



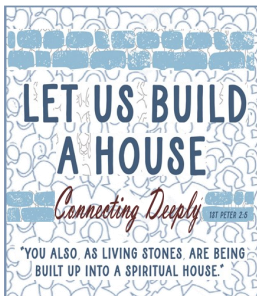
Worship

- 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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Blue Christmas Service December 18th at 7:00 PM

"It's the most wonderful time of the year" goes the song, and for many it may be. However, for many of us who have experienced loss or pain, the expectation of happiness just makes it worse. Not only are we carrying burdens, but we feel like we carry them alone. We invite

all to join us for this time of reflection and calm in the midst of the craziness of life. If this season is heavy laden, or you are just needing a quiet space, then we invite you to join us for our Blue Christmas Service on **December 18th at 7:00 PM** at Light of Christ Lutheran Church.

"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 [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.**

OWLS Christmas Party

Join the OWLS (Older Wiser Lutherans) for our annual Christmas Potluck and Gift Exchange. (The date was changed due to many OWLS helping at the Food Shelf on our normal Thursday. Mark your calendars for **Friday, December 19th, 12-3:00PM**, and start looking for your gifts and recipes to share!! Remember, a white elephant is something in your home you no longer want, nothing to buy!! Wrap it up for a very fun and funny time!! Festive recipes for appetizers, main dishes, sides and desserts are welcome, as well as beverages to share.



Get to Know the Wheatleys!

Starting **Sundays from January 11th to February 22nd** we are looking for members who want to host a brunch/lunch/or dinner to get to know the Wheatleys. The host will sign up for a date on a clipboard in the

Narthex for a Sunday meal date and then they can decide what members they would like to join them for brunch/lunch/or dinner to get to know Pastor Tim and Mary. If you want to be a guest, you can also sign up to be one and we will try to accommodate everyone interested. If you have any questions, please text or call Jennifer Grant at 612.226.8181. Email is jpcconnection.jg@gmail.com.

Thursday Night Bible Study

Please join Gina Nee and others to discover more of the ***Good News in the Gospel of John*** together! We'll be meeting on Thursday evenings, 7-8:30 PM at church. If you have any questions, feel free to call Tim Johnson at 952-472-1755 or Gina at 651-353-2277. Great for beginners or anyone simply hungry to discover more about God and to grow in one's faith. Also, a wonderful way to get to know a few other folks!



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 **through December 21st**. Checks may be made payable to *Light of Christ* with "**Christmas Ornaments**" in the memo. Thank you, and Merry Christmas!



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

Join us on **Thursday, December 18th 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!





Honoring God Through Our Christmas Giving

During this holy season, Christians throughout the world respond to God's incredible gift in Jesus with

gifts of our own—gifts that honor God, express our gratitude, and reflect our faith in the One who has been so generous to us.

As you celebrate Christ's birth, we invite you to prayerfully consider a **special Christmas offering** to **Light of Christ Lutheran**. Your giving is more than meeting a need—it is an act of worship, a tangible way of saying, *"Thank you, Lord, for your faithfulness, your blessings, and your presence in my life."*

Your generosity strengthens the ministry we share: caring for our neighbors, forming faith in children and youth, deepening discipleship, supporting worship, and extending Christ's compassion to those who need it most. Every gift—large or small—helps this congregation shine the light of Christ in powerful and life-giving ways.

If you feel moved to make a Christmas or year-end gift, know that it will be received with deep gratitude and used to bless others. Thank you for your faith, your generosity, and the joy you bring to this community.

Friends 4 A Cause

We still have a few spots open for anyone who'd like to sign up to buy a gift for a child in need. If you're able, please consider signing up [here](#) and help spread a little joy this season to a local family. Gift drop-off deadline is on **December 17th**. Please contact Kim at kimw1517@gmail.com with any questions.



