



October 2020

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,

Every four years the people of our country vote on the Presidency. Along with this decision we vote on other political offices. All the way from school board members, to city council, to mayor, state senators, state representatives, Senators, and Representatives, the people decide who will occupy these offices. I want to encourage you to get out and vote and to vote for leaders who as best as you can tell, support biblical values. At times we may get stressed out by these decisions and the opposing views and advertisements we constantly see, and the differing views of friends and even family members. All people are flawed and have a sinful nature so there is no perfect candidate out there. Considering all these tensions, I want to mention some things that I think we need to remember in this process:

As believers in Jesus, we actually have dual citizenship but our primary one is in the Kingdom of Heaven. "For our citizenship is in heaven" (Philippians 3:26). We have one King and that King is the Son of God, (1 Timothy 5:15). As long as we keep His word and do His will, we will be OK. That does not mean we may not suffer harm and even persecution from our own government in the future but those with faith in Christ will receive the crown of life, (2 Timothy 4:8).

Our relationship to the government and the government's responsibility to us is laid out in the New Testament. Here are some highlights:

First, we are told to pray for our leaders. Specifically, we are told to pray that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence, (1 Timothy 2:2). Fortunately, we have been blessed with all of these things. We can worship God and bring up our families in the way of God without persecution in our country right now.

Secondly, paying taxes is part of the cost we face in having a government. Jesus said to render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's, (Luke 20:25). Paul makes this point in Romans 13:6 as he says we are to pay taxes to our government. (We will always argue about how much this should be 😊)

We are also told to use our influence for good. Salt and light are used by Jesus to describe our influence in this world, Matthew 5:13-16. Our primary influence is upon those closest to us. Our children, spouse, extended family, brothers/sisters in Christ, and others in our community are the ones that see us from day to day. However, we can also influence our government by demanding our leaders rule in a way to please God. We should never defend sin or uphold those advocating sinful activities.

Government responsibility to us is primarily to protect the innocent and punish the unrighteous. "For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil" (Romans 13:4-5).

At times it seems as if our government seeks to punish those doing good and reward those doing evil. While we seek to live in harmony and peace with others, it is our duty to expose sin and stand up for God's word. One way to do this is to vote for candidates that value God's word and truth. This duty to stand for God's word does not exist just during the election season and our voting, however, but every day of every year.

It has not been my purpose here to endorse any particular candidate but to encourage us to be consistent with our words and our actions. If we say we love God and keep His commandments, we should stand up for those commandments and demand our leaders do likewise. So, stay calm in this crazy season, get out and vote, and trust God always!

Truth in Love,
Mark

Sunday Volunteers

Worship: Tammy, Rick, Doug
Deacons: Brad, Jeff, Chad, Glen

October 4:

Power Point: Avyn Olson
Sound Tech: Mike Brown
Church Lock-Up: Dave & Taylor

October 11:

Power Point: Tammy Goering
Sound Tech: Brad Riensche
Church Lock-Up: Brad Riensche

October 18:

Power Point: Beth Olson
Sound Tech: Randy Sieck
Church Lock-Up: Chad Bryant

October 25:

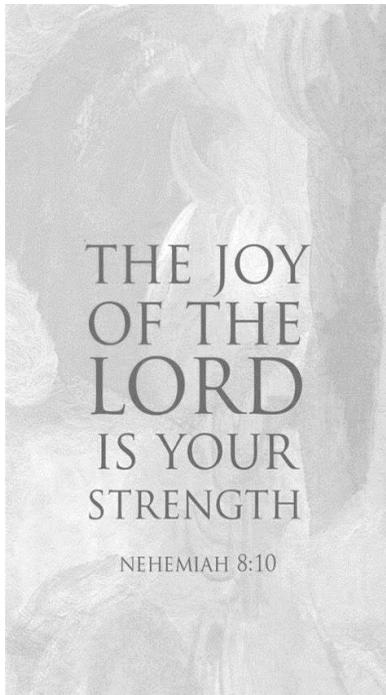
Power Point: Jenn Childers
Sound Tech: Keith TenHulzen
Church Lock-Up: Jeff Gottwald

GKC, 4JC, & The Fire

God's Kids Club & Families: We are eager to see all the kids and parents return on October 7th. Family Meals will also begin on October 7th at 5:30pm. Please register your kids for GKC at our church website livinglifereformed.org.

4JC: We have had a great turn out so far with middle school kids showing up on Wednesday evenings. 4JC will continue to meet at 6:30pm-7:30pm on Wednesday nights. As the day light gets shorter, we will meet in the Family Life Center youth room. Please have your students enter through the southwest doors of the Family Life Center building. For future updates, events, and scheduled activities, please check LLRC's Facebook page for announcements related to 4JC.

