



## Worship

- In-person worship—**9:00 am Sundays**
- Online worship continues, and will be posted on the [church website](#) and [Facebook page](#)



## Church Council 2022

Mike Boyack  
Tim Current  
Steven Dickey  
Carmen Hanson  
Jennifer Hinker  
Jon Holzer  
Derek Horeis  
Lisa Spencer  
Natasha Werner  
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](http://LightOfChristLutheran.com)  
[Terri.Reuter@locdelano.com](mailto:Terri.Reuter@locdelano.com)

Check out our Advent/Christmas  
Worship and Children's Christmas  
Program schedules inside!



NourishingHOPE

## Free Fresh Produce and Dairy

**Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**4:00-5:00 pm**

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](mailto: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](http://www.ourfatherschurch.org/nourishing-hope.html)

## Monthly Food Distribution

Our food distribution ministry, Nourishing Hope, needs volunteers for Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. 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!

## Caring Corner

(from Sue Fink of the Healing & Wholeness Committee)

Merry Christmas from your Healing and Wholeness Committee: Lona Jose, Julie Wischmann, Lisa Hemmer, Lisa Spencer and Sue Fink.

We want to share some prayers for peace and hope from [Crosswalk.com](http://Crosswalk.com). May you be blessed with Holy Pauses as Advent heralds the celebration of our Savior's birth.



### **For a Holy Pause**

Lord, I bow my heart before You and honor You. Help me to choose not one but many holy pauses this holiday season. Please nudge me by Your Spirit and remind me to step away from the Christmas crazy and get alone with you. In Jesus's awesome name, Amen.

### **A Prayer to Keep God at the Center During the Holidays**

Lord, we worship You during this Christmas season.

You are our wonderful Counselor, mighty God, everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6).

We choose to put You at the center of our family life as we celebrate Your birth. Keep us from distractions and help us to invite You into all our family activities. Teach us to pray and help us to glorify and worship You in our family during this busy time of year.

Give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation that we might know You better (Ephesians 1:17). Thank you for being Immanuel, "God with us." Open our eyes to realize this each day as we interact with others. Help us to be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as You forgave us (Ephesians 4:32).

Show us creative ways to love and care for those outside our home. Fill us to overflowing with Your love for the lost.

Teach us to do acts of kindness to those who are in need at this time of year. May our family be a refreshment and light to others.

We ask You to touch with salvation those in our family who do not know You. Open their hearts to Your great love for them. Help us to share Your Truth and be Your light. You are the Savior of the world. Amen.

### **A Prayer for Christmas Hope**

Lord Jesus, as we celebrate the season of Christ's birth, there's nothing that stands brighter than hope. The thrill of hope. The excitement that no matter what life brings us, we can still have hope because of that night divine, that night when our precious Savior was born in a stable.

This life is hard, sometimes unbearable.

The loss of a loved one who fought the fight against cancer so valiantly.

The unwanted divorce that left us wondering if anything in our lives had been real.

The pain of infertility that leaves us devastated every single month.

The hurt of watching a child walk away from the truth of God's word.

There's no end to the painful circumstances we face in this life, but no matter the pain, we always have the thrill of hope, the promise that our Savior has won the victory.

We pray for those who are experiencing loss this Christmas: relational, financial, spiritual and physical.

We pray for those who are coping with loving a prodigal and our friends and family members whose hearts are far from You. We pray for those dealing with unemployment and addictions and chronic sickness ... and unending pain and frustrations of all kinds. Thank You, Lord, that You are The Wonderful Counselor and Prince of Peace, even in the midst of our not-so-merry circumstances.

Finally, Lord, we ask You to grant us peace. Peace in our homes, peace in our churches, and peace in our hearts, when the world all around us spins out-of-control. Help us to stay focused on You, this Christmastime and always. Thank You for loving the whole world enough to send the greatest gift, Your Son, so that we might truly have a very merry Christmas. In Jesus' name, Amen.

### **Christmas Eve Benediction/Prayer**

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

God's blessings to all our Light of Christ Family!!



