



## Worship

- In-person worship—**9:30 AM Sundays**
- Online worship continues, and is live-streamed to our [YouTube](#) 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!

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Delano, MN 55328  
(763) 972-2400



[LightOfChristLutheran.com](http://LightOfChristLutheran.com)  
[Terri.Reuter@locdelano.com](mailto:Terri.Reuter@locdelano.com)



NourishingHOPE

## Free Fresh Produce and Dairy

**Monday, May 13th**  
**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

### Hanover

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

### 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

### Maple Grove

Rice Lake Bible Chapel  
8801 Rice Lake Road  
Maple Grove, MN 55369

For assistance locating a specific site or for questions, please contact us at

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)

## May Food Distribution

The next food distribution is on **Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>**. Shifts are available at 10:00 AM to about noon at Our Father's Lutheran Church in Rockford, and 3:30 – 4:30 PM here at Light of Christ. Sign-ups are below:

- **10:00 AM** packing food boxes—[click here](#)
- **3:30 PM** distributing boxes of food right here in our church parking lot—[click here](#)

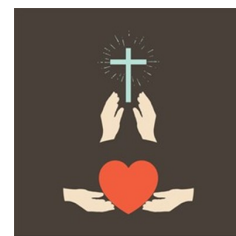


## Caring Corner

(from Sue Fink of the Healing & Wholeness Committee)

### ***31 Days, 31 Ways, 2 Pray 4 Families, Days 12-18***

Families who walk alongside their loved ones in the labyrinths of mental illnesses are often hesitant to ask for prayer. They might feel others will judge them or their loved one, offer uninformed advice or initiate the gossip chain. But friends who observe or are aware of their journey don't necessarily need specific details to pray effectively.



Families need God's provision for themselves and their loved ones in these areas:

**Day 12. Legislative support.** The U.S. mental health care system, along with the regulations and funding surrounding it, can easily be labeled "dysfunctional." Family members are often limited in the generous care they would and could give by laws impeding their involvement in their loved one's treatment. *Pray for legislators to become aware of and concerned for the welfare of those struggling with mental illness and of the families who love them. Pray for groups like NAMI that are speaking out to inform and influence laws that better serve the mental health community.*

**Day 13. Spiritual growth.** As with other aspects of life for those dealing with mental health difficulties, their spirituality and relationship with God can become muddled and confused. They rarely have the opportunity to experience a life-giving and encouraging spiritual community where they are accepted and belong. Even churches are often not welcoming toward those who deal with mental illnesses. *Pray for the Holy Spirit to work mightily to bring about salvation and sustained faith for all those touched by mental illnesses. Pray for opportunities to participate in Christian community and benefit from biblical teaching.*

**Day 14. Meaningful use of time.** For those who suffer with severe mental health conditions, full-time work or frequent interaction with strangers may not be possible. How can their hours be spent in meaningful and productive ways? Families look for outlets for their loved ones but few are available. *Pray for direction and creativity to discover good options. Pray for ministries and programs that offer safe places where those with mental disorders can belong and participate in meaningful activities.*

**Day 15. Housing.** The numbers tell part of the story. Twenty-six percent of the homeless population (including those staying in shelters) have diagnosable serious mental disorders. Even more struggle with depression and addictions. Boarding homes for those disabled by mental illness rarely have openings and many are located in high-crime areas. For families caring for adult loved ones, the housing dilemma is an overwhelming challenge. Safe, affordable, sanitary, wholesome options are very limited. So, often, families provide a place in their own homes. This means the families are on 24/7 caregiver duty. *Pray for families to find suitable and caring housing for their loved ones. If in their own homes, pray for strength, stamina and ongoing good relationships within the family.*

**Day 16. Grief/loss.** There is an undercurrent of sadness in families where there are mental health issues. Families grieve as they watch illness steal the quality of life from their loved one. They mourn over the losses in their own lives as they release many of their own plans and dreams to care for their family member. *Pray for comfort and for daily joys that can lift their spirits.*

