



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



Let Us [Continue to] Build...a vibrant, welcoming, and purposeful **Children, Youth & Family Ministry**. Light of Christ has always been a place that recognizes CYF Ministry to be a cornerstone of who we are. Jesus said, "Let the children come to me...", and that's just what we seek to do. It is our calling and our joy to do everything we can to create a safe, nurturing, empowering place of faith for our kids and families. All of this takes a significant commitment of our time, treasure and talents. **We have a stretch in front of us.** Will you help us in meeting these important ministry goals? Can you join in the endeavor to increase our resources/giving so that we can build on this foundation? Will you help us to connect even more kids and families? Might you make a pledge for this ministry we all share?



A dollar a day more. For each of our households. That's what we've identified that will have our resources meet our ministry needs. And yet, for some of us, a larger gift or pledge is possible. **Might you pray about where the Spirit leads you?** Might you step out in stretching your faith? Together we can position ourselves for this next important chapter of LOC's ministry as we celebrate and experience all of what God is blessing us with.

What is your special moment or memory or experience? Where has our or another faith community's children, youth and family ministry blessed you? How has your faith been shaped because of CYF's priority within a church's ministry? How or where have you experienced this as a living stone or building block of your faith? Share this on a paper "stone" so that we can add it to our banner in the narthex. **Together we invite God to use us as the Spirit builds a house where love can dwell!**

Living Stones....the foundations of our church. You have shared so many rich memories and experiences of where ministry has made a big difference in your life and your faith. [Please click here](#) and scroll to the *Stewardship Campaign for 2024* article to read each week's experiences and moments shared that made a difference.

Together we are on an amazing journey of seeing how God uses us as living stones, being made into a spiritual house of faith, hope and love. While we each enjoy the blessings of our church, many do not have a place of belonging, a church community where they can experience the hope of the Gospel, a place to grow in their own faith, a mission to be a part of, a church family of their own. Help us to grow this cherished ministry by making a financial pledge for 2024 mission and ministry. You will be blessed as you are a blessing! Making a pledge will help us to plan for next year's ministry.

Banners

Please take time to read the comments and memories of our church family on the banners hanging in the narthex. And add more as you might like!

Below are links to the videos shown in worship the past several weeks:

- **Worship & Music:** <https://youtu.be/RwMWmPRkhYw>
- **The Lord's House:** <https://youtu.be/xnEXysh6bXw>
- **Pastoral Presence:** <https://youtu.be/QHFYpND0zgc>

Contact us!

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Fifth Sunday Offering for October – Cancer Care Foundation MN



The Cancer Care Foundation MN began in 2019 as a sixth-grade service project for four Orono students (Ethan, Wes, Koen & Lucas) and one of the student's father (Dr. Michael Tulkki). They learned of a student from the University of MN football team who had battled osteosarcoma five times while continuing his pursuit as a collegiate athlete. In conversation with this athlete, they decided to produce a medical shirt for patients receiving cancer treatment. The design is meant to create an athletic shirt that is comfortable yet allows patients and medical professionals to easily access the port for delivery of medications.

After four years and 1,400+ shirts donated, the foundation continues to work to make the lives of young cancer patients a little easier. Last year they partnered with the University of MN Apparel Design Program to create a onesie for the smallest cancer patients and were awarded a grant to produce them. The boys also received the Outstanding Student Community Award given by the Randy Shaver Cancer Research and Community Fund in August of 2022.

Our congregation will be helping the Cancer Care Foundation MN by designating our special Fifth Sunday Offering to them this October.

To learn more about the work they are doing, visit their website: <https://cancercarefoundationmn.org/>

You may also donate three different ways:

- Through our church online giving page. Select the **October Fifth Sunday Offering** tile: [Home | Light of Christ Lutheran Church \(myvanco.com\)](#)
- Put a check in the offering plate and be sure to write "**5th Sunday**" on the Memo line.
- Through the Foundation Website: <https://cancercarefoundationmn.org/donate/> Click on "**Make A Donation**", which will bring you to their PayPal site.

Caring Corner

(from Rachel Boyack of the
Healing & Wholeness Committee)



In the hustle and bustle of our daily lives, it's easy to overlook the profound impact we can have on one another, especially in our schools. Read on for some insights from the perspective of mental wellness and the Christian faith, with a particular focus on anti-bullying efforts, including Unity Day.

In our journey to support the mental wellness of our youth, it's important to recognize that faith and spirituality can play a significant role. The values of kindness, empathy, and love for one another are universal. These values align closely with the teachings of Jesus Christ, who advocated for compassion and inclusion.

Bullying is a serious problem that can have a devastating impact on mental health. Victims of bullying are more likely to experience anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, and even suicidal thoughts. As Christians, we are called to love our neighbors as ourselves, and this includes protecting them from harm. We can all play a role in preventing bullying by teaching our children about kindness and compassion, and by speaking up when we see it happening.

