



**Lutheran Church
of the
Resurrection**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

3500 29th Avenue - Marion, Iowa
(319) 377-4689 | lcrmarion.org

Crosstalk

Volume 61, Issue 5
May 2020

Message from the Pastor

Dear Friends of LCR, I know that many of you have been checking in with us on Facebook and our website. I also know that this is helpful but not entirely fulfilling. I noticed a large sign in my condo neighbor's window this morning that simply said HUGS. That is what most of us are missing as we trample through this desert. Remember the Israelites were in the wilderness for forty days. That is not going to happen to us. Jesus went to the wilderness shortly after his baptism and stayed there forty days being tempted by the devil. We have already passed the forty day mark. We will be delivered in time. Do not give up hope and don't jump too soon.

PEACE, Pastor Denny

Church Family Check-In Challenge

As we continue to stay safer at home, we would like to encourage you to take this "Check-In Challenge." This week, try to reach out to at least 3-5 people in our church family. This can be a phone call, email, text, Facebook message, or perhaps a card in the mail. This can be a time where we grow stronger as a family as we reach out to the people we see in our sanctuary and gathering space. Let's lean in together as we share our fears and worries, and also our stories of hope.

Family Ministry Notes

64 children from 26 different families received Easter Kits from LCR to help them celebrate Easter. Kits included bible lessons and activities, eggs filled with candy, and small toys. Jill, Jessi, and Katie had fun dropping them off on doorsteps for our families to enjoy.

Wednesday Night Live families are helping to bring joy to some of our older members who are unable to get out at this time through our *Up* program. Jill encouraged the kids to watch the movie *Up* and think about how some of our older folks might be feeling alone right now. 14 residents of care facilities and senior living facilities have been adopted so far. If your family is interested in participating, let Jill know.

Update on Senior Pastor Call

Because of the COVID-19, the senior pastor call is on hold. We look forward to updating you as we are able.

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https://tinyurl.com/
LCRYoutube

Worship



Online Worship Services - Sundays, 10 am; Wednesdays, 6 pm

While the church is closed, the Sunday morning services are being broadcast online. We encourage people to gather for worship at 10 am, but you can watch it at any time that it's convenient to you. Our Wednesday Evening Song services at 6 pm are "virtual in-person" informal gatherings online where we share a time of fellowship, some Scripture, and some songs. Both services will have links on our website: lcrmarion.org. If you know anyone who is having a difficult time during these uncertain days, please let them know about these services. They are very uplifting and encouraging. We are fortunate to have two great interim pastors, and these services can offer support to you or people that you know.



Virtual Coffee - Sundays at 9:30

All are welcome to join in a time of fellowship at 9:30 am each Sunday for "Virtual Coffee." Watch for the links to be posted on lcrmarion.org near the link for Sunday's worship service, or find it on social media.



Roger & Mary Jo's spiritual gift is COFFEE!

Stephen Ministry

We commissioned 8 new Stephen Ministers in March. We have a total of 12 Ministers who are active in our congregation. Six of our Ministers have care receivers who they are caring for at this time. It is a challenge, they are telecommuting their care.

At the commissioning as a congregation you promised to be open to care. I would like to expand on this promise....

Most people are much more open to giving care than receiving it. When a person is giving care, he or she is in a position of strength, stability, and authority. When a person is receiving care, he or she is acknowledging weakness, insecurity, and vulnerability.

As a result, there are countless people today who, though they really could benefit from a Christian friend who would listen and care for them, instead tough it out on their own. They remain the 'strong silent' type, or wear a smile across a face holding back a flood of tears. Society encourages this (particularly for men). To ask for help is to admit weakness. To show weakness is to admit inferiority.

But God did not create us to be independent. We were created to be interdependent. God's Word is clear on this all the way back to Genesis: "It is not good for man to be alone. I will make a suitable helper for him" (Genesis 2:18). The New Testament underscores this theme with more than 50 verses that contain the words "one another." These verses include admonitions such as "love one another," "encourage one another," "build up one another," and "pray for one another."

What the verses don't say is that we alone are to love, encourage, build up, and pray for other people. The "one another" wording gives them a reciprocal meaning. It also tells us that we are to allow other people to love, encourage, build up, and pray for us!

It is most difficult for people to ask for help. Whether it is because of guilt, shame, inadequacy, or fear of rejection, many would prefer to suffer alone than ask for help.

But suffering alone is not God's intent for us. Jesus promises, "Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28) We can receive this promised rest when we turn to one another for comfort and help.

