



Light^{On}TheHill
St. John The Baptist
Your Community Church

PARISH PROFILE 2022

I AM
LIGHT
ON THE HILL

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PRAYER FOR THE WORK OF THE PARISH SELECTION COMMITTEE

Loving Heavenly Father,

Your Son Jesus told us that He will build His church, and that the gates of hell will not prevail against it.

Your word instructs us to appoint as leaders those who seek Your face and Your will for Your people and warns us of the perils of being led by leaders who do not have the Mind of Christ.

However, only You know the future, and only You know the plans that You have for St. John's Light On The Hill and what will be required of us in the months and years to come. May You reign over all of our deliberations, as we seek to follow You and advance Your kingdom in this place and may we be obedient to Your Spirit as You lead us in Your ways, neither turning to the left nor to the right, and may nothing hinder Your plans for us.

Please Lord, unite us by Your Spirit so that we may be ready for the ministry that You have for St. John's Light On The Hill.

In Jesus Holy Name,
Amen

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

John 10:10b NIV

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another."

John 13:24-35 NIV

We are excited at the prospect of welcoming a new Pastor/Incumbent who is ready to lead us and inspire us as we live out our vision, mission and core values.

We are a small church with a huge heart who loves Jesus and His teachings. Our vision is to bring the church to our community and in doing so, bring the community to the church.

We believe that 'doing' church is not only for Sundays. What we learn overflows into our daily lives, whether at school, university, the workplace or in the home. We are enthusiastic about our mission: to be Salt and Light, to make Jesus known and to develop new disciples.

Church is more than a building; it's about 'people'. We follow the teachings of Jesus to be compassionate and to love all people.

We have a heart for everyone; the lost, the broken, the lonely. Our doors are open six days a week, and we create an environment that is authentically warm and inviting.

We are a church that is anchored in a biblically grounded theology that is evangelical and welcoming. We look forward to going 'deeper' in our faith as our new Pastor enthusiastically preaches and teaches the gospel, and who is ready and willing to inspire us to live out our vision and mission.

OUR MISSION

To be Salt and Light in our community, sharing the Good News of the gospel; spreading hope, peace, justice and mercy; thus reflecting the love of God in order to make Jesus known and develop new disciples.

OUR VISION

To bring the church to the community and in doing so, to bring the community to the church.

OUR CORE VALUES

- Ministries for All Ages
- Hospitality & Fellowship
- Teaching & Discipleship
- Caring ministries for members and the wider community
- Engaging Worship



"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot."

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5: 13-16 NIV

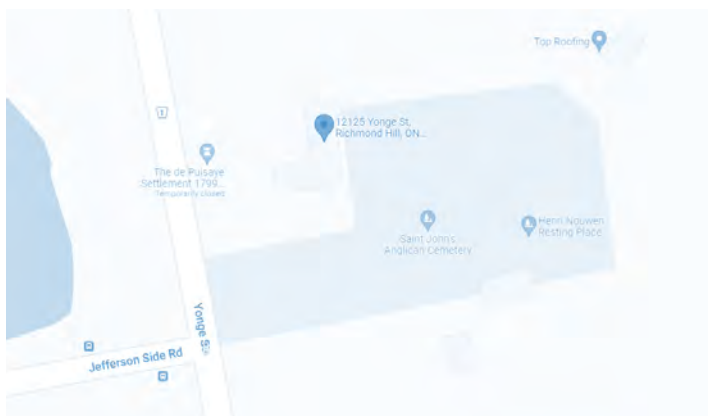
OUR STORY

St. John the Baptist, Oak Ridges, an historic church built in 1848, is the oldest church edifice in present-day Richmond Hill. Erected as a wooden frame structure, and later clad with red brick, the building and adjoining cemetery were built on land donated by Captain Martin Donald MacLeod. On the grounds is an historical marker commemorating the de Puisaye settlement of Windham, founded in 1799 by a group of exiled French loyalists and abandoned in 1806.

In 1998, William Bell, Mayor of Richmond Hill presented us with a certificate commemorating our 150th Anniversary of being *'The Light On The Hill'*, and we adopted the name in 2017.

We look forward to celebrating our 175th Anniversary in June 2023.

More information on the architecture and design can be found at edrh.rhpl.richmondhill.on.ca//cemeteries/churches/default.asp?ID=s06



We are located at 12125 Yonge Street, Richmond Hill Ontario, L4E 3M4.

