



Worship

Worship services will be recorded and posted on the church website. Online worship will continue until the restrictions for large group gatherings are lifted.



Church Council 2021

Wes Aylsworth
Carmen Hanson
Jennifer Hinker
Jon Holzer
Derek Horeis
Elizabeth Kohlhof
Tom Sebelien
Lisa Spencer
Stacy VanCura
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
Terri.Reuter@locdelano.com

This Wednesday, February 24th is the first occurrence of our Holden Evening Prayer Lent service. Lenten services will be held virtually and posted every Wednesday at 8 AM on our [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#) pages. They will also include faith statements from our tenth graders.



Food Distribution

Through the generosity of Second Harvest Heartland and in collaboration with Our Father's Lutheran Church/NourishingHOPE, Light of Christ volunteers again distributed assorted food items to area residents. Food entrees were loaded for transportation to Delano with the help of Wes Aylsworth, Lowell and Maxine Johnson and Paulette Podratz.

Distribution of food took place at Light of Christ on Tuesday, February 16th with nourishment being provided to approximately 65 families. Distribution was accomplished with assistance from Cheri Ashfeld, Wes Aylsworth, Cat Borman, Wendy Caslavka, Steven Dickey, Heidi Goldbeck, Candace Mielke, Paul and Lydia Nelson, JoMarie Williamson and Jinnelle Weis. The continued help of volunteers dedicated to this necessary ministry is a blessing and very appreciated! And, we're especially thankful for everyone braving the very cold temperatures experienced on the 16th!

Light of Christ is grateful to be included in these efforts to assist area families in need. It is heartwarming to experience the willingness of so many to provide resources and assistance needed during this continued unsettling time of COVID pandemic.

A huge thank you to our Light of Christ volunteers and to all who continue to support community members in so many ways!

Call on the Light of Christ Prayer Chain

If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, please feel free to engage the Light of Christ Prayer Chain. Contact the church office either by email, which is preferred (Terri.Reuter@locdelano.com), or phone (763-972-2400; please keep in mind office hours are currently limited to Wednesdays, 9:15-11:30 am) with



your request, which remains confidential. The LOC Prayer Chain will pray for you as requested. Feel free to call on this team in your time of need. Anyone wishing to join the Prayer Chain should contact the church office.

Caring Cards

Is there someone you would like to receive a personally written message of support or encouragement from the Light of Christ family? Please complete the information below and send to the church office or email to Terri.Reuter@locdelano.com. A card will be created and sent to the intended recipient.

Please send a card to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

This person needs support dealing with:

___ grief ___ depression, brokenness

___ illness ___ family discord

optional details:

To ensure an age-appropriate message, please indicate the recipient's age.

___ youth-young adult ___ 30-60 ___ 60-100

This outreach is provided by the Healing and Wholeness Ministry.

Communion Cups Available for Online Worship

Pre-packaged bags of individual, disposable communion cups are available for pick-up at the church and will be located on a table in the library on Wednesday mornings during regular office hours (**typically 9:15-11:30 AM**). For anyone who is homebound and would like to have the pre-packaged communion cups, please email Jinnelle.Weis@locdelano.com and we will make arrangements to deliver a supply to you.



Caring Corner

(by Sue Fink with LOC Healing and Wholeness Ministry)



We all know it has been a very difficult year for everyone with COVID, losing or being separated from loved ones, employment challenges, food shortages, schooling at home and many other changes. The word depression has been in the forefront for many people during this time. Sadness and grief are normal emotions for everyone but this last year has affected everyone in a different way. Some who struggle with major depression may be struggling even more during this time. In a given year, 6-8% of people will have a depressive episode and 20-25% will experience depression in their lifetime. Children and adolescents also can struggle with depression. And parents struggle at times to help their children understand their parent's depression.

Most people with depression respond positively when they seek out support and treatment, including therapy, fellowship with others, depression medication, exercise, meditation, light therapy for seasonal affective disorders (SAD) which is more common this time of year and other supports.

