



# Following Jesus

## IN A COMPLEX WORLD

**OUR STORY |** Christ Church was founded in 1965 by the Rev. Arthur and Gladys DeKruyter and a small circle of others devoted to establishing “a church for the community” in the new Village of Oak Brook. The congregation began meeting in the DeKruyters’ basement and started holding services on Easter Sunday, 1965. It made its home for several years in the gymnasium of the Butler School, then moved to its first property in 1969. Over the next decades the congregation grew into a large, vital church.

In January 1997, Dr. DeKruyter retired and the church moved into its second season under the leadership of the Rev. Daniel Meyer. In the 27 years since then, Christ Church has continued to flourish and God extended their ministry in the Chicagoland area and across the globe.

The church is led by a governing body of twelve Trustees. The Lead Pastor reports to the Trustees but is substantially free to lead and shepherd the church through the staff and over 400 lay leaders. When a time for pastoral transition comes, it is the role of the Trustees to present a Lead Pastor candidate to the congregation for approval to serve for an indefinite term.

Over the last year it became clear to Dan and his wife Amy that God was inviting them into their next season. The Trustees affirmed and blessed their decision and began planning for an orderly transition. In early March, these plans were announced to the congregation and a prayerful and deliberate search for a new leader commenced. This new Lead Pastor will bring the energy, innovation and spiritual direction needed to keep Christ Church thriving long into the future.

In February 2025, Dan will begin a new role as Chaplain-in-Residence of the Ocean Reef community in Florida. At the Trustees’ request, Dan will become the Lead Pastor Emeritus. He will no longer be on the Trustee board, have any day-to-day operational leadership, or have staff directional responsibilities. He will, however, be available to the new Lead Pastor for the first year of the transition, to provide insight, support and reflection as requested.



## OUR FOUNDATION

### Mission

- Our enduring **mission** is to gather multi-generational communities of disciples who worship, grow and serve AND, go into all the world as witnesses of the life-changing love of Jesus.

### Vision

- Our current **vision** is to LIFT 10,000 people toward their God-given potential.

### Values

- **Authentic Worship** | We believe that exalting and enjoying God is life's great purpose and pleasure.
- **Intentional Growth** | We believe that becoming like Jesus is an adventure worth every effort.
- **Generous Service** | We believe that giving our gifts to help others is how we imitate God.
- **Attractive Witness** | We believe that living to draw others to Christ is our personal daily mission.
- **Genuine Community** | We believe that doing life together is how we live the Christian journey.
- **Life-Changing Love** | We believe that loving people extravagantly is the power and priority of God.

### MEMBER COMMITMENTS

- **Worship weekly** with our church family.
- **Grow** by taking intentional steps of faith.
- **Serve** the church and world with our gifts.

### Discipleship Vision

**Our discipleship vision** is designed to form people with a particular set of core convictions, commitments and character traits.

## What We Believe

### We are...

- a community of imperfect people seeking to be biblically faithful and radically loving.
- deeply dedicated to God's Word, ministry excellence, practical relevance and global influence.
- passionate about families and kids.
- steadfast in employing the equal leadership capacity of both men and women.
- committed to the leadership of our Trustees and Elders.
- blessed by a well-educated and generous congregation.

### IN THE NEXT SEASON WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE FOLLOWING

- Providing uniquely strong biblical preaching that is central to who we are and how God has called us to be a clear and compassionate voice in a complex world. We will not dilute the message to make ourselves more relevant to the broader culture. We will provide the congregation with a rich biblical education so they in turn feel inspired and equipped to live out what they learn.
- Inviting our congregation to live missionally and provide many opportunities to do so. Our heart for reaching and discipling people within driving distance remains strong, as it is for those far from us where we can bring our resources and relationships to bear through our dedicated mission efforts and long-term partnerships.
- Operating within our theological framework that embraces helping people follow Jesus in a complex world.
- Pursuing the completion of the initiatives associated with our LIFT Vision.

### OUR THEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

- We are a non-denominational, independent church with roots in the evangelical and reformed traditions.
- We affirm all the tenets of the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds and on finer points of doctrine follow the Augustinian maxim: *Unity in the essentials. Liberty in the non-essentials. Charity in all things.*
- We believe in the full and equal gifting of men and women for all church leadership offices.
- We baptize adults making a personal confession of faith and the children of believers toward the day when they will confirm their parents' promises with their own confession.
- We welcome at the table of communion all who depend upon the grace of God for their salvation and seek to follow Christ as Lord.
- We strive to be a Kingdom of God (purple) church rather than a blue or red community.
- We hold to a traditional understanding of sexuality, seeking to be both biblically faithful and radically loving.

Our complete theological statements are here.

The church seeks to embody a "third way" by continuing to be gospel-focused and remaining known for its call to biblical discipleship rather than social, cultural or political positions. Christ Church expects its next leader to live, lead, teach and preach out of a commitment to pursuing the Kingdom of God above all.

Christ Church expects its next leader to live, lead, teach and preach in accordance with these views.

# DRAFT

## We are...

### Growing | 2024 Weekend Attendance

# 3,139

Adults | Students | Children

2,037 in-person

1,102 online

This represents a 11% increase in in-person attendance and a 7% increase overall, year over year.

