



September 2021

OUR MISSION:

**To grow a loving community of active followers of Jesus,
equipped to take the message to our world.**

Dear Church Family,

We have been quite busy this month helping our family members transition to the next stage of their lives and also trying to prepare for the Fall and new ideas and programs for our church! The pace does not seem to have slowed down this summer!

God has been challenging me, however, to slow down in the midst of the busyness. One idea came from a quote by Martin Luther who once said, "I am so busy today that I cannot help but spend three hours alone with God!" Martin Luther was so intimate with God that when things got busy or chaotic, his first instinct was to turn to God because he knew that he would need God's assistance in his time of trial or busyness. I was struck by this idea because my response to busyness is often to get right to work! (God will still be there after my busy time is over!). It seems that God is often challenging me to pay more attention to the Lord of the work instead of the work of the Lord. He knows my schedule, my needs, all the unexpected surprises of the day, and promises that He will walk with me through all things. God desires that my work would glorify Him but not come before Him. This is an idea that I need to be reminded of continually in the midst of busyness.

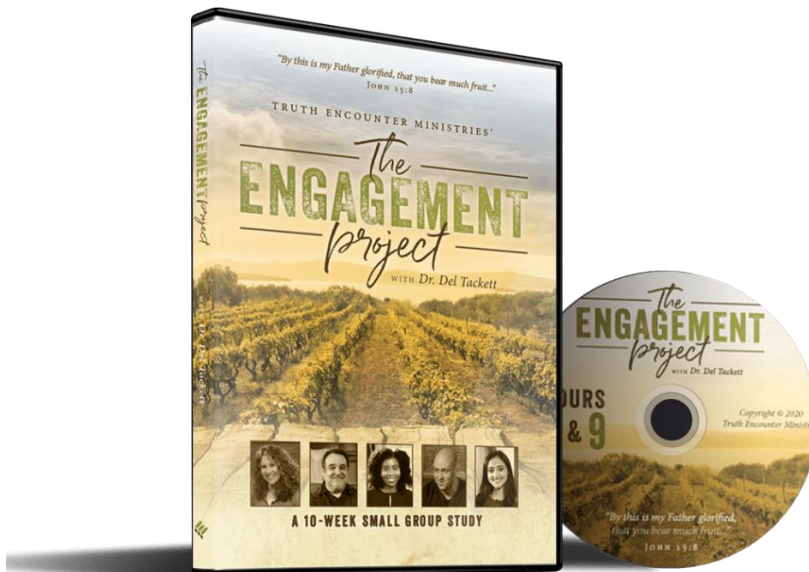
This reminded me of a solitude experience I had many years ago at a Leadership Conference. Each student and leader at the conference was asked to spend two hours alone with God. One assignment during this solitude time was to take a piece of clay and shape it into something that represented our leadership. I welcomed the time of quiet but remember that the clay assignment was a challenge! I finally decided to mold my clay into a window (or something that I felt looked like a window). As a leader, I want people to be able to see Christ through me just like they would see outside through a window. It's my responsibility to keep my window open so the wind of the Spirit can blow through it, and to keep my window clean by confessing my sin before God (people can't see Jesus very well through a sinful lifestyle).

Continually, God seems to be saying to me that He desires people who are available, teachable, and who are seeking His kingdom. He doesn't require money, talents, or good-looking resumes, but instead wants our hearts. May we as a church family seek His face... even when our schedules get busy.

In His Love,

Mark

Project Small Group at Mark & Monica's House (Tuesdays 6:30-8:00pm starting September 14th)



What is The Engagement Project?

It is ten 50-minute video tours taught by Dr. Del Tackett that will “take us on a **quest of seeking the face of God** and, as best as He will allow, to **gaze upon the Crown Jewel in His nature**—a quest we hope and pray will **deeply transform each of us**, and by His grace, the Body of Christ. ***And this, we believe, can change everything.***” In the Engagement Project, Dr. Tackett answers two important questions: Why did Jesus leave? and Why does God send? This series will help us understand where we are in God’s Story, why we are to love our neighbors, and shows us how to do so in our challenging world. It unpacks the incredible vision that God has entrusted the primary work of the Kingdom to all of us as believers in Jesus.

For more information, check out the trailer...<https://vimeo.com/400066336>

If you would like to learn more about how to engage your neighbors and discuss this in a small group, then sign up on the entryway table at church or give Mark a call at 320-262-9952.

God's Kids Club

God's Kids Club is quickly approaching! 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. Please contact Kari Gottwald (402) 560-6682 or Mandy Cramer (402) 540-0303 if you have questions.

