



All I need is a good lacing!

“He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.” *John 15.2*

I once had an arborist tell me that a particular tree out front needed a good “lacing.” Now I have to admit that “lace” and “lacing” were not words that were familiar to me. The dictionary wasn’t much help either; it defines a lacing as a good whacking, tying of shoes, or what you do when you add alcohol to a beverage. But after the fact I realized that a good ‘lacing’ appeared to be very similar to a thinning: Helping the tree regain its optimal shape and balance and a general shaking loose of all the dead limbs and branches.

This might not be a bad way of thinking about the season of Lent. You see just like a tree in the yard, I can get full of myself, overgrown with delusions of grandeur, weighed down with unnecessary baggage and forget that I have to share my space with others. It is exactly then that I need a skilled and caring arborist (Jesus refers to God as the vine grower who prunes the branches - John 15.2) to come and help restore balance and perspective.



Traditionally the disciplines of Lent - fasting, prayer and good works - were meant to help prune away those things that had gotten us out of balance. The purpose was not to impress Jesus with our great acts of piety; but to open ourselves up to the whisperings of the Holy Spirit and to allow the Spirit to reshape our lives and restore balance.

I find this Lenten journey of greater importance each and every year. It seems that the older I get the more important it is for me to be open to a good ‘lacing’ from the Holy Spirit. I hope you’ll be able to join us on Ash Wednesday (March 2nd) and then weekly on Wednesday nights during Lent. As we gather together for a simple soup supper, for worship, to enjoy activities, and just to have a place to connect, I am confident that the Holy Spirit can help us regain a healthy shape and balance in our lives. This might be just what you need to reconnect and refresh your spiritual life.

Peace! Pastor Jeff

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https://tinyurl.com/
LCRYoutube

Worship

~ Sunday morning services - same message, different music styles ~

Sunday 8:30 am - Traditional Worship

Sunday 10:30 am - Contemporary Worship

casual evening gathering with its own message & music from a range of worship styles

Wednesday 6:00 pm - Evening Worship

No reservations are required for **In-Person Worship**.

Links are available on our website and social media sites for **Livestream Worship**.

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>

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP - March 2nd, 6:00 pm

(The sanctuary will be open for prayer and Ashes from 7:00 - 8:30 am)

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, when Christians around the world gather to have the sign of the cross marked on their foreheads with ashes. The ash cross we wear on Ash Wednesday is a reminder that we are creatures, fully dependent on God; and it is also a reminder of our Baptism that we have been washed in the waters and claimed as loved, forgiven, children of God. In other words, the ashen cross on our forehead reminds us to whom we belong. Although Ash Wednesday certainly is a serious day of reflection; it is also a day of joyous realization that although we fall short of the glory God we have been claimed by Jesus.

The traditional disciplines of Lent are fasting, prayer, and works of love. All followers of Christ are summoned during these 40 days to reflect on their baptism, God's love, and how we live our faith in the world.

LENTEN WEDNESDAY WORSHIP - "Spring up, O well!" *Numbers 21.17*

Our midweek theme during lent will be "Spring up, O well!" As we look together at some of the stories in the Bible that feature 'water' we'll be reminded of the spring of life that God has given us in Christ! Join us ever Wednesday in Lent:

Week 1 March 9, Genesis 7.1-16 Noah and the flood

Week 2 March 16, Exodus 14 The parting of the Red Sea

Week 3 March 23, John 6:16-24 Jesus walking on water

Week 4 March 30, John 9.1-12 Healing of blind man at pool of Siloam

Week 5 April 6, John 13:1-17 Jesus washes his disciples feet

LENTEN PERSONAL DEVOTIONAL

Are you looking for a Lenten devotional practice this year? Why not join us as we use a wonderful resource put together by Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. We'll have multiple ways for you to connect with this resource available throughout Lent. Or you can visit their site yourself and bookmark or download a copy: <https://tinyurl.com/Lenten-Devotional>

Ministry

Time & Talent 2022

Our brand new Time & Talent Catalog and Sign-Up Forms are now available!

We are so grateful for the many talents and gifts in our church family. Everyone has skills they can share to help us connect as a congregation and to spread the love of God throughout our community. Please prayerfully explore the Time & Talent catalog - available at the church or online - and then sign up for the things you are interested in as soon as you can.

