The Beacon

Pastor Tim Wheatley November 9, 2026

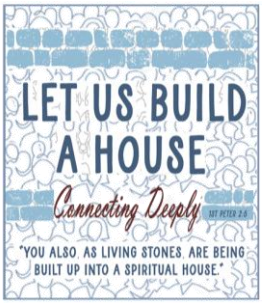
Worship Schedule

In-person worship:
9:30 AM Sundays

Online worship is live-streamed to our YouTube and Facebook pages

Church Council 2026

Fred Caslavka
Pat Czock *(sec'y.)*
Brandt Dinger
Heidi Goldbeck
Luke Jeseritz *(treas.)*
Lisa Krause *(pres.)*
Justin Lindall
Erin Olson
Ryan Tool *(v. pres.)*
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

NourishingHOPE

Free Fresh Produce and Dairy

Monday, November 9th
4:00-5:00 PM

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

Delano
Light of Christ Lutheran Church
3976 County Line Road SE
Delano, MN 55328

Rockford
Our Father's Lutheran
3903 Gilbert Ave SE
Rockford, MN 55373

Buffalo
Buffalo Covenant Church
1601 Highway 25 North
Buffalo, MN 55313

Hanover
Influence Church @ City Hall
11250 5th Street NE
Hanover, MN 55341

Maple Grove
Rice Lake Bible Chapel
8801 Rice Lake Road
Maple Grove, MN 55369

For assistance locating a specific site or for questions, please contact us at

NourishingHOPE is a ministry of Our Father's Lutheran Church, in cooperation with 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

Nourishing Hope – Today at Light of Christ

NourishingHOPE

Nourishing Hope is TODAY — Monday, November 9th! Volunteers from Light of Christ and our partner churches are gathering today to pack, transport, and distribute fresh food and essentials to neighbors in our area.

There is still time to join us today. Food boxing begins in Rockford at 9:30 AM; milk transport and the Light of Christ distribution team gather at 3:30 PM. If you can help, use the Nourishing Hope sign-up links or contact Tim Johnson.



- **Food boxing in Rockford (9:30 AM):** Sign up here
- **Milk Transport (3:30 PM):** Sign up here
- **Food Distribution (gather at 3:30 PM):** Sign up here

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these … you did for me."
— Matthew 25:40

Our November Fifth Sunday Offering is for Bella Vista, Belize – Pastor Kebin Rosa's church.

Here is a letter from Pastor Kebin:

Hello LOC Family, Greetings and much love from Belize!

First, I want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the love, prayers, and support you have shown us and the ministries here in Bella Vista. Your partnership means so much to us. It is a blessing to know that we are not doing this alone, and we are so grateful to have you walking alongside us as we serve our community. I'm excited to share a few updates about what God is doing here!

Our Learning to Read Program
We recently launched our after-school Learning to Read Program, and it has been such a joy to see it grow. The response has been wonderful, with more parents already asking when we will open registration for another group. But what makes us happiest is seeing the children's excitement, their willingness to learn, and how quickly they are progressing. We are so thankful for every child whose life we get to impact through this program.

Our Hope Center
Every week, we welcome between 100 and 150 children to our Hope Center, where we spend time with them, share a meal, and most importantly, share the love of Jesus. It is more than a place for activities; it is a place where children are loved, encouraged, and reminded that they matter. We are also preparing to install electricity in our Hope Center, which includes three classrooms and a kitchen. We are excited about this next step and all the possibilities it will open up for the children and families we serve.

Moving Forward with Our Church Building
We are also working on installing the ceiling in our church sanctuary as part of our air-conditioning project. Our days here can get extremely hot, and we look forward to creating a cooler, more comfortable space where people can gather to worship, learn, and grow together.

Your Fifth Sunday Offering will go towards ceiling work and A/C for the sanctuary and appliances for our Hope Center kitchen that will feed families and offer meals to people in need in our community. (note "*Fifth Sunday*" on your check or envelope or donate on our Give page.)

