

# The Beacon

**Pastor Tim Wheatley** 

November 17, 2025

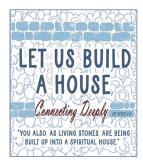
### Worship

- 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!**

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







LightOfChristLutheran.com Terri.Reuter@locdelano.com We welcomed the following new Light of Christ Members/Partners in Ministry on November 16th:



- lan & Emma Alviana Rose
- Aaron & Kristin Fulton Jack, Kari
- Rick & Lori Hines
- Rosie Hum Noa
- Sabrina Kolleck Elian, Emmy
- Kimberlee Linder, Jessica Linder Jemma
- John & Jana Lundstedt Annelie, Klaus, Noah, Jannik, Finnley, Elijas, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, William
- Tim & Mary Wheatley Elijah, Annalise, Josiah, Constantine



### **OUTREACH**

## Fifth Sunday Offering in November Is for Belize

For those of you who may not know, LOC collects funding, separate from regular/pledged general fund giving, for special efforts each calendar month that has five Sundays. This year we have four months with five Sundays including November. This month we are collecting funding for the new Hope Center in Belize which is in the process of being built. Several of our church members have traveled to Belize multiple times to support Belize residents in many ways and have experienced the poverty, the needs and the spirituality of this area. This year Pastor Kebin Rosa, whose Belize church is Full Gospel Church of God in Bella Vista Belize, is building the Hope Center that will be used to serve over 2,000 in his community and surrounding areas. Many of you have met Pastor Kebin as he has visited our church to express his gratitude. The Hope Center will include a kitchen, eating area and classrooms. It will be used to serve meals, teach people cooking, provide daycare, a sewing room, a computer lab and an area for teaching English, reading and writing. The monetary needs for this project are \$15,000-\$20,000 for labor, supplies, appliances and furniture. Over the next months, we will also be looking into collecting new or used items they need in Belize such as phones, laptops, sewing machines, school supplies, fans and several other things that can be safely shipped to them. Videos from Pastor Kebin have been shown at LOC and there will be others that will be shared. You can donate for this special Fifth Sunday effort in November on the LOC website under the Give tab and the Belize link. You can also designate specifically for Belize in the Sunday offering plate or send it to Terri in the LOC office. Thank you for your compassion and contributions. This is a beautiful mission to wonderful people in Belize.





### **Christmas for a Cause**

Our CFM Team is partnering again this holiday season with *Friends 4 A Cause* to share the joy of Christmas by providing gifts and essentials to families in need within our community. Look for the sign-up and more

information to be sent out early this week. *It is more blessed to give than to receive.* – Acts 20:35

### "Buy with Heart" this Christmas

Equal Exchange (fair trade) items make great Christmas gifts. Find them in the Narthex or click <u>HERE</u> for our online store for some great gift options! Items for sale include, chocolate, coffee, tea, cashews, almonds, and dried mangos, LOC coffee mugs.

All sales support our summer youth trips as well as small farmers around the world! These items make great gifts for teachers or friends. Items can also be delivered for free around the Delano area and you can include a note and even gift wrapping. Thanks for your support and for "shopping with heart."



### Oil Change Gap Ministry Gratitude

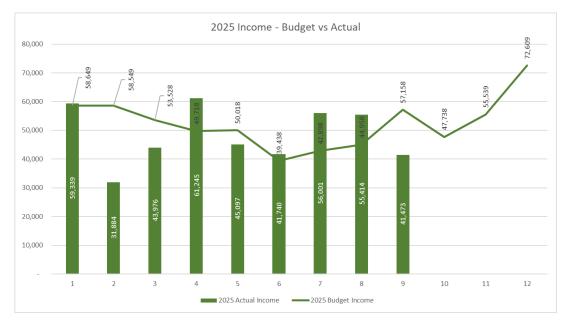
A big thank-you to The Highlands
Church and Absolute Automotive
Services for partnering once again
for another successful Oil Change
Ministry event! The volunteers were
cheerful, friendly, and efficient — impressing
participants with how quickly and smoothly the oil
changes were completed. Laughter, conversation, and
smiles filled the day. Thank you for serving alongside
Love INC Heartland to bless neighbors in need!

