact it has had on their life, or overestimate their ability to control their drinking or to quit. Denial is also common among friends and family members who are uncomfortable acknowledging the gravity and reality of the situation.

With this in mind, Alcohol Awareness Month gives public health bodies, community centers, and treatment facilities the chance to increase their efforts to reach people who may not fully appreciate the dangers of unhealthy alcohol consumption.

These organizations—many of which are part of National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence's (NCADD) National Network of Affiliates—launch campaigns on social and traditional media during the month of April to draw attention to the causes of alcoholism, the signs and effects of the condition, how to speak to a loved one about their drinking problem and how to find treatment options.

The Effects of Alcohol on Mental and Physical Health

Those who experience depression or anxiety may use alcohol to calm their emotions. Unfortunately, overuse of alcohol can make these conditions worse. Overuse can also cause other long-term physical health risks such as a stroke, liver and/or heart disease, bowel, breast or mouth cancer, pancreatitis or permanent brain changes.

What Can We Do as a Church or a Family to Support Those Who Are Struggling with Alcohol Addiction?

We must focus on solutions, not shame. Addiction is not a moral failing. **We need to make the church and your home a place for those affected by addiction to come to others for help.** We all need to do what we can to help care for and support the families and children whose lives are affected by addiction of a family member.

Getting Help for Alcohol Addiction

If you feel you or a loved one may be struggling with alcoholism, don't worry, you are not alone. Reach out to our/your church, a counselor/therapist or the web to find resources. The [Light of Christ website](#) is a good resource. By clicking on *Support/Mental Health/Resources/Substance Use Disorder* you will find **Start Your Recovery**. Another resource is on the [Minnesota Dept. of Human Resources website](#). The National Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependence is <http://ncadd.us>. Continue searching until you find those who can help you or a loved one and pray to God to give you hope that will bloom. Recovery can change your life and those you love!

Matthew 11:28: Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

Jeremiah 17:14: Heal me Lord and I will be healed; save me and I will be saved for you are the one I praise.



April Food Distribution

Our food distribution ministry, Nourishing Hope, needs volunteers for **Monday, April 10**. We have two time slots:

- **11:00 am** when we pack hundreds of boxes of food over at Our Father's Lutheran in Rockford. (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0848A9A72AAAF85-food>)

- **3:30 pm** when we distribute about 75 boxes of food right here in our church parking lot. (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0848A9A72AAAF85-food1>)



Or speak with Tim Johnson (952-472-1755). Thank you!



**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.

FYI

The church office will be closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday.

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

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).



STAFF NEWS

Shared Ministry Transition

Dear Friends,

It was two years ago this coming summer that Pastor Bruce and I sat over lunch to discuss the Shared Ministry Coordinator job opening here at Light of Christ. And through conversation and prayer, it looked like there could be a good match between ministry needs and some gifts I could share, I came on board to begin what has been a wonderful journey and partnership. That same summer, a few other things came together that had my work pendulum swing from an extended "lull" to a very full pace of varied obligations which have filled and blessed my life.

Life seems to have chapters, if you will. And, as most are aware, there is the need to pay attention to life/work balance and the like. And so, I find myself at a crossroads of adjusting my days and hours and obligations, and consequently I am stepping away from my position here. Yes, I am resigning. I simply need a bit more time/days to cover other bases in my life. My time, this church, our amazing staff, you as a church family, have been and are all such a blessing! And I look forward to continuing on as a partner in ministry with you, though in a non-staff capacity. But not quite yet....

While I will be immediately reducing my days/hours, there are a few bases I will continue to cover through the end of May. Our Nourishing Hope food distribution program; coordinating our Sunday morning hospitality; and help in our New Member Orientation and welcoming process in the next couple of months. Of course, I will continue wearing my Kairos hat with some of our strategic planning as well as work toward our anticipated early 2024 capital appeal.

Light of Christ has a rich and important ministry we all share. Thank you for such a valued partnership!

Gratefully,

Tim Johnson
952/472-1755
tim.johnson@locdelano.com

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS

Our after school groups decided to have a friendly competition as well as help out the Light of Christ "Pack-the-Pews" MN Food Share drive.

Our Voyager group brought in 47 items and Club 5/6 had 109 for a total of 156 items. Well done!





Our VBS this year is going to be STELLAR! We are partnering with Trinity Lutheran in Long Lake and Cross View Lutheran in Edina in order to make this an absolutely STELLAR experience for our young people. We can use your help. There is a gift registry of items we need to provide for VBS. Your willingness to purchase some of these items will help keep our cost down. Thank you! The link below connects you to our Vacation Bible School Amazon gift list :

<https://www.amazon.com/registries/gf/guest-view/3URJYNF9RYYGK>

THANKS MUCH – YOU ARE STELLAR BUNCH!

First Communion

We rejoice with Elena Clark, Ethan Clark, Miles Eichten, Penelope Jaunich and Charlotte Olson as they celebrated their First Communion. We pray they will always know God's love and forgiveness.





Our **Bible Story Crew** has accepted the challenge to raise \$2000 for God's Global Barnyard. Today they donned barnyard animal hats (cow, goat, sheep, chicks, rooster, bees) to start this challenge, and they invite you to help them meet their goal!

Raising funds so all
God's children can eat!

The Challenge this year
is to raise \$2000!



COLORING CONTEST

The Bible Story Crew (ages 3-2nd grade) will have the opportunity to compete in a coloring contest. Entries are to be on display beginning Sunday, April 16. All participants will receive a prize at the end of year celebration. Light of Christ friends and family will be able to vote for their favorite picture for \$1 per vote.

Piggy Banks are a great way for all of us to raise funds. We have banks for everyone! Take one home or put one at your workplace. Great for any and all spare change! Thanks for your help!



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

- ⇒ **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!