

# August 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,

Recently it seems that God is stressing to me the need for healthier communication both in my own family and in the church. I have had the joy of serving with leaders and people who have been “quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry” (James 1:19). I have also seen the pain and struggle caused by those who do not communicate directly or with care. It is clear that to love one another as God asks, takes work and requires the Holy Spirit’s power. Sometimes I do this well, and other times I fall short, but I am constantly reminding myself and others that the results of loving communication are well worth the effort!

Sins of the tongue are among the most commonly mentioned sins in the Bible. Sins of the tongue are among the most commonly committed sins among mankind. It is so easy to slip up and say something untrue, unkind, unnecessary, yet, hurtful.

Some years ago, there was a church in which the operator of the public address system was aggravated because the speaker was dragging his feet in getting started. In his impatience he said: "Go ahead you old goat." He did not realize that his own microphone was on, full volume. The whole congregation heard the words distinctly and laughter filled the auditorium. The "goat" heard it too and joined in the laughter in a good natured way. Many humorous incidents have occurred through the years where someone forgot that a portable microphone was still on. Some not so humorous incidents have also occurred where something unkind was said and unintentionally broadcast via a live microphone. I heard of a recent incident where one individual sent an email to another person, sharply criticizing a third party, and the email was accidentally copied to that third party. It was an embarrassing incident.

If we knew that our words spoken about another person were going to be broadcast to the whole church, would we speak differently? Would we tone down the rhetoric? Would we be less prone to jump to conclusions? Would we criticize less? Would we be less judgmental? Would we be more positive than negative? Would we look for the good rather than search in hopes of finding the evil? I think so. What we need to remember is that the microphone is always on with God. While other people may not hear our words, God always hears them--and he even hears our thoughts.

"I tell you, on the day of judgment you will have to give an account for every careless word you utter; for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned" (Mt. 12:36-37).

Let us be more careful about what we think and what we say. Is it true? Is it needful? Is it kind? Is it helpful? "Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer everyone" (Col. 4:6).

Blessings to you as you lovingly communicate with your family and church family,

Mark

# August Volunteers

**Elders:** Tammy, Doug, Dean  
**Deacons:** Glen, Dave, Taylor, Andy

## August 1:

Coffee: Linda D. & Pearl W.  
Power Point: Avyn Olson  
Sound Tech: Taylor TeKolste  
Church Lock-Up: Luke Sieck

## August 8:

Coffee: Ilene D. & Charlene T.  
Power Point: Beth Olson  
Sound Tech: Keith TenHulzen  
Church Lock-Up: Dave Oltman

## August 15: Church in the Park

Sound Tech: Randy Sieck

## August 22:

Coffee: Jared Brock & Brenda C.  
Power Point: Jenn Childers  
Sound Tech: Keith TenHulzen  
Church Lock-Up: Andy Johnson

## August 29:

Coffee: Mandy & Brandon Cramer  
Power Point: Tammy Goering  
Sound Tech: Randy Sieck  
Church Lock-Up: Glen Gana

Thank for your Service!



# God's Kids Club

God's Kids Club will be starting before we know it! Our first night will be Wednesday, September 15, 2021. Family meals will be served from 5:30-6:30, with God's Kids Club from 6:30-7:30. God's Kids Club is for children who are 3 years old, and potty trained through 5th grade. God's Kids Club offers many ways to learn about God's Love including lessons, crafts, service projects, and music. We are still in need of volunteers for the classroom and nursery. Please contact Kari Gottwald at 402-560-6682 or Mandy Cramer at 402-540-0303 if you are interested in helping or having questions.

Please register your kids on the church website, [livinglifereformed.org](http://livinglifereformed.org), as soon as you are able to help with planning and ordering materials.

# Fall Programs Begin on September 15<sup>th</sup>!

Fall Programs start on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Registration is OPEN for our God's Kids Club and 4JC. You can visit [livinglifereformed.org](http://livinglifereformed.org) to register online. More information on The Fire will be out soon! Please register early so we can order supplies.

Invite friends to be a part of our Wednesday Family Nights!

Family Meals will also start on September 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.