Here are some things we can do to help prevent bullying and promote mental wellness:

- Talk to our children about bullying and the importance of kindness and compassion.
- Teach our children how to stand up for themselves and others.
- Model positive behavior and teach our children how to resolve conflict peacefully.
- Be aware of the signs of bullying and intervene if we see it happening.
- Report bullying to church leaders or school officials.
- Celebrate Unity Day by wearing orange and talking about the importance of anti-bullying.

Unity Day, celebrated on the third Wednesday of October, is an excellent opportunity to strengthen anti-bullying efforts. This day is all about coming together, wearing orange to show unity against bullying, and sending a powerful message that no one should ever experience bullying. It's a chance for our youth to feel supported, safe, and included.

As we approach Unity Day, let us remember our commitment to nurturing mental wellness and promoting an environment of kindness and inclusion. Our Christian faith provides a strong foundation for these values, and with unity, we can create a community where every youth feels loved, valued, and protected from the harmful effects of bullying.

Family Meals Filled at Love INC

Thank you to everyone who signed up to serve family meals at our *Fresh Start Program*. This is the first time we have seen such an incredible response! We are so grateful to God for your generosity. Thank You!

Love INC Holiday Helpers

We are getting ready to support neighbors in need this holiday season. You can get involved with Thanksgiving, Christmas Store, Sponsor-A-Family, and more. Interested? Let us know here: bit.ly/loveincholidays



Greetings from the Delano Helping Hands Food Shelf!



First, we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the members of Light of Christ. Your generosity throughout the years in both volunteer time and food has been a tremendous gift to our food shelf. In addition to donating food, LOC members support our Food Rescue program, provide volunteers three months out of the year for our Thursday shopping hours and monthly help to pack food for delivery within our community. We are a 100% volunteer run organization so we cannot stay open without the help of many in our community.

2023 has been a busy year for us thus far. Relative to 2022, many more families are in need of food support. Our food shelf usage has increased by 25% year over year – with over 60,000 pounds of food distributed. Thankfully, the continued generosity of our community has enabled us to meet this growing need. Starting this month, we are adding an additional shopping date on the second Saturday of the month (October 14). We plan to continue this additional date through the winter and perhaps into next summer. We are grateful for any donations given to us. Listed below are our current needs:

- Coffee and Tea
- BBQ sauce
- Mayonnaise
- Ready to eat soup (we get lots of chicken noodle and tomato)
- Tomato products (diced, sauce, paste, stewed)
- Canned fruits and vegetables
- Canned and boxed meals
- Canned mushrooms/olives/pickles
- Napkins and facial tissues
- Menstrual products

Thank you to LOC for your continued support of our food shelf. If you are in need of our services or wish to volunteer, please call (763) 972-4455 and leave a message. If you are interested in volunteering with LOC on Thursdays/Saturday for our next month of weekly support (December), contact Lona Jose or the church office (terri.reuter@locdelano.com)

*JoMarie Williamson, Co-Director
Delano Helping Hands Food Shelf*

Have you ever wanted to go on an Adult Mission Trip and never had a chance too? Well now you can!

Light of Christ is taking our first adult mission trip to Belize February 24-March 2, 2024. We will be going through Just One Global (the same organization our youth used for their mission trip this summer). We will do some of the same service projects as the youth but also add some different ones at an adult pace. We will also have time for relaxation, study, and fellowship.

We will host two meetings for more information. Two of our friends and partners from Belize, Kebin Rosa & Frank Tzib, will be at the meetings to talk all about what we will be doing on our mission. Both Kebin and Frank were Belize staff leaders on our mission trip this past summer. Please plan to attend if you have any interest in learning more.

On **Tuesday, October 17 at 6:00 pm** in the Library, Pastor Kebin Rosa will be speaking and telling us more about the trip, and on **Monday, October 30 at 6:00 pm** in The Living Room, Frank Tzib will be speaking about the trip as well. Come find out about this great opportunity to learn and serve while spreading God's love. Questions: Jennifer Grant 612.226.8181 or email jpcnection.jg@gmail.com



New Member/Partner Sunday – November 19th

We will be receiving new members on Sunday, November 19th. If you are interested in more information about joining Light of Christ, please contact the church office at terri.reuter@locdelano.com.



Please note: NSP will be doing maintenance on a 69kV transmission line on and near the church property through November 10th. They have been granted an easement to access our parking lot and property. You can expect to see work trucks and wood matting on the west lawn during this time. If there is any damage as a result, repair and restoration will be covered by Xcel.



