



## 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

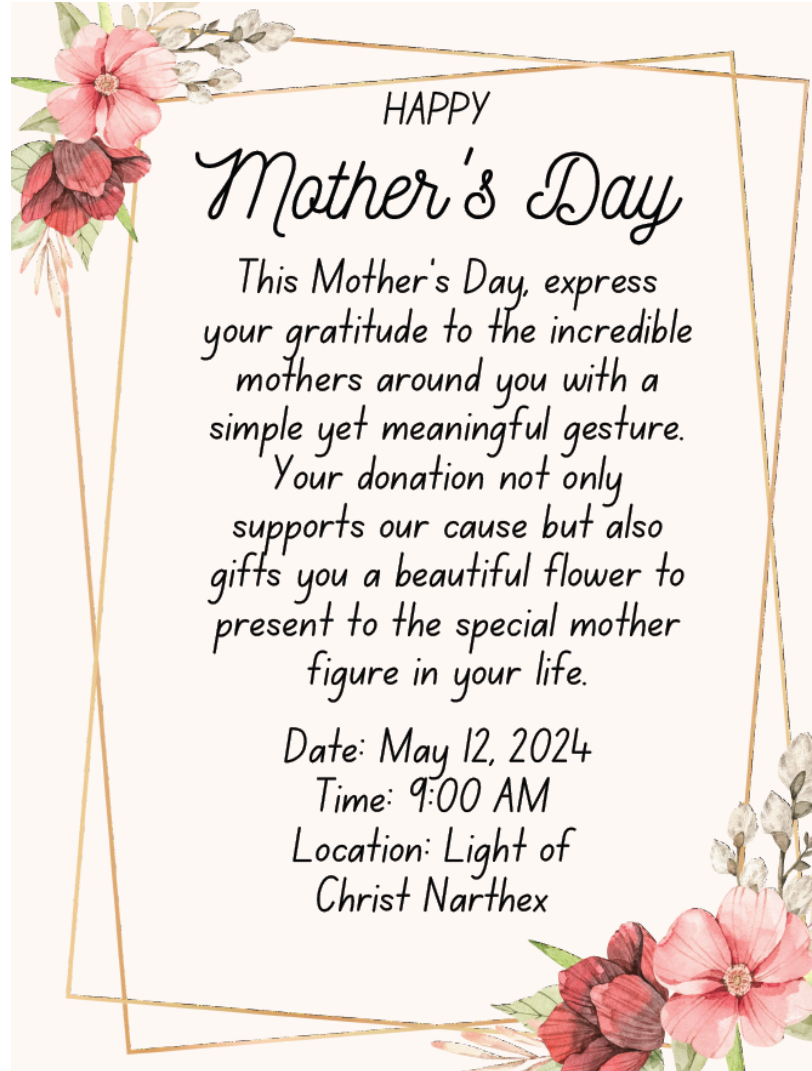


## Contact us!

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



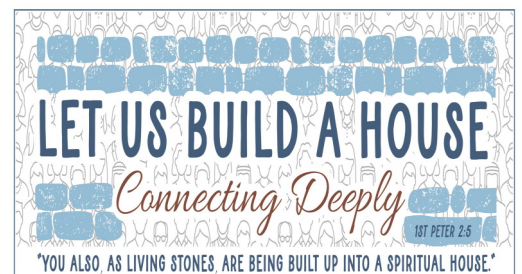
[LightOfChristLutheran.com](#)  
[Terri.Reuter@locdelano.com](mailto:Terri.Reuter@locdelano.com)



Thank you to everyone who has made a pledge or gift commitment for our Connecting Deeply capital appeal! So far, we've received 36 pledges for \$130,280. We encourage those of you who have not yet considered a pledge or gift to do so in the coming couple of weeks. Once we have a grand total our Church Council will recommend back to the congregation a plan for moving forward with identified projects.

Pledge cards are in the pew racks or out in the Narthex. As well, main brochure packets and also response packets are available.

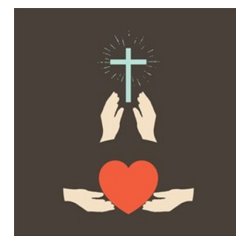
Together we take these important steps forward in our vision for mission and ministry. Each member, each partner in ministry has a key role to play. Thank you for your generosity!!



## Caring Corner

(from Sue Fink of the Healing & Wholeness Committee)

### ***31 Days, 31 Ways, 2 Pray 4 Families, Days 1-11***



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 1: Peace.** Fear, worry and confusion can stir up an oppressive cloud when a loved one is struggling with a mental health condition. *Pray families will experience the presence and love of God that will drive out fear. Pray they will receive Christ's gift of peace, even amid the storm.*

**Day 2: Financial resources.** The financial burden of caring for a loved one cannot be overestimated. In addition to costs for medical care, there are, in some cases, expenses related to fines, legal fees, unconstrained spending sprees, accidents and property damages. *Pray that God will provide the resources for families to pay for these extraordinary expenses and that they will not be overwhelmed by the added financial responsibilities.*

