



2018 Annual Report

Senior Pastor's Report 2018

Pastor Kendall Koenig



2018 was another strong year of ministry at Light of Christ. As you can see from the rest of the pages in this annual report, the lay leadership and staff leadership in this congregation is truly outstanding. People using their gifts to faithfully and joyfully serve Christ. Page through and see what you and the Holy Spirit helped to accomplish as we invited people into

Christian community and nurtured them in a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ.

Beyond the important on-going ministry work, the Council adopted four goals for this past year. These are actually goals that have a multi-year aspect to them, and we will be carrying them forward into 2019, with some adjustment. But let me share the progress that has been made.

1. Embrace the vision of being “A Church of all ages” that lives out Christ’s mission in this community and beyond.

Light of Christ is a congregation that has adults involved from their 20’s to their 90’s. That said, our largest demographic group is 50 somethings, and we have a smaller percentage of 20 and 30 somethings connected to the congregation. For the long term health of this congregation, we need to reach out and grow in that area.

a. Develop strategic plans across congregational areas (worship, staffing, technology, ministry) for growing in to those gaps.

b. Begin implementation of those plans.

This past year we undertook a **Worship** Visioning process to focus and streamline our worship services. We rolled out some changes in August, and then made some adjustments in October based on feedback we received. We are excited to move forward with these small changes moving into the new year.

Staffing—see below.

Technology—we introduced an updated website in February, incorporating a more contemporary look. We added a monitor in the Welcome Center to engage people visually.

Ministry—we are intentionally reaching out to invite younger people into our current ministry leadership. In January we are launching a 20-somethings group for Explore God.

2. Begin planning and search for expanded staff in preparation for our move to Light of Christ’s new campus.

The Council has studied a number of approaches for staffing going forward. They have settled on a plan and

it will be presented at the Annual Meeting.

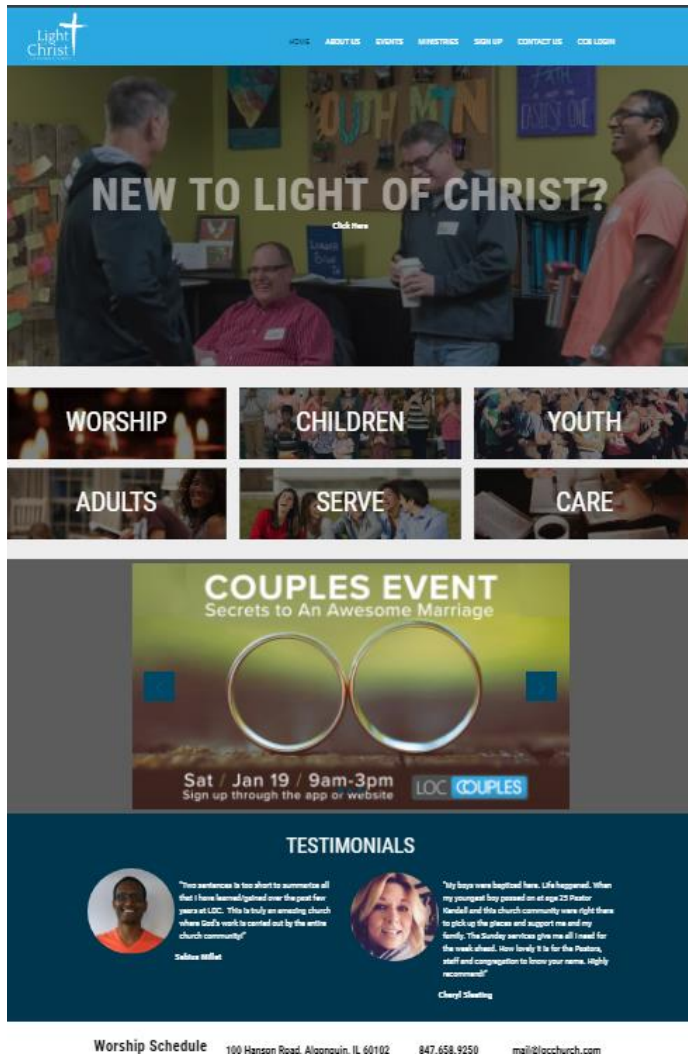
3. Finalize plans and launch endowment fund to sustain Light of Christ’s long term mission in this community and beyond.

The Council has drawn together a team to begin sharing information about the Endowment Fund within the congregation. The process of embedding language for the Endowment into the constitution has run into some challenges and created delay. While we did not accomplish all we had hoped in this area, we believe that the first half of 2019 will be the time for this to fully move forward.

4. Host ground-breaking for Light of Christ’s new campus and continue to move forward the building plans with the goal of occupancy in 2019.

Much work was done on the New Campus building plans. Due to bad soil and higher than expected construction costs, the Building Team worked with our architect Dave Skiffington and a new Civil Engineer to totally revamp the site and drainage plan, building location and building design. This extensive process has resulted in a more efficient and forward looking building, while also reducing costs. But the extensive restructuring of the plans delayed our building timeline by approximately six months. Rather than being in the building by late 2019, the current timeline predicts the first half of 2020. The Building Team continues to shepherd this process forward. In October we hosted ground-breaking on Reformation Sunday afternoon—a cold and rainy day that didn’t dampen our spirits much. It was exciting to officially and prayerfully launch this project on our new property. We are currently working through the last steps with the Village zoning process and hope to have that completed shortly.





Pastor's Report continued...

As we move forward into 2019, our areas of focus will remain the same as they were in 2019: living into Vision of being a church of all ages, begin search for expanded staff, launching endowment fund, and begin the building process. We will be drilling down into further details and taking the next steps forward in each of those areas.

Underlying these larger goal areas, we remain committed to being a vibrant congregation, living out Jesus mission for us through worship, learning, and service. Much of that is described in the pages ahead. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide us as we stay humbly listening for God's still, small voice as we seek to Invite, Nurture and Serve in Jesus name.