PRESENT DAY

The community of St. John's has had a long Anglican tradition. Over the last generation our faith expression has moved in new directions, having been led by a Pastor who was trained at Holy Trinity Brompton in England, the church that started Alpha.

Known in the Diocese of Toronto as *'Light On The Hill'* (LOTH), we are appreciative of tradition but not bound to it, which leads to ensuring there are no barriers to a newcomer becoming a follower of

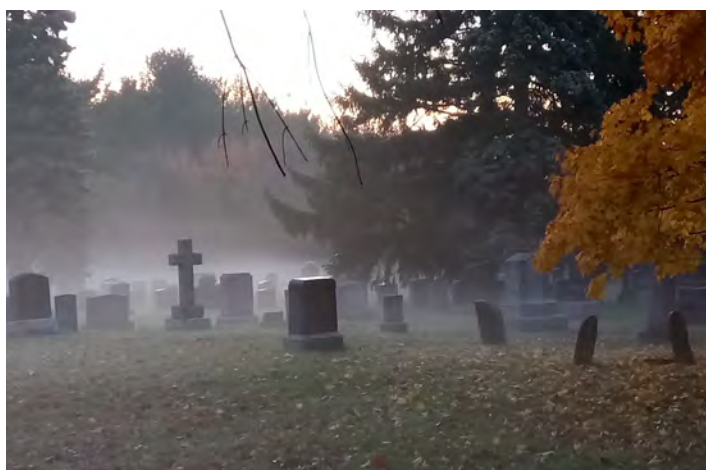
Jesus. This is reflective in members of our congregation coming from denominations other than Anglican or being new to the Christian Faith. Because of our style of worship, the Diocese of Toronto has designated us a *'Fresh Expressions'* church.

See our website lightonthehill.ca for more information.

ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN (JEFFERSON) CHURCH CEMETERY

At Light On The Hill we have a beautiful, small cemetery behind the church. We know that losing a loved one is one of life's most difficult things to bear. Those who seek to inter their loved ones here can expect love, care and respect from our cemetery team, as they move through the process of burying their loved one. Pre-Covid, we held a memorial service every other year, and it is our hope that we will be able to reinstate these meaningful services in 2023. Each year we receive donations from a few of our rights owners which provides us with some extra funds to keep the cemetery neat and tidy as well as fixing any loose memorials. It is the final resting place of many members of the founding families of the area, along with Henri Nouwen, renowned priest and author.

See our website cemetery.lightonthehill.ca for more information.



WHAT WE BELIEVE

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

2 Timothy 3:16-17 NIV

We believe what the Bible says about God and who He is. We believe that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life, and that having a personal relationship with Him is the key to salvation. We believe in the power of the Cross, and in the Resurrection. We believe that the Holy Spirit lives in all believers.

In Matthew 22: 37-39, Jesus states, *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbour as yourself."*

As a church, LOTH incorporates these commandments into all that we do. Prayer is essential and is the bedrock on which our ministries are built. All of our outreach projects



GOVERNANCE

"Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which He bought with His own blood."

Acts 20:28 NIV

Pre-pandemic, LOTH's Leadership Team consisted of the Incumbent and Wardens (making up the Corporation), Treasurer, Executive Director, Administrator, Ministry Leaders, church members considered to be Spiritual Leaders or Elders, and Associate Pastor (if one is on staff). The make-up of the team was determined at the annual Vestry Meeting, with the People's Warden being elected and the Rector's Warden, Treasurer and ministry members being appointed. The Executive Director and Administrator are on staff. The Incumbent and Wardens have always worked closely with the Executive Director to collectively make decisions about the day-to-day operations of the church. Strategic and longer-term decisions, or those that have a significant impact on the life of the church were made with input from the entire team, however major

decisions were and continue to be made by the Corporation, as outlined in the Canons.

During the pandemic and lockdown, the monthly meetings were largely on hiatus, with only the Corporation meeting intermittently. During this current period of transition, the Leadership meetings have been reinstated, consisting of the Priest-in-charge, Wardens, Executive Director and Administrator. Once our ministries get re-established, the goal is to expand the team once again.



WORSHIP, MUSIC & LITURGY

*"Sing to the Lord a new song;
Sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Sing to the Lord, praise His name; proclaim His
salvation day after day.
Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous deeds among all peoples."*

Psalms 96:1-3 NIV

As a 'Fresh Expressions' church, worship at Light On The Hill is contemporary and evangelical, heavily influenced by Holy Trinity Brompton. Our Sunday service at 10 a.m. is called *Lighthouse*, symbolizing God's light guiding all people to His safe harbour. While following the Lectionary during this interim period, our custom for preaching, scripture reading and music selections has been based on sermon series using themes or books of the Bible. The Eucharist is celebrated monthly and on Holy days, with Baptisms scheduled by the Pastor.



