



1700 Longmeadow Parkway, Algonquin, IL 60102


847.658.9250 • locchurch.com

Follow us on: [f](#) [t](#) [i](#) @localgonquin



# IGNITE

Growth • Engagement • Future



“Let your light shine for all to see.  
For the glory of the Lord rises to shine on you.”  
**Isaiah 60:1b**

This book belongs to:

## Dear Light of Christ,

God has been taking Light of Christ on an amazing journey for the past 36 years. From the first early leaders who stepped out to knock on doors and invite their neighbors, to the members today who post Facebook invites to friends and neighbors, we have been a community **Inviting** others to experience Jesus' love. From a preschool that was founded in 1991, to the latest High School Retreat and Adult Small Group, LOC has been **Nurturing** people in a life-changing relationship with Jesus. From our helping to found the Algonquin/Lake in the Hills Food Pantry in the 90's to our new Branching Out tutoring ministry, LOC has been **Serving** in this community and beyond.

God led Light of Christ on an amazing journey to our new campus in 2020. But that was never to be an ending point, but a launching point for living into Jesus' mission in new ways. Over the next two years, we believe the Holy Spirit will IGNITE the next chapter for us as a community of Jesus followers, and for our lives individually. God's new vision is an opportunity to ...

- Ignite Growth
- Ignite Engagement
- Ignite our Future

Jesus said, “You are the Light of the World.” Matthew 5:14. In the weeks and months ahead we will open ourselves to God's leading and vision, so the Spirit might ignite a holy fire within us. Let's see what God can do in us and through us in the journey ahead.

Following Jesus with you,  
Pr. Kendall



# THE IGNITE VISION

This Ignite Vision encompasses all of our ministry in the next two years and provides a single, unifying focus for us as a church. It encompasses all of our work with children, youth and adults. It includes what God wants to do in our worship lives and in our serving in the community. And it involves the following initiatives as well:

## IGNITE GROWTH

**Jesus is calling us to grow wider in the following ways:**

- Hiring staff to expand our online ministry, reaching out to our surrounding community and into the world
- In response to the growing diversity in our community, bring in guest leaders to reflect that and truly welcome all.
- Continue to host special events (like “Last Call Before Fall”) on our campus to connect to our neighbors

**Jesus is calling us to grow deeper, by:**

- Expanding the impact of AWANA, Path and our Adult Small Group involvement
- Enriching our worship experience through enhancements, including a new piano

## IGNITE ENGAGEMENT

- The Spirit will deepen our impact on this community by engaging us more fully in current serving ministries (e.g., Food Pantry, Meals on Wheels, etc.)
- The Spirit will lead us to expand our impact through new efforts and new partnerships (e.g., Branching Out Tutoring, Boys and Girls Club, YoungLife, etc.)
- The Spirit will connect us with other key churches as we partner with Lutheran World Relief to bring transformation to a community in Central America

## IGNITE OUR FUTURE

- God will lead us to complete our Memorial Garden on this campus, allowing our forebears to ever point us forward into Jesus’ mission ahead
- God will lead us to pay down our mortgage, freeing resources for ministry into the future





# GOALS FOR THIS INITIATIVE

## PRIMARY GOAL

### **EVERYONE AT LOC ENGAGE IN THE IGNITE JOURNEY**

If you call Light of Christ Church home, will you take a personal journey with us in the Ignite initiative? Our desire is that each one of us open ourselves to God's teaching and leading and His call to respond.

## SECONDARY GOAL

### **EXPAND OUR GIVING ... \$4.2 M OVER TWO YEARS**

If we all take this personal journey towards generosity during the Ignite Initiative, we're confident it will provide sufficient resources for increased Christ-focused impact in our community and our world. This goal includes the funding for our existing ministry operations budget for two years, plus new initiatives God is calling us to. It will also lay the groundwork for LOC's future in the years ahead.

### **ON-GOING MINISTRY \$2.1 M**

The funding of our on-going ministry: engaging worship, FaithLand, AWANA, Path, Summit, Men's & Women's Ministry, other adult community building and discipleship, serving in the community in multiple ways and more.