Fire: The Fire has started, and the high schoolers are excited to deepen their faith and keep the 'flame' alive for Christ! The Fire will continue to meet on Wednesday nights starting at 8:08 (don't be late!) PM. The Fire will be meeting inside the Family Life Center gym and we ask that the high schoolers enter the gym through the southwest Family Life Center doors. To keep everyone safe, temperature checks are in place, along with weekly attendance, and sanitizer that is readily available. While being inside, masks are required and provided. We are excited to announce that the Rocky Mountain High trip is planned for 2021. Upperclassmen will have the opportunity to sign up for RMH 2021 beginning October 1st. Since spots are limited this year, underclassmen will have a chance to sign up November 1st. We are excited for this opportunity and ask for prayers along the way with getting everyone registered and the financial help to make this possible. For more information, please contact robbie.morrison@livinglifereformed.org



Consistory Minutes: September 14, 2020

Our Work Together

1. Pastor Mark opened in prayer
2. Pastor Mark read from 2 Timothy 1:6-7
3. Chapter 8 of the book Organic Outreach, "The Two Degree Rule" The Two-Degree Rule is the idea that we can metaphorically push the needle of the church compass two degrees off dead north (caring for ourselves) to direct some of our resources, time, care, energy and love toward those who are still far from God. This reorientation happens as we identify how we can take what we are already doing well and extend it to those who are spiritually disconnected. Question to the team, what do we feel the church is currently doing to move the needle? 1) Putting bags together and delivering to the community 2) Right Now media resource, this information was also added to the bags, 3) Starting up the Wednesday evening meals again.

As part of the beginning of chapter 8, the author shares a couple of insights for us all to think about.

"A church that loves people with the passionate heart of God will make a difference in their community and in the world". The next part for us all to think about is ***'If your church disappeared today, would anyone notice?'***

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'***

4. Discussion of Our Role in Hickman
5. Family Life Center Use in the Future? Cleaning of the Family Life Center?
 - **MSC to approve** opening the LLRC Life Center NLT Oct 1st. Policy and use guidelines will be determined by the deacons.
6. Team Updates
 - Congregational Care** – Cary Prange and Doug Wieskamp
 - Discipleship/Education** – Chad Bryant and Rick DeBoer
 - Children's Church is moving forward.
 - Worship** – Chad TerMaat and Taylor TeKolste
 - Building/Grounds** – Brad Riensche and Dave Oltman
 - Hospitality/Outreach** – Doyle Petersen and Glen Gana
 - **MSC to approve** Trunk or Treat
 - Great Commission Team** – Jeff Gottwald and Tammy Goering
7. Congregational Meeting
 - a) Sunday morning, Nov. 15^h at 11:00am.
8. Through email, it was **MSC to approve** August ending financial balances.
9. **Treasurers Report-** Jeff Gottwald; Income was down, but Expenses were also down, still resulting in a Net Gain

General Fund	\$ 53,338.58
Building Fund	\$ (1813.78)
Memorial Fund	\$ 21,347.08
Branson Fund	\$ 2,790.90
Rocky Mountain High	\$ 3,254.47
Script Fund	\$ 2,408.76
White Earth Mission	\$ 3,483.00
Youth Mission	\$ 9,263.53

Through email **MSC to approve** the minutes of the August 10th meeting of consistory as well as the special consistory meeting dated August 19th.

Continued Minutes: September 14, 2020

Calendar of Events

Weekly Events

Tuesdays	6:30pm	Prayer Gathering
Fridays	6:00am	Men's Group at Homestead

October Schedule of Events:

Monday, Oct 5	1:00pm	"IF" Meeting
Sunday, Oct 11		Nomination Ballots due back
	7:00pm	Afterglow Bible Study
Monday, Oct 12	7:00pm	Consistory Meeting
Wednesday, Oct 14	1:30pm	Mary & Martha Circle
Thursday-Fri Oct 15-16		No School Fall Break
Monday, Oct 26	1:00pm	"IF" Meeting (Ilene Docter)
Saturday, Oct 31	TBA	Trunk or Treat

Elder's Meeting

- The constitutional question was asked.
- The elders reviewed the spiritual needs of the congregation.
- Old Business/ New Business
- The elders closed their meeting in prayer.

Deacons Meeting

Old Business

- FLC HVAC leaks – waiting for 2nd bid.
- Discussed doing a financial audit – will ask for volunteers and report next meeting

New Business

- Vacuum in Fellowship hall – purchase another one, pending discussion with cleaning staff
- Dust mop – need a new one, purchase approved
- Discussed cleaning schedule
- Family life center fee discussion, increased fees to \$50 for rental to pay additional cleaning fees. Jeff will edit rental information document.
- Discussed software upgrade for media computer. Approved.
- Discussed paying for recycling fees, \$15 per month – Approved.
- Discussed fall cleanup plans – will discuss as building and grounds, date to be discussed by building and grounds. Glen will work on plans for rock installation around gym.

Attributes of a Pastor

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

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!**

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| Abilities | Accepting |
| Bible | Caring |
| Committed | Confidential |
| Counselor | Development |
| Effective | Encourages |
| Enthusiastic | Family |
| Fellowship | Gifts |
| Loyal | Mature |
| Meetings | Mission |
| New Members | Participate |
| Plans | Powerful |
| Reaches Out | Skilled |
| Stewardship | Supportive |
| Teacher | Understands |
| Worship | |

From christianbiblereference.org

Operation Christmas Child!

Operation Christmas Child is something that anyone can participate in by filling a simple shoebox. Gift ideas 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, and more.

