



2020 Annual Report

Senior Pastor's Report

Pastor Kendall Koenig



This has been a year like no other—for our world, and for LOC too. Let us take a moment to remember the journey God has taken us on this year—full of challenges and blessings.

Ministry took a screeching turn the weekend of March 15th, as we needed to shift everything online—worship, Path, Summit, small groups, etc. Staff adapted plans quickly, the Production Team did wonders, and you the people of LOC responded. We learned how to do things in days that we thought would take months to figure out. Looking back the pivot was amazing.

April and May continued with everything online and people engaged. We did a phone tree twice, reaching out to members and regular attenders to assess what help and support was needed. Through your gifts, we supported a number of families.

In June we began outdoor services, holding a Confirmation service and then a full worship service in the parking lot. VBS was online. With the final day having a splash tank fund-raiser that brought joy for kids and many showers for the leaders and me. Summer Jam and Summit began meeting outside as well. June was also when protests erupted over the tragic and devastating death of George Floyd. We as a nation—and we at LOC—started looking more intently at the racial tension and injustice that continues in our country. In worship, and with a class and resources, we continued to discuss this through the year.

By the end of July, we had moved to weekly parking lot worship services. We also celebrated Pr. Sharon's retirement after twelve plus years of ministry at LOC. Our High School mission trip leaders—after twice postponing the trip—decided to stay local, serving with gusto at Hanson Road and Longmeadow. The students and leaders did what we all had to do, grieve what they missed out on, but then seize the opportunity to do something good.

During this time, the Building and Design Teams were meeting regularly, finalizing all the details for completing construction and furnishing our new campus. By August, we were ready to invite the congregation into the new space for tours and a chance to write scripture on the floor of the Worship Center. For all the years to come, literally and figuratively, we will be standing on the Word of God!

By September, the months of purging, organizing, and packing was coming to its conclusion as many members had rallied to do that work and now move our ministry equipment and supplies to Longmeadow. The actual move was completed in one week—amazing! We also hosted our Milestone and Memory gatherings, allowing people a final walk through of the space at Hanson where God had touched us all so powerfully. It was also in September that our Call Committee announced that the Holy Spirit had raised up a wonderful candidate to serve as the Associate Pastor at LOC—Pr. Maureen O'Connor, Pastor Mo.

In October, Michele Niehoff, our long-term Preschool Director, announced her retirement. Betsy Shower stepped in as Interim Director, as we prepared to open the preschool in our new space. On October 24th we opened our new doors to the congregation and community with our "Grand Serve". Over 350 people attended packing hundreds of hygiene kits for people locally and around the world.

For three weekends in November, we opened the doors for in-person worship at Longmeadow—it was a joy to share in our new space! Due to rising Covid numbers again, from Thanksgiving through the end of the year, we moved back to only online for worship and larger gatherings. In December, though, our preschool opened in our new space to much excitement of children and families.

What a year! Ups and downs for us individually and as a congregation. And yet here we are—positioned in our new space with new staff, ready to move forward in Christ's mission in 2021. God is faithful, and we have been faithful. Much of our serving work continues in the community (see the attached report), and we will be preparing to gear back into full in-person worship and ministry in the weeks to come. In God's strength, let us move forward into all that God has planned for us in the year ahead.

Church Council President's Report

Matt Cianciarulo, Council President



Dear Friends,

2020 was a year of the changing seasons for Light of Christ in a variety of ways.

We started the year off in our normal season, but soon saw that change as Covid-19 spread across the world. Though it has been disappointing to not gather as a congregation, especially in our new space at Longmeadow, I am proud of how serious LOC has treated this situation. As others throw caution into the wind and continue to add to the spreading of this devastating virus, LOC has always approached and treated the virus with the respect it deserves and has kept the safety of its employees, volunteers, members, and the community at large as a priority. As vaccines get implemented and the virus rates dwindle, we will hopefully be able to gather again as we move into a post Covid-19 season.

I want to do a shout out to the fantastic job our team of employees and volunteers did in organizing and putting together all of the parking lot worships and implementing our new technologies to live stream our worship experience. LOC had planned to start experimenting with different ways to film and live stream as we moved into our new space at Longmeadow, but God had other plans and I am so proud and amazed by our Production team.

2020 was also a season for saying Goodbye. Light of Christ said goodbye to our Council Treasurer, our longtime Associate Pastor, and our worship space at Hanson Road.

While there were many losses suffered during the Covid season, our Council had to say goodbye to one of its members, Rod Wittig, as he lost his battle with Melanoma and was called to his new home with our heavenly Father. Rod forever impacted this congregation and his phrase "Make Today Count" will ring in our hallways forever. We love and miss you Brother.