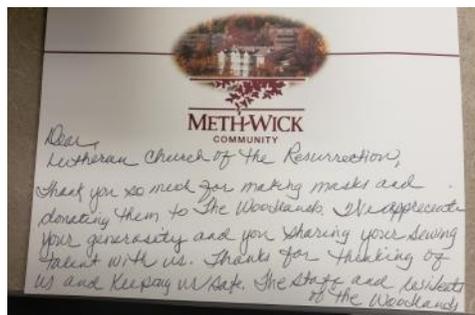
Our Stephen Ministers know all about receiving care. Many of them have been on the receiving end of care at an earlier point in their lives - something that has motivated them to give care now. They know how difficult it is to ask for help, but they also know the great personal and spiritual growth and healing that follow. They know how to respond in a loving, caring, and non-judgmental manner. They are equipped, ready, and waiting to provide comfort and care God very much desires you to have.

If you find yourself now, or in the future, facing difficulties in life, don't succumb to society's norm of remaining strong and suffering alone. Take the courageous step of seeking help. Open your heart to receiving God's love and grace through another person. Our Stephen Ministry offers the opportunity for a very confidential relationship with someone who will listen to you and provide you with the care and encouragement you need, while Christ works inside to bring rest to your weary, burdened heart.

Please contact the church office for Stephen Ministry.

WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER!

Ministry



Masks!

We are so grateful for the many people who have stepped up by sewing face masks or providing materials! A big thanks to: Susan Conway, Melissa Stagg, Pam Brown, Michelle Shaw, Kathy Peterman, Marsie Hemminger, Eileen House, Lareen Gull, Sue Anderson. Masks have been donated to local healthcare facilities and other agencies to help keep workers and volunteers safe.



May/June Mission Envelopes

...will go to Community Free Health Clinic, which provides free medical, dental, vision, and prescription services to residents of Cedar Rapids and surrounding areas.

Posters!

Katie, Jessi, and Jill teamed up with the youth of the church to bring encouragement to the healthcare heroes who work at Unity Point. The posters were very appreciated! Thank you to all who brought posters!



Food Pantry Deliveries!

A big thanks to the team of LCR folks who have volunteered to provide "no-contact delivery" to vulnerable food pantry clients who are unable to attend distribution. They delivered food to 20 families during the first week.

Adult Faith & Outreach

Dear Adult Disciples and Lifetree Friends,

As you are aware, the state prohibits gatherings of more than 10 people at this time, so we made the sad decision to close Lutheran Church of the Resurrection building indefinitely. Many groups are staying connected through emails or online meetings. You can keep informed by checking our website (lcrmarion.org) regularly or through social media:

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/ResurrectionMarion>
INSTAGRAM: <https://www.instagram.com/resurrectionmarion/>
TWITTER: https://twitter.com/lutheran_of
YOUTUBE: <https://tinyurl.com/LCRYoutube>

If there is a way we can help you out during this time, please don't hesitate to give us a call at (319) 377-4689 or drop us an email at office@lcrmarion.org.



Coffee with Pastor Nate

Pastor Nate is producing a series of video chats on our website and social media sites that are funny, informative, and inspiring! Be sure to check them out.

Brewing Up the Bible (BUB)

Brewing Up the Bible will be online on Wednesday, May 13th at 7:30 pm.

Watch your Friday E-News and social media for the link!



Christ In Our Home

Our devotionals for April, May, and June are available at the church. Let us know if you need one and we can arrange a way to get it to you.

How the Virus Stole Easter

by Kristi Bothur, with thanks to Dr. Seuss

~ a belated Easter story ~

'Twas late in '19 when the virus began, bringing chaos and fear to all people, each land.
People were sick, hospitals full, doctors overwhelmed, no one in school.
As winter gave way to the promise of spring, the virus raged on, touching peasant and king.
People hid in their homes from the enemy unseen, as YouTube blared 'social distance' then 'clean.'
April approached and the churches were closed, there won't be an Easter, the world supposed.
There won't be services, and egg hunts are out, no need for new dresses when we can't go out.
Holy Week started as weak as the rest, the world was focused on masks and on tests.
Easter can't happen this year, it proclaimed - online services just won't be the same.
Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the days came & went. The virus raged on, it just would not relent.

The world woke Sunday, and nothing had changed,
the virus still menaced, the people estranged.
The world was crumbling - "They're finding out now,
no Easter has come - they're just waking up now.
Well, you know just what they'll do, their mouths will hang open
a minute or two, and then all the saints will cry 'Boo-Hoo!'"
"That noise" said the world "will be something to hear."
So it paused and the world put its hand to its ear...

