

Whitnall Park Lutheran Church

5847 Lilac Lane, Hales Corners, WI 53130

(414) 425-1169

Pastor Michael Fazio

Summer Worship Services:

Sun. 8:30 am & 10:30 am

Sunday School 9:30

Office hours: Mon-Thurs 8am-1pm

Email: assistant@wplchurch.org

Website: www.wplchurch.org

January, 2026



A WORD FROM PASTOR FAZIO . . .

Matthew 11:28-30: *"28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I write this newsletter article, we are only days before Christmas Eve and hopeful that Advent will spread the good news of our Lord, enrich and build up our people, and provide a truly joyous experience in the gift of Jesus Christ coming into the world. By the time you read this, I'm hoping that you are all taking a little time to rest after all the busyness of Christmas. The Epiphany Season becomes a time to slow down as we celebrate the coming of the Magi, the Baptism of Jesus, the Wedding at Cana, and many other good things. It is essentially a quiet time between the two overwhelming and busy church seasons of Advent and Lent.

In the Epiphany season we have an opportunity to recover from the overload of travel, family, and work, and find our peace in the Word of God, in times of prayer, and in the simple fact that we are far less busy. Since the creation of the world, the concept of a Sabbath rest has pointed the people of God towards the foundational truth that we need times of refreshment, times of calm, and times to set aside the hectic pace of life and recover. There is a time to withdraw, to catch up on a little sleep, to ease up on activities, and focus on the needs of our families, our loved ones, and our lives. The time to gear up and get to work will surely come again, but for a brief time, we can gladly embrace the gift of rest from our Lord.

Whatever burdens your soul this month, whatever wearies your heart, take time for yourself and the people around you to rest and soak in the gifts of God. Remember that our worship services, bible studies, fellowship and church activities are opportunities to connect with God and each other and allow the Spirit to bring us into that Holy Peace found only in Him. Let God's goodness and grace wash over you and mend whatever needs healing. Pray for one another and trust that the Lord our God has us safely and securely in the palm of His hand and is leading us down the paths of His choosing. What a gift...what a blessing...what a relief!

God be with you all in health and newness.

Pr. Michael

Seeds of Faith



"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, 7 rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness".

-Colossians 2:6-7

Happy New Year, WPLC Church Family!

As we cross the threshold into 2026, many of us are naturally looking ahead at our goals, resolutions, and schedules that will define our coming months. While the world focuses on what we can *achieve*, I want to invite us to focus on how we might *grow*.

In this season of new beginnings, I have one central question I would like each of you to hold in your heart this month: What is God placing in your heart to grow? You may be asking yourself this question because January is often filled with the noise of personal improvement, but our faith calls us to a different kind of resolution: a "Christian resolution" for the soul. Rather than focusing solely on physical or professional goals, we are invited to look at our habits of faith—our prayer life, our engagement with Scripture, and our service to our neighbors.

I want to give a huge thank you to our Sunday School children and confirmation students for participating in this year's Christmas Pageant. I also want to thank our Sunday school parents for also helping out during the rehearsals and for Ralph Klute for accompanying us. Our curriculum for this month will include:

January 4, 2026: Gospel Reading: John 1:1-18, First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14, Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14 Key Verse: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. – John 1:14 The Point: In Jesus, God becomes human and lives among us, bringing life.

January 11, 2026: Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12; Matthew 3:13-17, First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6; Isaiah 42:1-9, Second Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12; Acts 10:34-43: Key Verse: On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. – Matthew 2:11 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." – Matthew 3:17, The Point: Both foreigners and God's own voice declare who Jesus is.

January 18, 2026: Gospel Reading: John 1:29-42, First Reading: Isaiah 49:1-7, Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, Key Verse: The next day [John] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" – John 1:29 and, The Point: We can testify to Jesus like John and follow him like the first disciples.

May God Bless you this year and forevermore,

Kathy Fazio, DCE

kathy.fazio@wplchurch.org



**Whitnall Park
Lutheran Church**
5847 S Lilac Lane
Hales Corners, WI 53130

December 8th, 2025
Re: Status of the WPLC budget

Dear Whitnall Park Lutheran Church Family,

We are writing to share an important update regarding the financial health of our congregation. As faithful stewards of the resources God has entrusted to us, we believe in transparency and open communication with our church family.

Over the past several months, we have faced several unexpected financial challenges. First, like many organizations, we saw a substantial rise of \$14.3K in our insurance premiums due to broader market adjustments and changes in coverage requirements. This increase has placed additional pressure on our annual operating budget. Insurance premiums are expected to continue rising, and with our current high deductible, many repair costs ultimately fall on us to cover out-of-pocket. This dynamic increases our financial responsibility for unexpected repairs, despite maintaining coverage.