We also said goodbye to our longtime Associate Pastor. In 2018, Pastor Sharon announced her decision to step away from the full-time ministry leadership, which finally culminated this summer. Though we could not gather and throw a lavish party due to safety restrictions, we were able to gather on a wonderful sunny day in the parking lot at Hanson Road to celebrate Sharon's 12+ years of service. A tree in her honor has been planted at our new site on Longmeadow. After retiring, Sharon continued to work on a part time basis for the rest of 2020

and finally called an end to her season of serving as Serving and Justice Pastor on December 31, 2020.

2020 was a season for celebrating the new. As we said goodbye to Sharon, we also started a new season as our Call Committee, led by

Bonnie Cummins, found our new Associate Pastor - Pastor Maureen (Mo) O'Connor. After actively for over a year, we all got a little nervous as we approached our move in date



to our new Longmeadow campus with no full-time solution for this position. But just like God had his plan for our Longmeadow campus, he had one for our new Associate Pastor and led us to Pastor Mo at the perfect time to welcome her to our Ministry just as we were completing and moving into our new Campus. Welcome Pastor Mo! I look forward to all your years here at LOC.



Did I say new campus at least once? Yes, another changing of the seasons occurred as we said goodbye to our longtime home at Hanson road and moved into our new, absolutely stunning campus at Longmeadow. Thank you to all the hard work done by the Building and Design teams to make our space so useful and beautiful. A big, big thanks to Keith Sharlog who has been a main figure behind the scenes for all these years.

With the coming of our new space now comes a new season of outreach. Before the final carpet was put into place, many of us gathered (safely) before the space was completed to write down our favorite bible verses, and other encouraging phrases on the worship floor to bless the space and all those in the community who will one day call LOC their home. With this season in mind, our Council read "Organic Outreach for Churches: Infusing Evangelistic Passion in Your Local Congregation". We will no doubt see many of the key ideas in this book infused into the daily practices at LOC, but one key idea we can all employ is the concept of evangelistic



temperature. To quote the book, our "temperature impacts the way that each of us live and interact with those who are far from God. It is our responsibility to increase the temperature so that our hearts burn hotter for those who are spiritually disconnected. Does this mean we have to be "hot" all the time? Definitely not, but before we interact with those who are spiritually disconnected, we should check our temperature and try to turn it up a degree so we have the biggest impact we can in our interactions with others.



As I write this letter, I realize it is a season of change for Stuart Haughee and myself as our 3-year term as council members comes to a close. And just as our season is changing, a new one will begin for 2 new council members. In your 3rd year as a council member, you get to partake in the nomination process for upcoming council members and other volunteer positions within the congregation. While we ended up only selecting a few key members to fill open roles, I was amazed and astounded at the vast number of passionate members that we nominated. What a blessing it is to have such wonderful people call LOC their home. So, as Stuart and I pass our batons, I can without a doubt state that we do so with great confidence as we have a strong group of passionate members carrying our congregation into the future.

Church Council Secretary's Report

Sam Weyers, Council Secretary

In 2020, Light of Christ's ("LOC") Council met (virtually, for the most part) monthly and, as needed, for special meetings. Meetings began with times of quiet reflection, prayer, reviewing LOC's mission, sharing God sightings and a devotional led by one Council member.

Council meetings are God-led! We believe and trust that God guides our discussions and discernment. Typical meetings include discourse and decision-making concerning church policies and actions, including, but not limited, to: reviewing and approving the prior month's meeting minutes; reviewing and approving a Treasurer's report, which is created on a monthly basis after the Business Management Team ("BMT") meets; staffing and ministry updates; strategic planning; and discussing new possibilities and methods for putting LOC's mission into action.

The Council oversees and approves LOC's practices and focuses its intentions on key mission-driven questions such as "What does it mean to be a Lutheran church in a mission field?" and "How do we address discipleship in our community in such a way that we, as a congregation, continue to invite, nurture, and serve?". We also addressed time-specific issues, such as: electing Council officers; budgetary considerations related to the build-out of 1700 Longmeadow Parkway; working with consultants concerning stewardship; inviting Pastor Maureen O'Connor to serve at LOC; general operations of the LOC Preschool; and LOC's annual budget.

Summary of Motions from 2020 Council Minutes

In addition to monthly motions to accept Council Meeting Minutes and Treasurers' Reports:

January 14, 2020

Motion to accept the BMT 2020 Budget, seconded, passed unanimously

Motion to keep Sharon's Housing Allowance at \$30,000 per year, seconded, passed unanimously

February 1, 2020

Officer votes (performed by ballot Council retreat)

- President – Matt Cianciarulo
- Vice President – Stuart Haughee
- Treasurer – Rod Wittig
- Secretary – Sam Weyers

February 11, 2020

Motion to engage ChapterNext to conduct search for Associate Pastor (contingent on ChapterNext agreeing to extend satisfaction guarantee from 6 months to 1 year), seconded, passed unanimously