As a church community, we are here for you. We want our church to be a safe place for all, open to support those with mental illness, befriending and praying for those who are struggling. Mental illness is not a weakness; it's an illness. Our [church website](#) under **Support** offers several links to assist you through your struggles including prayer chain, pastoral calls/visits, caring cards, [NAMIMN](#), the Warmline, Mental Health MN and several others. We also have several excellent books about mental health in the church library. We also hope to begin in person support groups and informational speakers soon once we can gather safely. **We are here for you!** Let us know how we can support you. And we know the Lord is always there for us as the following scriptures share:

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.*

Psalm 46:10 *Be still and know that I am God.*

Psalm 3:3 *But you, O Lord, are a shield around me; you are my glory, the one who holds my head high.*

Isaiah 41:10 *So do not fear for I am with you; do not be dismayed for I am God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

YOU ARE GOD'S BELOVED!!

Light of Christ Committee Opportunities



The new church year for 2021 is just beginning, holding grand expectations for a time when we can again be together in person to live out our ministry and programs with great enthusiasm! Do not miss being a “hands-on” contributor to all that Light of Christ has to offer to our congregation and our community.

There are several open opportunities for service as a member of one of the many active Light of Christ Committees. Your involvement will be a blessing to so many as you also reap the benefits of new perspectives, new friendships, and closer relationships within your church family.

Please consider sharing your time and talents by joining with fellow congregation members currently serving on a Light of Christ Committee. Wherever your passions lead you, there is an opportunity to serve! The greatest immediate needs for additional participation are on **Evangelism/Mission Committee, Healing & Wholeness Committee, Small Group Ministries, Stewardship Committee and Worship & Music Committee.**

Please contact Jinnelle Weis by email at Jinnelle.Weis@locdelano.com or by phone at 952-250-5527 to volunteer your services or to request additional information regarding any Light of Christ volunteer opportunity.

Thank you for your service!

Connect and Converse during Zoom Bible Study

Sundays 5:00-6:00 p.m. via Zoom

Come to explore what God's Word says for life today. Each week we take a portion of Scripture. All are welcome!

In order to get a Zoom link, email Tim Johnson at tdale57@gmail.com

You may be as active in the discussion as you like. We all learn a little something from each other as we ponder the power and beauty and truth of God's Word.

Shared Leadership Orientation Meeting

The 2021 all Council and Committee Orientation Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 2nd beginning at 6:30 PM. The meeting will be conducted via Zoom and all Light of Christ Committee and Council members are encouraged to attend.

This meeting provides an opportunity to welcome new members to Council and Light of Christ Committees and to spend a little time getting to know each other. The agenda will focus on the respective roles of Light of Christ leadership, congregation, and staff. Best practices will be shared as we work together to focus on priorities for the coming year!

Additionally, there will be an opportunity for Zoom breakout groups if committees choose to conduct their regular monthly meeting immediately following the joint session.

A Zoom link, agenda and meeting handouts will be sent via email prior to March 2nd – watch for this additional information and add this get together to your calendar!



2020 Contributor Statements



Your contributor statements are now available to print at your own convenience from the Light of Christ online member portal (click on **Member Portal** icon on the [church website](#)). Due to this electronic conversion, we will not be mailing out statements. If you have any questions, or do not have internet access, please contact the church office.



Stay Informed!

Church Council meeting minutes can be found on the [church website](#).



Do You Enjoy Spreading God's Love to Children?

We are looking for help with worship Children's messages. It's only a short 5-minute video lesson that can make a big impact to our LOC children. Please contact Kirsten, Kim, or Catherine if you're interested.

Children's Message

Upcoming Sunday School Lessons

2/28- Jesus feed 5,000

3/7- Mary anoints Jesus

3/14- Jesus enters Jerusalem

Sunday School

Sunday school continues to be available online. The 3yr-2nd grader lessons are on YouTube and the 3rd-6th graders are using Wakelet. The lessons are available all week and can be viewed when it works best with your family schedule. Going away for the weekend? Great car ride activity! Even though we cannot meet in person, we would like to stay connected as much as we can with your children and help them grow in their faith. We want kids to know that God's love for them is everlasting. If you are not signed up for Sunday school and would like to receive these links, please contact Kim at Kim.Wortz@locdelano.com.