# Adam & Eve

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

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!**

Abel	Ancestors
Ashamed	Beginning
Cain	Cherubim
Childbirth	Creation
Cursed	Death
Disobedience	Disobedient
Dominion	Earth
Enmity	Evil
Expelled	Fig
First	Forbidden
Fruit	Good
Happiness	Hid
Image	Innocence
Judgment	Knowledge
Likeness	Multiply
Nakedness	Punishment
Serpent	Tempt
Thistles	Thorns
Trees	Woman

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

## Mission Updates for August

**Remember to get your Scrip Cards!** For those of you not familiar with the Scrip program, everyone here has the opportunity to purchase gift cards from a huge variety of organizations at their face value and Living Life Reformed Church will get a percentage (which varies by the retailer) of that price which we put towards various missions. We have scrip cards to Cenex, Village Inn, Chilies, and Texas Roadhouse. Yes, that is right, no extra cost for something that you would be buying anyway (groceries, gas, department store items, etc.)! Members from the Great Commission Team will be at a table in the Fellowship Hall before and after Sunday morning worship with cards for purchase. All proceeds from July and August will go to the Norris Backpack Program.

**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 future mission in our church. Please feel free to ask Mike Brown if you any questions about this opportunity.

# Consistory Minutes – July 12, 2021

## Consistory Meeting

1) Pastor Mark opened with devotions. Chapters 6 & 7 in “Comeback Churches” and we discussed discipleship & mobilization strategies mentioned in these chapters.

2) Prayer by Pastor Mark

3) Mission Statement: Recited our mission statement and discussed changing it from “To grow a loving community of active followers of Jesus, equipped to take his love and message to the world” to “To grow a loving community, equipped to take the message of Jesus to our world” The Malphurs Group has advised that our statement is very good but quite long and not memorable. The Strategic Leadership Team agreed with this assessment in their planning session after much discussion. Decided to table the decision on the mission statement change until next month when other consistory members who are not present can be included in the discussion and decision.

4) “Living Life Reformed Core Values” have been designed with the Malphurs Group by the Strategic Leadership Team to match our Discipleship Pathway or purpose for all, which is to: 1) Worship God 2) Grow in Community 3) Serve the Body 4) Share with our World

5) Job description for “Pastor of Youth and Media”

Focus is primarily youth, but also help with media and technology. Discussed the job description for this full-time position proposed to start on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Motion to approve the Job description – Vote – Approved

6) Team Updates

Congregational Care – A Message from Rick DeBoer was shared.

Great Commission Team – Tammy Goering and Glen Gana

Hospitality/Outreach – Andy Johnson and Dave Oltman --- Service in the Firth Park August 15

Building and Grounds – Luke Sieck

Worship – Taylor TeKolste

Discipleship/Education – Ron DeBoer --- VBS went great, and it was good to have at our own church.

**Continued.....**

# Consistory Minutes: Continued

## 7) Treasurer's Report

General Fund Balance – \$71,579

Building Fund - \$17,674

Memorial Fund - \$12,183

Branson Fund - \$3,619

High School Ministry - \$10,474

Middle School Ministry - \$3,015

Script Fund - \$2,522

White Earth Mission Trip - \$3,483

Kitchen Fund - \$771

## 8) Church Calendar Approval

9) Meeting next month – Monday, August 9<sup>th</sup> Discussion on Ch. 7 & 8 in the “Comeback Churches”

10) Snacks – Andy Johnson (August)

11) Motion to Adjourn

12) Circle of Prayer

## Elder's Meeting

Classis Meeting—July 23-24

Approved a request for baptism from Brent and Dawnelle Doctor for their son Asa John.

Discussed the Spiritual life of the congregation and communion is scheduled for July 18<sup>th</sup>.

## Deacon's Meeting

New business

Discussed compensation details for the Pastor of Youth and Media position.

Luke Sieck fixed several leaks on the church roof.

Discussed the start time of retaining wall and irrigation lines on the west side of church.

Approved a church credit card for our church secretary (Beth) to buy miscellaneous office supplies etc. when needed.



Sunday, August 15th  
Church in the  
Firth Park at 9:30 am

Bring your own lawn  
chair or blanket. A lunch  
will be served after the  
service.

## Mary & Martha Circle

Wed, August 12<sup>th</sup>  
1:30pm

Lesson: Sandra  
Wedding

## Global Leadership Summit

On Thursday-Friday, August 5-6, 2021, join hundreds of thousands of curious, growth-minded, change-driven men and women like you for the premier leadership event of 2021—The Global Leadership Summit!

