



Parish Profile

We are a diverse gathering of people (multi-generational and multi-ethnic) trying to live out the grace and mercy of God.

We're on a journey: to know Christ fully and to make Christ fully known.

Our History

The Light of Christ was founded in the fall of 2000. Initially, TLC was meeting in backyards, homes, and other church buildings. In March of 2003 we purchased the building we are now in. With a new building, we began expanding our ministries and programs. One of the longest running ministry programs has been our summer VBS. It has been well attended and many people in our parish volunteer each year. In 2007 The Anglican Church of the Spirit (ACTS) voted to merge with TLC. This added to our numbers and brought some new perspectives to our parish. In 2013 a large group of Karen refugees began attending TLC. These new members of our family have shaped so much of our church life. We've since added ESL and citizenship classes, as well as worked with families that are looking for better housing and transportation. Our children's ministry has greatly expanded because of the Karen families.

We are a community that has been marked by having people sent our way--from small churches looking to merge, to refugees looking for a church home. We have always been and always will be a place of welcome and love.

Our Values

1. We conform to the Fundamental Declarations of the Province as set forth in Provincial Constitution and in the Fundamental Declarations of the Diocese of the Rocky Mountains and in the Diocese of the Rocky Mountain's Mission Values.
2. We believe that we come to know Christ more fully in the context of a multi-generational/multi-cultural community worshipping together, learning together, and sharing our lives with one another.

3. All people are welcome here. It is a place of belonging where people feel seen and known. We believe people should feel safe here and we will exercise due diligence in areas of risk management and security.
4. We believe that each stream of Anglicanism: Evangelical, Sacramental, and Charismatic adds life and spiritual richness to our worship.
5. We are a house of prayer and prayer undergirds all that we do.
6. We believe we are all sinners seeking God's grace and redemption. We seek to present the Gospel message as an invitation for all to obedience, not as a condemnation of a sinner.
7. We believe our building is a launching pad to help us meet our ministry goals and needs. Its purpose is to serve ministry not limit it.

Life at The Light of Christ

The Light of Christ is a busy church with many ways to connect and be involved. Below are some of the ways we function as a community:

Christian Education

Adult Christian Education

Lay leaders lead classes on various Bible studies or scripture based books or topics throughout the school year.

Nursery

The Nursery is staffed with three persons who have had experience and training in the Childcare profession. The children hear bible stories and do a craft each week, along with playing games, singing songs, and playing with the toys.

Children's Ministry

Classes are held on Sunday morning, for children from 4 years of age through 6th grade throughout the school year. We offer a children's Christian Education curriculum that is lectionary based and follows the seasons of the church year. We have Vacation Bible School each summer and a children's Christmas pageant at Christmas.

Youth Ministry

The youth program (Frontline) provides Biblical Study, prayer, fellowship, direction, fun, and spiritual formation. Meetings include Wednesday nights and Sunday School hour, as well as various special events and trips. It is for grades 7-12.

Fellowship

We have several opportunities for corporate fellowship throughout the year. Advent by Candlelight, Lunch following the Annual Meeting, Appreciation Dinners, Various Receptions, All Parish Picnic to name a few.

Outreach/ Mission Board

Each month the church donates 1% of its income to the Mission Board who meets to administer the funds. The Board also organizes opportunities for parishioners to help serve at a homeless ministry downtown, has led Adult Ed classes teaching on the mission of the church in the world, has supported youth missions, and has helped sponsor a young person from TLC when she was in the mission field in Thailand.

Pastoral Care Ministry

Caring ministers have hearts of compassion and ears to listen through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. They walk along side of those in need offering Christ's presence. Lay Eucharistic Ministers take communion to those who are unable to attend church.

Refugee Ministry

A large population of TLC is made up of refugees. Those in our community who are not refugees feel a serious call to help their brothers and sisters in Christ adjust as best they can to living in the USA. English acquisition is the first priority and TLC offer 4 levels of ESL classes on Sunday morning. Those refugees who are ready are helped to learn how to use an online Rosetta Stone program which allows the refugee to study at whatever time is convenient for them and at their own pace. A Citizenship Class is taught by two volunteers and a cooking class is offered teaching about American foods and measurements. Volunteers help refugees with government forms, insurance, job applications, rental agreements, and dealing with repair persons. They have also helped with simple home repairs. A couple of volunteers have helped the Karen make car purchases, and others have donated cars for refugees to drive. Parishioners have helped with transportation. Our keyboardist is giving the Karen teenagers free keyboard lessons. Just recently three highly knowledgeable volunteers have stepped in to help refugees get better housing and better jobs. One of our Women's Small groups organizes and maintains a blessing table for the Karen.

Small Groups

Women's Small Groups

Currently, we have four Women's Groups each engaged in a Bible Study of their choosing. Groups meet twice a month from September through May.

Men's Bible Study

Meets twice a month for Saturday morning breakfast and a Bible study based on the Lectionary.

Tuesday Night Men's Bible Study/Prayer Group

Meets every Tuesday evening throughout the school year. They have used various Bible studies or books throughout the years and always end in an extended time of prayer.

