



# November 2018

## OUR MISSION:

To grow a loving community of active followers of Jesus, equipped to take his love and message to the world.

*Romans 12:1 “Present your bodies as a living sacrifice...”*

Dear Church Family,

Guilt, grace, and gratitude. Sin, salvation, and service. These are the summary points of the Heidelberg Catechism, a statement of faith that helps us understand Scripture. These words are also a great summary of the gospel. We must be careful not to turn the gospel into fire insurance—a way only to avoid hell and enter heaven. The good news is much more than that; the gospel is meant to be lived out in gratitude and service. Would others describe you as being a grateful person?

Our conversion to Christ justifies us as righteous in God’s sight. Being saved by God must then become a lifetime of sanctification. The song “Living for Jesus” describes this well:

*Living for Jesus a life that is true, striving to please him in all that I do  
Yielding allegiance glad hearted and free, this is the pathway of blessing  
for me*

The apostle Paul understood the points of gratitude and service. The sacrifice of Jesus on the cross ended the need for sin sacrifices. We are to sacrifice self and the pursuit of earthly things as we worship God through our lives. We strive to be living sacrifices that are holy and pleasing to God. After all, there are many others who still need to hear and respond to the good news, and God wants to use us to make that happen.

Praying that our lives would point others to Him!

Mark

# SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

Worship Greeters: Doyle Petersen,  
Cary Prange, Rod TeKolste  
Deacons: Jeff Gottwald, Randy Sieck,  
Alex Olson, Brian Auman

## November 4:

Coffee: Peg & Gary Hartgerink  
Nursery: Morrison Family  
Power Point: Hunter DeBoer  
Sound Tech: Mike Brown  
Church Lock-Up: Alex Olson

## November 11:

Coffee: Tracy & Brad Riensche  
Nursery: Auman Family  
Power Point: Heather Riensche  
Sound Tech: Brad Riensche  
Church Lock-Up: Brad Riensche

## November 18:

Coffee: Ann & Marvin Weber  
Nursery: Bartek Family  
Power Point: Tammy Goering  
Sound Tech: Mike Brown  
Church Lock-Up: Randy Sieck

## November 25:

Coffee: Bill & Diane Wieskamp  
Nursery: Lindsay & Raegan Roby  
Power Point: Maddie Starr  
Sound Tech: Keith TenHulzen  
Church Lock-Up: Keith TenHulzen

## Prayer!!!!!!

GOD BE PRAISED! As we carry our prayers to God each Tuesday evening, He has lifted burdens, answered, and brought joy in so many ways. It is a blessing to know that confidence is kept as we share with one another and pray for others. We are constantly amazed how God meets our requests sometimes the very next day!

Each week we call a member of our church family so that they know we are praying for them that week, and give them opportunity to present requests and praises. These personal contacts are a blessing as we keep in touch with each and every one of you. Thanks go to Dave Rice, who leads us in prayer each week!

# Congregational Meeting Sunday, November 11

Plan to attend – and be in prayer for – our Annual Congregational meeting **Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am.** During this meeting we will discuss next year's budget, and vote for 2 Elders and 2 Deacons to replace those going off at the end of the year.

We would like to thank those going off the Consistory for their work on behalf of our church family: Elders Doug Nieveen & Mike Brown, and Deacons Alex Olson & Randy Sieck.

Additional items that we will discuss include: discussion of the 2018 financial report & 2019 budget reports, and discussion about the exciting things to come. Childcare will be provided during the meeting.

After the meeting, plan to stay and join us for a time of food and fellowship. The 4JC students will be providing a Nacho Bar as a fundraiser for their upcoming trip to Power Connection (PC) in Minneapolis, MN on July 26-28, 2019. The free-will offering will be applied toward the trip. Power Connection is a youth conference for 6th-8th grade students that is similar to Rocky Mountain High and offers the opportunity to grow in faith and understanding of the Lord

## **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Operation Christmas Child.**

Over the past 25 years 157 million children have received a shoe box. This is a fun way to share Christmas with a child in need by using a simple shoebox. *Operation Christmas Child* is an easy mission project that you can participate in by bringing a gift-filled shoebox by November 12-19. What a simple way to teach your family the skill of GIVING! Last year we sent 77 boxes from our church family. Let's try for more!! Some ideas of items to pack include:

