



## Worship

- In-person worship—  
9:00 am Sundays
- Online worship  
continues, and is live-  
streamed to our  
[YouTube](#) and  
[Facebook](#) pages



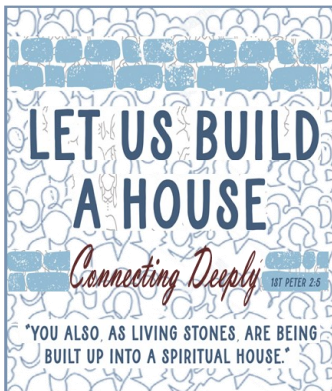
## We welcomed the following new Light of Christ Partners in Ministry on November 19<sup>th</sup>:

Alice Bidle Camden, Emilia, Davin  
Barry & Amy Graunke Ben, Chet  
Mike & Brittany Hartnett Will, Alex  
Kristi Hoffmann  
Corey McLagan  
Josh & Anna Streich Andelyn, Vayda



## 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



The CFM team is pairing up with *Friends 4 A Cause* again this Holiday season. This local non-profit teaches others that giving is greater than receiving through the power of friendship and community. They help local families year-round when they are going through hard times. During the holiday season they help Delano and Wright County families, and foster kids have a brighter Christmas. Each family member submits 3 wants and 3 needs, and the family will get a \$100 Coborn's gift card and an essential basket. New this year, each family will receive a laundry basket full of essentials and so we will be looking for monetary donations for: laundry soap, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, dish soap, etc. Please pray, sign up for a gift, or a monetary donation for these 10 families.

Drop off times will be **Sundays, December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>** before or after church service in the narthex. The last and final drop off is **Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> from 6-7:30 pm.**

Click on the link below to find the SignUp Genius. All gifts should have their family numbers on them (ex: 12-1 or 12-4) and all adult gifts should be wrapped.



Any questions, contact Kim Wortz @ [kimw1517@gmail.com](mailto:kimw1517@gmail.com) or 952-457-9253.  
Thank you and God Bless!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904094EA5AF2BA75-46100244-friends>

## Contact us!

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



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

## Caring Corner

(from Elizabeth Kohlhof of the Healing & Wholeness Committee)



As the seasons turn, so do our hearts and time as we begin focusing on the upcoming holiday season. The holiday can be a fun-filled season – filled with gratitude, festivities, and joyous memories, but it can also be a stressful and challenging time especially for those impacted by mental illness. In fact, a NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) study showed that 64% of people with mental illness report holidays make their conditions worse.

This next Caring Corner is focused on how we can best care for our mental health during the holiday season. I was inspired by several helpful tips and ideas provided by NAMI. I will keep this list handy as a reminder to care for myself and others during this holiday season. May it serve as a reminder to you that your mental health is important.

**Be realistic.** Do you really *have* to do everything on your list? You can't please everyone the rest of the year, so why try to during the holidays? Saying 'no,' whether to gatherings or a present on someone's wish list that you simply cannot find (or afford), can be one of the most challenging parts of the season. But your own mental and physical well-being needs to come first.

**Don't try to be a superhero (or heroine).** We all have complex family dynamics. Acknowledge them, but also acknowledge that, despite the season's near-universal message of unity and peace, it's not a realistic outlook. If you must spend time with these people, try to limit your exposure.

**Volunteer.** Volunteering can be a great source of comfort, simply knowing that you're making an impact in the lives of people who are not as fortunate. This is a great strategy if you feel lonely or isolated. Consider seeking out other community, religious or other social events.

**Spend time in nature.** Studies show that time in nature reduces stress. Need to break away during a holiday gathering? Take a walk in a local park. Exercise can also help, with its known anti-anxiety, anti-depression effect.

**Write a gratitude list and offer thanks.** As we near the end of the year, it's a good time to reflect on what you are grateful for, then thank those who have supported you. Gratitude has been shown to improve mental health.

**Eat well.** With dinners, parties, and cookie trays at every turn, our eating habits are challenged during the holiday season. Try to maintain a healthy diet through it all. Eating unprocessed foods, like whole grains, vegetables, and fresh fruit is the foundation for a healthy body and mind.

**Make sure that the "holiday blues" haven't become a scapegoat.** You could be experiencing Major Depressive Disorder with a Seasonal Pattern or another biological or psychological cause. If these are persistent feelings, make an appointment to see your doctor.



The congregation members are invited to help the confirmation classes in their Toilet Paper Drive. The toilet tissue will be given out to our Nourishing Hope guests at the December 11<sup>th</sup> distribution. The guests will receive a grocery sack with 4 rolls of toilet paper. Any size of package will be welcomed. Donations can be placed in the box in the narthex. **THANK YOU** for helping meet this need.