### **NEW INITIATIVES \$.9 M**

Online staff, Memorial Garden, new community serve engagement and international transformation effort, new piano, mortgage payments.

### **FREEING OUR FUTURE \$1.2 M**

Paying down mortgage, freeing resources in the future for impact ministry.

## A 6 WEEK IGNITE JOURNEY—

to launch into two years of growth, engagement and our future. What does this journey look like?

### **There are five key components:**

- 1) Engage in Weekly Worship:** we will take a 6-week Ignite worship journey that the Spirit will use to speak into our lives.
- 2) Participate in a Small Group:** Join a small group and continue to unpack these powerful scriptures midweek, as we worship with them on the weekend.
- 3) Read Weekly Devotions:** Use the bi-weekly devotions to listen for Jesus' leading.
- 4) Reflect on Four Key Areas in Your Life:** Listed below are four areas of our lives to reflect on. Use the questions and scriptures for personal and family conversation. God can use this to help align our thinking to His.
- 5) Respond,** when the time comes, to making a personal commitment to what God is inviting us to in the season ahead.

### **MISSION:**

How does my life reflect Jesus' call to love God with all my heart, all my soul and all my mind...essentially all my life? And Jesus call to love your neighbor deeply as well? How have you done that with my time, my talents and my treasure?

### **LIFESTYLE:**

Does my lifestyle represent God's priorities in the world or my plans for my life? Is my life on fire for eternal, kingdom moments in the things I desire, or do I focus too much on earthly ones? Is there some part of my life that I am holding back from God and why?

### **GENEROSITY:**

How is God inviting me to grow in generosity as an expression of trust, gratitude and putting Him first? Am I giving in a way that still changes me, or has it become comfortable and routine?

### **LEGACY:**

What do I want my legacy to be? Thus far in my life, on what have I spent the most financial resources? What am I doing now to leave a legacy in this world that is beyond me and my family? What would others say and what would God say—have I pointed to Christ in my life or primarily to me?

# DEFINING MOMENTS



Many people before us have served, led and sacrificed to God's bold visions in the past, so that we could be a thriving congregation in 2022.



## 1985 First Worship Service Held

Pr. Mike Fish and early leaders knocked on doors in the community inviting them to a first worship gathering in November in a storefront in downtown Algonquin. The journey began!



## 1988 Hanson Road Church Construction Begins

These early believers bought land and began construction of a long-term home for LOC on Hanson Road. Much of the hands-on construction was done by members of the church.



## 1991 LOC Preschool Starts

Recognizing the community was growing with young families, Light of Christ opened a preschool to serve the needs of these families and give them an entry point to the church and Christian community.



## 1999 Care Ministry Launches

As the congregation grew, the church opened its doors to AA meetings, and formed care ministries to live out Jesus' call to "love one another".



## 2001 Small Groups Introduced

LOC wanted to create faith formation not just for children and youth, but for adults. Small group ministry was launched and over time many adults found connection and growth in Christ.



## 2002 Mission Clarified: Invite. Nurture. Serve.

Leaders studied scripture—especially Great Commission and Great Commandment—and clarified the congregation's calling: Light of Christ exists to invite people into Christian community, nurture them in a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ so they can faithfully and joyfully serve Him. This shaped decision-making going forward.



## 2003 Kingdom Weekend (E3) Kicks Off

This spiritual renewal retreat ministry for adults has become transformative in many people's lives as it recharged, re-focused and helped them to discover a true faith walk with Jesus.



## 2005 First Youth Mission Trip

High School ministry launched its first mission trip. These have been powerful in shaping young people's lives and focus in the ensuing years.



## 2006 Longmeadow Property Purchased

Recognizing that our long-term mission in this community couldn't be accomplished on our original site, the congregation found and purchased its new site on Longmeadow recognizing the long-range vision for that road to become a major thoroughfare in the community.





## 2010s **Westfield Worship, FMSC Mobile Packs, Adult Mission Trips**

To further expand mission as we awaited God’s timing for our new campus, we launched a second worship site at Westfield, hosted a 100K Feed My Starving Children mobile pack and started adult mission trips to Appalachia and Haiti



## 2015 **Thrive! LOC’s 30th Anniversary Celebration**

LOC paused to thank God for 30 years of faithfulness, celebrating all He had done among us.