Mixed Small Group

Made up of adults both male and female, single and married. There are several of these groups throughout the church.

Prayer Ministry

Sunday Morning Prayer Ministers

The Light of Christ is a house of prayer, which means we put an emphasis on the importance of prayer. We believe in the power of prayer for direction, guidance, discernment, and healing; and prayer ministers are available at both services on Sunday morning.

Prayer Requests

A group of persons make themselves available to check their email throughout the day and pray for prayer requests that are sent them via email. They do this everyday throughout the year and there are usually at least 5 requests a day.

Healing Prayer

A group of Healing Prayer Ministers who have completed, at minimum, the basic Christian Healing Ministry Course from the Christian Healing Ministries, work as a team to offer prayer for individuals who request prayer for healing.

Daughters of the King

Our chapter of Daughters of the King is a women's ministry that inspires women to pray for revival among us and to encourage unity. They also pray for the church, for the congregation and for the clergy.

Security Team

As an arm of the Vestry, the security has met with the local police, plus reviewed material and attended workshops on church safety in an effort to make TLC as safe an environment as possible. Once a year, a class is held on child abuse and sexual abuse prevention.

Worship

Worship is at the heart of all that we do at TLC and those who serve in this area are responsible for providing excellence in TLC's worship experience on Sunday morning.

Music

We offer a wide variety of musical styles to express our worship at TLC, from the very traditional to contemporary worship music.

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild sets the altar in preparation for communion and clears and cleans the vessels after the service.

Scripture Reading

Readers prepare in advance to read the assigned readings out of the Lectionary in the worship service.

Chalice Bearers

Chalice Bearers assist during communion with the distribution of the wine.

Altar Flowers

Flowers can be placed on the altar in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving. Special offerings are taken for altar flowers at Christmas and Easter.

Greeters/Ushers

Greeters offer a warm friendly welcome as people come to Sunday morning worship services. Ushers provide order by helping the congregation get seated, helping with traffic flow during communion, and providing safety measures and emergency assistance.

Strengths and Challenges of Our Parish

Our strengths include:

1. We are a welcoming community. All who enter our community experience the love that we share with one another.
2. We are a diverse community. We have a wide variety of ages and races in our community. We seek to embrace this diversity in every way we can. The most obvious way our diversity is expressed is the gospel reading each week is read in both English and Karen.
3. Once you get connected at TLC, it's tough to sit on the sidelines. We are a community that encourages involvement in the parish, while not overwhelming the schedules of our parishioners.
4. We own our building, with very manageable debt. This allows us to steward our resources well, and respond to the ministry needs that arise. We always view our building as a launching pad for ministry, not some untouchable asset that needs protection.
5. With minimal debt, and a commitment of giving from our members we are in a good place to continue into the future.

Some of the challenges we face:

1. Our congregation is getting older. It is becoming increasingly important that we begin growing the number of younger families in our parish.
2. With shifting demographics of our city, the needs of our refugee families and our growth as a community, we're constantly seeing new needs emerge in our city, neighborhood and community. It is our task to learn how to respond and steward the resources we have in our response.

Direction of Our Community

We feel called as a parish to simply continue the work we've been doing. We hope that whoever joins us as our rector will join in and bring their personal touch to the work we are called to.

1. We will continue in and grow our work with the refugee community in our parish. ESL classes, cooking classes, citizenship classes, housing and transportation support, and vocational training are all things we are doing and will continue to do.
2. We will continue to get to know and love our neighbors that live in the neighborhood surrounding our church.
3. We use our time in worship to equip our parish to love and serve the Lord in their daily lives. Our worship experiences are not to create an insular community, but to rejuvenate, equip and prepare us as a community to bring the Light of Christ into the world.
4. All people are welcome in our community. We will continue to be a loving community that believes every person has been declared valuable and loved by Jesus.
5. We will always look for ways to proclaim the Good News of Jesus into the world.

Current Structure, Staff and Leadership

The Vestry (similar to a Board of Directors, but also a group that seeks God's direction for TLC), are the agents and legal representatives of the church in all matters concerning the property, the management of all financial business of the church, and the relations of the church to its Senior Pastor. The Vestry is responsible for the mission, values and any other policy issues deemed appropriate for the Church.

The Lay Ministry Leaders and Staff are responsible for the implementation of the vision and mission of the Church; holding authority for their particular area of ministry only. Each leader develops the vision, mission and values for their ministry with their team setting team objectives, goals and strategies to carry out their mission. Team Leaders develop and manage their own budgets for their area of ministry once their budget has been approved by the Vestry. Ministry Leaders are accountable to TLC for meeting the goals for their specific area of ministry.