Sunday School Packet Pick Up

March SS materials will be available for pickup starting Wednesday March 3rd. The church doors are open Mon-Thurs from 8:30-1:30pm. I will be in the office on **Thursday, March 4th from 4:30-6pm for pickup.** Contact Kim at Kim.Wortz@locdelano.com with any questions/concerns.

Youth Room Remodel Task Force

After receiving a generous gift from a family at Light of Christ, a great team of people has been assembled to work on the project of remodeling the Youth Room. The team has met 3 times and is already making great progress! Members of the team include Catherine Borman, Jenna Bunker, Scott Dallmann, Brandt Dinger, Brenna Durick, Jennifer Grant (Chair), Erin Green, Kirsten Kelly, Pastor Bruce Kuenzel, Gretchen Ness, Gary Prinsen and Kim Wortz. We welcome input from the congregation about this project and encourage you to reach out to anyone on the team with any questions or feedback. We expect that construction will begin later this spring and be completed by early September. We are thankful to have 2 high school youth on this team but would welcome 1-2 male high school youth to participate as well. Please contact Kirsten if you are interested! We will continue to keep you updated on progress as things move along. Thanks for your support!



HS Mission Trip

Registration has begun for our summer 2021 HS Mission Trip to Denver, CO through **Service Learning Camps**.

Assuming it is safe to travel, the trip will take place July 10-17 and we plan to fly.

Registration is open to youth currently in grades 9-12 through March 3 and then if there are spaces remaining after that point, we may open registration up to current 8th grade LOC youth and possibly other friends. Registration and more info can be found online [through this link](#). We currently have 10 youth registered and there are 20 total youth spaces. Please contact Kirsten with any question and sign up soon!

Fun! Fellowship! Food!

Are you ready for a great night of entertainment, food and fellowship? On Sunday, March 21 at 7:30 pm, you are invited to gather with other LOC members on Zoom for a great event to raise money for our youth! Since we cannot safely have our annual Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction fundraiser, this year we are being creative and are having a different sort of event. The night will begin with a short "program" which will include entertainment (by the youth and Marcus Hanson), youth mission trip "testimonies," and a slide show. And while this is going on, you will be able to share some great food and drinks with your family which will be delivered to your door by our youth. Money raised will help support youth going on the HS Mission Trip (those who still need to raise funds) and the Youth Room remodel project. More info will be coming soon, but save the date and get ready for a fun night with your Light of Christ family!



Register for Summer Camp!

Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp (<https://lakewapo.org/>)

You have 1 more week until the LOC “block” dates are closed. Beginning March 1st, all church “blocks” are released and open to the public.

- June 27-July 2- completed grades 4-HS
- July 21-23 (Wed-Fri)- Wapo Seeds, completed grades 1-3

Use this link to register: <http://lwlbc.com/loc> for these camps.



Green Lake Lutheran Ministries (<https://www.gllm.org/>)

- We did not reserve any spots specifically for LOC this summer. Youth are welcome to register for any week that works for them.
- If you register **before March 1st**, you will receive a \$40 discount per registration.

We will offer scholarships to any youth who attends Bible camp. \$100 will be given to those who attend week-long camp and \$50 for those who attend an “abbreviated” camp. Please contact our staff with any questions you have.



EVERY MEAL FIGHTING CHILD HUNGER

Sunday School Offering Project

Over 200,000 children in Minnesota do not always have access to the nutrition they need to learn and grow. Without reliable access to food – such as free and reduced meal programs at school – the risk of hunger is very real. Every Meal focuses on the weekend food gap, summers, and extended breaks when children are not able to receive meal programs at school.

STUDIES SHOW:

- One third of students have shown better grades as a results of backpack programs.
- About two thirds of participating students appear less worried about food and healthier.
- Over 50% of students demonstrate high self-esteem after receiving food from a backpack program.

Our Sunday school offerings will be collected from now until the end of the school year to help support Every Meal Fighting Child Hunger (formally Sheridan Story). ***Their mission is to help stop child hunger across Minnesota.*** Children can find a container to use at home, print this label [SS Offering project printable](#) and attach it to your container. Throughout the next couple of months, we will have drop off dates to bring your offerings to church. More details to come. If you have any questions, please contact Kim or Catherine.

Click here to learn more about Every Meal Fighting Child Hunger- <https://vimeo.com/282676484>