- **Toys:** small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, yo-yos, Etch-A-Sketch, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky, etc.
- **School Supplies:** pens, pencils & sharpener, crayons, markers, stamps & ink pads, coloring books, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, etc.
- **Hygiene items:** toothbrush, soap, comb, washcloth, etc. (NO toothpaste)
- **More:** Sunglasses, wind-up flashlights, ball caps, socks, t-shirts, toy jewelry, hair clips, watches, small books, etc. (No candy)
- **NO Candy or Toothpaste in the boxes**
- **A Personal Note:** You may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself or your family. (If you include your name and address, the child may write back.)

Please remember that your box needs to remain open for inspections. Please see the OCC table for boxes to fill, Boy/Girl labels and more information or contact Ann Weber. Thank you again for helping to make *Operation Christmas Child* a success.

# Consistory Minutes: October 8, 2018

## Our Work Together

1. Devotions on Chapters 16 and 17 of 'Church Is A Team Sport' by Jim Putnam were led by Mark Starr and the scripture reference was The Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20. The factors to consider when making a plan to reach the community were discussed. The problems with self-assessment make improvement more difficult, but confronting each other with strengths and weaknesses can help overcome that.
2. An increase in non-member youth attending The Fire was cited as an example of how our congregation has been living out our mission statement '**To grow a loving community of active followers of Jesus, equipped to take his love and message to the world.**'.
3. The consistory reviewed materials on becoming a host site for the 2019 Global Leadership Summit. Costs were discussed along with the variety of speakers and presentations. Initially we could budget \$1,000 for the promotional costs.
4. **Youth** – Ian Opfer
  - Ian shared that an outreach contest has been implemented to challenge youth to bring others to the group.
  - It is planned that the mentoring program will run from January through March beginning in 2019.
5. Consistory representative reports
  - Congregational Care** – Cary Prange (absent) and Rod TeKolste
  - Discipleship/Education** – Doug Nieveen
    - God's Kids Club usually has around 60 kids in attendance. The narration of Bible stories have gone over well. Practice for the Christmas program has begun.
  - Worship** – Brad Riensche and Keith TenHulzen
    - Worship team leadership has been strong and practices have been going well.
  - Building/Grounds** – Alex Olson, Brian Auman and Doug Goering
    - The date for the church cleanup is being rescheduled.
  - Hospitality/Outreach** – Doyle Petersen (absent) and Randy Sieck
    - The Hospitality and Outreach Team is meeting October 9<sup>th</sup> to continue planning for the Trunk-or-Treat event on October 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - Great Commission Team** – Jeff Gottwald and Mike Brown
    - The Great Commission Team voted to help fund our missionary contact in India who is planning on returning there through April of 2019.
    - Diane Mulder will be giving an overseas mission presentation, Jacob Hickey will speak on the Love In Action mission and Beth TeKolste will discuss Campus Life during morning worship in the remaining months of this year.
6. It was MSC to approve the minutes of the September meeting of consistory.
7. **Calendar of Events**
  - October 14<sup>th</sup>: Elder And Deacon Nomination Ballots Due
  - October 31<sup>st</sup>: Trunk-or-Treat
  - November 5<sup>th</sup>: Consistory Meeting
  - November 7<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>: Branson Bus Trip #2
  - November 11<sup>th</sup>: 2018 Congregational Meeting / 4JC 2019 Power Connection Fundraising Meal
  - November 21<sup>st</sup>: Thanksgiving Eve Service
  - November 22<sup>nd</sup>: Thanksgiving

The Fall cleanup day is being rescheduled to November 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
It was MSC to approve the November calendar of events.
8. **Building** – Doug Goering

Continued.....

