



Volume 62, Issue 1
January 2021

Hospitality, Excellence, and Determination - the gifts of the Magi

"In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." Matthew 2.1-2

On January 6th we enter the season of Epiphany. It begins with the story of the Magi who come to 'pay him (Jesus) homage.' Only Matthew tells us about the Magi and I'm grateful that he saw fit to keep this part of the Christmas story alive. While we don't know how many there were (I know the song says three and they brought three gifts, but the exact number is never given in scripture). We do know something about them.

Traveling from the East they would have been dependent on the hospitality of others. They most certainly looked different, held different beliefs, and had different sensibilities; but they ended up at the home of Jesus - and this might seem obvious, but they were let in! We also know that they 'opened their treasure chests' (Matthew 2.11). They gave their best to the child. Thirdly, we know that they were a determined group. Not only did they have to navigate the desert, but also the obstacles of Herod and his ulterior motives. They persevered.

As we begin 2021 (thank you, Lord!), I wonder if these three concepts might also serve us well - Hospitality, Excellence, and Determination? How can we be more hospitable and kind to our community and to each other? What would it mean to work on this? Can we strive for excellence in all that we do? Can we recognize that we all have different gifts, talents and abilities and commit to offering the very best this year at LCR? And finally, as we emerge from what has been a horrendous year, can we muster the determination to move joyfully into our next chapter? I think we can! And I'm excited about this New Year. And when we bring hospitality, excellence, and determination to our mutual work here at LCR, the gift of the Magi will live on in us!

Let your light shine! *Pastor Jeff*



Thank you to everyone who helped us share the good news of Christmas here at LCR! For those who baked cookies, read, decorated, cleaned, shared food, worshiped, prayed, ushered, set the altar, greeted, brought fire pits/wood, shared skills, expertise, and talent - THANK YOU!

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Worship

8:30 am Sunday - Traditional Worship
10:00 am Sunday - Contemporary Worship

Sunday services are now being held livestream only; the links are available on our website (www.lcrmarion.org) and on our social media sites.

You can sign up for email alerts from LCR about worship and other news. Scroll to the bottom of our homepage and sign up under “E-Newsletter” or email us (office@lcrmarion.org) and we’ll sign you up.

Text Notifications - Worship services and other events are subject to change with circumstances.

If you would like text notifications of schedule changes / cancellations, call the church office (319.377.4689) and give us your name & cell number ~OR~ you can sign yourself up at - <https://share.hsforms.com/181uDRkYnTRyGMmuwI3ZiDQ44ay4>

6:00 pm Wednesday - Evening Song Zoom Worship

This is a time where we’ve combined worship and discipleship. We sing some songs (traditional and contemporary), hear scripture and a brief lesson from one of our pastors, have discussion amongst ourselves, and share a time of prayer. If you’d like some fellowship during the week, feel free to log in to our Wednesday evening Zoom session at 5:45 pm to visit. It’s great to catch up! Link is available on our website homepage.

Forum, Special Meeting, and Annual Meeting

Our Trust Fund Committee has been working to revitalize the Fund. With the legal help of one of our members, a formal trust document has been developed that describes how the trust operates and is administered by the Committee. Therefore, our Constitution & Bylaws will need a few updates to incorporate these changes. LCR’s Constitution requires that any changes must be ratified at two successive meetings of the congregation. The church council has set these dates:

Special Congregational Meeting - January 17, 2021

Annual Congregational Meeting - January 31, 2021

In addition, there will be an informational forum on January 10th for anyone who desires more background on the proposed changes. Per Covid-19 guidelines, ALL of these events will be conducted over the internet using the Zoom platform to allow for questions & answers. The meetings are scheduled for 11:30 am. Zoom links will be sent via email, or you may contact the church office for that information. *Please remember that ZOOM can be accessed via a regular phone if you are without an internet connection.*



Growing, Sharing, Giving

We are so grateful for everyone who filled out their Fall Appeal commitment form for the year ahead. THANK YOU! As of December 27th, we have received 185 pledges (52% of giving units) for a total of \$565,583.

