

13,000+
YouTube Views

From 90 New Videos

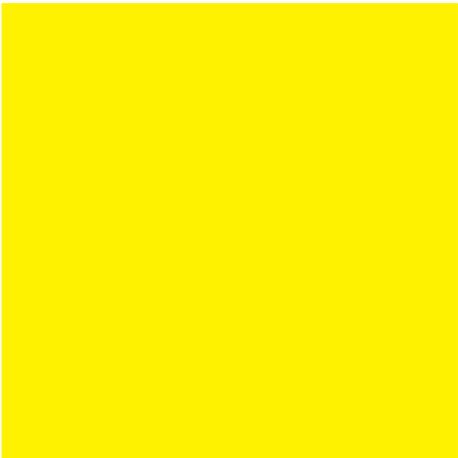


LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

**Growing. Sharing.
Serving.**

\$7,000
Additional Donations

Above Partner Ministries
Budgeted Amount



23,402
Lunches Served

Feeding Lunches to Youth

We came TOGETHER in 2020...

In 2019 we celebrated Christmas with concerts, caroling, parties and projects, and as we moved through winter, our church hummed with activity — youth ministries, groups, studies, activities, service and worship. Then, shortly after we had entered the season of Lent, the doors of our building closed in order to keep our membership safe from COVID-19.

But, the church is NOT the building — the church is the body of Christ — and with the

help of all our amazing members and friends the love of Christ has overflowed in our community! We were all reminded of this as we learned to “do church” in a variety of different ways — church outside our walls, church on our computers, church in our parking lot. We CONTINUED to have youth ministry, groups, studies, activities, service and worship!

There are many words that some might use to describe this year — bewildering,

overwhelming, sad, frustrating, disappointing, discouraging. Our church, however, showed faithfulness, encouragement, flexibility, gratitude, generosity, resilience and HOPE. As we walk toward our next year together, we are bolstered by the STRENGTH we found this year, new opportunities, new skills and new ways of thinking. We are thankful for your continued generous support of the church and our partner ministries, as we continue to GROW, SHARE and SERVE!



Now you ARE the
body of Christ
and individually
members of it.

1 Corinthians 12:27



2020

Growing: LCR welcomed Senior Pastor Jeff Frohner and his family; 90 videos were uploaded to YouTube with 13,000+ views and saw a 300% increase in subscribers; Facebook and Instagram accounts added 100 followers each; LCRMarion.org doubled pages and weekly traffic with 25,000 page views and 7,257 users; Wednesday Evening Worship, Sunday Morning Virtual Coffee, Bible studies, EDGE, Wednesday Night Live and meetings of all kinds were attended over Zoom; 600+ attendees at drive-in worship; 8 new Stephen Ministers commissioned; 70 Family Easter kits delivered; Sunday School at-home kits and Sunday School volunteer appreciation gifts were delivered; Wednesday Night Live Earth Day Challenge had students literally growing together; EDGE was able to reach more youth virtually over Zoom; Youth ministries upgraded the theater room into a high-tech media room to expand their reach through video

Sharing: \$7,000 for Partner Ministries was received above budgeted donations; shoes and monetary donations collected for Start School Right; 36 backpacks filled with supplies to Marion Cares; Camp EWALU Scholarships provided; food drives held for The Churches of Marion Food Pantry, Feeding Lunches to Youth (FLY) and Mission of Hope; a Water Pantry built and stocked by members on Church grounds; scarves made by our knitting group and WNL were handed out in downtown Marion; musical talents shared from all groups at our Christmas Concert; EDGE musicians recorded music pieces shared during online services

Serving: 219 Time & Talent forms, providing 110 ways to serve; ushers became car parkers for drive-in services; Wednesday Night Live students became pen pals to 20 people and made pet blankets for the Cedar Valley Humane Society; Youth Ministry families lovingly created posters of gratitude and encouragement for Mercy Medical Center staff and patients; landscapers became a storm recovery crew after the derecho; party planners learned to do a drive-thru party; seamstresses became mask makers; our pastors, musicians and youth ministry staff became video production artists, FLY served 23,402 lunches with LCR's help — triple the number from 2019; LCR volunteers made weekly food box deliveries for Churches of Marion Food Pantry clients, serving 230 households and helped pack HACAP food boxes for emergency food distributions; the church hosted blood drives, and members donated this great gift of life; Christmas carolers shared joy with members unable to attend church



Growing, Sharing, Serving in 2021.

