



July 2022

OUR MISSION:

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

Dear Church Family,

I was asked recently to write about a “ministry metaphor” that captures my understanding and experience of being a minister most recently. While I wanted to choose something like a shepherd or a clay pot, I thought a better metaphor is the “refiner’s fire” as described by passages like 1 Peter 1:6-7. The apostle Peter in that passage says: “In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

I chose the refiner’s fire as my metaphor because I have endured a number of trials in the past two years and I have been walking through a season of refining or change both internally and now externally. Though the trials or the “fires” of this past season have been hard to endure, my prayer has been that they would indeed refine me into something better like a refiner’s fire is meant to do.

I think a refiner’s fire is a good metaphor for me because when you are near a hot fire, a natural response is to get away or leave. For the past two years, I have wanted to walk away from the heat and strain of my position but knew that I needed to stay in the “fire.” Like gold or silver in the refiner’s hand, I’ve felt like God has had me in His hand, calling me to trust Him in this difficult, refining process. The Refiner knows how hot the fire should be and how long to keep the metal in it. If the metal does not remain in the fire or stay in it long enough, it will not have its impurities burnt away and cannot reach the level of purity or holiness that is desired by the Refiner. Trials can often reveal our inner self, including our impurities and give us an opportunity to repent of our sin and selfish longings and change us.

How does the Refiner know that His refining work is done? I’m told that His work is done when the Refiner can see His own reflection clearly in the metal. In the same way, God can use our difficulties to remove the things that keep others from seeing His reflection in us. He is in a process of making us more Christ-like. What a great analogy for what God can use our trials to do in our lives.

This metaphor guides and helps me in a number of ways. First, it encourages me to remember that I am in the Refiner’s hand and that His purposes and my hope and inheritance in Him are reasons to rejoice in any trial or season. Second, it helps me to recognize the value of trials and difficult situations. And thirdly, I am reminded to persevere and remain steadfast as I picture the Refiner and His fire. His fire is not meant for destruction but for my good. Persevere and see where the Refiner’s road leads.

Unfortunately, unlike metal, my refining process doesn’t come to an end. At least not in this life. I wish there was a point at which I was fully refined and declared perfect and therefore, no longer needed any more refinement. The analogy certainly breaks down at this point, but Scripture encourages me to think long term to the Day of the Lord when all things will be made right. When sin and death is vanquished and the believers in Jesus will be given new bodies. These perfect, glorious bodies will no longer need a process of refinement. But until then, I must make sure that I remain in the Refiner’s hands and trust his refining process in my life!

In His Love,
Mark

Mission Updates for July



RaiseRight™

Formerly ShopWithScrip

For those of you not familiar with the Scrip program the name has changed to Raise Right. 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. They also have a new mobile app. 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 <http://www.raiseright.com/brands> for a list of over 600 available merchants! 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 go to the Norris Backpack Program.

RightNow Media

Our church has access to an extensive video library called RightNow Media! It's like the "Netflix of Video Bible Studies" and has a HUGE library of faith-based videos that you can access whenever and wherever you want—on your phone, iPad, computer, or at home on your TV. Our church is always looking for ways to help you develop and strengthen your faith. We believe that RightNow Media will be a tool to serve you as you live out your faith at home, at work and in your neighborhood. RightNow Media has videos for everyone—kids, youth, parents, married couples, college students, single adults, working professionals—all aimed at helping you grow. If you would like access to this resource (for the first time or you forgot your old password), let Beth or P. Mark know what email to send an invitation to. Once you find the email, simply click the link, sign up for an account, and you're all set to explore more than 12,000 videos. We pray that RightNow Media will be a blessing for you and your family!



Sunday Volunteers

Elders: Gary, Doug, Dean

Deacons: Shawn, Dave, Taylor,
Andy

July 3:

Coffee: Linda D. & Pearl W.

PowerPoint: Avyn Olson

Sound Tech: Randy Sieck

July 10:

Coffee: Dani & Luke Rasser

PowerPoint: Beth Olson

Sound Tech: Keith TenHulzen

July 17:

Coffee: Bruce & Deb Docter

PowerPoint: Tammy Goering

Sound Tech: Taylor TeKolste

July 24:

Coffee: Nikki & Brandon Oltman

PowerPoint: Jenn Childers

Sound Tech: Keith TenHulzen

July 31:

Coffee: Linda D & Pearl W.

PowerPoint: Jenn Childers

Sound Tech: Randy Sieck

Mowing

June 19-July 2: Brandon Cramer
Nathan Stuckendyer

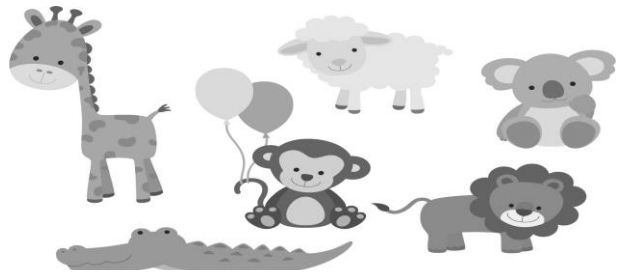
July 3-July 16: Rick DeBoer
Mark TenHulzen

July 17-July 30 Doug Nieveen
Tony Noble

Thank you for Service!

Mary & Martha Circle Wednesday, July 13

**Lesson:
Bonnie
Walvoord**



Nursery is open!!!

We are looking for volunteers to help during morning worship for the kids that are not old enough for children's church or just want to come and play in the nursery. There will be a signup sheet in the fellowship hall on the table if you are interested. Any questions please contact Beth Sieck at 402-480-0079 or Lesa Morrison at 402-440-8399.