- Joan Meyer, Financial Recording Secretary

Ministry

Holiday Giving Project



THANK YOU SO MUCH for your incredible generosity! Thanks to your gift-buying and cash donations, Resurrection was able to fully support 7 families, and also help with gifts for families who had not been fully sponsored. Gifts have all been delivered and families are so grateful for your amazing heart for our community!

Reverse Advent Calendar

SO MANY people took part in our Advent giving project!! So far we have 36 'official' boxes turned in, plus a bazillion overflow bags and boxes. Thank you, THANK YOU for your generosity to our Marion families in need!

Our first Advent food box comes back >



Mission of Hope Lunches

Since Covid-19 shut everything down in March, our Mission of Hope lunch team have been contributing money to MoH for their every-other-month meals rather than cooking a meal here at the church and taking it to the mission to serve. In December, the team baked dozens of fantastic cookies so everyone got a special Christmas dessert!

Dear Church:
Thank you for providing lunch last Friday at Mission of Hope. The food was tasty, nourishing & good.

Sincerely yours,

George W. [redacted]

LCR's Quilts Help EWALU

LCR's Comforting Hands Quilters sent three of their quilts to this year's Camp EWALU auction. The Camp reports that over 200 online participants bid on the many quilts received, raising more than \$35,000 in total for their ministry.

January & February Mission Envelopes

....will go to FLY (Feeding Lunches to Youth). There are local students who rely on the hot lunch program in their schools for their main meal of the day. When there is no school, there is no meal for them. There are 6 congregations who take part in this meal program by making sandwiches, sacking the lunch bags, delivering the lunches, passing out the lunches, and returning the leftovers. *Your donations are so appreciated and needed.*

Seeking Tech Volunteers

As we continue with online worship, we are looking for volunteers to train on the new livestream technology for Sunday morning worship services and at other times. You can do this! Contact cari@lcrmarion.org.

Churches of Marion Food Pantry

Thank you for your generous gifts of time, food donations, and monetary donations that allow the pantry to continue serving! You can find us at 864 - 12th St. in Marion. The pantry is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-3 pm.

Volunteers: We're always looking for strong people with trucks who would be able to haul large loads of food during the daytime. Please contact Cari at the church if you can help.

WNL Needs Fleece

Wednesday Night Live kids need donations of fleece (1 yard or larger pieces) to make pet blankets for the Cedar Valley Humane Society. Please bring your donations to the church. *Thank you! - Jill Hansen*



NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL SERIES STARTS JANUARY 10TH

We will be using the book "Prayers and Poems for Kids" during our next Sunday School series. You can pick up a free copy in the gathering space now. If you can't make it in to get a copy, let Jessi know and she will get one to you.

Our online content premieres every Sunday morning for you to watch at home. Visit the church website to access our videos - <https://lcrmarion.org/ministries/youth-ministry/lcryouthminportal.html>. *You will need to email jessi@lcrmarion.org to get the site password.*



Thanks to all of the families and students who participated in our "Christmas According to the Kids" video! Check it out now on the LCR Facebook page if you missed it.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT *Live*

We anticipate going back to in-person assigned small groups on Wednesday, January 6th at 6:00 pm. As before, we will have participating students gather on alternate weeks. We will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall so students will need to be dropped off at the front door and picked up at the Fellowship Hall side door after WNL.

There will be a Zoom check-in at 7:15 pm on Wednesday nights for students who want to touch base online instead. Our online resources can be found here -

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

Feel free to contact coordinator Jill Hansen with any questions about Wednesday Night Live - jill@lcrmarion.org



Wednesday Night Live students and families decorated food boxes for our Reverse Advent Project and made Christmas cards for some LCR members.



Adult Faith & Outreach

Small Group Bible Studies

Now that winter is here, why not join one of our bible study groups to increase your understanding and enjoyment of the bible and other faith-based media? All our groups welcome new members; many include a Zoom option. *Face masks & distancing are rigorously maintained.* Please join us!

Mary Kay Pinckney (one Sunday a month, 6:30 pm) Our women's group is currently studying the book & video "It's Not Supposed to Be This Way" by Lysa Terkeurst. We meet at Mary Kay's home in NE Cedar Rapids.