We give as a tangible expression of thanksgiving to God, as an act of worship, and as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. We give because we recognize that all of life is a gift from God. But we also give to invest in and make possible the ministries of our church. Nothing happens without the generosity of our members giving their time and resources. The earliest expressions of worship in the Bible did not involve singing or sermons. Instead God's people brought an offering — some portion of

their income (at the time, grain or livestock) as an expression of thanksgiving to God. How much should you give? The Biblical standard introduced by Abraham was the tithe, the giving of the first 10% of one's income to God.

At Resurrection we have many people who tithe, whose annual giving is 10% of their annual income. Many more are somewhere on the journey towards tithing. With the arrival of our new Senior Pastor we are ready to have an even greater

impact on our community and we are asking every member to support this exciting time by prayerfully increasing their giving as a percent of their income. We're hoping the average household will increase their giving to God through the church in 2021 by 1% to 3% of their income. For someone who makes \$50,000 per year, that would be an increase of \$10 to \$30 per week — the cost of a lunch, or a dinner out with family.

2021

Growing: Upgrade and enhance our online and physical presence to provide inspiring and faithful worship, education and fellowship opportunities for all. Continue on a plan to reduce our annual electricity usage by 50% so our giving can go more toward our wider ministry.

Sharing: Step up our support of local organizations as we walk beside our community which has been impacted by both Covid-19 and the August derecho storm.

Serving: Encourage and identify opportunities for EVERYONE at LCR to live out their faith in Jesus Christ through the care of self, neighbor and creation.





Giving your way.

At Lutheran Church of the Resurrection we accept and appreciate gifts in many forms. We rely on your annual commitments to keep the lights on, pay and support our staff, and provide for the many ministries and charities we support as a congregation. An added benefit starting in 2020 gives taxpayers an above-the-line deduction for up to \$300 in charitable giving. Other types of gifts and planned giving can leave a legacy. Though the options are endless, here are some of the common ways to give:

In an effort to provide greater clarity you will notice that there is now one all-inclusive fund for your annual gifts. There is no longer a need for you to designate your gift to two different funds — it will all automatically go toward all the needs of the church, within the congregationally-approved, newly-merged budget.

Weekly Envelopes — Checks may be mailed to the church: Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, 3500 29th Ave., Marion, IA 52302 or personally delivered.

Simply Giving — This electronic funds transfer (EFT) program amounts to about 35% of our annual gifts and is a tremendous help in providing steady support to LCR. There is an authorization form on the back of your 2021 commitment form. Around 75 LCR households currently donate weekly, bi-monthly, or monthly through Simply Giving.

Online Donations — Visit lcrmarion.org/giving and click on the Donate button to access our donation page, powered by PayPal. You can choose to donate with a PayPal account or with a debit or credit card (a PayPal account is not required).

Mobile App — The Give+ app is available for download through iTunes or 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.

Give+ Text — Give via a text on your cell phone. Just text Fund to 844-906-2303 (this number is dedicated to LCR). The first time you text you will get a link to a Vanco website to load your donation, name, address and payment information. For subsequent donations simply text Fund and then text the fund and dollars you wish to donate. This app allows for recurring and one-time donations via debit or credit card.

Giving a legacy.

If you're wanting to leave a legacy, here are a few of the creative gifts you can share with our church to make a lasting impact.

Appreciated Assets — Lutheran Church of the Resurrection can accept many kinds of personal assets such as land and real estate, works of art and other types of personal property as well as stocks, bonds and mutual funds. The example below is based upon a gift to the church of \$21,000 and assumes a 35% marginal tax rate and an 18% combined capital gains tax (15% federal/3% state).

Compare & Rejoice	Gift of Stock	Gift of Cash
Value of the gift	21,000	21,000
Charitable Tax Deduction	21,000	21,000
Original Cost of the Stock	5,000	
Capital Gains	16,000	
Capital Gains Tax Avoided	2,880	
Tax Savings	7,350	(7,350)
Total Tax Savings	10,230	7,350

Retirement accounts — Distributions from retirement accounts such as IRAs and qualified retirement plans may be given. Part or all of your post age 70 ½ Distribution may be given directly to LCR and excluded from AGI. Naming Lutheran Church of the Resurrection as a beneficiary on an IRA or pension account allows a distribution at death to pass tax-free to the church.