Thank you for believing in us, praying for us, and investing in the work God is doing in Bella Vista. Your generosity is reaching beyond the walls of our church and making a difference in the lives of children, families, and our entire community.

With much love and gratitude from Belize,
Kebin & Ani Rosa

Christmas 4 a Cause

Christmas 4 a Cause gives us an opportunity to bless local families who may be facing difficult times. Each year, this wonderful ministry helps brighten the holidays for families in our community by providing gifts and meeting some of their Christmas wishes. We are excited to continue this tradition and invite you to be part of it!

A Few Things to Know This Year:
The Wish List
This year, instead of adopting individual families, we will be sharing the entire wish list with the congregation. This gives everyone the opportunity to choose from a variety of gifts and help meet the needs of local families. Our hope is that sharing the full list will allow even more people to participate and make an impact.

Sign-Up Begins Friday, November 13th!
We will be sharing a SignUpGenius link on Friday, November 13th. The link will be sent out through email and text.

Gift Drop-Off Dates
There will be two opportunities to drop off gifts during Sunday worship:
- **Sunday, November 29th**
- **Sunday, December 6th**

Final Gift Drop-Off (*new this year*)
If you are unable to drop off your gifts during worship, the final drop-off will be at **CorTrust Bank on Sunday, December 13th**. All gifts will be collected and sorted there.

Thank you for being part of this special ministry and for helping us spread Christmas joy! If you have any questions, please contact Kim Wortz at kimw1517@gmail.com







Caring Corner

(from Sue Fink of the Healing & Wholeness Committee)

I hope you all felt the Spirit during our *Drawn to the Word* service! Pastor Paul Oman was amazing as he brought to life on canvas, our chosen theme, *Drawn to the Light of Christ*. Weren't we all amazed at how his dabbing of colors, seemingly randomly, even starting upside down, ended up a glorious picture full of light and grace?

Many, many thanks are in order for all our LOC family who took part in planning, organizing, and participating in this service, as well as serving the Pie Social afterward. It was a wonderful success, our sanctuary filled with 300 adults besides children, and nearly half directly participated in some way! We are so grateful for our service volunteers, staff and leadership, committees, Council, instrumentalists, singers, the donators of 30+ pies, children and youth and everyone who visited or invited guests to our event. Special thanks to Katie Kohler for planning and rehearsing all the music, to Pastor Tim for leading our worship, and to Bill Fink (with a little help from his wife) who framed the canvas for the artwork. We also thank you for the monetary donations that supported this special event.

Pastor Paul and Jana Oman were so pleased with the warm welcome and hospitality shown to them at LOC. After the service they sold prints and occasional cards totaling nearly $1,000. Paul wrote to let us know that they give 10% of our proceeds from our direct sales, back to our church! If you would like to purchase a print of *Drawn to the Light of Christ* please take a printed order form located in the Narthex. You may also place orders online. Besides our *Drawn to the Light* print, Paul has hundreds of Bible story prints as well as watercolor nature artwork to purchase. Cards with envelopes are available, too. His website is https://www.paulomanfineart.com

There will soon be a team of people working together to determine the best placement for our new painting in the sanctuary. Meanwhile, it is currently adorning the center wall behind the altar where we can ponder Jesus' love during our worship.

Matthew 5: 16: "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in Heaven."

Mark 10:14-16: "Jesus said to the disciples: 'Let the children come to me' ... and He took them up in His arms and blessed them."

Jeremiah 31: 3: "Long ago the Lord said to Israel, 'I have loved you, my people, with an everlasting love. With unfailing love, I have drawn you to myself.'"

From the other members of the Healing and Wholeness Committee: We would also like to give a special thank you to Sue Fink. After seeing Paul Oman's artwork, Sue initiated the project to bring Drawn to the Word to our congregation. She led the fundraising and logistical efforts, reached out to committee leads to encourage their participation, and provided hospitality to Paul and Jana Oman. On behalf of all of Light of Christ, thank you, Sue, for bringing this amazing event and artwork to our church!