You can sign up by using a paper form from the church; by using the online form at the link below; or by downloading a printable form at home and dropping or mailing it to the church: <https://lcrmarion.org/downloads/time-and-talent.html> Please submit one form per person in your family. Let us know if you have any questions. Thank you for sharing your gifts!

Food Drive & Open House

Throughout the month of February, we've been gathering non-perishable food and personal care items for the Churches of Marion Food Pantry. On **Sunday, March 6th from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm**, come to the pantry yourself and learn more about this ministry from some of our LCR volunteers.

March/April Mission Envelopes

...are going to Matthew 25, an organization that works to strengthen and elevate neighborhoods on the west side of Cedar Rapids. After the 2008 flood, Matthew 25 empowered people to rebuild 25 blocks and totally renew their neighborhoods. Matthew 25's 'Block by Block' program has been recognized nationally as a model for disaster recovery and revitalization. Find out more at <https://www.hub25.org/>

Personal Care Kits - Local

Thank you to everyone who participated in our service project to make personal care kits. Together, we assembled **150 kits**, plus extra supplies to benefit the Willis Dady Shelter.

Lent Soup Suppers - Provide Soup

Would you bring a crockpot of soup to share for one (or more!) of our Wednesday evening Soup Suppers? Just bring your crock pot to church by 5:15 pm and plug it in on the kitchen counter. You can take your crock pot home at the end of that evening, or pick it up the next day.

Please sign up in advance at - <https://tinyurl.com/Soup-Sign-up>

Pro Tip: Use a crockpot liner for easier clean up!

Lent Soup Suppers - Friendly Hosts

Would you host a Wednesday evening supper? It is so easy, just be in the kitchen to provide a welcoming smile and help folks with spoons, napkins, etc, We'll be using disposables, so no clean-up afterwards. Please call the church office to choose your Wednesday. Thank you!



Personal Care Kits - International

Our afternoon Mary Martha Rebecca Circle is now collecting items for Lutheran World Relief personal care kits. Please check out our display table in the gathering space, and pick up a "shopping list" of needed items. Anything you can get for us would be very welcome! There is a bin under the table for your donations. We'll be collecting items through March and will assemble the kits for overseas shipment in early April. Thank you for your ongoing participation in this ministry for people whose lives have been upended by events beyond their control.



SUNDAY SCHOOL DATES
MARCH:
 6 - INTRO TO LENT
 13 - NO SS, SPRING BREAK
 20 - EASTER UNIT
 27 - EASTER UNIT

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE DATES
MARCH:
 2 - ASH WEDESDAY*
 9 - LENT *
 16 - LENT *
 23 - LENT *
 30 - LENT *

No Sunday School on March 13th

First Communion is Coming up!

There is a place for you! That is the overall theme of our First Communion instruction here at Lutheran Church of the Resurrection. We want our children to know that Jesus has made them a part of this great family of faith and that Holy Communion is one of the ways that we remember this good news. We will have two (2) sessions, each lasting an hour and a half (1.5 hours). These sessions will be held in the Fellowship Hall here at LCR. Each child will need to be accompanied by at least one parent/guardian. There will be a break-out session in the middle for the children (help with some of the inevitable wiggles) and parents/guardians will remain together with Pastor during that time.

* Session #1 - Sunday, March 27th / 1:00-2:30 PM
 A Place For You! Jesus and the family table.

* Session #2 - Sunday, April 3rd / 1:00- 2:30 PM
 Baptism and preparing for a special meal.

FIRST COMMUNION will take place on
Maundy Thursday, April 14th in the evening

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FOR LENT!

Wednesday Night Live will be meeting at a modified time during Lent. Your family is invited to join us for a simple soup dinner at 5:15 each week, and worship service at 6:00. At 7:00 we will hold WNL in the fellowship hall, and finish at 8:00. Your student is welcome to stay or not stay as long as what works for your family!



Security Note: Please always enter the building using the main front door to attend Sunday School. The exterior doors to the YAC and the Circle Drive are locked on Sunday mornings for the safety of all our students.

Adult Faith Development

Gatherings (formerly Lifetree Café)



...meets on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month from 12:00 to 1:00 pm. For those who are not familiar with Gatherings, it is not a Bible study or book group. Rather, we introduce a pertinent topic, provide some basic information, and then have both large and small group discussions. We have coffee ready and provide some pre-packaged snacks for those who want them. Please join us March 11th and 25th.

