



Pastor Tim Wheatley

December 1, 2025

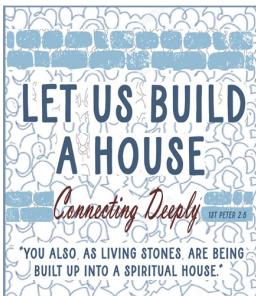
Worship

- 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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 Delano, MN 55328
 (763) 972-2400



LightOfChristLutheran.com
Terri.Reuter@locdelano.com



“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 by **December 5th** [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.**

Mark your calendars! Light of Christ's annual service of Lessons and Carols is **December 7th** at 9:30 AM. Come hear the Christ story alongside joyful music featuring all Light of Christ musicians. We can't wait for this musical celebration!





Friends 4 A Cause

The CFM Team is once again pairing up with *Friends 4 A Cause* to help local Delano families who need a little extra help this Christmas season. The gift

requests can be found at this Sign Up Genius link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904094EA5AF2BA75-60566809-locchristmas>.

If you are unable to shop and would like to donate towards the cause, you can do so by dropping off a check (made payable to **Friends 4 A Cause**) with Terri in the office or Venmo [@friends4acausemn](https://www.venmo.com/@friends4acausemn).

Gifts can be dropped off before or after service in the Narthex on the following Sundays: 12/7 and 12/14. The last drop off day will be on Wednesday, 12/17 during Voyagers and Pathfinders - please have all gifts dropped off by 7 PM. Any questions, please contact Kim Wortz kimw1517@gmail.com or 952-457-9253.

Prayers for these families are greatly appreciated. Thank you for helping spread Christmas cheer to our Delano families in need.

Check this out!

Our LOC Birthday Ministry is featured in this month's Love INC *Love Story Blog*. Click the link below to read more!

[Filling A Bag; Narrowing A Gap | Love INC Heartland](https://www.loveinc.org/love-story-blog/filling-a-bag-narrowing-a-gap-love-inc-heartland)



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

December Food Distribution

Each month, *Light of Christ* shares food and kindness with our community as part of *Nourishing Hope*'s network of six churches. We distribute nearly 100 food boxes—no sign-ups, no qualifications, just a warm welcome.

