



# January 2021

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,

The past year has had some anxiety, uncertainty, and even loss and so as we move into a new year, the hope we are given in God's Word stands out even more clearly! Let me give you just one example of the Scriptures giving God's weary people, new life and hope.

Isaiah 9:1-2 says: "Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress...The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned."

Isaiah's poetic prophecy gives words of hope to Israel at the time of the exile, which was also a time of uncertainty and darkness. Things looked bleak, yet God promised to send a light that would shine on anyone living in the shadow of death or pain. People wondered whether God would keep his promise, and Isaiah responded by announcing the coming birth of a royal son who would be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace.

While we may worry and have anxiety during times of uncertainty, one thing is abundantly clear: the light of Jesus shines upon us. The promised Son has been born, and as Isaiah said, the rod of the oppressor is broken, and our joy is increased.

I hope that this coming year is far better than the one past but regardless of what happens, we have a deeper hope! The promise of good news yet to come and a sure and certain faith to hold on to in any uncertain times. So, I indeed wish you a "Happy New Year" in 2021 but I believe a better expression or wish for you would be "Live in Certain Hope in the New Year!" We have hope in any uncertainty! Praise be to God!

Mark

# Sunday Volunteers

Worship: Cary, Rick, Doyle  
Deacons: Glen, Dave, Taylor, Brad

## January 3:

Power Point: Avyn Olson  
Sound Tech: Mike Brown  
Church Lock-Up: Luke Sieck

## January 10:

Power Point: Beth Olson  
Sound Tech: Randy Sieck  
Church Lock-Up: Dave Oltman

## January 17:

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

## January 24:

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

## January 31:

Power Point: Avyn Olson  
Sound Tech: Keith TenHulzen  
Church Lock-Up: Glen Gana

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS – January

<b>Tuesdays</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>	Prayer Gathering
<b>Wednesdays</b>	<b>5:30pm</b>	Fellowship Meal Time
	<b>6:30pm</b>	4JC's
	<b>6:30pm</b>	God's Kids Club, Women's Bible Study
	<b>7:45pm</b>	The Fire
<b>Fridays</b>	<b>6:00am</b>	Men's Group at Homestead

## Mon-Mon Dec 28-Jan 4

<b>Sun, Jan 3</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	NO School Christmas Break
<b>Mon, Jan 4</b>	<b>12:00pm</b>	Installation of Church Officers
<b>Wed, Jan 6</b>	<b>1:30pm</b>	"IF" Mtg Luncheon 9 years
<b>Sun, Jan 12</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>	Mary & Martha Circle
<b>Mon, Jan 13</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>	Afterglow Bible Study
<b>Mon, Jan 18</b>		Consistory Meeting
		<b>No School Norris</b>



## Mary & Martha Circle

**Wed, January 13th -  
1:30pm**

Lesson: Peg Reutzel

## Anniversaries

**5** Randy & Amy Thimm (30)  
**16** Bruce & Deb Docter (39)

## Birthdays

**3** Dave Hobelman  
**6** Adam Weber  
**7** Shawn Gouldin  
**11** Marcus Cihal  
**12** Krista Riensche  
Laura Hilkemann  
**15** Chad Critser  
**19** Sadie Dunse  
Marge Klein  
**22** Hal Chase  
**23** Landis Burnley  
**28** Jacee Carlow  
**29** Joshua Starr  
Carol Burnley  
**30** Beau Henderson  
Isobel Olson  
**31** Brielle Lefferdink

## 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.

## January Family Meal Schedule

January 6: Chicken Noodle Soup, Chili, Cinnamon rolls, salad  
January 13: Ham, Cheesy mashed potatoes, green beans, salad, roll, dessert  
January 20: Pizza, garlic rolls, salad, dessert  
January 27: Breakfast casserole, french toast, pancakes

## 4JC & FIRE 2021

We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year! We're looking forward to beginning a new and hopefully better year! We are also excited to announce that 4JC and the FIRE will start back up Wednesday, January 6th! 4JC will begin at 6:30pm after the community meal in the Family Life Center youth room. The gym will be open for all ages to use prior to programs from 5:30pm - 6:30pm. The FIRE will meet in the Family Life Center gym at 8:08, don't be late! High schoolers can certainly come prior to program and use the gym as well. We require that all students ages 5 and above wear a mask to program. Student temperatures will be checked prior to program and sanitizer will be available. If you don't feel well, please stay home. We hope to continue to meet in-person through the remaining program year, but will base our decision off of the Norris School Districts decision and in accordance with the DHM. Please follow LLRC's Facebook page or website for any program time changes, cancelations, or moving to remote programs. Otherwise, please reach out to Robbie Morrison, the Interim Youth Director, at [\(402\) 304-9049](tel:4023049049) or by e-mail, [robbie.morrison@livinglifereformed.org](mailto:robbie.morrison@livinglifereformed.org).

