



# Living Life Reformed Church

## Informational Bulletin

### Epic Vocal Ensemble Presents

### “A Night of Wondrous Joy”

Please join us and the Epic Vocal Ensemble for “A Night of Wondrous Joy,” a Christmas musical celebration for the entire family! The concert will be held in the sanctuary, Sunday, December 5th, at 7 PM. This concert is free and open to the public with no ticket required. A free will offering will be collected at the doors and given to the EPIC (Every Person In Christ) ministry. Help us celebrate “A Night of Wondrous Joy!”

#### Double Your Gift!

- For the rest of 2021, your generosity in paying for the Family Life Center will be doubled! An anonymous donor has promised 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!

**Thank You for being SO generous!** Everyone did a wonderful job of helping with *Operation Christmas Child* this year! Also, thank you to Robbie for all his hard work. There were 54 boxes on Santa’s “plane” to be sent to kids around the world! Way to share your love!

**Consistory Update:** During our Congregational meeting we elected as Elders for 2022: Kendall Weber & Gary Hartgerink; and as Deacons: Brandon Cramer & Shawn Gouldin. We pray for God’s guidance for all our Consistory members. Thank you to Deacons: Chad Bryant and Glen Gana, and Elders: Rick DeBoer and Tammy Goering for your service these past three years. Your leadership will be missed!!

**Information/Financial Reports** from the Congregational meeting are available on the narthex table if you didn’t get one at the meeting.

**The Advent Wreath:** The Advent wreath is made up of two basic parts: the wreath itself and the candles. The wreath is made of evergreen, either real or artificial. The circular shape represents eternity, for it has no beginning and no end. The evergreen was chosen as it symbolizes growth and everlasting life. There are four candles, three purple and one pink. They represent the four weeks of preparation. As another candle is lit each week, we are reminded of the growing light of Christ’s presence. **The meaning of the candles is:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday, Purple candle: Represents HOPE
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, Purple candle: Represents PEACE
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, Purple candle: Stands for JOY
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Pink candle: Is a symbol of LOVE

The white candle in the center of the wreath is the Christ candle. It is white to represent purity and it is lit with the other four candles on Christmas Day (or Christmas Eve) to remind us that Christ has come as the light of the world. - from [rca.org](http://rca.org).

Sign up on the table in the fellowship hall to light candles on December 24<sup>th</sup>. Talk to Pastor Mark for details.

**Newsletter:** The December newsletter was emailed to you this week. The deadline for the January newsletter is on Monday, December 27<sup>th</sup>. Please be sure to get information to Beth as soon as possible. The newsletter will be mailed or emailed to you the week of January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022!

**Family Meals & God’s Kids Club!** Every Wednesday family meals begin at 5:30pm. GKC meets from 6:30 to 7:30 pm.

**4JC & The Fire!!** Every Wednesday the 4JC & The Fire will meet at LLRC. The 4JC will meet from 6:30-7:30 pm in the Family Life Center youth room. The Fire will be meeting from 8:08-9 pm. The west doors will be open by 7:45 pm if you want to come early

**GKC Christmas Program!!** We would love to see our church family on Wednesday, December 15 at 7 p.m. as the children present, "A Baby in Bethlehem."

**Meal Train for the Doeschot Family!!** We would like to provide meals for the family through the month of December. There is a poster with a QR code that you can sign up for meals on the table in the fellowship hall or QR code below. If you have questions, please see Beth Sieck at 402-480-0079 and she would be glad to help you.



For:

**The Doeschot Family**

**Visit this link or scan the QR Code:**

**[mealtrain.com/2v6wk7](https://mealtrain.com/2v6wk7)**



**We continue to pray** Thad Lienemann, F Street & Transformations Thrift Store, Courtney & Breck Doeschot, Doug Goering, Bill Wieskamp Lynn Gana, Beth & Alex Olson (Alex's Aunt), Jeff Morrison, Everson Walvoord, and Sally Jennings.

**Directory Updates:** Everyone was emailed updated forms for next year's church directory. Please check your 2021 directory or see Beth to review and update your information and email [church@livinglifereformed.org](mailto:church@livinglifereformed.org) back by Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022. If you would like to be added to the 2022 directory – please see Beth and she will get you a form to fill out by email or paper copy!

**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 typically have cards for Hy-Vee, Super Saver and Wal-Mart/Sam's Club, but check the Scrip Card table in the Fellowship Hall or <https://shop.shopwithscrip.com/shop/product/browse> for a list of over 600 available merchants! Get those orders in for cards that make great gifts by December 5th, 2021, to receive them by Christmas! 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 November & December go to the Norris Area Food Pantry.

