



January 2019

OUR MISSION:

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

Dear Church Family,

Finally on January 8, 1964, seventeen-year-old Randy Gardner did something he hadn't done for eleven days and twenty-five minutes: he nodded off to sleep. He wanted to beat the Guinness Book of World Record for how long a human could stay awake. By drinking soft drinks and hitting the basketball court and bowling alley, Gardner avoided sleep for a week and a half. Before finally collapsing, his sense of taste, smell, and hearing went haywire. He set the record but also confirmed the obvious: sleep is essential.

Many of us struggle to get a decent night's rest. Unlike Gardner who deprived himself intentionally, we might suffer sleeplessness for a number of reasons—including a mountain of anxieties: the fear of all we need to accomplish, the dread of others' expectations, the distress of living at a frantic pace. Sometimes it's hard for us to turn off the fear and relax.

The psalmist in Psalm 121 tells us that “unless the Lord builds the house,” we labor in vain. Our “toiling” and our restless efforts are useless unless God provides what we need. Thankfully, God does provide what we need. He “grants sleep to those he loves” (v. 2). And God's love extends to all of us. He invites us to release our anxieties to Him and sink into His rest, and into His grace.

As we think about our church in 2019, there are many exciting plans and things to look forward to in the year ahead! But before we get too far with our plans and hopes, let us commit ourselves to the Lord and His Word in 2019, begging Him to “build the house” so that we do not labor in vain.

May we join God in what He wants to do in 2019!

Mark

Sunday Volunteers

Worship: Cary, Rod, Mike
Deacons: Glen, Brian, Keith, Brad

January 6:

Coffee: DeAnn & Kendall Weber
Nursery: The Bartek's
Power Point: Hunter DeBoer
Sound Tech: Mike Brown
Church Lock-Up: Brian Auman

January 13:

Coffee: Peg & Gary Hartgerink
Nursery: Samantha & Brenda
Power Point: Heather Riensche
Sound Tech: Brad Riensche
Church Lock-Up: Brad Riensche

January 20:

Coffee Edna & Lloyd Prange
Nursery: The Hesterman's
Power Point: Tammy Goering
Sound Tech: Randy Sieck
Church Lock-Up: Chad Bryant

January 27:

Coffee: Brenda & Dan Rice
Nursery: The Auman's
Power Point: Maddie Starr
Sound Tech: Keith TenHulzen
Church Lock-Up: Keith TenHulzen

God's Kid's Club

God's Kids Club continues to grow. We had a new family with three children join us in December. Our goal is not to have large numbers but to touch hearts and share Jesus!

Thank you for your continued support of our mission focus at GKC. From our weekly offering, we were able to send Brianna \$335.00 to help her purchase Christmas gifts and needed items for the girls she is ministering to.

We were overjoyed with the great turnout for our Christmas program. The Christmas program offering of \$704.00 was a huge blessing for the Norris Area Food Bank. Thank you for sharing so that others can stay warm this winter and have food to feed their families!

We look forward to the upcoming service projects at GKC. Please pray that hearts will be impacted and we can be a witness of God's love as we serve others. The youngest classes will do their service projects in January.

As always, we cherish your prayers for the children who attend, their families and all of our volunteers!

We look forward to seeing everyone Wednesday, January 9th after the Christmas break.

Great Commission Team Updates January 2018

Love in Action. The latest newsletter from Love in Action is available on the mission table. We are planning on sharing updates soon in an upcoming Mission Moment as well!

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

Todd Becker Foundation. We are teaming up with area churches to bring an event to Norris High School on January 16 to share the gospel through the Todd Becker Foundation.

Century Challenge. In November, \$225 was contributed to the Century Challenge fund which brings the current amount available for special mission projects to \$19,951.

Scrip Card Program. The proceeds from Scrip card sales in November and December will go to the (Lincoln) Crisis Pregnancy Center. Thank you for your support!

Important Dates for Summer Youth Trips

Our Middle School and High School students have the opportunity to attend different and exciting trips this summer! Below is information about each trip as well as fundraising opportunities coming up.

White Earth Mission Trip: Saturday, June 8th – Saturday, June 15th. This trip is really for everyone of all ages! Applications are available on the Missions Table in the fellowship hall or can be requested through email at ian@livinglifereformed.org. Cost for this trip is \$700, but there are several fundraising opportunities that will allow you to raise close to \$500 towards the expenses of this trip!

Power Connection (PC): Friday, July 26th – Sunday, July 28th This youth conference is for any and all current 6th- 8th grade students! Cost for this trip is \$250 with fundraising opportunities available! Register online at synodyouth.org by February 1st!

