

The Beacon

Pastor Tim Wheatley

April 28, 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!

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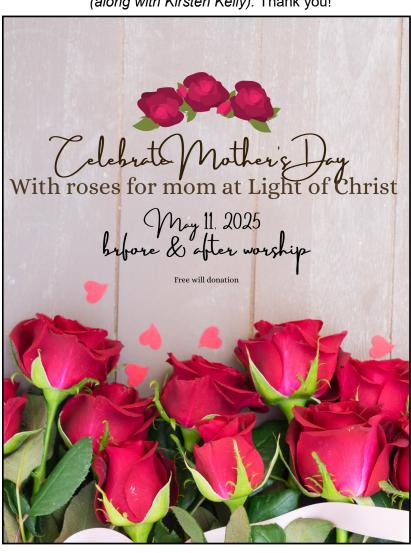
Serve Day... Coming on May 10th!

On Saturday, May 10th, Light of Christ will be hosting our first annual Serve Day! On this day, we will all come together to help and support our church and community. Some of the projects may include volunteering at the Delano Food Shelf, Feed My Starving Children, local nursing homes, Love INC, as well as projects around church (light maintenance and cleaning, making cards for military members, outdoor projects, etc.). We know this is a busy weekend (with



fishing opener and Mother's Day) but it would be wonderful if we could all come together to serve others and give back! Here is the link with more information and to sign up: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0848A9A72AAAF85-56175820serve#/

This project is being coordinated by HS youth, Abby Gierke, for her NHS project (along with Kirsten Kelly). Thank you!



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/pair if they're in good shape). A collection bin can be found in the Fellowship Hall at LOC. (Note: this project is being coordinated by Anneka Zaun for her National Honor Society project. Anneka went to Chicago last summer and is attending the N. Shore mission trip this summer!)



Love INC Church Partnership Report



For the time period 1/1/2024 to 12/31/2024:

⇒ Financial assistance: \$5,656.91
 ⇒ Total volunteer hours: 361 hours

Love INC GAP Ministry Report (for the Birthday Ministry)

For the time period 1/1/2024 to 12/31/2024:

⇒ Number of needs met: 66

 \Rightarrow Value of the services: \$1,750

"Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." – 1 John 3:18 Connecting with Our Neighbors

May Food Distribution

Each month, Light of Christ extends food and friendship to our community. As part of *Nourishing Hope's* network of six churches, we distribute food boxes to anyone in need—no sign-ups, no qualifications required. On most months, we provide just shy of 100 boxes filled with fresh produce, dairy, and other essential food items.



The process begins early on the second Monday of each month when one or two of our *Truck Bosses* head to Delano Rental to pick up a trailer. They then return to our church garage to load up empty boxes, which have been collected over the past month—mostly from the liquor store (they call us the *Happy Church* ③). These empty boxes are delivered to *Our Father's Lutheran* in Rockford, where they join about 700 others from participating churches.

By mid-morning, everything is set up for our first group of volunteers. Pallets of potatoes, cabbage, onions, apples, and more are arranged near a roller system, which helps streamline the packing process. Church by church, volunteers fill the boxes and load them onto trailers in an impressive team effort. Additionally, every six months, *Light of Christ* needs two volunteers to assist with unloading the 40-foot Second Harvest truck, which provides the bulk of the food we distribute.

In the afternoon, another team of volunteers arrives at *Light of Christ* to prepare for distribution. This includes unloading the packed boxes and bagging additional food items, such as milk or other essentials that don't fit in the boxes. Before distribution begins, we take a moment to gather, share brief introductions, reflect on a scripture passage, and pray.

During distribution, we collect basic information from recipients (household size and zip code) and offer prayer request cards. As we load boxes into cars, our volunteers extend kindness and care, making this ministry more than just food distribution—it's a blessing to both givers and receivers.

At the end of the day, a small group remains to pray over the submitted prayer concerns before passing them along to *Pastor Tim*, so our entire faith community can lift up the needs of our neighbors.

We invite you to be part of this impactful ministry! You can sign up to serve using the links below:

- 10:00 AM Food box packing. Our Father's Lutheran in Rockford. Sign up here: (https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0848A9A72AAAF85-food)
- 3:30 PM Food distribution. Here at LOC. Sign up here: (https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0848A9A72AAAF85 -food1)

Your time, talent, and treasure help sustain this important work. Thank you for your continued prayers and involvement!

Mext Distribution Day: May 12th

CHURCH NEWS



Week 6: Living with Unshakable Faith

Our final UNSHAKEN Bible study will be this **Thursday at 9:30 AM and 7:00 PM**. All are welcome, even if you haven't been before. In the gospels Jesus responds to his followers' anxiety and

worry by saying that they (and we) are to instead "seek first the Kingdom of God and it's righteousness." Last week's lesson looked at exactly what he means and what that looks like. Copies are available in the Narthex.