Belize Adult/Family Mission Trip 2027



We will be going back for our 4th mission trip to Bella Vista, Belize from **Saturday, February 27 through March 6, 2027**. The trip cost will run between $1,300-$1,500 and includes airfare, accommodations, food, food donations, and transportation.

Here are some of the possibilities we will do: Vacation Bible School/sports camp, worshiping and serving dinner at Pastor Kebin Rosa's church, going on home visits, working with the Bella Vista School on an education initiative, carnival, and church projects.

Please email or text Jennifer Grant **as soon as possible** if you are interested or have questions: Jpconnection.jg@gmail.com or 612.226.8181.

We would love to have you prayerfully consider this life-changing opportunity to serve our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Buntrock Scholarship – Augustana University

Continue your involvement in the ELCA and find your home in a community of faith by joining the Buntrock Scholars Program at Augustana.

Who are Buntrock Scholars?

The Buntrock Scholars Program supports students who are active and engaged in ELCA congregations in the Midwest. The program is open to those who are involved in the church before and after graduation from Augustana University.

What is the Buntrock Scholars Program?

The Buntrock Scholars Program provides financial support for selected students attending Augustana. This competitive scholarship covers half of the net price of attendance at Augustana, up to $13,000 per year. The award is renewable for three additional years, and it can be received alongside other academic and talent-based scholarships. The program benefits at least 30 first-year students each year. Students who receive and accept the Buntrock Scholarship participate in the full breadth of faith and spiritual life programming (worship, Bible studies, service events, etc.)

Requirements

Eligible students must be engaged in a Midwest ELCA congregation and remain in good academic standing at Augustana. After a student has applied and been offered admission to Augustana, they must complete a scholarship form, which when submitted will prompt the student's senior pastor to submit a recommendation. The donor's vision for this generous scholarship program is to partner with the student's congregation and synod to make college more financially accessible. Buntrock Scholarships will begin to be awarded to students **in late November**.

Learn more and apply at augie.edu/BuntrockScholarship

Check Your 2026 Pledge Status

Just a reminder that members can check the status of their pledges for 2026 by logging in to the online member portal at this link. You can also access the portal login page from the Light of Christ website home page by clicking the "Member Portal" icon on the top toolbar. If you need assistance, please contact Terri in the church office. *Please note: your 2027 pledge card is not authorization for the church office to make changes to your automatic giving.*

Thanksgiving Service

All are welcome to attend an ecumenical community Thanksgiving service on **November 22nd at 3:00 PM** at Delano United Methodist Church.



Mom's Discussion Group

Stay connected with other moms of pre-teens and teens and join us on **Thursday, December 3rd from 8:00-9:30 AM**. We'd love to have you join us for this casual group that meets to talk about life, faith, and parenting.



Women's Bible Study



The women's Bible study meets the **1st and 3rd Mondays of the month, 6:30 – 8:00 PM, in the Living Room at LOC**. We will meet through April but *not* meet in December. If you need to leave early at any point or can't make it every time that is okay! We want you to come when you can. The Bible study we will be doing is *Prayer: An Adventure with God from Life Guide Bible Studies.*