# Continued Consistory Minutes: October 8, 2018

- Occupancy for the new addition has been obtained.
  - Of the \$32,000.00 remaining from the rest of the loan, \$29,000.00 will be paid out to Tanner Goes Construction and the remaining \$3,000.00 will go towards other expenses incurred.
  - It was MSC to pursue up to \$200,000.00 in financing for final finishing and furnishing costs for the new addition.
  - The new addition is currently covered by Church Mutual insurance.
9. **Consistory Nomination Process Review**
- Elder and deacon nominations were due by Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>.
  - Once all nominations are received, totals for nominees will be tallied by the deacons.
  - Totals for nominees will be forwarded to the elders who will set the slate for the election.
10. **Congregational Meeting Presentations Planned**
- An update on youth groups and their activities will be given by Ian Opfer.
  - A building project update will be given by Doug Goering.
  - The financial statements and budget will be presented by Alex Olson.
  - Mark Starr will share a 2019 Leadership Summit hosting opportunity.
  - A Great Commission Team presentation will be given by a member of the team to be named later.
- The tellers will be Brian Auman, Jeff Gottwald, Keith TenHulzen and Rod TeKolste.

11. **Financial Report** – Alex Olson

September 2018 Ending Balances:

General Fund \$30,564.01	Branson Fund \$26,825.52	Centennial Challenge \$18,901.00
Memorial Fund \$13,902.08	Building Fund \$11,755.84	Rocky Mountain High \$984.11
Script Fund -\$87.45		

It was MSC to approve the September 2018 Financial Reports.

12. Transition Of Consistory Leadership With Open Positions For 2019
- Vice President
  - Clerk
  - Treasurer
13. It was MSC to adjourn and Consistory closed in prayer.

**Elder Notes**

- The constitutional question was asked.
- The elders reviewed the spiritual needs of the congregation.
- The elders will meet to prepare the final slate of elder and deacon nominees for the congregational meeting after the final nominations have been received and reviewed.
- Pastor Mark will preach at the Firth Evangelical Free Church on Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup> and Ian Opfer will give the message at Living Life Reformed Church.
- The elders closed their meeting in prayer.

**Deacon Notes**

- It was MSC to have Southeast Sewer and Septic re-route the parsonage sewer line to Seventh Street before the end of October. Sewer line bursting under church is scheduled to start at the end of October.
- All updates that the fire marshal has requested have been made. The fire marshal will return by June 2019 for final approval of the fire alarm system that needs to be funded and installed in the original building by then.
- Ian Opfer's health insurance premiums are now being paid by Living Life Reformed Church.
- The church Fall cleanup day has been moved to Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018.
- It was MSC to let the Starr family have a small dog with a hypoallergenic coat that doesn't shed hair in the parsonage.
- The deacons discussed the head deacon, accounts receivable and note taker positions for 2019.
- The deacons closed their meeting in prayer.



# God's Kids Club

Tracy has been busy working her magic with crafts. Pictured are a few kids proudly showing off their craft! Laura is busy working with kids on learning their lines for the annual Christmas program, and Jordan has begun teaching the Christmas songs in music. Our Christmas program is titled "The New Star." We are not rushing the season, we just want to give the kids plenty of time to learn the songs and their parts. We hope families are working at home on the memory verses! We review them each week in our opening, but additional help at home is important.

We ask that families remind their children that we cannot have balls in the church unless it is an activity guided by an adult. We have had kids kicking balls down the long hall and bouncing them inside the church. We are all about safety first!

We will be looking for adult volunteers to help monitor games in the new Family Life Center during the Wednesday evening supper hour once we are given the okay to utilize the facility. If you would be willing to help, please contact Sandy, DeAnn or Tammy!

## Thank You!

To our wonderful volunteers with our Wednesday  
Family Night programs:

**GKC Directors:** Sandy Nieveen, DeAnn Weber,  
Tammy Goering

**3&4 Year Olds** – Brenda Rice & Samantha Henderson

**Pre-Kindergarten** – Sara Bartek & Bonnie Walvoord

**Kindergarten** – Jill Heng, Lindsey Roby, & Olivia Hegler

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade**- Lisa Carlson, Mandy Cramer, & Avery Morrison

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade** – Connie & Wade Holen, & Beth Sieck

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade** -Cary Prange & Ada Heng

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade** – Sarah Lefferdink & Clark Mulder

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade** –Chad Bryant, & Kendall Weber