Let Us Build a House Banners

Please take time to read the comments and memories of our church family on the banners hanging in the narthex. And add more as you might like! Below are more shared experiences of Pastoral Presence:

- Pastor Sarah meeting with us prior to our marriage
- My religion professor at Augsburg College
- Host family in Australia
- Cousin in College
- Parents – Children's College Funds – 1st Christmas
- In-laws – Surgery for our dog
- Blessing 2000; Blessing 2016
- Mom & Dad 1980
- Lloney, 2023
- Michels, 2022
- Ray and Betty Arveson
- Rick Rassier Augsburg College 1996
- Trudy Semran, mentor
- All of Pastor Bruce's sermons and genuine, authentic presence/care
- Mission trip adults
- Support of family, friend and coworker when my mom passed away
- My family supporting me when I need it
- An in-home caregiver for my mom. Prayed with her; listened to her; was a great source of grace and healing.
- Mentor couple meetings
- Love, support and presence in times of sickness and/or death of a family member
- My friend, Rosey, who always up lifted me in prayer – during good times and difficult times. Her compassion is endless.
- Pastor Bruce – giving the Gospel lesson from the heart
- Friends and strangers provided meals for my family while I was recovering from an accident
- New neighbors welcoming our family
- Receipt of a daily devotion book filled with hand-written notes
- I first came to LOC in 2001, after 9-11. Pastor Lee had the congregation join hands and pray. I felt so much peace and knew I had found my church home.
- After my wife's passing, Pastor Bruce was there
- Listening to LaDonna's sermons
- Craig Nesson and Roger Field at Wartburg Seminary
- When my first husband died, we wanted to inter his ashes at the columbarium in our Presbyterian Church in downtown Minneapolis. However, the current minister said he would not be allowed to be buried there. He judged my husband to be unworthy and refused him a place there. I went heartbroken to Pastor Bruce. He listened and helped me through that trauma. We placed my husband's ashes at Lakewood Cemetery. Pastor Bruce held a beautiful and healing service for me and the children. I am so thankful for his pastoral care always and particularly during this awful incident! *Lois Priester*
- Pastor Bruce reaching out to get to know us
- I pray for my dad. He has prostate cancer, and for him to be strong. *From Gabrick*



STAYING CONNECTED



Calling All Musicians!

We're looking for more musicians to join our Light of Christ Praise Team! We could especially use instrumentalists! However, we would welcome more singers as well. The more the merrier! If you are interested, please contact Katie at katie.kohler@locdelano.com

On Tuesday, October 17 from 7-8 pm we are meeting for our first Mom's Night Out... all are welcome! We decided to change our meeting location from LOC to Brickside. No need to register, just come as you are. Hope you can join us for a night of fellowship, conversation, and prayer.



CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS

Family Matters – Rick Rassier is back!

We first had Rick Rassier at Light of Christ for a Family Matters night back in February of 2020. He'll be joining us again at the end of this month for a fun night of activities and challenges based around how we can be and do our best. He'll challenge our youth to live substance-free and to "take it to the next level!" Hope you can join us for this great night!

- **When:** Wednesday, October 25; 6:30-8:00 pm
- **Who:** Confirmation Youth & Parents are expected to attend but all are welcome!
- **Where:** Fellowship Hall at LOC



February 5, 2020

Sleep Out for Homelessness

Last weekend, a group of high school youth from LOC slept outside on our lawn to raise awareness for homelessness. We braved the colder temps (it got down into the 30's!) but also learned more about homelessness in MN and packed some Hygiene and Beverage Kits for those experiencing homelessness (which will be given to Interfaith Outreach and Community Partners – the organization that we supported through our event). It was a fun event as we bonded and grew in our faith a lot too. Special thanks to Ken Chock and Alaina (Grant) Schultdt for sleeping out with our youth!



Summer 2024 Youth Opportunities

This summer we have 3 great trip opportunities for our HS Youth (grades 9-12)! We will be having a Summer Trip Info Meeting on **Wednesday, October 25th at 8 pm** in the Sanctuary for all HS youth and parents to learn more about these trips. The registration deadline for all trips will be **Wednesday, November 29**. Here is a bit of info about each trip:

- **Mission Trip to Chicago** (led by Kirsten Kelly) = June 23-29; estimated cost around \$600
- **ELCA Youth Gathering to New Orleans** (led by Pastor Bruce & Cynthia) = July 16-20 (plus days on either end for travel); estimated cost around \$1,500
- **BWCA Trip** (for current 11th & 12th grade youth only; led by Jennifer Slipka) = Dates and cost TBD



On Sundays, our Explorer group (ages 3 - 2nd grade) are excused from worship after the children's message for an age-appropriate Bible story, song and activity. Currently we have an average of 18 students. While we have dedicated people who have agreed to take the lead each Sunday, we need to have a 2nd adult to assist. We still have a few Sundays this fall when we need that 2nd person. How about you? Sign up at the link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F48A4AB22A4FCCF8-explorers>



Pathfinders try to balance the ups and downs of life

There are no Wednesday after-school or evening CYF ministries this week due to MEA.



Our Voyager group (grades 1-3) is eager to have an after school snack before class. This is possible because of your support of our young people!



Car Scavenger Hunt

Confirmation youth were given an item and had to race down to their Guide's vehicle to get it and be the first one back!