



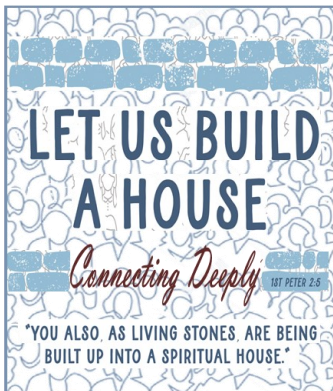
## Worship

- 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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Thank you to all who participated in our  
Earth Day clean-up on Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>!

## 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.



## Caring Corner

(from Sue Fink of the Healing & Wholeness Committee)

Hello friends! Once again, May Mental Health Awareness Month is upon us. As a congregation we have come a long way toward our acceptance and understanding of mental health challenges. Please find resources for yourself or loved ones on our [LOC website under Support/ Mental Health](#) as well as our resource cabinet in the Narthex. Remember to **CALL or TEXT 988** if you need to talk to a trained person in case of a mental health crisis or need for support.



Our theme for May will be "31 Days, 31 Ways 2 Pray 4 Families" from author Catherine P. Downing, who has blogged on [sparksofredemptivegrace.com](http://sparksofredemptivegrace.com) as she navigates her son's serious mental illness challenges with bipolar disease. This has become a yearly exercise in faith for us at Light of Christ.

Please join us in daily prayer starting May 1<sup>st</sup> as posted on the [Light of Christ Facebook page](#), printed as a handout at Sunday services as well as copies of the entire month of prayers in the Narthex.

If you or someone you love lives through the ups and downs of mental illness, we pray for healing and peace that comes from nurturing and being rooted in our faith and trust in our God. Keep in mind as you pray:

- First, because mental illnesses are brain disorders, pray as you would for any other physical illness.
- Because God can and does heal bodies, always pray for healing.
- Because that healing often comes through medical and therapeutic means, pray for doctors, counselors, and chemists.
- Because healing is enhanced by intentional body care, pray for good rest, nutrition, and exercise.
- Because in his providence, God doesn't always cure everyone, pray for patience, wisdom, and enduring faith.
- Prayer is an act of open-handed expectation! Never give up.

John 17:33: (Jesus) "I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world." Amen!

## May Food Distribution



The next food distribution is on **Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>**. Shifts are available at 10:00 AM to about noon at Our Father's Lutheran Church in Rockford, and 3:30 – 4:30 PM here at Light of Christ. Sign-ups are below:

- **10:00 AM** packing food boxes—[click here](#)
- **3:30 PM** distributing boxes of food right here in our church parking lot—[click here](#)

### We Are Love INC Heartland

That doesn't stand for incorporated but rather ***In the Name of Christ***.

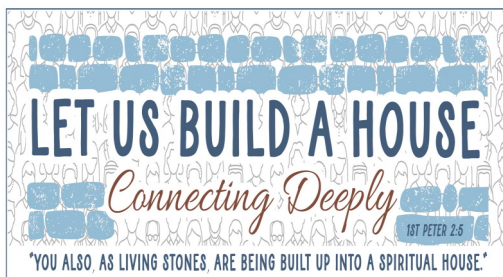
Together we can give the gift of hope, get involved today! Learn More: [bit.ly/werloveinc](http://bit.ly/werloveinc)



### 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](http://bit.ly/loveincamb) or call our main office at 763-972-6547.





**Thank you to all who have turned in your pledge cards for our capital campaign.** Together we have the privilege of caring for God's Church, a place where so much happens -- worship, faith instruction, discipleship training, caring and nurture, and the invitation to belong and serve. Your gift or pledge helps us accomplish some important goals -- redoing our parking lot, fixing leaks in the steeple, creating better building security, and improving our space for better connections and ministry to happen.

If you haven't already, please return your pledge card to indicate your gift and/or 3-year pledge over and above your regular giving. **Extra pledge cards are available at church.**

We look forward to **sharing the results** of our campaign soon. And leadership will then present a plan for next steps.

