



Living Life Reformed Church

May 2023

OUR MISSION: To grow a loving community, equipped to take the message of Jesus to our world.

If You Don't, Who Will?

By Pastor Nat Crawford

"That's not my patient; therefore, that's not my job."

Those are the words I heard from a doctor as he passed by a patient's room asking for help.

I was shocked. I could see the nurse was upset by this response. But this doctor reminds me of many Christians today regarding evangelism.

Many Christians today think, "Evangelism? That's not my gift. Therefore that's not my job."

But is this posture biblical? No. Every one of us is to do the work of an evangelist...even if we don't have the gift.

Now, I'm not going to go into the how of outreach. In my next article, I will. But today, I want us to consider why outreach is essential for every Christian.

God's calling is a privilege. That's why Paul writes in Romans 10, "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved."

¹⁴ But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? *And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?* ¹⁵ And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!"

I'm going to shock you, but God doesn't need you. However, God desires you. He desires you to be part of His salvation process. It's a privilege that God uses us to reach the lost. But it's empowering to know that God's Word – His gospel is the power of salvation (Rom. 1:16).

God's Word is the power. We are not. That gives me great hope and freedom from the fear of outreach.

God's Word is the power. Paul reminds us in Romans 10 that everyone who calls on Jesus for salvation can receive it. But unless the Word is delivered, they are without hope.

In the book of Jonah, God called Jonah to preach to a wicked nation. Jonah ran the other way and then abandoned the ship. But after careful discipline, Jonah went to Nineveh and delivered just five Hebrew words, and the people repented.

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Daily Devotions with Pastor Nat

This QR code will take you to Pastor Nat's devotions on the *Back to the Bible* website. Already have a daily devotional? Can you have too many?!

SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

Deacons: Luke, Brandon, Shawn, Brett

May 7:

Elder: Kendall Weber
Greeters: Alex & Beth Olson
Coffee: Dani & Luke Rasser
PowerPoint: Tony Noble
Video: Ethan/Matthew Sieck
Sound Tech: Taylor TeKolste
Nursery: Leah T & Courtney D
SS 3-6years: Dani R & **Helper**
SS 1st-5th Grade: Ron D & Dean H

May 14: (Mother's Day)

Elder: Ron DeBoer
Greeter: Rod TeKolste
Coffee: Jared & Brenda Brock
PowerPoint: Avyn Olson
Video: Beth Olson
Sound Tech: Robbie Morrison
Nursery: Sam & Ashton Henderson
SS 3-6years: Tammy G & **Helper**
SS 1st-5th Grade: Ron D & Dean H

May 21: (Norris Graduation)

Elder: Bruce Docter
Greeter: Mark Atterbury
Coffee: Bill & Diane Wieskamp
PowerPoint: Tammy Goering
Video: Robbie Morrison
Sound Tech: Keith TenHulzen
Nursery: Beth Sieck & **Helper**
SS 3-6years: Dawnelle & Brent D
SS 1st-5th Grade: Ron D & Dean H

May 28: Memorial Day Weekend)

Elder: Gary Hartgerink
Greeters: Doug & Sandy Nieveen
Coffee: Bruce & Deb Docter
PowerPoint: Jenn Childers
Video: Ethan/Matthew Sieck
Sound Tech: Randy Sieck
Nursery: Rick & Janelle DeBoer
SS 3-6years: Sandy N & **Helper**
SS 1st-5th Grade: Ron D & Dean H

If You Don't, Who Will?...Continued

God has always used ordinary people in His salvation process. He uses everyday believers to share His Word with those who need to receive His gospel message. If you won't go, who will?

When God saved you, He saved you for a purpose: to glorify Him. And one of the ways we glorify God is by living out the great commission. Preaching the good news – the gospel to the people we encounter daily.

God cares for the lost. Do you? God, who hates sin and demands judgment of sin, weeps, and mourns for His creation that has rejected Him.