## 2016 **Discernment Process – LOC Moves “Forward in Faith”!**

Sensing a new leading from God (as God had not raised up a buyer for 100 Hanson Road), the Council called 22 people together to pray, study and discern - which led to the build out of our new campus. The congregation affirmed that decision...and then God raised up a buyer for our former site (2019)!



## 2017 **Awana Launches at LOC**

Desiring an opportunity for children to have a midweek faith growth experience, God raised up leaders to launch this critical new ministry.



## 2019 **Longmeadow Church Construction Begins**

After a major revision of design, and a new location on the property—construction began on LOC’s new campus.



## 2020 **New Campus Opens**

In the midst of a once in a century pandemic...LOC opens its doors on its new site. In spite of the challenges, God uses the new space to further ministry and welcome new people.



## 2022 **Ignite Vision Sparks a New Season**

This new chapter is about to be written!

# HOW WILL YOU RESPOND?

Now, we are asking everyone to join us in allowing God to ignite a new vision, a new passion and a new sense of generosity in us, for God and for others. As we do this, we trust we can accomplish the God-sized goals He has set before us.

We pray for 100% participation and personal engagement in discerning how God would have each of us grow and respond in this season ahead.

Generosity comes from a grateful heart. We are asking you to go on a spiritual journey with God and to take a step of generosity that would only be possible if the Holy Spirit was guiding you. For we are moving forward to fulfill God's vision for Light of Christ Church.

Toward this end, won't you join us and—

- **Pray Boldly** that God would multiply our efforts to make disciples and extend His kingdom.
- **Commit Fully** to helping us reach our goal of 100% participation in this defining moment of our church.
- **Influence Confidently** others you know by engaging in conversations and getting involved in the various aspects of the Ignite initiative.
- **Give Generously** by asking God what a sacrificial gift looks like during this season and take brave steps to see it through.

# ONE VISION. ONE CHURCH. ONE FUND.

You may have been part of church campaigns in the past during which you were asked to give a second gift 'above and beyond' your usual gifts to make special initiatives like new buildings and ministries possible. Normally, you gave that gift to the 'Building Fund' and you also continued to give offering to the 'General Fund.' We have decided that for the next two years, we will express our total generosity through one fund. One Church, One Vision, One Fund. The Ignite initiative will extend from May 2022 through June 2024. In those two years, every gift that is given to Light of Christ Church will go to help us IGNITE growth, engagement and our future.





# IGNITE SMALL GROUP STUDY:

## GROWTH. ENGAGEMENT. FUTURE

### WEEK ONE: IGNITE A VISION

Exodus 3:1-15

Sermon Notes:

### IGNITE A VISION – THE VISION

1. Read Exodus 3:1-15 as a group.
2. God often needs to get our attention before we can understand his vision and purposes. How did he use the burning bush? What was it about the burning bush that first attracted Moses’ attention (see 3:1-3)?
3. How did Moses react upon learning he was in the presence of God (see 3:4-6)? Why did he react this way?
4. God speaks to us in many different ways, sometimes loudly like a burning bush, sometimes through someone else, Scripture, a song, or even in a small whisper (1 Kings 9:12). How do you or have you heard God’s promptings in your own life?

*“And after the earthquake there was a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire there was the sound of a gentle whisper.” –1 Kings 9:12*

### IGNITE A VISION – THE FEARS

1. What five fears did Moses raise as explained in Exodus 3-4? Write the fear and God’s response below in the table. Use your own words and discuss how you hear them with your group.

What Was the Fear	What Was God’s Response
Exodus 3:11	Exodus 3:11-12
Exodus 3:13	Exodus 3:13-22
Exodus 4:1	Exodus 4:2-5
Exodus 4:10	Exodus 4:11-12
Exodus 4:13	Exodus 4:14 - 15

2. Which of the above “fears” do you relate to when feeling led to serve God? How can our past failures trip us up when wanting to follow Jesus’ promptings?
3. God wrestled with Moses through his fears. How do you think God will “wrestle” with our fears as we look to Ignite our faith?