**Day 3: Community.** Many families go into hibernation mode when their loved one is experiencing a severe episode. They can feel isolated and emotionally spent. Pray God will bring people to come alongside to support them, comfort them and pray with them. *Pray caregivers will have the energy to reach out to local mental health support groups.<sup>1,2</sup> Ask God how you can be a part of His redemptive grace during difficult times.*

**Day 4: Healing.** Although there is no medical cure for most severe mental health conditions there is always a spark of hope within families that their loved one will be healed. As Christians, we know that God can and does bring His supernatural healing to many. Therefore, we never stop asking Him to intervene and touch our loved one. *Join families in asking for such a miracle.*

**Day 5: Children in the family.** Whether they are siblings or offspring, children are the forgotten. They are often overlooked when adults are trying desperately to cope with the family member. *Pray that those who are responsible to care for the children will stay aware of and be able to meet their needs. Pray the children will be protected from finding attention in unhealthy or unsafe ways from others who would do them harm.*

**Day 6: Protection.** Those who deal with mental health difficulties are often victims of exploitation, abuse and crime. When severely depressed, there is an increased possibility that they will try to harm themselves. When in the grip of mania or psychosis, there may be increased aggression or high-risk behaviors. *Join families in praying that God would surround their loved ones with His angels. Pray He would direct them to places and people who are safe and caring. Pray for protection of caregivers and others when the ill family member is violent or abusive.*

**Day 7: Wisdom.** The mental health systems in most states are complex, difficult for family members to access and constrained in their ability to respond. Family members need wisdom regarding what kind of help to look for and where to get it. *Pray they will find the kind of help they need at the time they need it.*

**Day 8: Companionship.** Ignorance and stigma are just two reasons many people don't reach out in friendship to those dealing with mental illnesses. It is common for families to be the only source of companionship for their loved ones. *Pray with the families that others will bring friendship and build community with their family member. Pray the loved one will be willing to participate in peer support groups. Pray that churches will become places of acceptance and inclusion.*

**Day 9: Medical treatment.** In the last 20 years there have been great advancements in pharmaceutical treatments for mental health conditions. But there is no perfect medication. Many have unrelenting side effects. Others lose their efficacy quickly. Some work only in combination with other medications, so there can be a complex combination of drugs. For those reasons and others, there is often resistance or noncompliance in taking medications. But when the right drugs are found and are taken, the results can be spectacular. *Pray with families that the most effective treatments can be found for their loved ones and there would be a willingness to take—and keep taking—the medications.*

**Day 10: Forgiveness.** A lot can go wrong in a family dealing with mental health difficulties. Harsh words, broken promises and destructive actions can shred trust and build thick barriers between family members. *Pray God would pour forgiveness generously upon each person in the family—forgiveness for each other, and for themselves. Pray a spirit of forbearance and grace would create a healthy environment of kindness and love.*

**Day 11: Dual diagnosis/addictions.** It is estimated that at least 35% of those suffering with a mental health condition are also dealing with some sort of addiction issue. For families coping with a loved one who has a brain disorder and is abusing alcohol or drugs, challenges compound exponentially. *Pray for families to be able discern what is going on. Pray for the individual to see and acknowledge the addiction and be willing to get treatment.*





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](#)



## 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.

### Love INC at Delano Community Expo

Love INC Heartland will be at the Delano Community Expo on Saturday, May 11, 2024! Visit the Riverside Commons Building from 9am-1:00pm to say hello. This public event is free and a great way to learn more about the Love INC ministry.

### 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)





## *The Hoot*

Eleven OWLS adventured to the Minneapolis Institute of Arts last Thursday for the "Art in Bloom" exhibit. It was wonderful! We wandered through all the galleries and found many amazing fresh floral arrangements that each complimented a work of art. Afterwards we stopped at the Red Rooster in Long Lake for lunch and enjoyed each other's company. We are making dear friends.

Sue and Bill Fink are camping during May so no "Gathering of OWLS" at LOC on May 16<sup>th</sup> but hoping for warm, dry weather soon so we can go to Big Stone Mini Golf in Minnetrista before or after our return. We're also planning a barn party with potluck and outdoor games for June at our house. Stay tuned.

Our Bible Study group is taking a break for the summer but resuming for the last five lessons in September. On Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> we had 18 in attendance!! Great participation and discussions as we share our faith stories and learn how God is guiding us to become wiser as we get older.





## THANK YOU to our Light of Christ Quilting Group

Thank you to Amber Andrews, Oda Carlson, Cheryl Collins, Laurie Grimm, Ginny Iverson, Lynda Pavlovich and Joan Zimmerman for their beautiful quilt work. They were so generous to donate several beautiful quilts they sewed to kids who do not have quilts to cuddle up with and call their own. The quilts were given again to the Village Ranch girls' residential home and to the VR foster home children. The stories of these kids crying when they have been given the quilts in the past tears at your heart. It was beautiful, too, that before they were delivered, the Voyagers group blessed the quilts saying that they hoped they would bring comfort, warmth, security and love to those who were receiving them. Thank you, all, for your gift of love!!



## 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.



## Healing and Wholeness Update



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 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.