March 10, 2020

Motion to authorize BMT to investigate obtaining and binding \$1,000,000 policy that insures Kendall's life (with LOC named as beneficiary of said policy), seconded, passed unanimously

Motion to reallocate Sharon's housing allowance from \$30,000.00 to \$42,000.00 for 2020, seconded, passed unanimously

Motion to authorize majority of Building Team to approve change orders that do not exceed, in aggregate, Guaranteed Maximum Price set forth in contract with General Contractor, seconded, approved unanimously

Motion to authorize majority of Building Team to approve change orders, after Guaranteed Maximum Price threshold reached, that do not exceed \$5,000.00 per change order and \$25,000.00, in aggregate amount above Guaranteed Maximum Price set forth in executed contract with General Contractor, seconded, approved unanimously

April 14, 2020

None

May 12, 2020

Motion to authorize building team to increase Guaranteed Maximum Price with General Contractor by \$150,000, seconded, passed unanimously

June 16, 2020

None

June 30, 2020 (Special Meeting)

Motion to accept June 26, 2020 proposal from Sherri Adams of Generis to engage Sherri/Generis from July 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 to assist Light of Christ with culmination of Forward in Faith Campaign for the sum of \$12,000 (with fee to be applied to total fee outlined in Generis' August 2019 proposal if Light of Christ further engages Sherri/Generis), seconded, passed 6-1.

August 11, 2020

Motion to create Worship Producer position, seconded, passed unanimously

Motion to create Worship Production Coordinator position, seconded, passed unanimously

Motion to provide additional week of paid time off for any staff member who reaches 20-year work anniversary (maximum of five weeks), seconded, passed unanimously

Motion to designate Sharon's compensation for remainder of 2020 as housing allowance, seconded, passed unanimously

September 8, 2020

Motion to introduce and recommend Pastor Maureen O'Connor to congregation for position of associate pastor at LOC (pending agreement concerning compensation), seconded, passed unanimously

September 14, 2020 (Special Meeting)

Motion to extend associate pastor offer to Maureen O'Connor based on salary and benefits discussed during Zoom meeting (to be reflected in LOC budget) contingent on congregation's vote to call her as associate pastor, seconded, passed unanimously

Motion to retroactively compensate Michelle Niehoff (LOC Preschool Director) from LOC's general funds based on Director of Preschool school year salary effective August 1, 2020 through October 31, 2020, seconded, passed unanimously

October 4, 2020 (Special Congregational Meeting)

Zoom Poll question provided to Members for consideration/vote: Motion to extend invitation for service to Pastor Maureen O'Connor as Associate Pastor at Light of Christ. Votes were tabulated. 85 total votes were cast (83 in favor; 2 opposed). Motion Carried.

October 13, 2020

Motion to continue providing gold plus health insurance plan to eligible church staff, seconded, passed unanimously.

October 28, 2020 (Special Meeting)

None

November 10, 2020

None

December 8, 2020 *(these Minutes will remain in "draft" form until Council reviews and approves them during its January 2021 Meeting)*

None

2020 Council Members:

- **Matt Cianciarulo** – President
- **Stuart Haughee** – Vice President
- **Rod Wittig** – Treasurer (through the beginning of May)
- **Kathleen Long** – Treasurer (from the beginning of May; appointed by Council pursuant to §C12.03 of LOC's Constitution dated February 12, 2017)
- **Sam Weyers** – Secretary
- **Julie Zinger**
- **Mike Halvorson**
- **Pastor Kendall Koenig**
- **Pastor Sharon Rogers** (through June 2020)
- **Pastor Maureen O'Connor** (beginning in November 2020)

Matt Cianciarulo and Stuart Haughee have completed their terms and will be transitioning off of Council after the Annual meeting. The nominees for the 2021 officers to be voted on at the Annual Meeting are listed below.

Nominations for 2021 are as follows:

Council – for three-year terms:

Dave Haut
Sarah Walrack

Council – for one-year term:

Kathleen Long (Rod Wittig vacancy)

Nominating Team:

Amy Jacobs
Lisa Ayers

Synod Assembly Delegates:

Lisa Franklin
Kent Farbelow

New Building Team

Building Team: Keith Sharlog, Richard Bunke, Mark Hippler, Kendall Koenig, Cindy Kordecki, Wes Walker
Design Team: Sharon Rogers, Cindy Kordecki, and Connie Angelo



2020 saw the construction of our new building on the campus at the corner of Longmeadow and Sleepy Hollow Roads, and the commencement of limited use in September/October. There was a myriad of decisions that had to be made throughout the period, and we thank everyone who participated in making those decisions and helped in the execution. Some significant items to mention:

- We encountered additional issues with the soil, particularly in the parking lot, and incurred additional expense to stabilize the site. This exhausted our contingency funds and began to increase the overall project budget. Council approved an overall project budget increase of \$150K in February, which we have maintained.
- Shales McNutt was able to continue construction throughout the pandemic, and we did not experience any significant delays in materials or labor.
- Site visits and meetings occurred frequently during the year to discuss issues and resolve conflicts.
- All inspections completed for the building, with no significant issues identified during the construction.
- Invited members and public to write scripture verses on the Sanctuary floor on August 15 and August 18, prior to carpet install, and provided tours of the building.
- Completed building walkthrough and created punch list of items on Friday September 18.
- Received temporary occupancy permit on Tuesday September 29.