Fundraising: We will have several fundraising opportunities coming up, including: a Chili Cook-Off/Hired Hand Auction (White Earth only - Monday, January 21st), a Carnival (White Earth only - Friday, February 22nd), and an Adopt-A-Square fundraiser for personal fundraising. Ian can also assist your student with writing fundraising letters.

If you have a desire to participate in one of these trips this summer, but may not be able to afford it, please talk with Ian, our youth pastor! We have scholarships available and want you to go on these trips, and will do everything we can to make that happen! Also, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ian, by call/text at [402.770.1775](tel:402.770.1775) or email at ian@livinglifereformed.org.

Thanks to our crazy December weather, here is an updated January schedule:

4JC's:

Wednesday, January 9 - Regular lesson night
Wednesday, January 16 - Regular lesson night
Wednesday, January 23 - Regular lesson night
Wednesday, January 30 - Regular lesson night

The Fire:

Wednesday, January 9 - Regular lesson night
Wednesday, January 16 - Regular lesson night
Wednesday, January 23 - Regular lesson night
Sunday, January 28-4th Sunday@ Opfer's 5:30pm
Wednesday, January 30 - Regular lesson night

Consistory Notes – December 3, 2018

Our Work Together

1. E-mail and phone contact information was collected for all 2019 members of consistory and new members were welcomed to the team.
1. Mark Starr led devotions from 'Walking With God Day By Day' by Martin Lloyd Jones. The questions were posed: what is love, what is our motivation and how do we know that we love God. We show that we love God by keeping His commandments. Mark shared a video from the 2018 Global Leadership Summit on the effects of sin and how Jesus can clean up the mess we make of our lives and then led in prayer.
2. Members shared our mission statement, ***'To grow a loving community of active followers of Jesus, equipped to take his love and message to the world'***.
3. Alex Olson shared the updated budget with revised amounts for the new building mortgage (as the previous amount was calculated for 30 years instead of the correct 25 years), custodial services (due to a renegotiated contract) and business insurance amounts (corrected from \$13,500.00 to \$14,000.00). It was MSC to approve these amounts to present at the upcoming congregational meeting following morning worship on December 16th. Alex and Doug Goering will present this and the final finishing needs (primarily including the gym floor finishing, audio/video system and fire alarm needs) at the meeting.
4. The consistory reviewed materials on becoming a host site for the 2019 Global Leadership Summit on August 8th and 9th, 2019. Costs were discussed along with the variety of speakers and presentations. The deadline for committing to this hosting is sometime in February of 2019.

5. Consistory representative reports

Congregational Care – Cary Prange and Rod TeKolste

Hospitality/Outreach – Doyle Petersen (absent) and Randy Sieck

- The team met on November 28th and discussed potential community events such as a March Madness get together in the Family Life Center promoted via fliers.
- Feedback may be solicited through survey cards placed in the pews.
- Valentine's Day babysitting may be offered again in 2019.
- A chili cookoff is being planned for Monday, January 21st, 2019 that will also feature a hired hand auction for the Fire's 2019 White Earth mission trip.
- It was discussed how to assist Cheryl Gouldin with the assembly of treat bags following the Christmas Eve service.

Building/Grounds – Alex Olson, Brian Auman and Doug Goering

- One HVAC unit was repaired under warranty and another unit needs a motherboard replaced which is not under warranty and will be at the church's cost.
- Work on the sewer underneath the church and the parsonage has been completed.

Worship – Brad Riensche and Keith TenHulzen

- The donated purchase of 4 in-ear monitors for the worship team at a cost of approximately \$1,200.00 was presented.

Discipleship/Education – Doug Nieveen

- The teachers really appreciate the new God's Kids Club curriculum.
- Brenda Carlow has agreed to lead Daily Vacation Bible School again in 2019.

Great Commission Team – Jeff Gottwald and Mike Brown

- After determining the final cost for the Todd Becker Foundation donation (\$1,000.00) and mailing costs for 59 Operation Christmas Child boxes (\$463.00), the amount remaining in the budget for the Great Commission Team is \$2,687. This will be divided equally among:
 - Items from the final needs list for the Family Life Center.
 - Support for Zach McClintock from Fathers in the Field.
 - A donation to 'F' Street Church in Lincoln.
- \$225.00 was contributed to the Century Challenge For Missions in November, bringing the total for the account to \$19,351.00
- Beth TeKolste will discuss Campus Life during the December 9th morning worship and Gloria Rice will give an update on the Love In Action mission in Bolivia in January of 2019.

Continued.....

