



Dear Partners in God's Mission,

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. - Romans 15:13

We will always remember 2020. The craziness, the changes, the crises. But my prayer is that you will not just remember **what** caused you stress, but **who** brought you peace. God showed up again and again to fill us with joy and peace so we could “overflow with hope.”

This was certainly reflected in the way so many gave faithfully and generously to God’s mission through Church of the Cross. And God has been on the move!

1. God led us to new and innovative ministry!

Not only have our Kids, Youth, Adult, Outreach, and Worship Ministries been redesigned to effectively and faithfully minister in our changing world, we have been able to grow *practical faith* in both our members and many more through our online ministry. Here are just a couple examples of the impact you’ve had:

We were looking for a church home and had not visited in person! So thankful we found you on Facebook Live! We’ve only been either watching or going for 9 months, but we feel at home! – Sheri

Having online worship services, events, and Facebook Live has impacted my life more than I can tell you. I have felt connected, met new church family/friends, and most importantly I am receiving God’s word and my soul is being nourished. Thank you LCC! – Theresa

My being able to watch the online services since March of 2020 has been a Godsend. I needed to hear God’s word and I received strength from the sermons and songs. Even though it is not the same as worshipping in person, it kept me connected. I can’t thank you enough for making this happen. – Sandy

From reaching new people to providing strength and connection to others, God has used you in big ways!

2. God filled the gap for our partner ministries!

While our partner ministries are always so grateful for our support, this year in particular, our increased giving has made such a difference when needs increased and other sources of income decreased. Here are a couple notes of gratitude for your generosity:

While we are always grateful for the generosity shown to us from LCC, this past year we have watched this relationship grow from support to sacrifice, to ensure that we were able to continue serving our neighbors in need. – Ned Looney, Caring Hands Executive Director

While this past year brought many unknowns, your financial support helped us continue our mission, even in the midst of a pandemic. Your giving made an impact in this season that will help us launch well into the years ahead. Thank you for joyfully giving to God's work through His camp! – Chris Dahl, Riverside Executive Director

Know that none of this would happen without people like you participating, praying, and giving. Thank you so much for multiplying *practical faith* in thousands of lives through your investment in Lutheran Church of the Cross.

As we begin a new year, please prayerfully consider how God is calling you to “overflow with hope” in your financial giving. Exciting ventures are on the horizon, as we launch new outreach initiatives, invest in our kids and youth, equip missional leaders, and continue to join God in whatever He is up to! Take some time to read God’s Word, listen in prayer, and then respond in faith, knowing that God will use what you give for His glory. Visit lccaltoona.org/give for more information.

Thank you again and may God continue to fill you with all peace and joy!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nathan Anenson".

Nathan Anenson
Sr. Pastor