

# The Beacon

**Pastor Tim Wheatley** 

November 24, 2025

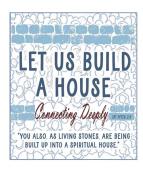
#### Worship

- 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





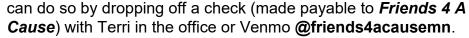


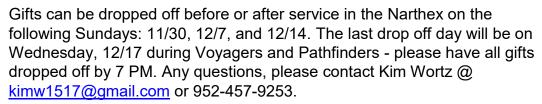
LightOfChristLutheran.com Terri.Reuter@locdelano.com

#### Friends 4 A Cause

The CFM Team is once again pairing up with Friends 4 A Cause to help local Delano families who need a little extra help this Christmas season. The gift requests can be found at this Sign Up Genius link: https://

www.signupgenius.com/go/904094EA5AF2BA75-60566809-locchristmas. If you are unable to shop and would like to donate towards the cause, you





Prayers for these families are greatly appreciated. Thank you for helping spread Christmas cheer to our Delano families in need.

The best way to celebrate Light of Christ's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary was to share the occasion with those who helped shape our congregation.

Pastor Tim welcomed Pastor Lee Hallstrom (2001-2015) to the altar. A portion of liturgy involved current and former staff as well as a contingent of 1985 charter members. Many more worshipped with us via livestream and/or submitted greetings and remembrances from their time at Light of Christ. The celebration breakfast prompted stories and reconnections that spanned forty years. Thank you to all who created this day of celebration!







#### **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.



# Love INC Birthday Ministry

Pictured are Mary Ann McKay and Jinnelle Weis, this month's Birthday Ministry volunteers. The number of bags requested varies each month. For December, these ladies assembled bags for 12 birthday kids! Please pray for the kids who receive these birthday bags, assembled with care by Mary Ann and Jinnelle. Thank you for your support of this ministry!



# Oil Change Gap Ministry Gratitude

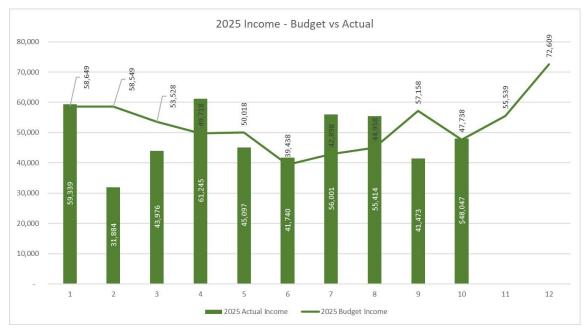
A big thank-you to The Highlands
Church and Absolute Automotive
Services for partnering once again for another successful Oil Change Ministry event! The
volunteers were cheerful, friendly, and efficient —
impressing participants with how quickly and
smoothly the oil changes were completed.
Laughter, 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 – October 2025

- YTD Budget \$502,652
   YTD Actual \$484,215
- Year to Date Actual is \$18,437 below budget
- October income on budget

#### Rooted in Faith. Growing in Generosity.

November 23<sup>rd</sup> was our **Celebration Sunday**, when we gathered as a community rooted in faith and growing in generosity! On this special day, all households were invited to return a **pledge card** indicating their support for our ministry in **2026**. Your participation truly matters—and it reflects the heart of a church committed to God's mission. As we've



celebrated this fall, "Rooted in Faith. Growing in Generosity." reminds us that the seeds we plant today will bear fruit in the years to come. Scripture encourages us in this way:

"They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season."

— Psalm 1:3

Your pledge is not simply a financial commitment—it is an **act of faith**, an expression of gratitude, and a declaration that we believe in what God is doing in and through Light of Christ. **We all have a gift to give**, and every gift strengthens the ministries we share. Pledge cards are available at church, or you can complete an online pledge form at this link, so everyone can participate easily.

Thank you for your generosity, your faithfulness, and the joy you bring to this community. We are truly a **treasured people of God**, called to good and meaningful work together. **Thanks be to God!** 

In Christ,
Pastor Tim and
LOC's Stewardship Committee
Kylee Amdor
Pat Czock (council rep)
Tim Johnson
Dave Wuerger

### 2026 Offering Envelopes

If you requested preprinted 2026 offering envelopes, (or did not opt out) they are now available to be picked up in the Narthex.



# **STAYING CONNECTED**

# 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 9th 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.





## Sips & Carols Fellowship Gathering

★

∴ Celebrate the

Christmas season

with warmth, music,

and friends! ★

∴

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!