### 4JC Power Connection Registration

4JC's Power Connection registration process will begin January 4th. To register your middle school student, please go to [www.powerconnectioninfo.com](http://www.powerconnectioninfo.com), and fill out a registration form under the 'Registration' tab. You will need a copy of your insurance card to upload, also list any medical alerts and medication knowledge, with a parent/guardian signature. No payment is required yet. So, if you're on the fence about going, no problem. Sign up now so you have a spot reserved because spots are limited. You can cancel any time before the group payment is due in April. Some may have earned scholarships as well and may not require any payment. Please be saving for personal expenses such as spending money for Valleyfair 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. Sign up as soon as January 4th! For more information or help with registering, please contact Robbie Morrison, the Interim Youth Director, at [\(402\) 304-9049](tel:4023049049) or by e-mail, [robbie.morrison@livinglifereformed.org](mailto:robbie.morrison@livinglifereformed.org).

### February Fundraising

Middle school and high schoolers will have more fundraising opportunities to earn money towards scholarships to summer conference trips, future missions, and youth programs this February through the annual 'Chili Cook Off' and the 'Helping Hand Auction.' A free will donation will be accepted from the Chili Cook Off to help the youth programs (4JC and FIRE). Students and whomever will have an opportunity to auction off their helpful skills. The money earned during the auction will also go to the youth programs, future missions, or scholarships to summer conference trips. Please stay tuned for a specific date and time for the 'Chili Cook Off' and 'Helping Hand Auction' this coming February! Are you interested in auctioning off your helpful skills to raise money for the youth? If so, please contact Robbie Morrison, the Interim Youth Director, at [\(402\) 304-9049](tel:4023049049) or by e-mail, [robbie.morrison@livinglifereformed.org](mailto:robbie.morrison@livinglifereformed.org).

## 4JC and The Fire January Wednesday Schedule:

Wednesday, January 6 - Regular lesson night  
Wednesday, January 13 - Regular lesson night  
Wednesday, January 20 - Regular lesson night  
Wednesday, January 27 - Regular lesson night

# Consistory Notes – December 14, 2020

## Our Work Together

1. Pastor Mark opened in prayer
2. Pastor Mark read from Psalm 90-End of Year Reflections. As we read this passage, we reflected on these questions: 1) What would you guess is God's perspective, on this past year? Does 2020 stand out to God? 2) We may not like being compared to grass that flourishes in the morning and fades in the evening but how is realizing our limitations a good thing? 3) What is most important in life according to this Psalm? 4) What comfort does this passage give us as we end 2020 and move into 2021?

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. **Worship Technology Ideas and Question**-Robbie- What opportunities are there to improve the quality of our services as it relates to recording, video, sound? Some ideas including a better-quality camera to zoom in. Robbie and Brad have done some research and will present their findings to the tech team, but they would like to receive some guidance for budgetary purposes. Example: A decent camera to zoom in could cost \$4000.00, entire new system by an outside consultant installed would run approximately \$14K.
4. **Youth Update**- Robbie Morrison: Covid continues to provide challenges this year, as programs strive to take all precautions necessary. They have and will continue to follow same procedures as Norris. Congregational Meeting meal, raised \$1400.00. High School- Rocky Mountain High money from 2019, money is still there from those who planned on going. They were able to raise \$400.00 from Cornhole games earlier this year.

## 5. 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

Luke has fixed the water leak on the roof, HVAC units, in the Family Life Center.

**Hospitality/Outreach** – Doyle Petersen and Glen Gana

**Great Commission Team** – Jeff Gottwald and Tammy Goering

## 6. December 2020 Calendar Review/January 2021 Approval

### Weekly Events

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

### December

Sunday, December 20	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent
Thursday, December 24	Christmas Eve Worship
Mon- Thurs, December 21-31	NO SCHOOL—At Norris
Thursday, December 31	New Year's Eve- Office Closed
Friday, January 1 <sup>st</sup>	New Year's Day—Office Closed
Thurs-Mon Dec 31- Jan 4 <sup>th</sup>	No School at Norris

Continued.....

## Consistory Notes – December 14, 2020

### January 2021

Friday, January 1	New Year's Day—Office Closed
Mon December 28-Mon January 4	NO SCHOOL—At Norris
Sun January 3	Installation/Ordination of New Consistory
Wednesday January 6	Wednesday Activities Begin Again
Sunday, January 10	Afterglow meeting
Monday, January 11	Consistory Meeting
Wednesday, January 13	Mary & Martha
Monday January 18	NO SCHOOL—At Norris

#### 7. **MSC to approve** the 2021 Administrative Team

- |                            |                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Vice President          | Rick DeBoer     |
| 2. Clerk of Consistory     | Chad Bryant     |
| 3. Chairman of the Deacons | Taylor TeKolste |

#### 8. **2021 Church Teams**

- Congregational Care—Doug Wieskamp & Rick DeBoer
- Discipleship/Education—Ron DeBoer & Dean Hestermann
- Worship Experience—Chad TerMaat & Taylor TeKolste
- Buildings & Grounds—Chad Bryant & Luke Sieck
- Hospitality/Outreach—Andy Johnson & Dave Oltman
- Great Commission Team—Tammy Goering & Glen Gana

#### 9. **Treasurers Report-**(November) Jeff Gottwald, compared to October, November balance has increased \$4000.00.

General Fund	\$ 68,706.64
Building Fund	\$ 803.70
Memorial Fund	\$21,347.08
Branson Fund	\$ 2,790.90
Rocky Mountain High	\$ 5,029.47
Script Fund	\$ 1,483.76
White Earth Mission	\$ 3,483.00
Youth Mission	\$ 8,964.66

**MSC to approve** November ending financial balances.

**MSC to approve** the January calendar of events

Through email, **MSC to approve** the minutes of November's regular meeting of consistory and our Congregational meeting.

