



Worship

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



TAKING THE NEXT STEP

Beginning September 20

WHAT'S YOUR NEXT STEP?

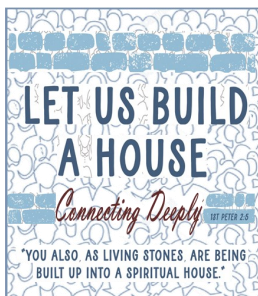
Beginning Sunday, September 20, Light of Christ will launch **Taking the Next Step**, our fall stewardship initiative.

Over several weeks, we'll be invited to reflect on where we are in our journeys of faith—and where God may be calling us next. Through worship, personal stories, practical invitations, and special mailings, we'll explore meaningful next steps in our spiritual lives, our service to others, and our generosity.

Something hopeful and exciting is coming! Be sure to join us in worship beginning September 20, and watch your mailbox for more information.

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!

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Rally Sunday Is September 13th!



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 games, prizes, food, and fellowship! Here's where you can help! We've compiled a list of specific items we could use. See the SignUp Genius links below or the QR code shown 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!



⇒ [Rally Sunday 2026 Donations](#)

⇒ [Youth/adult Volunteers: Rally Sunday](#)

Serving Our Neighbors in Need — Together

Thank you for supporting our **Food Distribution Ministry**! Every month, about **100 neighbors** receive fresh produce, dairy, and other essentials through this vital outreach. Light of Christ is proud to partner with **five other churches** in our region to care for those in need.

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” — Matthew 25:40

Our next food distribution is on **Monday, September 14**. Please see sign-up links below.

- ◇ **Food Boxing (9:30 AM)** – Help volunteers from our partner churches sort and pack hundreds of boxes of fresh food for area families. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0848A9A72AAAF85-food>
- ◇ **Milk Transport (3:30 PM)** – We need **one volunteer** to pick up Light of Christ's milk from the refrigerated trailer at Our Father's Lutheran and transport it to the Light of Christ parking lot for distribution. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0848A9A72AAAF85-63814208-food>
- ◇ **Food Distribution (gather at 3:30 PM)** – Help welcome neighbors and distribute food in the Light of Christ parking lot. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0848A9A72AAAF85-food1>

If you can help with any of these opportunities, please contact **Tim Johnson** or sign up using the volunteer links above. Thank you for helping Nourishing Hope provide fresh food and hope to our neighbors each month!



Food Shelf Need



Do you have extra bags lying around your house? If you do, we can use them at the Food Shelf. We are looking for paper bags, plastic bags or reusable bags. If you have any to donate, please leave them in the cupboards by the kitchen.

EXTRA SHOES?



Be a part of a good cause
and donate them!



Shoe Collection/Recycling!

Do you have tennis shoes around home that you'd like to get rid of? We encourage you to drop them off at church to be recycled/donated through "Got Sneakers"!

Shoes can be in ANY condition as long as they are athletic shoes. Old shoes will be recycled and newer ones will raise a small amount of money for our youth (a max of \$7 per pair if they're in good shape). A collection bin can be found in the Narthex at LOC.

Come and Join Our Kids Hope Mentor Group



Our mentors have been mentoring kids at Delano Elementary for 4 years. We would love to have you join our mentoring group this fall. Mentors do not tutor but just have fun with their kiddo. You would meet with the same student for one hour once per week for the school year. It is fun for our mentors and very fun for the kids that are selected by their classroom teachers. The mentors can be from LOC or other local folks. We are flexible with your schedule. If you would like more information, contact Lona Jose, or Terri at the LOC office if you need my phone number. ***We would love to have you join our group!***

The HOOT Newsletter for September 2026



WHOO-HOO! Fall is in the air and time for the OWLS (*Older Wiser Lutherans*) to gather again for lots of fun, food, and fellowship!! Please give our group a try if you haven't joined us in past years. We typically meet monthly on the third Thursday afternoon in the Living Room at Light of Christ (unless otherwise

planned). Watch for information in the bulletin and Beacon. Talk to Sue Fink, Lona Jose, LaDonna and Jewel Ekern, or Laurie Grimm for information and to share your contact info.

We're going to kick off our year with a **Potluck BBQ at the Fink's on Thursday, September 17th at noon**. The grill will be going with brats, chicken, and burger sandwiches. Please sign up so we know how many to expect and what you'd like to bring: sides, salads, beverages, desserts. We will plan some fun outdoor games to play or watch. This will be rain or shine as we will gather in the barn. Bring a friend or two or three! And a chair.

LaDonna is excited to bring back a fantastic **Halloween party on October 29th**, so start thinking of prize-winning costumes and spooky recipes.

Also on the books is our annual **Christmas potluck and white elephant gift exchange on December 17th**. Fall cleaning is a great time to search for just the right item to wrap up (hee-hee).