Consistory Notes – December 3, 2018 (Continued)

- The following are Great Commission Team responsibilities for 2019:
 - Chairperson: Mike Brown
 - Secretary/Treasurer: Jacob Starr (if he accepts the additional responsibilities of Treasurer)
 - Correspondence: Jason DeBoer
 - Operation Christmas Child Coordinator: Ann Weber
 - White Earth Trip Coordinator: Ian Opfer
 - Scrip Card Coordinator: Jeff Gottwald
 - The next Great Commission Team meeting is scheduled for January 6th, 2019.
- 6. Youth – Ian Opfer**
- The Todd Becker Foundation of Kearney, Nebraska has an event scheduled for January 16th at Norris High School and may need volunteers. There will be an afternoon presentation with an invitation to an evening event where the gospel will be more openly shared.
 - The 4JC group is planning on a good attendance at the 2019 Power Connection Trip in Minnesota.
 - Mentoring will be starting January 13th, 2019 with two youth committed so far.
- 7. Building Committee – Doug Goering**
- Work groups will be formed for the final installation of fixtures in the Family Life Center.
- 8.** It was MSC to approve the minutes of the November meeting of consistory.
- 9. Calendar of Events**
- December 12th: God's Kids Club Christmas Program (No family meal or 4JC meeting)
 - December 15th: 4JC Christmas Party
 - December 24th: Christmas Eve Worship Service
 - January 6th: Installation and Ordination of new 2019 Consistory members
 - January 9th: Regular Wednesday night activities resume
 - January 14th: Consistory Meeting
 - January 16th: Todd Becker Foundation afternoon and evening presentations at Norris High School
- It was MSC to approve the December/January calendar of events.
- 10. Recognition of Consistory members Alex Olson, Doug Nieveen, Mike Brown and Randy Sieck completing their terms at the end of 2018**
- Comments, wisdom, advice and encouragement for the consistory and new members included:
- A great thanks for support and encouragement from so many in the congregation.
 - Never limiting what we think God can do with needs, events and blessings in our church.
 - A recognition of the need to stay unified and supportive of each other.
 - The need to address any divisiveness that may develop, no matter how small it may begin with.
- 11. Roles of Elders and Deacons handouts were distributed with further discussion to occur in individual meetings**
- 12. Administrative Office Approvals**
- It was MSC to approve the following administrative offices appointments:
- Vice President: Doyle Petersen
 - Clerk of Consistory: Cary Prange
 - Treasurer for the Deacons: Jeff Gottwald
- 13. Church Teams for 2019 that facilitate meetings, equip people with gifts and communicate with consistory:**
- Buildings/Grounds: Brian Auman and Doug Goering
 - Congregational Care: Cary Prange and Rod TeKolste
 - Discipleship/Education: Chad Bryant and Rick DeBoer
 - Great Commission Team: Jeff Gottwald and Tammy Goering
 - Hospitality/Outreach: Doyle Petersen and Glen Gana
 - Worship: Brad Riensche and Keith TenHulzen
- 14. Financial Report – Alex Olson**
- November 2018 Ending Balances:** General Fund \$32,485.97 Centennial Challenge \$19,351.00 Building Funds \$17,196.23
Memorial Fund \$13,902.08 Branson Fund \$4,158.56 Rocky Mountain High \$1,928.11 Scrip Fund-\$454.95
- It was noted that uncashed checks dating as far back as 2010 were added back into the General Fund balance and it was tabled to vote on approval of the November 2018 Financial Reports until the January 2019 meeting of consistory.

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

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

In the Beginning

Adam	Afraid
Animals	Beginning
Birds	Cherubim
Create	Creation
Dark	Disobeyed
Driven	Earth
Enmity	Evil
Fig	Fish
Flaming sword	Food
Fruit	Garden
Genesis	Good
Heaven	Helper
Image	Knowledge
Leaves	Light
Moon	
Old Testament	
Plants	Rested
Seas	Seed
Serpent	Seventh
Sun	Tempted
Thistles	Thorns
Tree	Voice
Water	Wise
Woman	

Consistory Notes – December 3, 2018 (Continued)

15. New Business

- The 2019 Consistory Rotation/Elder Rotation handout will be distributed next month.
- Ian Opfer will officiate a wedding ceremony in November 16th, 2019 for Taylor TeKolste and Leah Bryson.
- It was MSC to approve the corporate resolution to borrow up to \$200,000.00 to finish the Family Life Center.

16. It was MSC to adjourn and the consistory closed in prayer.

Elder Notes

- The constitutional question was asked.
- The elders reviewed the spiritual needs of the congregation.
- Time for advice from returning elders and questions from new elders.
- Discussed elder duties, preparing sacraments, giving announcements and the congregational prayer and working on employee reviews.
- It was MSC to move Ben Rice to inactive membership.
- The elders closed their meeting in prayer.