## Advent & Christmas Schedule

The season of Advent is upon us! Below is our upcoming Advent/Christmas service schedule:

- **12/18:** 3-year-olds-2<sup>nd</sup> graders present “The First Christmas” at 9 AM
- **12/24:** 2, 4, 10 PM Christmas Eve Services
- **12/25:** No Worship

## Cookie Exchange!

Sisters of LOC is hosting a cookie exchange on Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:00 pm. We will serve wine, non-alcoholic fizzy water, and snacks. We ask each person who is participating to bring 3 dozen cookies and say what you’re bringing along with copies of the recipe. Sign up at this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0B4DA5AA29A0FD0-cookie>



## Altar Guild Volunteers Needed!

We need extra altar guild volunteers to help with our Christmas Eve services. If you are interested in helping and/or have questions, contact Kylee Amdor at [kylee.amdor@gmail.com](mailto:kylee.amdor@gmail.com). Being a part of the altar guild is a wonderful way to serve Light of Christ!



## Memorial Angel Ornaments

We are offering congregation members the opportunity to purchase angel ornaments this Christmas season in honor or in memory of loved ones. Each ornament will have a spot where you can write your loved one’s name. They are \$8 each. All money will go towards our Columbarium fund.



We will have a table set-up in the Narthex for purchasing through **December 18<sup>th</sup>**. If paying by check, please make it payable to **Light of Christ** and note **columbarium** in the memo portion. You can either take your ornament home with you or place it on our Christmas tree in the Narthex until after Christmas Eve. Merry Christmas!

2022 Annual Reports are now due. Please email them to [Terri in the church office](mailto:Terri@thechurchoffice) when ready. Thank you!



## Help Local Families—Still Items Left

The Light of Christ Children & Family Ministry Team is pairing up with *Friends-4-A-Cause* for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year. With LOC's generosity we will be helping 13 local families who are struggling to have a brighter Christmas by providing gifts and spreading Christmas joy. Sign up at this [link](#). Final gift drop-off will be **Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-8:00pm**. Please also pray for each one of these families. Please contact *Kim Wortz* with any questions 952-457-9253 or [kimw1517@gmail.com](mailto:kimw1517@gmail.com).



## Where Can You Serve?

Shared Ministry is what makes Light of Christ a vibrant church that needs all of our gifts and abilities in order to make the greatest impact. Do you have a place you serve? Are you plugged in? Are you growing in your faith by being connected to a team or ministry?



December is a great time to consider serving in a new way. We have so many opportunities to use your energies, creativity, ideas, time and faith. The following are teams and committees which meet regularly in order to accomplish a variety of ministries. If you would like a bit of information on any of these, please reach out to any staff or council member or email [tim.johnson@locdelano.com](mailto:tim.johnson@locdelano.com).

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Worship & Music   | Healing & Wholeness                         |
| Youth & Family    | Personnel                                   |
| Children & Family | Stewardship                                 |
| Finance           | Technology                                  |
| Property          | Mission                                     |
| Community Life    | Hospitality & Inviting (soon to be forming) |
| Endowment         | Library                                     |

We generally affirm a full slate of new and returning committee and team members at our January meeting, though we welcome new folks at any time. Please pray about where and how you can best serve.

## 2023 Pledges & Online Giving

If you need to change your automatic contribution amount due to your 2023 pledge, please log in to your [MyVanco account](#) or contact Terri in the church office to make the change. Your pledge card does not authorize the church to make these changes.

You might find it helpful to [watch this video](#), which will walk you through the steps to cancel your current transaction and then create a new transaction. Vanco is working to add the “edit” option for 2023! Please contact Terri in the church office if you have any questions.



Thanks to our handyman (who wishes to remain nameless) for creating this great coat rack in the hallway behind the kitchen. He repurposed existing wood pieces to make this useful and space-saving coat rack. ***Thank you for sharing your gifts of creativity and skill with us!***



Our Gratitude Project began by expressing our gratitude to Love INC staff and volunteers. Light of Christ folks brought coffee and morning treats, along with our large signed Thank-You Card from our church. We learned a bit more about their ministry, and we enjoyed some good fellowship together.

