



## Worship

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



## 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



## Contact us!

Light of Christ Lutheran  
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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, December 11<sup>th</sup>**

**4:00 pm—until gone**

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)

## December Food Distribution

Our food distribution ministry, Nourishing Hope, needs volunteers for **Monday, December 11**. We have two time slots:

- **10:00 am** when we pack hundreds of boxes of food over at Our Father's Lutheran in Rockford. (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0848A9A72AAAF85-food>)
- **3:30 pm** when we distribute about 90 boxes of food right here in our church parking lot. (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0848A9A72AAAF85-food1>)



## Cookie Exchange



The Sisters of LOC would like to invite everyone to a cookie exchange on **Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:00 PM** in the Living Room at Light of Christ Church. We ask that each person who is participating bring 3 dozen cookies (please state what you're bringing in the sign-up – link found below) along with copies of the recipe. Refreshments will be served with fellowship to follow. We hope that you can join us! If you want to attend, but are unable to sign up online, please send Kelly Harstad an email at [kellyharstad8@gmail.com](mailto:kellyharstad8@gmail.com) or call/text at 763-227-8246.

[Click here to sign up](#)

## Caring Corner

*(from Rachel Boyack of the Healing & Wholeness Committee)*

### Nurturing Mental Wellness in Youth During the Holiday Season: A Christian Perspective

The holiday season is often a time of joy, connection, and celebration. However, for some youth, this period can also bring about feelings of stress, anxiety, or even isolation. As Christians, we are called to be a light to the world, and this includes supporting the mental wellness of our youth, especially during the holiday season.



#### Understanding the Challenges

Youth face a unique set of challenges during the holidays. The pressure to participate in social gatherings, meet academic expectations, and balance family dynamics can be overwhelming. Additionally, the commercialization of the holidays can create unrealistic expectations and feelings of inadequacy.

#### A Christian Approach to Mental Wellness

As Christians, we believe that God created us with inherent value and worth. We are called to love and support our youth, not only during the holidays but throughout the year. Here are some ways we can nurture their mental wellness from a Christian perspective:

1. **Emphasize God's Unconditional Love:** Remind youth that God loves them unconditionally, regardless of their circumstances or feelings. This unwavering love can provide a sense of security and comfort during challenging times.
2. **Encourage Open Communication:** Create a safe and supportive environment where youth feel comfortable expressing their emotions and concerns. Listen patiently and without judgment, offering guidance and reassurance when needed.
3. **Promote Healthy Habits:** Encourage regular exercise, nutritious eating, and adequate sleep. These habits can positively impact mental health and overall well-being.
4. **Engage in Meaningful Activities:** Encourage youth to participate in activities that bring them joy and purpose, whether it's volunteering, spending time in nature, or pursuing hobbies.
5. **Seek Professional Help When Needed:** If youth are experiencing persistent or severe mental health struggles, encourage them to seek professional help. Remind them that they are not alone and that there is support available.

#### Putting Faith into Action

Here are some practical ways to put these principles into action:

1. **Organize a youth group holiday service project:** Help youth connect with their community and make a positive impact. Light of Christ's Confirmation group has service projects already scheduled; encourage these youth to participate!
2. **Host a potluck or game night:** Provide a safe and welcoming space for youth to socialize and connect with others. Light of Christ hosts monthly Friday Night Lights for 7-12th grade youth and their friends; encourage these youth to participate!
3. **Share stories of faith and resilience:** Remind youth that they are not alone in their struggles and that there are examples of individuals who have overcome adversity through faith.
4. **Promote self-care practices:** Encourage youth to engage in activities that promote relaxation and stress reduction, such as mindfulness exercises or journaling.
5. **Create a holiday gratitude list:** Help youth focus on the blessings in their lives, fostering a sense of appreciation and contentment.

By incorporating these principles into our interactions with youth, we can help them navigate the holiday season with greater resilience and mental well-being. As Christians, we have a responsibility to care for the whole person, including their mental and emotional well-being. By extending support, understanding, and encouragement, we can help youth experience the joy and peace that the holiday season has to offer.

## OUTREACH



### Friends 4 A Cause

There are still a few open slots to sign up for. The last and final drop off is **Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> from 6-7:30 pm**. Any monetary donations need to be received at the church office **before December 11<sup>th</sup>**.

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 @ 952-457-9253 or [kimw1517@gmail.com](mailto:kimw1517@gmail.com). Thank you and God Bless!

SignUp Genius for gift slots: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904094EA5AF2BA75-46100244-friends>

### Thankful For 53 Families Served



A special thank you to The Highlands, Lyndale Lutheran, and Christ Lutheran church partners, who provided 35 Thanksgiving meals and 18 turkeys to neighbors in need. We value you and your commitment to our mission to transform lives and communities In the Name of Christ.