If you have already registered, please watch your email for information. It's not too late if you have not yet registered! Please register your kids on the church website, livinglifereformed.org.

The 4JC and the Fire

4JC: A new season of program is almost here! 4JC will begin Wednesday, September 15, 2021, following the community meal! 4JC will continue to meet at 6:30pm-7:30pm in the Family Life Center youth room. If you haven't done so, please register your middle schooler on livinglifereformed.org. Find the scrolling banner with the 4JC logo and click or tap the Google Forms registration button. We look forward to a great year living 4 Jesus Christ! For more information, please contact Robbie Morrison. Masks are optional.

THE FIRE: High Schoolers! The wait is almost over! The Fire will begin Wednesday, September 15, 2021, at 8:00pm in the Family Life Center youth room. Please feel free to arrive at 7:45pm and enjoy the open gym with games and music. We'll begin at 8:08 so don't be late! Program will end at 9:00pm followed by small groups which can last until 9:30pm. Be sure to register at livinglifereformed.org. Find the scrolling banner with the FIRE logo and click or tap the Google Forms registration button. We look forward to fanning the flame and reigniting The FIRE for Jesus Christ! For more information, please contact Robbie Morrison. Masks are optional.

September Events

Tuesdays	6:30pm	Prayer Gatherings
Wednesdays	5:30pm	Family Meals
	6:15pm	4JC's
	6:30pm	God's Kids Club
	7:45pm	The Fire
Fridays	6:00am	Men's Group at LLRC Youth Room

Mon, Sept 6		Labor Day (Office closed) NO SCHOOL!!!
Wed, Sept 8	1:30pm	Mary & Martha Circle
Sun, Sept 12	9:30pm	3 rd Grade Promotion Sunday
		Nomination letters in mailboxes
	7:00pm	Afterglow Bible Study
Mon, Sept 13	7:00pm	Consistory meeting
Wed, Sept 15	5:30pm	Family Nights Start
Mon, Sept 20	1:00pm	"IF" Meeting (Ilene Docter)
Fri, Sept 24		No School Norris
Mon, Sept 27		No School Norris
Wed-Sat Sept 29-Oct 2		Branson Trip



Wednesday Night Family Meals starting at 5:30 pm on September 15th

September 15: Grilled Burgers & Hotdogs, Baked Beans, Chips, Salad, Dessert

September 22: Chicken, Mashed potatoes/gravy, Corn, Roll, Salad, Dessert

September 29: Grilled pork loin, cheesy mashed potatoes, green beans, roll, salad, dessert

Looking for volunteers to work at Transformations Thrift Store,

which is associated with 'F' Street Church. There are a few of us that have been going up on Wednesday mornings, from 10-12am. We

would like to have more volunteers, so we could alternate weeks. If Wednesday does not work for you, that's ok, just let Tammy Goering know if you are interested in volunteering. If you have any questions, please contact Tammy at 402-217-0585.

Consistory Minutes August 9, 2021

Notes: July minutes and the church calendar were approved via email prior to August's consistory meeting.

Consistory Meeting

1. (Pastor Mark) Meeting opened with Devotions: Chapter 8 & 9 of "Comeback Churches": **John 17:21-23**.
1) Talked about small group experiences and what makes them effective. 2) How can we develop and implement a Grow Groups strategy? 3) One of the Strategy Projects for this coming year is to help first-time guests enter into a warmer, more welcoming place of worship. 4) What else encouraged, moved, or spurred you on from this chapter?
2. Prayer by Pastor Mark.
3. Mission Statement: 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'**. Discussed shortening the mission statement to make it more memorable to read: **"To Grow a Loving Community, Equipped to Take the Message of Jesus to Our World"**. MSC to amend mission statement to new, shorter version.
4. Our Discipleship Pathway is Worship – Grow – Serve – Share
Implementation Kickoff for the Strategy Projects August 25th from 7-10 pm.
5. Programming this Fall with new COVID strain looming. Tabled until program leaders can offer input.
6. Youth Update (Robbie). Youth group just returned from a successful Rocky Mountain High trip.
7. Team Updates

Congregational Care – Rick DeBoer and Doug Wieskamp

Discipleship/Education – Dean Hestermann and Ron DeBoer: Bible presentation for 3rd graders on September 12th.

Worship – Chad TerMaat and Taylor TeKolste

Building/Grounds – Chad Bryant and Luke Sieck:

Hospitality/Outreach – Andy Johnson and Dave Oltman - Church in the park on August 15th. Firth Bible Church will be assisting.