YOU can help us to thank and bless yet another organization here in the Delano/Wright Co. area as a part of our appreciation for the work and faithful service of others. We'll help you get set-up. But it's really pretty simple. Choose a day/time that works for the organization and yourself, encourage thank-you card sign-ups over the course of a couple of weeks (we'll get the card ordered for you), decide upon snacks, purchase them (we'll reimburse you), and help recruit a few people to help on that day. Sign-ups can be made at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0848a9a72aaaf85-gratitude1>. Or reach out to Tim Johnson at [tim.johnson@locdelano.com](mailto:tim.johnson@locdelano.com)

## STAYING CONNECTED

We had a great night of music, food and fellowship at our Advent Charcuterie Youth Fundraiser on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. There were over 55 that attended and we raised close to \$1,200 for the youth going to Belize! Beyond the money raised, we had a wonderful night of conversation and connecting with each other. We hope to make this a yearly event, so if you missed this one, we hope you'll join us next time! We want to extend a huge thank you to Marcus Hanson for being our "host" for the night (providing incredible music and expertise about the wine and beer we sampled)! Thanks also to Katie Kohler, Jennifer Grant and all of the parents and youth who helped make the night a great success!



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### “Buy with Heart” this Christmas

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, almonds, and dried mangos
- LOC coffee mugs

All sales support our summer youth trips as well as small farmers around the world! These items make great gifts for teachers, friends or stocking stuffers. 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 and for “shopping with heart” this Christmas.



## Visioning Update



You have contributed so many of your thoughts, ideas, input over this past year. Thank you! We have discovered a number of important things for us as a congregation. Some of the themes include:

- \* The importance of connecting – connecting with God and with one another – and doing so even more deeply as we move forward. You can think of this as a desire to deepen our faith experience or faith walk, and to share our lives a bit more intentionally. Large groups and small.
- \* The importance of good hospitality, our caring welcome, and the need to more intentionally reach out in inviting others, our Delano neighbors.
- \* The importance of and need for healing and wholeness. People are hurting. And we want to expand our reach – to one another, to others. Our recent efforts have been a blessing. More to come.
- \* The importance of being good stewards of God’s amazing creation. This isn’t a side issue; it is central to being a person of faith. Caring for this world God so loves. Getting green. Here at church. At home. In the broader society. Work to do here.
- \* The importance of growing as hybrid church, meaning, expanding how we connect and make faith accessible. Streaming worship...yes. Other events, meetings and groups. But also helping all of us to quickly connect with faith messages, devotions, ministries, no matter where we are. Ideas? Let us know....

We also heard from you that feel the crunch in trying to connect in our narthex. Space is limited. And the path down the hall to the fellowship hall is tight, even a bit prohibitive. And that fellowship hall area could better serve our ministries that use that space. Hmm, perhaps a new, larger entry? Coffee bar. Other? More to talk about....

And we know the parking lot needs long-term attention, the kitchen could use some help, the bathrooms in that area are sorta rough, the sacristy needs more than seven square feet (kidding, it’s not quite that small), a conference room that was ready for zoom/digital connections would be great, and there are some improvements on our outdoor worship area that would be of benefit.

Not to worry....YOU will give shape to any movement we make with any of these things. Some of this we can get going on sooner rather than later; some of these might be on the “later list.”

We’re energized by your engagement and energies as our vision gets clearer. More to come as we step into 2023. As always, we make ministry happen through your time, your talents, your treasure – financial giving. Thank you for making Light of Christ a church on the move for the sake of Christ’s beloved gospel and grace!

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 4:10

### God’s given you a gift...a gift to use in service to others. We can help!

I remember in my early twenties, I was in the process of what you might call coming back to faith, to God, to the church. All of those. It was a time of reawakening, of finding my way, of trying to be connected. One day in particular, I drove to my church hoping to speak with the pastor. I had wanted to process some of what was going on for me. Just to talk, I guess. But he wasn’t there. So, I sat outside in an outdoor patio area, thinking about my quandary, praying a bit, trying to figure out my “next move,” if you will. You could say that I was searching, yearning, for I wasn’t too sure what.