### **Giving Options!**

Don't forget to contribute so that God's vision and ministry can continue in the days ahead. There are numerous ways to give financially. You could:

- 1) Drop your gift in the offering plate by the door on Sundays.
- 2) Signup to give through an automatic withdrawal (ACH) from your Farmers & Merchants Firth Account—talk to Kendall Weber (402-430-0348) if you would like to start this. The form needs to be emailed or mailed to Kendall for him to submit to the bank.
- 3) Check out the online giving options through our church website at [livinglifereformed.churchcenter.com/giving](https://livinglifereformed.churchcenter.com/giving) This is a secure site with an easy set-up process.
- 4) "Or Text to Give": All you must do is text any dollar amount (example: \$20) to "84321" to give. There will be a quick set-up process needed that will tie your mobile phone to LLRC, your donation account (for year-end giving statements), and a payment source. After that initial setup, giving is as easy as sending a text message!

If you have questions about the online giving or text giving, contact Taylor at 402-450-4446.

| <b><u>Offering</u></b> | <b><u>Nov 14</u></b> | <b><u>YTD</u></b> | <b><u>Budget Needs (48 Weeks)</u></b> |
|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Offering               | \$3,745              | \$317,940         | \$336,912(7019 x 48)                  |
| SS                     |                      |                   | Norris Backpack Program               |
| Building Loan:         | \$585,289            |                   |                                       |

## The Preparatory Service

Leader: Dear Family of God, in response to the directions of Jesus, we plan to celebrate the Lord's Supper next Sunday morning.

**Congregation: That we may celebrate the Lord's Supper properly, it is necessary that we examine ourselves. Because of our sinfulness before our loving and just Heavenly Father, we come in penitence and humility before Him. With all our hearts, we believe that our sins are forgiven only by the death of Jesus on the cross, and that His perfect righteousness is freely given to us, just as though we had been perfectly obedient ourselves.**

L: Father, our sincere intentions are to express thanksgiving to You in the totality of our lives; to walk in loving obedience before You; and to live in love and peace with our neighbor.

**C: Since these are our intentions, Father, we are sure that you will receive us in mercy and consider us worthy partakers at the table of Your Son, Jesus Christ. But according to the command of Jesus through the Apostle Paul, if we are continuing in unrepented sin, we will keep ourselves from the Lord's Table.**

L: Remember, dear Family of God, this command is not intended to distress the contrite hearts of God's people as if none of us could come to the Lord's Table unless we were without sin. We do not come to the Lord's Table to proclaim that we are righteous in ourselves; but to proclaim that we are conscious of our sinfulness and are trusting in Jesus Christ alone for our salvation.

**C: We do not feel that our faith is as strong as it should be. We do not serve God with as much enthusiasm as we should. Daily we must fight against weakness of faith and fleshly temptations. We are, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, sorry for these weaknesses and sincerely desire to fight against them and be fully obedient to Jesus. Then we are at peace to believe that no sin or weakness which still remains against our will in us, can hinder us from being received of God in mercy and from being made worthy partakers of His heavenly food.**

L: That we may now confess our sins before our loving and almighty God, let us come humbly and penitently before Him. Let us pray:

**UNISON: O Eternal God and most gracious Father, we come humbly and penitently before You. We confess that we have often and deeply sinned and rebelled against You. In judgment we would deserve nothing but eternal death. We are not worthy to be called Your "Family", nor to come so freely to You in prayer. But Father, we trust in Your eternal love and mercy in Jesus, the Lamb of God. We plead Your forgiveness, not at all on our own merit, but totally for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord, Your Son, and our Savior. AMEN!**



# Living Life Reformed

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## CHURCH

### Zechariah: A Song of Hope and Faith

#### Understanding God and our Silence

- 1) God is \_\_\_\_\_ in Our Silence
- 2) God Will \_\_\_\_\_ the Silence
- 3) God Wants Us to \_\_\_\_\_ in the Silence

#### For Further Thought or Discussion

- 1) Think or share about a time in your life when God seemed silent. How long did it seem that God was silent?
- 2) God was “silent” for 400 years between the Old Testament and New Testament. What does this tell you about God’s sense of timing as compared to most people?
- 3) What did you learn God was up to in this 400 year “silent” period?
- 4) How can silence be good for you?
- 5) What can you be sure of in times when God seems silent?
- 6) What other applications or action steps could you take from this week’s message?