< **The New Light of Christ website**

Properties Report 2018

Each year, much is done to keep our building grounds looking good. Here were some of the highlights from this year.

The plumbing issues that had surfaced in the final few months of 2017 were rectified in February with no recurrence of this situation.

The spring cleanup occurred in April with the assistance of volunteer youth and adults. The fall cleanup day was cancelled due to the first snowfall arriving early in November.

In May our parking lot was resealed and restriped, on schedule with our plan of having this done every two years.

Activity began on our future church home property at Sleepy Hollow and Longmeadow. To prepare for our Groundbreaking Ceremony the end of October, a church member generously volunteered his time and equipment to clear out the previously farmed area of our property. A new temporary sign has been installed on the property where it was previously located making it visible to traffic on Sleepy Hollow and Longmeadow.



Church Council President's Report 2018

Michelle Bunke, Council President

One of my favorite Bible verses is from Ecclesiastes 3:1 *"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven"*. As a congregation, we have been through many seasons along our faith walk. We have sown seeds, watched them grow and expand. Fifteen years ago, we identified the need for a new ministry campus and planned for it. We created drawings, raised funds, purchased land and then we had to pause during the economic downturn. This season of waiting was long. But while we were waiting, we continued to invite, nurture and serve in our congregation, in the community and globally. Finally, in 2016 we discerned, as a congregation, that it was time to move forward with the new church. Light of Christ then embarked on a season of capital campaigning to raise the pledges needed to build our collective vision of how we would serve God in our community.

God's call for us in 2018 was to "Get Ready". This would be our season to get ready and to plan. We did this by continuing to faithfully share our gifts toward our Forward in Faith pledges. We created teams for design, building, worship, land and technology. We created the 100 Hanson Road team to find a realtor. We planned for ministry and staff and we put a shovel in the ground. Everyone had the opportunity to turn some dirt and to place a stake in the ground which marked the church outline. Each stake carried a prayer for all who may be blessed by our ministry.

We also discovered that while God is calling us to move forward, He is not going to start making it easy now. Fortunately, we are a patient congregation and we will not be deterred. There were numerous challenges with site soil, building layout, municipal approval and concern by our new neighbors about traffic. As a church and faith-filled community, we are working with the Village of Algonquin, and the adjoining neighborhoods, to create a worship site that will invite the community and be welcomed by the neighbors, while fulfilling the hope and vision of our congregation.

While there has been a flurry of activity around building, we have also witnessed a special excitement growing among us. The AWANA program has grown significantly as K-5th graders bring their friends. We have combined many of our youth

programs to now take place on Wednesday. There is so much wonderful energy around the church mid-week and it is great to see how God is shaping our youth and touching our adult volunteers.

We fulfilled two of our three capital campaign promises. During our 2017 Forward in Faith capital campaign, we pledged that \$100,000 would be set aside and donated among three ministries close to the heart of our church. This year, we helped Turning Point repave their parking lot. This was appreciated, not just for the gift, but because many of their gifts are designated for specific programs, and they really needed the funding for a new parking lot. We also fulfilled our promise to build a home through the Appalachian Service Project. Not only did we have our annual adult mission trip, but we sent a second team from Light of Christ in October to help build that house. As we enter the back half of our campaign collection, we will fulfill our promise to Mission of Hope in Haiti.

At the annual meeting last year, we approved forming The Light of Christ Lutheran Church Endowment Fund. The Fund will create a legacy for giving into perpetuity. The Endowment Fund Team held off on communicating this giving opportunity so that focus could remain on the Forward in Faith journey. However, we are excited to move forward with education sharing what legacy giving can look like. It is not about providing gifts at this moment, but rather about planning to give later in order to sustain important ministries for future generations. Stay tuned for more news to come.

During my three years on council, I have been blessed to witness God's work in so many faithful servants. In addition to their regular duties, Pastor Kendall has spent countless hours working with the building team and Pastor Sharon has spent an endless amount of time with ministry and technology efforts. They, along with our lay staff, joyfully serve in a way that is seamless to the rest of us. I have been lucky to sit on council with many spirit-led people. I thank them all for their support and I especially want to thank Scott Pruyn, who took this three-year journey with me. Bless you all, and God Bless the season that Light of Christ is in.



Council Secretary - 2018

Kathleen Long, Council Secretary

Light of Christ's 2018 Council met on a monthly basis and, on occasion, for special meetings to address additional items. The meetings began with prayer, sharing God sightings and a devotional given by one of the Council members.

Council meetings are God-led with trust that He guides our discussions and decisions. Typical meetings included items such as reviewing and approving the prior month's meeting minutes, reviewing and approving the Treasurer's report, staffing and ministry updates, strategic planning and new ways to fulfill our mission.

Council oversees and approves LOC practices, focusing on "what does it mean to be a Lutheran church in a mission field" and how we address "discipleship" in our community, so that we continue to invite, nurture, and serve. We also addressed timely issues, such as, The Forward in Faith Capital Campaign, new church building plans, charters for new and existing teams, special serving events, the LOC Preschool, stewardship plans, and the annual budget.

2018 Council Members:

- Michelle Bunke (President)
- Scott Pruyn (Vice President)
- Chris Kardys (Treasurer)
- Kathleen Long (Secretary)
- Matt Cianciarulo
- Stuart Haughee
- Pastor Kendall Koenig
- Pastor Sharon Rogers

Michelle Bunke and Scott Pruyn have completed their terms will be transitioning after the Annual meeting. The nominees for the 2019 officers to be voted on at the Annual Meeting are listed below.

Nominations for 2019 are:

Council: for three-year terms:



Rod Wittig



Sam Weyers

Financial Review Team:

Rick Bakewell

Nominating Team:

Jim Wiecek

Amy Krempel

Synod Assembly Delegates:

Crystal England
Charlie Patterson
John Sturz
Carol Sturz

SUMMARY OF COUNCIL MINUTES FROM 2018

In addition to monthly motions for acceptance of Council Minutes and Treasurers Reports.

