

# LIFT

## QUARTERLY UPDATE

Q2 | 2023



**130** s'mores were made at the Butterfield campus'

**Summer Celebration.**

**300** guests, including people from the surrounding neighborhood, marked the start of the season with great music, fabulous food, pony rides and a petting zoo!

**20,595** STEPS WERE TAKEN daily

by Shari Knutson, Children's Ministry Director, during the five days of VBS in Oak Brook. Between both campuses

**430+** children age 4-grade 5 learned about the light of God through song, crafts, teaching and games coordinated by more than **110 Stellar volunteers.**

**6,240** MINUTES WERE SPENT by the **45 staff and volunteers** at Camp COW with **350+** middle school

**students.** They enjoyed outdoor activities, worship and learning more about God. An additional **167 students** and **45 adults** drew closer to Jesus at Rock N' Canoe and Roca Y Agua camps.



**GO TEAMS | Dominican Republic** | I never knew what an amazing impact serving in the Dominican Republic would have on me. I saw God's love everywhere. On Wednesday a little boy I had met earlier at sports camp told me to sit next to him. He offered me his pack of cookies that all the kids receive at the end of camp. This was special because they have so little, and he was still willing to share his treat with me. It showed me that God not only lifts these children but uses them to lift others every day, even in the smallest ways.

HANNAH PJESKY  
Christ Church  
member



MEET DANIELLE SCHAEFER | Disabilities Ministry Director

**Favorite Food** | Mexican

**Favorite Pastime** | Reading, horseback riding and going to the beach

**Favorite Christian resource** | Anything by Lysa TerKeurst and listening to contemporary Christian music on 94.3 FM.

Danielle grew up in church and had great models of Christian faith. She has a passion to create that experience for others. Utilizing her degree in children and youth ministry she served in that capacity for nine years. Her son Nathanael's disability led her to work in disability ministry for the past ten years.

**What are you most looking forward to at Christ Church?**

I am most looking forward to getting to know a whole new group of people. I'm energized by people. I love knowing there is a church out there that wants to start a disability ministry and I am walking into a church that is ready for this.

**What are some ways you hope to LIFT others in your new role?**

I have heard disability described as a continuous grieving process. There are parts of the journey that reignite that grief along the way. I hope I can walk with families through parts of that grief process. I also hope to help people see that disability isn't the issue, it is how the world accepts it. There are so many great stories in Scripture of Jesus blessing and using people with disabilities to do His work. It's part of His plan and part of who He wants us to be.

\$41,000

**IN DEBT WAS PAID OFF BY 5 households DURING 9 weeks** of FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY this past April. The next session launches in September. Registration information is available at [ChristChurch.us/fpu](http://ChristChurch.us/fpu).

## LIFT | 2-Year Goal Giving to Date

**\$30.5M**

Commitments & expected gifts

LIFT

**\$8.6M**

January 1–  
June 30, 2023

**\$4.4 M**  
January 1–  
March 31, 2023

**THE #1 GOAL OF LIFT** is to lift the faith and discipleship of everyone at Christ Church. Here are a few ways to take steps forward.

### Worship Weekly

Join us for Sunday worship and mark your calendar for September 10 when we dive into *WILD: Encountering God & Ourselves in Exodus*.

### Grow Intentionally

Join a Rooted group this fall, beginning September 17. This 10-week group involves building a relationship with others through exploring the Bible, engaging in prayer, serving and sharing stories. Go to [ChristChurch.us/rooted](http://ChristChurch.us/rooted) to save your spot.

### Serve Generously

**SAVE THE DATE | October 28** for our second For Chicagoland and join hundreds of volunteers as we fan out throughout the suburbs and city to be the hands and feet of Jesus on a wide variety of projects. Or check out our regular First Saturday Serve at [ChristChurch.us/ServeWithUs](http://ChristChurch.us/ServeWithUs).

**To learn more, download the Christ Church Connect App from Google Play or the App store, or visit [ChristChurch.us](http://ChristChurch.us).**

## Dear Church Family,

We know that even when we don't see or feel it, God never stops working in our lives. The same has been true for the LIFT initiative. It has been a little quiet for the past few months but behind the scenes our staff has been working and planning, interviewing and assessing.

The result is some forward movement on our LIFT projects. You will see celebration of that in this newsletter and as you look around the campuses.

- We hired the new Disabilities Ministry Director, Danielle Schaefer
- We made improvements to audio-visual equipment in the Fellowship Halls
- We have resurfaced and restriped the parking lots at both campuses

Some areas that may not be as visible just yet are moving forward.

- Contracts have been signed with the architects that will do final design for the renovations to the children and student areas at the Oak Brook campus.
- We have narrowed the field down for the Preschool Director position and expect to hire someone soon to help move forward the re-launching of our preschool.

Pertaining to our #1 goal to lift the faith and discipleship of everyone at Christ Church, we have had hundreds of children and students attending camps and mission trips and many adult volunteers leading and learning alongside them.

We will continue to share stories here, in worship, on social media and on [LiftTogether.us](http://LiftTogether.us) in the days ahead of how, together, we are living into the vision of lifting 10,000 people over the next year and a half.

I hope this is a great reminder for all of us that even when we don't see what God is up to, He is always working and His grace is greater than the gravity of life!

Together in Christ,

*Dan*

Rev. Dr. Daniel Meyer, Lead Pastor

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

CHRIST CHURCH

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