



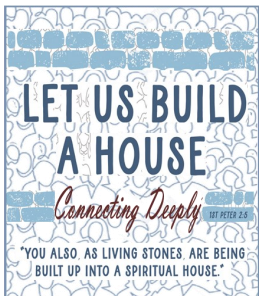
Worship

- In-person worship—**9:30 AM Sundays**
- Online worship is live-streamed to our [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#) pages



Church Council 2025

Laurie Brown (sec'y.)
Billie Chock (pres.)
Tim Current (treas.)
Pat Czock
Brandt Dinger
Heidi Goldbeck
Luke Jeseritz
Lisa Krause (v. pres.)
Ryan Tool
Pastor Tim Wheatley



Contact us!

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(763) 972-2400



LightOfChristLutheran.com
Terri.Reuter@locdelano.com

Summer Youth Activity Night



One More Summer Youth Activity Night in August!

We invite youth to join us for a fun night of games, friends, food and fun on **Monday, August 25th**! We'll have two different gathering times:

- **6:00-7:30 PM** = Incoming 7th and 8th graders
- **7:30-9:00 PM** = Incoming 9th graders and up (including college-aged youth)

Friends are welcome and these nights are **FREE** (thanks to the support of our congregation). Hope to see you there!

August 31st Hymn Sing!

We will have a hymn sing in worship on **August 31st**! If you would like to hear some of your favorite hymns in worship, list it on the form in the Narthex!



The church office will be closed on Monday, August 25th.

Fifth Sunday Donations in August

Our Fifth Sunday contributions this August will be for our LOC Birthday Ministry. Several Light of Christ member volunteers work in collaboration with the Delano Love INC chapter to provide birthday gifts and supplies for children ages 10 and under throughout the year. Families in need are selected by Love INC. LOC volunteers each month receive a list of eligible children and purchase birthday gifts as well as birthday supplies for these children/families. Light of Christ totally funds the cost of this program and there is no cost to the recipient families. We so appreciate your financial contributions for this monthly effort for these young children. Your efforts will help make wonderful birthdays for these special young kids in need and bring them a bright star on their special day. **Thank you so much for your generous contribution!**



LOC September Gratitude Outreach

The Mission/Evangelism Committee will be doing a **Gratitude Outreach** for the Delano fire fighters to thank these volunteers for all they do for our residents. The fire department is having their annual Dad's Waffle Breakfast at the fire station and the Senior Center on **Saturday, September 6th from 7:30 to 11:30 AM**. The city will also have a silent auction and will accept donations to benefit the fire department and the senior center. Our committee will create a large *thank you* poster which we will ask our LOC members to sign. We will also create a fun activity for kids to thank our fire fighters. You can donate funds for them at the breakfast, or Lona Jose or Lisa Spencer will deliver any donations. We appreciate so much what these fire fighters do for us in the community and look forward to sharing this appreciation. We hope you can join us on September 6th!



Gardeners: do you have extra produce from your garden?

The Food Shelf is open to drop off donations from 5:00-6:00 every Tuesday evening and 9:00-11:00 every Thursday morning. If you want to arrange drop off at another time, please call the Food Shelf at (763) 972-4455 and leave a message. We will get back to you to arrange a drop off time.



Belize Adult/Family Mission Trip 2026

We will be having our first Belize Adult/Family Mission Trip meeting on **Wednesday, August 27th at 7:00 PM** in the Living Room. Our mission trip is scheduled for Saturday, February 28th through Saturday, March 7th, 2026. Come find out more about this life changing opportunity to listen, learn, love, and serve in the name of Christ.

