



Pastor Tim Wheatley

December 22, 2025

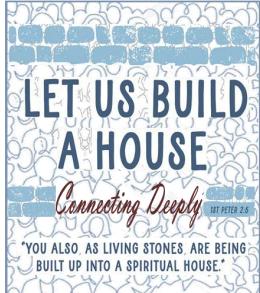
Worship

- 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



CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING
Sunday, January 25 at 10:30 AM
Immediately following worship

The church office will be closed
 December 24th-26th.
 There will not be a Beacon issue
 on December 29th.





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.

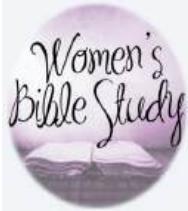
The host will sign up for a date on a clipboard in the Narthex for a Sunday meal date and then they can decide what members they would like to join them for brunch/lunch/or dinner to get to know Pastor Tim and Mary. If you want to be a guest, you can also sign up to be one and we will try to accommodate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

Thursday Night Bible Study

Our study of the Gospel of John will resume on **Thursday, January 8th at 7:00-8:30 PM**. 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!



Women's Bible Study

The women's Bible study resumes on **January 5th** and meets **the first and third Mondays of the month, 6:30-8:00 PM at LOC**. We will meet through June. If you can't make it every time that is okay! We want you to come when you can. We will be doing two Bible studies by Nancy Guthrie. The first half of our time together we will study her book *God Does His Best Work with Empty*. The second half we will study her book *Even Better than Eden*. More information can be found in the Beacon or on flyers in the narthex. If you are interested in participating, please contact Lindsay Lindall at lindsay.lindall@gmail.com.



Stay Informed!

The current Church Council meeting minutes can be found on the [church website](#).

Cheater Readers Book Club



Many years ago, we started a book club of LOC members and met in one another's homes monthly, enjoying fellowship and discussions of lots of interesting books. We called ourselves "The Cheater Readers" since most of us needed some magnifying help with our middle aging eyes! Some of our members have passed or moved away, and some have transferred to other churches, but we continue to be great friends.

Moving into 2026, as it is getting to be harder for all of us to host or navigate to our homes, we have arranged to meet in the Living Room at LOC on the **second Thursday of each month at 2PM**. We would love to have new book lovers join us!

***Here's the line-up for Book Club starting January 8th, 2pm at Light of Christ:

- ◊ **January 8:** *Dear Mrs. Bird* by AJ Pearce
- ◊ **February 12:** *When the Dandelions Sing* by James J Hill
- ◊ **March 12:** *When Crickets Cry* by Charles Martin

Bring your own beverage and snack. Invite a friend! Bring your book suggestions for future months, books we can borrow through Delano's Great Regional or Hennepin County libraries. We will not meet in June, July, or August, unless one of us wants to have a summer potluck, no book involved. Contact Sue Fink if any questions.



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.

Thank you to our church family for coming together to support local families through the purchase of gifts for *Friends 4 A Cause*. Your generosity reflects God's love, and we are thankful for each of you. Your contributions have had a lasting and positive impact.

Blessings - Kim Wertz



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.