In Luke 19, Jesus approaches Jerusalem before His death, and He weeps. He wept over Jerusalem because His people rejected Him. It broke His heart. Do the lost break your heart?

The key isn't to let the sadness paralyze you. The sadness motivates us all to get out there and share the good news with a lost and broken world. Jonah got out, preached God's Word, and they repented. Imagine what God will do when we obey Him and deliver His Word.

God uses you to reach those we could never reach. In Luke 5, Jesus calls Levi, the tax collector, to follow Him. Levi immediately left His booth and followed. Then the text says, "Later, Levi held a banquet in his home with Jesus as the guest of honor. Many of Levi's fellow tax collectors and other guests also ate with them" (Luke 5:29). God used Levi to reach people that Nathanael, Peter, or Judas never could. God has put people in your sphere of influence that others could not reach.

"And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?" This is why we must engage in outreach. It's a privilege to deliver the Word when we love the lost. God is glorified when we open our lives to Christ and His message.

Welcome the Crawfords!

Please join us Sunday, May 7 as we celebrate Pastor Nat and his family – wife Tiffany, and sons Simon, Landon, and Gracen in the best way we know how – with food!! Following our morning worship we will host a meal, hold a Q&A session with Pastor Nat and fellowship together. See you then!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Cody Auman will graduate from Norris High School on Sunday, May 21 and has chosen to attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln this fall! Cody is the son of Brian & Stephanie Auman.

Alexis Bryant will graduate from Norris and has enlisted full-time in the United States Navy and is enrolled in their dental program. She is the daughter of Chad & Tysha Bryant.

Collier Hestermann also graduates from Norris High School on Sunday, May 21. Collier will attend Washburn University in Topeka, KS where he plans to major in Actuarial Science and play baseball for them. His summer plans include baseball with his summer team and working. He is the son of Dean & Cheryl Hestermann.

COLLEGE GRADUATES

Megan Auman will graduate from Nebraska Wesleyan University on May 6 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, and a minor in Human Resource Management. Megan is the daughter of Brian & Stephanie Auman.



Mowing Season is Here!

Would you like to join our church mowing rotation? This will involve mowing around the church & parsonage 1-2 times during a single 2-week period that you share with another family. Brett Wieskamp is setting up the 2023 schedule now so if you're able to help, please contact him in person or at 402-440-4717 to be added to the summer schedule.



Our 4JC students and leaders had an amazing time at their 2023 Middle School Retreat in Iowa, "Unveiled!"

The students mentioned their favorite part of the trip was the worship during the main sessions. Not to mention all the camp activities! The students and leaders definitely felt the Holy Spirit at work over the weekend! Thank you to all the donors and sponsors that invested in the spiritual growth of these youth and made this trip possible!

CONSISTORY Minutes – April 11, 2023

Present: Nat Crawford, Robbie Morrison, Kendall Weber, Ron DeBoer, Gary Hartgerink, Doug Goering, Bruce Docter, Keith TenHulzen, Andy Johnson, Luke Sieck, Shawn Gouldin, Brett Wieskamp
Absent: Dean Hestermann, Brandon Cramer

Opening Prayer and devotions were given by Keith. The devotion was a discussion on what brings enjoyment to us and how to apply it to our service.

LLRC Mission Statement: **"To grow a loving community, equipped to take the message of Jesus to our world"**

Discipleship Pathway: **Worship→Grow→Serve→Share**

Meeting was started after devotions and opening prayer.