Members of the Vestry *(Vestry members serve in rotating three year terms. Each year 2 or more persons are nominated by the Vestry and approved by a vote of the congregation at an all parish meeting.)*

Vestry 2018

Neil Peters- Senior Warden
Teddy DeBerry
Dean Ogawa
Stacey Stillwell
Mike Sorensen
Mark Smesrud

Current Staff 2018

Name	Position
Peggy Murray	(Deacon) Assistant Pastor (Full-time)
Jim Nylund	Assistant Priest (Volunteer)
Jeanie Hutton	Operations Administrator (Full-time)
Amarah Bailey	Youth Pastor (Part-time)
David Bailey	Associate Youth Pastor (Part-time)
Natalie Laojun	Assistant to Youth and Children's Ministry Programs (Part-time)
Jeff and Debbie Wilson	Worship Leaders (Part-time)
Stefani Briggs	Keyboardist (Part-time)
Karen Fancher	Nursery Director (5 hrs a wk)
Angela Martinez	Nursery Assistant (3 hours a week)
Tum Laojun	Custodian (4 hours a week)
Lauren Warren	Website (4 hours a month)
Toe Ma	*Deacon (Pastor to the Karen and Chinn) (Part-time)
Yvonne Holley	*Administrator of Refugee Ministry (6-8 hours a week)
*Funded by a grant from the Rocky Mountain Diocese	

Financial Information

Income and Expenses for the last 5 years:

Year	Income	Expenses	Difference
2013	\$412,166	\$390,052	\$22,115
2014	\$393,260	\$390,097	\$3,163
2015	\$395,931	\$366,298	\$29,633
2016	\$382,642	\$379,884	\$2,758
2017	\$415,410	\$407,075	\$8,335

Parish Demographics Information

Average Sunday Attendance over the past 5 years.

Year	Average Attendance
2013	165
2014	174
2015	179
2016	186
2017	192

Ethnic Composition of Congregation
180 Families with a total of 374 people

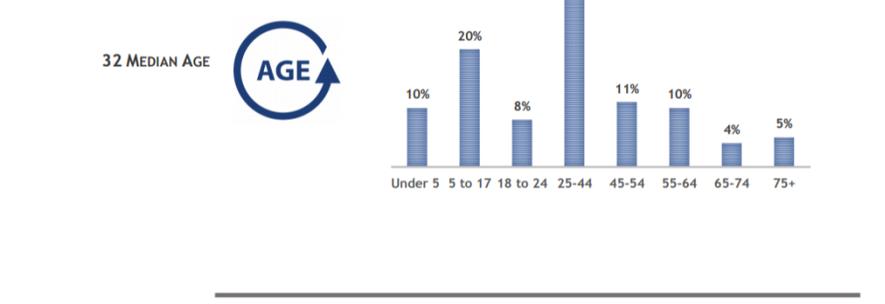
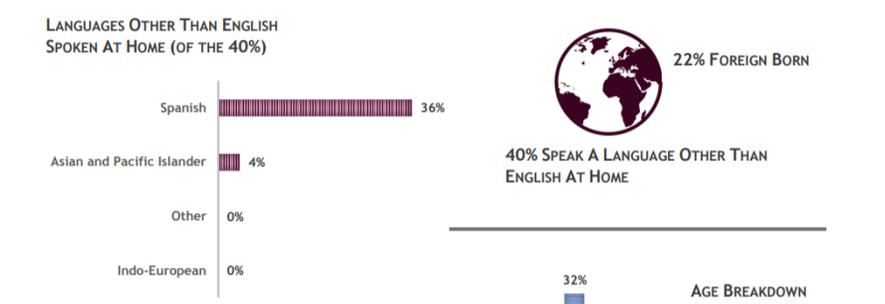
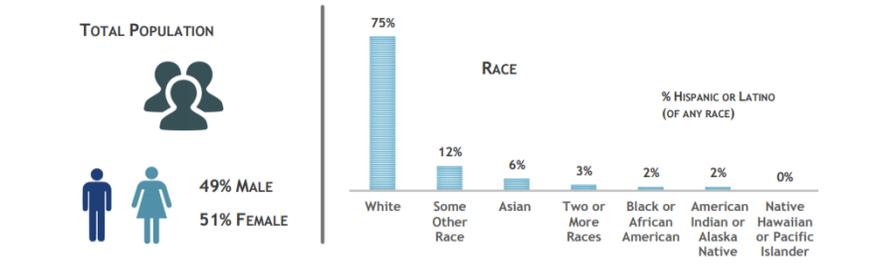
	Caucasian/ Other	Karen	Chin	Burundian	Hispanic	Totals
Adult	216	44	5	4	4	273
Children	33	58	5	2	3	101
Total	249	102	10	6	7	374

Age Demographics of Congregation

Age	Percentage of Church
17 and under	27.2%
18-24	6.4%
25-39	11.4%
40-59	13.8%
60-79	31.6%
80+	9.6%

Neighborhood Information

Our church is situated in the Harvey Park Neighborhood of Denver. We've included some info from the City of Denver about our neighborhood.



\$945 MEDIAN GROSS RENT

29% RENT AS PERCENT OF INCOME

3.0 AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE

\$222,700 MEDIAN HOME VALUE

5% UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

21% POVERTY LEVEL

\$27,874 MEDIAN INDIVIDUAL INCOME

\$54,371 MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