Living Life Reformed Church will not host an in-person event this year but will provide discounted on-line access to this year's Summit for regular LLRC attenders. A special discounted code was e-mailed to regular attenders to apply to their registration. If you did not receive the e-mail, please contact Pastor Mark. To register guest and regular LLRC attenders, simply visit [www.livinglifereformed.org](http://www.livinglifereformed.org), and click on the scrolling GLS banner. This will direct you to the registration process. Tickets can still be purchased until August 6th.

Everyone has the capacity to lead—because everyone has influence. Whether you're an executive or a student, 97 years old or 11 years old, you can experience growth when you invest in developing your leadership skills.

For more information about The Global Leadership Summit, please contact Robbie Morrison at his email address [robbie.morrison@livinglifereformed.org](mailto:robbie.morrison@livinglifereformed.org).

# Birthdays

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 2 Jeremiah Bartek<br>Linda DeBoer<br>Randy Thimm | 18 Madelyn Critser<br>19 Kimberly Henderson<br>20 Alex Riensche<br>22 Janelle DeBoer<br>24 Mark Starr<br>25 Eileen Weber<br>27 Brandon Cramer<br>Gloria Rice<br>Marvin Weber |
| 6 Allie Morrison<br>Kathy Anderson               | 29 Max TerMaat<br>Ben Maendele<br>Karen Harms  |
| 7 Ariel Spellman                                 |  |
| 8 Alvin Weber                                    |  |
| 11 Gary Hartgerink<br>DeAnn Weber                |  |
| 12 Edna Prange<br>Samual Johnson                 |  |
| 13 Diane Mulder                                  |  |
| 15 Chris Finke                                   |  |
| 16 Marjorie Coleman                              |  |

# Anniversaries

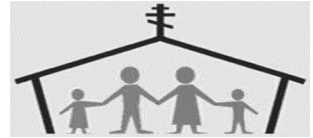
- |  |
|--|
| 2 Doug & Sandy Nieveen (41)                                |
| 8 Kelly & Kathy Anderson (34)                              |
| 9 Doyle & Terri Petersen (35)<br>Brian & Steph Auman (24)  |
| 11 Lesa & Roby Morrison (3)                                |
| 16 Milan & Marjorie Coleman (63)<br>Scott & Jody Null (30) |
| 17 Gary & Peg Hartgerink (48)<br>Alex & Beth Olson (19)    |
| 23 Stan & Kathy Carlow (47)                                |
| 24 Keith & Charlene TenHulzen (38)                         |
| 26 Ron & Carol DeBoer (26)                                 |
| 28 Brittany & Cory Hart (11)                               |
| 30 Mel & Karen Harms (7)<br>Shawn & Marie Gouldin (24)     |

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS – August

Tuesdays	6:30pm	Prayer Gathering
Fridays	6:00am	Men's Group at Homestead
Sun, Aug 9	7:00pm	Afterglow
Mon, Aug 9	1:00pm	"IF" Meeting (Ilene)
	7:00pm	Consistory Meeting
Wed, Aug 11	1:30pm	Mary & Martha Circle
Thu, Aug 12		1 <sup>st</sup> Day of School (Norris)
Mon, Aug 30	1:00pm	"IF" Meeting (Ilene)

### Skills & Drills at NE Shooters

**Skills & Drills at NE Shooters** on August 24 or August 25 at 6:00 pm. Are you interested in learning handgun safety and training? With this class you will develop the knowledge and skills to safely operate basic firearms. This class is open to all skill levels for men and women and the cost is \$35 plus ammo. This a great opportunity to spend time with family and friends of the church and community. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please contact Gary Hartgerink at 402-791-5375.



## Wednesday Activities Schedule!

Our Wednesday night routine is just around the corner and we are SO excited!

**4JC's (Middle School) Classes**  
begin Sept. 15. 6:30-7:30pm

**The Fire (High School) Classes**  
begin Sept. 15, 8:08-9:00pm  
(Fire kids are asked to park on the WEST side of the church to help with traffic)

**God's Kids Club.** Lesson nights  
begin Sept. 15, 6:30-7:30pm

**Family Meals** begin Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>  
and will serve 5:30-6:30pm

Register online on our website.  
Invite your friends to join you!

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



### **Sunday Morning**

**9:30-10:30am:**

Worship Service and  
Livestream on You Tube

### **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

*faith*  
**Faith**

For great is His love toward us,  
and the faithfulness of the  
Lord endures forever.

Psalm 117:2

**Phone:** 402-791-5800 • **Email:** church@livinglifereformed.org  
**Website:** livinglifereformed.org • **Facebook:** Living Life Reformed Church | Facebook