Worship

1. Updates from the SLT Action Items & Worship Experience Team (Kendall)
 - a. Upcoming items that are being considered for projects
 - i. Signage within the church
 - ii. Lights and painting in the fellowship hall
 - iii. Striping in the parking lot
2. Media Updates Relating to Worship (Robbie)
 - a. All worship services are scheduled through the summer
 - b. Plans are being made for summer - updates/rebuild church website, move to G-suite
 - c. Looking at Planning Center for future use
3. Giving and our Treasurer's Report (Shawn)
 - a. Review Data from March. Motion created and 2nd was given. Vote was taken and passed
 - b. Shawn added "Missions Fund" as an online giving option
4. Encouragements, Feedback, or Evaluation on **Worship?**

Grow

1. Updates from the SLT Action Items and the Discipleship/Education Team (Ron & Dean)
 - a. There were 25-30 kids at children's church on Easter Sunday
 - b. Talked about looking for assistance with Children's Church during the summer months
2. Youth Update (Robbie)
 - a. 17 middle schoolers and 3 leaders scheduled to attend Power Connect in Iowa, Apr. 14-16
 - b. Update on chili cookoff, had 23 helpers and raised funds for youth trips this summer
 - c. God's Kid's Club material is being looked at by Mandy Cramer & Kari Gottwald
 - d. May 21 will be Senior Recognition Sunday during the morning service
 - e. Looking at using Tony Noble for cleaning services for the gym and youth room during the summer months
 - f. Digital sign-up and advertising was created for VBS 2023
3. Encouragements, Feedback, or Evaluation on **Grow?**

Continued...

CONSISTORY Minutes – April 11, 2023...Continued

Serve

1. Updates from SLT Action Items (Robbie)
 - a. SLT group leader meeting on Wed, April 19. Discuss vision indicators & 90-day action plans
 - b. Continue to fill volunteers into self-leading opportunities at LLRC (greeters coffee service worship, nursery, youth helpers, meal servers) goal is 4 to 10 new volunteers
2. Updates from the Building & Grounds Team (Luke & Brett)
 - a. Look at replacing some older toilets
3. Updates from the Congregational Care Team (Bruce & Gary)
 - a. Looking at the possibility of doing a pictorial directory
4. Encouragements, Feedback, or Evaluation on **Serve?**

Share

1. Updates from the SLT Action Items (Andy)
 - a. Doing May baskets again this year, will need helpers and names of people to receive baskets
 - b. Looking to expand and do another Bible trivia night
 - c. Concert event at the end of the summer will be looked into
2. Updates from the Share Team (Andy & Brandon)
 - a. No update on this as meeting will be held on April 20
3. Updates on Missions
 - a. The Oasis Project has a few additional needs
 - b. Driver needed to take items that are donated to the collection point
 - c. There will be a special mission offering collected during the service
4. Encouragements, Feedback, or Evaluation on **Share?**

Other Items

1. New Business, Questions, Encouragements, etc
 - a. Transformation store would like to come down and update the church on what is happening
2. Next meeting – May 9, at 6:30pm
3. Snacks & Devotions – Keith (May – Brandon Cramer)
4. Motion to Adjourn – motion made, second and vote passed
5. Closing Circle of Prayer

Elder's Meeting

1. Spiritual Life of the Congregation
2. Open discussion
 - a. Talked about setting up a schedule for regular communion service
3. General Synod (June 8-13) – no current plans on attending this
4. Closing Circle of Prayer

Deacon's Meeting

1. Church Clean-Up day will be May 13, 8:00am - 11:30am
2. Luke is looking at netting for the gym over the storage rooms
3. Deacons are reviewing the facility usage contracts and usage options
4. New toilets are being quoted
5. Parsonage fence repair
6. Mowing schedule
7. New TV for the Library
8. Closing Circle of Prayer

Mary & Martha Circle

Wednesday, May 10
1:30pm

Lesson: Linda DeBoer

Church Items Use

It's time for graduation parties! There are a very limited number of tables & chairs available for use for our church family. If you need to borrow some for your event, please contact the church office so we can keep track of our inventory. Please check before using any equipment!!

ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Steve & Jenn Childers (22)
- 14 Matt & Nicole Weber (19)
- 22 Kim & Jeff Spencer (30)
- 25 Doug & Tammy Goering (32)

Branson Bus Trips!