**Music** – Jordan Hays

**Crafts** – Tracy Riensche

**4JC's:** Ian Opfer, Steve Anthony, Bill & Stacy Boden, Janelle  
DeBoer, Kristi Hulse

**The Fire:** Ian Opfer, Randy & Amy Thimm, Brad & Tracy  
Riensche, Taylor TeKolste, Leah Bryson

**Meal Team:** Pearl Wieskamp, Doug & Patti Wieskamp, Peg &  
Gary Hartgerink, Mary Ann Doeschot

## Wednesday Meals

**Nov 7** – Breakfast Casserole,  
Pancakes, French Toast,  
Applesauce

**Nov 14** – Turkey, Dressing,  
Mashed Potatoes, Corn,  
Roll, Dessert

**Nov 21** – No Meal, Please  
join us for our Thanksgiving  
Eve Service, 7:00pm

**Nov 28**– Chili, Chicken  
Noodle Soup, Vegetables,  
Salad, Cinnamon Rolls



# Thanksgiving

E	Y	A	D	S	R	U	H	T	U	O	M	Y	L	P
P	O	T	A	T	O	E	S	T	O	R	R	A	C	S
U	G	D	H	U	G	D	S	E	U	C	O	R	N	E
M	R	A	O	F	S	N	A	T	I	R	U	P	G	D
P	A	L	L	F	A	P	I	E	L	A	K	A	F	A
K	C	A	I	I	G	I	G	S	R	N	B	E	S	R
I	E	S	D	N	R	H	R	H	S	B	S	P	Y	A
N	L	N	A	G	A	S	A	O	A	E	A	V	H	P
P	I	I	Y	P	T	R	T	C	V	R	R	T	E	R
R	N	F	V	R	E	O	I	I	A	R	V	D	R	O
A	C	F	A	A	F	W	T	G	U	Y	R	E	B	A
Y	O	U	R	I	U	A	U	P	E	C	A	N	S	S
E	L	M	G	S	L	S	D	D	E	S	S	E	R	T
R	N	O	V	E	M	B	E	R	F	A	M	I	L	Y
S	M	I	R	G	L	I	P	F	E	A	S	T	B	S

All the words listed are in the puzzle – left, right, up, down or diagonally. Find each word and circle it. The leftover letters will form the **mystery answer!**

Asparagus	Biscuits
Bread	Cabbage
Carrots	Corn
Cranberry	Dessert
Dressing	Family
Feast	Grace
Grateful	Gratitude
Gravy	Harvest
Herbs	Holiday
Indians	Lincoln
Muffins	November
Parades	Pecans
Pilgrims	Plymouth
Potatoes	Praise
Prayers	Pumpkin
Puritans	Relatives
Roast	Salad
Stuffing	Thursday
Turkey	Worship

From [christianbiblereference.org](http://christianbiblereference.org)

## MISSIONS Update

**“F” Street Church.** On September 30, we once again had a team help serve food for their block party outreach event. Thank you to everyone who served!

**Operation Christmas Child.** Have you noticed the stacks of red and green boxes? It's time for Operation Christmas Child! This year, the GCT is paying the \$9 postage per box so all you have to do is fill a box with items that will bring joy to a child.

**Nicaragua.** We are looking into the potential for sending a team on a mission trip to Nicaragua. If you have interest in learning more about this opportunity, please contact Diane Mulder.

**Words of Hope.** This organization proclaims the gospel through media in order to build the church in hard-to-reach places. It is one of the missions supported by the GCT this year. Pastor Mark and Jacob Starr recently attended their conference in Holland, MI where they heard inspiring talks from missionaries around the world, learned more about the organization, and heard about their plans for the future.

**Scrip Card Update.** During November and December, the proceeds from Scrip card sales will go to the (Lincoln) Crisis Pregnancy Center. Thank you for your support!