January

Motion to accept 2018 Annual Operating Budget as presented with the expense adjustments discussed (staffing and Young Life) as well as the New Building and Existing Building Budgets for (Keith) Seconded (Chris). Carried unanimously.

Motion to accept the document, as presented, and take the establishment of an Endowment Fund Charter to a vote by the congregation at the 2017 annual meeting, (Kendall) Seconded (Scott). Carried unanimously.

Motion to accept the congregational goals as presented (Kendall) Seconded (Michelle). Carried unanimously.

Motion to accept the 100 Hanson Road Team Charter as presented (Kendall) Seconded (Bonnie). Carried unanimously.

Motion to disperse \$25,000 to Appalachian Service Project from the Forward in Faith Fund for a new home build (Kendall) Seconded (Bonnie). Carried unanimously.

Motion to accept the Forward in Faith Follow-Up Team Charter as presented with the one edit (Bonnie) Seconded (Kathleen). Carried unanimously.

February

Motion to accept the new officer positions for 2018 Council year (Scott), Seconded (Stuart), carried unanimously.

Michelle Bunke (President)
Scott Pruyn (Vice President)
Chris Kardys (Treasurer)
Kathleen Long (Secretary)

March

Motion to approve contract for \$6,500 to CM Lavoie & Associates for civil engineering services (Kendall), Seconded (Chris), carried unanimously.

Motion to approve contract for \$346,500 to Skiffington Architects, Ltd., for architectural/structural drawings and specifications needed for new building (Kendall), Seconded (Matt), carried unanimously.

Motion to approve the authority for decision-making resolution as follows;

Keith Sharlog can approve change orders up to \$10,000. In the event a change order exceeds \$10,000 but is less than \$20,000, an email agreement of at least a four Council member majority is required. Change orders over \$20,000 require a council meeting (Kendall), Seconded (Scott), carried unanimously.

April

None

May

None

June

None

July

None

August

Motion to accept the Building Team's recommendation to move forward on the updated site plan, with the Richmond Lane cul de sac and two-lot option (Michelle), Seconded (Matt), carried unanimously.

Motion to accept the recommendation of securing the WMA Civil Engineering firm and accept the contract provided, giving Keith Sharlog the authorization to move forward (Kendall), Seconded (Stuart), carried unanimously.

Motion to go forward to the congregation with these updated designs and financial plan, confident that we can make them work, and that they set up the congregation to achieve its long-term mission and vision (Kendall), Seconded (Matt), carried unanimously.

September

Motion to approve Youthworks contract \$20,410 for 2019 Youth Mission Trip (Michelle), Seconded (Kendall), carried unanimously.

Motion to keep the Employee share at 5% for 2019 benefits year (Chris) Seconded (Scott) carried; 5 for, 1 against, 1 abstain.

October

Motion to apply the \$25,000 gift from the Senior Pastor Discretionary fund to the General fund (Kendall), Seconded Michelle, carried unanimously.

November

Motion to initiate a review of the Berkshire Hathaway one-time showing contract to Jack Minero. If it passes review, set the asking price at \$1.1M, Seconded, carried unanimously.

Motion to approve a \$5,500 contribution to Pastor Sharon's retirement fund, in recognition of her decision to waive health care benefits, Seconded, carried unanimously.

Motion to reallocate all of Pastor Kendall's November and December compensation towards housing, Seconded, carried unanimously.

Motion to form a call committee for future Associate Pastor search, Seconded, carried unanimously.

December

Motion to approve the contracting of legal services, up to \$5,000, Seconded, carried unanimously.

Motion was made to accept the agreement to finalize the legal lien on the Jackie Kruse property and move forward, Seconded, carried unanimously.

Motion authorizing Michelle Bunke to sign the MLS Listing Contract with Rick O'Connor of Realty Executives Cornerstone, and to list the property located at 100 Hanson Road, Algonquin, IL at an initial asking price of \$1,100,000, Seconded, carried unanimously.

Children's Ministries - 2018 Annual Report

Jessica Adams, Director of Children's Ministries
Stephanie Bemis, Nursery/Preschool Coordinator

Update from Children's Ministry:

- Our Nursery kids grow, play, and have fun together! Using age appropriate materials from Frolic our little ones are hearing God's Word each week.
- Our preschool kids play, create, and find friendship each week! The Elevate Jr. series is used to help them understand each bible story in an exciting way.
- Our Kindergarten-3rd grade children have continued to use the Holy Moly! Curriculum to bring the stories of the Bible to life in funny and poignant way each week.
- Our 4th/5th grade children are piloting a new curriculum this year called 252 Kids by Orange. It has been a fun change and we plan to implement the curriculum throughout all elementary grades starting next fall!
- As a part of Baptism, each child receives an age appropriate bible.

Wednesday Night Live at Light of Christ!

- We have moved all mid-week children's ministry to Wednesday night. Children's Choir, Awana, and PATH all meet on Wednesday night and a dinner is being served weekly. We average 50+ people per week sharing in this meal!
- Awana is a program designed to help raise our children into spiritual champions...believers with unshakeable, life-long faith in God. 70 children are registered and attending Awana regularly in 2018-2019! 20+ adult volunteers are serving this ministry faithfully each week!

Vacation Bible School 2018 Theme: Shipwrecked

- 1 week camp held June 25-29
- AM (9am-12pm) and PM (1pm-4pm) sessions
- Preschool - 5th grade
- Average of 170 Kids in the AM session
- Average of 130 kids in the PM session
- Over 70 volunteers and many generous donations
- **VBS 300 children registered, 57 new families this year!**



FaithLand Sunday programming~Birth-5th grade

Attendance: PreK-5 th grade	Total Registered	9:00AM Avg	10:30AM Avg	Total Avg
Jan - May 2018	187	27	25	52 (+2)
Jun - Aug 2018	187	20	20	40 (+5)
Sep - Dec 2018	127	30	27	57 (+5)

Curriculum~Preschool-5th Grade

- **Planned preschool Elevate Jr. Curriculum** with age-appropriate activities making connections between everyday life and Biblical teachings.
- **K-3 Holy Moly! Curriculum** helping children discover, relate, and connect with the stories in the bible.
- **4th/5th 252 Kids Curriculum** is a fresh approach utilizing a full range of teaching styles to connect with each child.

