



***Our Mission:** Light of Christ Ecumenical Catholic Community is a vibrant, inclusive and welcoming community for all who, following the teachings and example of Jesus Christ, seek compassion, justice and peace in the world. We seek to live our faith through liturgy and prayer, community building and collaboration, study and service.*

All Are Welcome!

***1st week in Advent
December 2nd, 2023***



1000 West 15th Ave.
Longmont, Colorado 80501
(303)-772-3785

<https://lightofchristecc.org/>

Office hours

Tues. - Thurs. 9am-3 pm

Pastor: Father Teri Harroun, M. Div.

pastor@lightofchristecc.org

Pastoral Care Assistant: Tim Shead

locchurchoffice@gmail.com

Prayer Companions:

prayercompanionteam@lightofchristecc.org

Parish Council Members:

Ann Hess, Chuck Howard, Rose Marie Perez-Foster, Sheila Winters, Irene Yap

parishcouncil@lightofchristecc.org

Stephen Ministry:

stephenministry@lightofchristecc.org

Happenings and announcements

- **Women of the Spirit:** Come explore the meaning of Family, listen to a short video, have some tea and cookies and share a favorite tradition! The Women of the Spirit group will be meeting on **Thursday, December 7th** at **1:00 pm** in the Fireside Room. We're always open to new members and new ideas, so consider attending our meeting and be uplifted and blessed with the sisterhood we share. For more information, contact Judy Nielsen at 303-772-9466 or Barb Olander at 303-651-3229.
- **Round Pantry Holiday Drive:** As in the past, Light of Christ has helped supply the Round Pantry with special items for the holiday meals. They will be distributing for Christmas on Tuesday, December 12. There is a particular need this year for boxed cake and dessert items for the holidays. Donations can be placed in the basket located in the **Narthex** through **December 9th**.
- **Photo wall update:** Earlier this year, Bethlehem Lutheran updated their membership photo wall to include Light of Christ members. They are updating the wall again. If you would like to be added, please email your favorite individual or family photo to the Church Office and include family members names as you would like them to appear under the photo on the wall!
- **End of Year Giving:** As we approach the end of the year, please be reminded that for any giving to be considered for 2023, it must be received by the church office by January 2, 2024.

Weekly Events

Saturday (Dec 2)

- 4:50 pm - Children's Talk
- 5 pm - Mass (Hybrid/Facebook Live)

Tuesday (Dec 5)

- 10 am - Scripture reading (Facebook Live)
- 5 pm - Stephen Ministry

Wednesday (Dec 6)

- 9 am - Mass (Hybrid/Zoom)
- 5:30pm - Advent supper
- 6:30pm - Advent prayer service
- 7 pm - Advent Activities

Thursday (Dec 7)

- 1 pm - Women of the Spirit
- 7 pm - Men's Group (Hybrid/Zoom)

Saturday (Dec 9)

- 4:50 pm - Children's Talk
- 5 pm - Mass (Hybrid/Facebook Live)

Advent Announcements

- **Rosaries:** Please bring your rosary to Mass starting **this Saturday, December 2nd** as we will be using rosaries during the psalm. If you do not have a rosary, please contact the Church Office and we will be able to provide you with one. We will also be providing rosaries each week of Advent in the narthex for those who need them.
- **Advent Prayer Services:** Each Wednesday in Advent, there will be a dinner at **5:30** with Father Teri and Pastor Katie leading an Advent prayer service at **6:30** and fun activities starting at **7pm**. You are welcome to attend any or all of these fellowship opportunities. Please consult the Advent calendar for more information.
- **Living Nativity:** Living Nativity will be **December 17 from 5 - 8 pm**. Sign up to volunteer for the 2023 Living Nativity in the Narthex.
- **Christmas Eve choir:** We are welcoming singers and musicians who would like to bring their gifts for Christmas Eve Mass. There will be one separate rehearsal, on **Thursday, Dec. 21, 5 - 6:30 pm**, in the choir room. **On Christmas Eve, Dec. 24**, we'll meet at **7 pm** in the sanctuary to warm up and practice before carols begin at 8:00 pm, followed by Mass at 8:30 pm. If you are interested in participating, please contact the church office.
- **Blue Christmas:** For those who have experienced loss, the joy of the holiday season can often feel elusive and out of reach. As a result, churches around the world have adopted the practice of having a "Blue Christmas" or a "Longest Night" service during the Advent season. These services are designed to provide space for prayer, reflection, and remembrance amidst the twinkle lights and holiday hustle and bustle. This service will be held on **December 21st at 7pm** and will be in-person only.
- **Poinsettias:** We have limited quantities of poinsettias available for \$15 each. Please sign up in the Narthex