Music is very important at LOTH, and we have a core group of musicians/singers who are passionate for Jesus. The team is led by worship leader who receives a small stipend, with guest singers/musicians joining in on occasion. Music is generally current and contemporary, but often includes re-envisioned hymns. We are vocal-centric and use keyboards, guitars, drums and other percussion. Music is chosen through spiritual discernment and reflection on the scriptures and teaching of the day. In the past youth members have rounded out the band, many of whom have moved on to university, and

we hope to raise up a new generation of members to the worship team.



Our liturgy is based on the Anglican traditions of the BCP and BAS. We adapt our worship to suit the sermon topic, and members of the congregation read the scripture and occasionally lead prayers. All scripture, lyrics, sermon slides and announcements are displayed on screens or in the service bulletin. Worship is often enhanced using drama, videos, dance, visual art and the flexible use of church space. During summer months (weather permitting), we worship outdoors in the extensive church grounds at our newly-built 'Henri Nouwen Worship Centre'. Currently, we do not have weekday worship however all members are encouraged to be involved in Life Groups throughout the week.

Lighthouse is broadcast live on our Youtube channel:

youtube.com/user/makingjesusknownvide
and posted to our website lightonthehill.ca

LEARNING & SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

"Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good."

1 Peter 2:2-3 NIV

CURRENT MINISTRIES/PROGRAMS

IGNITE—KID's CHURCH

On Sunday mornings, children have a chance to learn about our awesome Heavenly Father who created and who loves us. This is done through Biblical teaching and practical application in a manner that is relevant to their age. We provide fun, food and consistently loving leadership. Jesus taught us that an abundant life is all about enjoying a true relationship with Him. Relationship is at the centre of every precious Sunday morning we get to spend together.



LIFE GROUPS

Life Groups, our name for small groups, are vitally important, as they help deepen one's faith, promote spiritual growth and quench our thirst to know more about Jesus. While our groups continued during the lockdown, the makeup of them has changed, with many of those still attending no longer members of LOTH. Many new church members are Iranian, newcomers to

the Christian faith and are not yet connected with a group.

ALPHA

Programs in English, Mandarin and Farsi have been offered and facilitated by our Pastor and congregational volunteers. alphacanada.org

TRANSFORMED

Our program '*Transformed*' is facilitated by two of our members using the book of the same name which they co-authored. This 10-week program is designed for those who are struggling with life, whether it be depression, addictions, despair, blame, guilt, unforgiveness and despair. transformedforever.com

MINISTRIES/PROGRAMS HELD PRE-COVID

LITTLE LIGHTS

A nursery program for our youngest members.

RADIATE

A weekly evening two-hour time of fellowship, prayer, teaching and worship for youth and young adults.



DEEPER

A weekly 90-minute time of teaching on predetermined themes which includes a light meal to begin the conversation.

RISE 'N SHINE

This preschooler and caregiver drop-in offers mothers within and outside of our church an opportunity for friendship and spiritual growth. 'Rise 'n Shine' met (and hopefully will again soon meet) Wednesday mornings throughout the school year. Meetings consist of playtime, teaching, music, and encouragement followed by lunch. The ministry is offered without cost but donations to the program are welcome.



PASTORAL CARE

"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."

Psalm 32:18 NIV

LOTH is a church family that truly cares about the well-being of our members: physically, emotionally and spiritually. Our Pastor has been available for in home and hospital visits; however, these are also done by our members. Much of our pastoral care is of an informal nature:

- our Life Groups pray for one another;
- members stock or financially support the 'Open Cupboard' (our in-house food bank);
- our trained prayer team offers a more extensive prayer time;
- a partnership with a Christian counsellor, assisting with the cost if appropriate;
- provide meals for those who have undergone surgery;

We generally step up whenever the need arises.

PRAYER MINISTRY

"Truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in My name, there I am in the midst of them."

Matthew 18: 19-20 NIV

Jesus taught about the importance of prayer. It is the vehicle with which we invite His Spirit to be with us; where we can have a conversation with

Him, thus deepening our relationship with Jesus. While we understand that anyone can pray at any time, we have a core group of trained Prayer Team members who are available for individual prayer following the service or upon request.

HOSPITALITY & FELLOWSHIP

"Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling."

