



# November 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,

Scripture encourages us as believers to be distinctly different than others. For example, Philippians 2:13 reminds us: “Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe.”

A positive, thankful person can be a great witness in this dark world and we shine brightest when we are thankful. Our light is maximized for the Lord when we are thankful, when we live it and express it! So instead of looking at the negatives in our lives and complaining, we must look at and for the blessings God has given us and give thanks.

As I Thessalonians 5:18 says: “Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” This and other Scriptures tell us that giving thanks is God’s will for our lives. And that giving thanks to God and others is what pleases the Lord.

So each day, look for God’s blessings and as you find them, thankfulness will follow. One person illustrated this process by saying:

I am Thankful for.....

....the taxes I pay because it means I’m employed.

....the clothes that fit a little too snug because it means I have enough to eat.

....my shadow who watches me work because it means I am out in the sunshine.

....a lawn that needs care, windows that need cleaning and gutters that need fixing because it means I have a home.

....the spot I find at the far end of the parking lot because it means I am capable of walking.

....my huge heating bill because it means I am warm.

....all the complaining I hear about our government because it means we have freedom of speech.

....the person behind me in church who sings off key because it means that I can hear.

....the piles of laundry and ironing because it means my loved ones are nearby.

....the alarm that goes off in the early morning hours because it means that I’m alive.

....the weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day because it means I have been productive.

Giving thanks in all circumstances,  
Mark

# SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

Worship Doyle, Cary, Rod  
Deacons: Jeff, Chad, Glen, Brian

## **November 1:**

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

## **November 8:**

Power Point: Beth Olson  
Sound Tech: Keith TenHulzen  
Church Lock-Up: Brad Riensche

## **November 15:**

Power Point: Tammy Goering  
Sound Tech: Randy Sieck  
Church Lock-Up: Chad Bryant

## **November 22:**

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

## **November 29:**

Power Point: Avyn Olson  
Sound Tech: Cary Prange  
Church Lock-Up: Glen Gana

GIVE *Thanks*  
to the LORD,  
FOR HE IS GOOD;  
HIS *love* ENDURES  
FOREVER!

*Psalm 107:2*

## Congregational Meeting Sunday, November 15

Plan to attend – and be in prayer for – our Annual Congregational meeting **Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup> after worship.** 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: Doyle Petersen & Cary Prange, and Deacons Brad Riensche & Jeff Gottwald

Additional items that we will discuss include: the 2020 financial report & 2021 budget, and discussion about the exciting things to come.

**Meal:** After the meeting, plan to stay and join us for a time of food and fellowship. The 4JC will be providing Soup and Cinnamon Rolls as a fundraiser for their upcoming Summer Youth Trips.

## Coffee Service for 2021

We hope to have coffee together again after morning worship in the coming year. Helping serve coffee is an easy way to meet new people. We are looking for those who would like to help 3-5 Sundays each year. If you would like to join this fun rotation, please contact Beth soon as we are working on the schedule.

# Consistory Minutes: October 14, 2019

## Our Work Together

1. Pastor Mark opened in prayer
2. Pastor Mark read from *Galatians 6:9-10*, <sup>9</sup>*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.* <sup>10</sup>*Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.*  
He also read from *2 Corinthians 4:16-18*, <sup>16</sup>*Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.* <sup>17</sup>*For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.* <sup>18</sup>*So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.* From these two passages, questions that were asked of us 1) What encourages us to either do good or not lose heart? 2) What do you do or have done to renew or encourage your heart in a difficult season? 3) Is there anything that has happened lately in your life or at church that has increased your outreach temperature?
3. Chapter 9 of the book *Organic Outreach*, the author speaks about "Innovation" how have we been innovated this year? If we keep our eye on the goal, we should not be afraid of a failure or setbacks, we can learn from these and in turn are stronger.

