



# March 2022

## OUR MISSION:

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

Dear Church Family,

As we observe the season of Lent this month, I have recalled how meaningful this time of year can be and have learned things about it along the way! I wanted to share with you what I think are the most common questions asked about Lent and some of the concise answers I've discovered. Enjoy this summary and this time of preparation, knowing that we will soon celebrate the resurrection of our Lord together!

In His Love,  
Mark

**What is Lent?** Lent is the forty-day-long liturgical season of fasting and prayer before Easter.

**What is the purpose of Lent?** The purpose of Lent is the preparation of the believer through prayer, penitence, almsgiving (charitable acts) and self-denial-for the annual commemoration during Holy Week of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus, which recalls the events linked to the Passion of Christ and culminates in Easter, the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**Why do people sometimes give up things for Lent?** Lent is about conversion, turning our lives more completely over to Christ and his way of life. That always involves giving up sin in some form. The goal is not just to abstain from sin for the duration of Lent but to root sin out of our lives forever. Conversion means leaving behind an old way of living and acting in order to embrace new life in Christ.

**Why do some churches apply ashes on Ash Wednesday?** Ashes are an ancient symbol of repentance (sackcloth and ashes). They also remind us of our mortality ("remember that you are dust") and thus of the day when we will stand before God and be judged. To prepare well for the day we die, we must die now to sin and rise to new life in Christ. Being marked with ashes at the beginning of Lent indicates our recognition of the need for deeper conversion of our lives during this season of renewal.

**When does Lent begin and end?** Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends just before the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday—although most Protestant churches recognize Lent ending on Easter Sunday.

**Are Sundays part of Lent?** Technically, Sundays are not part of Lent. Although we celebrate them liturgically as part of Lent, the Lord's Day cannot be a day of fast and abstinence. Six weeks of Monday through Saturday gives you 36 days. If you add to them Ash Wednesday and the three days after it, you get the 40 days of Lent. Some people may find it easier to "give up" something for the entire time between Ash Wednesday and Easter, but you are correct in saying that Sundays are not part of the 40 days.

**What does the word Lent mean?** It is derived from an Anglo-Saxon word which means "spring"!

## Sunday Volunteers

Worship: Kendall, Gary, Ron  
Deacons: Taylor, Andy, Luke,  
Brandon

### March 6:

Coffee: Dani & Luke Rasser  
PowerPoint: Myra Carlow  
Sound Tech: Taylor TeKolste

### March 13:

Daylight Savings Time  
Coffee: Peg & Gary Hartgerink  
PowerPoint: Avyn Olson  
Sound Tech: Robbie Morrison

### March 20:

Coffee: Mel & Karen Harms  
PowerPoint: Tammy Goering  
Sound Tech: Randy Sieck

### March 27:

Coffee: Bruce & Deb Docter  
PowerPoint: Jenn Childers  
Sound Tech: Keith TenHulzen

*Thank you for your service!!*

## Birthdays

- 1 Wade Holen
- 2 Sarah Lefferdink
- 3 Drake Bryant  
Dean Hestermann  
Tracy Riensche
- 6 Carol DeBoer
- 7 Raegan Cramer
- 10 Hudson Brock
- 12 Jeff Morrison
- 14 Kathy Null
- 18 Marian Mulder
- 19 Kim Spencer
- 20 Suzie Oltman  
Leah TeKolste
- 21 Jody Null  
Mel Maendele
- 24 Annali Hays
- 28 Brett Wieskamp
- 30 Andy Johnson
- 31 Stephanie Auman  
Jim Price

## Anniversaries

- 5 Dennis & Sheila Ebbers (46)  
20 Rod & Mary Jean TeKolste (41)  
28 James & Judeen Price (52)  
29 Brandon & Mandy Cramer (14)  
31 Allan & Claudette Docter (63)

### Mary & Martha Circle

**Wednesday, March 9, 1:30 pm**

Lesson: Ilene Docter

### Family Life Center!!!

If you would like to use the Family Life Center or the church facility, please contact Beth first to see if it is available. We will need everyone to sign new policies for gym usage for 2022. You can call or text Beth at 402-480-0079. Please leave your name if you get my voicemail. Thank you!!