### Stock The Christmas Store - December 12

WestPointe Church and Love INC Heartland will be accepting donations for the *Christmas Store* on Friday, December 12, from 12:00pm-4:00pm. Registered Love INC families will be shopping for Christmas gifts for their children at no cost to them. *Can you help stock the store?* Learn more at <a href="mailto:bit.ly/loveinc25christmas">bit.ly/loveinc25christmas</a> or contact Courtney 612-986-1314.

### **CHURCH NEWS**

### LOC Monthly Income - Actual versus Budget



Year To Date Summary – September 2025

- YTD Budget \$454,914
   YTD Actual \$436,168
- Year to Date Actual is \$18,746 below budget
- September giving below budget

### Rooted in Faith. Growing in Generosity.

As we near the close of another year, there is so much to celebrate and give thanks for at Light of Christ! From the warmth of our worship to the reach of our mission efforts—here in Delano and beyond—God's Spirit continues to move among us in powerful ways.

This fall we've reflected on how being *Rooted in Faith* means trusting God's presence in our lives and ministries, and how *Growing in Generosity* calls us to let that faith bear fruit through acts of compassion, service, and giving. We've welcomed new staff, expanded ministries, and are discerning together where God is leading us next.

As we look ahead to 2026, we invite every household to pray about your participation and financial pledge for the year ahead. Pledge cards, which were mailed out last week, may be mailed to the church or brought with you to worship on **Celebration Sunday**, **November 23**, when we'll dedicate our commitments to God together in joy and gratitude. You can also complete an online pledge card at this link.

Together, we are planting seeds of hope that will continue to grow and bless many.



### Women's Bible Study

The women's Bible study meets the first and third Mondays of the month, 6:30 – 8:00 PM at LOC. If you need to leave early at any point that is okay. We will meet through



June. We will <u>not</u> meet in December. 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.

We hope to see you there! If you are interested in participating, please contact Lindsay Lindall at <a href="mailto:lindsay.lindall@gmail.com">lindsay.lindall@gmail.com</a>

### **Storytelling Training**

Last fall, the Mission and Evangelism Committee sponsored a Storytelling training session led by Dr. Mary Hess from Luther Theological Seminary. The small group that gathered received tips on telling stories, listened to a brief overview of the importance of stories, and shared their own stories. The biggest surprise was how the storytelling exercise emphasized the importance of listening, prompting a great discussion on the importance of listening in our current times. Copies of materials distributed are available from Terri in the church office, including a list of additional resources. If your group or committee is interested in the training, contact a member of the Mission and Evangelism Committee.

### **CHURCH & COMMUNITY EVENTS**



### Sips & Carols Fellowship Gathering

Date: Sunday, December 14, 2025

Time: 5:00 PM

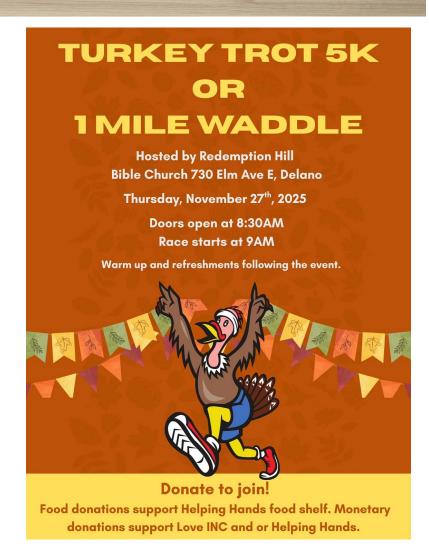
Location: McGarry's Pub, Maple Plain

Join us for an evening of fellowship and festive cheer! Enjoy a cozy atmosphere, order from a short menu, and sing along to Christmas carols led by Katie Kohler to get into the Christmas spirit. Note: individuals will be responsible from their own tab. RSVP before December 10<sup>th</sup> at this link to reserve your spot and make this a night to remember!

### Sisters of LOC Cookie Exchange

It's that time of year already! Please join he Sisters of LOC for our annual cookie exchange on Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-8:30 PM in the Living Room at LOC. You should bring 3 dozen of your favorite cookies, a container to take your cookies home in, and printed copies of the recipe to share. Depending on how many choose to participate, you should go home with a nice assortment of goodies to share with your family. Please RSVP here with your name and the type of cookie you will be bringing. The deadline to sign up is Monday, **December 8<sup>th</sup>**. Hope to see as many of you as we can! Any questions, please contact Kelly Harstad at 763-227-8246 or email kellyharstad8@gmail.com.