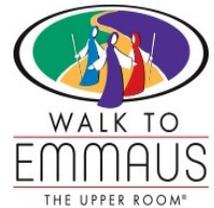


The Chosen Season 2 - *Sundays at 4:00 pm*

“The Chosen” is the first crowd-funded multi-season series about the life of Jesus. Each episode is about an hour long. Last fall we started this journey and now we’re ready for Season 2! You can come to our “watch party” at church on Sundays, or view it online at home. After each showing at church we offer a little study and conversation about what we’ve seen. The study guide will also be on our website with a link to the video.

‘Walk to Emmaus’ Spiritual Retreat

We all know the Bible story about the Walk to Emmaus, but maybe you've never heard of the "Walk to Emmaus" spiritual retreat. It is a 72-hour journey where you will travel with new friends from a variety of denominations while you get to know Jesus better. There is laughter, tears, singing, and food! Separate weekends are provided for men and women and there is also a version called Chrysalis for young people in high school. Men's and Women's retreats are typically held at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca in Solon and the Chrysalis weekends are held at Nazareth Church (ELCA) in Cedar Falls. The following links will provide you with much more information. Sponsorship is required, so if you are interested or if you have additional questions, feel free to contact Tom Lillevig or Donna Dennis through the church office.



<http://emmaus.upperroom.org/>

<https://www.cedarrapidsemmaus.com/>

‘Biblical Potpourri’ - *Sundays during Lent*

Pastor Jeff is taking us on a journey through scripture, looking at one verse/theme in each of the 66 books of the Bible! This is a great way to begin to understand the Bible as a whole, and dive into some of its lesser-known parts. Come as you are able - there’s always a place for you. We meet at 9:45 am on Sundays in the conference room. (*Our Wednesday evening gatherings are on hiatus during Lent.*)

Wednesday Scripture Study

There is no better way to prepare for worship than to be in conversation with the scriptures. Your thoughts and insights will help enlighten Pastor Jeff’s weekly sermons and prepare you to get more out of worship. We meet each Wednesday at 11:00 am. This is an in-person study at the church, so we are social distancing in the fellowship hall.

Pastor Jeff’s One-Minute Devotionals

Check out these brief, thought-provoking videos online, any time. You can access them at - <https://tinyurl.com/PrJeffDevotional>



LCR recommends masks but does not require them.

Stephen Ministry

The 'After People'

People often ask, "What exactly is a Stephen Minister?" One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the After People.

Stephen Ministers are there:

-after the phone call you hoped you'd never get.
-after the funeral, when everyone has left and the emotions you've held at bay come crashing in on you.
-after the relationship falls apart and the bottom falls out of your life.
-after the doctor says, "I'm sorry, but there's nothing more we can do."
-after the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, "Welcome to your new home."
-after the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away - and the house suddenly seems empty.
-after the gavel comes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.
-after the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.
-after you find a pink slip with your final paycheck.
-after your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

Stephen Ministers are the After People. They are ready to come alongside you - or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives - and provide comfort and support for as long after as needed.

Contact Mary Hajek or Scott Immerfall through the church office for more information.

www.stephenministries.org

P.E.P. 55+ Group Movie Night

On Friday, March 11 at 6:30 pm, we'll gather for a showing of the movie "American Underdog." It tells the Kurt & Brenda Warner story - of faith, love, and yes, football. We'll be viewing on the worship space big screen. Hope you can all join us!



Fellowship

Comforting Hands

Our quilting ladies are always happy to welcome new people to our Monday morning sessions that combine fellowship *and* service. We make tied quilts for charities both local and international. There are many tasks involved in our process and they are all learnable! You do **not** have to be an accomplished seamstress; anyone can help. Join us at 9 am any Monday during the school year.

Train Dominoes

We play this fun game on 1st and 3rd Fridays at 1:15 pm. Train Dominoes is an easy-to-learn, light strategy game. Non-members are always welcome.

Cribbage Group

Cribbage players meet on the 2nd and 4th Fridays each month at 1:15 pm for card-playing fellowship. Come and enjoy!

LCR Book Club

We'll get together Tuesday, March 15th at 6:30 pm. Our book this month is "*Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine*" by Gail Honeyman. You can pick up a copy of the book in the church office. Contact sherrillamorrison@gmail.com to get on our email list; all are welcome!