Grow Impact As A Volunteer Group

We rely on dedicated volunteers to help our office + stores run smoothly. Volunteer as a small group, family, or work team today! Learn more by calling 763-972-6547 or sign up at bit.ly/loveincvolunteer



Join Us At Golf For Love - September 15



Tee off with us at Albion Ridges on September 15 for a day of friendly competition, community, and purpose. Event details, team tickets, and sponsorship packages available at bit.ly/golfforlove25

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Grace and Peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,

So, about that second service! In my interview before coming here to Light of Christ, one of the things that I was asked about was a second worship opportunity each week. I, for one, did not have a definite plan of when and how to add a second worship service, but I did promise to take it on and look into it, which is what I have done. Last year we had three different experiments around a second worship service. During three different weeks we had a second worship offering—either on Wednesday at 6:45, Sunday at 8:00 or Sunday at 11:00. After these worship services we did a survey, open to the entire congregation, with a result of 81 responses. Let me tell you what I have learned from the survey, my own reflections, and then how I am thinking at this time. This is where I am, and if you want to talk to me about any or all of it, I would love to have your feedback.

Key takeaways from the survey: while most of those who were surveyed wanted a second service at some point, there was a strong minority that did not (35.8%). When responses came in, some of those who did not want a second service talked about the unity that one service gave them. Of all the responses, the vast majority wanted a Sunday worship service (although it could be because that is what we offer, we have a biased sample because the people who like what we have are here and we are missing those who cannot/do not prefer Sunday worship). The top time listed was of course 9:30 for worship. When asked how important worship time was out of 5 with 3 being average, we came up at a respectable 3.84 and had a median and mode of 4 which means we care about the time of the worship service, but it is not the most important thing to us. About a third of us wanted a fellowship hour between the services and a third of us didn't really have an opinion about a fellowship hour.

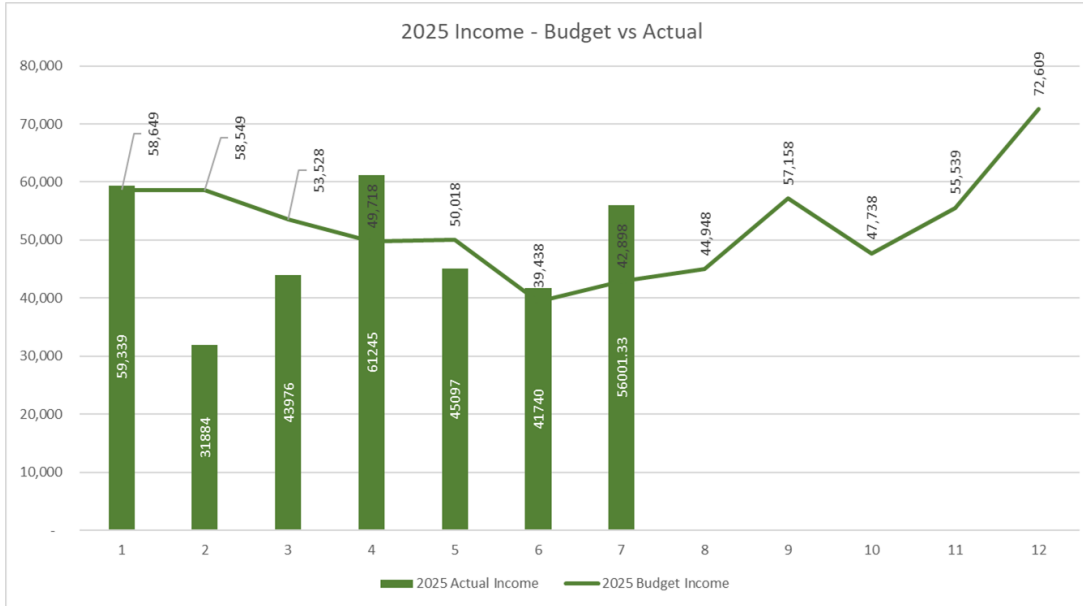
Now what I personally have observed from these experiments are the following:

- 1) We have gotten used to only having one service, and in some ways really like knowing each other better.
- 2) Though we want more and better options for the worship times, we also want a service that feels full. I will note here that the guidance given by church growth people is you want the sanctuary not to feel too empty, but also not to feel too full—over 70 percent. Since our sanctuary holds about 300, that means we want to have at least 90 people per service and not over 210 people. Now of course those are general guidelines, but it gives us perspective.
- 3) The early morning people are far more passionate about the early morning than the late in the day people—no judgment, just an observation.
- 4) The Wednesday service is a great option, but our Wednesdays are so full already that it would be the hardest to work logistically.
- 5) We have great energy about this, but at this point it is not causing tension (or not much of it at least).