### Bible Study/Discussion Group for Moms of Pre-Teens/Teens

As we work to be a community where all feel connected and cared for, we are trying a



new time/group for moms of pre-teens and teens. Join us on **Thursdays, November 20**<sup>th</sup>, **December 4**<sup>th</sup> **and 18**<sup>th</sup> **from 8:15-9:45 AM** (right after school drop-off) to meet with some other moms and talk about life, faith and parenting. This will be very laid back with zero prep or expectation. Coffee, creamer and treats provided. We'll discuss future meetings & times with those who attend or express interest...so email Kirsten if you're interested but cannot attend. Please also contact Kirsten about any specific food needs/requests. Hope to see you there!

### STAYING CONNECTED

### **HOOT NEWS**

HOOT! Our LOC OWLS had a wonderful Halloween party! Everyone made the effort to wear some great costumes and bring a variety of spookily delicious dishes. Congratulations to our prize winners: "Captain Jack Sparrow"- Bill Fink for best costume and we had a tie for the best dish - Cheri Ashfeld for her "amputated legs" and Cheryl Collins for her spider web Southwest dip. Thanks especially go to LaDonna and Jewel for providing decorations, spiced cider, prizes, and really fun games!



We will not have an OWLS event for November, so enjoy your family gatherings on Thanksgiving! We'd love to get more Older Wiser Lutherans involved so if you're looking for friendship and fun, try us out!! We generally have our gatherings during the afternoons so if you're partially or fully retired, come join us!

Our next event comes up on **Thursday, December 4**<sup>th</sup>, **4:45 PM.** We are meeting at LOC to carpool to the Ox Yoke Inn for supper. They have the back room reserved and staffed for us. Afterward, for all those who want to venture on, we'll head to Sovereign Winery in Waconia for their "Spirit of Winter." It is outdoors so dress warm to be comfortable for the walk around the estate. There will be wine, fires for s'mores, music and thousands of festive lights and displays. The cost is \$25.00 per car, so we will try to have 5-6 per car. (*If you only want to join us at* Ox Yoke, you may meet us there.)

We have a second event in December, our annual Christmas Potluck, with the very funny White Elephant gift exchange!! That means nothing new, but something you no longer need. The date has changed due to many OWLS helping at the Food Shelf on our normal Thursday. Mark your calendars for **Friday**, **December 19**<sup>th</sup>, **12-3 PM** and start looking for your gifts and recipes to share!!

### **CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY EVENTS**



### CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS

Voyagers and Pathfinders had a great time learning about sharing your light (kindness and love) with others, by reading the story of "the four lights of Simon the shepherd" and making lanterns. We also had some wonderful senior volunteers to help the young ones with their crafts.

# Voyagers























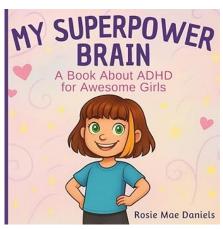




# athtinders

### CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS

We have a published author in our congregation, who shared the fruit of her talents during last week's children's message. Amber Eichten was able to read her wonderful children's book about the amazing uniqueness of ADHD and the superhero power that comes with it. *My Superpower Brain* by Rose Mae Daniels is now available on Amazon as well.







# WOW (Worship on Wednesday)

We're excited to have our WOW (Worship on Wednesdays) Confirmation worship services on the **first Wednesday** of each month. All are welcome at these youth-led services that go from 6:15-7:00 pm on the following Wednesdays:

- ♦ December 3
- ♦ January 7
- ♦ February 4
- ♦ **April 8** (2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. due to Holy Week)

### We hope you'll join us at WOW!



### Confirmation Calendar

• 11/19/25 = Family Matters event (Teens & Technology) - all are welcome at this event!



- 11/26/25 = No Confirmation due to Thanksgiving
- 12/3/25 = Wow service/Service project
- 12/10/25 = Service event offsite
- 12/17/25 = Small group Christmas parties
- 12/24/25 = No Confirmation
- 12/31/25 = No Confirmation

### Youth Choir Has Started

Youth choir has started rehearsals for ages 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade, and will first perform during Lessons and Carols (December 7<sup>th</sup>). Rehearsals are 30 minutes long. Sign up using the QR code. The full schedule

is on the sign-up form. All levels welcome! You do not need to make every rehearsal to be a part of the choir. Contact Katie at

katie.kohler@locdelano.com with any questions.