Milestone Ministries

- **10 Third Graders** and their parents attended a **3rd Grade Bible** workshop where the kids received a "real words" bible and learned how and why to use it.
- **11 Children K-5** and their parents joined us for dinner and a workshop learning the **Lord's Prayer** and its meaning.
- **20 Fifth Graders** and their parents participated in three workshops to learn about the themes connected with making their **First Communion**.

FaithLand & VBS Benevolence

VBS children raised **\$1722** for our offering to Operation Help for Haiti! FaithLand also raised **\$200** to aid those in need.



Youth Ministries – 2018

Pastor Sharon Rogers, Associate Pastor
Kim Carrera, Director of Youth Ministry, Summer Jam
Jared Skorburg, PATH Manager

MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY

PATH Confirmation Ministry: 2018-2019: 62 students, 36 leaders. School year enrollment for PATH 2017-2018 was 72 students accompanied by 35 leaders. This year all grades met from 6:30pm-8:00pm. Volunteers help with check-in and a volunteer administrative assistant helps with recording, worship reflections and serving reflections. The 2018-2019 focus is The Marks of Discipleship and the Lord's Prayer. Pr. Sharon is the lead teacher, with Pr. Kendall, Jared Skorburg, and Kim Carrera each teaching several lessons throughout the year.

PATH Retreat 2018: 52 students and 35 leaders attended this annual weekend retreat with the theme of "Crossroads: Navigating the Roadblocks of Life", based off Jeremiah 6:16. We learned about Respect for community, others, self and God. We stayed at Lake Geneva Youth Camp in Wisconsin.



PATH Serving Events: During the course of the year, the PATH students assisted with Saturday Serves for LOC, Mobile Food pantry, Northern Illinois Food Bank in Geneva and serving Feed My Starving Children. In December, they helped decorate the church for Christmas and made angel ornaments for the LOC Preschool Angel Tree. The Feed My Starving Children event in January was for all grades along with their families, 60 students and families helped pack 215 cartons which provided 46,440 meals. This will feed 127 children for a year. The 8th graders went to the Northern Illinois Food Bank in Geneva in February and packed pasta, providing meals for hungry neighbors in northern Illinois.

PATH BASH: 54 students out of the 62 participated with their leaders in a long day of fun filled spiritual growth and team building activities. Small groups began the day heading out and serving joyfully in the community and their church family." Following the serving, there were team building activities, dinner, worship and a powerful message from Kim Carrera around connecting with other Christians.



PATH Fun Day: In September, we had our 3rd Fun Day Event. A day for PATH students, parents and leaders to come have some fun with their small groups and get to know each other better.

PATH Parent Night: Parents and youth attended a special informational night on Navigating Anxiety. We had a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and owner of BZA Behavioral Health, Jessica Zaucha, speak to the parents about anxiety and our youth. The PATH students met in the Annex to discuss ways they can navigate through anxiety.

Rite of Affirmation of Baptism: Following Faith Expression presentations, 30 8th graders affirmed their baptism at two confirmation services in May.

Summer JAM: An average of 13 middle school age students attended. Kim Carrera and several high school assistants led weekly studies, games and activities to strengthen spiritual growth and give students opportunities to make new friends.

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

Summit Youth Group: In 2018 Summit had an average of 31 in attendance, 61 youth attended Summit 3 times or more. Summit has 9 adult leaders. In the fall we started using a new curriculum from GROW. Some of the series talked finding the right kind of friends, sharing our stories is important, and who God created us to be.

Plunge: Sunday afternoon Bible Study is a place, where teens plunge deeper into God's word as they fellowship with each other. Every few months it is student led. Plunge averages 7 students per month.

Winter Retreat 2018: In January, 24 students along with 3 leaders went to Lake Geneva Youth Camp in Lake Geneva Wisconsin for a weekend retreat. The theme of the weekend was "Awake." They grew in their faith as they learned the importance of being awake to what God is going in their lives.



Mission Trip: 54 high school students, 1 college aged student leader and 11 adult leaders headed out to Louisville, KY in partnership with YouthWorks. The theme for the week of serving was "Onward". Philippians 1:6 was the theme verse that the students lived out. They were split into 11 work crews as they served the community of Louisville. They served in many ways that week, at assisted living centers, serving kids and youth at an outreach ministry, and helping landscape and home repair. 66 people were God's hands and feet as they were learning that Jesus doesn't leave us alone to walk onward in our faith. Three youth and Kim Carrera shared in the week-end worship message focused on the serving that was done and life transformation experienced. The students also led music for the LOC congregation.

Summer Summit: We spent this summer connecting through fellowship and learning nights. The summer began with an 8th Grade welcoming and summer kick-off event. Throughout the summer the group had a Family Feud night, a pool party, and our 4th annual messy game night. We had our 2nd Mission Impossible Night with over 60 participants. We had a worship and open mic night where we heard how God is working in students' lives. It was a powerful night of sharing and worshipping through many forms. Also this summer, we went through a series called "Untouchables," as we explored that Jesus hung out with what we would consider untouchable people. We had a Lock-in towards the end of summer where 37 high school students enjoyed a night of fun with no sleep.

Fall Scavenger Hunt: In early fall, 29 students and 7 leaders loaded cars and used team work to solve clues and make their way between, Crystal Lake, Lake in the Hills and Algonquin. It was an amazing night where teens were able to make some new connections with other students. Team building was at the core of the night.