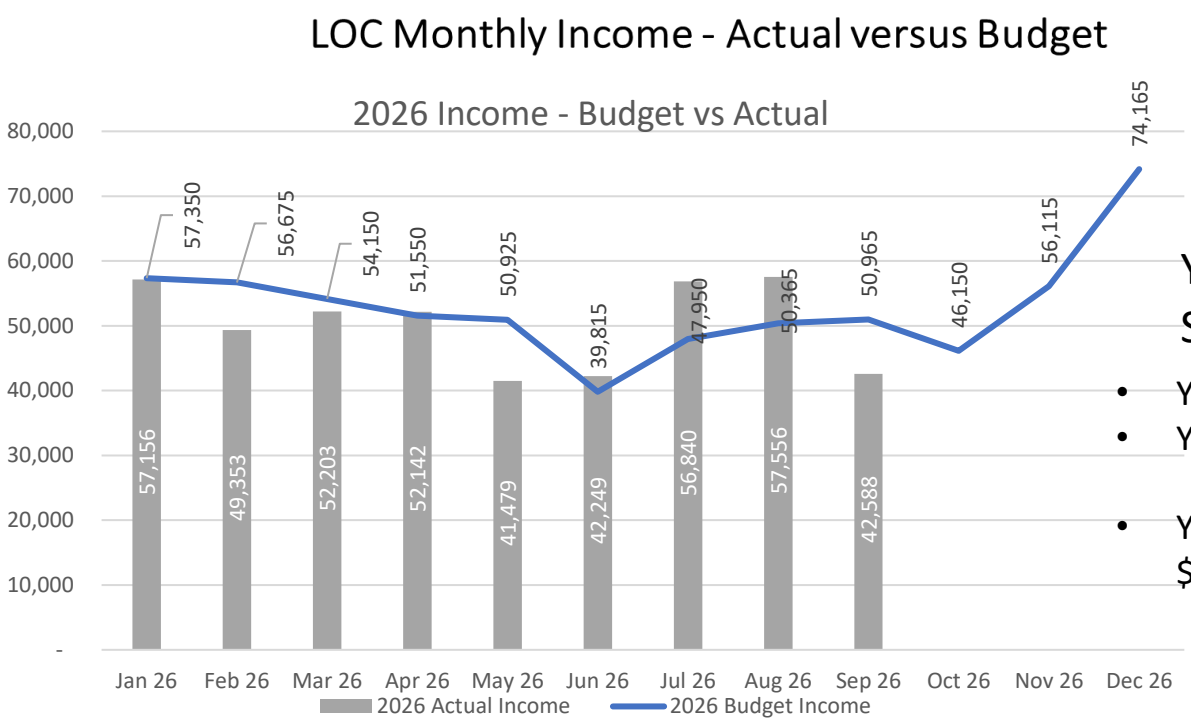
We hope to see you there! If you are interested in participating, **please respond to Lindsay Lindall:** lindsay.lindall@gmail.com**.**

Bible 101

You can still join Pastor Tim and the Bible 101 study, which will be on **Tuesdays, November 10 and 17.** Come for one or come for both. Each night it will be from 7:00-8:00. The topic will be "Bible 101." This is a great time to jump into a Bible study because we will start with what the Bible is and how we study it. If you have never been to a Bible study before, you can start on this one. Of course, there will be something for all levels, but this will start from the question of "What is the Bible and why is it important" and go through the different types of literature in the Bible and how we read it as Christians and Lutherans. Please sign up at the Sign-Up Genius link or QR code below if you can, otherwise just plan on showing up.

Sign up here:
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0848A9A72AAAF85-66074333-the





YTD Summary September 2026

- YTD Budget $459,745
- YTD Actual $451,567
- Year to Date Actual is $8,178 below budget

An Invitation to Continue

We invite you to continue growing in generosity. Every gift – whether regular, increased, or above and beyond – is received with deep gratitude and makes a lasting impact.

Week 3 | There Is Still Time to Take a Step

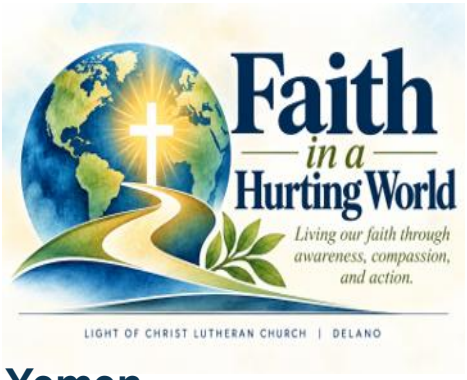
TAKE A STEP

One Step at a Time. Together.

As of November 6th, we have received 68 pledges totaling $363,534. Last year, we had received 84 pledges totaling $401,645.

We are grateful for everyone who has submitted a pledge and for the generosity that sustains Light of Christ's ministry. There is still time to take your next step! Please prayerfully consider completing a pledge card, available at the Welcome Center. Return it to the church office or place it in the offering plate. You can also complete an online pledge form at this link. Knowing your intentions helps us plan responsibly for the coming year and support the ministry of our growing congregation.