Additionally, we experienced flooding in August that caused damage to several areas of our church and the custodial home. We are deeply grateful for the swift response of volunteers and professionals who helped mitigate the impact. However, the necessary repairs created unplanned expenses that were not included in our budget, resulting in Repair and Maintenance costs exceeding the budget by approximately \$13,600.

In 2025, WPLC made substantial capital investments of approximately \$57,000. These funds were directed toward essential improvements, including the installation of new furnaces, tuck pointing, parking lot sealing, and upgrades to both the church and custodial house. These projects have strengthened our infrastructure and ensure the long-term sustainability of our facilities.

WPLC's staff are also experiencing increased costs due to current economic conditions. In order to support them appropriately and remain competitive as an employer, we recognize the need to adjust compensation. This ensures that our staff are fairly compensated and able to manage rising living expenses.

These unanticipated costs, combined with our planned capital investments, necessitated a withdrawal of approximately \$113,000 from our Edward Jones investment account. While this provided the funds needed to meet immediate obligations, it also reduces the resources available for future investment growth and long-term financial stability.

(Council continued)

Hi

Below are the November financial results.

Unfortunately, we lost an additional \$8.3k in Nov. bringing our YTD loss to \$65.8k. Giving was \$15k less than expected. Expenses were in line with the budget. There was one unanticipated expense in the Telephone Expense. Carol Ann cleared it up by reporting that the RingCentral Co. changed their billing and no longer accepts auto payments. But we were not informed, so this was for 3 mos.

The Edward Jones account balance is \$454.5k. A decrease of \$4.2k from Oct.

I wish I were reporting a brighter financial picture. Hopefully December will be much better.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

November

Per P/L

November Actuals

Income	18,465.92
Expenses	(26,813.39)
Profit (Loss)	<u>(8,347.47)</u>

2024 November Actuals

Income	30,565.67
Expenses	(24,073.38)
Profit (Loss)	<u>6,492.29</u>

2025 YTD Actuals

Income	284,463.78
Expenses	(350,337.52)
Profit (Loss)	<u>(65,873.74)</u>

2024 YTD Actuals

Income	297,191.68
Expenses	(300,654.43)
Profit (Loss)	<u>(3,462.75)</u>

Have a good day.

Lisa

WPLC's MITTEN TREE 2025

Our annual **Mitten Tree** produced a huge amount of warm items for all ages—thank you so much.



We collected: 72 gloves, 56 scarves, 46 hats, 11 sets of hat & gloves or scarves, 50 prs socks/slippers—a total of 235 items...WONDERFUL! Thank you, Jeff, for the delivery to those in great need for warmth and love!

SOCIAL MINISTRY

The January 4th coffee hour will benefit Meta House. Their mission is to provide care and programs to women and children seeking recovery from substance use disorder.



Unity Lutheran Church is a warming center every night (7pm – 7am) through March to provide shelter for adults. Seasonal clothing and food donations are in need.

Clothing ministry: hooded sweatshirts, men's gloves, new men's gym socks, backpacks, men's belts, men's jeans (waist size 34 inches and lower), quilts, blankets, new underwear, shoes, shirts, sweaters, coats, boots, hygiene items (deodorant, foot powder, lotion, body wipes, toothpaste, toothbrushes).

Food pantry: chicken soup, white rice, canned pasta / chicken / tuna, Triscuits, canned fruit (apple sauce, peaches, pears), Knorr side dishes (rice / noodle), canned potatoes / pasta / mushrooms, olives (ripe / stuffed), condiments (ketchup / mustard / mayo). Food and clothing donations will be delivered on

Tuesday, January 20th.

CommUNITY meals are on the first and third Wednesday's of each month. Volunteer sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board.

Mt. Meru Premium Tanzanian Coffee Need a tasty gift for coworkers, friends, or family?

Gift packs of delicious Mt. Meru Premium Tanzanian Coffee are available for purchase.



There is the popular Christmas Traditions Blend (\$18 for 12 oz. bag), which combines 100% Mt. Meru premium Arabica coffee beans with the rich flavors of cinnamon, nutmeg, vanilla, and other spices. It's the perfect seasonal blend for drinking coffee with friends and family.

Like previous years, we are offering the versatile holiday 4-pack (\$15) and 6-pack (\$20) samplers.

Bags of regular and decaf coffee (both flavored and unflavored) are also available for \$12.