And it did hear a sound carry through all the skies, it started down low, then it started to rise.
But the sound wasn't depressed, this sound was triumphant, it couldn't be so, but it grew with abundance.
The world stood around, popping its eyes - it hadn't stopped Easter from coming at all!
Every saint in every nation, the tall and the small, was celebrating Jesus in spite of it all.
It hadn't stopped Easter from coming, it came, somehow or other, it came just the same.
It came without egg hunts, cantatas, or money, it came without bonnets, it came without bunnies.
And the world, with its life stuck in quarantine, stood puzzling and puzzling - Just how can it be?
Then the world thought of something it hadn't before: Easter perhaps doesn't come from a store?
Maybe Easter, perhaps, means a little bit more.

And what happens then? Well the story's not done.

What will you do? Will you stand with the 1 or 2 people needing hope in the night?
The churches are empty, but so is the tomb, and Jesus is victor over death, doom, and gloom.
So this year at Easter, let this be our prayer, as the virus still rages all around, everywhere.

May the world see hope when it looks at God's people.
May the world see the church is not just a steeple.
May the world find faith in Jesus' death and resurrection.
May the world find joy in the midst of dejection.
May 2020 be known as the year of survival.
But not only that - let it start a revival!

Prayers for Those on the Frontlines

*Our hearts are with all those who are working hard hours
in challenging, stressful environments to help others.*

(from our church family)

Taylor, med tech at St. Luke's lab
Logan, biotech scientist in Coralville
Emily, ultrasound tech at St. Luke's
Elisabeth, nurse in a Mitchellville nursing home
Madeline, doctor at a Des Moines hospital
Andy & Nicole, at St. Luke's
Amelia, at Summit Pointe / Kris, at St. Luke's
Emily, medical lab scientist in Des Moines
Sam, at a local care center / Julie, at a local hospital
Erin, physical therapist at St. Luke's
Evelyn & Jennifer, cousins at St. Luke's
Gordon, physician at UnityPoint

(extended church family)

Chelsey, nurse practitioner in Fayette IA
Ashley, respiratory therapist in Reedsburg WI
Kari and Matt, doctors in Colorado Springs
Eric, nurse at a Minnesota hospital
Sue, nurse at a Minneapolis hospital
Sherrie, nurse practitioner at a Houston hospital
Kelly, hospice nurse at Mercy
Scott, physical therapist, & Becky, teaches nursing students
Kirsten, doctor in Duluth
Chris and Kelley, nurses in Cedar Rapids
Kyle, physician in Eau Claire
Kevin, ER nurse in Madison WI
Doug, paramedic with Johnson Co. Ambulance Svc.

Thank you to those who have sent in names to be added to our 'frontline' prayer list.
Please email office@lcrmarion.org if either you or a loved one is currently serving in a frontline job.

NOTE: Frontline jobs do not have to be medical!

This list is available on a password-protected website for participants of our prayer chain.

Please let us know if you'd like to be included on our prayer chain list.

Family Resources

In addition to the suggestions on the calendar page, Jessi & Jill have a TON of activities listed on our website for kids and families -

<https://lcrmarion.org/ministries/youth-ministry/youth-ministry-devotionals/>



- * Lots of online games and music for your children to explore
- * Email jessi@lcrmarion.org if you would like projects to put together, or craft supplies and bibles
- * I will be sending out packets of "Sunday School at Home" activities, email Jessi to sign up

If there is ANYTHING else I can do for you, that is what I am here for. Please don't hesitate to reach out. You can do this! I am praying for you. Also, if you are not receiving the church E-news, contact office@lcrmarion.org or let me know and I can get you connected! - Jessi Lau

Jill Hansen has started an online blog of activities for families on our website: lcrmarion.org. Keep checking our site and social media posts for fun and hope-filled activities.



Always know that I miss you all and pray for your safety daily. Please send me photos that we could share on our website of what you and your family are doing to spend time together as a family (jill@lcrmarion.org).

Giving

Many staff duties and building expenses continue whether the church is open or closed. Our council has made the decision that all church staff will continue to be paid. During this closure, the staff is exploring new options to serve our congregation and our community. We ask that you continue your financial support of the church through this time, if you are able.

We gratefully accept checks mailed to the church at: 3500 - 29th Ave., Marion, Iowa 52302.

....or....

This may be an opportunity for you to try online giving. We have several options:

* Simply Giving forms, which will allow you to give your offering via automatic bank deposit, are available online on our "Downloads" page, or on our "Giving" page at lcrmarion.org. You can complete the form and send it to the church. Please write ATTN: Joan Meyer (Recording Secretary) on your envelope. You can also scan the completed, signed form, and email the attachment to recording.sec@lcrmarion.org.