1 Peter 4:8-9 NIV

Walking into a church can be daunting, not only for first time guests, but also for regular attendees, and it's a priority to ensure that those who join our service are made to feel welcome. We intentionally speak to anyone new, before or after the service.

Our greeting team, known as *'First Impressions'*, makes it their task to authentically engage in conversation with new folks, the intent being to encourage them to return again and again to Light On The Hill and eventually become a contributor. To do this, it's important to engage with them in a way that is not over the top and gushy! Gift bags containing a small gift (mug, pen, notebook or mouse pad), information about life at LOTH and a connect card are handed out to guests as they arrive.

Hospitality & Fellowship flows naturally between individuals participating in ministries such as: Life Groups, social gatherings, retreats, service opportunities and volunteer activities.

During the Covid-19 lockdown, a dedicated team of staff and volunteers delivered a small gift of love to all our members, whether it was a loaf of bread, homemade baked goods, soup or solar candles, as our way of communicating that we love them and very much consider them part of our family. During first Christmas lockdown volunteers filled Christmas bags for all our members, which included a home-made Christmas decoration, candy canes for the children, chocolate for the adults and Communion elements which had been blessed by the Pastor. During our Christmas Eve service (via zoom) everyone opened their bags, and together celebrated Holy Communion. This was a very special time of church family coming together in a very meaningful way.

OUTREACH & EVANGELISM

"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field."

Matthew 9:37-38 NIV

While many of our ministries cross over into Outreach and Evangelism, for example: Alpha and Transformed, LOTH has developed others specifically to help those in our family and community.

church is open, or upon request, and allows people to take what they need when they need it.

THE OPEN CUPBOARD

Created as an in-house food bank to fill a need in our congregation, the Open Cupboard has expanded its doors to include those in our community. Donations of non-perishable food items are welcome, and financial contributions are used to purchase fresh vegetables, frozen food and gift cards. Access is available when the



SOUP'S ON

A weekly free community lunch – coming back soon!

REAP WHAT YOU SOW COMMUNITY GARDEN

Created 4 years ago, our community garden consists of 18 garden plots for use by congregants and people in the local community. For church use, we have 4 plots along with a 50' x 20' greenhouse. We seed, plant and harvest vegetables from our greenhouse and plots which are used for our Soup's On program and for other special events throughout the year. Produce is sold on Sunday mornings and the revenue generated is used to support our Open Cupboard as well as the Aurora Food Pantry and Richmond Hill Food Bank.



LITTLE LIBRARY

As the sign reads: Give and take!



CHURCH PLANTS & PARTNERS

"But the word of God continued to spread and flourish."

Acts 12:24 NIV

FU YIN MANDARIN CHURCH

Blessed with a Diocesan grant for Mandarin ministry, we are able to support a Lay Mandarin speaking Pastor. The service, Fu Yin, is held in our upper hall at noon on Sundays and is shared with followers in China. Mandarin Bible Studies are held on Tuesdays, with ESL classes taking place on Thursdays, both followed by a time of fellowship with dancing, singing, exercise,



activities, and lunch. In addition, weekly teaching is provided virtually to over 300 people in China. The Pastor and his family attend and are involved in ministries of LOTH.

NEW WINE CHURCH

We have a close and ongoing relationship with New Wine Church, a church plant affiliated with the Evangelical Covenant Church of Canada. Their values are 'Jesus, People, Discipleship and Mission'. They meet together both in homes and at LOTH. We are blessed when their Pastor preaches and/or joins the band at our Lighthouse service.

HENRI NOUWEN SOCIETY OF CANADA

Light On The Hill has recently partnered with the Society, with our outdoor worship area being named the 'Henri Nouwen Centre for Worship & Prayer'. In September 2021 we celebrated his life during a service with the L'Arche community. henrinouwen.org

OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD & OUR MISSION FIELD

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:16 NIV

Richmond Hill offers a multi-cultural community with a high-quality lifestyle with a strong, growing economy. From green space to a world-class performing arts centre, Richmond Hill has it all.

The northernmost neighbourhood, Oak Ridges, is situated on the Oak Ridges Moraine, complete with lakes, hiking trails and protected land. LOTH can be found on the southern edge, which is mostly residential and commercial.

With a population of over 202,000, Richmond Hill in York Region lies 25 km north of Toronto, and is considered part of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). Oak Ridges can sometimes be considered separate from Richmond Hill, given the differences in current and future development patterns and plans, along with a large natural area forming a physical separation between Oak Ridges and urban Richmond Hill. With the Yonge North Subway Extension coming within the next 10 years, GO Transit, and VIVA buses running up and down the Yonge Street corridor, the demographic of the area is changing. This presents both opportunities and challenges for ministry at LOTH.