**Thank you for expressing your faith through your giving for our shared mission and ministry!**

Your Capital Appeal Team:

*Laurie Brown*

*Tim Johnson*

*Steven Dickey*

*Pastor Bruce Kuenzel*

*Derek Horeis*

*Lisa Spencer*



Light of Christ—

Thank you for your gift to Second Harvest Heartland, and for being a key partner in our mission to end hunger together. Your generous contribution of \$1,770 is already hard at work to help families across the heartland access the food they need to thrive.

The long Midwest winter months can be difficult for many people, leading some to make impossible choices between paying for essentials like heat or buying groceries. But with your help, more families will not have to worry about where their next meal will be coming from.

Your gift helps neighbors like Amanda, who is a mom to a teenage son. They live in a supportive housing community for mothers and their children who are emerging from homelessness and have been receiving meals through *Kitchen Coalition*, our prepared meal program. Amanda and her son rely on this assistance due to financial constraints and transportation limitations. Amanda says she appreciates the food she receives all the time, but “especially when I can’t afford to go to the grocery store, and it’s cold, and I don’t have a car.”

One in four of our neighbors sought food assistance last year. But with the help of our whole community, including dedicated donors like you, we can reduce hunger today and prevent hunger tomorrow, ensuring that more of our neighbors like Amanda will have access to nutritious food when and where they need it most.

With gratitude,

*Allison O'Toole, CEO, Second Harvest Heartland*





## Mom's Night Out

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 14<sup>th</sup>** 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.



## 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.

## 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.

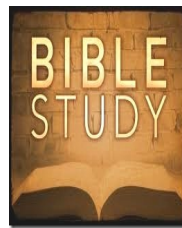
## THE HOOT

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



### Bible Study: "Growing Older and Wiser"

Sunday after church, 10:45-11:45 AM, **May 5<sup>th</sup>** (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.



## Tough Questions for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Christians

Pastor Bruce leads a Bible study on the tough questions that we face as 21<sup>st</sup> century Christians today, which meets on the **first and third Tuesdays of the month** in the Living Room from 7:45 - 8:45 PM. The next study is on **May 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:45 PM**. There is no need to register ahead of time. The presentation will be recorded and posted on the Light of Christ website for those who can't participate in person. Please don't hesitate to reach out to Pastor Bruce with any questions you may have.

Did you know that you can find past sessions of Tough Questions on our [YouTube](#) page? Below are the links to past questions discussed:

- Introduction Video <https://youtu.be/SUP5E82IBSg>
- Where is God When the Innocent Suffer? <https://youtu.be/zNffKR1HfZU>
- Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People? [https://youtu.be/juvWr\\_G-K-I](https://youtu.be/juvWr_G-K-I)
- What is the Meaning of Innocent Suffering? <https://youtu.be/VS5GmtleiFs>
- Can I Believe in Creation and Evolution? <https://youtu.be/O2QO4yJHLqY>
- Can I Believe in Creation and Evolution? Part 2 <https://youtu.be/nh3hcKXb9b4>
- To Bless or Not to Bless? Part 1 <https://youtu.be/Qa1PNP8FOFY>
- To Bless or Not to Bless? Part 2 <https://youtu.be/Tk57m-dLVXs?si=Hg5wgzPxrXapC5QJ>
- Unique and Universal <https://youtu.be/C5MRtRKSfys?si=9Ee8nhFy7WBCC6kk>
- Does God Bless Violence/Warfare? <https://youtu.be/7-xlkNyRcjc?si=zPwlk8D2bvNxHp4y>



## Welcome to Confirmation Info Meeting!

**Who:** 6<sup>th</sup> graders and parent/s

**When:** Next Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> from 5-6 PM

**Place:** The Sanctuary at LOC

**What:** Details about our Confirmation ministry along with a chance for youth to request a friend for their small group!



## Kickball at Confirmation!

## 4/24/24



## Confirmation Corner

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

- **Wednesday, May 1:** Content Night; 6th Grade Intro to Confirmation meeting at 5:00 PM
- **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!