



I LOVE TO *Tell the*

Story

Lutheran Church of the Resurrection
— Stewardship Appeal 2022 —



I love to tell the story...



The beloved hymn continues: “It will be my theme in glory, to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.” While Lutheran Church of the Resurrection has had many chapters along the way, the heart of the story has never changed — to tell of Jesus and his love. And the story of Jesus’ love is lived out in you. It’s lived out in the many ways that you let your light shine before others and give glory to your Father in heaven (Matthew 5.16, The Sermon on the Mount).

Through your generous gifts in the past year, we have been able to share this story in wonderful ways that have impacted lives. Neighborhood Nights and our monthly Cruise-Ins have welcomed new friends to come and experience a community that is based on love and hospitality. We reached out beyond our own community to bring relief to those who were suffering in Texas after their series of storms, and here at home we helped feed the hungry (FLY, Mission of Hope, Churches of Marion Food Pantry) and provided encouragement for those who needed help getting their children ready for school (backpacks and school supplies, shoe drive). Upgrades in technology allowed us to reach out beyond our walls and allow a safe alternative to worship together. Never again will we take our space for granted. Yes, the church is much more than a building — nevertheless, our building provides the place for laughter, teaching, tears, fellowship, study, community outreach and much more. This IS your story! Thank you.

As we move into the coming year, the story continues to unfold. We will be looking at new ways — building on our successful neighborhood outreach — to invite others into the life of faith. We will move back to having a full-time Associate Pastor on staff, allowing for sustainable excellence. Duties and responsibilities will be more focused by each of our pastors and their specific ministry areas will have greater attention. We will invest in our children’s ministry, capitalizing on new opportunities to engage children and parents. We will set aside resources to continue to keep our meeting areas inviting, safe and up to date. And of course, support to the wider church — which includes seminaries, missionaries, leadership development and outdoor ministry.

I love to tell the story! And the story is incomplete without you. Thank you for your generous and prayerful gifts on behalf of your church.

Pastor Jeff Frohner



The story of your gifts over the last year.

The generous gifts given to Lutheran Church of the Resurrection throughout the year have allowed our ministries to flourish and expand into the greater community.

- Marion Lutheran Churches Blood Drives
- New technology installed for livestreaming
- LED lighting conversion
- COVID-safe Confirmation Ceremonies
- Halloween Community Night
- Text notifications launched
- Indoor and outdoor Christmas Worship
- Supported 7 families in Marion Holiday Giving Project
- Christmas Care-oling Food Drive
- New organ fundraising and purchase
- Reverse Advent Calendar Food Boxes
- Mission of Hope Meals
- Fellowship Hall and Gathering Space Renovation
- Visitor Kiosk & Visitor Hospitality launched
- WNL Fleece Blankets for Cedar Valley Humane Society
- Pastor Jeff launched Weekly Wednesday Morning Bible Study
- Re-started groups and programs
- Car Cruise-Ins and Car Show
- Neighborhood Nights
- Hope Anew: Holy Week and Easter Celebrations
- First Communion
- Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt
- How to Fight Racism Book Study
- Start School Right Shoe Drive
- Marion Cares Backpack Drive
- FLY Juice Box Drive
- Sunday School Verse Challenge
- Vacation Bible School
- Rally Day
- “The Chosen” Video Series
- New Member Sessions
- Associate Pastor Forum
- Sunday School, Wednesday Night Live, Confirmation and EDGE provided in-person and online programming
- Take Away Hunger Meal Packing Event
- Blessing of the Animals



Telling the Story of Giving.

We each have our own personal story to tell of giving money, time and talent to our Lord. As you reflect on your own story and what giving means to you, take a moment to hear some of our members and friends tell their story of giving — and possibly gain some inspiration along the way.



Jim and Janet Dettbarn

“We support the concept that the church is returning a portion of what the congregation gives back to the local community. Neighborhood Nights, Habitat for Humanity, Mission of Hope are three great examples.”

Amy and Barry Lovseth

“We give because He first gave to us. We strive to offer not only what we have, but who we are in how we live our lives.”



“From what you have, take an offering for the Lord. Everyone who is willing is to bring to the Lord an offering.” Exodus 35:5



Brandon and Sara Provolt

“We give to the Church because we value our Church community and want to maintain that for our children. Individually we can make a difference, but together, we can make an even greater impact to share the Good News of God’s love both locally and internationally where so many are thirsting for love and relationship.”



Listen to these member’s full video stories shown in worship by visiting www.lcrmarion.org/stewardship or scanning this QR code.



What's your giving story?

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 our staff, fund programming and provide for many ministries and charities we support as a congregation. In 2021, taxpayers may be able to take an above-the-line deduction for up to \$600 (joint filers) or \$300 (single files) in charitable giving.

Common Ways to Give.

- **Weekly Envelopes** — Checks may be dropped in the offering plate or mailed to the church: Lutheran Church of the Resurrection; 3500 29th Ave; Marion, IA 52302.
- **IRA Qualified Distribution** — If you are 70 ½ and have an IRA account, you may be able to write a check direct from your IRA account that qualifies as an IRA qualified distribution (QCD). QCD's usually count as part of your minimum distribution but are excluded from your adjusted gross income.
- **Simply Giving** — Join 77 LCR families who give regularly through automatic withdrawal. This electronic funds transfer (EFT) program is a tremendous help in providing steady support to LCR. You have the option to donate weekly, bi-monthly, or monthly through Simply Giving. The authorization form is on the back of your 2021 commitment form.
- **Digital Giving** —
Online — Visit lcrmarion.org/giving. When you click on the “Donate” button, you will have the option of donating via PayPal or using your debit or credit card.
Venmo — Look for @LCRMarion (Resurrection Lutheran).



Giving a Legacy.

Other types of gifts and planned giving can leave a legacy. Though the options are endless, here are some ways to leave a legacy.

- **Appreciated Assets** — Land and real estate, works of art and other types of personal property as well as stocks, bonds and mutual funds.
- **Retirement Accounts** — 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** — Give the cash value accumulated in a policy, the annual dividends of a policy, or designate the church as the beneficiary of the policy.
- **Thrivent Choice Dollars** — If you're 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 info or to direct a distribution.
- **Bequests or Planned Giving** — There are a variety of ways to give through trust funds, which have advantages for short-term and long-term giving, as well as taxes.
- **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, in a will or trust** — This allows a person to make a significant contribution that may not have been possible during life. A financial advisor can detail the plans available for giving to Lutheran Church of the Resurrection through various trusts.

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 the 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** — During Commitment Week, November 14–17, 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.

Lutheran Church
of the
Resurrection

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America