Candy Bar Bingo

Enjoy family fun on Sunday, March 27th from 1:00-2:30 pm. There will be free popcorn for everyone, and pop available for purchase. Bring your kids, grandkids, neighbors, friends!

Wood Carvers

Our talented wood carvers meet each Thursday evening at 6:00 in the Art (Red) Room in the education wing. If you want to learn a really satisfying handicraft, join us some evening and we'll get you started. Experienced carvers are welcome to work on their current projects.

Confirmation

We'll begin our **Lenten Confirmation** schedule on Ash Wednesday - **Wednesday, March 2nd**
Our hope is to provide something for everyone on the Wednesdays during Lent!

Soup Supper starts at 5:15 pm
Lent Worship from 6:00 - 6:45 pm

Lenten Café is available for adults immediately following worship. Join us for great coffee, snacks, plenty of WiFi, and an opportunity to rest and relax at the church.

Confirmation for 7th graders

Meet in Fellowship Hall from 7:00 to 8:00 pm and help mentor the Wednesday Night Live kids

Confirmation for 8th graders

Meet in the YAC (in education wing) and hang out with our EDGE youth from 7:00 to 8:00 pm



Conversations at Confirmation lately have been really thought-provoking, and I'm honored to be a part of a group of people who are willing to have such deep and profound discussions. Thank as always to Confirmation parents for allowing me to accompany your kids through this process.

I will begin full time work at LCR starting March 1st. Until now my time has been limited due to my shared church responsibilities, and with Covid restrictions it has been easy to limit our youth programs to meet the restrictions caused by safety concerns and a limited schedule. As we move forward, it is my hope that we can build on our Confirmation program by creating a team of parents and caregivers to provide more opportunities for service and fun activities. No-one needs another committee obligation, but I imagine that some of you would enjoy planning activities for our Confirmation-aged kids that will allow them the chance to gather for the sake of enjoying their faith life and community. As much as I hope they enjoy our Wednesday conversations, I bet a night of bowling, a hockey game, or just pizza & a movie would be great, too. Let me know if you have an extra bit of energy to help me think creatively about ways to strengthen Confirmation fellowship!

Be warm and well and at peace - Nate



8th graders, join us for EDGE during Lent!

EDGE begins at 7:30, but come at 7:00 for food and hang-out time, and then stick around for large group teaching and discussion. We look forward to seeing you March 2nd!

EDGE is open to students in 9th thru 12th grade from any school or church. We meet each Wednesday evening from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. Feel free to join us any time! Our director is Katie Kascel; you can reach her with questions at katie@lcrmarion.org.

<https://www.instagram.com/edgeatlcr/?hl=en>
<https://vimeo.com/lcrprogramming>

Biderman Scholarships

The Living Legacy Fund's

Biderman Scholarships are now available

High school seniors, you may now apply for a Biderman scholarship if you are planning to attend an accredited college, university, or vocational/technical school next year. You will find the instructions and application form in the church office or on our website -

<https://lcrmarion.org/livinglegacy.html>

Scholarship dates to remember:

March 20 - Applications are due to the Living Legacy Fund Committee

April 20 - Students will be notified of scholarship awards

If you have any questions, contact the LLF Committee via email: trustfund@lcrmarion.org

Pastor Nate's contact info:

Lcr.confirmation@gmail.com

nmontover@gmail.com

563-320-3995 (call or text any time)

If you ever feel that the weather conditions are not safe for your circumstances, please feel free to make the best decision for your family!

Prayers

Prayers
are
requested
for...



Those hospitalized in February:

Betty Young, Zona Hildebrand

Those experiencing illness or surgery:

(LCR members) Lareen Gull,
Wally Lechtenberg, Sherrill Morrison,
Judi Conrad, Kay Mase, Marlene Pasker,
Don Schantz, Julie Brandt, Gene Henry,
Marilyn Carstens, Deanna Harding

(family and friends) Marge Richardson,
Diane Peters, Aunt Gloria/Ridenour family,
Brenda Neuendorf, Dotty Blackwell,
Ken Springer, Larry Hicks,
Betty Hannagan, Avona Lehmann

Those living in care facilities:

Vera Olson (The Views);
Larry Wogahn, Paul Bendixen
(Bickford of Marion);
Barb Schierholz (Silver Oak);
Bernadean Spilde (Garnett Place);
Bill Thompson (Emery Place)

Those in military service:

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

Pray for our new Council members:

Julie, Heather, and Bethany

Thank God for their serving hearts!



