

The Beacon

Pastor Bruce Kuenzel

February 5, 2024

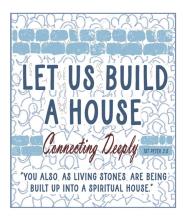
### Worship

- In-person worship— 9:30 AM (new time) Sundays
- Online worship continues, and is livestreamed to our <u>YouTube</u> and Facebook pages



### **Church Council 2024**

Mike Boyack (vice pres.) Laurie Brown (sec'y.) Billie Chock Tim Current (treas.) Heidi Goldbeck Luke Jeseritz Lisa Krause Natasha Werner (pres.) Jon Wissink Pastor Bruce Kuenzel



#### **Contact us!**

Light of Christ Lutheran 3976 County Line Road SE Delano, MN 55328 (763) 972-2400

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LightOfChristLutheran.com Terri.Reuter@locdelano.com

## Scenes from Bible Camp 2023:

Registration for church reserved spots is open through Feb. 15 at this link: <u>http://lwlbci.com/loc-delano</u>

If you are planning to have your child participate it is good to register now. If reserved spots are already filled, your child will be put on waiting list on a first come, first served basis. Registration opens to the pubic for all camps on Feb. 16.

The dates we have reserved are:

- WAPO Seeds (Grades 1-3): June 21-23
- Youth (Grades 4-6): June 23-28
- WAPO Youth: July 28-Aug 2, Aug 11-16





## THANK YOU!

Thank you. Two words do not seem to be adequate to express how grateful I am for all the prayers, love and



support I have received. I am so overwhelmed and humbled with your confidence in me as your Children's Ministry Director. The children at Light of Christ are absolutely fantastic. I love their energy, their enthusiasm, their questions, and the love of God that dwells within them. I love being a member at a church that blesses, supports and loves children. Thank you and thanking God for you!

LaDonna, Director of Children and Family Ministry

### Free Fresh Produce and Dairy Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup> 4:00 pm—until gone

NourishingHOPE Boxes of fresh produce and dairy products will be available for drive through pickup on a first come, first serve basis at the following locations:

**Corcoran** St. Thomas Catholic Church 20000 County Road 10

Corcoran, MN 55340 Rockford

Our Father's Lutheran 3903 Gilbert Ave SE Rockford, MN 55373 Delano

Light of Christ Lutheran Church 3976 County Line Road SE Delano, MN 55328

Buffalo

Buffalo Covenant Church 1601 Highway 25 North Buffalo, MN 55313

Hanover

Influence Church @ City Hall 11250 5th Street NE Hanover, MN 55341

For assistance locating a specific site or for questions, please contact us at nourishinghope.oflc@gmail.com or Facebook Messenger.

NourishingHOPE is a ministry of Our Father's Lutheran Church, in cooperation with four area churches. Our vision is to relieve area food insecurity and promote wellness in mind, body, and spirit for people East-Central Wright County, For information on you or your organization partnering with NourishingHOPE, please visit our website at www.ourfatherschurch.org/nourishing-hope.html

# OUTREACH

# Caring Corner

(from Elizabeth Kohlhof of the Healing & Wholeness Committee)

Valentine's Day is a day to celebrate love. But for many, the holiday can be stressful, especially for singles, those mourning lost love, or anyone who may be unhappy with the status of their relationship.

Here are five ways you can focus on your mental health and make this Valentine's Day the best one yet:

#### 1. Celebrate your most important relationship - the one you have with yourself!

The relationship you have with yourself will be your longest relationship in life, so it's important to treat yourself well. If you are not spending Valentine's Day with a significant other, plan your own night. Think about what reenergizes you. Valentine's Day is a time to feel loved, so show yourself how much you love you.

#### 2. Invest in all your relationships.

Valentine's Day is a day for love, but not just romantic love. Send Valentine's Day cards to your family and friends. Make the day a day of gratitude where the people in your life feel your appreciation.

#### 3. Practice mindfulness.

Meditation and mindfulness can be found in a variety of forms. Find a mindfulness app or podcast and focus your attention on your breath and your emotions. If sitting quietly and journeying through meditation does not sound helpful, consider coloring in a calming book or writing a journal entry.