While the building looks complete, we still have items that we continue to monitor and complete:

- Lettering and graphics on the 3 signs still need to be installed and final inspection by the Village of Algonquin.
- Getting final inspection so we get our permanent occupancy permit from the Village.
- As we move in and begin to use the space, we find changes we may want to make, and convene the appropriate personnel to make decisions.

The New Building Team thanks everyone for their participation, thoughts, and prayers during this project. We could not have done it without all of your support!! Thank you.



Children's Ministries Report

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

This has been a year full of challenges & changes, ups & downs, good & bad, online & in-person.

Like all ministries at Light of Christ, all our children's ministry programs were greatly impacted by the pandemic.

March 8th was our last in-person (inside) FaithLand Sunday at 100 Hanson Rd.

March 11th was our last in-person Awana Wednesday Night Live at 100 Hanson Rd.

We began brainstorming how to best connect with the



children online and we landed on Zoom.

It was a great choice, and still the one we utilize today to connect with the kids live online.

We finished up our Awana year on Zoom and had a lot of fun in the process, even continuing to gather on Zoom through May after it became apparent that our circumstances would not be changing before summer break.

We began creating a weekly FaithLand video that has evolved and continued throughout this pandemic, even when some of us gathered in-person.



A new private Facebook group was created for Light of Christ Children's Ministries where we post weekly FaithLand curriculum, Children's Choir, & Awana content and updates, and more!

VBS was virtual and we had an absolute blast with approximately 115 children attending. Lindsay Orlando & Cindy Jahnke created all the music and message videos with the help of our tech team: Jack Belford, Zach Fleck, and Steve Witwicki. It was by far the highlight of the summer!

FaithLand was able to gather in-person again at 100 Hanson Rd for several weeks during our parking lot services, and it was such a blessing for the kids to be able to connect again!

First Communion was the only Ministry Milestone scheduled for 2020 and the classes were moved to Zoom in July & August. The service was held in our parking lot and was well received.

Fall brought no better conditions for gathering our large Awana groups indoors. So we began our online journey once again, on Zoom, and added weekly video content from leaders and kids on our YouTube Channel. We have approximately 50 kids registered and attending weekly.

We hosted 3 very popular Family Gatherings with our Awana families outside at Towne Park in September and October. We sang with Ms Beca, played games, and just hung out with each other in a safe way.

WE PACKED UP-MOVED-AND UNPACKED!

We had 3 weeks of in-person FaithLand at 1700 Longmeadow Parkway which was helpful in allowing us to understand the new space, its limitations and its potential!

After sensing a need for another chance to connect, FaithLand is now back on Zoom at 9am every Sunday morning.

We are looking forward to 2021 and all the challenges & changes, ups & downs, good & bad, online & in-person opportunities we will have!

Big shout out to Jack Belford, Steve Witwicki, Jon Ogden, and Zach Fleck...none of this would have been possible without you!

Youth Ministries

Pastor Sharon Rogers, Associate Pastor (Jan-July)
Pastor Mo O'Connor, Associate Pastor (Started November)
Kim Carrera, Director of Youth Ministry, Summer JAM
Jared Skorburg, PATH Manager

MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY

PATH Confirmation Ministry: This year we have registered 64 students and 34 leaders. PATH 2019-2020 enrollment was 67 students and 37 leaders. Volunteers administrative team helps with check-in and with recording Worship Reflections and Serving Reflections. The 2020-2021 focus is 10 Commandments. A teaching team was assembled in 2020-2021 where former & current PATH leaders taught some of the lessons. Pastor Sharon, Pastor Kendall, Pastor Mo, Jared, and Kim also taught.



Due to Covid, PATH has looked a little different this year. The PATH families, leaders, and staff have been very flexible as PATH has changed multiple times. PATH was held outside at 100 Hanson Rd, on Zoom, in-person at our new church campus, and on YouTube live throughout this year.

PATH Serving Events: This year, the PATH students assisted with Saturday Serves for LOC, Feed My Starving Children, Operation Christmas Child, and packed hygiene kits for World Vision. They took home bags and made ornaments for the LOC Preschool Angel Tree in November. The Feed My Starving Children event in January was for all grades along with their families. 57 students and families helped pack 269 cartons which provided 58,104 meals. This will feed 159 children for a year. In February, the 8th graders went to the Northern IL Food Bank and packed 1000 pounds of macaroni, that will provide 833 meals for families.