According to the 2016 census, visible minorities make up 60% of the population of Richmond Hill:

Chinese and Iranian being the most dominant. The largest population of Iranians outside of Tehran reside in this area.

COMMUNITY, GLOBAL AND FAMILY MISSIONS

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of Mine, you did for Me.'"

Matthew 25:40 NIV

LOTH is deeply committed to missional service. Each year, our church tithes a minimum of 10% of all revenue to missional work. While often one thinks of mission field as a faraway place, we realize that our mission work can be done much closer to home. Therefore, our missional vision is expressed by the phrase 'Our Backyard and Beyond'.

We define our missional work in three streams: Family, Community and Global.

FAMILY MISSIONS: things we do to help those in need in our church family

Although living in an affluent community, there's often a time when a need arises within our own membership. Support can be given in many ways:



- the Open Cupboard food bank
- use of the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, which has certain criteria
- BEAM Packs (Bless Equip And Mobilize) for students heading to post-secondary education
- funding for Christian-based counselling
- Christmas Hampers
- clothing drives

COMMUNITY MISSIONS: things we do to bring the church into the Community and the Community into the church.



LOTH is located in a new and growing community, giving us many opportunities to serve. Ways we have reached out to our community include:

- our Neighbourhood Community Party, with music, games, food, and activities
- food drives to support our local Food Banks
- sorting food at the Aurora Food Pantry
- our Community Garden – allowing those in our community to grow their own vegetables
- financial support for our Church Plants and other Christian organizations whose values closely align with Light On The Hill's e.g. Life 100.3 Christian Radio Station
- making donations to Toy Mountain Christmas Campaign

GLOBAL MISSIONS: things we do to share the gospel of Jesus anywhere in the world

Our church prefers to support organizations with whom we can have a relationship, and these can change from time to time, based on established criteria.

- Operation Christmas Child
- Wycliffe Bible Translators
- financial aid to overseas organizations: church in Ethiopia, orphanage in Central America
- disaster relief
- refugee support through AURA (Anglican United Refugee Alliance)

MISSION SUNDAY

One Sunday in November is designated as 'Mission Sunday', where we invite our mission partners to make a presentation, updating us on their needs, accomplishments and dreams, allowing our church to see how their donations are used. We pray for each ministry and leader, which leads to strengthening relationships between us. A special offering is taken up, and 100% of what's received is given away.

MISSION PARTNER'S SUMMIT

Prior to Covid and beginning again this summer, Light On The Hill hosts one- or two-yearly 'Mission Partner Summit'. It is an opportunity for like-minded evangelical missional church leaders to meet for seminars, teaching, prayer and fellowship. The focus of our meetings is often centred around church planting and strengthening the local church.



HUMAN, PHYSICAL & FINANCIAL RESOURCES

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

1 Peter 4:10 NIV

HUMAN RESOURCES

- Pastor (currently an Interim – Part Time)
- Currently on Staff:
- Executive Director - Full Time
- Administrator – Full Time
- Custodian and Handyman – Contract
- Worship Leader: Contract/Monthly
- Cemetery Associate – Hourly
- 4 Canada Job Student Workers – Summer Grant/8 weeks each/30 hrs.

VOLUNTEERS

In the past it would be easy to say that we had a great army of volunteers serving in many areas such as: Wardens, Leadership Team, Finances, First Impressions Team, Mission Coordinator, Children's Leaders and teachers, Worship Teams, Prayer Team, Property Team, Office Support, Kitchen Support and Media Team. In recent months, our volunteer support has dwindled dramatically following the Covid-19 lockdowns and during this interim transition period. Our current challenge is to rebuild our volunteer base.

PHYSICAL RESOURCES

INDOOR SPACES

We have a wonderful physical space. The main church seats 125 in standard pew form. The Sanctuary area has been transformed to accommodate contemporary worship, including a large band, space for theatrical performances and children's and youth ministry. We have a



40-foot screen that supports a projector with rear projection capabilities which can be erected as needed.

We have an Upper Hall, furnished in a contemporary style with couches, armchairs, and a small café area. Attached is a small kitchenette. This space is perfect for teaching, gatherings, youth and young adult events and small services, and is fully equipped with sound and visual media equipment.



Our Lower Hall (gym-like area) is used all week long for meetings, gatherings, teaching, fellowship, exercise, sports, and worship. This area seats about 100 and we have chairs and tables to accommodate. It, too, is fully equipped for sound and media. A full kitchen with a pass-through is attached.