Bible study will resume in October to finish up the last 4 lessons of "Old Testament Characters". The stories of Daniel, Esther, David, and Moses will show us how God has used these people toward His purpose through their failures and successes and how we can relate these to our own lives today. We meet after service on Sundays. Stay tuned for specific dates as we coordinate with the other church events for fall. Talk to Sue Fink if you have ideas for a winter study! New folks are always welcome!

Finally, the **LOC-O-Motion Coffee and Cleaning Crew continues to meet the second Friday monthly at 9:30 AM**. Many thanks to Cheri Ashfeld, Cheryl and Don Collins, Lona Jose, Randy Hemmer, Oda Carlson, Bill and Sue Fink, our August cleaners. The pews were vacuumed, the carpet in front of sanctuary was shampooed, the nursery was cleaned and organized, white boards washed, east hallway and storage rooms tidied and vacuumed. Please join us as we keep God's house welcoming for all.

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 **1st and 3rd Mondays of the month, 6:30 – 8:00 PM, in the Living Room at LOC, starting on September 21st**. We will meet September – April, and *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*.

As David Healey leads you through the prayers of men and women in the Bible (Mary, Abraham, Moses, Daniel and more!), you will gain new insights into why, what and how to pray. And you will experience more fully the adventure that prayer can be. Source: [Prayer: An Adventure with God \(LifeGuide Bible Studies\): Healey, David: 9780830830534: Amazon.com: Books](#)

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



Save The Date - LOC End of Life Planning Seminar - October 26, 2026

Pre-planning for End of Life is often a discussion you choose to avoid.

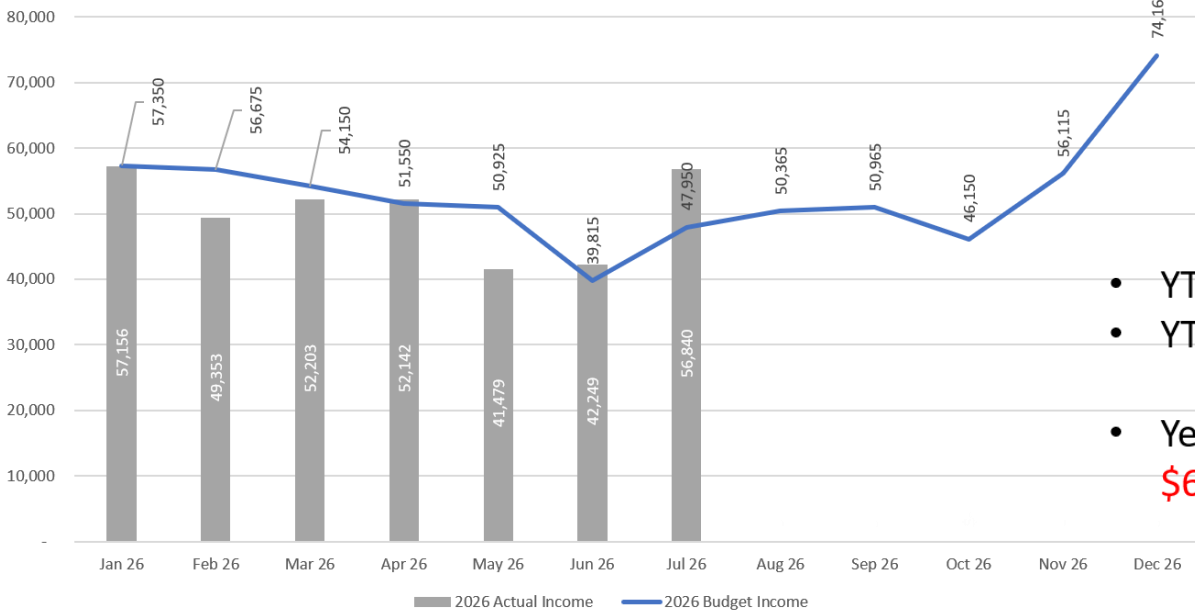
Willingness to be open to this discussion is a reciprocal gift that parents give to their children and children give to their parents. This discussion can allow parents to express their wishes with their children. It can allow family members the opportunity to assist parents in making decisions they might find uncomfortable and awkward. It minimizes the stress and anxiety in making these decisions at the difficult time of a loved one's passing.

Light of Christ is offering an opportunity open to all members to hear from professionals their multiple tips and tools to make End of Life planning a more informed discussion. This session will include multiple facets including estate planning tips, financial considerations, memorial preferences, and consideration of a final resting spot.

Put **Monday evening, October 26th** on your calendar – it will be a discussion beneficial for everyone!

LOC Monthly Income - Actual versus Budget

2026 Income - Budget vs Actual



YTD Summary July 2026

- YTD Budget \$358,415
- YTD Actual \$351,423
- Year to Date Actual is **\$6,992** below budget



More Than Numbers

As you review these budget figures, remember—they are more than numbers. They represent lives touched, faith nurtured, and ministry made possible through your ongoing support.