PATH BASH: 56 students participated with their leaders in an afternoon of games, a scavenger hunt based on the 10 Commandments, and worship. The focus for the lesson was letting go of our idols. This was a very powerful afternoon as it was one of the last events to be held at 100 Hanson Rd.



Rite of Affirmation of Baptism: Following Faith Expression presentations, 21 eighth graders affirmed their baptism in a special outdoor service in June.

Summer JAM: An average of 16 middle school age students attended on Zoom. Kim Carrera and several high school assistants led the weekly devotions, games, and activities to strengthen spiritual growth and give students opportunities to make new friends. At the end of the summer, we had a Summer JAM party in the parking lot of LOC where families could come interact with others and have some fun.

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY



Summit Youth Group: Summit average attendance was 30 with 8 leaders. Currently there is a cap of 25 who can attend in-person. We are using a curriculum from GROW. Some of the series talked about the importance of friendship, putting others first, practicing spiritual disciplines, and worshipping the one True God.

Bible Study: Sunday afternoon Bible Study is a place, where teens plunge deeper into God's word as they enjoy fellowship with each other. Throughout 2020, they have done studies on Eternity, Proverbs, and The 5 Love Languages. Bible Study averages 9 students each week. Kim Carrera is the main teacher along with some student led weeks.



Winter Retreat 2020: In January, 28 students along with 4 leaders went to Lake Geneva Youth Camp in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin for a weekend retreat. And to top off the weekend, LOC's broomball team won the 2020 Broom Ball Championship. The theme of the weekend was "Ultimate Pursuit." They grew in their faith as they learned the importance of God being the thing in their lives that they ultimately follow.

Mission Trip: 30 high school students, 3 college aged student leaders, and 6 adult leaders who served over a week's span at 100 Hanson Rd. The theme for the week of serving was "Way Maker". Students gave up their last week of summer to serve at the church that has helped support them in so many ways. Groups helped organize ministry areas for the move, landscaped, cleaned, made crosses for First Communion students, painted the outdoor stage, and worked outside at our new church campus. Students and leaders saw the importance of being able to serve their church as God provided a mission trip for them during a crazy year.

Summit During COVID: During this hard year, the Summit students were faithful to attend even though there were many changes throughout the year. Summit met online in the spring and eventually started to meet in-person outside during the summer. During the summer, Thursday lunches would occur - students would bring a lunch and just enjoy hanging outside together. Currently students are meeting inside at our new church campus and following Covid guidelines. The ministry is thankful that they can still meet in a safe way. Some fun events



that we had during the year were: Tie Dye Tuesday, Mission Impossible, mini golf, and s'more night.

Serving Joyfully: During the course of the year, Summit has found a way to still serve. In February, Summit served at the Algonquin/Lake in the Hills Food pantry, by organizing food donations. The high schoolers helped load trucks for the big move in October. Summit also helped pass out door hangers for our Grand Opening. Students have also served in Operation Christmas Child, food donations, and helping pack hygiene kits for World Vision.



Welcome Ministry Report

Jennifer Alderson, Director of Welcome Ministries

Despite all of the challenges that 2020 has brought, the Welcome Ministry continues to be a driving force at Light of Christ.

2020 began with great momentum and enthusiasm. Our Welcome Ministry Leadership Team began meeting in January to make plans for how the Welcome Team would function and flourish in the new building. We poured over building plans, imagined traffic patterns in the Welcome Center and Worship Center, contemplated how communion would flow and how many servers we would need, and began planning for overall team growth and expansion. This time became critical for us, as it laid the ground work needed for us to step into our new space with a vision and framework for executing our responsibilities.

As 2020 continued to evolve, the Welcome Ministry Leadership Team became even more critical, as they leaped into action when we went online in March and April, reaching out to and caring for their individual teams and subs, as we found ourselves in uncharted territory as a church. I am grateful for their leadership, their servant's hearts, their commitment to Christ, and to this church.

When we moved into the Parking Lot, you may have noticed a transformation of our team. We suddenly found ourselves handing out pre-packaged communion elements and directing traffic—instead of shaking hands and handing out bibles! The Welcome Team continued to remain flexible and passionate—serving in whatever capacity was asked of them. We branded ourselves with “Ask Me, I’m Here to Help” t-shirts, set up our yellow Welcome Tent, and continued to be hospitable to all who chose to worship with us during this season of church looking a little “different”.

During this time, many new people added to our ranks, and stepped into service. This pattern continued as we moved into 1700 Longmeadow Parkway! Many new people joined the Welcome Team in 2020—eager to serve and welcome others. As October came, the Leadership Team made their way into the building first to continue the planning and preparations we had begun back in January on paper. We established a solid plan for Grand Opening, and continued to meet online to “tweak” as necessary, to ensure the safest and warmest welcoming experience for worshipping guests.