**Day 17. Communication.** Clear, constructive communication is often the key tool a caregiver needs to help a loved one through a difficult episode. However, each individual and situation requires a unique approach. Choice of words, tone of voice and timing of conversation combine to create a complex communication map. *Pray caregivers will listen with discernment to what their loved ones are trying to express. Pray for wisdom in how and when to respond. Pray those with many voices in their minds will be able to listen to good counsel from those who love them and be able to know the gracious love of God.*

**Day 18. Self-care.** Those who care for loved ones struggling with mental illnesses also struggle with taking care of themselves. *Pray they would develop and maintain good rest, exercise and eating habits. Ask God to provide healthy relationships, strong faith and clear thinking.*



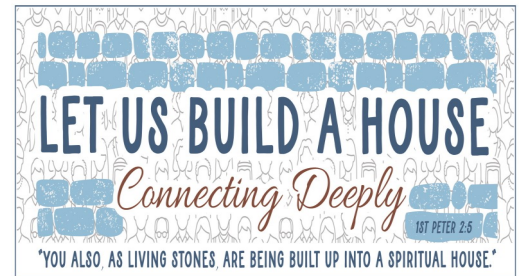
# CHURCH NEWS

Thank you! Current total: \$208,830 pledges and gift commitments for our capital appeal.

We keep growing in our capacity to fund some of our church campus projects. Leaking roof problems near the steeple, fixing/rebuilding the parking lot, installing building security measures. Beyond those top priorities include remodeling plans to widen the hallway into the Fellowship Hall, as well as to enlarge the Hall by moving the Head Start rooms to a different location. Design plans and a new cost estimate to be shared at a June congregational meeting.

All gifts and pledges help us take care of these important priorities! If you haven't expressed your intentions by filling out a pledge card, please do so. Extra cards are in the pews and can be turned into the church office at any time or by placing in the offering plate.

Thank you! Together we continue to help make Light of Christ a place of connecting, friendship, and where so much ministry happens!!



The Call Committee would like to provide an update on our search for our next Pastor. The Call Committee had narrowed our list of candidates to two finalists. At this time, both of those candidates have withdrawn.

The Call Committee and Church Council will continue to provide updates to the congregation as appropriate. On Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, a member from the Call Committee and Church Council will be providing a brief update as well during the service. In the meantime, we ask for your continued prayers for wisdom and guidance as we continue our work to find the best candidate to lead our congregation forward.

Thank you for your patience and support.

Sincerely,

*The Call Committee*

## Newly Elected Synod Bishop

On Saturday, May 4 at the annual synod assembly, Pastor Jen Nagel was elected as the next bishop of the Minneapolis Area Synod. Bishop-Elect



Jen Nagel will begin her six-year term on August 1, 2024, and will be installed on September 21. Please keep Pastor Jen in your prayers as she prepares to begin her term. And we also pray for Bishop Ann Svennungsen as she makes her transition to retirement while also caring for her husband, who was recently diagnosed with cancer.

## 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, May 14<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.



## May Is Mental Health Awareness Month



As we go through May, we will be sharing the "31 Days, 31 Ways, 2 Pray 4 Families" prayers. You'll find this week's prayers in this issue's Caring Corner and printed on green paper at the usher station, the full 31-day packet

available in the Narthex, and daily [Facebook](#) posts with the prayer for each day. Also check out the newly reorganized Mental Health cabinet in the Narthex near the sanctuary entrance doors. And, we want you all to be reminded and encouraged to use the ["Support/Mental Health" webpage of the LOC website](#). Please check it out so you're aware of the information and resources available when you need it.

## We Are Love INC Heartland

That doesn't stand for incorporated but rather **In the Name of Christ**. Together we can give the gift of hope, get involved today! Learn More: [bit.ly/werloveinc](http://bit.ly/werloveinc)



## Be a Love INC Ambassador

Are you passionate about your church? Does the Love In the Name of Christ ministry excite you? Then you would make a great ambassador! Sign up to learn more at [bit.ly/loveincamb](http://bit.ly/loveincamb) or call our main office at 763-972-6547.