### IGNITE A VISION – THE CALL

1. Compare Moses’ call to other calls in Scripture. What speaks to you about the ways God spoke to those that he called to represent him to people?
  - a. Jeremiah 1:4-8
  - b. Matthew 4:18-22
  - c. Acts 9:1-19
2. God wrestles with our fears as He opens our hearts to give us a new vision . . . a new purpose. How has God opened your heart to see a new vision for your life in the past or currently?
3. How has he provided the resources—both within you and from others—that you need to live into that vision/purpose?

### IGNITE A VISION – WEEKLY CHALLENGE

1. How are you going to put your faith into action this week by “Igniting a Vision” in the places and spaces God will call you?

### IGNITE A VISION – PRAY!





WEEK TWO: IGNITE PASSION

Romans 12:6-13

Sermon Notes:

IGNITE PASSION - UNITED IN CHRIST

In the verses preceding this, Paul talks about believers being the “body of Christ.” It is a great image of being united.

When we look at igniting our passion, Jesus calls us to renew and transform how we view our place in the body of Christ.

1. Paul emphasizes in several of his letters that we are united “in Christ.” What do you glean from the Scripture below?
- Ephesians 4:1-6

• Colossians 3:14

• Philippians 2:1-2

• 2 Corinthians 13:11

IGNITE PASSION - GIFTS

All our gifts are needed to build a unified body of Christ. As we look to Ignite Passion, we have to have everyone using their God-given gifts together.

1. Discuss in your group what gifts God has given you?
2. What kinds of needs are the gifts Paul names designed to meet?
3. Which are given for the good of the others? Discuss with your group what need each gift addresses and what gifts you think God has given you.

GIFTS DEFINED	NEEDS THE GIFT MEETS	GIFTS THAT I HAVE
<b>Prophecy</b> To speak forth the message of God to His people.		
<b>Serving</b> To identify tasks in God's work and use available resources to get the job done.		
<b>Teaching</b> To instruct others on living in faith for understanding and growth.		
<b>Encouragement</b> To come along side of someone with words of encouragement, comfort, consolation, and counsel to help them be all God wants them to be.		
<b>Giving</b> To share what material resources you have with liberality and cheerfulness without thought of return.		
<b>Leadership</b> To stand before the people in such a way as to attend to the direction of the body with such care and diligence that others are motivated to get involved in the accomplishment of these goals.		
<b>Kindness</b> To be sensitive toward those who are suffering, whether physically, mentally, or emotionally, living out a genuine sympathy, speaking words of compassion, and caring for them with deeds of love.		
<b>Hospitality</b> To warmly welcome people, even strangers, into one's home or church as a means of serving those in need of food or lodging.		

4. Scripture calls us to “find our place” in the body of Christ. Christianity is not a spectator sport. How could you participate in meeting one or more of those needs your group discussed above? Write down one function in your church or the larger body of Christ that you either are fulfilling now or would like to fulfill. If necessary, ask God to show you at least one function for which He has gifted you.

IGNITE PASSION – THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. As we look to Ignite our passion to serve and love others, we must understand that we have the amazing gift from God in the power of Holy Spirit in our lives. We do not move forward in our own power but by the readily available strength of third triad of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit. Read with your group the Scripture below and discuss how these passages can inspire, support, and direct you as you move forward.

“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” –Romans 15:13

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.” –2 Timothy 1:7

“I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.” –Ephesian 3:16-20

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.” –Galatians 5:22-23

IGNITE PASSION – LOVE

1. Paul tells us how to stay the course by living out Jesus’ way of love in the world. As your group closes their time together, list the ways God calls us to love those around us. Choose one that you would like to focus on in the week ahead.

IGNITE PASSION – WEEKLY CHALLENGE

1. How are you going to put your faith into action this week by “Igniting Passion” in the places and spaces God will call you?

IGNITE A VISION – PRAY!

WEEK THREE: IGNITE GRATITUDE

1 Chronicles 16:7-34: David’s Song of Praise

Sermon Notes:

IGNITE GRATITUDE – KEYS FOR LIVING

David wrote these Keys for Living in Gratitude. Let’s unpack three keys from his “Song of Praise” to learn to Ignite Gratitude in our own lives.

