



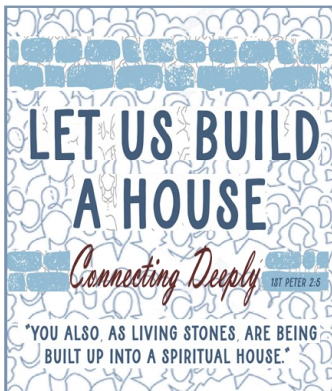
Worship

- In-person worship—
9:30 AM Sundays
- Online worship continues, and is live-streamed to our [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#) pages



Church Council 2024

Mike Boyack (vice pres.)
Laurie Brown (sec'y.)
Billie Chock
Tim Current (treas.)
Heidi Goldbeck
Luke Jeseritz
Lisa Krause
Natasha Werner (pres.)
Jon Wissink
Pastor Bruce Kuenzel



Contact us!

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(763) 972-2400



LightOfChristLutheran.com
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We welcomed the following new Light of Christ Partners in Ministry on April 21st:

Jackson Gilman & Cassidy Fransen
Richie & Tyra Lansing *Halle, Kiptyn*
Justin & Lindsay Lindall *Nora, Sam*
KellyAnn Lockrem *Charlie, Nolan*
Andrew & Lynsey Reiffenberger *Grace, Charlie, Oliver*
Scott & Linda Rundle



HOW CAN I HELP?

By mid-week, everyone will have received an Appeal Response Packet. In it is a lot of great information that answers the question, "How can I/we help?" This response brochure will guide you through how you might discover and give your best gift and/or 3-year appeal pledge over and above your regular offering/giving.

With so many amazing and important things that happen here at Light of Christ, this is an opportunity to express your faith and partnership in our mission and ministry. Together we have a crucial vision for stepping into the future, and a big piece of that is taking care of some important parts of our church building and campus. So, please take note of the Prayer suggestions and also the Creative Giving Guide that will help you think creatively about how you might give a generous gift.

Next Sunday, April 28th, is our Celebration Sunday, the day everyone is invited to return their pledge card. Your financial support helps us with these important projects and strengthens our congregation. Thank you in advance! Know that you are a treasured part of our Light of Christ Family!





“Light of Christ Kids” Special Fundraising Appeal

As you probably know, throughout the month of February we held a special fundraising appeal. The goal was to **increase our faith sharing** (contributions) to the General Fund by **\$64,000 in 2024**.

We held this appeal to **fully fund four full-time staff positions** and **one part-time staff position** so we can continue to **staff for growth**.

As your Church Council we are delighted to let you know that \$54,425 has been pledged and \$35,685 has been received so far. Thank you for your generosity!

Given the pledges we received, we have **decided to fund the Children and Family Ministry position at half-time (20 hours per week on average) for 2024**, which is the same as the funding level for the past several years.

At the same time, we are fully committed to **ending 2024 in the black. We cannot end the year with another shortfall. We cannot spend money we don't have.**

We are committed to continual evaluation of the financial health of Light of Christ. As we move through the remainder of the year and can better see how our budgeted amounts for the Pastoral transition/move and compensation match to actuals, we can update our financial outlook and inform the congregation of any variances vs expectations. We will then evaluate what, if any, actions need to be taken to maintain the balanced budget that was approved at the annual meeting.

Finally, thank you for your continued generosity. Over the last five years Light of Christ partners/ members have **given over three million dollars** to the mission and ministry of Light of Christ. This is truly a reason for rejoicing!

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please don't hesitate to contact any Church Council member. We are always happy to speak with you.

Peace and joy always,

Natasha Werner, *President*

Billie Chock

Luke Jeseritz

Mike Boyack, *Vice-President*

Jon Wissink

Lisa Krause

Tim Current, *Treasurer*

Heidi Goldbeck

Bruce Kuenzel, *Pastor*

Laurie Brown, *Secretary*

Caring Corner

(from Lona Jose of the Healing & Wholeness Committee)



Gratitude: A Journey of Faith and Transformation

It is a good time to talk about gratitude. We have all recently celebrated Easter, the rising of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are entering the beautiful season of spring. And we will soon be celebrating Mother's and Father's Day and many of us have other things in our lives for which we are so grateful. At the same time, there are things that may be happening in our lives for which we are not grateful. That also makes it even more important to focus on acknowledging our gratitude daily. Filling our hearts with gratitude inspires us to good and healthy action. Sometimes it can take time and practice to be grateful daily but the benefits teach us to enjoy the "present" moments, it delivers peace and helps us realize we are doing "okay" even when things are not always going our way.

Regularly acknowledging and appreciating the good things in our lives can lead to a multitude of benefits.

1. Increased Happiness: Giving you a more positive outlook on life, thus increasing overall happiness.
2. Reduced Depression: Shifting your focus from negative thought patterns, reducing symptoms of depression.
3. Improved Sleep: Practicing gratitude every night before sleep can help create a peaceful mind and improve sleep quality.
4. Stress Reduction: Recognizing what we are grateful for can lower our stress levels by shifting our mindset toward positivity.
5. Helping Others: When we feel gratitude, we want to reach out to others who need our support and help. Some say gratitude is what you feel and thanksgiving is what you do for yourself and others.

Gratitude is recognizing people, things, moments, skills, and gifts that bring joy, peace, comfort, beauty, and wonder into our lives. Keeping gratitude journals, practicing mindfulness and meditation, praying, and serving others can be a lifestyle we adopt to get the benefits mentioned above.