As I sat outside that afternoon, mulling just what to do, I couldn’t help but notice that the bushes all around the patio were well-overgrown. I guess you could say that it was a bit of a God-moment, as I felt that the Holy Spirit sort of spoke to me: “Tim, how about getting some pruning shears and take care of these?” Not, verbally. But, you know, sort of just inside of me. So...that’s what I did. I went home to my mom’s and borrowed some tools, went back to church and got to work.

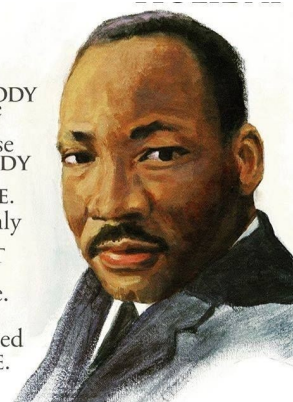
The couple of hours that afternoon stretched into the next day, as I just sort of kept going. It’s not just that the task was needed, but I needed it, too. I needed to do something, to serve, to contribute. It’s not that I hadn’t ever volunteered in or at church, but not exactly as a [young] adult. It was different.

I love to talk with people about faith, about their journey, about how God shows up. And I feel that I’ve learned a few things over the years. But right up at the top is the importance of simple faith. Working. Serving. Helping. MLK put it so well, as is captured here:

In God’s church, each of us are an essential part! Serving on a team. Singing. Building. Repurposing. Painting. Ushering. Food distribution. Making coffee. Greeting. Sound board. Could even be pruning a few bushes...)

Check out our Time & Talent form online on our website. Offer to serve on a team or committee. Or speak with a staff person. You’ll be glad you did, and so will we!

EVERYBODY  
can be  
great.  
Because  
ANYBODY  
can  
SERVE.  
You only  
need a  
HEART  
full of  
grace.  
A  
SOUL  
generated  
by LOVE.



## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

During the December 18<sup>th</sup> worship service at 9 AM:

**“THE FIRST CHRISTMAS”**

*presented by the Light of Christ*

*3-year-olds – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Sunday school children*



**Still looking for that perfect Christmas gift?**

**Consider a trip to Bible Camp!**

- **Wapo One-Day (Grades K-2) – June 25**  
A one-day introduction to camp that will feature fun activities of Camp Wapo in a single full day of energy and excitement!
- **Wapo Youth Camp (Grades 4-9) June 25-30, Aug. 13-19**  
An action-packed week of fun activities and new friendships that will stretch campers to new heights of joy and growth.
- **Seeds Summer Camp (Grades 1-3) – June 23-25**  
The perfect introduction to summer camp for our youngest campers, Seeds Camp is filled with fun and safe opportunities to learn and grow.

The above dates are times when Light of Christ has reserved spots – **registration is Jan.15-Feb 15**. LOC offers \$100 toward students going for the week, \$50 for those who do the weekend, and the one-day is free. This is possible due to the camp scholarship fund. Sponsor a child, the benefits last a lifetime!



## Bible Story Time begins January 8, 2023

Bible Story Time is an exciting new program for our 3-year-olds to 2<sup>nd</sup> graders. Beginning January 8, 2023, our 3 years-2<sup>nd</sup> grade students will be dismissed from worship to go to a Bible story time.

Prior to worship each Sunday, parents will sign in their children who are participating in Bible Story Time. The children will go to worship with their parents but then will be dismissed to go to Bible Story Time following the children's message. Bible Story Time offers age-appropriate Bible stories using video, songs, and activities with take-home pamphlets. The children will return to worship prior to communion. (approx. 20 minutes).

In May we will evaluate and compare Bible Story Time to the previous Sunday school schedule before deciding which we will be offering in the fall of 2023. *From January to May there will be no Sunday school at 10:10 am.*

Following our Safe Sanctuary policy, each Sunday we will need a minimum of two unrelated adults (i.e., no husband/wife combinations) to help with the Bible Story Time. If you are interested, please sign-up using the following link. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F48A4AB22A4FCCF8-bible>



## High School Fellowship

Join us for future nights of fellowship, friends, faith, food and FUN! Here is our upcoming schedule (Wednesdays from 7:30-8:30):

- \* 12/14 - Cookie baking & Christmas movie
- \* 12/21 & 12/28 – **No HSF** (Christmas Break)