#### 10. **New Business**

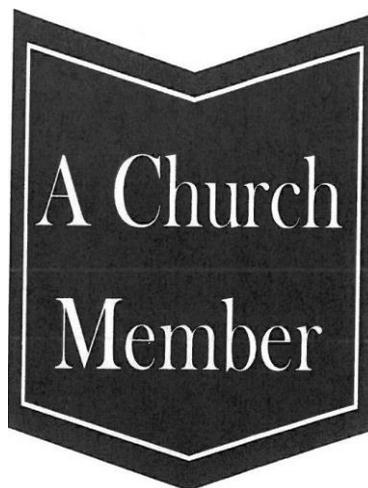
- For 2021, Consistory members will be reading a book called "Comeback Churches"

11. It was MSC to Adjourn and the consistory closed in prayer

#### **Elder's Meeting**

- The constitutional question was asked.
- The elders reviewed the spiritual needs of the congregation.
- The Elder's closed their meeting in prayer.

Who would want to be? →  
What really is? →  
Why am I? →  
Why would I want to be?



- Join Pastor Mark after church at 10:45, beginning on January 17th as he facilitates a 7-week discussion on being a church member!
- This discussion class is for church members and anyone slightly interested in being one!
- Those who are not current members of our church will not be pressured into being one!
- Attendees will receive a free copy of the book, I Am A Church Member by Thom Rainer. Talk to Beth Sieck if you might need childcare.
- Talk to Pastor Mark if you have further questions about this class which will meet in Room 6!

### **Consistory Notes- December 14, 2020**

#### **Deacons Meeting**

##### **Old Business**

- A Mixing console upgrade was ordered and is due January 2021

##### **New Business**

- For new members, discussed areas of responsibilities for 2021
- It was agreed that for this year's Christmas Eve the service, the offering will be going to Lincoln City Mission
- Tech team will be meeting to review possible upgrades to our video system
- Discussed some end-of-year benevolent requests.
- The Deacons closed their meeting in prayer.

# God's Kid's Club

The volunteer staff of God's Kids Club would like to wish each and every one a joyous New Year! We know that God is with us each step of the way as we enter a new year. We thank you for all your prayer support and for continuing to entrust us with your children as we seek to help them grow in their faith. COVID brings some changes in our program, the biggest being the need to wear masks while at church. The kids are doing a great job with their masks. We will continue to do all we can to keep everyone safe at GKC!

We are always looking for volunteers. Some are leaving at the end of this GKC year to make room for others to join the GKC team. Is God calling you to get involved in children's ministry?

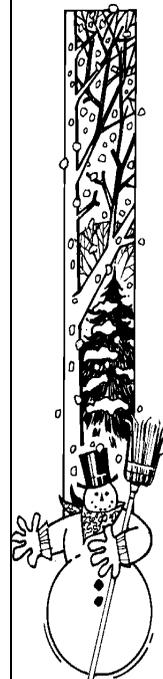
As always, we cherish your prayers and continued support of our weekly program. We look forward to seeing everyone on Wednesday, January 6, 2021!

## Mentoring Class

Robbie Morrison, the new Interim Youth Director, is looking for students interested in confessing their faith through a Christian mentoring course. This course will help students understand the core doctrinal beliefs here at Living Life Reformed Church by navigating through scriptures in the Bible, better understanding creation, discussion about sin, the Holy Trinity, worship, and much more!

This journey will also allow students to explore their faith, grow in relationship with Jesus, and develop a life-long relationship with a Christian mentor. We will focus more on conversations and dialogue rather than lectures, or in other words, do life together! If you have a 7th to 12th grader at home who has not completed the mentoring class, this class is for them.

Please reach out to Robbie Morrison if you or your student is at all interested! Robbie would like to get this course started by the end of January 2021, so please let him know as soon as possible. Please notify Robbie and if you have any questions. Robbie can be reached at (402) 304-9049 or by e-mail, [robbie.morrison@livinglifereformed.org](mailto:robbie.morrison@livinglifereformed.org)



**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-5<sup>th</sup> Grade)

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

The Fire (High School)

### **Saturday Evening**

**6:00-7:00pm:**

Worship Service

(Masks REQUIRED)

### **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



**The Fire**  
**Chili Cook Off &**  
**Helping Hand**  
**Auction in February**

Look for more details to come about this Event.

This is a fundraiser for members of 4JC and The Fire as they prepare for their summer trips.

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

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