Doing this regularly has been shown to reduce feelings of anxiety and stress and can help you cope if emotions become too strong.

#### 4. Seek support if necessary.

If you are really struggling this Valentine's Day, speak to a trusted family member, friend or therapist, and get the help you need.

If you consider harming yourself or others, contact the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline for immediate support by calling, texting, or chatting 988.

### 5. Turn off social media.

You love to see your family and friends happy, but consider avoiding social media for the days leading up to Valentine's Day. It can be difficult to see others having something you want and turning off social media will give you time to focus on what's really important this holiday.

Always remember that a person's social media page is often their "highlight reel," never showing the full story, and usually finding the best parts of their life to show the world.

Content sourced and adapted from Embark Behavioral Health

## **Monthly Food Distribution**

The next food distribution is on **Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup>.** Shifts are available at 10:00 AM to about noon at Our Father's Lutheran Church in Rockford, and 3:30 - 4:30PM here at Light of Christ. Sign-ups are at the links below or QR codes shown:

- 10:00 AM packing food boxes (<u>https://www.signupgenius.com/</u> go/30E0848A9A72AAAF85-food)
- 3:30 PM distributing boxes of food right here in our church parking lot (<u>https://</u><u>www.signupgenius.com/</u><u>go/30E0848A9A72AAAF85-food1</u>)





**Volunteer at Love INC Heartland** Our ministry would not be possible without the generous hearts and hands of volunteers. There a many



ways to become involved and we would love to hear from you. Call our main office at 763-972-6547 or visit bit.ly/loveincvolunteer today!

**Family Meals At Love INC Fresh Start Program** Serving a family meal at Love INC Heartland's Fresh Start Program is a simple, impactful way to show the love of Christ. We have multiple openings to fill from February to April. Sign Up On Meal Train: <u>bit.ly/fsmeals23</u>



## **STAYING CONNECTED**



## Lenten Worship

Join us for Ash Wednesday worship on February 14<sup>th</sup>. The service begins at 7:00 PM and

will be held in-person and live-streamed. We will also hold weekly Wednesday Lenten worship beginning February 21<sup>st</sup>. Worship begins at 7:00 PM and will incorporate the Holden Evening Prayer service and will also feature the 10<sup>th</sup> graders' faith statements. A meal will be held at 6:00 PM before each service. (*no meal on Ash Wednesday*)

## Lent Service Musicians

Lent is almost upon us! This year we are once again having Wednesday Lent services at 7 PM and singing the Holden Evening Prayer. If you would like to help song-lead or play



an instrumental part for a Wednesday service, please contact Katie at <u>katie.kohler@locdelano.com</u>. Thank you!

## Serve a Lenten Supper!

There is one Lenten supper still available to be signed up to serve—**February 21**. Please contact Terri in the



church office if you or your group would like to sign up. A free-will offering taken at the meal may be used for a cause designated by the meal's hosts.

## O.W.L.S (Older Wiser Lutherans)

Our group will gather again on **Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 - 3:00 PM**, so get ready to connect and have some fun together! Please contact Sue Fink if you can help plan our activities or have questions/ideas.





### 2023 Tax Forms

You should have received your 2023 contribution statement, either by email or mail, recently. Please contact the church office if you have any questions.

## Tough Questions for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Christians

Pastor Bruce leads a Bible study on the tough questions that we face as 21<sup>st</sup> century Christians today, which meets on the **first and third Tuesdays of the month** in the Living Room from 7:45 - 8:45 PM. The next study is on **February 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:45 PM.** There is no need to register ahead of time. The question this week is, *"Why do we bless LGBTQ+ marriages and ordain pastoral candidates who are in them?"* The presentation will be recorded and posted on the Light of Christ website for those who can't participate in person. Please don't hesitate to reach

out to Pastor Bruce with any questions you may have.