### Ready For a Mission Trip?

Whether our thrift store visitors are shoppers, families connected with us, or individuals seeking help--all are valued and loved by God. You can be on a mission trip here in our communities through our Love INC Heartland Thrift Stores. Join our thrift store crew today: [bit.ly/loveincvolunteer](http://bit.ly/loveincvolunteer)



### Stock The Christmas Store - Love INC Heartland

Health issues, job loss, and single parenting can prevent our families from being able to embrace Christmas. Our partnership with WestPointe provides a worry-free way for families to pick and wrap Christmas gifts. [Help stock the Christmas Store--we especially need gifts for teenagers.](#) View ideas here: [bit.ly/christmasstore23](http://bit.ly/christmasstore23) Drop off donations on Friday, December 8, at West-Pointe Church in Delano from 10am-4pm. Questions? Contact [help@loveincheartland.org](mailto:help@loveincheartland.org) or call 763-972-6547.





Please join Sisters of LOC for a Christmas craft night on Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at Lupine Brewery. Use the QR code above to sign up and pick one of four craft options.

## Online Christmas Devotions



Start your week off with a musical devotion! Beginning November 27<sup>th</sup>, our Worship and Music Director, Katie Anne Kohler, will share musical devotions featuring our favorite Christmas carols. Videos will be posted to our Light of Christ Worship Services page

each Monday. You can find the link here <https://youtube.com/@lightofchristworshipservic6861?si=rLmYMIRex2eL6cJH> Please note, this is different from the Light of Christ Devotions YouTube page we were using before. We are in the process of merging the two!

## Carols & Sips

Mark your calendars for this fun Holiday night with other LOC members. Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 pm, we will meet in the Fellowship Hall for a night of singing Christmas carols, fellowship, dinner and drinks. We're still working out details on the dinner but it will be approximately \$25 per person payable the night of the event. It will include, dinner, drinks, and dessert. Wear your fun Christmas colors and join us for a night together celebrating the birth of our Savior. **Please RSVP to Jennifer Grant 612.226.8181 or Carrie Klinkner 763.458.3338 by Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>**. Please include drink preference, alcoholic (wine or beer) or non-alcoholic drink, and if you have special dietary requirements.



## Christmas Ornaments

The Worship and Music Committee would like to offer everyone the opportunity to purchase ornaments this Christmas season in honor or in memory of loved ones. All ornaments will be placed on the Christmas tree in the Narthex until after Christmas Eve, unless you wish to take yours home right away. Suggested amount for purchase is \$10. All funds will go toward another live-



stream camera so we can continue improving our online services! We will have a table set up in the Narthex for purchasing through December 17<sup>th</sup>. If paying by check, please make payable to *Light of Christ* and note **Christmas Ornaments** in the memo. Thank you and Merry Christmas!



Mark your calendars! Light of Christ's annual service of Lessons and Carols is December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 am. Come hear the Christ story alongside joyful music featuring all Light of Christ musicians. We can't wait for this musical celebration!

# CONNECTING

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2024

## Keeping you in the loop...

Over the past couple of years, we have been sharpening our focus on what matters most for us as a faith community. It's that God is at work in us and with us, connecting us more deeply to God and to one another. Building a House, a Spiritual House, we've envisioned. As Scripture says, "You also as living stones are being built up into a spiritual house." We're excited about what God is up to!

At various junctures, together as a faith family, we have considered various aspects of what it means to be building this House. Most recently during our Stewardship Pledge Drive we lifted up four pillars of this House: Worship & Music; Children Youth & Family; Pastoral Presence; and the Lord's House.

About a year ago, you weighed in on a variety of aspects of the Lord's House which have needed some attention. Everything from the parking lot to a refresh of the kitchen to being certain that our facilities are safe and secure. At the top of the list was finding a way to create better connecting space in the narthex, perhaps expanding that, recognizing that our narrow passageway down to the Fellowship Hall is a hindrance. And you were very supportive of a possible expansion of the front of our church building and entry to our facilities. Those plans were paused until late this summer when Church Council took a look again at some ideas developed by our Facility Site Task Force. Leadership, wanting to maximize our current space and minimize potential costs, asked the Task Force to reapproach these various spaces and needs all while keeping within the current footprint of our facilities.

Keep your eye out for initial drawings to be shared with you! We'll provide opportunity to hear and see more in early December. And we anticipate that as a church family we can consider a formal **Connecting 2024** proposal at our January Annual Meeting.

Please reach out to any Council member with questions. Serving on our Facility Site Task Force are: Brandt Dinger, Gary Prinsen, Scott Dallmann, Tim Johnson, and Pastor Bruce. Currently, the Task Force is working with VanMan Architects and Builders in developing early ideas/options.