We are excited to have children's Church on Sunday's. Children ages 3 years and up will be dismissed after our worship music and prayer time. The new children's church will be taking an offering for Norris Backpack Program. Please contact Ron DeBoer if you have any questions. Thank

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS – March

<b>Tuesdays</b>	6:30pm	Prayer Gathering
<b>Wednesdays</b>	5:30pm	Fellowship Meal
	6:15pm	4JC's
	6:30pm	GKC, Women's Bible Study
	7:45pm	The Fire
<b>Fridays</b>	6:00am	Friday Men @ LLRC

<b>Mon-March 7</b>	1:00pm	"IF" Meeting
<b>Tue, March 8</b>	7:00pm	Consistory Meeting
<b>Wed, March 9</b>	1:30pm	Mary & Martha Circle
<b>Fri, March 11</b>		No School at Norris
<b>Sun, March 13</b>		<b>Daylight Savings Time begins</b>
	7:00pm	Afterglow Bible Study
<b>Wed, March 16</b>	5:30pm	<b>Last Family Meal and GKC</b>
<b>Mon-March 28</b>	1:00pm	"IF" Meeting

# Consistory Minutes – February 8, 2022

**Notes:** January minutes and March Calendar items were approved via email prior to February's consistory meeting.

## Consistory Meeting

1. (Pastor Mark) The meeting opened with Devotions: Watched a video from Craig Groeschel which spoke about Empowerment and its importance in leadership. Clear communication and genuine trust are two important factors when empowering others to lead.
2. Prayer by Pastor Mark.
3. Mission Statement: Reaffirmed our mission statement: **“To grow a loving community, equipped to take the message of Jesus to our world”**. Discussed the Discipleship Pathway: **Worship – Grow – Serve – Share**. We discussed ways in which we've seen the Pathway in action in our church
4. Strategic Leadership Team Project Updates
  - **Worship:** Ordered new carafe coffee makers. Working on announcements idea that will run announcements on screen prior to Sunday service. Working on new info/connection cards.
  - **Share:** 70 or so responses thus far from the survey. Will keep open until March
  - **Serve:** Created spreadsheet with service/volunteer opportunities and those in those current roles. SHAPE Sermon series is now underway.
  - **Grow:** New small groups started
5. Youth and Media Update (Robbie):
  - a. 4JC finishing a series called “Marvel” speaking about the Gospel and how Jesus performed miracles.
  - b. The Fire is exploring the book of Revelation.
  - c. Planning for Immerse, which is a summer mission project for middle and high schoolers from July 19-24. We will be partnering with Hope Church. The focus will be involvement in the Lincoln community.
  - d. Preparing for Power Connection this summer for middle schoolers.
  - e. Mentoring class has started with 4 members.
  - f. Discussed making sure we are not overlapping our youth activities/events with Chet's activities/events and other ways in which we can support his ministry.

Continued.....

# Consistory Minutes-February 8, 2022

## 6. Team Updates

Mark will be chatting with Scott from the Malphurs group on how we can possibly integrate our Discipleship Pathway into our current Consistory Teams so that we are not duplicating efforts and so that our Pathway is setup for consistory involvement for the future.

**Congregational Care** (Doug Wieskamp and Shawn Gouldin)

**Discipleship/Education** (Ron DeBoer and Dean Hestermann): Our VBS program will be partnering with Firth Bible again this summer

**Worship** (Chad TerMaat and Taylor TeKolste): see SLT Worship project updates. Also discussed the YouTube livestream audio quality and cleaning up/archiving the previous YouTube service videos.

**Building/Grounds** (Luke Sieck and Kendall Weber): Installing security cameras in the Family Life Center.

**Hospitality/Outreach** (Andy Johnson and Brandon Cramer): Planning for upcoming movie series in the gym that is focused on Bible characters. Sunday night, February 27<sup>th</sup> will be the first movie. There will be a free-will offering. Refreshments will be served.

**Great Commission Team** (Gary Hartgerink and Dave Oltman)

## 7. Answered the RCA consistory annual classis questions.

## 8. Budget discussion and approval: January's treasurer's report

## 9. Other business:

- a. Approved a request from Dale Assink to speak to the consistory in April's meeting.
- b. Mark and Monica are planning a trip to Sweden at the end of March/beginning of April. Pulpit supply is already being planned for March 27<sup>th</sup> and April 3<sup>rd</sup>. The consistory hopes that Mark will bring them Swedish chocolate upon his return.
- c. Discussed monthly meeting times. We will keep the meeting time at 6pm for now on the second Tuesday of the month.
  - i. Next Meeting is March 8<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm.

## 10. Closed with prayer requests and a circle of prayer

**Elder's Meeting:** Mark, Ron, Doug, Chad, Kendall, Gary

- Discussed and prayed for those in need of care in our church family.
- Approved a request for baptism from Breck and Courtney Doeschot.
- Discussed Membership Roll questions and RCA Classis questions for the Elders.
- Scheduled Communion for February 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Deacons Meeting:** Luke, Dave, Brandon, Andy

- Approved disbursing a principal payment from the building match fund in the amount of \$166,000.
- Discussed spring landscaping project and repair of the fence at the parsonage.
- Discussed the installation of security cameras in the Family Life Center.