Dan Tegtmeier (1st Monday, evening) Dan chooses a topic, idea, or Bible story for the night's discussion. This is a mixed group that meets at members' homes.

JAM - Jesus And Me (2nd Monday @ 1:00 pm) This women's group is studying Revelations and how it applies to our daily lives. We're using videos from biblical scholar Craig Koester at Luther Seminary and we meet at LCR.

Bible Study (2nd Monday, 8:00 pm) Young parents connect for friendship, support, and growth in faith at my home. Contact Bethany: 515-441-0645 or bgodar@gmail.com

Loaves, Fishes, and Faith (1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 11:30 am/1:00 pm) We meet off-site for lunch, then move to LCR for our study. Our women's group focuses on Biblical themes, but we've been known to spend as much time sharing and supporting each other as studying the lesson!

Donna Dennis (2nd & 4th Thursdays, 6:30 pm) This mixed group dives deep into short scripture readings daily. We summarize our thoughts on paper and then meet at LCR to share our discoveries.



Brewing Up the Bible (BUB)

Join us for a time of casual fellowship and Bible study. All are welcome! We'll meet online by Zoom on Wednesday, January 13 at 7:30 pm.

<https://tinyurl.com/BrewUpBible>

Meeting ID: 864 5496 9262

Password: Brewing

BUB by phone: 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 864 5496 9262

Password: 574566

Pastor Jeff's One-Minute Devotionals

Check out Pastor Jeff's brief engaging videos online. Recent messages have been from our Advent Devotional booklet. You can access them through the church website or through this link - <https://tinyurl.com/PrJeffDevotional>

Christ In Our Home

Daily devotionals for January, February, & March are available at the church. Let us know if you want a copy and we'll get it to you.



Stand In Unity

Our group is paused for now, but keep checking our resource page for recommendations - <http://lcrmarion.org/standinunity/>. Please also let us know of any material you've come across that moved you or suggested positive ways in which people of faith can work to bring the scourge of racism to an end in our world.

Building

New Everything for 2021

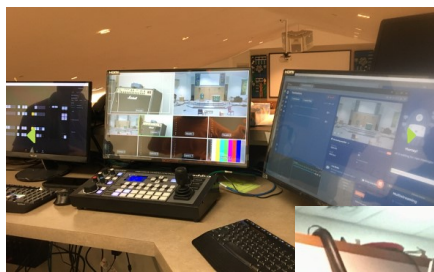
Every time we turned around this month, there were guys climbing up and down ladders...

A bold new look for the fellowship hall! Carpet and new blinds will be installed in January. Many thanks to Nyla Vanourny for coordinating this project.



(below)

Replacing fluorescent lights with long-life LEDs.



Tech guys putting in new cameras and sound system



Stephen Ministry

"When you go through deep waters,
you will not drown.

When you walk through the fire of oppression,
you will not be burned up;
the flames will not consume you.

For I am the Lord your God." - *Isaiah 43:2-3*

When you go through deep waters and rivers of difficulty, God doesn't promise that you won't get wet. You're going to go through some problems that have pain. You're going to get wet. But God does promise that you're not going to drown. When you go through fire, it's going to get hot. But God promises that you're not going to burn up. You're going to make it through.

You may not feel strong right now. But the strength you need will come when you need it. The Bible doesn't say to ask God for your weekly or monthly bread. It says to pray, "God give me my daily bread. I need just enough strength for today."