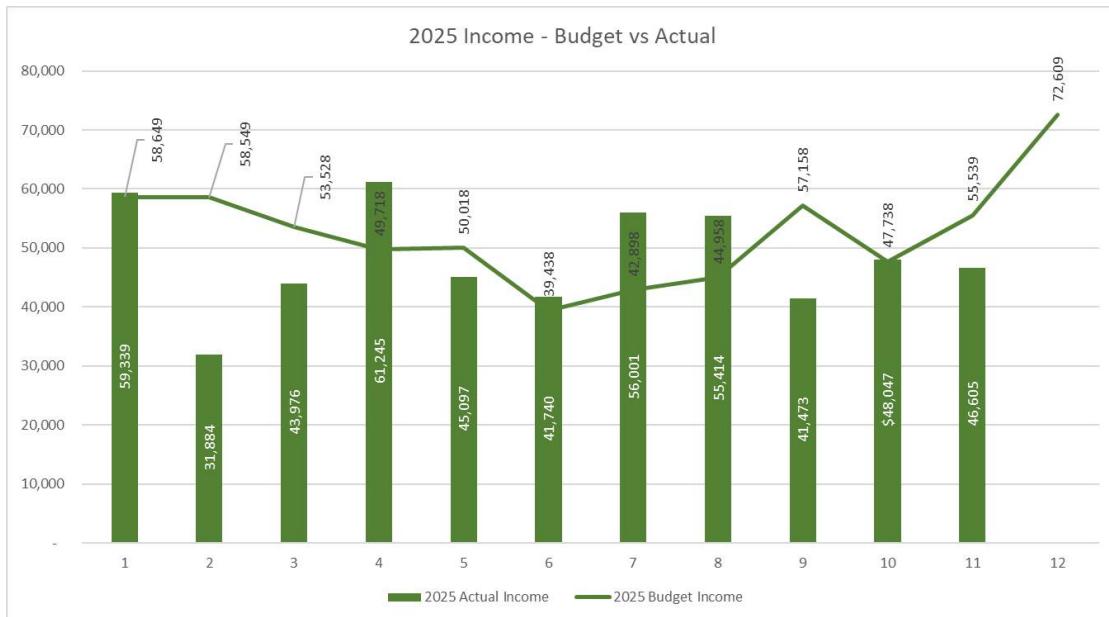


Support Our Youth!

We invite you to visit our Equal Exchange (fair trade) table in the Narthex for some great products! Items for sale include: chocolate, coffee, tea, cashews, almonds, dried mangos, and LOC coffee mugs. All sales support our summer youth trips as well as small farmers around the world! These items make great gifts for teachers or friends. Items can also be delivered for free around the Delano area and you can include a note and even gift wrapping. Thanks for your support!



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.

Thank you to the **70 households** who have pledged **\$314,205** for 2026! We are grateful for your leadership in generosity. Last year we received 80 pledges totaling \$380,958, and we need many more partners to help us reach that level again.

If you haven't yet turned in your pledge, **please make this the week you take that step**. Your pledge directly supports the mission of Light of Christ and strengthens everything we do together in Christ's name.

“Honor the Lord with your wealth...” — Proverbs 3:9



Thank you for responding with faith, gratitude, and generosity.



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 Reminder

If you requested preprinted 2026 offering envelopes, (or did not opt out) they are now available to be picked up in the Narthex.



Merry Christmas!

If you read my last article you heard all about *Rocking Around the Christmas Tree*. I thought I would make it a theme and bring up yet another Christmas song, *The 12 Days of Christmas*. It is a favorite song because it is repetitive and would distract kids for a long time when driving to Grandma's for Christmas. But did you ever stop and wonder why there were so many days of presents being given? I know as a youth I wondered why I didn't have a true love who would keep giving me more extravagant things (and then when I was a little older, I hoped my girlfriend, now wife, didn't expect the same). For many of us think of Christmas as just as December 25th, maybe we throw in December 24th in the evening, but in the church Calendar that is not nearly enough celebration. After all, we have just like the song says 12 days of Christmas. The first day of Christmas is December 25th and the Christmastide (the season of Christmas) was one of great celebration which lasted until January 5th (Epiphany eve). Not only was there feasting for these 12 days. But it was a time when many different celebrations would take place, including Boxing Day (a day to give to the poor), the Feast of St. John, New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, and many more.

The point is when we have something as universe-changing as Christ is born for you, the celebration cannot be contained in just one day! As a church we have given you full permission to keep the celebration going. Whether that means you space out your gifts, or eat special foods, or just keep saying "Merry Christmas" until the 12th day comes! Mostly I encourage you not to just let Christmas go on the 25th because I hope the joy of the season, the mysteries of the word made flesh keep you occupied for at least 6 or 7 days, if not the entire 12! Blessings and Merry Christmas! *Pastor Tim*



Your Giving Makes a Difference!

Each year after Thanksgiving, we send Grad Care Packages to our recent high school graduates... boxes filled with encouraging notes, snacks, treats, school supplies, small toys, etc. This year we mailed out 31 packages! Several of our 2025 graduates (and their parents) sent us thank you notes after they received their box of goodies. It was so sweet to hear how the packages brightened their day! Here are a few of the messages we received:

- ⇒ "I received the care package that you put together for me, and I wanted to say thank you so much! It really brightened my day today and made me happy. I hope all is going well for you. Merry Christmas!!"
- ⇒ "Thank you so, so much for the package and all the people who helped put it together!!! I really appreciate it especially this week with finals! ❤"
- ⇒ "My daughter went to the mail room and got her package. It was a nice surprise for her! Thank you for making them feel special!"
- ⇒ "Thank you for the care package! ❤"



31 Care Packages made with love ❤ for our 2025 Grads!

- ⇒ "Thanks so much for sending care packages to the college kids!"
- ⇒ "Thank you for the care package!! It means a lot! ❤"
- ⇒ "I just stopped by the mailroom and picked up the care package that you guys sent. Thank you! I have my last final tonight and it was very needed!"

Thank you for your support of our ministries, which makes things like this possible! Without your giving, these special projects would not happen. Merry Christmas!

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS



Confirmation Christmas Parties 12/17/25