Great Commission Team – Tammy Goering and Glen Gana:

8. Treasurer's Report – (May) Taylor TeKolste

General Fund	\$69,980.57
Building Fund	\$21,184.32
Memorial Fund	\$12,182.61
Branson Fund	\$28,878.81
The Fire Account	\$10,993.51
4JC Account	\$3,015.00
Script Fund	\$(725.99)
White Earth Mission	\$3,483.00
Kitchen Fund	\$771.00

MSC August treasurer's report.

9. Future drama events (Doug W) – Discussed a potential drama event at church. Will be in consultation with the Drama Director.

Consistory Minutes August 9, 2021

10. Fall election process – Deacons will coordinate with Beth.
11. Reminder that Pastor Mark will be gone on August 22nd.
12. Baptism and bible presentation is planned for September 12th.
13. Any old business? Any new business.
14. Next consistory meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 13.
15. Snack – September (Tammy Goering)
16. Motion to adjourn. **MSC**
17. Prayer requests and Circle of Prayer

Elder's Meeting

- Discussed the spiritual care of the congregation.
- Discussed membership questions in preparation for the upcoming elections nominating ballot.
- Prayed for those in need of special care.

Deacons Meeting

New Business

- Issuing credit card for Robbie
- Will be asking for free will offerings at Church in the park this Sunday.
- Will be making payment of 10K towards building loan principal.

Leadership is Essential!!

Everybody should have their Nomination Ballots for Elders and Deacons on September 12th in your church mailboxes. Please read this information carefully and return your nominations to the ballot box in the narthex no later than **Sunday October 10th**. If you have any questions, please contact any deacons. The Congregational Meeting is **Sunday, November 14th** at approximately **10:45 am** after the morning worship service.

Budget Time is Here!

The Deacons are planning the 2022 Budget. Committee heads, please turn your 2022 proposed budget into Luke or Taylor by **September 30th**. In order for the Deacons to evaluate your budget proposal, please also turn in a short explanation of your budget request.

Birthdays

- 3 Kelsi Prange
- 4 Jiggs Maendele
- 6 Dave Rice
- 7 Alexis Bryant
- 9 Courtney Doeschot
Mel Harms
- 10 Keaton Anthony
- 11 Grant Egger
- 13 Brenda Rice
- 14 Jenn Childers
Scott Null
- 15 Brenda Carlow
Bruce Docter
- 18 Tyler Auman
Heather Riensche
Kelly Anderson
Ron DeBoer
Peg Reutzel
- 20 Candy Spellman
Marie Gouldin
- 21 Lena Hays
Sandy Nieveen
- 22 Elizabeth Hilkemann
Jamie DeBoer
Jason DeBoer
Connie Holen
- 23 Tammy Goering
- 24 Keith TenHulzen
- 25 Kristi Hulse
- 26 Ardith TeKolste
Haley Morrison
- 27 Shelbi Prange
- 28 Richard Spellman

SUNDAY HELPERS

Worship: Tammy, Dean, Ron
Deacons: Taylor, Andy, Luke, Chad

September 5:

Coffee: Bruce & Deb Docter
Power Point: Avyn Olson
Sound Tech: Taylor TeKolste
Church Lock-Up: Luke Sieck

September 12:

Coffee: Allan & Claudette Docter
Power Point: Beth Olson
Sound Tech: Taylor TeKolste
Church Lock-Up: Dave Oltman

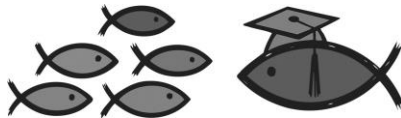
September 19:

Coffee: Allen & Marge Klein
Power Point: Tammy Goering
Sound Tech: Randy Sieck
Church Lock-Up: Chad Bryant

September 26:

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

Thank for your Service!



Mission Updates for September

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 September and October will go to the Lincoln People's City Mission.

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.

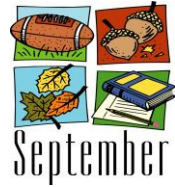
**Mary & Martha
Circle
Wednesday
September 8th
1:30pm**

Lesson – Marge
Helmink

Anniversaries

- 14 Chris & Laura Hilkemann (13)
- 23 Ron & Ardith TeKolste (67!)
- 24 Brad & Kristi Hulse (16)
- 26 Chad & Amy TerMaat (12)

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



Sunday Mornings

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

I HAVE SPOKEN THESE THINGS TO YOU,

THAT MY JOY

MAY REMAIN IN YOU, AND THAT

YOUR JOY

MAY BE MADE FULL.

JOHN 15:11

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

Website: livinglifereformed.org ● Facebook: [Living Life Reformed Church | Facebook](#)