Serving Joyfully: Summit youth focused on serving opportunities in February. Youth helped organize one of the local food pantries. The youth also saw the importance of serving their church family in an event Summit Serves. The youth spent the night serving LOC members by helping out around their homes. In 2018, 14 high schoolers served in Faithland, 3 in AWANA, and 17 for VBS. There are 2 students who helped usher this year on a regular basis. The youth also served on multiple musical teams; 3 are serving on a worship team, 4 in orchestra.



Welcome Ministry - 2018

Jennifer Alderson, Director of Welcome Ministries

The Welcome Ministry experienced yet another outstanding year—thanks to the combined efforts of a Volunteer Team of over 85 Ushers, Greeters, Communion Servers, Connection Center Hosts and Coffee Station Hosts who serve faithfully. And, we are always looking to add new members —there's always room to serve as a part of the Welcome Ministry Team! Our team consists of multiple serving rotations: 2 Saturday Night teams (1st & 3rd weeks of the month, and 2 & 4th weeks of the month), and 4 Sunday morning teams (Week 1, 2, 3 & 4—with a different team at both 9am and 10:30am). We also have a group of subs who regularly step in when a schedule is "open", and one-time servers who help out occasionally (especially around Easter and Christmas).

Light of Christ had the privilege of welcoming over **91** First Time Guests in 2018. In addition, **7** people decided make Light of Christ their permanent church home through membership in 2018. We have continued to help connect new guests into Light of Christ through our various Welcome Ministries: Meet the Pastors, Insight (New Guest Information Event), and Ignite (Spiritual Formation and Membership Class).

This year, we continue to clarify and be intentional about our efforts in following up with new guests. For example, when a new guest provides us with their email, we send them a sequence of carefully crafted messages to help give them the tools they need to connect into life at Light of Christ.

The second email our new guests receive as a part of that sequence is our **"Light of Christ Guest Survey"**. Here are a few highlights from some of the responses we've received in 2018:



How did you hear about Light of Christ?

- ⇒ A friend invited me (5)
- ⇒ I live in the area and see Light of Christ often (2)
- ⇒ Light of Christ Preschool (1)
- ⇒ I received a mailing about Light of Christ (1)
- ⇒ ELCA Directory (1)
- ⇒ I attended LOC as a child (1)
- ⇒ I attended LOC years ago (2)
- ⇒ I was searching for churches online (1)
- ⇒ A family member invited me (1)

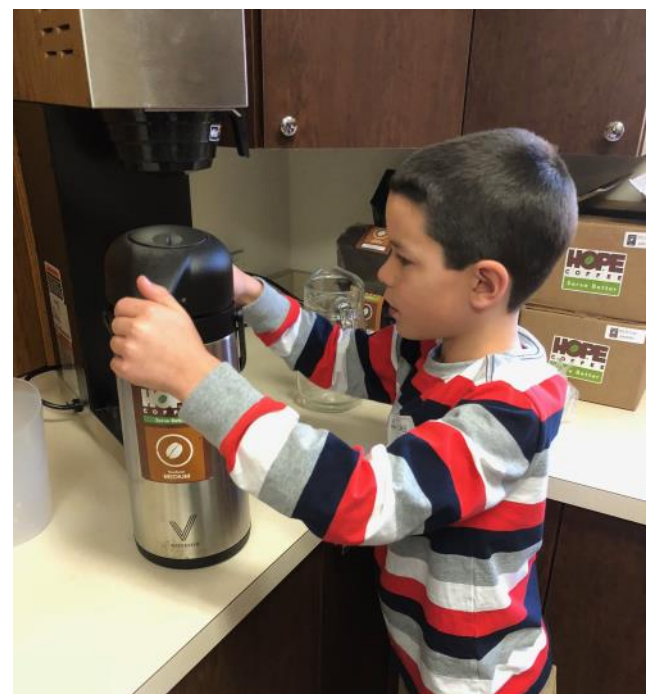
Please tell us about your visit:

- ⇒ I was welcomed warmly by a Pastor/Usher/Greeter, etc. (11)
- ⇒ Felt engaged and/or challenged by the sermon (12)
- ⇒ Was inspired by the music during worship (8)

How likely is it that you would return to another event and/or worship service at Light of Christ?

- ⇒ Yes (13)

While this is just a glimpse of the feedback we receive, there is some fantastic information that we have gleaned from the responses. And, as you can see from our results, **"A friend invited me"** continues to prove to be the **most** effective way for us to reach unchurched friends and family members! ***Your invitations are making a difference in people's lives!***



Worship and Music Ministries - 2018

Josh Jones, Director of Music & Worship
Beca Malmgren, Director of Children's Music

Blended Worship

In 2018, blended worship services continued to be held on Saturday evenings at 5pm and Sunday mornings at 9am. Blended worship on Saturday featured a rotation of capable musicians who would lead worship as soloists or in very small ensembles. Sunday blended worship continued to be led by a rotation of 5 praise bands. Worship also involved the Voices of Light choir and children's choir about twice a month, and occasionally used the organ, a chamber orchestra, or added a brass section to the praise band. There were also unique worship opportunities provided in May with a Service of Healing Prayer and December with a Blue Christmas service.

Contemporary Worship

In 2018, contemporary worship services continued to be held on Sunday mornings at 10:30am. Contemporary worship continued to be led by a rotation of 5 praise bands. Worship also involved the children's choir about twice a month, and occasionally added a brass section to the praise band.



LOC Worship Music Ensembles

Music ministry involved over 100 musicians in 2018. The music ensembles continue to be a substantial and effective way for musically blessed congregants to serve in worship and nurture their relationship with Jesus Christ! LoC Praise Bands include about 40 dedicated and talented musicians, including high school and college students. Adult Choir continued to build this year, performing more sophisticated literature, and contributing to worship about twice a month. The chamber orchestra grew in size and sound as it added several young players and contributed to the Christmas and Easter services.