Gratitude is at the heart of our Christian life. It is the humble acknowledgement of the blessings we receive daily—both big and small. The Bible repeatedly advises us to express gratitude in every circumstance, recognizing the good in our lives and acknowledging that this goodness is a gift and shows us God's enduring love and mercy. It is about seeing God's hand in everything whether a beautiful sunrise, a job promotion or even a tough life challenge. We learn in Psalm 107:1 to "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever."

Jesus epitomized a life of gratitude despite the trials He faced. He is calling us to live with a heart of gratitude, not just in times of joy and plenty but also in moments of trials and challenges. We can inspire others with our gratitude, to give back, serve others and instigate positive change.

As we learn in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, "Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

And as we share every Sunday: **This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

We Are Love INC Heartland

That doesn't stand for incorporated but rather *In the Name of Christ*. Together we can give the gift of hope, get involved today! Learn More: bit.ly/werloveinc



Be A Love INC Ambassador

Are you passionate about your church? Does the Love In the Name of Christ ministry excite you? Then you would make a great ambassador! Sign up to learn more at bit.ly/loveincamb or call our main office at 763-972-6547.



On **Tuesday, April 30** from 7-8 PM we are meeting at Brickside for our next Mom's Night Out... all are welcome! No need to register, just come as you are. Hope you can join us for a night of fellowship, conversation, and prayer.

Dad's Night Out

Calling all dads -- young dads, old dads, in-between dads, granddads, gonna-be dads, and any other dads. Pastor Bruce is leading a small group for dads of every kind. The goal of the group is to connect more deeply with Christ and with one another. Our next gathering is **Tuesday, May 14th** from 7:45 - 8:45 PM at the Brickside Grill. No need to register. Simply come as you are. If you have any questions don't hesitate to contact Pastor Bruce.



MEETING MINUTES

Stay Informed!

The current Church Council meeting minutes can be found on the [church website](#).

THANK YOU!

Dear Light of Christ Community: thank you so much for the 717 pounds of food and financial gifts received during Pack the Pews in March. Our Food Shelf clients are so grateful for your generosity. In March we gave away over 11,000 pounds of food - our biggest total ever. Your donations were much needed!

JoMarie Williamson, Co-Director, Delano Helping Hands

Funeral Committee/Coordinator

We are looking to form a Funeral Committee, with the need for a main point person to serve as the funeral coordinator and 4-6 people on the committee. We would also compile a list of volunteers who could be called on to sign up for a shift to help set-up, serve the meal and clean-up after funerals. An informational binder will be provided for the committee to reference, so they know what all is needed for the funerals. This is a fairly low time commitment, with typically only 4-6 funerals a year, and a 2-year committee term. If you are interested, please contact the [church office](#) and your name will be passed along.

THE HOOT

Hello, OWLS!! Here's a reminder for upcoming events:



Bible Study: "Growing Older and Wiser"

Sundays after church, 10:45-11:45 AM, April 28th (Lesson 3) and May 5th (Lesson 4). We'll meet in room 101. All are welcome any time, come when you can. Preparing ahead of time will make for better discussion and understanding. Will have extra books available if you need, cost is \$8.00. 14 attendants came to our first meeting!!! Great discussions.

OWLS outing to Minneapolis Institute of Arts (MIA) for "Art in Bloom" exhibit

Thursday, April 25th. Plan to meet at church at 9 AM to carpool to Minneapolis. Admission is free but parking cost is \$15 in the lot, \$20 in the ramp, each car. There are free guided tours at 10:15 and 11:15 if you're interested. We'll stay a couple of hours and then stop at the Red Rooster in Long Lake on the way home. Please let Sue Fink know if you're coming.

"A birdie with a yellow bill, hopped upon my windowsill,
Cocked his shining eye and said:
"Aren't you ashamed, you sleepy head?"
Happy Spring!

Healing and Wholeness Update



As we come up on May, *Mental Health Awareness Month*, we have moved the Mental Health cabinet in the Narthex to just right of the main sanctuary entrance doors. It is reorganized and now holds a few books from our library that you can look through and check out to borrow if you'd like. Have a look! Also, we want you all to be reminded and encouraged to use the ["Support/Mental Health" webpage of the LOC website](#). Please check it out so you're aware of the information and resources available when you need it.

Spring Clean-Up!

Happy Spring, Light of Christ Members. The Property Committee would like to invite you to our annual spring-cleaning event on **Saturday, May 4** from 9:00 AM to noon. Volunteers young and old can do a range of activities from dusting pews, cleaning windows, mulching beds, cleaning outside areas, etc. We have something for everyone. Cleaning products will be available but feel free to bring your own products, rags, etc. Juice and donuts will be provided.



Friday Night Lights



Confirmation Corner

Here is the end-of-the-year confirmation schedule (all start times are 6:30 PM unless otherwise noted):

- **Wednesday, April 24:** Content Night
- **Sunday, April 28, 5:00-8:00 PM:** HS Fellowship (Grades 9-12) – Dinner and a Movie
- **Wednesday, May 1:** Content Night
- **Wednesday, May 8:** Service Event (tie blankets); Parent Meeting (from 7:30-8:00 PM)
- **Friday, May 10, 7:00-10:00 PM:** Friday Night Lights – [SIGN UP by 4 PM on 5/10!](#)
- **Wednesday, May 15:** Year End Party!