On November 1st, we had 75 people from the Welcome Team come for our All Servers training, to learn the ropes of what serving would look like in our new space. It was

energizing and inspiring to see this team come together, roll up their sleeves, and dig into this new season of service.

We had an ARMY of people serving during the 3 weeks of in-person Grand Opening services—thank you to ALL who stepped in to help those wonderful weeks of worshipping together. Even though worship moved online for the remainder of 2020, the team continued to step in as needed—for Blue Christmas, to host a Baptism family when they come in to broadcast a service live, and the Leadership Team continued to extend care and help people stay connected.

We are looking forward to connecting further in 2021 and welcoming the community into our beautiful new ministry center.

The Welcome Ministry Leadership Team:

Cheryl Alopogianis
Nora Belford
Scott Bruns
Joe Clark
Don Cranston
Kent Farbelow
Dave Haut
Chris Kardys
Connie Koenig
Mike Thorsen
Jamie Walrack



Worship and Music Ministries Report

Josh Jones, Director of Music & Worship
Jack Belford, Worship Production Coordinator
Beca Malmgren, Director of Children's Music

Worship

As with so much of our lives, 2020 brought many changes to worship at Light of Christ. Our primary means of worshiping as a community moved online, through livestreaming and recordings.

We reduced our use of live musicians as part of our efforts to keep in-person events adherent to standard safety practices.

We were able to incorporate other members of the ministry through composite recordings, using "virtual worship bands" many times throughout 2020. At both Easter and Christmas, we added virtual choirs and the Roley family's virtual brass quartet!

It is such a blessing to live in a time when we have the technology to make these virtual efforts possible!

In November, we celebrated a 3-week Grand Opening of in-person worship in our new worship center!

There were several new gatherings of worship this year to accommodate our inability to gather as we normally would, like an outside prayer vigil in May, drive-in Confirmation in June, Quiet Christmas gatherings through Advent, and Christmas Under the Stars in December.



Production Team

Throughout 2020, the largest area of growth and change within worship has been with our production team! With our ministry going mostly online in March, much of the way we connect as a community was dependent on the efforts of the production team.

In March, the team quickly developed a system for recording and distributing worship. They pivoted again when we started offering parking lot worship over the summer by developing a means of livestreaming our services. In October, the team began training for the most dramatic change of the year – using the new tools and resources in our new worship center. There is a tremendous new capacity for creativity and expression in the new sound, projection, lighting, video, and livestream systems. There is a world of difference in what the team does for our ministry now, rivaling many large scale, professional production worship efforts. This team has experienced much growth over the last year, and their commitment and dedication to our God has been astounding!

Jack Belford leads the Production Team that consists of:

Roger Ault	Robin Meldgin
Nora Belford	Scott Morgan
James Carey	Jon Ogden
Zach Fleck	Ty Parquette
Mark Foster	Dean Popovich
Cathy Fulgham	Hinrich Schmidt
Annette Kandell	Sam Weyers
Ed Kolodziejewski	Steve Witwicki
Brian Lockhart	Chris Wulf



Children's Music

Once March came, the LOC Children's Choir began to meet online, and for the first time since I've been here, we were not able to perform the Spring musical. LOC Children's Choir, along with the other LOC children's ministries, have made several music videos, one for Mother's Day, Easter, and Christmas! The kids were amazing, singing and dancing from their own homes!

In June, the Children's Choir hosted a Disney Trivia Drive Thru! We had about 35 volunteers who set up trivia stations around the parking lot, while about 30 cars full of families came through to participate!



Although we weren't able to have our traditional theater camp this year, we had an outdoor theater camp reunion! With the theme of "The Sun'll Come Out," we had an amazing time together expressing art, dancing, and watching past theater camp highlights!



Altar Care

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 2020, and always welcomes new members. They continue to prepare elements for worship and beautify the worship space, providing coordinated décor for special events and services. As part of our 2020 safety protocols, the team started using "Miracle Meal" individual communion cups for all in-person worship gatherings.

Adult Ministries Report

Bonnie Kautz-Prasse, Director of Adult Ministries

As with all ministry in 2020, we had great challenges due to Covid-19. While many events needed to be cancelled, we were still able to help adults connect with God and others. We continued to offer ministries designed to help adults grow closer to Jesus, find or grow in Christian friendships, and serve in meaningful ways. This became no less important than in the time of Covid.

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.



Small Groups

Light of Christ had small groups in 2020 that dug into God's word through studying various books of the Bible, and Christian Book studies. These included men's (8 groups), women's (7 groups) and mixed groups (7 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 15-25 men. We held several breakfasts over Zoom in the Spring of this year. In the fall, we met in person at the new Church building but did not serve breakfast. In October, the men helped move the Church. It continued to be a time for the guys to get together to connect in the time of Covid.