# God's Kids Club

The children completed a service project in February, creating works of art on brown lunch sacks to brighten the day of individuals who receive Meals on Wheels. Following our last evening of GKC, we will donate the offering collected throughout the year to the Norris Area Food Pantry.

GKC has gone by so quickly, March 16 will be our final night for the year. We are planning to have a celebration night with games, art, and snacks for the kids. We are so thankful that you have shared your kids with us on Wednesday nights and looking forward to seeing them again in the fall!

March 16th will be the last Wednesday for the community meal. Thank you to the kitchen crew who gave countless hours providing all of us a hot meal!

We would appreciate your prayer support, asking that we can end strong, with faithful attendance, and open hearts to God's leading!

## **The Chili Cook-Off Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 5:30-7:30 pm**

Join us for our annual Chili Cook-Off. We'll be serving the contestants homemade chili, chicken noodle soup, and cinnamon rolls. A free-will offering will be accepted and go towards 4JC and future youth missions.

### **Chili Cook-Off Registration**

Do you have a tasty chili recipe? Enter the Chili Cook-Off for a chance to win this year's best-voted chili. The contest entry is free and open to everyone! Just sign up and make some delicious chili for Wednesday, March 23rd at 6 pm. If you are interested in signing up for the Chili Cook-Off or would like more information about this event, please contact Robbie Morrison or Beth Sieck. Otherwise, register at <https://forms.gle/c9GUvAUh1UdDfgj67> or scan the QR code with your smartphone.



**CHILI COOK-OFF  
REGISTRATION**



## **4JC & FIRE**

4JC & The Fire will continue through the month of March and April every Wednesday! 4JC will meet from 6:30-7:30 pm in the Family Life Center youth room. The Fire will also meet in the same spot from 8:00-9:30 pm. We hope to see your youth there!

### **Meals for 4JC**

The community meal and GKC ends Wednesday, March 16th, but 4JC and the Fire will continue until May! Nothing brings youth together like food does! We're looking for youth parents and the congregation to help support meals on Wednesday night for 4JC at 6:30 pm in the Family Life Center kitchen. If you're interested in providing a meal for 4JC through the month of April, please contact Robbie Morrison for more information. Thank you!

### **Power Connection 2022 for Middle Schoolers!**

Attention middle school parents! Our youth have an incredible opportunity for the Holy Spirit to transform their beliefs into a lifestyle of faith in Jesus through a weekend conference in St. Paul, MN July 29th - 31st! Don't let your youth miss this chance to attend Power Connection 2022! Power Connection is an event for middle school students currently in grades 6th - 8th and their adult leaders. It is organized by the Synod of the Heartland Youth Ministries. Registration opens in January, so you have plenty of time to arrange for this opportunity! For more information about Power Connection 2022, please visit [www.powerconnectioninfo.com](http://www.powerconnectioninfo.com) or contact Youth Pastor Robbie.

#### **4JC and The Fire January Wednesday Schedule:**

Wednesday, March 2 - Regular lesson night  
Wednesday, March 9 - Regular lesson night  
Wednesday, March 16 - Regular lesson night  
Wednesday, March 23- Chili Cook-Off  
Wednesday, March 30 - Regular lesson night

#### **Wednesday Family Night Meal Menu**

**March 2:** Chili Dogs, Sloppy Joes, Cheesy Mashed Potatoes, Salad, Dessert

**March 9:** Chicken, Mash Potatoes/Gravy, Corn, Salad, Rolls, Dessert

**March 16:** Grilled burgers/hot dogs, baked beans, chips, salad, rolls, dessert

# Lent

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

All the words listed below are in the puzzle – left, right, up, down or diagonally. Find each word and circle it.

- Ascension
- Butterfly
- Calvary
- Crosses
- Crucified
- Easter
- Everlasting
- Forgiveness
- Gethsemane
- Good Friday
- Jerusalem
- Jesus
- Last Supper
- Lent
- Linens
- Maundy Thursday
- Miracles
- Palm Sunday
- Repentance
- Resurrection
- Rose Again
- Stone
- Transformation
- Triumphant

## Mission Updates for March

**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. 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 March and April of 2022 will go to the Parent Life Ministry.

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

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



### **Wednesday Night**

**5:30-6:30pm:**

Fellowship Meal  
(Ends on March 16<sup>th</sup>)

**6:30-7:30pm:**

4JC's (Middle School)

**6:30-7:30pm:**

God's Kids Club  
(Ends on March 16<sup>th</sup>)

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

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

BE  
joyful  
IN HOPE  
patient  
IN AFFLICTION  
faithful  
IN PRAYER  
- ROMANS 12:12