Branson Trip! There is STILL ROOM on the bus to Branson! Please consider going with us on November 15-18, 2022. Pick up information on the table in the narthex or see Linda DeBoer, Kathy Carlow, or Ilene Docter if you have any questions. It's always a great time of entertainment, laughter, and fellowship.

God Bless America



Consistory Minutes - June 14, 2022

Consistory Meeting

The meeting opened with devotions from A new devotional (Growing Up: A Lifelong Journey, **Conversation One: A Growing Person (p. 7-18)**). Pastor Mark prayed.

- 1) We reviewed the LLRC Mission Statement and Discipleship Pathway:
"To grow a loving community, equipped to take the message of Jesus to our world"
Discipleship Pathway: **Worship**→**Grow**→**Serve**→**Share**
- 2) Ron DeBoer had no new updates from the Strategic Leadership Team
- 3) Scott Ball was here **June 3rd** and **June 4th** for a great discussion with Consistory and Strategic Leadership team members.

Worship (God)

- 1) Robbie gave some media updates--The new TV in the Fellowship Hall is up and running.
- 2) Robbie is working on a new Church website and working with an organization called Church Marketing University (CMU) for some ideas for the website.
- 3) The April Treasurer's Report Summary was approved.

Grow (In Community)

- 1) Four high school students will be helping with Children's Church in July, and August with two helpers each Sunday.
 - 1) Youth Update (Robbie)
 - a. Hosted a great Corn Hole tournament here at church w/Campus Life and Chet M.
 - b. Established a schedule for High Schoolers to help with Children's Church thru August 6th.
 - c. Power Connection Trip – 7 students and one student leader are attending. 10 people total.

Consistory Minutes - Continued

Serve (The Body)

- 1) The Congregational Care team is visiting people with special needs or in care facilities

Share (With Our World)

- 1) "Jonah" movie will be shown June 26th. Sunday, August 14th will be the date for "Moses"

Other Items

- 1) Next meeting—July 12th at 7:00pm Devotions: *Growing Up: Conversation Two*
- 2) Snacks –July--Taylor
- 3) Motion to Adjourn and Closing Circle of Prayer

Elder's Meeting

- 1) Discussed the Spiritual Life of the Congregation

Deacon's Meeting

- 1) Old Business
 - a. No Old business discussed
- 2) New Business
 - a. Discussed the Pulpit supply and options for the future.



Family Movie Night at LLRC

Sunday, August 14th

"Moses" starts at 6 pm

A theatrical Production by Sight and Sound Theatre

Movie for the Kids in the Youth Room

Free Admission-Popcorn and Beverage Provided

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

The Golden Rule

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!**

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| Blessings | Coat |
| Commandment | Curses |
| Disciples | Do Good |
| Father | Followers |
| Forgive | Friendship |
| Golden Rule | Jesus |
| Kindness | Luke |
| Mark | Mercy |
| Money | Most High God |
| Needy | New |
| Command | |
| Numbers | Others |
| People | Perfect |
| Persecute | Plank |
| Poor | Praise |
| Pray | Receive |
| Reward | Shirt |
| Sinners | Sons of God |
| Speak | Thankful |
| Virtue | Warnings |



Summer Office Hours

This summer, the church office is open daily, but the hours may vary. If you plan to make a trip to the church, please call first – it is summer, and our schedules vary due to family activities. And remember, you can always call or email and leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as we can. Thank you!

Children's Church

For children ages, 3 years and up will be dismissed after our worship music and prayer time. Thank you.

Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|
| 2 | Brittany Hart | 19 | Merritt Koehn |
| 3 | Lainey Johnson | 20 | Sarah DeBoer |
| 4 | Myra Carlow
Amy TerMaat | 22 | Phyllis Weber
Merritt Koehn |
| 7 | Brad Hulse | 24 | Charlene TenHulzen |
| 10 | Glen Gana
Chad TerMaat
Nikki Oltman | 25 | Lori Prange |
| 13 | Kathy Carlow | 26 | Kathy Atterbury |
| 17 | Jana Becher | 27 | Bonnie Walvoord |
| 18 | Mary Ann Doeschot
Sandra Wedding | 29 | Jill Finke |
| | | 31 | Avyn Olson
Steve Childers
Gary Lefferdink |

Anniversaries

- | | |
|----|--|
| 6 | Ashton & Samantha Henderson (10) |
| 18 | Doug & Patti Wieskamp (42) |
| 19 | Bill & Diane Wieskamp (36) |
| 22 | Merritt & Judy Koehn (5) |
| 24 | Will & Jordan Hays (12) |
| 30 | Jeff & Kristina Morrison (28)
Clark & Charlotte Mulder (46) |
| 31 | Andy & Lainey Johnson (12) |

CALENDAR OF EVENTS – July

Sundays	9:30am	Morning Worship
Tuesdays	6:30pm	Prayer Gathering
Fridays	6:00am	Men's Group at LLRC

Mon, July 4		Independence Day
Tues, July 12	7:00pm	Consistory Meeting
Mon, July 18	1:00pm	"IF" Meeting (Ilene Docter)
Fri-Sun July 29-31		Power Connection



The Norris Area Food Pantry will be open every Saturday until noon. No appointment is necessary. The pantry is located at Shepherd of the Hills Church South of Hickman. The first two Saturdays have been successful and the pantry could use a restock!! For the next couple of weeks, let us help them restock the pantry for the rest of the summer. Any questions contact Sara Bartek by text at 402-432-5873. Thank you!!!

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



Sunday Morning

9:30-10:30am:
Worship Service

Livestream on YouTube

To Contact Us:

Church Office Hours:

9:00am-12:00pm

Mark Starr:

320-262-9952
mark@livinglifereformed.org

Robbie Morrison:

402-304-8399
Robbie.morrison@livinglifereformed.org



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