

## *In Nature at LCOC*

Dear LCOC Family Member ~

If you've never spent time in any of the outside sanctuaries surrounding our church, you are missing an opportunity to feel God's awesome peace and His presence. Join us as we stroll through nature at LCOC as summer begins. The plants, flowers, and grass are very happy from the abundant rain of the spring (except for the Portulaca which loves the hot, sunny and dry weather)!

- As our walk begins, we are greeted by tall pink and a few white Coneflowers that have taken over the nearby Memorial Garden.
- Liliiums in a variety of colors stand stately above all of the flowers in this area.
- Repurposed Easter Lilies have bloomed beautifully and are now saying goodbye for the season.
- Joe Pye Weed, Liatris, and Black-Eyed Susans are coming into bloom and are going to be a great addition to this beautiful space.
- Primroses are hanging in and the new Zinnias are starting to burst forth in multiple colors.
- As we glance around, we see a male Cardinal coming to snack at the bird feeder.
- Oak Leaf Hydrangeas are putting on a show with glorious large white blooms.
- The Angel in the Children's Garden seems to want us to pause and enjoy the Cone Flowers, Black-Eyed Susans and other perennials that are a part of her home.
- Portulaca blanket the main doorway to the inner sanctuary and desire the dry, hot, and sunny weather to come back to stay for a while.
- Balloon flowers (to the left side of the doorway) are a gorgeous blue-purple and quite welcoming.
- The Daylilies that flank the entrance to the parking lot, as well as, every corner therein, are so bright and beautiful. Many of them smell so sweet and invite us to linger for a while.
- We move more quickly toward the covered patio as rain begins to fall. There we sit for a little while and enjoy the pair of Catbirds that are taking turns finishing the Oregon Grapes of the Mahonia.
- As we continue to wait for the rain to lighten up, we enjoy looking at the gardens surrounding this space (the Butterfly Bush is looking great and promises some great blooms and delicious nectar for the Wings of Fancy that will visit this summer).

You are encouraged to take a self-guided tour through our wonderful landscape here at LCOC. But be ready – you are going to experience God's peace and presence – so enjoy this special time with our Creator! We will be looking for you as summer is providing many opportunities to come into the gardens at LCOC.

*“Everything that slows us down and forces patience,  
everything that sets us back into the slow circles of nature, is a help.  
Gardening is an instrument of grace”.*

*May Sarton*