The Mt. Meru Coffee Project is celebrating a monumental 25th anniversary of a ministry partnership with Tanzanian coffee farmers. Their commitment to fair trade has driven significant growth, impacting the livelihoods of nearly 1,000 farmers and their communities.

Spotlight on Meta House The organization provides substance use disorder (SUD) and co-occurring mental health treatment services to women and children through the following programs:

- Residential Treatment: women receive comprehensive and family-centered treatment in a residential setting.
- Outpatient Treatment: evidence-based approaches include 1-on-1 therapy, curriculum-based group therapy, and family services, for women with substance use disorders.
- Temporary Recovery Housing: provides safe, affordable, and substance-free housing for single women and mothers with minor children in early recovery from substance use disorders. The program supports women as they rebuild their lives in a stable, structured environment that promotes long-term recovery.



John Roe, 01-01

Krystal Rahlf, 01-01

Adam Fiedler, 01-02

Jennifer Sorvick, 01-03

Michael Oberheu, 01-04

Daniel Hareng, 01-04

LaVerne Mueller, 01-05

Bruno Schwenker, 01-05

David Koralewski, 01-07

Megan Rakow, 01-07

Janine King, 01-09

Rose Palmersheim, 01-10

Richard Staats, 01-10

Gregory Douglas, 01-12

John Hembrook, 01-13

Georgi Llanas, 01-14

Diane Remington, 01-15

Marilyn King, 01-16

Stacy Marsh, 01-16

Mark Sparacino, 01-17

Violet Nickel, 01-18

Gale Smith, 01-18

Sandy Abraham, 01-19

Lois Essers, 01-19

Nancy Blachowski, 01-21

Patrick Leon, 01-21

Jerry Pagel, 01-24

Pastor Michael Fazio, 01-25

Cole Wrobel, 01-26

David Cotey, 01-26

Marjorie Groff, 01-28

Carol Ann Bartoshevich, 01-29

Elliott Stanton, 01-29

Soren Fiedler, 01-29

Mila Leon, 01-30

Theodore Freier, 01-30

Donna Rupcic, 01-31

President: Adam Fiedler

Vice Pres: Connor McMahon

Treasurer & Finance:

Lisa Douglas

Secretary: Rachel Vick

Endowment: Matt Grubis

Council Member: Mitchell Rakow



Email: council@wplchurch.org

Fellowship: Rev. Michael Fazio

Property: Connor McMahon

Director of Christian Education

Kathy Fazio

Worship & Music: Rev. Michael Fazio

WPLC Property Report – January 2026

At our December meeting we discussed our 2026 property budget. We decided to focus our funding on the routine inspections and maintenance items for the church mechanicals, utilities, property grounds, equipment and supplies. There are no special improvement projects or major replacement items planned although we have some money earmarked for the flat roof repair. Any other major work would require special funding if possible. This is in effort to keep our costs manageable for 2026.

Our basement flooding repairs are substantially complete. **Thank you for your patience**, especially to those church groups that use the rooms for storage or activities. We replaced a faulty sump pump which I believe was the culprit of the flooding in the back area of the church basement.

Thank you also to those that helped clean up the floodwater, provided equipment and tools, removed the damaged drywall, insulation and cabinets, and reinstalled everything and helped clean up the debris during and after completion. **Thank you** also for your financial donations and fund raisers and processing the purchase receipts. It's all very much appreciated.

FYI, some tasks of the repair work included:

- About 600 linear feet of baseboards were removed and the drywall behind them replaced to eliminate mildew and wet insulation.
- 70 linear feet of drywall was patched and painted where the mildew was higher above the 4-inch baseboards.
- Most baseboards were cleaned and reused. We also had some new ones in storage.
- The six wood cabinets were removed, and their back panels were cut out and repaired. The cabinets were then raised off the floor by reinstalling them on $\frac{3}{4}$ " PVC strips.
- All counter tops were reinstalled with no damage.
- With the construction dust cleaned up and the repairs sanded and painted, the rooms and hallways are ready for use and hopefully a dry 2026!

Our next property meeting will be on January 13th at 7 pm.

Thank you, Larry Pfeil



Book Club

Monday, January 12th, 2026 3:00 pm at WPLC

Book discussion: The Key to Deceit by Ashley Weaver

London, 1940. After years of stealing from the rich and giving to the poor—well, to themselves, anyway—Ellie McDonnell and her family have turned over a new leaf as they help the government's war effort. It's true that the straight-laced Major Ramsey didn't give them much choice, but still, Ellie must admit she doesn't miss breaking and entering as much as she might have thought. A woman's body has been found floating in the Thames, with a bracelet locked onto her wrist, and a cameo locket attached to it. It's clear this woman was involved in espionage, but whose side was she on? Who was she reporting to? And who wanted her dead?



