

Board of Christian Education's supervision – both contribute to the operating expenses of the church. Together – as early desires of LCLC – they create a stable financial picture for the total ministry of LCLC.

The demographics of LCLC reveal that many are over the age of 60 and in retirement from their life careers and struggling with getting older. The middle agers (40-60) are few. The young adults are even less with no children in high school and only three members between 8 and 10. Many of the congregational members live further than 5 miles from the church. We also have many “snowbirds” who leave in November and come back in April/May. The regular Sunday morning attendance has been between 25-30 to receive faithfully the Word and Sacrament. The Synodical statistical reports shows inflated membership numbers over the last several years because of names left on the congregational roster that had not been removed.

In summary,

- We pray for help in bringing the Word and Sacrament to his people in the Plainfield community so that they will come to know Christ as their Savior and desire to grow in their faith as a Christian of all ages (children, their parents, the young, the middle-aged, and the elderly)
- We pray for a spiritual leader – “the face of the congregation” - to help us focus on outreach to LCK and to the Plainfield community.
- We desire to continue to provide regular worship, support and caring for His people
- We bring the saving message in a variety of means to witness His grace in an open relationship with care and compassion to LCLC, to LCK, and to the surrounding neighborhoods
- We pray for strengthening of the team to extend His kingdom to the many in the surrounding neighborhoods
- We pray for spiritual leadership who can be visionary, a team leader, and a builder in God's Kingdom in this area of Plainfield that is centered in fields ready for “harvest”.

## Living Christ Lutheran Church, Plainfield, Indiana



Living Christ Lutheran Church (LCLC) began its ministry in the Hendricks County area in June 1996, with the vision to be a congregation of believers in the Danville / Avon area.

First known as the Danville mission, Living Christ began with Bible studies with the first worship service on June 2 1996. Charter Sunday for LCLC was November 28, 1999 with the Grand Opening Service on April 19, 1998 when 40 members were received as Charter Members. Ten of these are still faithful at Living Christ. The congregation was incorporated on October 12, 1997 and received into the LCMS Roster at convention in 1998.

Living Christ held their worship services in a number of different settings in the Danville and Prestwick (Avon) area – bank fellowship rooms, storefronts, a redecorated army recruitment center on the square in Danville and others. As the congregation defined their ministry, they were led to emphasize youth and young families in the Avon/Danville/Plainfield area. A Strategic Ministry Planning research re-confirmed that as a focus for the young congregation in February 2010.

Plans began to plant a church which would also offer daycare based on the Open Arms (LCMS-RSO) concept. The search for land ended in October 2002 with finally purchasing twenty acres of the west edge of Plainfield and the beginning of construction in May 2003 for a worship center with rooms for a sanctuary and Christian daycare to be built.

The first worship service in their new facility was held on Christmas Eve 2003 and Living Christ for Kids (LCK) opened on January 19, 2004 with a handful of children. Since then LCK has established its presence in the Plainfield community, growing to an enrollment of over 120 children and winning Hendricks County Flyer Best Daycare award several times.

Of course, this growth and the ever changing makeup of the classes pushed the limits of the physical space of the five original classrooms to finally spill out into the use of the sanctuary during the week for LCK classes. The strain and toll of “taking down” up to four classrooms on Friday night and then resetting them on Sunday after Worship services became very burdensome. In 2010, the idea of purchasing modulars from Avon School Corporation was researched for feasibility. Steps were taken to get approvals, find funding, planning the move and connecting three modulars as allowed to our facility. By October 2011 we were able to dedicate Modular 1, Modular 2, and Modular 3 which according to the state are known as Site B, Site C, and Site D of our original daycare site. Amazing how growth under God’s hand is seen!

At the time we purchased the modulars, it was thought that two of them would be used by LCK and the third would be used for church activities. It was not long before the “church” modular became needed for LCK for part-time and now is used full-time by LCK. There has been some discussion about building an all-purpose room to be used for LCK inside gym activities and storage, for community activities (garage sales, volleyball nights, chili dinners/Easter breakfasts/Italian Night by Candlelight), a gathering location for LCLC outside the sanctuary and other possibilities.

VBS has been a major effort over the years beginning at Prestwck until many of the congregational children were beyond VBS age. For a couple of years VBS was done for the LCK kids only until COVID brought a stop to it. COVID also put a stop to the worship service Pastor Sievers would have at the neighboring Senior Living facility.

Connecting with the community is a desire of LCLC. Results have been limited from our perspective but the efforts continue. From a District Grant to numerous social events (Easter SonRise services, Pumpkin Nights with chili and hayrides, and others) LCLC has tried to increase awareness within the community of the church to provide programs to bring the community to our facility as a means to develop relationships with them and expose them to their Savior and worship opportunities.

As a member of the Chamber of Commerce, we provide materials for their “Welcome Packets” for new Plainfield residents. Using funds from a

Tech Grant, we purchased items to extend our video ministry to share our worship services with our shut-ins and friends. We also share Worship Anew from the Fort Wayne Seminary.

Even though efforts among the laity have been made to pursue the work given us by our Lord to be witnesses for Him whether that be in the Plainfield community or the LCK community, frustration and disappointment has been felt by many in the efforts to “evangelize”, provide Christ-centered worship opportunities, and bring in those who need their Savior. Not only has the outreach to the Plainfield been a challenge, the efforts to the more than one hundred LCK parents that enter our doors daily has also been a challenge. However, LCK has asked to have the Pastor Call Committee Survey distributed to the parents as well as the staff of LCK. An encouraging sign!

During the time that LCLC and LCK has grown, the Plainfield community has also changed. When we bought our twenty acres we were on the western outskirts of Plainfield. Today Plainfield has moved west. A new police station has been built, the Plainfield Fire Department has relocated their headquarters and Station #1 across the street, a Senior Retirement – Independent, Assisted Living and Memory care has been built next door, several large communities (Vandalia, Saratoga, Forest Glen, Glen Haven to name a few) have been built encircling us, the road in front of the church has changed from a 2 lane paved country road to an improved 3 lane bypass used by many daily,. The Plainfield Trail system has built a path across the front of our 20 acres as well as along our north property line serving as a connector to the neighborhoods .

The financial picture of the congregation has become more positive and stable. There was a time when paying salaries and expenses provided a strain to the congregation. Today, the most disheartening note is the decrease in worship attendance and the lack of interest in Bible Study. The survey information repeatedly has indicated the desire to do His will and to grow and prosper in His faith.

As this vacancy begins, it was decided to circulate a Pastor Call Committee Survey to gather thoughts, ideas and opinions on some issues to help focus our efforts toward “growing the congregation”. LCLC and LCK – even though separate corporations with LCK under the