Hygiene items: toothbrush, soap, comb, washcloth, etc. (NO toothpaste)

More: hard candy, lollipops, mints, sunglasses, wind-up flashlights, ball caps, socks, t-shirts, toy jewelry, hair clips, watches, small books, etc. No Candy!

Please remember the box needs to remain open for postal inspections, There are Boy/Girl labels for you to put on the boxes at the church. Boxes are available in the Narthex.



To Be Announced for Mid-October when the leaves start falling

Please join us for on that morning for light work around the church as we prepare the grounds for winter. We have bushes to trim, leaves to rake and general fall maintenance and the more help, the quicker the work! Bring tools and gloves that fit all hands. And there will be donuts!!

Missions News

Come Join Us! We want to welcome anyone else in the congregation that would like to be more closely involved with living out our vision for the future in our church. Please feel free to ask Ann Weber, Dave or Gloria Rice, Jeff Gottwald, Linda DeBoer, Mike Brown, Samantha Henderson or Tammy Goering any questions about this opportunity.

Volunteers for Power Point

Do you want to be a part of morning worship? We need two more people for power point on Sunday mornings. Easy & fun to do. It is already set up for you each week. If you need training it is available. Please contact P. Mark or Beth if you are interested.

Prayer Cards & Connection Cards

On the table in the fellowship hall are prayer cards that you can fill out if you have a prayer request. The prayer requests will be given to the Tuesday night prayer group. Please put your prayer requests in the offering spot by the door. Also, we encourage guests to fill out the connection cards so if you would like to know more about our church, we can have your information. The hospitality team has a gift to give to guests.

Please return your nominations for Deacons and Elders to the church by Sunday, October 13th.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, Nov. 15th 10:45 am

We will vote for our new Elders & Deacons to replace those going off at the end of the year. Please be in prayer as to who should help lead our church. Childcare will be provided.

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Collier Hestermann
- 5 Ron TeKolste
- 6 Cody Auman
Doug Wieskamp
- 9 Taylor TeKolste
- 12 Zander Olson
- 14 Ian Opfer
- 15 Jacob Starr
- 16 Mandy Cramer
- 19 Jordan Hays
- 21 Brian Auman
- 22 Randy Sieck
- 27 Tyler Sieck
- 28 Kylie Goering
- 29 Lindsey Roby

Anniversaries

- 11 Jeff & Kari Gottwald (24)
- 17 Kendall & DeAnn Weber (39)



Wednesday Night Family Meals starting at 5:30

October 7: Grilled Burgers & Hotdogs, Baked Beans, Chips, Salad, Dessert

October 14: Chicken, Mashed potatoes/gravy, Corn, Roll, Salad, Dessert

October 21: Pizza, Garlic Rolls, Salad, Dessert

October 28: Taco/Nacho bar, Salad, Dessert

Mary & Martha Circle

Wed, Oct. 8 1:30pm
Lesson: Ilene Docter
Lunch: Marian Mulder



CALENDAR OF EVENTS – October

Tuesdays	6:30pm	Prayer Gatherings
Wednesdays	5:30pm	Fellowship Meals (Starting the 7 th)
	6:30pm	4JC's
	6:30pm	God's Kids Club (Starting the 7 th)
	8:08pm	The Fire
Fridays	6:00am	Men's Group at Homestead
<hr/>		
Mon, Oct 7	1:00pm	"IF" Meeting (Ilene Docter)
Wed, Oct 9	1:30pm	Mary & Martha Circle
Sun, Oct 13		Nomination Ballots due back!!!!
	7:00pm	Afterglow Bible Study
Mon, Oct 14	7:00pm	Consistory Meeting
Thu-Fri, Oct 17-18		NO SCHOOL
Mon, Oct 28	1:00pm	"IF" Meeting (Ilene Docter)
Thu, Oct 31	5:30pm	Trunk or Treat!!



October is Pastor Appreciation month!!

Be sure to take a moment and thank Mark for being our Pastor and helping us to continue our mission of spreading the good news of God's love and mercy to those around us!

Thanks



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



Wednesday Night

5:30-6:30pm:

Family Meals

6:30-7:30pm:

God's Kids Club

6:30-7:30pm:

4JC's (Middle School)

8:08-9:00pm:

The Fire (High School)

Sunday Morning

9:30-10:30am:

Worship Service

To Contact Us

Church Office Hours:

9:00am-12:00pm

Mark Starr:

320-262-9952

mark@livinglifereformed.org

Robbie Morrison:

402-304-9049

Robbie.morrison@livinglifereformed.org

**Join us on October 31
for a Fun Family Night!!**

Make us your first stop and join us for a fun evening of social distances fellowship and great family activities on Saturday, October 31, 6:00-7:30pm!

👻 Trunk-or-Treat in the parking lot

More details to follow – watch for information!!

To be a part of the T&T team, please contact Andy at 402-646-0587.

Proceeds from the Free-Will offering will go to support the Family Life Center.

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

Website: livinglifereformed.org ● **Facebook:** [facebook.com/ReformedChurchofFirth](https://www.facebook.com/ReformedChurchofFirth)