## 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.

## 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:

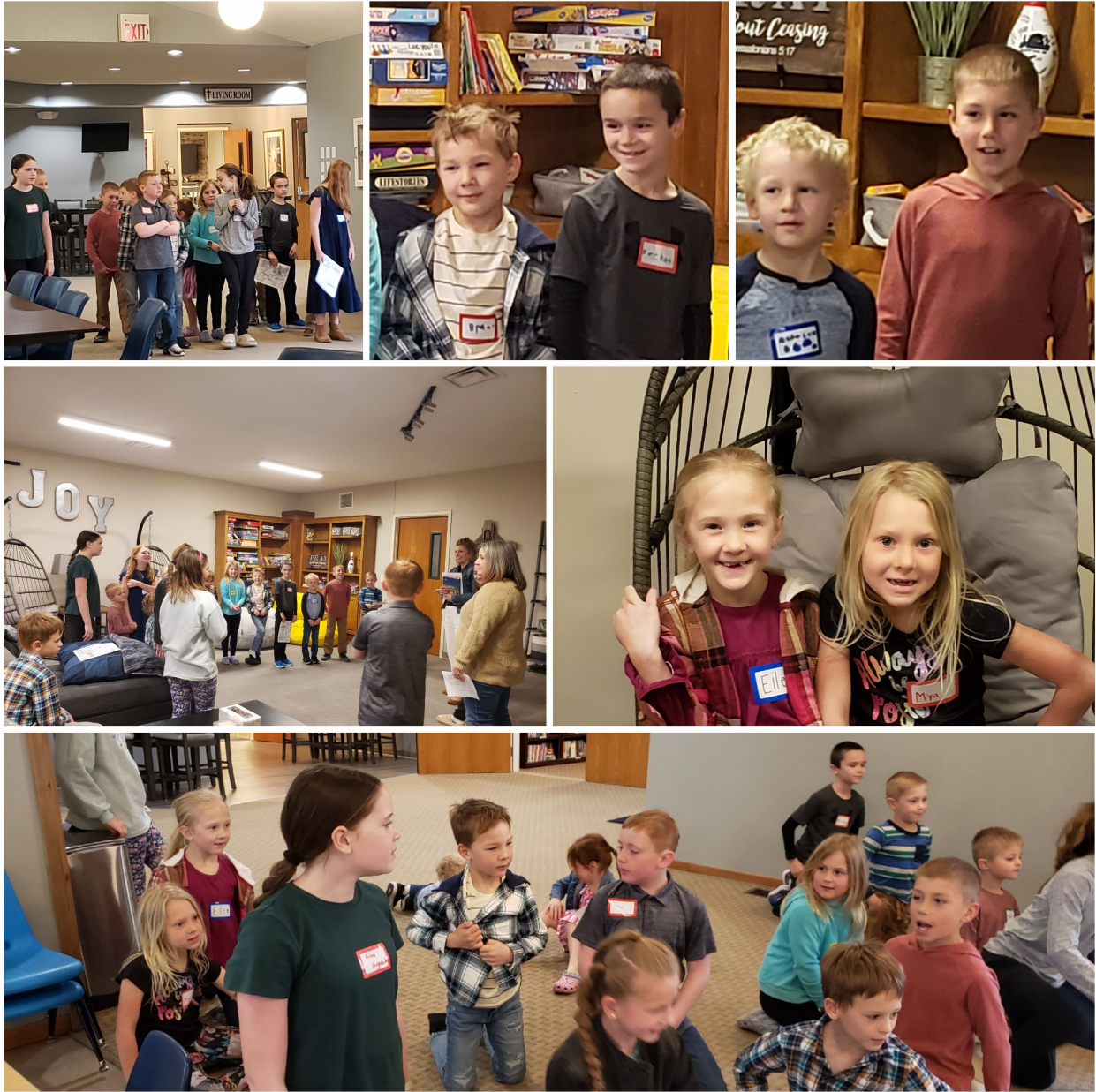
- Introduction Video <https://youtu.be/SUP5E82IBSg>
- Where is God When the Innocent Suffer? <https://youtu.be/zNffKR1HfZU>
- Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People? [https://youtu.be/juvWr\\_G-K-I](https://youtu.be/juvWr_G-K-I)
- What is the Meaning of Innocent Suffering? <https://youtu.be/VS5GmtleiFs>
- 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-xIkNyRcjc?si=zPwlk8D2bvNxHp4y>

## 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 are excited to learn about how God includes them in the great commission!



### Confirmation Corner

Here is the end-of-the-year confirmation schedule (all start times are 6:30 PM unless otherwise noted):

- **Wednesday, May 8:** Service Event (tie blankets); Parent Meeting (from 7:30-8:00 PM)
- **Friday, May 10, 7:00-10:00 PM:** Friday Night Lights – [SIGN UP by 4 PM on 5/10!](#)
- **Wednesday, May 15:** Year End Party!



## 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



### **Jr. Guides:**

Isabelle Nee  
Halle Lansing  
Grace Reiffenberger  
Kaitlyn Pink

Ben Kelly  
Grace Ulberg  
Madison Schansberg  
Max Lotzer

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