Advent Event Calendar



**Wednesday,
Dec. 6**

5:30 pm - Mexican supper
6:30 pm - Advent prayer service
7 pm - Activities

**Wednesday,
Dec. 13**

5:30 pm - Breakfast for supper
6:30 pm - Advent prayer service
7 pm - Activities

**Sunday,
Dec. 17**

5 - 8 pm - Living Nativity

**Wednesday,
Dec. 20**

5:30 - 7 pm - Caroling (bring your own dinner)

Thursday, Dec. 21

7 pm - Blue Christmas service (in-person)

Saturday, Dec. 23

5 pm - Mass (hybrid/FB live)

**Christmas Eve
Sunday, Dec. 24**

4 pm - Family Service (hybrid/Youtube)
8 pm - Carols (hybrid/FB live)
8:30 pm - Mass (hybrid/FB live)

Marketing Group update

This project was launched after gathering community support at the All Parish meeting in late February. In March, the marketing team was formed with 11 volunteers. In June, we formally engaged Aaron Bailey for an initial phase of work. Aaron specializes as a marketing consultant for churches.

In November, Aaron completed the initial phase of work. His research included:

- Guided conversations (60-75 minutes each) with Parish Council, a group of longtime LOC members, a group of newer LOC members and a group with families. A total of 25 community members were included in these conversations.
- Research and review of existing LOC communication channels (ex: bulletin, Facebook, etc).
- Multiple working meetings with Fr. Teri, Ann Hess and Pam Hora.

He provided the following deliverables:

- ⇒ A new tagline: **“A Boldly Inclusive Catholic Church”**
- ⇒ Suggested **web content**. Additional pages include About page (including Our Origins and Relationships, Belief Statements, etc), Leadership and Staff, Becoming a Member, Community, Sacraments, Children and Youth, New Here, etc.
- ⇒ Suggested **keywords for internet search optimization**. Examples include detailed key words for location (Longmont, Boulder, etc), divorced Catholics, mixed faith families, LGBTQ, women priests, gluten free eucharist, etc. Employing these keywords can help direct people to our website.
- ⇒ **Communications framework**, focusing on the website and digital marketing, but also suggesting hosting and attending local events.

All of the above content is ours to use directly or modify to fit our needs. During this process, Aaron has been highly collaborative. His focus has been on helping *us* deliver *our* message.

We want your feedback! Please email marketgrp@lightofchristecc.org or talk to any member of the marketing committee: Ann Hess and Pam Hora (co-leads), Fr. Teri, Gisele Shea, Chuck Cooper, Rick Rogers, Sheila Winters, RoseMarie Perez Foster, Irene Yap, Heather Brubaker and Shannon Matthews.

If we decide to engage Aaron in phase 2 work this would include implementing the phase 1 materials into a website, social media profiles, and development of a new logo. Aaron would work with our existing website software (WordPress) to make it easier for us to implement changes (at any time).

God hears the cries for justice:

Praying for Environmental Defenders and Martyrs

We live in a world that has become increasingly unsafe and threatening. And there is a group of people whose lives and safety are particularly at risk. Our American newspapers and other media rarely if ever report on their work of preserving the planet. Most defenders are Indigenous people who are standing up to big corporations or corrupt governments. In the last few years the number of environmental activists killed throughout the world has doubled. In 2014 116 activists were killed; in 2020, there were 331. Of the 331 murders registered globally in 2020, just one country, Colombia, had 177 murders (53% of the total). And the second country was the Philippines with 25 environmental defenders assassinated throughout the year. What kind of work are these people involved in? Why are they being killed?

