



## 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)



NourishingHOPE

## Free Fresh Produce and Dairy

**Monday, January 9th**  
**4:00pm – 5:00pm**

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)

**These boxes of produce and dairy are for anyone and everyone!**  
**You, a neighbor, someone in the community.**  
**No qualifications. No questions. No cost.**

## January Food Distribution

Our neighbors' food needs are increasing! And Light of Christ is here to help meet those needs. A few ways you can help our food distribution ministry:

- Sign up to help with food box packing on Monday, Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am at Our Father's Lutheran in Rockford. Time commitment between 60-90 minutes. Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0848a9a72aaaf85-food#/>
- Sign up to help with distributing those boxes of food here in our church parking lot later that afternoon. Arrive at 3:30 pm. Time commitment no more than 60 minutes. Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0848a9a72aaaf85-food1#/>
- Sponsor our own Light of Christ food or personal care item drive. We're increasing from 75 to 90 this month. And, while some months the boxes have a good amount of food, there's always need. An example would be to host a TP drive for 4 or 6 packs of toilet paper. Speak with or email Tim if you're interested....952/472-1755 or [tim.johnson@locdelano.com](mailto:tim.johnson@locdelano.com)
- Pray for this ministry. And pray for the requests of our guests. Prayer requests can be found at the Welcome Center.

## Caring Corner

(from Sue Fink of the Healing & Wholeness Committee)

As the New Year begins, your Healing and Wholeness Ministry is planning afresh to bring more education, support and resources for mental health to our congregation through our faith and the leading of the Holy Spirit. We are in need of additional committee members who have a heart for this ministry and/or work in mental health careers. Please contact Terri in the church office if you can join us or have questions for Sue Fink, the chairperson. Many hands needed to do God's work!



This is week #2 of *31 Days 2 Pray 4 Families with Mental Illness*- Catherine P. Downing is the author of this prayer calendar and this is her second principal she focuses on in her prayers for her son and their family as they meet challenges with his mental illness:

*"Because each day has enough trouble of its own (Matthew 6:34b), I pray every single day for God's favor and grace. Every morning I thank God in anticipation of his presence being with us every single moment--no matter how the day unfolds. At the close of the day, I give thanks for the ways I have seen his goodness and mercy follow us on that particular day (Psalm 23:6). And of course, throughout the day are the ongoing conversations with our Father in heaven who knows our son best and loves him most. Prayer, I have discovered, is a discipline of unceasing watchfulness."*

\*\*The daily prayer coming in your email on January 12 is for Legislative support and I would like to share an article from INMI (Interfaith Network on Mental Illness) which was posted on 1/2/23.

### Good News from NAMI National's Government Relations, Policy & Advocacy team

For the first time in decades, the President included mental health as part of the State of the Union Address and launched a unity agenda focused on four key areas, one of which was mental health. Congressional committees focused on bipartisan efforts to address our nation's mental health crisis.

Here are a few highlights from 2022:

- After years of advocacy and planning, 988 became available nationwide. Demand for the 988 Lifeline has increased more than 40 percent over 2021, representing hundreds of thousands more people who have accessed help and support during a mental health or suicide crisis. Just last week, funding increased from \$24 million in 2021 to more than \$500 million in 2023.
- \$1 billion to help schools hire and retain school mental health professionals and build a pipeline of future professionals over the next five years, which was passed in the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act this summer.
- \$1.01 billion for the Mental Health Block Grant program, a \$153 million increase and the first time the block grant has surpassed \$1 billion. The program allows states to fill gaps in needed mental health services.
- Congress just passed a bill last week which included extending telehealth flexibility for two years to allow many people to continue to access mental health care remotely, expanding the mental health workforce in Medicare and improving care for justice-involved youth re-entering the community, among many other provisions.

These are positive notes which will carry into the New Year!