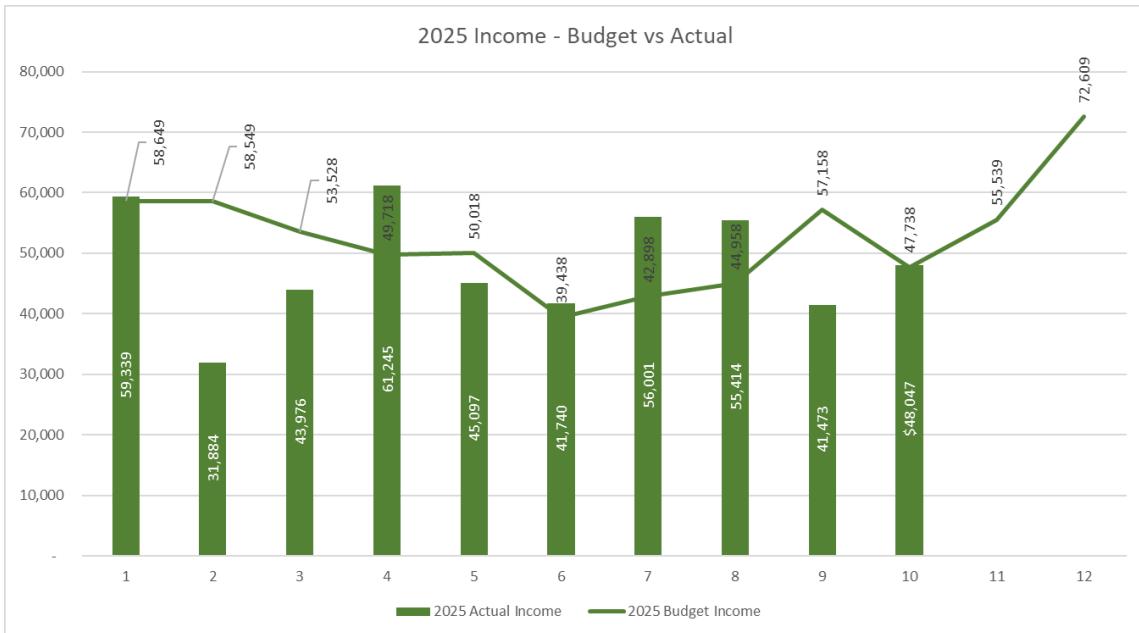


On the second Monday of each month, our *Truck Bosses* pick up a trailer, load collected empty boxes (thanks to our friends at the liquor store who call us the *Happy Church*), and deliver them to *Our Father's Lutheran* in Rockford. There, volunteers from six churches pack about 700 boxes with fresh produce, dairy, and more before reloading them onto trailers for distribution. In the afternoon, volunteers gather at *Light of Christ* to unload, sort additional items (like milk), and prepare for distribution. Before opening, we pause for introductions, scripture, and prayer. As we serve, we collect basic info from recipients and offer prayer cards. Our volunteers are a true blessing, sharing not just food but kindness and care. At day's end, we pray over the submitted prayer concerns before passing them to *Pastor Tim* so our whole church can lift up our neighbors in prayer. You're invited to serve! Sign up at 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>)

⌚ Next Distribution: **December 8th** Your time, talent, and treasure make this ministry possible—thank you!

LOC Monthly Income - Actual versus Budget



Year To Date Summary – October 2025

- YTD Budget \$502,652
YTD Actual \$484,215
- Year to Date Actual is **\$18,437** below budget
- October income on budget

Rooted in Faith. Growing in Generosity.

November 23rd was our **Celebration Sunday**, when we gathered as a community rooted in faith and growing in generosity! If you haven't already, you are still encouraged to return a **pledge card** indicating your support for our ministry in **2026**. Your participation truly matters—and it reflects the heart of a church committed to God's mission. **We all have a gift to give**, and every gift strengthens the ministries we share. Pledge cards are available at church, or you can complete an [online pledge form at this link](#), so everyone can participate easily.

Thank you for your generosity, your faithfulness, and the joy you bring to this community. We are truly a **treasured people of God**, called to good and meaningful work together. **Thanks be to God!**



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.





Sisters of LOC Cookie Exchange

It's that time of year already! Please join the Sisters of LOC for our annual cookie exchange on **Tuesday, December 9th** from 7:00-8:30 PM in the Living Room at LOC. You should bring 3 dozen of your favorite cookies, a container to take your cookies home in, and printed copies of the recipe to share. Depending on how many choose to participate, you should go home with a nice assortment of goodies to share with your family. [Please RSVP here](#) with your name and the type of cookie you will be bringing. The deadline to sign up is **Monday, December 8th**. Hope to see as many of you as we can! Any questions, please contact Kelly Harstad at 763-227-8246 or email kellyharstad8@gmail.com.



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

As we work to be a community where all feel connected and cared for, we are trying a new time/group for moms of pre-teens and teens. Join us on **Thursdays, December 4th and 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!



Sips & Carols Fellowship Gathering

❖ *Celebrate the Christmas season with warmth, music, and friends! ❖*

Date: Sunday, December 14, 2025

Time: 5:00 PM

Location: McGarry's Pub, Maple Plain

Join us for an evening of fellowship and festive cheer! Enjoy a cozy atmosphere, order from a short menu, and sing along to Christmas carols led by Katie Kohler to get into the Christmas spirit. *Note: individuals will be responsible for their own tab. RSVP before December 10th [at this link](#) to reserve your spot and make this a night to remember!*

Storytelling Training

Last fall, the Mission and Evangelism Committee sponsored a Storytelling training session led by Dr. Mary Hess from Luther Theological Seminary. The small group that gathered received tips on telling stories, listened to a brief overview of the importance of stories, and shared their own stories. The biggest surprise was how the storytelling exercise emphasized the importance of listening, prompting a great discussion on the importance of listening in our current times. Copies of materials distributed are available from Terri in the church office, including a list of additional

The Art of Storytelling



resources. If your group or committee is interested in the training, contact a member of the Mission and Evangelism Committee.