LOC Music Reaching Out



In 2018, LOC praise bands took several opportunities to reach beyond Hanson Road to affirm our church's mission and invite people into our community. In March, a band played the PATH retreat. In July, a band played the Algonquin Founders Day Parade, and in August, a small

ensemble provided musical accompaniment for an immersion baptism event.

LOC Children's Choirs

The children's choirs had a busy, wonderful 2018 offering music in both the contemporary and blended services on a monthly basis. The combined choirs involved over 40 children, and met weekly on Wednesday evenings during the school year to prepare music for weekend services. Highlights included LOC's fall kick-off, Thanksgiving Eve and Christmas Eve. The children's choir ministry also prepared two musicals this year. The casts, which each included over 40 kids, met on Tuesday evenings to rehearse for the shows in spring ("In the Big Inning") and at Christmas ("Carol and the Belles").



LOC Worship Support Ministries

There are dozens of dedicated people who serve the worship ministry behind the scenes, operating technology, and preparing and caring for different elements of worship and welcome. These impressive servers continue to be generous with their time and talents week after week.

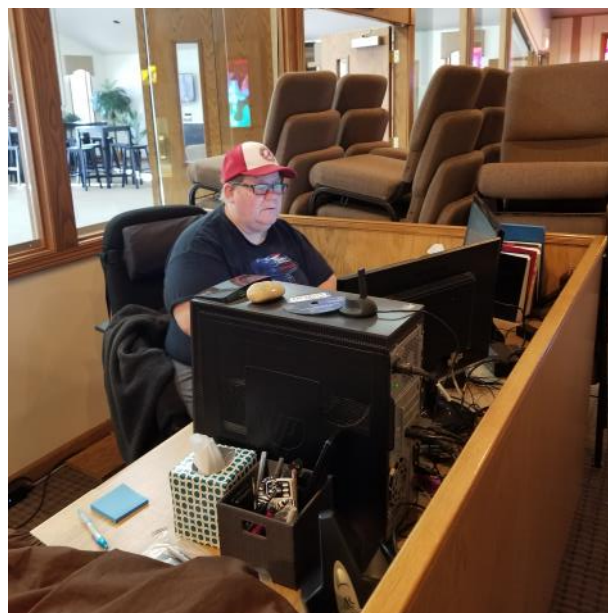
- **Altar Care**, led by Carrie Weyers, continued to involve about a dozen women in 2018, and always welcomes new members and bread bakers. They continue to prepare elements for worship and beautify the worship space, providing coordinated décor for special events and services. Marty Kaiser, a member at Light of Christ, shared his passion for wine with the creation and the donation of "Martin's Vintage Two and Three," named for Martin Luther which is used for communion.
- **Production Team**, led by Jack Belford, provides sound engineering and A/V and lighting expertise for all worship services. This worship production team faithfully produces the best possible atmosphere for worship through sound reinforcement. This includes, but is not limited to, creating the best live music mix possible, creating an audio mix that

meets the mood the pastor and worship leader want to convey, and supporting the audio needs of the people involved with the church service. Ultimately, glorifying God through providing excellent audio services. Both inside and outside the church the production team supports PATH, Faithland, Summit, LOC Preschool, MOPs, Men's Ministry, Women's Ministry, Weddings, Memorials, Full Immersion Baptisms in LITH, Mobile Food Pantry, Children's Musicals, and Christmas in a Barn.

- **Proclaim Techs** Glen Swanson and Cate Welk diligently built all of our worship services in Proclaim Projection software, incorporating announcements, videos, song lyrics, and various themed backgrounds.
- **Worship Projection Team**, led by Scott Morgan, continued to provide excellent support in worship, facilitat-

ing congregational participation each service. The team had about 10 members in 2018, and continues to seek opportunities for more growth.

- **The Video Ministry**, led by Hinrich Schmidt, continued to record the sermon each week, making these recordings available online. They take special care in memorializing special events like baptisms or children's musicals.
- **Worship Assistants**
Refer to Welcome Ministry Page
- **Connection Center Hosts**
Refer to Welcome Ministry page



Adult Ministries - 2018

Bonnie Kautz-Prasse, Director of Adult Ministries

Pastor Sharon Rogers, Associate Pastor

Adult Ministry at Light of Christ offers opportunities for adults to grow in their faith, find Christian friendships with others and serve beyond themselves. We are continually encouraging adults to find places to connect in all three areas living into our Mission Statement of Invite, Nurture and Serve. The ministries below were designed to help adults grow closer to Jesus, find or grow in Christian friendships and serve in meaningful ways.

GROWING

DISCIPLESHIP WITH ADULTS

Classes:

Pastor Kendall's Wednesday Morning Bible Study –

This study continued meeting weekly from September through May. Pastor led the group through various books of the Bible with teaching and small group discussion.

Insight/Ignite/Impact – This year we offered a series of classes to help people find out more about Light of Christ, our Christian faith and grow in their personal relationship with Jesus. These classes were taught by Pastor Kendall, Pastor Sharon, Bonnie Kautz-Prasse and Jennifer Alderson.

Small Groups:

Light of Christ had 29 small groups in 2018 that dug into God's word through studying various books of the Bible, and Christian Book studies. These included men's (10 groups), women's (11 groups) and couples groups (8 groups).

Monthly:

Men's Breakfast – This event continued to serve many men at Light of Christ. Meeting the second Saturday of the month offering a combination of friendship and faith growth opportunity. Average attendance was between 20 -25 men. Each month the men dug into Scripture and discussed how to live an impactful life as a man of God. Each month was a different focus of study.

Women's Breakfast - This event continued to serve many women at Light of Christ. Meeting the first Saturday of the month offering a combination of friendship and faith growth opportunity. Average attendance was between 15 - 20 women. They reflected on Defiant Joy and friendship.