Mental Health Connect: A Compassionate First Step Toward Healing



Navigating mental health challenges can be overwhelming, but you don't have to face them alone. Mental Health Connect (MHC) offers free, confidential, and individualized support to help you or your loved ones access the right resources for your unique situation. Whether you're seeking counseling, addressing substance use concerns, or simply need someone to talk to, MHC's trained Navigators are here to assist. Reach out by calling or texting 612-642-1220, or emailing navigator@mhconnect.org, Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 5 PM. You can also fill out a simple contact form online (scan the QR code). A caring Navigator will respond promptly to guide you toward the support you need.



UPDATE

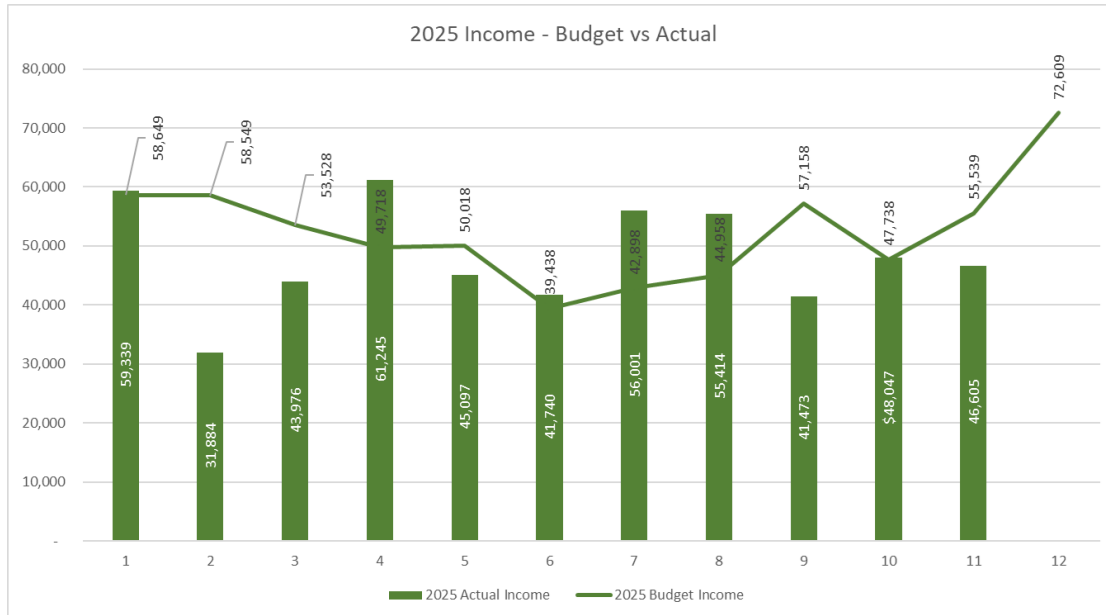
Parking Lot Update

This past summer, we were eager to get started with repairs to the existing parking lot. The plan at that time was to do a cheaper and less aggressive mill and overlay option which included small soil corrections at the really bad portions of the existing asphalt. During a pre-construction site visit early this summer with the contractor, it was determined that due to the significant break-up of the existing asphalt over the

winter, we were no longer able to move forward with the mill and overlay option and needed to pursue a more aggressive approach. This includes a full soil correction down 16" on the south half of the parking lot with type 5 geotextile fabric on top of the new soil which helps the new asphalt move as one which reduces the risk of future cracks and broken up asphalt. We are excited to be moving forward with this more robust approach, but unfortunately this change delayed getting the work done this year due to contractor availability. The new parking lot is scheduled to be installed in the spring of 2026. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

Brandt Dinger—Church Council

LOC Monthly Income - Actual versus Budget



Year To Date Summary – November 2025

- YTD Budget \$558,191
YTD Actual \$530,820
- Year to Date Actual is **\$27,371** below budget
- November giving below budget

Rooted in Faith. Growing in Generosity.

A heartfelt thank you to the **67 households** who have already turned in their pledge for 2026, totaling **\$299,965!** Your early commitments give us a strong start—thank you for leading the way with generosity and vision.