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. Several breakfasts were held over Zoom in the spring and at the new Church building. The fall breakfasts did not offer breakfast but just a time to connect. In September, the women helped move the Church.

Couple's Night Out – This year we had to cancel our Couples Night Out after March given that childcare was a crucial component and that was not an option due to Covid.

MOPS/Mom's Ministry – We started the year off with our MOPS Ministry held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday mornings. We had to hold the last several spring MOPS via Zoom. Our plan was to morph this Ministry into a Mom's ministry to serve Moms of all ages in the fall of 2020. Unfortunately, we had to put the Mom's Ministry on hold due to Covid. Our hopes are to begin this new Ministry in the Fall of 2021.

Women's Ministry – This year the Ministry offered weekly and monthly events for the women of LOC. Much of the ideas for ministry were cancelled or put on hold due to Covid. There was a one-day event called "Crazy Core Courage". Our hope is to hold it again in the spring of 2021.



Men's Ministry – This year the Men's Ministry continued to offer small groups and the monthly breakfast. Other events were curtailed due to Covid. We had a one-day event scheduled for November called, "Whole Hearted Men – Breathe, Live Fight". In the end, we had to cancel the event. We hope to hold it in the spring of 2021.

Freebirds - This is a play group for middle aged or older people who don't need childcare and would like a moment to get away from cares and duties and just have some fun. This social group was put on hold in 2020 due to Covid.

OWLS – This is a group for individuals 65 and beyond. It is a social and support group that met in the beginning of the year and has offered care and support throughout the Covid season.

Support

Hope for Parents - This very special weekly group offers support and encouragement to parents whose children are facing substance abuse and mental health challenges. It has met all year either in person or via Zoom.

Discipleship

Devotionals - We sent devotionals to the congregation every Monday and Thursday mornings at different times of the year in 2020. They offered an opportunity to stay connected in Scripture and grow in their relationship with Jesus over a tough year of isolation and uncertainty.

The time of year that we sent them to the congregation: New Year (January), Lent, Summer, Fall Sermon Series, Thanksgiving and Christmas. The Christmas devotionals were also done in video format.

Get Out of Your Head: We held this small group in the Summer via Zoom. We had 28 people participate.

Enneagram Small Group: We held this summer small group that complimented the Summer Sermon Series on Enneagrams. It was held via Zoom. We had 30 people involved in the group.

Race, the Church and Us: We created a 5-week small group in which 29 people participated.

Meant for Good: This Zoom small group was held in November/December. There were 12 people involved.



Special Events

E3: Explore, Engage, Experience – A very special weekend on February 21-23, 2020 was experienced by 65 people. This event was held at Inspiration Ministries in Walworth, Wisconsin. In retrospect, we feel very grateful that we were able to have E3-2020, given that three weeks later Covid canceled many of our plans.



Life Event - We had planned to offer two Life Events in the Spring of 2020. They were Act II: Living Life Large and Family Today: Living in an Inside Out and Upside-Down World. Unfortunately, we needed to cancel the events. We hope to hold them at a later date.

Saturday Couples Event - September 2020. We had socially distanced, Covid procedure Couples Event. It was a great evening with wonderful speakers and important information. Eight Couples attended in the Sanctuary at Hanson Road.

FRIENDSHIP/INVITE

Seasonal

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 39 people involved in this fun event.

Softball – The Softball Season was cancelled due to Covid.

LOC Camping – We didn't have the camping event this year though a small group of LOC families went to Camp Timberlee in the fall.

Referral for Care – Referrals for individuals and families for counseling and other human service's needs.

Serving Ministries Report

Pastor Sharon Rogers, Director of Serving and Justice Ministries

SERVING

Algonquin/Lake in the Hills Food Pantry: Monday mornings a devoted team from LOC gleans food from local grocery stores, sorts it, and stocks it on the pantry shelves. Team members also assist guests on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays when the pantry is open. Donations dropped off in the LOC vestibule bin are delivered regularly to the pantry. The annual Thanksgiving Food Drive brought in donations of 2,000 pounds by LOC.

Angel Tree: Our Angel Tree moved online for gift giving this year. Donations enabled 200 gifts to be purchased to make Christmas brighter for others connected with:

- Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI)
- Turning Point
- Home of the Sparrow
- It's Our Little Story
- Refuge for Women
- Safe Families for Children
- Compassion for Campers
- Phil's Friends
- Friends/family of LOC



Appalachia Service Project Mission Trip This annual adult serving opportunity was postponed in 2020.

Golden Diners Hot nutritious meals were delivered by a faithful team from LOC in partnership with Catholic Charities in the months of March, July, and November to homebound seniors.