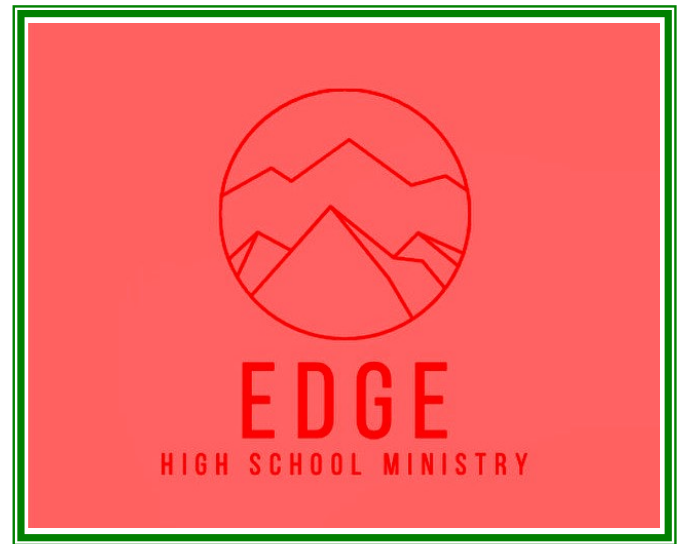
In Stephen Ministry we continue to serve this church community. We are contacting our care receivers, and helping them through troubled waters. God is doing this through our ministry.

If you are going through troubled waters at this time, Stephen Ministry is here to help! Contact the church office. - *Peace, Mary Hajek*



Building Policy Update

If you are using the LCR campus outside of regular business hours, please lock all doors once your group has arrived. This will help to ensure a safe and secure environment for everyone.



EDGE Goes Mask-to-Mask

EDGE High School Youth Ministry will not meet on January 6th. We'll resume **in-person gatherings** on Wednesday, Jan. 13th. Contact coordinator Katie Kascel for more information - katie@lcrmarion.org

EDGE teaching videos are available online - <https://vimeo.com/lcrprogramming>

You can follow EDGE on Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/edgeatlcr/>

* * * * *

Katie packed treat bags for Christmas Eve participants this year. Thanks to all our congregational cookie bakers!



Happy New Year!

As much fun as I have had meeting with the kids via Zoom, I am looking forward to **resuming in-person Confirmation** in January. We will continue to split the 7th and 8th grade groups so that we can keep our class sizes down to a safe size. For those who wish to continue using on-line resources, I will have more content available the week of January 6th - <http://www.lcrmarion.org/ministries/youth-ministry/lcryouthminportal.html>. Here is a schedule for in-person gatherings that will take us close to Spring Break:

Jan 6 - 7th grade	Feb 3 - 7th grade
Jan 13 - 8th grade	Feb 10 - 8th grade
Jan 20 - 7th grade	Feb 17 - 7th grade
Jan 27 - 8th grade	Feb 24 - 8th grade

If you need anything from me personally the best way to communicate with me is my cell: 563-320-3995 (text or call).

We have a fantastic group of kids and I am enjoying the opportunity to walk through Confirmation with them. Thank you so much for the honor of sharing this experience with your family! - *Pastor Nate Montover*



Prayers

Prayers
are
requested
for...



Those hospitalized in December:

Betty Bendixen, Paul Bendixen

Those experiencing illness or surgery:

(Resurrection members) Lauretta Schultz, Bob & Judi Conrad, Marilyn Carstens, Pam Miller, Arlene Lang, Janice Berridge, Dan Tegtmeier, Linda Christiansen, Lyle Bischof, Ken Meisinger, Andy McRoberts, Deanna Harding, Clark Gull, Eugene Henry, Bernadean Spilde, Rick & Penny Siefken, Arvis Hahn

(family and friends) Dan Stroschein, Jeff Kindwall, Jacque Lueking, Christiania Cunha, Whitney Power, TJ & Annie Schnickloth, Gracelyn Springer-Tope, Lisa Jones

Those living in care facilities:

Lee Schoon, Vera Olson, Martin Winch (The Views); Larry Wogahn (Bickford Cottage); Barb Schierholz (Willow Gardens)

Those in military service:

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

Those who celebrate... Everybody!