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. Youth Update- Robbie Morrison: Appreciates all that Ian has done, slowly getting to know everyone, and building relationships with not only the youth but the leaders.
5. RCA Church Plant in Hickman- Randy Blumer provided an update on behalf of the church multiplication team.
6. Team Updates  
**Congregational Care** – Cary Prange and Doug Wieskamp  
**Discipleship/Education** – Chad Bryant and Rick DeBoer  
**Worship** – Chad TerMaat and Taylor TeKolste  
**Building/Grounds** – Brad Riensche and Dave Oltman  
**Hospitality/Outreach** – Doyle Petersen and Glen Gana  
**Great Commission Team** – Jeff Gottwald and Tammy Goering
7. **Treasurers Report-** Jeff Gottwald; September was much like August. Income was slightly more than expenses.

General Fund	\$ 56,278.90
Building Fund	\$ (2843.42)
Memorial Fund	\$ 21,347.08
Branson Fund	\$ 2,790.90
Rocky Mountain High	\$ 3,254.47
Script Fund	\$ (16.24)
White Earth Mission	\$ 3,483.00
Youth Mission	\$ 8,963.91

**MSC to approve** September's ending financial balances.

# Continued Consistory Minutes: October 14, 2019

8. Congregational Meeting will be held after the Sunday morning service on November 15<sup>th</sup>.
9. Covid-19 concerns letter from a member of the congregation.
  - a. With attendance being sporadic; due to various reasons, the consistory felt it was necessary to gauge the pulse of the congregation. A survey will be sent out in order to get everyone's thoughts on Sunday worship services and potential ways to improve.

Through email **MSC to approve** the minutes of September's meeting of consistory.

Through email **MSC to approve** November's calendar of events

## Calendar of Events

### Weekly Events

Tuesdays	6:30pm	Prayer Gathering
Wednesdays	5:30pm	Family Meal-GKC/4JC/Fire
Fridays	6:00am	Men's Group at Homestead

### NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 1		Daylight Savings Ends ("Fall Back")
Sunday, November 8	7:00pm	Afterglow
Monday, November 9	7:00pm	Consistory Meeting
Wednesday, Nov 11	1:30pm	Mary & Martha
Sunday, November 15	10:45am	Congregational Meeting
Monday, November 16	1:00pm	"IF" Meeting (Ilene Docter)
Wed-Fri Nov 25-27		No School Norris
Wednesday, November 25	7:00pm	Thanksgiving Eve Service

## Elder's Meeting

- The constitutional question was asked.
- Communion was celebrated on October 25<sup>th</sup>
- The elders reviewed the spiritual needs of the congregation.
- The elders closed their meeting in prayer.

## Deacons Meeting

### Old Business

Discussed the Family Life Center and the leaks around the HVAC units- still waiting on a 2<sup>nd</sup> bid.  
Reviewing purchasing a new vacuum for the fellowship hall – will discuss with the cleaning staff prior to purchasing one.

Approved to purchase another dust mop

Discussed software upgrade for sanctuary media computer. Pending further review.

### New Business

Approved to have fall cleanup on October 24<sup>th</sup>

Closed in prayer.

# God's Kids Club

God's Kids Club is going strong again! We are thankful that God has once again provided us with faithful volunteers who sacrifice their time, talents, and evenings to share their faith with the children of our church and community. What could be more important than sharing Jesus with others?

Do you ever wonder what our GKC evening looks like? Here's a brief overview of our schedule.

From 5:30-6:30, many families join us for a meal in the Fellowship Hall and then the kids transition into the Family Life Center for some active play time. At 6:25 we move to the classrooms for attendance and offering. At 6:40 we all gather in the sanctuary for our opening time. We use this time to sing our theme song, I Am A Christian as they gather and we share a few announcements. Each week a class is recognized for doing a great job! They are given a treat bag to enjoy in their classroom. We always want to foster positive behaviors and how they shine for Jesus!

