



*MOVE CLOSER TO THE LIGHT*

During the early days of trains, a flagman would take his place in the middle of the street stopping all traffic as a train approached. During the day he would hold up a STOP sign. At night he would wave a lantern. There is an old story about a flagman and his lantern that goes like this.

*There was an accident one dark night at a railroad crossing. A lawsuit followed, and during the proceedings the flagman was called to take the witness stand. The prosecuting attorney asked the usual questions. Then followed an important one. He asked, "On the night of the accident, when you saw the car approaching, did you wave the lantern?" The flagman answered, "Yes, I waved the lantern." The attorney for the prosecution continued with other questions, but before long he came to the same one, "Did you wave that lantern?" Yes," answered the flagman, "did wave the lantern." The case seemed to hinge on this bit of testimony. The prosecutor realized it, and so once more he thundered, "I was you again, when you saw the car approaching the crossing, did you wave the lantern?" One again, the flagman answered, "I did. Yes, I waved the lantern." The railroad company won the case. No damages were allowed. Later, the defense attorney was talking to the flagman. He said, "The prosecuting attorney really had me worried when he kept asking, "Did you wave the lantern? Did you wave the lantern?" "Well", said the flagman, "What worried me was that he might ask, "Was the lantern lit?"*

*There is so much waving of dead lanterns. What about ours? The purpose of lanterns and lamps is to give light – to shine. The Bible has some important things to say about lights and about shining.. It speaks of God's own Word as "a LAMP unto our feet and a LIGHT unto our path. Ps. 119:105. Our precious Savior refers to Himself as "THE LIGHT". And He says of us, His followers, "You are the LIGHT of the world." As lights, we are not to be like that flagman's dead lantern, but rather, we are to shine – not as a flickering flame, but as a steady light. How did it happen that we, who were once in darkness, the darkness of unbelief and separation from God, are now lights? This is a miracle of God's grace. We are "the light of the world", not because of "any merit or worthiness in us", not because of our shrewdness of our intellectual acumen or our scientific genius, but we have become the "light of the world" only because we have been touched and transformed by Christ. He it is Who has "called us out of darkness into His marvelous light to show forth His praises."*

*When children are doing home work or working on some project, they invariably sit on the floor in the most dimly lit part of the room. Parents might say, "Move closer to the Light." Even so the challenge to each of us is, "Move closer to 'THE LIGHT!' And this by faithfully, diligently reading, meditating and searching the Word of God. And through the Word of God the Holy Spirit keeps us in direct contact with Him Who is the source of all light, Christ Jesus our Lord. Let us resolve anew to keep close to Christ, the true and only Light.*

*When we get right down to it, however, we do not possess light in and of ourselves. Rather, we are more like reflectors which do not have light in themselves. Even as the moon reflect the light of the sun, so we are to reflect the light of God's Son, Jesus. Yet, Jesus calls us "lights." "You are the light of the world". Matt.5:14, He says. And as such we are to shine. An unlit lantern is not serving its purpose. Jesus says, "A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house." Matt 14:15. Then He goes on to say, "Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father Who is in heaven." Matt. 14:16*

*What is the ultimate purpose of our lives? "To show forth the praise of Him who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light." I Peter 2:9. Not all of us can be chandeliers in important and conspicuous places. Some of us must be satisfied and thankful to be 40-watt bulbs on the back steps somewhere. There, too, we have a singular purpose – to shed forth the glorious gospel light in order to keep people from slipping and falling.*

*O Lord, indeed we need Your powerful and loving Light. Keep us from being frightened or overcome by the darkness of evil. Help us to MOVE CLOSER TO THE LIGHT by turning daily to Your Word, for it is "A lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path." Keep Your Light burning bright for us, in us, and through us. To the glory of our Father Who is in heaven. Amen.*

Both this meditation and the meditations for May - July 2022 were adapted from Letters, Volume 1 by Cecil H. Skibbe, former pastor at St. John, Indianapolis

## August Birthdays



August 1 Trent Rudat  
 August 3 Guy Perry  
 August 11 Mary McMullen  
 August 12 Harold Akers

August 16 Barbara Leineweber  
 August 19 Fern Riechmann  
 August 26 Sandra Hider  
 August 26 Bob Wilkinson

### August Anniversaries

August 22, 1981 Dave & Mary McMullen



## Our Financial Reports

This financial report for 2022 shows the income and expenses for the end of June and YTD for LCLC and for LCK.