Lastly, let me tell you what my thoughts are on the matter. I am not one that wants to just grow to put a feather in my cap. I want to grow because I believe Light of Christ has a very important witness about Christ that we need to shine bright in Delano and the world. It is important that a place where all people are accepted and celebrated gets the message out there about who Jesus is. Also, Delano is growing and the needs in our community continue to grow as well. So, I would really like to grow so much that we need at least one more worship service (when we need two more, that will be an even better problem to have). Yet I don't want to artificially push it too soon. I believe that when average attendance is around 200, we will want to bring back two services on Sunday. Right now, I am encouraging us to figure out when those times will be on how to make it work, because I am hoping that this year we will be looking at numbers like that. Also, with Katie and Kirsten, we are going to be working on the Wednesday logistics. The thing we are experimenting with right now is a youth led confirmation worship service. Hear that, because it will be a full worship service and yet it will also very much be a confirmation service focused on teaching and praise music more than liturgy and proclamation. But I think it will be a great addition and being on Wednesdays, we might be able to play around with changes we may end up bringing on Sundays. As I said before, I would like this to be a conversation, and I do think God will guide us through so if you have questions about it, or comments to share please let me know!

Pastor Tim

LOC Monthly Income - Actual versus Budget



Year To Date Summary – July 2025

- YTD Budget \$352,798
YTD Actual \$339,281
- Year to Date Actual is **\$13,517** below budget
- July giving above budget

Love INC Birthday Ministry

LOC Birthday Ministry volunteer, Jinnelle Weis, working on the September birthday bags for Love INC neighbors. Please pray for the kids who receive these birthday bags assembled with care! Thank you for your support of this ministry!



It's Almost Time! Rally Sunday Is September 7th!



On Rally Sunday we rally together to kick off another year of our fall programming. Following worship that day, we will have lots of activities, including a bounce house, games, prizes, food, and fellowship! Committee members will also be on hand after worship to answer questions about their respective committees.

Here's where you can help! We've compiled a list of specific items we could use. See the SignUp Genius link below or the QR code here. There is also a place on the sign-up for adults/youth to volunteer to help with the games on Rally Sunday. Thank you – your support of our Children's Ministry means the world! The children love the games, prizes, and getting excited for the year ahead! All are welcome!



<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A44A5AD2FA4F4C34-57858719-locrally>

Adult Choir Begins Soon!



Can you believe fall is almost upon us? That means adult choir is starting up again! Weekly rehearsals are Tuesdays 6:30-7:30, with the first rehearsal on **September 9th**. All skill levels are welcome! If you are interested or have any questions, talk to LOC's Worship and Music Director, Katie!



Stay Informed!

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

Coming This Fall: Deep Questions, Grounded Faith

Connecting Deeply with God and with One Another — Rooted, Growing, Bearing Fruit

On Thursdays beginning on **September 11th**, we're diving into some of life's biggest and most important questions—questions that shape how we see God, ourselves, and the world. Our new six-week series, **Deep Questions, Grounded Faith**, will explore what it means to live fully rooted in God's grace, mercy, and love, and how that grounding leads us to actively engage the world around us.

Each week, we'll focus on one big question:

- What is faith—and why does it matter?
- Where is God when life hurts?
- What is my purpose?
- Can I really change—and how?
- What does it mean to be “saved”?
- What does it mean to live a good life?

As we explore these questions, we'll weave them into our seasonal imagery of **planting, nurturing, and harvesting**, seeing how faith grows when we tend it—and how it bears fruit in generosity, service, and love.

Whether you've been in church your whole life or you're simply curious, you're invited to join the conversation. Each session will include Scripture, reflection, discussion, and a practical takeaway for the week—something you can live out personally and share with others.

Thursday mornings from 9:15 – 10:30 AM and
Thursday evenings from 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Come ready to listen, share, and grow. Your questions are welcome here—and together, we'll discover how deeply God's answers can take root in our lives.



Attention, Women! As life and schedules get busy for the fall, please consider taking time out for yourself and joining us for the women's Bible study starting in September. Participating in a Bible study is a great way to dive deeper into the word and gain new insights that strengthen our faith.