## Serve a Meal at Fresh Start

Serving a 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 May-July. Sign Up On Meal Train: [bit.ly/fsmeals23](http://bit.ly/fsmeals23)

## Tough Questions done for the Year

There will not be any more sessions of Tough Questions this school year. But did you know that you can find past sessions of Tough Questions on our [YouTube](#) page? Below are the links to past questions discussed:

- Introduction Video <https://youtu.be/SUP5E82IBSg>
- Where is God When the Innocent Suffer? <https://youtu.be/zNffKR1HfZU>
- Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People? [https://youtu.be/juvWr\\_G-K-I](https://youtu.be/juvWr_G-K-I)
- What is the Meaning of Innocent Suffering? <https://youtu.be/VS5GmtleiFs>
- Can I Believe in Creation and Evolution? <https://youtu.be/O2QO4yJHLqY>
- Can I Believe in Creation and Evolution? Part 2 <https://youtu.be/nh3hcKXb9b4>
- To Bless or Not to Bless? Part 1 <https://youtu.be/Qa1PNP8FOFY>
- To Bless or Not to Bless? Part 2 <https://youtu.be/Tk57m-dLVXs?si=Hg5wgzPxrXapC5QJ>
- Unique and Universal <https://youtu.be/C5MRtRKSfys?si=9Ee8nhFy7WBCC6kk>
- Does God Bless Violence/Warfare? <https://youtu.be/7-xlkNyRcjc?si=zPwlk8D2bvNxHp4y>

## Funeral Committee/Coordinator

We are looking to form a Funeral Committee, with the need for a main point person to serve as the funeral coordinator and 4-6 people on the committee. We would also compile a list of volunteers who could be called on to sign up for a shift to help set-up, serve the meal and clean-up after funerals. An informational binder will be provided for the committee to reference, so they know what all is needed for the funerals. This is a fairly low time commitment, with typically only 4-6 funerals a year, and a 2-year committee term. If you are interested, please contact the [church office](#) and your name will be passed along.

## 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 [church website](#) and locate the online giving page.





## CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS

Explorers having fun, rejoicing, and playing in the Spirit! Happy Pentecost!



### Confirmation Corner

Here is the end-of-the-year confirmation schedule:

- **Wednesday, May 15 at 6:30 PM:** Year End Party with Small Groups!



### We Couldn't Do It Without You!!

Thank you to our teachers, Confirmation Guides, and Jr. Guides from this past school year! We could not do our children and youth ministries without you!! The way you serve, share your time, invest in kids our kids, and love the Lord is inspirational! Join us on Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup> during worship at 9:30 AM to celebrate and thank our teachers/Guides!

#### **Confirmation Guides:**

Kim Beyer, Mike Boyack, Holly Caple, Ryan Green, Rachel Halbersma, Laura Jaunich, Rachel Kopperud, Cynthia Kuenzel, Kara Larson, Willie Magner, Tara Olson, Carrie Quamen, Andrea Quandt, Curt, Reuter, Terri Reuter, Jennifer Slipka



**Explorers:** Lori Prickett, Lisa Krause, Jennie Clark, Grace Nohner

**Voyagers:** JoMarie Williamson, Vicki Noetzelman, Jinnelle Weis, Cheri Ashfeld, Maxine Johnson, Mary Ann McKay and Stan Droneck

**Pathfinders:** Gina Marie Nee, Cynthia Kuenzel

**Assistants:** Betty Pavik, Kristy Klaphake

**Staff:** Pastor Bruce and Katie Kohler



### **Thank you, Confirmation Jr Guides!**



#### **Jr. Guides:**

Isabelle Nee  
Halle Lansing  
Grace Reiffenberger  
Kaitlyn Pink

Ben Kelly  
Grace Ulberg  
Madison Schansberg  
Max Lotzer





**Thanks for organizing and prepping the Grad quilts!!**

Our confirmation youth tied 13 quilts on May 8<sup>th</sup> to bless our graduates on the upcoming Grad Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Thank you to Sophia Grant for organizing the project along with Rosie Grant, Madison Schansberg, and Anneka Zaun for helping to prep/cut the quilts. Thanks also to Vicki Noetzelman for picking up the fleece and to our incredible LOC family for your giving, which makes purchasing these quilt supplies possible!!

## Confirmation Service Event



**5/8/24**



## Confirmation Youth - Tying Grad Blessing Blankets 5/8/24