Next the Bible Story is shared with a video. We have Pastor Mark, Bonnie Walvoord and Clark Mulder narrate the story as the video is up on the screen. Pastor Mark follows up with a few highlights to the story and how it applies to life today, then he shares a prayer before we send the classes all back to their classrooms.

The 4th and 5th graders stay for their music time and all other groups move back to their individual classrooms to do their lesson and adjoining activities. We have three music times to make the groups smaller and more manageable. This is especially helpful when we are practicing for a Christmas program. Due to the pandemic and the late start for God's Kids Club, we will not be having a Christmas program this year. We are enjoying singing many songs that are kid favorites and of course plan to integrate some Christmas songs as we near the holidays.

The pandemic has altered some of our procedures, such as wearing a mask at all times. We do give them a mask break halfway through the hour. Due to the need to wear masks at all times while at GKC, we felt the need to shorten our evening to only an hour.

Our curriculum is focused on Old Testament Bible stories, but we will be moving into the New Testament at the end of the unit we are currently using.

We continue to provide a craft night for each class and will be doing a service project also. In the past, we took classes to Lakeview Care Center but will not be able to do that due to COVID. Our 5th grade class has traditionally gone to the City Mission toward the end of the GKC calendar year, but we are not sure if that will happen this year. We still feel it is imperative that we do some kind of service projects to model the need to think and do for others. We have some plans in place and are thankful to Monica Starr for prepping the projects for us.

## 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 & Jenn Childers

**Pre-Kindergarten** – Sara Bartek & Bonnie Walvoord, Gracelyn Adams

**Kindergarten** –Mandy Cramer, Doug Goering, Jenn Heetderks

**1st Grade**- Shawn & Marie Gouldin, Gracelyn Adams

**2nd Grade** – Wade & Connie Holen, Beth Sieck

**3rd Grade** -Lori Prange, Doug Nieveen, Avery Morrison

**4th Grade** – Sarah Lefferdink & Clark Mulder

**5th Grade** –Chad Bryant, & Kendall Weber

**Music** – Jordan Hays, Susanah Frieson

**Crafts** – Brittany Hart

**4JC:** Robbie & Lesa Morrison, Steve Anthony, Janelle DeBoer, Kristi Hulse

**The Fire:** Robbie Morrison, Randy & Amy Thimm, Brad & Tracy Riensche, Taylor & Leah TeKolste

## **4JC and Fire Program Announcements**

Relationships are continuing to grow within 4JC and the Fire with students, sponsors, and with our new Interim Youth Director. We hope to continue to meet in-person through the month of November. 4JC and the Fire will go to remote programs if Norris School District decides to do go full remote learning. If a hybrid learning scenario takes place within the Norris School District, 4JC and the Fire will continue to meet in person. Only if the Norris School District anticipates full remote learning will 4JC and the Fire do the same. 4JC and the Fire will not meet Wednesday November 25th because of Thanksgiving break, but plan to meet in-person December 2nd the following Wednesday. Program times will remain the same with 4JC starting at 6:30 PM and finishing at 7:30 PM on Wednesday evenings. Fire will start at 8:08 (don't be late) and finish around 9:15 PM on Wednesday evenings. For week to week updates, please follow LLRC's Facebook page or website for any program time changes, cancelations, or moving to remote learning. Otherwise, please reach out to Robbie Morrison, the Interim Youth Director, at (402) 304-9049 or email, [robbie.morrison@livinglifereformed.org](mailto:robbie.morrison@livinglifereformed.org).

### **The Fire--Rocky Mountain High Trip Information**

High schoolers are able to and continue to sign up for the 2021 Rocky Mountain High conference held in Estes Park, Colorado July 31st - August 4th. Freshmen and Sophomores, as of November 1st, are allowed to sign up as well through the month of November or until the spots are full. Juniors and Seniors can also continue to sign up through the month of November. A lot of students who signed up for the trip in 2020 still have earned fundraising money to use towards this trip. For more information about that and all other Rocky Mountain High information, please contact Robbie Morrison at (402) 304-9049 or email, [robbie.morrison@livinglifereformed.org](mailto:robbie.morrison@livinglifereformed.org). Additionally, please visit [www.rockymountainhighinfo.com](http://www.rockymountainhighinfo.com). Spots are limited this year, so please sign up as soon as possible!