Our church is hosting TWO bus trips to Branson, Missouri this year!

Oct. 10-13 & Nov. 28-Dec 1

Information packets for both trips are available on the table in the fellowship hall. We're only taking 1 bus for each trip so seats will be limited! If you have questions, please see Linda DeBoer or Ilene Docter soon.

BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 2 Mary Jean TeKolste | 17 Joshua Gottwald |
| 3 Brad Bartek | 19 Morgan Bartek |
| Cheryl Gouldin | 21 Judy Koehn |
| 4 Allan Docter | Phyllis Johnson |
| 6 Landon Crawford | 23 Everson Walvoord |
| Joyce Hietbrink | 25 Dan Rice |
| 8 Adeline Brock | Lloyd Prange |
| 11 Boston Engle | 26 Nash Whalen |
| 12 Doug Nieveen | 29 Audra Lefferdink |
| 13 Robbie Morrison | Edward Dorn |
| 14 Ashton Henderson | 30 Grant Gouldin |
| 15 Deb Docter | Chris Hilkemann |
| | 31 Lynn Gana |

Mystery Dinners are back!

What are Mystery Dinners you might ask?

A fun and easy way to meet others within our church! We'll organize a group of 4-5 people and make reservations for you at a local/Lincoln restaurant. You'll meet in the church parking lot (or meet your fellow diners in Lincoln if you work/live in Lincoln) either **Friday, May 12 or Saturday, May 13** at 5:00pm, head to your secret restaurant location and then enjoy a fun evening with great food with wonderful company – Dutch Treat of course! Please contact the church office or Rick DeBoer 402-440-7389 to RSVP by May 7.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesdays	6:30pm	Prayer Gathering
Wednesdays	8:08pm	The Fire
Fridays	6:00am	Friday Men's Group
Sun, May 7	11:00am	Welcome Meal for The Crawfords
Mon, May 8	1:30pm	"IF" Meeting
Tues, May 9	6:30pm	Consistory Meeting
Wed, May 10	1:30pm	Mary & Martha Circle
Fri, May 12	5:00pm	Mystery Dinner #1
Sat, May 13	8-11:30am	Church Clean-Up Day
	5:00pm	Mystery Dinner #2
Sun, May 14		Mother's Day!!
	7:00pm	Afterglow Bible Study
Sun, May 21	9:30am	Senior Recognition during worship
	3:00pm	Norris Graduation
Wed, May 24		"Last" Day of School at Norris
Mon, May 29		Memorial Day (Church office closed)

Church Clean-Up Day Saturday, May 13 8:00-11:30am

Join us May 13 to spruce up the grounds of the church and be ready for summer activities. Please bring gloves and any garden equipment you might need. See you then!



Vacation Bible School at LLRC

"Hero Hotline"

Mon-Wed, June 26-28, 6-8pm

Registration is now open for VBS 2023 – Hero Hotline! Please scan the QR code or click the link www.livinglifereformed.org to our registration site. The earlier you can register, the more it helps with planning!

VBS is for students in Pre-K through current 5th grade (at the end of May 2023). We welcome potty-trained 3 & 4-year-olds to our Pre-K classes!



If you have any questions regarding VBS or would like to volunteer to help, call the church office at 402-791-5800 or email to church@livinglifereformed.org. We hope to see you & your kids at this fun event!



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



Sunday Morning

9:30-10:30am

Worship Service
(In-person or Livestream on YouTube)

Children's Church during worship

To Contact Us

Church Office Hours

9:00am-12:00pm

Pastor Nat Crawford

Nat.crawford@livinglifereformed.org

Robbie Morrison

402-304-9049

Robbie.morrison@livinglifereformed.org



MAY THE GOD OF HOPE
FILL YOU WITH ALL JOY
AND PEACE IN BELIEVING,
SO THAT BY THE POWER
OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
YOU MAY ABOUND IN HOPE.

ROMANS 15:13