Other areas include four office spaces, the sacristy, a children's room, an attic and significant storage space. Unfortunately, the original church, built in 1848, has been added to over the years and is not considered accessible at this time. Located behind the church is our Rectory, which is currently rented. The main level consists of a private residence and two offices, one of which serves the Cemetery. The lower level has various rooms, which are currently rented to Christian organizations.



Located in the Henri Nouwen Centre for Worship & Prayer, the '*Reflections Prayer Garden*' is great place for contemplation, meditation and prayer.

OUTDOOR SPACES

LOTH has a great amount of usable outdoor space including: two paved parking lots, a basketball court, green space large enough to house a soccer field, the south lawn used for BBQs and fellowship, and a children's play area. Our historic Cemetery is located on the west side of the church, behind which is our Reap What You Sow Community Garden and Greenhouse. The garden borders the Oak Ridges Moraine, with a trail winding down through the forest. The area also includes a natural amphitheatre shaped space which could be developed in the future.



Between the garden and the rectory lies The Henri Nouwen Centre for Worship & Prayer, built in the spring of 2021 as an alternative to meeting indoors during the Covid-19 pandemic. It is hoped it will also serve as a future venue for concerts, theatrical performances, funerals, memorials, parties, anniversaries, weddings and baptisms. With a stage, fire pit, picnic tables and benches, it's a multi-use facility which has become a central component of our church.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Light On The Hill has been blessed for many years with a high ratio of giving to attendance, as well as a strong revenue stream from the Rogers Cell tower located on the property; rental of the rectory; rental of outdoor space and rentals of the church sanctuary and two large halls. We have a strong granting history and we have received significant grants over the past 6 years from the Diocese of Toronto (Reach, Stretch, AMDG, New Hope) and the Federal Government (Canada Summer Jobs, CEWS). As such, we have investments, cash on hand and reserves in excess of \$350,000, and there is no long-term debt. This year, during this season of change, and the loss of many of our larger donors, we have projected a deficit of \$44,000.

Our financial obligations include support for our two church plants, reviewed annually. In August 2022, LOTH received the approval of Vestry to be the signing Church for facilitating and supporting the sponsorship of an Afghan refugee family. Working with AURA and family members of the refugees already established in Canada, we have committed to a small financial donation.

The Cemetery, as a separate entity, has its own financial system. More financial information can be found in the Addenda.

OTHER CHURCH COMMUNITIES & RENTALS

"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

1 Corinthians 12:27 NIV

LOTH believes that the Spirit is leading us to be a host for Christian Kingdom growth of various denominations. We envision LOTH to be an "umbrella" for Christian churches, organizations and agencies. As such, we have worked toward opening our doors to many churches and groups who share our vision in making Jesus known. We occasionally have joint worship services with the churches who use our space, thus cementing our relationships. Currently, these are our tenants.

FU YIN ~ Mandarin Church ~ meeting Sundays at noon in the Upper Hall

NEW WINE CHURCH ~ Covenant Church of Canada (Church Plant) ~ meeting Sundays at 4 pm in the Upper Hall

THE GREAT DOCTOR MINISTRY ~ Arabic/ Aramaic/Egyptian Church ~ meeting Sundays at 10 am in the Lower Hall

TALKING BOOK LIBRARY ~ Producing Christian audio books and bibles in many languages for the seeing impaired ~ uses space in the lower level of the rectory

ELAM MINISTRIES ~ United Kingdom Church organization storing Farsi New Testament Bibles for distribution in the GTA ~ uses space in the lower level of the rectory

EDUKOS ACADEMY ~ Christian day school, after school and tutoring programs and summer camp ~ currently uses the Upper Hall for tutoring 3 evenings a week. The Day School is scheduled to start in September

PARAMOUNT LEARNING ~ Tutoring program ~ meeting Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm in the Lower Hall

EVENTS & SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

"... whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

1 Corinthians 10:31b NIV

OUR FINEST GIFTS

Annual Christmas Worship/Theatrical and Musical event for all ages.

NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMUNITY PARTY

Our annual Community Picnic/Gathering is a fun-filled, innocuous way to reach out to our neighbouring community. The event features



activities for all ages: games, prizes, rides, face painting, multicultural food, pancake breakfast, live music, exhibits by tenants, video gaming, petting zoo, bouncy castle equipment, minigolf,

sports events, and Reptilia. Police, fire and paramedic vehicles and staff are on site for community enrichment, and Life 100.3 broadcasts live on location. Everyone is encouraged to visit our Welcome/Information Booth, and a Prayer Team is available as needed. The event is well attended by local municipal, provincial and federal elected representatives.