### **4JC-- Power Connection Trip Information**

The 4JC middle schoolers are invited to attend the Power Connection youth conference in St. Paul, Minnesota June 25th - June 27th. This is geared towards middle school students currently in grades 6th-8th and their adult leaders. The conference is to provide a large group encounter with the transformational truth and love of Jesus for students and leaders. We will also be attending the Valley fair amusement park! Transportation will be provided from LLRC. Registration will be available January 4th. The cost is \$180 per participant which includes on-campus lodging, linens & towels, meals, and all regular programming. Other costs may include spending money at Valley fair amusement park, souvenirs, shopping, and meals while traveling. Please don't let the cost be the reason for not sending your child. Fundraising opportunities will be available and also other assistance if needed. For more information about the Power Connection trip and details, please contact Robbie Morrison at (402) 304-9049 or email, [robbie.morrison@livinglifereformed.org](mailto:robbie.morrison@livinglifereformed.org). Additionally, please visit [www.powerconnectioninfo.com](http://www.powerconnectioninfo.com).

### **4JC Fundraiser Lunch November 15<sup>th</sup>**

After the congregational meeting November 15th, 4JC middle schoolers and leaders will be serving soups and desserts for lunch. This fundraiser will go towards the middle school Power Connection trip this summer in June where the middle school students will encounter the transformational truth and love of Jesus through a 3-day conference in St. Paul, MN. Please stick around after our service November 15th for the congregational meeting, followed by the fundraising lunch provided by the 4JC team. We hope to see you there!

# Birthdays

- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Kyle Critser       | 19 Emry Burnley     |
| 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 Gracelyn Adams   |
| Pearl Wieskamp       | Austen Hartgerink   |
| 9 Jeff Gottwald      | Will Hays           |
| Beth Olson           | 28 Matthew Sieck    |
| 12 Chad Bryant       | 29 Amy Thimm        |
| 16 Brooklyn Doeschot | 30 Ashley Auman     |
| Cary Prange          | Rick DeBoer         |
| 18 Mike Brown        |                     |

**Mary & Martha Circle**  
**Wednesday, Nov. 11**  
**1:30pm**  
 Lesson—Thelma Schroeder  
 Lunch—Sandra Wedding



## Wednesday Family Meals

- Nov 4** – Breakfast Casserole, Pancakes, French Toast, Applesauce  
**Nov 11**– Turkey, Dressing, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Roll, Dessert  
**Nov 18** – Chili, Chicken Noodle Soup, Vegetables, Salad, Cinnamon Rolls  
**Nov 25**– No Meal or regular programs: Please, join us for our Thanksgiving Eve Service, 7:00pm

## 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
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<b>Sun Nov 3</b>	6-8pm	The Fire Super Sunday
<b>Sun, Nov 8</b>	7:00pm	Afterglow
<b>Wed, Nov 11</b>	1:30pm	Mary & Martha Circle
<b>Sun, Nov 15</b>	10:45am	Congregational Meeting/Meal
<b>Mon, Nov 16</b>	7:00pm	Consistory Meeting
	1:00pm	"IF" Meeting (Ilene Docter)
<b>Wed- Fri Nov 25-27</b>		No School Norris
<b>Wed, Nov 25</b>	7:00pm	Thanksgiving Eve Service
<b>Thurs, Nov 25</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 (Middle School)

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

God's Kids Club

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

Women's Bible Study

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

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:**

402-440-8399

robbie.morrison@livinglifereformed.org



**Thanksgiving Service**  
Wednesday,  
November 25  
7:00pm