Deacon Notes

- Chad Bryant and Glen Gana were welcomed as new deacons for 2019 and the roles of deacons in the church were covered.
- The offering from the Christmas Eve service will go to The Lincoln Crisis Pregnancy Center.
- Jeff Gottwald will be the head of the deacons, Keith TenHulzen will handle accounts receivable and Brad Riensche will take notes during the deacons' meetings in 2019.
- The closet for Full House Drama Ministries and storage options were discussed. Any changes to storage will be tabled until the new addition is completely done and all storage needs have been considered.
- The deacons closed their meeting in prayer.

Birthdays

- 3 Dave Hobelman
- 7 Shawn Gouldin
- 11 Marcus Cihal
- 12 Krista Riensche
Laura Hilkemann
- 13 Ann Weber
- 15 Chad Critser
- 18 Roy Wedding
- 19 Sadie Dunse
Marge Klein
- 21 Marvin Docter
- 22 Hal Chase
- 28 Jacee Carlow
- 29 Joshua Starr
- 30 Beau Henderson
Isobel Olson
- 31 Brielle Lefferdink

Anniversaries

- 5 Randy & Amy Thimm (28)
- 16 Bruce & Deb Docter (37)

Mary & Martha Circle Wed, January 9 - 1:30pm

Lesson: Peg Reutzell
Lunch: Ann Weber

January Family Meal Schedule

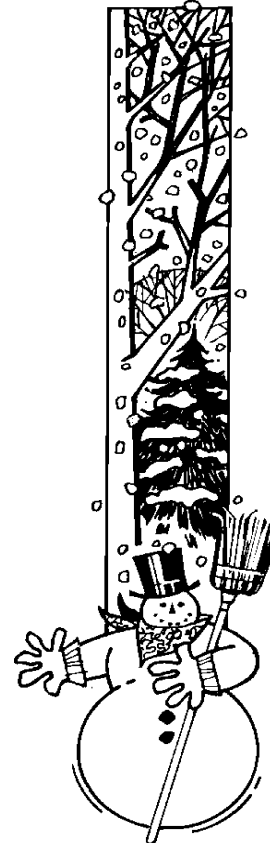
- January 9:** Chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, corn, salad, rolls, dessert
- January 16:** -Sloppy Joes/Chili Dogs, Chips, salad, dessert
- January 23:** Roast Beef, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, salad, rolls, dessert
- January 30:** Homemade mac & cheese, smokies, corn, salad, dessert

Church Event Cancellations

The decision to cancel **Sunday Worship** will be made by 7:00am Sunday and will be emailed out. A cancellation message will be left on the church answering machine. **Wednesday Evening** activities or any other church events will be canceled if Norris Schools close or dismiss early. We will try to notify you by email, but if you are unsure of the status of an event, please contact the church office at 402-791-5800.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS – January

Tuesdays	6:30pm	Prayer Gathering
Wednesdays	5:30pm	Fellowship Meal Time
	6:15pm	4JC's
	6:30pm	God's Kids Club, Women's Bible Study
	7:45pm	The Fire
Fridays	6:00am	Men's Group at Homestead
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Mon-Fri Dec 31-Jan 4		NO School Christmas Break
Sun, Jan 6	9:00am	Installation
	7:00pm	GCT Meeting
Mon, Jan 7	12:00pm	"IF" Mtg Luncheon 7 years
Wed, Jan 9	1:30pm	Mary & Martha Circle
	6:30pm	Hospitality/Outreach Meeting
Sun, Jan 13	7:00pm	Afterglow Bible Study
Mon, Jan 14	7:00pm	Consistory Meeting
Mon, Jan 21		No School Norris
	5:30pm	Chili Cook Off /Hired Hand Auction
Sun, Jan 27	5:30pm	4 th Sunday Event (The Fire)
Sun, Jan 28	1:00pm	"IF" Mtg (Ilene Docter)



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 (3yo-5th
Grade)

7:45-9:00pm:

The Fire (High School)

Sunday Morning

8:30-9:00am:

Family Brunch

8:30-8:45am:

Adult Choir Rehearsal

9:00-10:00am:

Worship Service

10:00-10:15am:

Fellowship & Coffee Time

10:15-11:00am:

Sunday School for 3yrs
through High School, and
Adults, Life Group 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



The Fire
Chili Cook Off &
Hired Hand Auction

Monday, January 21

5:30pm - 7:30pm

Serving chili, vegetable & chicken noodle
soups, cinnamon rolls, celery, & carrots &
drink

A Free Will offering will be accepted.

Hired Hand Auction: 6:15pm

This is a fundraiser for members of The Fire as they prepare
for their annual mission trip to the White Earth Indian
Reservation in Minnesota.

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

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