CONCERTS

Worship Concerts at LOTH have been held in the sanctuary, outdoors in the Henri Nouwen Centre for Worship and in the local community. Featured artists have included Brian Doerksen, Drew Brown, and 'The Worship Project' with Darrick Tam and Lilli Furfaro.

FESTIVAL OF CREATION

This one-day event celebrates God, our Great Creator, through various musical, visual, theatrical, gardening and culinary arts.



PASSION ON THE HILL

The annual week-long Holy Week series of events.

PARADE OF TRIUMPH: Palm Sunday, Family Worship

7 Words – 7 Days: Self Directed Mediation throughout Holy Week

Group Prayer: Nightly during Holy Week at the Church

7 Days of Family Prayer: Daily

VILIFIED AT GETHSEMANE : Maundy Thursday

- Journey to the Cross
- Prayer & Worship Stations

VICTORY AT CALVARY: Good Friday

- Music, Mediations & Monologues at Noon
- Journey to the Cross
- Prayer & Worship Stations

VINDICATED: Resurrection Sunday Family Worship & Celebration

PRESENT REALITY & LOOKING FORWARD

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

WHERE WE ARE NOW

Over the past couple of years, our demographic has changed. We have fewer families with young children, and the majority of our youth have grown and are now living away from home. As with most churches, the Covid-19 pandemic has not been kind to us, and many of our programs have had to close. Many members who held leadership roles are no longer with us, and although new people are attending our service, we are not currently equipped to resurrect/resume these past ministries. However, we trust that God has a plan for rebuilding Light On The Hill and look forward to working with a new Pastor to help revitalize our parish. Our goal is to return to being a vibrant community.

LOOKING FORWARD

LEARNING & SPIRITUAL GROWTH

In order to help our entire church family to mature in their faith, we need to

- expand our Life Groups by developing more leaders and providing more support for them
- provide structured, in-depth learning opportunities beyond the Sunday morning teaching to enable continued Spiritual growth for those of all ages and stages
- offer Alpha courses, helping new members understand the tenets of the Christian Faith

OUTREACH & EVANGELISM

Jesus commissioned us to *" . . . go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."*

Matthew 28:19-20 NIV

In order to do so, we must:

- obtain training to teach and equip our volunteers in spreading the Gospel
- continue and expand our involvement with church plants, whether they be Anglican or other denominations
- continue to work with/support our current outreach projects:
 - our connection with the Aurora Food Bank
 - Operation Christmas Child
 - our Open Cupboard
 - refugee sponsorship

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

We need to explore and develop new ways of reaching out to our community and bringing newcomers to our church, thus growing our membership both in numbers and in faith. By doing so, we will be helping advance God's Kingdom plus providing us with the human resources necessary to continue and expand our ministries and programs.

In July 2022, we distributed a Membership Survey, in both hardcopy and electronic form. See the Addendum section for the survey results and the Parochial Return Data supplied by the Diocese.

OUR NEXT PASTOR

"Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction."

2 Timothy 4:2 NIV

We believe that God has already chosen the person to be our next Pastor; a person who will be genuinely invested in the people of our parish, with a desire to lead us into the next decade. We pray that by reading through this profile, you have a sense of who we are as a church family, our style of worship, our passion for Jesus and our desire *'to bring our church to the community, and in doing so bring the community to our church'*.

You are intentional in deepening your relationship with God and that you understand that your identity can be found only in Christ through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. You are comfortable with leading a church that is made up of members from different denominations and backgrounds.

As a **LEADER**, you have the ability to:

- effectively direct, delegate and empower others: both staff and volunteers
- lead by modelling humility, accountability and a desire for personal growth
- model integrity and demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit
- coach and mentor staff according to their gifts and skill sets
- establish a spiritual environment that inspires high performance, enthusiasm and the delivery of results
- work collaboratively with the staff and leadership team to ensure that we discern and embrace God's vision for LOTH
- listen to diverse opinions and make final decisions with grace; correct, rebuke and encourage with patience, and not quickly take offence if a disagreement arises.
- recognize that volunteer leadership is critical to fulfill our vision, motivate our members, encourage them in their interests, talents and spiritual gifts to build up the body of Christ

By working together, we can develop and implement practical strategies to attract new people to LOTH, especially youth and young families who will grow to love Jesus and become Spirit-filled, leading to transformation in their lives.

