



# October 2021

## OUR MISSION:

To grow a loving community, equipped to take the message Jesus to our world.

Church Family,

Over the years, I've enjoyed the writings of Lou Lotz, a pastor for many years in the RCA in New York, Iowa, and Michigan. In a recent article, Lou writes about what people actually look like in the church. He speaks in the shadow of the apostle Paul, who in 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 tells the believers in Corinth that "Not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth." As you read Lou's article below, I hope it reminds you of who you are in Christ. A treasure in an earthly vessel!

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In today's mail there was a slick brochure about a new church in town. The brochure is a montage of beautiful people. The teenage girl with a sweet smile. The handsome African American couple caught mid-laugh. Two giggling children, one black and one white, arms draped around each other's shoulders. They seem perfect, these people. Who wouldn't want to worship with them? But they are not real. They are models from stock images. They are picture-frame people, the impossibly good-looking people who come in the picture frame that you buy at the store.

If truth-in-advertising laws applied to church brochures, the montage would show "not many of you were wise...not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth." The disabled vet in the wheelchair. The elderly gentleman struggling to stay awake during the sermon. The whiney, squirming five-year-old. The off-key singer. The single mom who can't afford to tithe but does anyhow. These are not picture-perfect people; they are real people, reaching out to a real God.

God chooses the lowly, the humble, those with not rank, no clout. The Father stores his treasure in earthen vessels, not picture frames. Be thankful that you are numbered among the saints of God, but don't try to take any credit. God gets the credit!

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Give thanks today that you are numbered among the saints as a believer in Jesus.  
To God be the glory for all things,

Mark

## Sunday Volunteers

Worship Greeters: Tammy, Rick,  
Doug  
Deacons: Andy, Luke, Chad, Glen

### October 3:

Coffee: Dave & Suzie Oltman  
Power Point: Avyn Olson  
Sound Tech: Taylor TeKolste  
Church Lock-Up: Luke Sieck

### October 10:

Coffee: Scott & Jody Null  
Power Point: Beth Olson  
Sound Tech: Robbie Morrison  
Church Lock-Up: Dave Oltman

### October 17:

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

### October 24:

Coffee: DeAnne & Kendall Weber  
Power Point: Jenn Childers  
Sound Tech: Keith TenHulzen  
Church Lock-Up: Andy Johson

### October 31:

Coffee: Peg & Gary Hartgerink  
Power Point: Avyn Olson  
Sound Tech: Robbie Morrison  
Church Lock-Up: Glen Gana

Thank you for your service!!!

## Operation Christmas Child!

**Operation Christmas Child Mission** - We are quickly approaching the annual Operation Christmas Child mission project! This is a fun and simple way to share Christmas with a child in need, while also teaching your family the skill of giving. OCC is an easy mission project that you can participate in by bringing a gift-filled shoebox. LLRC will provide shoeboxes if you would like to participate. This year's national collection week is November 15th - 22nd, so we ask that all shoeboxes be filled and ready to send out by Sunday, November 21st. Please contact Beth Sieck or Robbie Morrison if you would like to start a shoebox now or for more information. Otherwise, stay tuned for further details and instructions towards the end of October.

Some ideas of items to pack 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, etc.
- Hygiene items: toothbrush, soap, comb, washcloth, etc.
- More: Sunglasses, wind-up flashlights, ball caps, socks, t-shirts, toy jewelry, hair clips, watches, small books, etc.
- NO Candy or Toothpaste in the boxes
- A Personal Note: You may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself or your family. (If you include your name and address, the child may write back.)

## Double Your Gift!

-For the rest of 2021, your generosity in paying for the Family Life Center will be doubled! An anonymous donor has promise to match any gift given to the Church Building Fund until the end of the year, up to \$50,000!

-Please designate your gift as going to the "Building Fund" and then know that it will be matched!

-If you are giving online, please let Kendall Weber know that it should be applied to the Building Fund.

-Thank you for your generosity and vision for this great facility and how it can be used by the community and in the ministry of our church!

# Consistory Minutes: September 13, 2021

## Consistory Meeting

1. Pastor Mark opened with our mission statement, discipleship pathway, and a devotional discussion on Renewed Leadership and Transformation. Vision Impact and Breakthroughs from the Malphurs group process were shared by Mark as one of many things that lead to our leadership being renewed by the Lord. 1 Samuel 30:6 was read, and the discussion closed with prayer.
2. Updates were received from our Strategic Leadership Team Projects:
  - Chad and Taylor-Worship God- Challenged members of their team to go to other churches to see how things work there. What's effective? /Whats in need of improvement? Looking into ways to improve our worship and first-time guest experience on Sunday mornings.
  - Rick, Charlene, Beth O and Beth S.-Grow in Community- Looking at how to connect people in small groups who aren't currently connected. Trying to improve relationships with each other and God. Make sure that anyone who wants to join a group will be able to. Handed out sign-up sheets in church.
  - Tammy, Dean, Charlotte, and Ron-Serve the Body-Want everyone to be involved in some type of service for the Church. Looking into identifying spiritual gifts and plug those people into the appropriate areas. Possibility of doing survey in the new membership classes.
  - Robbie, Jordan, Randy-Share with Our World-Mission to share the gospel around the world. Looking into improving our website and web presence. Looking at ways to plug people into community events. How can we be more effective? Considering a survey within our church and outside to better understand the needs of Firth and our community. Get data through survey to know what direction we need to focus on. Discussed possibly adding incentive (prize) for people to participate in the survey.
  - Doug prayed for the teams and their specific requests and Mark prayed for the leaders of the teams.
3. Discussed a proposed fundraiser for the Family Life Center Debt. An anonymous donor wants to encourage giving by matching gifts given to the Building Fund up to \$50,000 dollars from September 19<sup>th</sup> until the end of the year. The consistory approved this idea which will reduce the mortgage on the Family Life Center and we will begin advertising this to the congregation
4. Received an update from Robbie Morrison on his activities and plans for the Fire and 4JC in this new program year. Andy prayed for Robbie and family and their ministry.
5. Heard a few updates from our church teams:
  - Congregational Care—Doug & Rick-Mentioned some specific needs of the congregation.
  - Building & Grounds—Luke & Chad B.-Gave an update on a retaining wall project and discussions w/ the village. Will have more details next month.
  - Great Commission—Tammy & Glen-Currently assessing a ministry need in the community.