KidsHope USA With the upheaval in learning methods due to the pandemic, this partnership paused in March when it became unsafe to meet in-person with at-risk children. Various methods were under exploration in the Fall looking to 2021 while being sensitive to ongoing instructional pivots for school district teachers and staff due to the virus.

Operation Christmas Child Our annual participation in this worldwide ministry brought 165 boxes of gifts and the

Good News of Jesus to kids around the world.

Team World Vision PAMOJA – It means “together” in Swahili. In February, 22 LOC’ers signed up for the full or half marathon. Covid challenges/concerns and injuries changed plans for some, but many team members continued to raise funds. A core group ran or ran/walked the marathon on the Prairie Bike Trail in October. The group from LOC raised \$28,611.31 to provide much needed clean water. Covid necessitated creativity so some ran or ran/walked a half or full marathon, others did a 7-day 6K, others with injuries committed to volunteering during the PAMOJA marathon.



World Vision Global 6K for water Mid May brought an opportunity for something all could do from home and a way to serve during Covid. 25 LOC’ers walked, ran, road stationary bikes, pushed strollers while participating in the Virtual 6K in partnership with World Vision and were part of bringing clean water for over 32,000 people.

World Vision Hygiene Kit Grand Serve Pack Event As a part of the Grand Opening on the new campus, a serving event was organized and executed to pack 600 personal hygiene kits while providing participants an opportunity to safely tour the new campus. PATH youth also served to pack the kits when they gathered. 300 kits went back to World Vision for international distribution, 300 stayed local and were distributed to:

- ALITH Interfaith Food Pantry
- Crystal Lake Food Pantry
- D300 Food Pantry
- Turning Point
- Refuge for Women
- Humans for Hope

LOC Preschool Report

Betsy Shower, Director of LOC Preschool

The mission of the LOC Preschool is to show the love of God to our young families. The 2020 school year has been a bit of a challenge but is now up and running and is going great! The preschool staff could not be more excited to be working with the children again.

In October, the preschool's previous director Michele Niehoff resign from the position and hired, me, as her interim replacement. There have been a few bumps in the road to get the preschool up and running but I am proud to say that as a team we have overcome those obstacles and will have the preschool operating at its normal capacity for the remainder of the school year. The preschool staff opened its doors and has begun to meet with its students starting this December. We currently have 2 full classrooms, one 3-year-old room and one 4-year-old room.

During the 2019-20 school year the preschool had to close its doors beginning in March. However, students and teachers did meet on Zoom and were still able to work together. This past May the preschool held a "Graduation Parade" for its students who have graduated and went off to Kindergarten. Unfortunately, due to Covid concerns the current preschool year has not been able to have its typical gatherings and events but hopes to be able to begin to have them starting again next school year. At the end of the school year in May the preschool will offer a form of graduation for its current students who will be going to Kindergarten in the fall.

In January/February the preschool will begin preschool registration for the 2021-22 school year. We are grateful to have been given the opportunity to work with our preschool families and look forward to another school year starting in August!



Light of Christ

2021 Proposed Budget

General Fund

	<u>2020 Budget</u>	<u>2020 Actual</u>	<u>2021 Budget</u>
General Income			
General Offering	\$949,000	\$931,618	\$949,000
Loose Plate	\$13,000	\$2,232	\$5,000
Pre-School	\$26,720	\$12,022	\$14,000
Other Income	\$13,000	\$6,889	\$5,400
Total Income	\$1,001,720	\$952,760	\$973,400
General Expenses			
Council Expenses & Staff Compensation	\$816,252	\$751,328	\$798,561
Operations (Office Related, Utilities, Cleaning)	\$112,204	\$99,737	\$103,994
Maintenance (Snow Removal, Landscaping, Small Repairs)	\$32,300	\$21,181	\$31,900
Sr Pastor (Evangelism, Stewardship, Staff Development)	\$22,515	\$19,290	\$19,885
Assoc Pastor	\$4,881	\$2,961	\$4,500
Worship & Music	\$17,000	\$15,104	\$17,000
Adult Ministry	\$10,950	\$8,330	\$11,050
Youth Ministry	\$3,580	\$3,580	\$3,700
Childrens Ministry	\$10,580	\$10,902	\$9,220
Welcome Ministry & Communications	\$7,513	\$9,866	\$9,600
Total Expenses	\$1,037,775	\$942,278	\$1,009,410
<i>Staff & Operating - % of total expense</i>	93%	93%	93%
Transfer in from Restricted Staff Fund	\$36,100	0	\$36,500
General Fund Surplus / (Deficit)	\$45	\$10,482	\$490
Mortgage Payments			(\$252,000)
Remaining FIF commitments			\$252,000
General Fund Surplus / (Deficit)	\$45	\$10,482	\$490
Fund Balance - Beg of Year	\$223,269	\$221,332	\$231,814
Fund Balance - End of Year	\$223,314	\$231,814	\$232,304



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