Story Corner

We see the power of stories in Scripture, but not all stories are ancient or limited to biblical characters. We have story-worthy encounters as we live out our faith daily. *Story Corner* is a new feature in the Beacon and is an effort to help us become more comfortable communicating/sharing our faith and will feature periodic stories contributed by members. Compiling a story will not only allow you to share with others, it will also help you grow as you organize your thoughts and put pen to paper. Please contact Paul Nelson (pnnelspa@gmail.com) or Pastor Tim if you have a story to share. We are shooting for a handful of 200- to 300-word stories annually.



Giving and Receiving

By Paul Nelson

I retired six years ago after over 30 years as a water resources scientist. I had plans to stay involved and keep connected, but COVID happened and the volunteer opportunities I'd lined up dried up, leaving me adrift.

COVID isolation relaxed over time, but I lacked the motivation to reengage. Eventually, however, I volunteered for Kids Hope and ended up mentoring a second grader. I was nervous on my first day, not sure what to do with my kiddo. They admitted they were also nervous. Their teacher, trying to let them know a bit about me, told them I was a scientist, sparking lots of questions. Before I knew it, the first session was over, with both of us more relaxed.

Over the next few weeks, we got to know each other, laughing while trying to break the other's paper airplane flight distance and developing our own chaotic rules for UNO. But what we dove into was illustrating and writing a 'book' on dinosaurs. I'd sketch the scenes, the tyrannosauruses, and velociraptors, and they'd color them and add text naming and describing each dinosaur.

We'd completed about 10 pages when I said, "Wow, this looks pretty good." My kiddo responded, "Yeah, that's cause we're scientists," giving me just what I needed.



FMSC Service Event on September 16

Confirmation youth and adults will be going to pack meals at Feed My Starving Children in Chanhassen on Wednesday, **September 16th from 7:15-8:45 PM**. We will meet at LOC at 6:15 PM for carpooling and return to LOC around 9:30 PM. **We welcome other adults and HS youth to join us** and we also encourage you to make a donation to FMSC if you can help fund the meals we'll pack! Confirmation youth are expected to attend and we need adults to drive (as well as a 1:4 adult to youth ratio at FMSC). **Anyone attending is asked to sign up HERE** so Kirsten can plan (carpools, etc). If you have questions, please email Kirsten at Kirsten.Kelly@locdelano.com.



If you'd like to make a donation, please go to FMSC.org. Thank you for supporting our youth and the mission of FMSC... "Until ALL are fed!"



Sharing God's Word

On **Sunday, September 13th** we are presenting Bibles to all children ages 3 years/preschool to entering 6th grade. Please complete the form at this link to

indicate your participation:

<https://lightofchristdelano.breezechms.com/form/1e18fc>

Orientation for Ministries

We will have orientations for all Wednesday children & youth ministries on **Wednesday, September 9th**. Children/youth and parents are encouraged to attend.

- ◆ Voyagers: 4:15-4:45 PM
- ◆ Pathfinders: 6:00-6:30 PM
- ◆ Confirmation youth & parents: 6:15 PM
- ◆ Confirmation Guides: 7:15 PM



We're excited to be going on our Fall Confirmation Retreat to Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp in Amery, WI again this year! Each year this retreat proves to be a significant faith-shaping and relationship building event (with friends and with God)! This overnight retreat includes fellowship time, games, campfire worship, discussions, food/snacks and lots of outdoor time (where we can see the incredible stars at night)! This Beacon article has 2 purposes:

1. To share the info with Confirmation Families so they can save the date and register!
2. To invite congregation members to support our youth and families through a donation to help off-set the cost of this retreat. If you are able to make a contribution, please talk to Kirsten. Thank you **SO** much!

What: Overnight Retreat at Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp in Amery, WI – Faith, Fellowship, Food and FUN!

Who: Confirmation youth (grades 7-9) and adult leaders. **This retreat is expected for all Confirmation youth and is SO worth it!**

Leave: Friday, October 23 at 5:00 PM; we will carpool from LOC (transportation is still being arranged).

Return: To LOC on Sunday, October 25 at 1:00 PM.

NOTE: If youth have an older sibling being Confirmed on Sunday, October 25, Kirsten will be leaving early and they can ride with her. We hope they'll still attend!

Cost/Person: \$200-225 (depending on numbers, transportation and scholarships available - this will cover transportation, food/snacks, lodging and a bit to help cover the cost of adults). Scholarships are always available, if needed - talk to Kirsten. See below for payment info.

Register: Online here: <https://lightofchristdelano.breezechms.com/form/FallWapoRetreat2026> (**no later than 10/16**). There will also be a short Wapo form sent to families this fall.

Confirmation families, thank you for registering for this retreat so that we can plan ahead (on things like transportation and adults needed); and *LOC congregation*, thank you for any financial assistance you can provide to support the faith of our youth!