Faith in a Hurting World



Light of Christ Lutheran Church | November 9, 2026
Living our faith through awareness, compassion, and action.

Jesus calls us to see more than headlines—to recognize neighbors, respond with compassion, and celebrate the good that faithful people are doing.

1. A World in Need | Families Fleeing Violence in Yemen

On October 30, the UN refugee agency warned that renewed fighting has displaced more than a quarter-million people in Yemen in recent months. Many families lack safe shelter, food, and access to relief. Yemen is also home to refugees who have fled violence elsewhere. Their suffering calls us to remember that every displaced person is someone's neighbor.

Read more: UNHCR report (Oct. 30)

2. Our Neighbors in Need | A Safe Place to Sleep

With winter approaching, homelessness is an urgent concern across Minnesota. On October 22, MPR News reported that St. Paul's City Council had approved a resolution calling for more outreach and lower-barrier shelter options for people living outdoors. The plan is not yet a completed shelter program, but it raises a question for every community: Who among our neighbors needs safety, stability, and a place to call home?

Read more: MPR News report (Oct. 22)

3. Signs of Hope | A Century of Care and Accompaniment

As November begins—Native American Heritage Month—we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the children's home at Oaks Indian Mission in Oklahoma, an ELCA-affiliated ministry. The mission offers residential care for Native American young people, support for Cherokee families, and temporary housing for others in crisis. Its story reminds us that lasting ministry grows through relationships, respect, and faithful presence.

Read more: Living Lutheran story (Oct. 12)

Faith in Action

This week's invitation: Read one of the linked stories. Ask: Who needs our attention—and what might compassionate accompaniment look like here?

A prayer: *God of mercy, protect families fleeing violence, shelter neighbors without homes, and bless those creating places of safety and belonging. Give us eyes to see and hands ready to help. Amen.*



Have Leftover Halloween Candy?

Our Youth Ministries can use it for our Grad Care Packages and a Christmas Service Event that we're doing on 12/2! Drop it off in the church office labeled "***youth ministry***" and we'll make sure it gets used to brighten someone's day!

Sign-Up for the Christmas Play

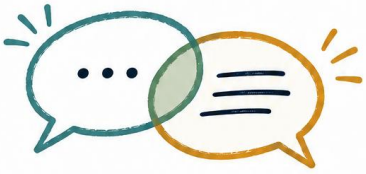
This year's Christmas Play will be on **December 13th.** Explorers (PreK/K), Voyagers (1st-3rd grade), & Pathfinders (4th-6th grade) are encouraged to sign up at this link: https://lightofchristdelano.breezechms.com/form/78d54d Practice times can be found on the sign-up.



FAMILY MATTERS

You Have No Idea

A night for teens and parents



Wednesday, November 18, 2026
Light of Christ Lutheran Church • Delano
6:15 p.m.

There's more going on in each other's lives than we realize.

Join Tim Johnson for an evening of laughter, discovery, and conversation about growing up, parenting, and staying connected.

Expect funny photos and stories from Tim's own teen years, playful audience participation, and time to hear something new from each other.

Grounded in Scripture, with practical insights about teens and family relationships, we'll explore how to:

- **Ask before assuming**
- **Listen before solving**
- **Notice the good—and begin again**

Leave with a simple take-home guide and a few small practices to try together.

Come ready to laugh, listen, and learn.

Youth Choir Has Started!

Ages 3rd-6th grade! Rehearsals take place after worship and are 30 minutes long. Sign up using the QR code shown here or contact Katie with any questions. You can also just show up to rehearsal! Full schedule is on the sign-up form.



Maker's Market

Children and youth under age 18 are invited to sign up for this year's Maker's Market, being held on **Sunday, November 22nd from 4:00-6:00 PM**. For more information and to sign up, please click this link: Makers Market 2026


Trunk or Treat
10/30/26
10/30/26


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Oct
30,
2026