CHURCH & COMMUNITY EVENTS



Lyndale Lutheran
**Lutefisk & Meatball
Julbord**

Saturday, December 6, 2025 | 2pm-6pm

Lutefisk ~ Meatballs ~ Lingonberry Sauce
Homemade Lefsa ~ Pickled Beets ~ Roasted Potatoes
Mashed Rutabagas ~ Pickled Herring ~ Crankake ~ Rolls

Entertainment by
Singleton Street 2:30 pm - 5:30pm

Adults: \$30.00
Children (4-12): \$5.00
3 and under: FREE
Takeout orders accepted

Reservations preferred. Call or email the church.

Lyndale Lutheran Church
8012 County Rd 6, Maple Plain, MN
763-479-1719 ~ lyndalelutheran@frontiernet.net



Blue Christmas Service **December 18th 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.



**DELANO DRAMATIC COMPANY
PRESENTS**

TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE

By Jeffrey Hatcher &
Mitch Albom

**An old man, a young man
and life's greatest lessons**

Delano Dramatic Company has been using our space for some of their rehearsals for this production. Their December 13th and 14th performances will be held here at LOC.



Riverwood Covenant Church
December 5 & 6 @ 7:00 pm
Light of Christ Lutheran
December 13 @ 7:00 pm
December 14 @ 2:00 pm
Delano Senior Center
December 18 @ 1:00 & 7:00 pm
Zion Lutheran Buffalo
December 20 @ 7:00 pm

STAYING CONNECTED



"LOC-O-Motion" Coffee & Cleaning Crew

Light of Christ has a new monthly group of volunteers to tackle cleaning jobs that are not being done by our weekly hired service. Anyone is welcome to join us. We are planning to meet monthly on the **second Friday at 9:30 AM**.

A huge **THANK YOU** to Paulette and Jerry Podratz, Cheri Ashfeld, Laurie Grimm, Cheryl Collins, Lona Jose, Jinnelle Weis, Mary Ann McKay, Oda Carlson, Maxine Johnson, Lisa Hemmer, Ann Bassett, and Bill & Sue Fink. What a group of willing workers who accomplished so much to get our church home cleaner and brighter, just in time for the 40th Anniversary and new member celebration.

We got all the ground floor windows cleaned outside; the windows inside the sanctuary, Narthex, entry, and hallway; vacuumed those windowsills and some floor vents; wiped down surfaces and appliances in the kitchen and spiffed up the single bathrooms. WOW! Bill Fink took the red vacuum home and fixed the huge clog in the intake, ready for more cleaning. We even did a little fall decorating.

Our next LOC-O-Motion date is Friday, December 12th at 9:30 AM. Come and leave as it works for you.



HOOT NEWS



Our next event comes up on **Thursday, December 4th, 4:45 PM**. We are meeting at LOC to carpool to the Ox Yoke Inn for supper. They have the back room reserved and staffed for us.

Afterward, for all those who want to venture on, we'll head to Sovereign Winery in Waconia for their "Spirit of Winter." It is outdoors so dress warm to be comfortable for the walk around the estate. There will be wine, fires for s'mores, music and thousands of festive lights and displays. The cost is \$25.00 per car, so we will try to have 5-6 per car. (*If you only want to join us at Ox Yoke, you may meet us there.*)

We have a second event in December, our annual Christmas Potluck, with the very funny White Elephant gift exchange!! That means nothing new, but something you no longer need. The date has changed due to many OWLS helping at the Food Shelf on our normal Thursday. Mark your calendars for **Friday, December 19th, 12-3 PM** and start looking for your gifts and recipes to share!!

We'd love to get more Older Wiser Lutherans involved so if you're looking for friendship and fun, try us out!! We generally have our gatherings during the afternoons so if you're partially or fully retired, come join us!

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 12/21**. Checks may be made payable to *Light of Christ* with "**Christmas Ornaments**" in the memo. Thank you, and Merry Christmas!



CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS

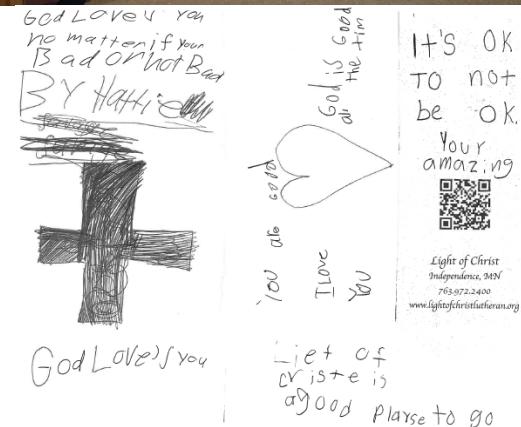


YOU ARE INVITED to our *Light Up the Night* event on **December 10th from 5-6:30 PM**, which includes a Maker's Market as well. Our Voyager and Pathfinder children are putting a lot of work and effort into the task of creating the Christmas story in pictures in the Fellowship Hall windows. We invite you all, young and old, to come and celebrate the beginning of the Christmas season with us. This will be an outdoor event, so please dress accordingly. There will be freshly baked waffles and hot chocolate for a free will donation. This donation will be used to pay for bus transportation during caroling and other Children and Family Ministry expenses. Our kids' groups will sing some of their Christmas program songs as well. As a special surprise for all attending children, we will have a special visitor. After learning of the origin story, we will get a visit from St. Nikolaus (not Santa Clause, but looks the same), who will bring nuts and oranges for the children. Why do we call it *Light Up the Night* event? Besides having warming fires we will also reveal the beautifully painted, colorful windows by lighting them up in a ceremonial way for everyone to see and enjoy. Maker's Market: this combined event offers 'children' of all ages (0-99) the chance to showcase their talents - whether in crafting, baking, or other handmade creations. All children and youth-aged participants are able to sell the products of their craft skills in a maker's market style. If you enjoy making jewelry, pottery, soap making, story writing, drawing, book binding, baking, clothes designing, or any other kind of crafting you have the opportunity to set up a table and showcase your products. You will be in charge of either bringing a table or borrowing one of ours, setting up, decorating and tearing down your own shop. It is an outdoor event, so please plan accordingly. Be mindful of the time of day - evening, when it is dark out. You will have to provide lighting for your 'booth,' like battery operated light chains, fully enclosed candle lanterns/battery powered lanterns, or shop lights. We won't be able to provide electrical outlets for everyone. So please plan on using battery powered options.

For more information contact
sabrina.kolleck@locdelano.com.

Kind Words from the Kids

Our Voyager (1st-3rd grade) children have taken it upon themselves to lighten the mood of others and make everyone's day a brighter one. Sometimes those little hands need to be active to be able to concentrate better. And kindness catches on. After the first kids started 'doodling' words of encouragement, everyone wanted to be a part of spreading feel-good-cheer. Now it became a new favorite. If you find one of these beautiful notes hidden in the sanctuary pews, I hope it brings a smile to your face. Our young ones are amazing young Christians with big hearts. No wonder Jesus was so fond of children. We adults can learn much from the little ones.



December Service Opportunities



12/ 3, 7-8 pm: Confirmation Service Projects

12/ 10, 5-6 pm: Light up Windows & Waffles

12/ 10, 6-8 pm: Confirmation Service Projects

12/ 13, 8:30-9:30 am: Love Inc, Adopt a Family

12/ 17, 4-5 pm: Caroling at Nursing Homes

Contact Kirsten for more details - all are welcome!

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:

- ◊ **December 3**
- ◊ **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 Meetings!

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

- **Wednesday, December 3rd = 9th-12th grade Mission Trip Info Meeting (8-9 PM)**
- **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

- **12/3/25 = Wow service/Service project**
- **12/10/25 = Service event offsite**
- **12/17/25 = Small group Christmas parties**
- **12/24/25 = No Confirmation**
- **12/31/25 = No Confirmation**