* Give+ app, available for download through iTunes or the Google Play Store. Search for Give+ and download the app to your smartphone or tablet. Once the app is installed, select Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Marion, IA. This app allows for recurring and one-time donations via credit/debit card or checking/savings account.

* PayPal button on the giving page of our website. A PayPal account is not required to complete this gift option.

Our primary concern right now is to bolster our church family in their faith, and to help provide for the spiritual and physical needs of our congregation and the larger community. We know that the church is not really the building, but all the members and friends who are ministers. Please reach out to us with your needs. In this time, we want to encourage you and equip you to be intentional in staying connected with your church family; be vigilant in prayer; and to be a bearer of His light to the world.

Wednesday Night Live



WNL will be doing a Wednesday Zoom gathering at 7:00 pm. If you don't receive your Zoom invite, please contact Jill.

3rd-5th Grade Students

Check out 'Jill's Journals' on the LCR website for movie suggestions and activities for the family.

Movie ideas and activities so far:
Emperor's New Groove
Up / WALL-E / The Lorax

Please let Jill know if your family is interested in being part of the Up Program.



Miss these smiling faces!



WNL Director
Jill Hansen
jill@lcrmarion.org

Confirmation



I have a crazy idea. If your kids are needing some sort of distraction while social distancing, I'd love to give them on-line guitar or bass lessons. I can FaceTime, and as Confirmation is one of my priorities at LCR, your schedules would be the priority and I'll make my schedule work around yours. All you need is a guitar with strings on it. If you don't have one, I'll get you one.

Confirmation families and volunteers,

I haven't wanted to burden you with additional emails and texts since we are now being overwhelmed with online communications. My primary concern is for the church to serve your needs - families come first! What this means for the Confirmation program is:

** There will be no further accounting for sermon notes or service hours. Whatever your child has done up until the shutdown is fine. Parents will have the final decision about whether requirements for the year have been met.

** **8th graders - we will schedule a Confirmation worship service just as soon as we know when we can gather again at the church.** I want all of you to assume that you are all good as far as confirmation goes, and I am honored to confirm all 8th graders once this is all behind us. The church is here to serve you. We are NOT going to burden you.

I'm looking forward to resuming our Confirmation program next year, and I'm looking forward to worshipping with you when this health emergency is over. - *Pastor Nate Montover*

Prayers

Prayers
are
requested
for...



Those experiencing illness or surgery:

(Resurrection members) Andy McRoberts, Ken Meisinger, Mike Rosz, Deanna Harding, Dennis Conway, John Wilkinson, Lyle Bischof, Cheryl Irland, Marilyn Canady, Barbara Wilkinson, Clark Gull, Marlys Claussen, Paul Bendixen, John Howe, Eugene Henry, Bernadean Spilde, Rick & Penny Siefken, Arvis Hahn, Bob & Jan Berridge.

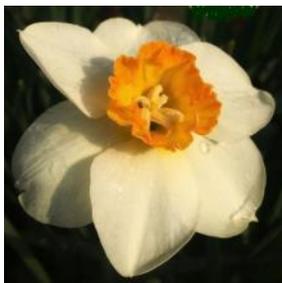
(family and friends) friends Bud & Rae, Gail Hawthorne, John Lancaster Sr, Steve Durspek, Scheel parents, Nick Hazelton, Joe Paulson, Judy Brewer

Those living in care facilities:

Lee Schoon, Vera Olson, Martin Winch (The Views); Pat Rose, Larry Wogahn (Bickford Cottage); Ernest Jones (Crestview)

Those in military service:

Taylor Johnson, Paul & Chrystal McDonough, Aaron Moose, Steven Anderson, Jake Anderson, Haley Eickstaedt, Will Fritz, Steve Fritz, Todd Kopperud, Michael Berridge, David Berridge.



See newsletter insert for those serving on the frontlines of our current emergency. Please pray for them also!

Those who Rejoice:

- Adam & Amber Beck were married on Feb. 16th

Those who mourn:

- Family & friends of Virgil Boynton on his death April 11th.
- Jim & Barb Hazelton on the death of their son Michael, on April 14th
- Lee Schoon and family on the death of his wife Donna on April 22nd.
- Merna Moore on the death of her father, Harold Crutchley, on April 22nd.

We would like to thank all of you and tell you how much we appreciate all of the expressions of love after the loss of our dear son Michael. Your calls, cards, texts, food, flowers, and memorials have been so appreciated. We can feel God's love through all of you!!