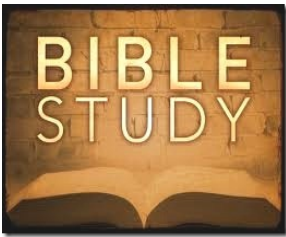




## Tough Questions for 21st Century Christians

Pastor Bruce will be leading a Bible study on the tough questions that we face as 21<sup>st</sup> century Christians today. We will take up questions like these: where is God when innocent people suffer and even die? How do I believe in both the biblical accounts of creation and the scientific evidence for evolution? Did Christ die to save all people--across the continents and across the centuries-- or only some people? Did God really create more than one race--the human race? What kind of marriages does God bless?

We will meet on the **first and third Tuesdays** of the month in the Living Room from 7:45 - 8:45 pm. There is no need to register ahead of time. Just come as you are. There will be time for checking in, praying, conversation, and a biblical/theological presentation by



Pastor Bruce. The presentation will be recorded and posted on the Light of Christ website for those who can't participate in person. Please don't hesitate to reach out to Pastor Bruce with any questions you may have.

## Women's Bible Study

The women's bible study meets the **1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays** of the month, **6:30 – 8:00 pm** in the **Living Room at LOC.** **We will meet through March. We will not meet in December.** The study we will be doing for this session is *Blessed: Experiencing the Promise of the Book of Revelation* by Nancy Guthrie. If you have any questions, please contact Lindsay Lindall at [lindsay.lindall@gmail.com](mailto:lindsay.lindall@gmail.com)



## October Fifth Sunday Contribution to Cancer Care MN

A special thank you to our congregation for your generosity. We collected **\$1923 for Cancer Care MN.**



Thank you!! Thank you also to Tom Sebelien for sharing his grandson's amazing efforts to support those who are receiving cancer treatments.

## 2024 Offering Envelopes

If you requested preprinted 2024 offering envelopes, (or did not opt out) they are now available to be picked up in the narthex.



## 2024 Pledges & Online Giving

If you need to change your automatic contribution amount due to your 2024 pledge, please log in to your [MyVanco account](#) or contact Terri in the church office to make the change. Your pledge card does not authorize the church to make these changes.

You might find it helpful to [watch this video](#), which will walk you through the steps to cancel your current transaction and then create a new transaction. Please contact Terri in the church office if you have any questions.

**You are encouraged to still make your 2024 pledge if you haven't already done so. Pledge cards can be found at the usher station or in the church office.**



## Supporting Light of Christ and our Mission is as easy as 1-2-3.

With Vanco Mobile (our online giving app) you can express your generosity in the moment—right from the palm of your hand.

- 1) Download the app in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store
- 2) Search for **Light of Christ Lutheran Church-Delano**
- 3) Make contributions and pay registration fees

Or, you can easily access our online giving page by scanning this QR code or by going to the [church website](#) Give page.





## Confirmation Corner

Here is the upcoming Confirmation schedule (all nights are 6:30-8:00 pm unless noted otherwise):

- **November 22 = No Confirmation** (Thanksgiving)
- **November 29** = Content Night (last night of toilet paper grade level competition)
- **Friday, December 8** = Friday Night Lights (7-10 pm)
- **December 6** = Service Event (rotate between Love INC & Food Shelf – more details coming soon)
- **Sunday, December 10** = last day to bring toilet paper for Nourishing Hope TP Drive
- **December 13** = Service Event (rotate between Love INC & Food Shelf – more details coming soon)
- **December 20** = Christmas Party!



## Summer 2024 Youth Opportunities

This summer we have 3 great trip opportunities for our HS Youth (grades 9-12)! If you missed our info meeting, [click here](#) to go to our *Youth Summer* page on our website to view the PowerPoint from the meeting (*scroll down to Summer 2024 bullet*). Please [complete this short form](#) to indicate your interest in any/all of the trips. This does not commit you to attending but will help us plan. If you are ready to register for a specific trip, here are the official registration forms:

- **Chicago Mission Trip:** <https://lightofchristdelano.breezechms.com/form/Chicago2024>
- **Youth Gathering (New Orleans):** <https://lightofchristdelano.breezechms.com/form/ELCAYouthGath24>
- **BWCA Trip:** <https://lightofchristdelano.breezechms.com/form/BWCA2024>

The registration deadline for all trips will be **Wednesday, November 29**. Here is a bit of info about each trip:



**2024 ELCA Youth Gathering**

including **MYLE the tAble**  
Young Adult Gathering

**ELCA Youth Gathering to New Orleans** (led by Pastor Bruce & Cynthia) = July 15-20; estimated cost \$1,500

**BWCA Trip** (for current 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grade youth only; led by Jennifer Slipka) = Dates and cost TBD (most likely a 4-5 day trip costing under \$500)

### BWCA Adventure 2024



Led by Jennifer Slipka and 1 adult male (TBD)



**Mission Trip to Chicago**  
(led by Kirsten Kelly) = June 23-29; estimated cost \$600