The women's Bible study will meet **the first and third Mondays of the month, 6:30 – 8:00 PM at LOC**. The first Monday of the month we will meet in the Living Room. On the third Monday of the month we will meet in room 106. If you need to leave early at any point that is okay. **We will meet September – June. We will not meet in December. The first meeting will be September 15th.** If you can't make it every time that is okay! We want you to come when you can.

We will be doing **two Bible studies by Nancy Guthrie**. The first half of our time together we will study her book *God Does His Best Work with Empty*. The second half we will study her book *Even Better than Eden*.

God Does His Best Work with Empty

Join Nancy Guthrie in discovering why emptiness has never been, and never will be, a problem to God. As Nancy pulls back the curtain on God's work to fill up emptiness as revealed throughout the Bible, you'll experience page after page of grace and hope that your emptiness can and will be filled. You'll begin to see that God really does do His best work with empty—as he fills it with Himself.

Source: [God Does His Best Work with Empty: Guthrie, Nancy: 9781496439697: Amazon.com: Books](#)

Even Better Than Eden

Experienced Bible teacher Nancy Guthrie traces 9 themes throughout the Bible, revealing how God's plan for the new creation will be far more glorious than the original. But this new creation glory isn't just reserved for the future. The hope of God's plan for his people transforms everything about our lives today.

Source: [Even Better than Eden: Nine Ways the Bible's Story Changes Everything about Your Story: Guthrie, Nancy: 9781433561252: Amazon.com: Books](#)

We hope to see you in September! If you are interested in participating, please contact Lindsay Lindall at lindsay.lindall@gmail.com

CHURCH NEWS

Your Story Matters

This fall, we're highlighting real stories from within our church—how faith is formed, how it grows, and how generosity follows. We're not looking for polished testimonies. Just real, personal glimpses of how God has worked in your life.



Would you be willing to share something short with the congregation?

Here are two prompts you might reflect on:

- How has **your faith deepened** through a challenge or life event?
- In what ways has this church community helped you **grow closer to God or others?**

Let us know if you'd be open to sharing! It can be a few spoken words during worship, or something written to include in a bulletin or video.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS

Confirmation Calendar



If you have not yet registered for Confirmation, please do so **ASAP** at this link:

<https://lightofchristdelano.breezechms.com/form/Confirmation2025-26>

- **9/10/25, 6:30-7:30 PM** = Confirmation Orientation for all youth (grades 7-9) and at least one parent/guardian - LOC Sanctuary
- **9/10/25, 7:30-8:30 PM** = Guide Orientation/ Training - LOC Sanctuary
- **9/17/25, 6:15-8:00 PM** = Small Group Night at LOC
- **9/24/25, 6:00-9:30 PM** = FMSC Service Night - Chanhassen
- **10/1/25, 5:45-6:15 PM** = SLICE available ([Sign up here by 2 pm](#) if you plan to attend!)
- **10/1/25, 6:15-8:00 PM** = Confirmation "Teaching Night"
- **10/8/25, 5:45-6:15 PM** = SLICE available ([Sign up here by 2 pm](#) if you plan to attend!)
- **10/8/25, 6:15-8:00 PM** = Confirmation "Teaching Night"
- **10/15/25** = No Confirmation (MEA)


Registration Information Children's Ministry Registrations



- ⇒ **Voyagers** (1st- 3rd grade; 2025-26 year): All registrations are due by **August 29th**. <https://lightofchristdelano.breezechms.com/form/Voyagers.2025-2026>
- ⇒ **Pathfinders** (4th-6th grade; 2025-2026 year): All registrations are due by **August 29th**. <https://lightofchristdelano.breezechms.com/form/Pathfinders.2025-2026>

Voyagers & Pathfinders Program

Dates: Voyagers and Pathfinders will run from **September 10, 2025 through April 29, 2026**.

 **New This Year:** With the school district introducing **early release days on the third Wednesday of each month**, we are excited to offer **Voyagers a longer day** - starting after school - filled with some **extra fun activities** on those days!!