

LIFT

QUARTERLY
UPDATE

Q1 | 2024



After months of meeting with mentors,

62 FRESHMEN declared their faith before family and friends during the **January Confirmation Ceremony**.
16 of these students were baptized!

198 PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, COACHES, TEACHERS AND MENTORS braved

the cold and snow in January to participate in the **Raising Kids in a Complex World workshops** and learn from Rev. Dr. Chuck Hunt and Dr. Steve Argue.



WORSHIP WEEKLY

Join us on Sunday mornings as we study the fruit of the Spirit in our series ***Louder than Words | Your Character Speaks***.

GROW INTENTIONALLY

Our **Summer Reading Group** is a great place to stretch faith as you read and discuss contemporary and classic books in a comfortable and casual environment. Learn more at

ChristChurch.us/SummerReading

To learn more, download the Christ Church Connect App from Google Play or the App store, or visit ChristChurch.us.

3,000 LIME GREEN LIFT PENS were placed throughout our worship spaces in February for the LIFT Together refresh. **More than**

311 people made a commitment to finish strong, increase their commitment or made a first time commitment to LIFT!

30 PEOPLE experienced **continual minutes of contemplative silence** during March's **Slowing to Hear** retreat. They explored John 15:1-17 through listening, prayer and worship.

40 POUNDS OF PASTA were prepared for lunch at this year's **IF Gathering**. **WOMEN** worshiped, celebrated how God was moving in their lives, engaged in meaningful conversation and learned from some of today's most influential Bible teachers.

LIFT | 2-Year Goal Giving to Date

\$31.7M

Commitments & expected gifts

\$20.8M

January 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024

LIFT!

\$11.6M

January 1 – September 30, 2023

\$8.6M

January 1 – June 30, 2023

\$4.4 M

January 1 – March 31, 2023

Dear Church Family,

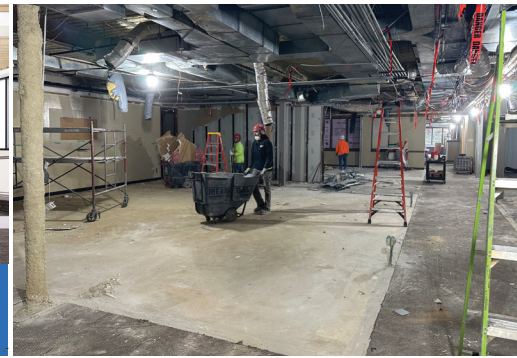
Spring always strikes me as a hope-restoring time of year. Maybe you can resonate with that. The weather is warming...trees and plants are greening...and bar the occasional eclipse...it stays lighter longer!

This springtime is especially meaningful to Amy and me as it is the last we get to spend in our "normal" life in the Midwest. As I've shared with the congregation (ChristChurch.us/LPTransition) the Meyer family will certainly have an ongoing part in the life of Christ Church but long before next April we will have identified and welcomed a **new Lead Pastor** who will shepherd our congregation into the next exciting era of our life and mission.

Between now and then there is so much we'll get to experience and enjoy together. I'm especially excited to be present for so many improvements that will bolster the influence of our Family Ministries in years ahead.

At our Butterfield campus we are dramatically upgrading the gymnasium that will help us host the midweek Kids Club, Vacation Bible School and other great recreational programs God will use to help us build relationships in the surrounding community.

As we prepare for a renewed Preschool at our Oak Brook campus, classrooms upstairs and down have also received a radical face LIFT. New flooring, paint and cabinets now live alongside brand-new furniture, play equipment and boxes of



crayons. I hope you will join me in praying for our Preschool as we continue to spread the word, hire teachers and work through the DCFS certification process.

At both campuses we've put up renderings to give you a sense of what is coming in the Family Ministry spaces under construction at our Oak Brook campus. I hope you'll linger at some of those displays and imagine the future.

Given my season in life, I hope you'll forgive me if my mind goes not only to the future but also to the past. I snuck into the construction zone recently and found on the concrete floor beneath the carpet that had been torn up the barely visible names of some of the children who were there in 2004 when—in a previous stewardship initiative we called FIRM FOUNDATIONS—we built the space that would become our COW (middle school) room and, in days ahead, our Grades 4 and 5 Center.

One of the names that had been written on the floor twenty years ago was that of our middle child, just ten years old at that time. His faith (and that of his wife) were formed at Christ Church. Those spaces became places where Jesus became real to both of them. Today, our little boy is a PhD scientist at the University of Michigan bent on helping people understand the Creator at the root of life. He volunteers weekly in a student ministry led by the spouse he met at Christ Church. Together they share the Gospel of Jesus and His kingdom with hundreds of kids per year as they did for several years before in another church in Austin, Texas.

My point is: It began in a basement built out for youth ministry. It began with YOU or people like you who generously gave of your substance to ensure that Christ Church would be able to minister to young families and shape their character, faith and vision for living. I wonder whose name will be written on the floor of some church or of eternity because of the commitment YOU made to see the influence of Jesus continue to the next generation? How will churches, colleges and societies be different because people like you and me made that investment or failed to care about that?

In February we reached the halfway point of our LIFT initiative. We were awed by how many people rededicated themselves to finishing strong with their commitment... and all the households who increased their commitment...and those who made the choice to commit for the first time. It wasn't just some words on paper. It wasn't just some fundraising effort. It was the start of a miracle of life-change in somebody's heart and on the floor of a basement.

Somewhere out there are kids (and the multiplier-effect of their lives) that will be different because of YOU and me. Our #1 goal throughout the LIFT Initiative has been to see God lift OUR faith and discipleship. I hope this newsletter as well as what we share at LiftTogether.us inspires you, as it does me, to keep growing in our generosity, trusting in the grace that is ever greater than the gravity of life.

Together in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Daniel Meyer, Lead Pastor

LIFT your eyes to the LORD from whom comes our help. PSALM 121:1-2

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