This week we will look at the reasons we have to **place our trust in God**. This will be an overview of many of the great passages and stories that give us courage and confidence in God's goodness, love and provision.

Stay Informed!

The current Church Council meeting minutes can be found on the <u>church website</u>.

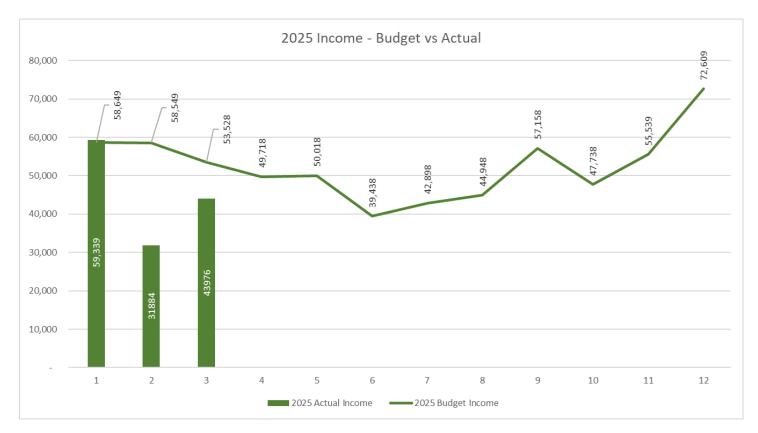




Follow Us on Instagram!

Check out our new Instagram page! Our handle is @delanolightofchrist. Scan the QR code to get directly to the page.

LOC Monthly Income - Actual versus Budget



Year To Date Summary – March 2025

- YTD Budget \$170,726
- YTD Actual \$135,199
- Year to Date Actual is \$35,527 below budget

STAYING CONNECTED



Are you missing a coat, hoodie, cap, coffee/water mug, book, or something that you might have

left at church? Please check out the table of Lost & Found items in the fellowship hall entry area. Items not claimed by **May 1st** will be donated to Love INC.



Can You Help?

Take a look at our new **Time & Talent board** in the **Narthex**, **across from the Welcome Center!** You'll find large **Sticky Notes** with a variety of ways you can lend a hand.

It's easy to participate:

- **✓ Browse the notes** to see current needs.
- Find one that fits your gifts or schedule.
- ✓ Take it with you as a reminder to follow through!

Here are a few examples:

- Write 1-2 notes of thanks to an LOC volunteer or staff member.
- Donate a box of non-perishables for our Food Distribution Ministry.
- **Help format the Study Guide** for the upcoming *Unshaken* Bible study.



Wash 3-5 windows in the Fellowship Hall or Narthex.

Have a short-term need? If you're on a team and ould use extra hands, add a Sticky Note to invite others to help!

Thank you for sharing your Time & Talents—*Together We Thrive!*

CFM Position Will Open upon Retirement



The "countdown to retirement" is

both exciting and bittersweet. Light of Christ members and staff feel these same emotions for LaDonna Ekern as she anticipates her final workday as our Director of Children & Family Ministry on May 11th. Mark your calendars for an after-service celebration with LaDonna and Jewel on **Sunday, May 11**th.

The Personnel Committee has posted this 20 hr/ week position on the <u>LOC website</u>. Do you know strong candidates who should apply? Our kids deserve a leader with high energy and a huge heart — just what LaDonna has dedicated to the youngsters for the past 4 years.

Centralized Sign Up

We have a new way of sharing volunteer sign-ups... all in one spot! Scan this QR code or go to this link (www.linktr.ee/

lightofchristvolunteers) to view the new LOC Volunteer Sign Up Page. We hope this will make it easier to find the sign-ups and to volunteer!



CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS

Looking for Mountains of Fun?





You Otter Be Here!

♦ New Friends ♦ Amazing Experiments ♦ Creative Games ♦ Super-Fun Snacks
 ♦ Surprising Adventures ♦ Incredible Music

Light of Christ Lutheran Church

Sunday, July 13th - Wednesday, July 16th

Register online at link or QR code below: https://lightofchristdelano.breezechms.com/
form/TrueNorth



Sign Up for Summer Bible Camp and VBS!

Registration for camp at Camp Wapo! Scholarships will be provided again this year! Invite a friend and join us for a life-changing week at camp this summer!

- Seeds (Grades 1-3): June 20-22
- Wapo Youth (Grades 4-8): June
 22-27 and July 27-August 1
- Wapo One-Day (Grades 1 & up): June 25

LOC Specific Registration Link: https:// https:// https://







The Readers
Theater share
the real reason
for Easter with
our Voyagers.







