



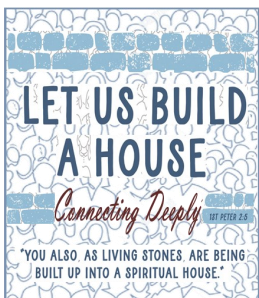
Worship

- 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!

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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.



Last Call for August Fifth Sunday Donations

The designated recipient of the **August Fifth Sunday special offering** is the “**Drawn to the Word**” painting event on **Sunday, November 1**. The painting’s theme is “**Drawn to the Light of Christ**” and will be done by Pastor Paul Oman during our worship service that day. We are so excited to watch Pastor Oman paint this beautiful 50x70 painting that will hang in our sanctuary. The cost for this painting is \$4275 so your generous contributions are much appreciated to help support this meaningful ministry and creative expression of faith. Please make your donation **by Sept. 4**, either at the **Give** link on the [LOC website](#) or by dropping off your check at the church office. **Thank you very much for your generous August Fifth Sunday contributions in support of this Light of Christ treasure!**



Love INC Birthday Ministry

Pictured is the September birthday bag, assembled with care by Birthday Ministry volunteer, Carrie Quamen, for a Love INC neighbor in need. Please pray for the child who will receive this birthday bag. Thank you for your faithful support of this ministry—it truly makes a difference!



Golf for Love Fundraiser

Golfers of all skill levels are welcome to enjoy a scenic round, contests, prize drawings, and a delicious boxed lunch. All proceeds benefit Love INC supporting its mission to offer a hand up—not a handout—to those in need.



- ♦ **Date:** Monday, September 21
- ♦ **Time:** 10AM check in, 11AM tee off
- ♦ **Place:** Albion Ridges Golf Course near Annandale
- ♦ **Format:** Four-person scramble shotgun start
- ♦ Tickets & sponsor packages can be found [at this link](#)

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!***



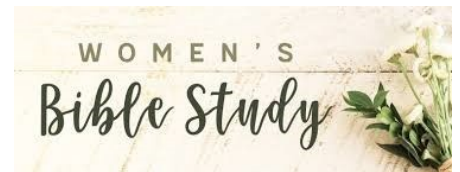
Save The Date – LOC End of Life Planning Seminar – October 26, 2026

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!

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](https://www.amazon.com/dp/0780830830534)

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

Thank You, Nourishing Hope Volunteers!

A heartfelt *thank you* to everyone who helped with the August 17 Nourishing Hope food distribution—those who packed food in Rockford, transported it, and served our neighbors here at Light of Christ. Your willing hands, generous hearts, and joyful service made the day possible. 100 packed full food boxes were distributed! Our next food distribution is **Monday, September 13th**. We have some key volunteers who will be out of town, so this may be the perfect time to sign up!



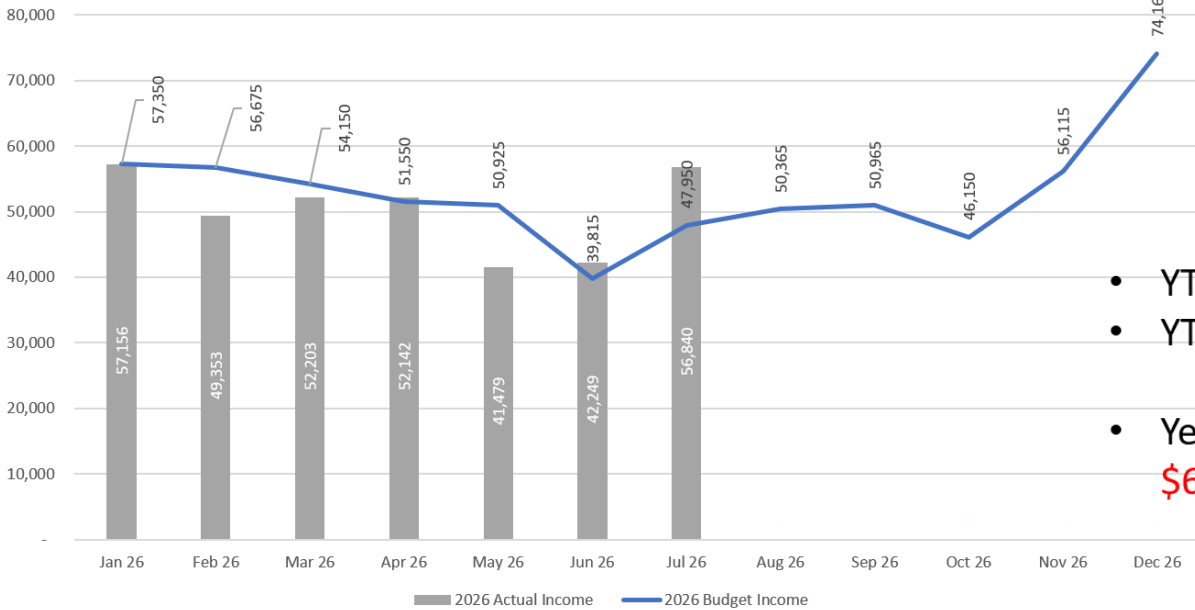
- ♦ Truck Boss <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0848A9A72AAAF85-food>
- ♦ Food Box Packing at Our Father's <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0848A9A72AAAF85-food>
- ♦ Cold Milk Delivery <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0848A9A72AAAF85-63814208-food>
- ♦ Food Distribution at Light of Christ <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0848A9A72AAAF85-food1>

What a blessing it is to work together to provide food, encouragement, and hope to families in our community!

“Through love, become servants to one another.” — Galatians 5:13

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



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.

The Generous Life: Six Practices that Shape Our Faith



The Generous Life: Give First Fruits

One of the most powerful biblical principles of giving is this: **Give to God first.**

In Scripture, the “first fruits” were the first portion of a harvest—offered to God as an act of trust and worship. It was a way of saying, “*God, you are first in my life.*”

Giving first shifts our perspective. Instead of giving what’s left over, we give with priority and purpose.

What this looks like in everyday life:

Before paying bills or making purchases, a family sets aside their offering. This act becomes more than financial—it becomes spiritual. It shapes priorities and deepens trust.

First fruits giving reminds us that everything we have comes from God—and we honor God first.

“Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops.” – Proverbs 3:9

(We will feature a new practice every couple of weeks)

The GIVING CORNER



“Bunching” multiple years of gifts into one tax year

With today’s higher standard deduction, some households do not itemize every year, which can make their giving feel less tax efficient. One planning idea is “bunching.” Instead of giving the same amount annually, you combine several years of intended gifts into a single year so that you are more likely to itemize and fully benefit from deductions that year. In the years in-between, you can still give, but you do it from a donor advised fund that you funded during the bunching year. This approach can keep your church and favorite charities supported on a steady schedule while you focus the tax deduction into the year it matters most. It is not right for everyone, but it is worth considering if your deductions hover near the itemizing threshold.

Article Submitted by Brad L. Spencer, CPWA®



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!

10th Grade "Getting Confirmed" Retreat

August 25-26, 2026



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](#)

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