In the month of December and in the holy season of Advent, we will focus on a few of these brave, environmental warriors. As we lift up their names and stories, may we pray that their witness will ultimately bring justice to their peoples.

Hector Mondragon of Bogata, Colombia.

Professionally, Hector Mondragon is an economist and has been an advisor to indigenous communities in rural Columbia. He is also a human rights activist. He says that Colombia is the most dangerous place on earth for peasants. Multinational corporations desire the land that peasants own to extract and exploit minerals, oil and logging resources. Hector has been on the opposite side of developers who want to build hydroelectric developments, snatching ancestral sacred land from tribes. He has tried to protect indigenous people and their land but he says that in the last 15 years, 1.5 million peasants have been displaced.

Hector lives with death threats daily. He lives the life of a gypsy, he cannot live in one place and moves continuously, never sleeping in the same bed twice. In 1977, at age 23 years, he was tied to a tree for nine days and tortured for his activism. "If you see me tremble," he says, "it's not because I'm nervous; it's because I was tortured." He is married and has a college-aged son who also live with threats and harassment.

"The cry of the Israelites has reached me, I have seen the ways the Egyptians are oppressing them." Exodus 3:9

What can ordinary people do about climate change?

- Follow the proceedings of COP 28, the UN Conference on Climate being held in Dubai., November 30 to December 12.

<https://www.state.gov/climate-crisis/cop-28/>

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Beulah McMaster; Carol Fischer;
 Dave Barnwell; Gina; Janell Flaig;
 Kris Jenkins; Linda Moses;
 Marty Campbell; Michael Degnan;
 Paula Degnan; Pete Conti; Sharon Cramer;
 Sharon Farnsworth; Viv Thompson; Wes
 Evans.



We update our prayer corner monthly. If you or your loved one would like to be included on the corner, please contact the office and we'd be happy to add you.

DAILY READINGS

This year our online Scripture reading will be on Tuesdays. Fr. Teri will lead us more in depth through stories in our Scripture. Join us Tuesdays at 10am on Facebook.

Light of Christ is using the Women's Ordination Conference Lectionary for 2023. Please contact the Church Office for a link and information.

STEWARDSHIP

	September	October	Year To Date
Donations	12,486.56	13,149.56	\$124,140.60
Grocery Cards	\$0.00	265.35	\$1,054.70
Advertising Revenue	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Interest	\$8.22	\$1,41.54	\$2,600.97
Misc. Income (Includes designated)	\$100.00	\$1,000.00	\$6,588.02
Total Income	\$12,594.78	\$15,883.45	\$134,384.29
Expenses	\$12,304.65	\$12,295.43	\$130,133.11
Balance	\$290.13	\$3,538.02	\$4,251.18

A printed copy of the Light of Christ Bylaws, policies and procedures is available in the Church Office for members to review.

Members of Light of Christ or their family members are invited to **purchase ad space here** on the weekly bulletins! Not only does it help out these businesses, but it also helps LOC by bringing in additional funds. For more information, please call the Church Office.

Jack P. Wolfe
 Attorney at Law
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ASSISTANCE

Prayer Partners: These prayer ministries welcome and invite you, in confidence, to share your concerns in more detail or depth, or even to pray for you when you can't find the words. You can email our Prayer Companion Team at prayercompanionteam@lightofchristecc.org and someone will reach out to you.

Home Eucharist Team: If you need Eucharist brought to your home, for any reason, please contact Father Teri and she will coordinate one of our Home Eucharistic Ministers to visit you and bring you Communion.

Rite of Reconciliation: The Rite of Reconciliation is available after Mass or by Appointment. Please contact Father Teri or the Church office for more information.

If you need assistance during this time, there are several resources available in Longmont:

HOPE Longmont, located at:

804 Lincoln St.
 Longmont, CO 80501

THE OUR CENTER, located at:

220 Collyer St.
 Longmont, CO 80501

THE ROUND PANTRY, located at:

Westview Presbyterian Church
 1500 Hover St.
 Longmont, CO 80501