One of his friends sent us this message: "There are some who bring a light so bright to the world, that even after they are gone, light remains." We are going to let Michael's light shine on in us until we meet again!

Virtual hugs & love, Barb & Jim Hazelton

Please let the office know about prayer needs or when you wish to have a name removed. The names of friends and family who are dealing with illness will be listed for 2 months.

Pastoral Care - With rules about confidentiality at our hospitals, we will not know that you or your family member is sick or in need unless you call the church office (319-377-4689).

Stewardship

Treasurer's Report for March 2020

	<u>March</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>One Year Ago</u>
General Fund Receipts	\$51,472	\$156,647	\$180,009
General Fund Expenses	\$50,240	\$147,792	\$167,030
Cash Balances	<u>03/31/2020</u>	<u>03/31/2019</u>	
General Fund	\$35,821	\$26,415	
Clearing Accounts	\$63,532	\$53,415	
Growth & Outreach Fund	\$50,666	\$34,990	

2020 Growth & Outreach Fund

Growth & Outreach Fund Receipts through March 31	\$31,192
Growth & Outreach Fund pledges through March 31	\$27,735
Offerings received toward those pledges	\$29,660
% of pledges received	106.9%

This fund has three 'buckets:' maintenance (building upkeep and repair); ministry (Director of Connections); and Mission (Camp Chisomo, Camp EWALU, Habitat for Humanity, Take Away Hunger event).

Total given to Camp Chisomo for the year is \$2,502, for Habitat for Humanity \$2,502, and for Camp EWALU \$2,502 commitment. Our building maintenance costs for the year through March was \$9,550, and Connections staff person & related training was \$6,932.

Church Council

The Council met on April 21st. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were approved. The General Fund balance was \$35,821 at the end of March.

New Business

- Treasurer is holding off on sending camp scholarships until EWALU makes a decision on their summer programming.
- Some formatting changes were requested for monthly Treasurer's Report

Call Process

- on hold until health emergency resolves. New pastor is committed to Resurrection post.

Team Reports

Stewardship: Discussed vision & planning for LCR's next 10 years.

Outreach: Discussed a web-based volunteerism tool and the 2017 Kairos Report.

Governance: Discussed proposed changes to the constitution.

Next Council Meeting - 5/19/20

Copies of minutes and treasurer's reports are in the church office.



General Fund Summary

After three months of 2020:

- ◆ Receipts are 108% of our anticipated income, pro-rated through March.
- ◆ Expenses are 101% of the 2020 budget, pro-rated through March.
- ◆ Your faithful giving has provided: \$7,500 to the ELCA/Synod, \$2,160 to FLY program, and \$200 to Quilters Benevolence.



Digital Giving

***Simply Giving** - Join over 90 LCR members who give regularly through automatic drafts from their checking or savings accounts. You can elect to give weekly, monthly, or quarterly. Enrollment forms are available in the info rack by the Welcome Center.

***PayPal** - There is a DONATE button you can click on our website for giving.

***Give+ Mobile Phone App** can be downloaded from Google Play or iTunes.

LUTHERAN CHURCH
of the RESURRECTION
3500 - 29TH AVENUE
MARION IA 52302

(Address Service Requested)

*Lovseth kids got creative
during Holy Week! >*



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Fellowship

Card Shower: Vera Olson will turn 95 on May 10th! Want to brighten her day?
Send her a birthday card at The Views: 720 - OAKBROOK DR #E106 / MARION IOWA 52302

Summer Youth Programming

VBS & Day Camp: After considering our options and present circumstances, we are sad to inform you that we will not be having Preschool/Kindergarten VBS in June or Day Camp this July. This decision has been made in partnership with our youth programming leaders and our pastoral staff as we do our best to make appropriate decisions to keep our youth safe. We hope to have some sort of VBS and Day Camp 'thing' this fall before school starts, if it is possible, or we may look into other options as we emerge from this uncertainty. We will miss having your kids fill our building this summer, but we are proud of the ways you are protecting and leading your families from home!

duck-eye view of LCR



Mr. Duck



Mrs. Duck



CONTACT US!

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Interim Pastor Nate Montover - nate@lcrmarion.org
Children's Ministry: Jill Hansen - jill@lcrmarion.org
Children's Ministry: Jessi Lau - jessi@lcrmarion.org
Youth Program: Katie Kascel - katie@lcrmarion.org
Communications: Cari Redondo - cari@lcrmarion.org
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Secretary: Emily Carson - office@lcrmarion.org
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