Life Insurance — There are special ways you can use life insurance as a gift-giving device. Some examples include giving the cash value accumulated in a policy, giving the annual dividends of a policy and designating the church as the beneficiary of the policy.

Thrivent Choice Dollars — Lutheran Church of the Resurrection is registered as a recipient of Thrivent Choice Dollars. Money received from Thrivent is allocated to the General Fund. If you are a Thrivent member, you may allocate all or a portion of your Choice Dollars to LCR. You must initiate this donation directly with Thrivent. Visit thrivent.com/thriventchoice for more information, or to direct a distribution.

Bequests or Planned Giving — There are a variety of ways to give through trust funds, which has advantages for short-term and long-term giving, as well as tax planning.

Donor-advised fund. You may be able to set up a donor-advised charitable fund to bunch several years contributions to maximize your charitable tax deduction. When you contribute cash, securities or other assets to a donor-advised fund sponsoring organization you are generally eligible to take an immediate tax deduction. Then,



those funds can be invested for tax-free growth, while allowing you to continue to support Lutheran Church of the Resurrection annually.

Make an unrestricted gift, or designate the LCR Trust Fund, through a will or trust. This is another significant expression of stewardship. This allows a person to make a significant contribution that may not have been possible during life. Such an estate gift will have a lasting impact on our ministry. A financial advisor can detail the plans available for giving to LCR through various trusts.

As you can see, cash and property of all kinds can be given to further our fund appeal.

The possibilities are limited only by your imagination and circumstance. Since donations of property are based upon worth, not cost, you may be in a position to give something of far greater value than what it cost initially to acquire. You can also expect to take a tax deduction for the fair market value of the property at the time it is given. Depending on your circumstances, an appraisal from a qualified source may be required for any deductions.

Real Estate — This option covers a lot of ground — literally. Basically, if it has a deed, you can make it a gift. The possibilities include vacation homes, undeveloped land, commercial and rental properties.

Personal Property — Absolutely. It could be something you inherited — a collection or a piece of fine art. It could be a vehicle you no longer need. The possibilities are many, and the cause is a great one!

Assistance with Giving Options

Consideration to the special ways of giving described in this pamphlet can lead to action that will greatly benefit the congregation's work and ministry and be of personal benefit as well. If you need more information or assistance with making creative gifts to Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, please email Joan Meyer, our recording secretary, at recording.sec@lcrmarion.org.

All of the topics in this brochure should be discussed with your tax advisor.



Making an Annual Financial Commitment.

- 1. Begin with Prayer** — Thank God for blessing you and ask for guidance and discernment. Recognize that your offerings express both your desire to serve the Lord and your investment in God's work.
- 2. Assess Your Finances** — Take a look at your annual income and your budget. How is your faith reflected in your spending?
- 3. Step Up and Make a Commitment** — Determine the percentage of your income you will give in the coming year, stepping up that percentage by 1% to 3%. If you are not yet tithing (giving 10%), consider increasing the percentage you are giving each year until you reach ten percent. Complete either the Online Commitment Form at lcrmarion.org or a printed Commitment Form. Remember your annual commitment of tithes and offerings supports Resurrection's ministries both within and outside the walls of our church.
- 4. Consider How You Give** — Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), online, cash, check, IRA charitable distributions and appreciated stock are all giving options. Simply Giving EFT is one convenient way to give your tithes and offerings and it ensures that even if you're unable to make it to church physically, offerings are received. It is also the most cost-effective method of giving to the church.
- 5. Worship with Gratitude** — On Commitment Weekend, November 15, we present our commitments to God during worship. This is an opportunity as a congregation to express our gratitude to God and renew our commitment to being God's stewards in the world.

If you are experiencing financial hardship, don't let your inability to give at this time keep you from participating and serving in church. Remember that God honors your faithfulness and that your relationship is not based upon your capacity to give. If you are comfortable, please let our pastoral staff know of your situation so that they can pray for and support you. You can contact our pastors at 319-377-4689.