### Financially Sound

The church relies on a generosity budget of **\$11-12M** to fund operations, capital needs and mission support on an ongoing basis.

Additional generosity of **\$8-10M** funds special projects every 4-5 years.

Our mortgage debt is conservative (\$7.5M) and decreasing.

### Making an Impact Locally and Globally

# \$1.5M

Shared annually to support 70 Domestic and Global Mission Partners.

More than **1,100 adults** are serving every month within the church and with our domestic mission partners.

**Multiple teams** serve alongside of our mission partners to relieve suffering, transform communities, lift women and children, multiply churches and disciples and develop leaders.

## We have...

# 2

### Locations

**Oak Brook** | 25-acre campus  
140,000 sq. ft.

**Lombard** | 7-acre campus  
40,000 sq. ft.

# 2

### Expressions of Worship

**Contemporary** | Conversational-style preaching with modern music, art and liturgy in a relaxed atmosphere.

**Classic** | Timeless liturgy and preaching, worship and music led by a choir and organist.

### Strong Leadership | Staff | Governance | Lay Leaders

# 54

Full-time Staff

# 109

Part-time Staff

# 70.5

FTE

### Impactful Multigenerational Programming and Active Engagement

# 1,486

**Adults Are Engaged** in a Rooted group, small group, midsize community or class.

**500 children and students** meet weekly in groups.

# 12

Trustees

# 55

Elders

# 440

Group & Ministry Leaders

## OUR MISSION FIELD

The Oak Brook campus of Christ Church reflects the DNA of the community that founder Paul Butler envisioned. Butler's idea was to develop a well-organized commercial area that would support the surrounding neighborhoods while ensuring the availability of plenty of natural settings. His vision included the Church, which led him to donate the land that became the home of Christ Church following their launch at Butler High School.

Christ Church is equidistant (20–30 minutes) from the Chicago Loop, O'Hare Airport and Midway Airport. Its location provides central access to the suburbs making it attractive to business and professional leaders as well as to young, aspiring couples and families.

Even though the area is largely established, the population of DuPage County is projected to grow by 2% in the next 10 years. The area includes a high percentage of families with kids under the age of 18. Within a 4-mile radius of the church, there are 173,000 people with 45% of those under the age of 39. The two and four-mile radiuses from the church encompass communities with an unusually high level of income and education and low poverty throughout.

Racially, the community is largely Anglo (71% in a 4-mile radius), but the diversity increases significantly when seen from a 10-mile radius perspective. The two most significant segments are Asian and Hispanic, which, along with Black make up 27% of the population within 4 miles and 47% within 10 miles. The area has been growing in ethnic diversity over time.

Christ Church reflects many of these characteristics currently and intends to reach out to our mission field accordingly.

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# The Roles We Desire the Next Leader to Play

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## LEADER AMONG LEADERS

Serve boldly as a visionary, setting direction through prayer, careful thought and collaboration with core staff, trustees and elders. Act as the chief steward of decisions, making the hard calls where appropriate.

## CHIEF EXPLORER & FUTURE THINKER

Serve the whole church by seeking new territory to claim for God and His kingdom. Identify new methods, means, and innovations that will allow our congregation to serve more effectively in the future.

## LEAD TEACHING PASTOR

Serve as the primary teaching pastor, guiding a broader teaching team in planning messages and series, and identify methods to guide the congregation in studying and applying God's Word to their lives.

## DEVELOPER OF OTHERS

Serve as the chief enabler and developer of other leaders, helping them to identify or clarify their calling, apply their giftings and grow their ministry areas, benefiting the congregation, community and world.

## CHIEF SHEPHERD

Minister to the health of the congregation, focusing on their spiritual, emotional and other needs. Give attention, care and feeding to individuals and groups within the body. Establish systems where the whole congregation is impacted by their shepherding.

## WE NEED A LEADER WHO...

- Authentically loves Jesus and people in a way that is quickly felt by others.
- Humbly leads a complex organization in an increasingly challenging world via collaboration and team development.
- Listens well and, as a result, rallies the congregation, staff, and leadership to a sense of shared vision and direction.
- Brings a renewed sense of energy and new ideas, strengthening our commitment to bring God's love, grace, and truth to our community and people worldwide.
- Empowers the staff and congregation in a manner that leads to greater engagement, outreach, and discipleship, both in terms of ever-increasing numbers and life change.
- Values and engages a multigenerational congregation.
- Respects and values the long tradition of the church while seeking to expand and broaden the church's impact through innovative methods to reach the next generations.
- Values being present as a shepherd to the flock in many different contexts of the church versus only being a presence on Sunday mornings to preach and teach.

## PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Master's degree or higher from a theological seminary.
- Leadership experience in large congregations with the capacity to manage the priorities of multiple staff teams.
- Exceptional communication skills and the ability to connect with a diverse congregation and adapt to various ministry contexts.
- Comfortable working with high-capacity leaders in a complex, high-velocity environment.

Interested candidates may apply to Slingshot Group.

(This link will be updated with the specific profile link once this is posted.)