

Light of Christ
Ecumenical Catholic Community
All are Welcome



***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!

***2nd week in Advent
December 9th, 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

- **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 **this Saturday, 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.**
- **Stephen Ministry:** Caring communication with others is a basic human need. If you are at a place in your life where you feel you need someone outside your usual support circle to talk to, a Stephen Minister can help meet that need. Email the Stephen ministry team at stephenministry@lightofchristecc.org or contact the Church Office and we will be happy to put you in contact with one of our Stephen Leaders.

Weekly Events

Saturday (Dec 9)

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

Monday (Dec 11)

- 11 am - 11th hour bell-ringing

Tuesday (Dec 12)

- 10 am - Scripture reading (Facebook Live)
- 6 pm - Parish Council

Wednesday (Dec 13)

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

Thursday (Dec 14)

- 7 pm - Men's Group (Hybrid/Zoom)

Friday (Dec 15)

- 11 am - Celebration of life for ML Thomas (reception to follow)

Saturday (Dec 16)

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

Advent Announcements



- **Rosaries:** A short reminder to bring your rosary to Mass on throughout Advent as we will be using rosaries during the psalm. 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. 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**. An example webpage can be found at this [link](#). 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 of the earth

“In our world-views, we are beings who come from the Earth, the water, and the corn.”

Berta Caceres

Bertha Caceres (1971-2016) was an Internationally recognized, award winning, environmental activist and indigenous leader of the Lenca people of Honduras. Berta Caceres grew up during the violence that swept Central America in the 1980's. Honduras, in particular, was a country with growing socioeconomic inequality and human rights violations. In 1993 she was a student activist and successfully led a grass-roots campaign to stop the building of the Aqua Zarca Dam.

Since the 2009 coup, Honduras has witnessed an explosive growth in environmentally destructive megaprojects that would displace indigenous communities. Almost 30 percent of the land was earmarked for mining concessions, creating a demand for cheap energy to power future mining projects. To meet this need, the government approved hundreds of dam projects around the country, privatizing rivers, land, and uprooting communities.

Among these dam projects was the Aqua Zarca Dam on the sacred Gualcarque River without the consultation of the Lenca people, a violation of international law. The dam would cut off the supply of water, food and medicine for hundreds of Lenca people and violate their right to sustainably manage and live off the land.

Berta, the indigenous leader of the Lenca people, was assassinated by armed gunmen in 2016 after years of threats on her life. Three of the eight people arrested for her murder were US trained military troops; two from Fort Benning, Georgia. In June 2017, the banks financing the dam project suspended and withdrew funding because of the controversy. However the struggle over the dam is not over (just put on pause) and neither is the unrest caused by the assassination of Caceres.

“Wherever the struggle is...there is one thing in common: the voracity of the transnational corporations and the ambition of these non-persons who govern us who give away the riches that belong to everyone.” — Berta Cáceres

What can ordinary people do about climate change?

- Buy less; recycle and reuse.
- Buy local.
- Pray for environmental defenders and martyrs.

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