Those who celebrate:

- Kristi & Paul Kearney on the continuing recovery of their daughter, Katie Blaha

Those who mourn:

- Arlene & Don Schantz on the death of their daughter/step-daughter, Tracy Deets, on 2/4
- Amy Anderson and family on the death of her husband, John Anderson, on 2/16
- Family and friends of Lee Schoon on his death on 2/16

Please pray for nurses, doctors, and staff of local medical facilities due to the increase of Covid-19 infections.

Online & E-mail Prayer Lists

If you are willing to serve our community through prayer, go to http://lcrmarion.org/prayer_team/ and type in this password: LCRPrays.

OR you may join our email list by sending your email address to: office@lcrmarion.org

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.

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.

Stewardship

Treasurer's Report for January 2022

	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>One Year Ago</u>
General Fund Receipts	\$83,805	\$83,805	\$79,663
General Fund Expenses	\$54,734	\$54,734	\$55,864
<u>Cash Balances</u>	<u>01/31/22</u>		<u>01/31/21</u>
General Fund	\$155,416		\$125,436
Clearing Accounts	\$ 50,184		\$ 80,267
Property Reserve	\$ 30,000	Building	\$ 20,000
Building Residual	\$ 20,780		\$ 18,229

thrivent

If you are a Thrivent member and have Thrivent Choice Dollars, please know that you can direct them to Lutheran Church of the Resurrection through the month of March.
<https://www.thrivent.com/what-we-offer/generosity/thrivent-choice.html>

General Fund Summary

Thank you for your generous gifts in support of our 2022 LCR budget. Giving was at 96.7% of pledges at the end of January.

Digital Giving

Simply Giving - Join 77 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 gathering space kiosk.

* **PayPal** - Click DONATE button on our website for online giving.

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

* **Venmo** - Smartphone app for sharing money @LCRMarion

Church Council

The Council met on Tuesday, February 15, 2022. The January Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were approved. The General Fund balance was \$155,416 at the end of January.

Pastor Jeff: Pastor Nate's first Sunday as full-time pastor will be March 6th.

Treasurer: General fund receipts were higher this month due to one-time yearly gifts. General fund disbursements adjusted due to payroll taxes.

Stewardship: See treasurer's report. No corrective actions needed at this time.

Old/New Business:

Council Officer Elections

President - Bob Wolter, Vice President - Barry Lovseth, Secretary - Stephanie Meier

Council Teams Governance - Barry Lovseth
Stewardship - Craig Miller, Bob Wolter
Property - Barry Lovseth, Bob Wolter
Outreach - Amy Moenk, Stephanie Meier, Cathy Finch, Julie Gilmore, Bethany Mast, Heather Loftsgard.

Council will host a welcome breakfast for Pastor Nate on March 6th between services.

Council meetings will be held in-person going forward.

Governance/Property/Outreach: no meetings

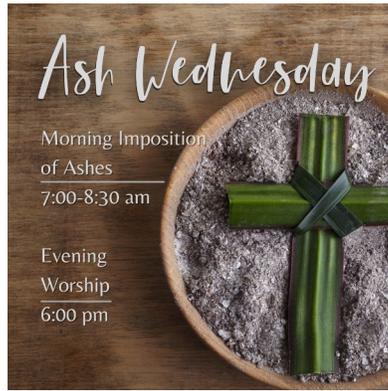
Next Meeting: March 15, 2022.

Agenda items should be submitted by 3/4/22.

Copies of council minutes and treasurer's reports available in the church office binder.

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Awesome Valentine Cookies
made by Madelyn & Steve Olson!



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

www.lcrmarion.org

Pastor Jeff Frohner - jeff@lcrmarion.org
Pastor Nate Montover - nate@lcrmarion.org
Children's Ministry: Jessi Lau - jessi@lcrmarion.org
Youth Ministry: Katie Kascel - katie@lcrmarion.org
Volunteers: Marcia Edwards - marcia@lcrmarion.org
Communications: Cari Redondo - cari@lcrmarion.org
Office Manager: Evelyn Beck - evelyn@lcrmarion.org
Secretary: Emily Carson - office@lcrmarion.org
Custodians: Dave Cosgrove, Jim Snyder