### Love INC Holiday Helpers

We rely on the generous hearts of our volunteers. Thank you to all those who have volunteered in the Connection Center, Fresh Start Program, and our Love INC Heartland Thrift Stores. New to volunteering? We welcome you: [bit.ly/loveincvolunteer](http://bit.ly/loveincvolunteer)

## CHURCH NEWS

### Worship Time Changing

Per recommendation of the Worship and Music Committee, Church Council has approved a worship time change to **9:30 am beginning January 7<sup>th</sup>**. We will worship at this time through May and will evaluate before the summer.



**THANK YOU!**

**THANK YOU** to all of those who participated in the Lessons and Carols service! Your sharing of time and talents is most appreciated. I feel so blessed to be a part of such a talented and giving congregation. Merry Christmas!

~ Katie

## MOM'S NIGHT OUT!

-TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19TH, 7:30 PM  
-MEET AT BRICKSIDE GRILLE & TAP  
-NO NEED TO REGISTER  
-WE HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF FELLOWSHIP, CONVERSATION, AND PRAYER!







## Advent Christmas Worship Schedule

Below is our schedule for the upcoming Advent/Christmas worship services:

- ⇒ **12/17:** Children's Christmas Program, 9 am
- ⇒ **12/24:** 2, 4, 10 pm Christmas Eve

## Seeing more videos on our Light of Christ Worship Services YouTube page?

We are currently transferring videos from our Devotions YouTube page to our worship page. That way we have all your videos in one place! If you would like to view them in a more organized manner, click on the "playlists" tab. There the videos will be divided into three different categories: Devotions, Sermons, and Worship Services. Please note, all YouTube live videos are listed under the "live" tab and are not in the "Worship Services" playlist.



## Christmas Ornaments

**Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>** is the last day to purchase ornaments in honor of or in memory of a loved one—offered by the Worship and Music Committee to fund another live-stream camera so we can continue improving our online services. Suggested amount for purchase is \$10. If paying by check, please make payable to *Light of Christ* and note **Christmas Ornaments** in the memo. Thank you and Merry Christmas!



## 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 this **Tuesday, December 12<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.



## Storytime celebrates the season

Kids...Parents...Grands! It is possible to celebrate Advent and Christmas without going-doing-buying. Find a quiet spot and enjoy book selections from the **seasonal shelf** in Light of Christ's library. There are books, DVDs and CDs appealing to all ages.

## Online Christmas Devotions

Start your week off with a musical devotion! Throughout Advent 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/@lightofchristworshipservice6861?si=rLmYMIReX2eL6cJH>

## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all the O.W.L.S (Older Wiser Lutherans)!!

Due to the proximity of December 21<sup>st</sup> to the Christmas weekend and the busyness of this holy season, we are canceling our December gathering. Let's look forward to January 18, 2024 at 2pm, when we'll really get the ball rolling for senior fun and fellowship!  
~ Sue Fink





***We hope you can come!***

**Christmas: A Journey of Faith**

Our children have been learning how the Bible is not just a nice story, or a book to sit on the shelf, but a guide for our everyday life.

**Christmas: A Journey of Faith** takes the Bible narrative and imagines the journey of faith it took for various people to believe and be involved in God's plan for them. The program addresses in a first-person narrative what it might have been like to be Mary, an unwed teenager in a small town. What was the reaction of the townspeople needing to travel back to their hometown and to do so because they were being taxed! What was it like to be shepherds, people who held the job no one else wanted, to be visited by angels, and to be among the first to see the newborn king?

**Christmas: A Journey of Faith** will be presented by 88+ children ages 3 years-6<sup>th</sup> grade. They will share the wonder of Christmas through the Word, song, and action.

***We hope you will join us!***

**SPECIAL NOTE:** We have 88 children signed up to participate! We anticipate there being a larger number of people in worship than normal and plan to stream the program into the fellowship hall in event of overflow. We also anticipate that parking might become a challenge so we are encouraging neighbors and friends to carpool.

*\*\*We are hoping snow holds off so that we can park on the grass area as well. We could use about 4 people who would be willing to mark off where people should park and help to direct traffic. If you are willing to help, please let LaDonna or the church office know asap. Thank you!*



## Confirmation Service Nights

On December 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, the youth in grades 7-9 are serving at two Delano organizations to help with Christmas projects and be God's hands and feet in our community. Here are some photos of the hard work they did along with the fun they had serving together! Thank you to the adult leaders and volunteer coordinators who gave of their time to make these nights happen. We will have more photos next week to share from our December 13<sup>th</sup> service night.



## Confirmation youth serving at Love INC





# CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS



**Confirmation youth serving at the Delano Helping Hands Food Shelf**



## Confirmation Corner

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

- **December 13** = Service Event (rotate between Love INC & Food Shelf – details emailed out to confirmation families)
- **December 20** = Christmas Party!