Couple's Night Out – This event met the first Sunday evening of each month from October through May, offered a combination of friendship and faith growth experience. Valentines Party and Trivia night, When Your Engine Overheats, Secrets to an Awesome Marriage, Starting and Stopping and a Christmas Party are some of the events that occurred this year.

MOPS – This ministry met the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month between September and May, and is geared toward mothers with preschoolers. There were over 40 women participating in 2018. MOPPETS is the childcare arm of the ministry and they care for 35 children this year.

Women's Ministry – This year the Ministry offered weekly and monthly events for the women of LOC. Some of the events were: small groups, self-defense, game night, buncoco, craft fair and yoga.



Men's Ministry – This year this Ministry offered weekly and monthly events for the men of LOC. Some events were: small groups, a Steak Fry and Baggo Board Kickoff Event and also sponsored the serving event for Turning Point in Woodstock.

Freebirds– We started a new Ministry this year that is geared towards Empty Nesters. This is a connecting Ministry. This year they went to summer concerts, restaurants and Richardson's Corn Maze. We have had 25 people involved in the beginning stages of the ministry.

MOMSnexT – This year we sunset the MOMSnexT ministry due to lack of attendance.

Support:

Griefshare—This eleven week small group was offered in the fall of 2018. It was for those going through a time of grief. There were 21 people that participated.

Surviving the Holidays – This onetime event was offering in early December to help those going through loss during the Christmas season. There were 26 people attending.

Hope for Parents – This is a weekly group offers support and encouragement to parents whose children are facing substance abuse and mental health challenges.

Discipleship:

VBS for Adults- Summer Study – We offered a five week study for adults that paralleled the VBS program for our children during the summer. The following topics were addressed through sermons and a small group experiences. Study topics were: When You're Lonely...Jesus Rescues, When You Worry...Jesus Rescues, When You Struggle...Jesus Rescues, When You Do Wrong...Jesus Rescues, When You're Powerless...Jesus Rescues. Small groups were encouraged to participate in the study guide that was developed by Light of Christ.

continued→

“Summer Scripture Memorization Challenge”: We took the congregation on a 14-week journey offering everyone the opportunity to memorize a Scripture verse each week throughout the summer.

Every Monday and Thursday, we sent a short devotional that reflected on the verse for that week. Each of the devotionals were written by our own Light of Christ family. Each week, as a part of the weekend worship, a key fob with that week’s verse was made available for people to carry with them to remind them of the verse for that week.

These are the 14 verses we memorized over the summer: Psalm 27:10, John 14:7, John 16:33, Ephesians 2:4-5, Psalm 46:1, Proverbs 3:5-6, Romans 12:2, Philippians 4:8-9, Philippians 4:13, Micah 6:8, 2 Timothy 1:7, Ephesians 4:32, 1 Peter 3:15, Jeremiah 29:11

Special Events:

Kingdom Weekend – This annual spiritual renewal retreat offered in February had 70 people attend with 11 small groups. There was a reunion night after the Retreat.

E3: Explore, Engage, Experience – This year the KW Steering Team renamed this Kingdom Weekend Retreat. They also made changes to the Weekend that will take effect at the February 2019 Event.



Marriage Retreat – On January 20 we had our Retreat called, “The Marriage Dashboard”. It was a day that we looked at five “gauges” to keep a marriage growing and healthy. They were (1) Start with God, (2) Have Fun Together, (3) Honor Each Other, (4) Live in Community and (5) Fight for Intimacy. The day was a combination of small groups, fun and great food. We had 17 couples attend this event.



Men’s Steak Fry – The Fall Kick-off was a great connect-

ing time with a baggo board competition and a steak and potato dinner. There were over 35 men attending.

Women’s Fall Kickoff – The focus of this event was a “Laugh O’Rama” night where the women of LOC just had fun and laughed...a lot. We had 20 women attended this event.

PATH/AWANA Parent Night – “Addressing Youth Anxiety” – We had a guest speaker, Jessica Zaucha from BZA Behavioral Health Care, that spoke to over 60 parents on how to identify and attend to their children that struggles with anxiety in today’s world.

Men’s 2018 Event – “Power Tools: Building Men of Character and Strength”. We had 47 men attend this important event. They walked through the construction of building a man of character and strength through the Blueprint, Demolition, Framing and Finishing work.

Women’s 2018 Event – “B” – Becoming the Woman God Sees”. We had 55 women attend this beautiful day. They took a journey to look at how God sees us and what that means for the life we can live. Believe, Beloved/Blessed, Brave and Belong.

FRIENDSHIP/INVITE

Bowling – Our bowling league continued to be a place for great fun and connection...and some exercise too. It ran between September and May at Liberty Bowling Lanes in Carpentersville. There were in 39 people involved in this fun event.

Softball – Another fun year of Crusader softball with all three teams playing well and representing Light of Christ and ultimately Jesus to the teams they played. We had 54 people involved. The Ministry had a kickoff barbecue and an end of the season picnic to bring the teams together for fun and connection.



Care Moms and Dads – This year Dads joined the fun. This quarterly event is geared towards moms and dads of college age students. They pack care boxes for their students and take time to connect with each other as well. We had over 20 parents involved in this Ministry.

SERVING

Algonquin/Lake in the Hills Food Pantry- Two dozen devoted team members deliver, sort and stock the shelves every Monday morning at the Pyott Road pantry. Ongoing donations donated in the LOC vestibule are delivered regularly to the pantry. 212 bags of food weighing 2,855 pounds were gathered in neighborhoods of LOC members as a part of our first Canning Hunger Food drive in July!



Appalachia Service Project Mission Trip- Our largest group of adults, 30 in all, participated in our 6th annual weeklong serving event as we returned to serving making homes warmer, safer and dryer in Guyan Valley, West Virginia in June. Team members shared their faith stretching and growth experiences as the message in weekend worship in late July.

Angel Tree- 375 gifts helped make Christmas brighter for others with Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI), Turning Point, Home of the Sparrow, DCFS foster children, Refuge for Women, Safe Families for Children and friends/family of LOC. Tree ornaments with the gift request tags were decorated by Faithland children.