1. Key One: Remember God’s Promises

As you read verses 14–18, what jumps out at you about the significance of “Remember God’s Promise” as a key to Igniting Gratitude in your life? How is it relevant to today?

List your findings here and then discuss with your group.		
Verse	Findings	Relevance to Today
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		



2. **Key Two: Remember the Journey**

- a. As you read verses 19-22, what jumps out at you about the significance of “Remember the Journey” as a key to Igniting Gratitude in your life? How is it relevant to today?

Verse	Findings	Relevance to Today
19		
20		
21		
22		

- b. What does David emphasize about God’s character in verses 19-22?

3. **Key Three: See the Wonder of God’s Creation Praising Him**

- As you read verses 31-33, what jumps out at you about the significance of “See the Wonder of God’s Creation” as a key to Igniting Gratitude in your life? How is it relevant to today?

Verse	Findings	Relevance to Today
31		
32		
33		

4. Out of the three-gratitude principles - God’s promises, remembering the journey, God’s creation - which one is most meaningful to you and why?

5. In Verse 34, David reminds us to “keep giving thanks.” What helps you keep gratitude at the forefront of your life even when times are hard?

**IGNITE GRATITUDE – WEEKLY CHALLENGE**

1. How are you going to put your faith into action this week by “Igniting Gratitude” in the places and spaces God will call you?

**IGNITE GRATITUDE – PRAY!**

**WEEK FOUR: IGNITE A RESPONSE**

Exodus 29:1-3, 42-46

Sermon Notes:

**IGNITE A RESPONSE – OUR OFFERINGS**

God has given us so much, we need to look at how we can plan to share a response to God, giving an offering back to him. Scripture is not shy about highlighting the call to give a response back to God.

1. What do you see reflected in the Scripture below that can shed light and give direction on how to “Ignite a Response” to God?

*“Give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to.” –Deuteronomy 15:10*

*“Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which He has given you.” –Deuteronomy 16:17*

*“Then the people rejoiced because they had offered so willingly, for they made their offering to the Lord with a whole heart” –1 Chronicles 29:9*

2. Why do you think God gives so much direction to how the people of Israel made their offerings? Why is this practice of honoring God with an offering important?

**IGNITE A RESPONSE – OUR REASONS**

Our response back to God is a Spiritual Practice that helps us look more like Christ in the world, just like Prayer and Worship. There are four key reasons we respond to God’s goodness by giving something back to Him.

1. Our offerings allow us an opportunity to give God our best, not our leftovers
- a. In what ways do you find yourself giving your best to the Lord?
- b. What gets in the way of bringing your best to him and not just your “leftovers”?

2. Our offerings are pleasing to God
- a. What do you bring to the Lord that you believe is pleasing to him? List all the ways below.
1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_
- a. Are you giving your whole self to God, or are you holding things back? What is stopping your from giving your all to God?
3. When we give back to God, it deepens our relationship with Jesus.
- a. How does what you bring to your relationship to Jesus, help you feel connected to Him?
- b. What do the Scripture verses below say about Jesus desiring a relationship with you? What difference does that relationship make to your life?

*“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” –Joshua 1:9*

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” –Philippians 4:6-7*

*“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” –Galatians 2:20*

*“So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.” –1 John 4:16*

*“Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you?” –1 Corinthians 3:16*

*“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” –Isaiah 41:10*

**IGNITE A RESPONSE – WEEKLY CHALLENGE**

1. How are you going to put your faith into action this week by “Ignite a Response” in the places and spaces God will call you?

**IGNITE A RESPONSE – PRAY!**

**WEEK FIVE: IGNITE GENEROSITY**

2 Corinthians 8:1-12

Sermon Notes:

**IGNITE GENEROSITY – FIVE KEY LEARNINGS**

1. Generosity starts when we give ourselves to the Lord first.

*“And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.” –Romans 12:1- 2*

- a. What is the purpose behind Paul urging the Corinth churches to give generously?
- b. What does it mean to “Give yourself to the Lord first”? How do you give yourself to Him each day?
- c. How does Romans 12:1-2 give you direction on how to “Ignite Generosity” in your day-to-day world?