Did you know that you can find past sessions of Tough Questions on our <u>YouTube</u> page? Below are the links to past questions discussed:



- Introduction Video <a href="https://youtu.be/SUP5E82IBSg">https://youtu.be/SUP5E82IBSg</a>
- Where is God When the Innocent Suffer? <u>https://</u> youtu.be/zNffKR1HfZU
- Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People? <u>https://youtu.be/juvWr\_G-K-I</u>
- What is the Meaning of Innocent Suffering? <u>https://youtu.be/VS5GmtleiFs</u>



### **Dad's Night Out**

Calling all dads -- young dads, old dads, in-between dads, granddads, gonna-be dads, and any other dads. Pastor Bruce is leading a small group for dads of every kind. The goal of the group is to connect more deeply with

Christ and with one another. Our next gathering is **Tuesday, February 13**<sup>th</sup> from 7:45 - 8:45 PM at the Brickside Grill. No need to register. Simply come as you are. If you have any questions don't hesitate to contact Pastor Bruce.

## **Donate from Your Smart Phone**

Light of Christ offers a mobile version of our online giving page to make it easy for you to give anytime from your smart phone. Simply scan the image you see



here using your phone's QR code reader or go to the <u>church website</u> and locate the online giving page.

## **CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS**

## **First Communion**

On Sunday, March 17 we will be offering First Communion. The communion table is open to all children. We do ask that children wishing to receive First Communion (and at least one parent) participate in both of the preparing for First Communion sessions. The first session will be on Sunday, March 3 from 6-7 pm. The second preparing for First Communion session will be on Sunday, March 10 from 6-7 pm. Please register at the link below **by February 18** if your child plans to participate.

https://lightofchristdelano.breezechms.com/ form/207f7d



# Confirmation Corner

(all nights are 6:30-8:00 PM unless noted otherwise):

- ◊ February 7 = Content Night
- February 9 = Friday Night Lights (7:00-10:00PM)
- February 14 = Ash Wednesday (start of Lentworship as a family)



After a few months of not having HS Fellowship on Wednesday nights (and trying Friday Night Lights instead), we've decided that we need a new time/event for our 9th - 12th grade youth to gather on a regular basis. Friday Night Lights will still take place the 2nd Friday of each month (and is open to 7-12 grade youth), but we've found this to be largely attended by grades 7 and 8, which is awesome!

So, we are going to give Sunday nights a try for grades 9-12 to gather. We invite our HS youth to hang out in the Living Room and have some time to connect and have fun with friends at church! Here are the details:

Who: 9-12 grade youth (ALL are welcome, including friends)

What: Fellowship, food, fun and games at church!

When: Once a month on Sunday nights typically the last Sunday of the month. Future dates will be 2/25, March is



HS Fellowship for grades 9-12 starting again on Sunday nights!

TBD (with spring break and Easter), and 4/28. May is also TBD.

**Time**: 5-8 pm (supper included - won't always be pizza; some nights we'll cook together at church)

**Cost**: \$5/youth (to help cover the cost of food). Some nights might be more, depending on the meal.

**Note**: This will be an "open house" style where youth can come late or leave early, if needed.

**Sign Up**: Youth are encouraged to <u>sign up here</u> by noon the day of the event... but can also just show up. Signing up in advance will help Kirsten plan for food and adult leaders.

So, spread the word and we look forward to seeing you on February 25th!

## Save The Date...and Your Donations!

We hope you'll join us for our annual youth fundraiser on **Sunday, March 17**<sup>th</sup> for a special St. Patrick's Day auction and dinner! We also invite you to consider making a donation (of new or <u>gently used</u> items) for the auction! Our top sellers are always gift cards, wine baskets or electronics but it helps to have a variety of items and values! Donations must be brought to church **no later than Monday, March 11**<sup>th</sup>, but the sooner the better (so that our volunteers aren't so overwhelmed the last few weeks leading up to the event). Some great donations include:



- Vacation rentals
- Gift cards
- Sports tickets
- Personal certificates (such as for a dinner, boat ride, yard work or babysitting)
- Delano-themed basket or gear
- Toys
- Unwanted Christmas gifts
- Jewelry
- Sports equipment
- Books or puzzles
- No used clothing, please

Our auction will be online again this year from 7:00 AM–5:00 PM on March 17<sup>th</sup>, with items on display at church from 2:30-5:00 PM, and then the dinner taking place from 5:00-7:00 (with the famous dessert auction at the end of the dinner). Tickets for the dinner will go on sale beginning Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. Thanks for your support of our summer HS trips to Chicago and the BWCA!