As a **PREACHER**, you:

- have a deep understanding of the Bible, both in its content and the context in which it was written
- preach, speaking from the heart through the power of the Holy Spirit, thus challenging us to apply the truths of Gospel to our lives
- connect biblical theology to life in the 2020s – teaching its relevance in today's world

As you preach, you will engage us with humour and insight, using personal examples to illustrate your meaning.

As a **TEACHER**, you:

- reinforce our learning and grow our knowledge
- have a passion, vision and strategy for discipling believers, because church is more than just Sunday mornings
- are excited about leading our church to grow deeper in our relationship with Jesus and one another by developing and implementing new learning opportunities; and revitalizing our Life Groups.

You understand how people of all ages learn and grow in faith and will ensure Christian education is available for everyone. Prayer is important to you, and you understand its value and its power.

As a **PASTOR**, you:

- know that lives are filled with both joy and sorrow, healing and brokenness
- maintain confidentiality, are widely trusted and speak the truth with love
- genuinely care for people and are concerned about all aspects of their lives, demonstrating Jesus' compassion and empathy
- realize that getting to know the members of your flock is important to us, making you

readily approachable and easy to talk to when the need arises

- hear as well as listen, being sensitive to what is communicated
- are mindful of the cost that pastoring has on a leader, and can set emotional and time boundaries, thus keeping a healthy balance in your life
- have good time management skills and the ability to balance personal life with church life and to set boundaries

You take an interest in equipping others who are gifted in pastoral ministry so that members of our church family can step up when the need arises.

Hearing and understanding the Gospel message draws people to Jesus. *'In-reach'* to our church is vital, and *'outreach'* into our community is integral to who we are at LOTH. While many of our outreach ministries fill a physical need, we need to also fill the spiritual needs of those whom we meet.

You are:

- excited about leading our church to grow wider in the community
- committed to inspiring us to live out our Mission and our Vision
- willing to teach, equip and motivate us to effectively share our faith with others

Church planting is a way to share the Gospel and grow God's Kingdom and we look to you for new ways to do so.

As a Church, **WE** will:

- endeavour to protect your personal time and encourage you to take your vacation days so that you can regroup and be refreshed
- ensure that you have the opportunity to participate in workshops for continuing professional development

You are important to us, and we will love you and do our utmost to care for you as we welcome you to our family.

By working together, loving as taught by Jesus, walking in the Spirit, and discerning God's will for our church, we can live up to our name **Light On The Hill**.



ADDENDA

ADDENDUM A SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

WEBSITE [Light On The Hill](#)

FACEBOOK <https://www.facebook.com/SJTBLightOnTheHill>

YOUTUBE <https://www.youtube.com/user/makingjesusknownvide>

ADDENDUM B THE CEMETERY

CEMETERY
HISTORICAL
INFORMATION edrh.rhpl.richmondhill.on.ca//cemeteries/cemetery.asp?CID=SJJCem

CEMETERY
MEMORIAL
VIDEO <https://cemetery.lightonthehill.ca/cemetery-video/>

ADDENDUM C

PAROCHIAL
RETURN
INFORMATION <https://1drv.ms/b/s!Al5TbX-gjiRYiQQ6fHjo2AHLow-l>

ADDENDUM D

VESTRY
PACKAGE <https://1drv.ms/b/s!Al5TbX-gjiRYiQLUkPktDs4Kslwp>

ADDENDUM E

FINANCIAL
INFORMATION <https://onedrive.live.com/?authkey=%21AALsMofYTLzLPik&cid=58248EA07F6D535E&id=58248EA07F6D535E%211153&parId=58248EA07F6D535E%211151&o=OneUp>

ADDENDUM F

PASTORAL
SEARCH
SURVEY https://1drv.ms/b/s!Al5TbX-gjiRYiQPrS_9VsH_TQC-t

ADDENDUM G

SYNOD
MISSIONAL
MOMENT
VIDEO

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bwdn1_Lfby8

ADDENDUM H

MULTIPLIED
(WORSHIP)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOzNFrB09NE>

ADDENDUM I

CHURCH OF
ENGLAND

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/fresh-expressions-church-england>

ADDENDUM J

HENRI
NOUWEN
SOCIETY OF
CANADA

<https://henrinouwen.org>

ADDENDUM K

2019 FEDERAL
CENSUS INFO

<https://1drv.ms/b/s!Al5TbX-gjiRYiQBQOFQL7UhMf8fX>