2. Joy leads to Generosity.

*“But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity.” –2 Corinthians 8:2*

a. Where does your Joy come from each day?

b. How have you found Joy in your life? How has this has led you to be generous with others?

3. It is a Privilege to Share.

*“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” –Hebrews 13:16*

a. What can we learn from the Macedonian Christians in the Scripture above (verses 1-5)?

b. The Apostle Paul doesn’t command the Corinthians to give. He invites them to look at the cross and at Christ’s giving of himself (2 Corinthians 8:8-9). Why do you think we lose sight of this so often? How can we encourage ourselves, and one another, to be more generous?

4. Generosity is evidence as to where our hearts are.

*“The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” –2 Corinthians 9:6-7*

*“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.” –Proverbs 4:23*

a. How do the above Scriptures speak to your heart when it comes to “Ignite Generosity” in your life?

b. How in tune with your heart are you in understanding where Christ is leading you in your walk with Him?

c. How may we use the various gifts God has given us with generous hearts?

5. Out of the blessings we received from God, flows Generosity.

*“Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.” –Luke 6:38*

*“Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow. He chose to give birth to us by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession.” –James 1:17-18*

a. Would anyone like to share how you began to find ways to “Ignite Generosity” in your life?

b. Have there been any special moments of blessing or delight when you’ve been able to contribute to a particular need?

## IGNITE GENEROSITY – WEEKLY CHALLENGE

1. How are you going to put your faith into action this week by “Ignite Generosity” in the places and spaces God will call you?

## IGNITE GENEROSITY – PRAY!

WEEK SIX: IGNITING COMMITMENT

John 12:12-28a

Sermon Notes:

IGNITING COMMITMENT – JESUS CALLS US TO FOLLOW HIM

Our Lord and Savior gave the ultimate sacrifice. He followed what he had promised his Father to the sacrificial conclusion. In the midst of what looked like a celebratory parade, Jesus knew what lay ahead and was willing to make the commitment. What started as a challenge, a seemingly ending, ultimately led to victory, salvation and hope for the world.

- 1. Tell about a time you made a commitment even though the outcome was challenging.
- 2. What helped you “stay the course” through the challenging time?
- 3. What wisdom, energy, focus do you glean from the Scripture’s below on Igniting Commitment in your life?

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” –2 Timothy 4:7

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” –Galatians 6:9

“No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.” –Philippians 3:13-15

- 4. How do you see Jesus’ actions, in John 12:12-28a, being ones that you can emulate in your own life each day?

IGNITING COMMITMENT – “BRING GLORY TO YOUR NAME”

Jesus’ life goal was to continuously bring glory to his Father’s name, pointing people to the loving Father God he knew. His clear understanding of what was critical, helped him make the sacrifice He did for each of us. That understanding kept him on course.

- 1. What is a life goal for you in your relationship with Jesus?
- 2. What direction does seeing how Jesus acted in the above Scripture help you in the goal. List three actions that we can learn from Jesus in our pursuit to “Igniting Commitment.”
  - 1. \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2. \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. How can being clear of what is most important help you understand how our God wants you to Ignite Commitment in your own life?

IGNITING COMMITMENT – TRUSTING IN WHAT JESUS SAYS

Finally, we need to recognize, celebrate, and own who Jesus says he is and what he calls each of us to do.

“Jesus looked at them intently and said, ‘Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But not with God. Everything is possible with God.’” –Mark 10:27

“Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.” –Luke 12:32

“For no word from God will ever fail.” –Luke 1:37

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.” –Proverbs 3:5-6

- 1. As we look to discern how we will be involved with the IGNITE-Growth, Engagement, Future journey, how do the above Scriptures give you clarity? If they don’t, is there Scripture that speaks to your heart that you can share with the group?

IGNITING COMMITMENT – WEEKLY CHALLENGE

- 1. How are you going to put your faith into action this week by “Igniting Commitment” in the places and spaces God will call you?

IGNITING COMMITMENT – PRAY!



# FAQ

## Why is Light of Christ engaging this Ignite process?

God led us to this new campus through a fascinating journey of discernment, prayer and generosity. But the goal was never just about getting in this building. We always said the building was a tool to do ministry. All growing churches continue to listen to where God is calling next. And now that we are coming out of a pandemic, we have been asking God—what is your vision for us next?