## Continued Minutes: September 13, 2021

6. Taylor presented the Treasurer's Report (August)—Seeking to reduce the building mortgage and Kendall is working through the process of how to make an \$11,000 payment with the RCA.

General Fund \$67,613.27

Memorial Fund \$12,182.61

The Fire Account \$10,090.51

Script Fund \$725.99

Kitchen Fund \$771

Building Fund \$23,754.32

Branson Fund \$32,312.81

4JC Account \$3,015

White Earth Mission \$3,483

### **MSC** August Treasurer's report

7. Sept/Oct Calendar Items **MSC** to approve the Calendar items
8. Noted that our Congregational Meeting is Sunday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> after church. Mark asked the consistory to share with him any items or ideas they wanted to be a part of that meeting in the days ahead.
9. Also noted that Pastor Mark will be on vacation Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> and Rick DeBoer is working on Pulpit  
Supply for those dates.
10. Next Consistory Meeting is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>
11. Snack--October – (Doug Wieskamp)
12. Motion to Adjourn. **MSC**
13. Prayer Requests & Circle of Prayer

### **Elder's Meeting**

- Discussed the spiritual care of the congregation
- Decided that Communion would be served Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup>
- Mentioned that the Church staff review process will begin this month
- Closed in prayer

### **Deacon's Meeting**

- Mentioned upcoming consistory nominations
- Discussed the budget audit
- Currently resubmitting an engineer report to the village for the landscaping project on the west side of the church
- Approved an estimate from Pickrell Lumber to relocate gutter downspouts on the west side of the building and repair windows in the Family Life Center
- Closing Prayer

**Please return your  
nominations for  
Deacons and Elders to  
the church by Sunday,  
October 10<sup>th</sup>.**

## **Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

# 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](http://christianbiblereference.org)

## Mission Updates for October

**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.



## Fall Cleanup to Be Announced for Mid-October

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.

# 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 give of 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?

We are thrilled to have 70 kids registered and more than 25 volunteers to make the nights successful! The fall GKC offering will be given to the Norris Area Food Pantry. We are looking forward to a craft night on October 13th. The 4JC youth will be lending a hand to help our younger crafters! We are grateful for Dani Rasser who has prepared the project for that evening.

## 4JC

4JC will continue to meet after the community meal on Wednesday evenings in the Family Life Center youth room starting at 6:30pm with snacks and drinks! 4JC ends at 7:30pm, so please plan rides accordingly. For future updates, events, and scheduled activities, please check LLRC's Facebook page for announcements. We hope to see your middle school students Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm! If you haven't done so, please register your middle school student at [livinglifereformed.org](http://livinglifereformed.org) (second scrolling banner).

## FIRE

The Fire will continue to meet on Wednesday nights in the Family Life Center youth room with snacks and drinks! Come early at 7:45pm to enjoy the open gym. The Fire will start in the youth room at 8:08, don't be late! Program will finish around 9pm followed by small groups. Small groups will end before 9:30pm. High Schoolers, invite your friends and please register at [livinglifereformed.org](http://livinglifereformed.org) (third scrolling banner) if you haven't done so! Hope to see you there!

## Parents of Youth and Congregational Sponsors

Nothing brings youth together like good snacks! One way to support our youth and youth programs is helping provide snacks! If you're interested in providing a weekly snack to the 4JC and FIRE programs, please contact Robbie Morrison for more information. Thank you!

# BIRTHDAYS

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

## Anniversaries

- 11 Jeff & Kari Gottwald (25)
- 17 Kendall & DeAnn Weber (40)
- 29 Jerry & Barb Martin (61!)



## Wednesday Night Family Meals starting at 5:30 pm

**October 6:** Grilled Pork Loin, cheesy mashed potatoes, green beans, salad, roll, dessert

**October 13:** Chili Dogs & Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Chips, Baked beans, salad, root beer floats

**October 20:** Pasta, garlic rolls, salad, dessert

**October 27:** Taco/Nacho Bar, Salad, Dessert

## Mary & Martha Circle

Wed, Oct. 13 1:30pm  
Lesson: Peg Reutzel



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS – October

<b>Tuesdays</b>	6:30pm	Prayer Gatherings
<b>Wednesdays</b>	5:30pm	Fellowship Meals
	6:30pm	4JC's
	6:30pm	God's Kids Club
	8:08pm	The Fire
<b>Fridays</b>	6:00am	Men's Group at LLRC Youth Room

<b>Sun, Oct 10</b>		Nomination Ballets due back!!!!
	7:00pm	Afterglow Bible Study
<b>Mon, Oct 11</b>	7:00pm	Consistory Meeting
	1:00pm	"IF" Meeting (Ilene Docter)
<b>Wed, Oct 13</b>	1:30pm	Mary & Martha Circle
<b>Thu-Fri, Oct 14-15</b>		NO SCHOOL
<b>Sat, Oct 30</b>	5:30pm	Trunk or Treat!!
<b>Sun, Oct 31</b>		Halloween



## 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 message 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 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:**

402-304-9049

Robbie.morrison@livinglifereformed.org

## **Join us on October 30 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 30, 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:** [Living Life Reformed Church | Facebook](#)