Garden Ministry- Over 450 pounds of organic produce were grown and provided to the Alg/LITH Food Pantry and 5,000 ears of corn harvested and sent to area food pantries.



Golden Diners- Our partnership with the Salvation Army shifted to partnering with Catholic Charities as they took on the area-wide Golden Diners meal program. Our faithful team from LOC continued delivering hot nutritious mid-day meals in the months of March, July, and November to homebound seniors.

Habitat for Humanity- Several build days occurred involving LOC teams in Kane and McHenry Counties this year with Fox Valley and McHenry County Habitat for Humanity.

Operation Christmas Child Our annual participation in this worldwide ministry bringing gifts and the Gospel to kids around the world through a shoebox saw 220 boxes packed by LOC'ers from mid-October to mid-November.

Team World Vision- 21 Light of Christ World Vision Chicago Marathon runners and walk/runners raised \$35,752 for clean water including a snow cone fundraiser that was enjoyed by many on fall kick off Sunday! This was our first year partnering with Team World Vision Algonquin Runners. The Algonquin Runners Chicago marathoners and Run for the Hills half marathoners raised \$234,139 by 115 participants which will provide 4683 new people in Africa with access to clean water, sanitation & hygiene.



Visiting Ministry- Throughout 2018, eight members of Light of Christ have continued to visit with residents within their long term care facilities.. This Visiting Ministry program, which began three years ago, continues to bring joy, compassion and fun to all involved. Roommates as well as many residents SO LOOK FORWARD to the consistent visits. Residents who have been paired with a specific LOC member have cherished these times of conversation and encouragement.

LOC Preschool - 2018 Annual Report

Michele Niehoff, Director of LOC Preschool

The mission of the preschool is to show and share Gods love with young families.

2018 was an amazing year at Light of Christ Preschool we served 100 families showing them Gods love each and every day.

We welcomed our families back in August with the **Blessing of the Back Pack** this is a wonderful way to start off the school year receiving school bags and a blessing for each child.

September is a busy month as the children are introduced to new routines, the teachers and are begin to make new friends. We celebrated the LOC fathers with **Dads Day** and this year was filled with Stem activities brought to us by the Rockford Children's museum, a good time was had by all.

The autumn celebration continues with **LOC Fall Fest** we welcomed over 400 community members to Light of Christ Church. The day was filled with fun activities and wonderful food.

The winter season begins and we hear the sweet sound of young children praising God with song on a Sunday morning over 50 families joined us for the **Preschool Christmas Sing**. Showing and sharing Gods love with the gathering of gifts for **The Home of the Sparrow**.

In January we began **Preschool registration** on-line for the first time and it was a huge success!

February was fabulous with **Grandparents Day** over 200 of our favorite folks joined us for breakfast and a celebration of family.

We continued to share Gods love with music and song as we praised the lord with an **Easter Sing** at Light of Chris Church. The year comes to an end with a **Mother's Day Tea** and **Preschool Graduation**, we are grateful for the blessings that we received over the year and we look forward to serving new families next year.

Preschool Registration for church families begins Sunday January 27th online.



Light of Christ

2019 Proposed Budget

General Fund

	<u>2018 Budget</u>	<u>2018 Actual</u>	<u>2019 Budget</u>
General Income			
General Offering	\$961,000	\$945,081	\$964,000
Loose Change	\$13,000	\$13,729	\$13,000
Pre-School & Other	\$37,350	\$40,508	\$40,450
Total Income	\$1,011,350	\$999,318	\$1,017,450
General Expenses			
Council Expenses & Staff Compensation	\$837,631	\$831,610	\$828,261
Operations & Maintenance	\$105,665	\$122,622	\$122,119
Ministry Discretionary & Support	\$67,680	\$57,908	\$66,350
Total Expenses	\$1,010,976	\$1,012,140	\$1,016,730
<i>Staff & Operating - % of total expense</i>	93%	94%	93%
General Fund Surplus / (Deficit)	\$374	(\$12,822)	\$720
Fund Balance - Beg of Year	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$187,178
Fund Balance - End of Year	\$200,374	\$187,178	\$187,898

Light of Christ

2019 Proposed Budget

Expense Detail - General Fund

Expense Detail	2018 Budget	2018 Actual	2019 Budget
Staff & Operating			
Council (<i>Mortgage, ELCA Tithe, Pastors</i>)	\$464,511	\$460,669	\$457,014
Staff Compensation & Benefits	\$373,120	\$370,940	\$371,247
Operations (<i>Office Related, Utilities, Cleaning</i>)	\$69,465	\$84,342	\$94,867
Maintenance (<i>Bldg, Snow Removal, Small Repairs</i>)	\$36,200	\$38,280	\$27,252
Staff & Operating	\$943,296	\$954,232	\$950,380
% of income>>	93%	96%	93%
Ministry Discretionary & Support			
Sr Pastor (<i>Evangelism, Stewardship, Staff Dev't</i>)	\$23,720	\$19,052	\$21,120
Assoc Pastor (<i>Caring Partner, Community</i>)	\$3,700	\$2,881	\$3,780
Worship & Music (<i>Music & Supplies</i>)	\$16,200	\$14,615	\$16,400
Adult Ministry	\$8,650	\$8,816	\$9,500
Youth Ministry	\$3,660	\$2,360	\$3,380
Childrens Ministry	\$7,070	\$7,095	\$8,420
Welcome Ministry	\$4,680	\$3,090	\$3,750
Total Ministry Discetionary & Support	\$67,680	\$57,908	\$66,350
Total Expenses	\$1,010,976	\$1,012,140	\$1,016,730



Worship Schedule

Saturday: 5:00PM Blended
Sunday: 9:00AM Blended
10:30AM Contemporary

Offices open Monday-Friday 9am—4:30pm
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