## What are the elements of this Ignite Vision?

As we mature as a church, we need to begin unifying and focusing our efforts to Invite, Nurture and Serve. We believe that God is going to Ignite us for growth—both wider and deeper. That God is going to Ignite engagement for LOC locally and globally. And finally, God will ignite our future, with investments that will pay dividends for decades to come.

## Why are we calling this journey a Generosity Initiative?

To accomplish this Ignite vision over the next two years, God will take us individually and as a congregation on a journey of generosity—praying, learning, and committing to gifts that will allow this vision to be realized.

## When will this be taking place?

Through the season of Lent, we will explore God's vision for us, and we will make our commitments to it through our Advanced Commitment night (March 18) and Commitment Weekend (April 9 & 10).

## How will this Generosity Initiative be similar to processes we have done in the past?

Like previous calls to stewardship, we will reflect on scripture and our lives. We will pray and listen to the Holy Spirit's prompting. We will hear stories and we will share commitments. That will be the same.

## How will this Generosity Initiative be different from journeys we have taken in the past?

This is the shift—in the past we made annual commitments to on-going ministry and held separate appeals or campaigns to fund additional efforts (like building projects). We looked at these as 'over and above' regular giving. Instead, we are projecting the ministry expansion needs for the next two years and inviting all—every one of us—to share a single, Holy Spirit-inspired commitment to the overall vision that God is calling us to.

## How are we to think about a single 2-year commitment?

We will invite people to consider their commitment both from God's on-going provision in their life (i.e., their income) and from their stored assets (i.e. what God has grown in our storehouse). For example, considering these questions; What has been my annual giving? What is God saying to me about increasing that? Are there additional resources God is asking me to consider? That will result in my single 2-year commitment to the Ignite vision.

## Why is paying down debt a healthy and necessary thing for LOC to do?

When we as a congregation voted to go forward with building our new campus, we knew that we would be taking on a significant, but manageable mortgage. It turned out to be \$3.7M. That comes to payments of approximately \$21K each month. We have been paying that from the remainder of the Forward in Faith gifts. We will run through those remaining dollars in less than a year, so now is the time to act.

In addition, because we are so early in the 25-year loan, every dollar that pays down principal now is essentially doubled. It not only pays down the principal, but it also takes that additional amount off of interest. If we can pay off \$1.2 million in the mortgage, that would save the church \$2.4 million in the long run, freeing up resources for ministry in the future.

## How do I think about my commitment personally?

While this is an individual discipleship journey with God, there are some practical questions each of us has about how to think about this. It will be different for every household, based on your circumstances and what God is saying to you.

*Here are some examples for us to consider...*

### Ex. 1: Someone who has never consistently given to God's work

Consider God's blessings in your life—see His provision. Reflect on the scriptures in this series. Choose a place to start. Consider a percentage of what God provides to you (your income) and begin to return that to God.


### Ex. 2: Someone who is consistently giving

Is God calling you to step out in faith? Have you become comfortable with where you are—does God want to grow you? What would a step or leap of faith look like for you? Is this a moment to step up to tithe (returning 10% of one's income to God's work) and trust God's promise in Malachai 3:10, "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, so there will be enough food in my Temple". If you do, says the LORD of Heaven's Armies, I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!"

### Ex. 3: Someone who is consistently giving--stored resources

Maybe God is using this moment in your life to reflect on your stored resources—property, retirement funds, investments, etc. Have we become like the person in the story Jesus told who keeps building bigger barns? Read Luke 12:16-21. Rather than storing more and more, maybe now God is inviting us to grow rich in our relationship with Him.

This generosity journey is a personal one between each of us and God. What He calls any individual household to is personal. We will each be invited to pray, reflect and then make a commitment of what we sense God calling us to give as offerings over the next two years—from God's on-going provision, and from stored resources.

An abstract graphic on the left side of the slide, consisting of several overlapping, curved shapes in shades of red and orange, resembling flames or a stylized mountain range.

“Let your light shine for all to see.  
For the glory of the Lord rises to shine on you.”  
**Isaiah 60:1b**