June 2022	LCLC	Year to Date Total Assets LCLC
Income		Income/Assets
Envelope	\$ 5,603	Envelope \$ 78,155
LCK (Bld & Maint.)	\$ 7,500	LCK (Bld & Maint.) \$ 45,000
Bld Fund/Loan/Misc	\$ 185	Bld Fund/Loan/Misc \$ 9,913
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 13,288</b>	LCEF Account \$ 23,812
		LCLC Saving Acct \$ 22,451
Expenses	\$ 13,439	<b>Total Cash Assets \$ 179,338</b>
Difference	\$ (151)	
		Total Expenses \$ 96,127
		Difference \$ 83,211

June 2022	LCK	Year to Date Total Assets LCK
Daycare Income	\$ 56,931	Income/Assets
		Income \$ 308,988
		Saving Account \$ 64,721
		<b>Total Cash Assets \$ 373,709</b>
Expenses	\$ 62,360	Total Daycare Expenses \$ 354,958
Difference	\$ (5,429)	Difference \$ 18,751

The Stabilization Grant for LCK is reported separately and includes the other assets within LCEF, the Savings Accounts, and the Grant funds. We must continue to be good stewards of the financial blessings we have received from the faithful giving of our members, the income received in LCK, and the gift of the Grants.

Grant Income/Expenses	
Income/Assets	
Grant A Part 1 Income	\$ 76,800
Grant A Part 2 Income	\$ 82,039
Grant B Income	\$ 304,157
<b>Total Cash Assets</b>	<b>\$ 462,996</b>
Total Grant Expenses 2021 -2022	\$ 143,340
Difference	\$ 319,656

The work with the Stabilization Grant continues. The most recent activity includes the purchase of a food cart for the kitchen, the upgrade of the security doors in the lobby, the purchase of a playground set for the Toddler playground (any volunteer to assemble this unit??), classroom chairs, tuition discount for staff families, and payroll increase reimbursements.

### Living Christ Trail (Path/Pond) Project

Remember the "Hill" and the "Pond"? A year ago the Town of Plainfield began the work to build the Living Christ Trail (as named by the Town) from the Sugar Grove trail in front of the church along the north property line and part of the west property line to extend the Walking Trails in the Greater Plainfield area. The project included removing the hill, moving the pond to the northwest corner of our property, and constructing the new trail along our north property line. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place on August 18 at 1:00 pm at the Hendricks Regional Medical Center on Quaker Blvd and Stanley Road in Plainfield (NE corner) The Clarks Creek Trail Extension and the Living Christ Trail Extension were projects developed at the same time.

**Road Signs of Life**

How many road signs can be applied to our living habits as Christians as well as our driving habits/?

**NO U-TURN:** I cannot go back and start over. What is behind me is beyond recall. I cannot retrace my steps to correct those sins of omission and commission, for life is a one-way proposition. I can only try by God’s grace to do better on the balance of my earthly trip.

**MERGING TRAFFIC:** I meet many people on the Highway of Life. We find ourselves cruising along together for an hour, a day, a year, perhaps even a lifetime. Eventually we separate – or death separates us. I must not wreck their lives by my bad driving habits. I must not teach them by bad habits.

**SLOW** – There will be many times when the road ahead is not clear, when it forks, zigzags, and curves beyond my vision. There will come times of storms and stress. I must travel carefully, cautiously asking God to help me stay within the lines.

**DO NOT ENTER** – As a Christian there are some roads I must not travel, inviting though they seem. Money, power, position, greed and others can detour me from that heavenly path Jesus has mapped out for me.

**UNDER CONSTRUCTION** – How many times do we see this sign! Times change, methods change, church practices and program change. **But the Word of God never changes. It will be my spiritual road map at all times and under all conditions as Jesus directs and fuels my living.**



Psalm 113:3  
 From the rising of the  
 sun unto the going  
 down of the same the  
 LORD'S name is  
 to be praised.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4 Brainstorm Committee 5:00 pm	5	6
7 Worship 10:30 am Pastor Dennis Ouellette Holy Communion	8	9 Church Council /Brainstorm Committee 6:00 pm	10	11	12	13
14 Worship 10:30 am Pastor Paul Klopke Voters Meeting after Worship	15	16	17	18 Ribbon Cutting for Trail 1:00 pm	19	20
21 Worship 10:30 am Pastor Dennis Ouellette Holy Communion	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Worship 10:30 am Pastor Paul Klopke	29	30	31			

**Did you know....** Our Bible contains 810,697 words. This is about four times as many as are found in a book of average length. Although so long a book and dealing with the greatest theme that can engage the mind of man, its vocabulary is singularly limited. Only 6,000 different words are used; which is very small compared to the 20,000 employed by Shakespeare in writing his plays. Not only is the vocabulary limited, but the average word in the Bible contains five letters. Many of these short words in the Bible are, however, full of the deepest meaning and are worthy of earnest study. Such as these short five-letter words: Grace, Peace, Faith, Saved, Serve, Glory, Jesus.