## January Fifth Sunday Offering

Our January Fifth Sunday offering will be sent to **Agate Housing & Services** in Minneapolis. This was previously **St. Stephen's** prior to consolidating in 2021 with **House of Charter** also in Minneapolis. Both organizations began in the 1950s-1960s. Their goal is to support individuals and families experiencing homelessness in achieving permanent, affordable housing as well as many other services including ending hunger with the help of free public meals, free showers, employment outreach and assisting in obtaining birth certificates/ID supports if needed. Their goals are to help people live with more hope ahead. In 2021 alone this organization served 70,465 meals, provided 50,000 nights of



service, 462 emergency shelters, provided street outreach to 3600 people and provided 676 birth certificates. They also assist with mental health and addiction recovery, veteran support and many other support services. **WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!** Donate money now by going to our *Give* page and clicking on the [Fifth Sunday Agate link](#) to contribute to their much-needed services. We are also collecting much needed items for them in January including men's winter coats (large or X large), all sizes of gloves, hand warmers and twin- and full-size bed sheets. Please leave them in the designated church pew. **Thank you for your generosity!**

## Shared Ministry

It takes all of us finding special places to offer our time, our talents and passions. God's given each of us important and essential contributions to offer. A new year can be a great time to make a new commitment, to plug in, to get connected in a new way, to take a step of faith.

Ministry Teams and Committees are small groups of folks like yourself who want to help make a difference. No experience? No problem! We all help each other as we go. New and fresh eyes and ideas are sometimes the most needed thing. So, don't let inexperience hold you back. Plus, teams and committees are a wonderful way to get to know others, to better understand how God's church works, and to experience your faith come alive in a new way.

At our Congregational Annual Meeting on January 29, we will refresh and renew our connections and commitments through these teams and committees.

As you might know, there are a number of ministry "tasks" which these teams help to oversee. But it certainly doesn't mean these teams/committees do all the doing. It's a mix. Here are the various teams and committees:

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

If you'd like more information on any of them, please reach out to Tim Johnson. If you'd like information on some of the many ministry tasks there are to do, check out our new online Time and Talent sheet.

<https://www.lightofchristlutheran.com/serve/time-and-talents>



# THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who helped with putting up the Christmas decorations, as well as helping take them down this past week. Your help is so appreciated!

## Share Your Talents!

Volunteering is not only a great way to put your faith into action, but also an important way that you help make our ministry happen at Light of Christ. As you might imagine, there are many ways to serve. Just a few include helping worship and fellowship to be a blessing to people's lives.



Ushers. Greeters. Prepping Sunday coffee, purchasing/bringing treats. Helping to run the soundboard or online streaming. Altar Guild. Communion assistants. Readers/lectors. Special music. Praise band. Choir.

Training is available for each of these. Links to sign up are below, as well as on the website and often in the Sunday bulletin. Or for more information, reach out to Tim Johnson at [Tim.Johnson@locdelano.com](mailto:Tim.Johnson@locdelano.com). Thanks for all you do!

- **Ushers:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0848A9A72AAAF85-spring1>
- **Greeters:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0848A9A72AAAF85-sunday2>
- **Altar Guild:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0848A9A72AAAF85-altar>
- **Soundboard:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0848A9A72AAAF85-outdoor1>
- **Communion Asst.:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0848A9A72AAAF85-light>
- **Lectors:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0848A9A72AAAF85-lectors>



**Confirmation  
Christmas Party Fun!**  
(in case you missed  
these last week!)



## High School Fellowship

Join us for nights of fellowship, friends, faith, food and FUN! Here is our upcoming schedule (Wednesdays from 7:30-8:45 at LOC):

- Wednesday, January 11 = Belize Fundraiser Meeting
- Wednesday, January 18 = Speaker from [Rivers of Hope](#)
- Wednesday, January 25 = Game Night with McDonald's Fries (requested by the youth)

## Upcoming Belize Meetings

We have two meetings coming up for our summer 2023 Belize trip:

1. This Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> from 8-9 in the Sanctuary (fundraising meeting for ALL trip participants and parents of youth going on the trip).
2. Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM in the Living Room - meeting for all Belize adult participants and leaders.



## It's Time to Sign Up for 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!