Those who mourn:

- Family & friends of John Howe, who passed away on 11/26
- Jim & Sue Anderson on the death of their nephew's wife, Kaytie Anderson, on 11/27
- Larry Pierce on the death of his brother, Don Pierce, on 12/1
- Amy Olson and Dan Fishel on the death of their mother, Sara Fishel, on 12/6
- Evelyn Beck, Diana Zrudsky, & Larry Jones on the death of their father, Ernest Jones, on 12/6
- Elaine Slaymaker on the death of her brother-in-law, Darrell Frey, on 12/12
- Ron Versteegh & family on the death of his mother, Edna Versteegh, on 12/24

Those in transition:

- those affected by the Covid-19 virus and the August derecho

Prayers for those serving on the frontline:

Our hearts are with all those who are working hard hours in stressful environments to help others. If you are willing to serve them through prayer, go to http://lcrmarion.org/prayer_team/ and type in this password – LCRPrays.

Thank you so much for praying
for our family in our time of need.
- Larry & Marjorie Pierce

*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 November 2020

	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>One Year Ago</u>
General Fund Receipts	\$42,831	\$502,574	\$564,728
General Fund Expenses	\$46,121	\$496,289	\$563,930
<u>Cash Balances</u>	<u>11/30/20</u>	<u>11/30/19</u>	
General Fund	\$ 92,642*	\$12,293	
Clearing Accounts	\$102,634	\$40,995	
Growth & Outreach Fund	\$ 44,601*	\$38,659	

* includes PPP Loan

2020 Growth & Outreach Fund

Growth & Outreach Fund Receipts through 11/30	\$99,209
Growth & Outreach Fund pledges through 11/30	\$99,421
Offerings received toward those pledges	\$95,005
% of pledges received	95.6%

LCR applied and received a small business PPP loan in April. In our general fund we received \$61,547 to be used to help LCR cover payroll needs for April & May. \$4,848 has been received in our Growth & Outreach fund to cover April & May Payroll needs. LCR applied for forgiveness of the Paycheck Protection Program loan in June.

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

Growing. Sharing. Serving.

Church Council

The Council met on Tuesday, December 15th. Secretary's & Treasurer's reports were approved. The General Fund balance was \$92,642 at the end of October due to the PPP Loan.

Monthly Reports

Pastors reported that youth programs will meet in-person in January. Treasurer noted a few outstanding property expenses and potential future expenses

Team Reports

Governance - Clarified the changes to church constitution regarding Trust Fund. Will hold Special Congregational Meeting on 1/17 and Annual Meeting on 1/31. Meetings held on Zoom platform.

Stewardship - Storm damage update was given. Team proposes delaying further floor repairs to

General Fund Summary

After eleven months of 2020:

- ♦ Receipts are 95% of our anticipated income, pro-rated through November.
- ♦ Expenses are 93% of the 2020 budget, pro-rated through Nov.

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 online giving.

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

2022. Discussion of a capital spending plan and projections for 5- and 10- year plans.

Outreach - Suggested staff appreciation due to current 'virtual church' climate; discussed team goals and church re-opening logistics.

Communications - Paradigm equipment all installed; training will begin after new year.

Old/New Business - List being compiled of offices that need to be filled for Annual Mtg roster. Will be shared with Nominating Cmte. Discussion of LCR mission and identity - needs update?

Next meeting - January 19, 2021

Agenda items should be submitted by 1/16. Copies of Council minutes and Treasurer's reports are in the church office binder.

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< Just a few of our
Reverse Advent food boxes.
*Your response to this giving
project was AMAZING!*
Thank you to all who took part.

CONTACT US!

office hours:
Monday–Friday,
9 am–4 pm
phone: 319-377-4689
fax: 319-377-4680
email: office@lcrmarion.org

www.lcrmarion.org

*Senior Pastor Jeff Frohner - jeff@lcrmarion.org
Interim Pastor Nate Montover - nate@lcrmarion.org
Children's Ministry: Jessi Lau - jessi@lcrmarion.org
Social & Ch. Ministry: Jill Hansen - jill@lcrmarion.org
Youth Ministry: Katie Kascel - katie@lcrmarion.org
Communications: Cari Redondo - cari@lcrmarion.org
Volunteers: Marcia Edwards - marcia@lcrmarion.org
Office Manager: Evelyn Beck - evelyn@lcrmarion.org
Secretary: Emily Carson - office@lcrmarion.org
Custodians: Marsie Hemminger, Dave Cosgrove*



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