# 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, 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!



#### 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 not 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.

#### God Does His Best Work with Empty

God Does His Best Work with Empty: Guthrie, Nancy: 9781496439697: Amazon.com: Books

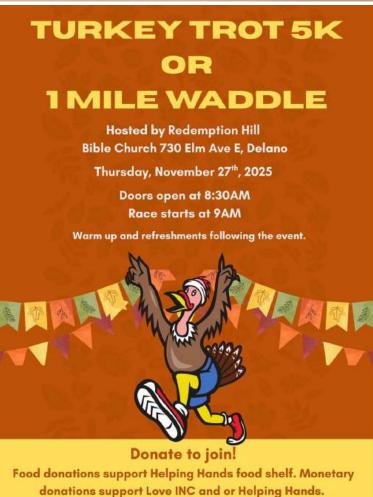
#### Even Better Than Eden

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

### **COMMUNITY EVENTS**







Delano Dramatic Company has been using our space for some of their rehearsals for this production. Their December 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> performances will be held here at LOC.



#### STAYING CONNECTED



# "LOC-O-Motion" Coffee & Cleaning Crew

Light of Christ has a new monthly group of volunteers to tackle cleaning jobs that are not being done by our weekly hired service. **Anyone** is welcome to join us. We are planning to meet monthly on the **second Friday at 9**:30 **AM**.

A huge *THANK YOU* to Paulette and Jerry Podratz, Cheri Ashfeld, Laurie Grimm, Cheryl Collins, Lona Jose, Jinnelle Weis, Mary Ann McKay, Oda Carlson, Maxine Johnson, Lisa Hemmer, Ann Bassett, and Bill & Sue Fink. What a group of willing workers who accomplished so much to get our church home cleaner and brighter, just in time for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and new member celebration.

We got all the ground floor windows cleaned outside; the windows inside the sanctuary, Narthex, entry, and hallway; vacuumed those windowsills and some floor vents; wiped down surfaces and appliances in the kitchen and spiffed up the single bathrooms. WOW! Bill Fink took the red vacuum home and fixed the huge clog in the intake, ready for more cleaning. We even did a little fall decorating.

Our next LOC-O-Motion date is Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM. Come and leave as it works for you. We start with treats and coffee!



#### **HOOT NEWS**

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!!

#### **Christmas Ornaments**

The Worship and Music Committee is again offering Christmas ornaments for purchase in honor or memory of loved ones. Ornaments will hang on the Narthex tree through Christmas Eve unless you prefer to take yours home. The suggested donation is \$10,



with all proceeds funding new microphones and cords to complement our new soundboard (*no more feedback or popping noises!*). A table for purchases will be in the Narthex from 11/30–12/21. Checks may be made payable to *Light of Christ* with "**Christmas Ornaments**" in the memo. Thank you, and Merry Christmas!

# CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS

## 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 with any questions at <a href="mailto:katie.kohler@locdelano.com">katie.kohler@locdelano.com</a>.



Voyagers enjoyed the last bit of warm fall weather.







#### "David" Movie Showing

We have rented the Delano Emagine Movie Theater for a special matinee showing of the animation movie "David" on **December 19, 2025**!

From the songs of his mother's heart to the whispers of a faithful God, David's story begins in quiet devotion. When the giant Goliath rises to terrorize a nation, a young shepherd armed with only a sling, a few stones, and unshakable faith steps forward. Pursued by power and driven by purpose, his journey tests the limits of loyalty, love, and courage—culminating in a battle not just for a crown, but for the soul of a kingdom. Invite family and friends and join us for an evening of fellowship - "Where two or three are gathered in my name there I will be."

Movie starts at 5:00 PM, door opens at 4:30 PM. Join us for a prayer and welcome talk at 4:45 PM



inside the showroom. No outside food or drink is allowed but can be purchased at the theatre on the day of the event. Sign up for this event **by December 5**<sup>th</sup> at this link.

Tickets can only be purchased through us since it is a private showing. Costs are \$7/ ticket for all ages and can be purchased here. Please calculate your ticket price according to your sign-up. You must complete both a sign-up form and go to the payment page to purchase your tickets.

# **December Service Opportunities**



12/3, 7-8 pm: Confirmation Service Projects 12/10, 5-6 pm: Light up Windows & Waffles 12/10, 6-8 pm: Confirmation Service Projects 12/13, 8:30-9:30 am: Love Inc, Adopt a Family 12/17, 4-5 pm: Caroling at Nursing Homes

Contact Kirsten for more details - all are welcome!

## 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!



#### Summer 2026 Mission Trip Info Meetings!

Join us to learn more about the youth trips coming up next summer:

- Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> = 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade Mission Trip Info Meeting (8-9 PM)
- Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup> = 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade Mission Trip Info Meeting (8-9 PM)

If you cannot join us in person, check out our YouTube page for the livestream.

#### Confirmation Calendar

- 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