## Brainstorm Committee – Q & A #2 – Report from July 24th

- The process for extending a call for our next pastor has been time-consuming and dedicated by the Brainstorm Committee with the intent to focus on the needs of LCLC and LCK and matching them with the descriptions shared in the “Call Packet” for each of the names received from the District office
- **Goals set** within the Brainstorm Committee based on information shared from individuals from the LCLC and LCK surveys completed and returned are:
  - **#1 Worship Weekly – Communion (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, & 5<sup>th</sup>)**
  - **#2 Visit our shut-ins with communion on regular basis**
  - **#3 Complete the paperwork and information requested by District for the Call List of potential pastors to serve LCLC and LCK**
  - **#4 Identifying our primary mission field** within LCLC and LCK kids, staff, and parents.
  - **#5 Review the information received on the Call List to prepare for sending our call for a full – time pastor.**

### Ministry Goals Outlined

- Build Living Christ spiritually and physically (membership, facility)
- Strengthen the “partnership” with LCK staff, kids and families for their faith, their church home, their “working together”, their work place
- Develop and initiate program planning and goal setting – short term and long term – for both LCLC and LCK
  - A. Preach Word,
  - B. Administer Sacraments
  - C. Lead Bible Study Effectively for the growth of faith for LCLC, Prospects, LCK, Community Outreach
  - D. Connect with LCK – kids, staff, parents
  - E. Facilitate and Initiate Evangelism programs for LCK, LCLC, Plainfield community Individually, corporately
  - F. Initiate and lead ministry for growth individually and as a congregation

### Guest Preachers

- May 1 – Pastor Paul Klopke
- May 8 – Pastor Doug Irmer
- May 15 – Pastor Doug Irmer
- May 22 – Pastor Doug Irmer
- May 29 – Pastor Doug Irmer
- June 5 – Pastor Paul Klopke
- June 12 – Pastor Paul Klopke
- June 19 – Pastor Doug Irmer
- June 26 – Pastor Paul Klopke
- July 3 – Pastor Paul Klopke
- July 10 – Pastor Doug Irmer
- July 17 – Pastor Paul Klopke
- July 24 – Pastor Doug Irmer
- July 31 – Pastor Paul Klopke
- August 7 – Pastor Dennis Ouellette
- August 14 – Pastor Paul Klopke
- August 21 – Pastor Dennis Ouellette
- August 28 – Pastor Paul Klopke

- **LCK Chapel** resumed for the summer on June 7 on a weekly schedule. Pastor Paul has been currently conducting this part of the program. He leads chapel for 2 groups: Toddlers – 3 year olds; and 4 year olds through grade school. He is preparing them for a School Kickoff program on July 31 at 4:00 pm with a message, songs, and Blessing of the Backpacks. A “Strawberry Treat and Ice Cream” will provide an opportunity to get acquainted with each other, with staff, and with LCLC members.
- **Call List** received by Pastor Chris Truelsen, our Circuit Visitor – July 14<sup>th</sup>
- 12 names included, 1<sup>st</sup> meeting (July 16) edited the list to 6 names for consideration, 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting (July 23) to further review these names to prepare the recommendation from the BC committee to the Council and Voters. The list was narrowed our focus to 4 names and are moving forward with contact regarding availability, interest in being considered, and preparing details for our call package. This will be taken to Council and then to Voters (hopefully early to mid-August) for the final selection for our call.
- **Vacancy/Interim Pastor** – The Brainstorm Committee is interviewing interested pastors to serve our needs as a primary pastor prior to our next pastor’s acceptance of our call. The plan beginning September 1<sup>st</sup> is to have a Pastor conduct the Worship Services, do the shut-in calls, carry on the LCK Chapel times, develop relationships the LCK staff and with the LCLC members, resume Bible study on Sunday mornings and during the week. give guidance to our meetings (Council, Voters, Elders, etc.),
- **Continue in Prayer** – Ask daily for guidance on the steps being taken by the BC Committee, for God to bless our congregation as we focus on “moving forward” with the Lord’s work in the mission field around LCLC, LCK, and the Plainfield community, and for your response to His call to serve Him in His church.