Last year, we received **80 pledges totaling \$380,958**, and we believe we can reach—and even exceed—that level of participation again. To do that, we need *you*. If you haven't yet submitted your pledge, please make this the week you do. Your pledge is one of the most important ways you support God's work through Light of Christ.

This isn't simply about funding a budget. It's about **declaring your trust in God, aligning your heart with Christ**, and resourcing ministries that change lives every single week—worship, pastoral care, youth and children's faith formation, Nourishing Hope, music, outreach, and compassionate community presence.

Your financial commitment is a spiritual step—a powerful way of saying: **"I believe in this mission, and I want to be part of what God is doing here."**

Scripture reminds us, *"Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce"* (Proverbs 3:9).

When you pledge, you help Light of Christ honor God boldly, plan faithfully, and live out our calling with strength and confidence.

Please return your 2026 pledge card as soon as possible. Every pledge, every gift, every commitment helps move our mission forward.

Thank you for your generosity—and thank you for helping our church grow deeper and stronger in the year ahead.

TOGETHER WE THRIVE



Check Your 2025 Pledge Status

Just a reminder that members can check the status of their pledges for 2025 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.

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

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

Blessed Advent to you! In the season of Advent we have lots of excitement that is built about Christmas. As my family and I decorated our tree we had on Christmas carols, and the one that really stuck in my head was, "Rocking Around the Christmas Tree." I can feel your disappointment, after all your pastor should be thinking of "Little Drummer Boy" or "Hark the Herald." And I *do* like those better, but that day in my head all I could think of was, what does dancing merrily around the Christmas tree in a new old-fashioned way mean? Also does the fact that this song debuted before I was born mean the new old-fashioned way in 1958 means that it is the old old-fashioned way to me?

I can tell you think I am thinking about it too much! And you are correct.

Yet I do think there is something to be pondered in those words, after all, it is still one of the popular songs every Christmas season! (Or as my daughter said, one of the 10 songs the radio seems to know!) I do believe that Advent needs to constantly be rediscovered. The need for us to acknowledge shame, pain, and busy of the last year to prepare our hearts for the Savior is constant—while we could do it every day, it is a blessing to have a season where we prepare not for something that we have to do but a gift of God. The gift of the Savior. Perhaps you joined us for an Old-Fashioned Christmas in Delano, or for our own window lighting ceremony and maker's market. These are wonderful traditions, as are carols, cookies, Christmas parties and concerts. These might have been exactly what you needed to get ready for Christ's birth! However, it is always a bit different, because each year we need something a bit different. So, if this year you need something different, some calm and peace, if you need some sugar free cookies, or anything else, then take the time to prepare for Christ in whatever new old-fashioned way will let you receive the blessing of your Savior when he comes to you! Amen.

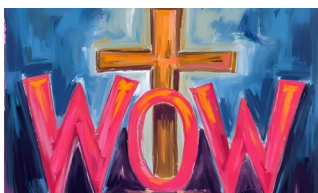


CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS

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:

- ◇ **January 7**
- ◇ **February 4**
- ◇ **April 8** (2nd Wed. due to Holy Week)



We hope you'll join us at WOW!



Summer 2026 Mission Trip Info Meeting!

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

- **Wednesday, January 7th** = 7th-9th 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

- **12/17/25** = Small group Christmas parties
- **12/24/25** = No Confirmation
- **12/31/25** = No Confirmation





**Thank you to the
Confirmation youth
and parents for
giving of their
time and love in
service!**

Wednesday, December 10 was a night of service around the community for Confirmation youth. We led bingo at The Estates (pictured here), cleaned at Love Inc in Howard Lake and helped with the outdoor Christmas event at LOC!



**Conf.
youth
serving
at LOC
Dec. 10th,
2025 🎄**





Confirmation youth serving at Love Inc, Howard Lake



Love Inc,
Howard
Lake 🎄
12/10/25