Worship Services

Services are live streamed on YouTube. Recorded services are also available on YouTube. Worship bulletins for the most current services can be found on our website: www.wplchurch.org ~ under the publications tab.

Sunday, January 4th

*8:30 am	*10:30 am	Readings:
Assisting Minister ~ Melanie Strom	Assisting Minister ~ Matt Grubis	Jeremiah 31:7-14
Altar Guild ~ Linda Shea	Altar Guild ~ Elaine Johnson	Psalm 147:12-20
Ushers ~ Adam Fiedler	Ushers ~ Jerry Rakow	Ephesians 1:3-14
Acolyte ~Mila Leon	Acolyte ~ Volunteer needed	John 1:1-18

Sunday, January 11th

* 8:30 am	*10:30 am	Readings
Assisting Minister~Marjorie Pagel	Assisting Minister~Jennine Sonntag	Isaiah 42:1-9
Altar Guild ~ Pat Suderland	Altar Guild ~ Pat Suderland	Psalm 29
Ushers ~ Noah Leon	Ushers ~ Jeff Girard	Acts 10:34-43
Acolyte ~ Lauren Gollash	Acolyte ~ Volunteer Needed	Matthew 3:13-17

Sunday, January 18th

*8:30 am	*10:30 am	Readings
Assisting Minister ~Meg Sutton	Assisting Minister ~ Matt Hampel	Isaiah 49:1-7
Altar Guild ~ Barb Meyrose	Altar Guild ~ Sandy Abraham	Psalm 40:1-11
Ushers ~ Mike Oberheu	Ushers ~ Larry Pfeil	1 Corinthians 1:1-9
Acolyte ~ Camille Sutton	Acolyte ~ Ethan LeHouillier	John 1:29-42

Sunday, January 25th

*8:30 am	*10:30 am	Readings
Assisting Minister~Laurie Sorvick	Assisting Minister~Jennine Sonntag	Isaiah 9:1-4
Altar Guild ~ Janel Oberheu	Altar Guild ~ Carol Becwar	Psalm 27:1, 4-9
Ushers ~ Jeff Dietz	Ushers ~ Larry Pfeil	1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Acolyte ~ Zia Roe	Acolyte ~ Adelyn LeHouillier	Matthew 4:12-23

GREAT Cookie & Bake Sale

THANK YOU! to all who supported this year's Christmas Cookie and Bake Sale on Dec. 14th by baking, packaging, and purchasing. Wonderful selection of breads, cookies, candies, biscotti, snacks and Lefse...all donated by our wonderful church family bakers (and friends). This year's proceeds were earmarked for Flood Damage Expenses and the donation jar overflowed...thank you so much! At the time of this writing, an estimated income is over \$2300! (after-sales income not included). Again, thank you and...let's do it again next year!



Ladies of WPLC and Dorcas Sewing Group


THURSDAY, JANUARY 1ST

Happy New Year!

6:30 pm AA Meeting

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2ND

Pastor off/Office closed

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3RD
SUNDAY, JANUARY 4TH

8:30 am Worship Service

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Service

MONDAY, JANUARY 5TH

7:00 pm Dartball (away)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6TH

9:00 am Dorcas

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7TH
THURSDAY, JANUARY 8TH

6:30 pm AA Meeting

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9TH

Pastor off/Office closed

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10TH
SUNDAY, JANUARY 11TH

8:30 am Worship Service

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Service

MONDAY, JANUARY 12TH

10:00 am & 6:30 pm Bible Study

3:00 pm Book Club

7:00 pm Dartball (away)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13TH

9:00 am Dorcas

7:00 pm Property Meeting

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14TH
THURSDAY, JANUARY 15TH

6:30 pm AA Meeting

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16TH

Pastor off/Office closed

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17TH
SUNDAY, JANUARY 18TH

8:30 am Worship Service

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Service

MONDAY, JANUARY 19TH

7:00 pm Dartball (home)

Pastor off/Office closed

(Martin Luther King Day)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20TH

9:00 am Dorcas

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21ST
THURSDAY, JANUARY 22ND

6:30 pm AA Meeting

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23RD

Pastor off/Office closed

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24TH
SUNDAY, JANUARY 25TH

8:30 am Worship Service

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Service

MONDAY, JANUARY 26TH

10:00 am & 6:30 pm Bible Study

**No Dartball **

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27TH

9:00 am Dorcas

6:30 pm Council Meeting

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28TH
THURSDAY, JANUARY 29TH

6:30 pm AA Meeting

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30TH

Pastor off/Office closed

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31ST