# Birthdays

- |    |                   |    |                   |
|----|-------------------|----|-------------------|
| 1  | Rowan Elswick     | 20 | Kris Morrison     |
| 2  | Corben Carlow     | 21 | Michael Anderson  |
|    | Megan Ebbers      |    | Tysha Bryant      |
| 4  | Cheryl Hestermann | 22 | Kailey Bartek     |
| 7  | Sierra Bryant     | 23 | Brooks Holen      |
| 8  | Brad Riensche     | 24 | Austen Hartgerink |
|    | Pearl Wieskamp    |    | Will Hays         |
| 9  | Jeff Gottwald     | 27 | Darlene Hietbrink |
|    | Beth Olson        | 28 | Matthew Sieck     |
| 12 | Chad Bryant       | 29 | Amy Thimm         |
| 16 | Cary Prange       | 30 | Ashley Auman      |
| 18 | Mike Brown        |    | Rick DeBoer       |
|    | Abbie Navratil    |    |                   |

## ANNIVERSARIES

21 Roy & Sandra Wedding (56)

### Mary & Martha Circle

Wednesday, Nov. 14 1:30pm

Lesson – Thelma Schroeder

Lunch – Sandra Wedding



**Comedy Night** is a unique event that combines refreshments, delicious desserts, family-friendly comedy and Youth for Christ's mission to help teens all in one creative program. All funds raised will benefit the youth of Lincoln, Ashland and Norris Schools through Campus Life, Parent Life & Juvenile Justice Ministry. Comedy Night 2018 features comedian Mike Williams. You will be moved and inspired as you hear the story of God's grace in Mike's life. Mike will have you laughing your socks off at the real-life humor around you. Along the journey Mike has garnered a few awards, written 12 books, 14 CDs, and 4 DVDs.

**Date:** Nov. 4, 2018 @ Hickman Community Center

Nov. 5, 2018 @ Lincoln, Rococo Theater

**Time:** Doors Open @ 6:30pm, show starts at 7:00pm

**Where to buy tickets:** <https://yfclincoln.ticketspice.com/comedy-night>

**Event Title:** Comedy Night

### HEADING SOUTH THIS WINTER?

If so, contact Beth with your winter address and we will send your monthly LLRC newsletter and the Sunday bulletin!

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS – November

<b>Tuesdays</b>	6:30pm	Prayer Gathering
<b>Wednesdays</b>	5:30pm	Family Meal
	6:15pm	4JC's
	6:30pm	GKC, Women's Bible Study
	7:45pm	The Fire
<b>Fridays</b>	6:00am	Men's Group at Homestead
<hr/>		
<b>Mon, Nov 5</b>	7:00pm	Consistory Meeting
<b>Wed-Sat, Nov 7-10</b>		Branson Bus Trip
<b>Sun, Nov 11</b>	10:30am	Congregational Meeting/Meal
	7:00pm	Afterglow
<b>Wed, Nov 14</b>	1:30pm	Mary & Martha Circle
<b>Sun, Nov 18</b>	5:00pm	Fire 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday
<b>Mon, Nov 19</b>	1:00pm	"IF" Meeting (Ilene Docter)
<b>Wed- Fri Nov 21-23</b>		No School Norris
<b>Wed, Nov 21</b>	7:00pm	Thanksgiving Eve Service
<b>Thurs, Nov 23</b>		<b>Thanksgiving Day</b>



Living Life Reformed Church  
603 Russell, Box 295  
Firth, NE 68358



### Wednesday Night

**5:30-6:30pm:**

Fellowship Meal

**6:15-7:30pm:**

4JC's (Middle School)

**6:30-7:45pm:**

God's Kids Club

**6:30-7:45pm:**

Women's Bible Study

**7:45-9:00pm:**

The Fire (High School)

### Sunday Morning

**8:30-9:00am:**

Family Brunch

**9:00-9:15am:**

Adult Choir Rehearsal

**9:00-10:00am:**

Worship Service

**10:00-10:15am:**

Fellowship & Coffee Time

**10:15-11:00am:**

Sunday School for 3 yrs through High School, and Adults, Life Groups will meet.

### To Contact Us

**Church Office Hours:**

9:00am-12:00pm

**Mark Starr:** 320-262-9952

mark@livinglifereformed.org

**Ian Opfer:** 402-770-1775

ian@livinglifereformed.org

## Holiday Events

### Thanksgiving Service

Wed, Nov. 21  
7:00pm



Wed,  
Dec. 12  
7:00pm

### Firth Christmas Celebration

Sat, Dec. 1  
4-5:30pm  
Downtown



Christmas Eve Service  
Dec. 24  
5:00 pm



Phone: 402-791-5800 ● Email: church@livinglifereformed.org

Website: livinglifereformed.org ● Facebook: facebook.com/ReformedChurchofFirth