

IT IS GOOD...

in fact, very good.



Lutheran Church of the Resurrection
—— Stewardship Appeal 2023 ——

IT IS GOOD...



IT IS GOOD! ...in fact VERY GOOD! (Genesis 1.31a)

These words from Genesis have been echoing in my ear as I give thanks for your faithfulness, perseverance and commitment to proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ. In a world that often hypes bad news we are reminded that God is good and that God continues to be at work in the world. The words of God in Genesis are not just a blanket statement about a time long ago, but a present commentary on what we can accomplish together as the church.

It is good that a new well has been given to the people in Malawi so that physical thirst can be quenched and opportunities can thrive — you did this. It is good that we have been able to reach out to hundreds of our neighbors through special events like Neighborhood Nights, Car Cruise Ins, LCR Car Show, Trunk-or-Treat, Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt, and Blessing of the Animals — you did this. It is good that your warm spirit and commitment to worship has allowed us to welcome 27 family units as members of LCR — you did this. It is good that we continue to impact the community and world with our support of Mission of Hope, F.L.Y., Churches of Marion Food Pantry, backpack drive, veteran support, Take Away Hunger, quilts, Lutheran World Relief care kits, Ukrainian aid, seminaries, missionaries, and the ongoing work of the wider expression of the church — you did this. It is good that we gather together to hear the word of God's love, celebrate the sacraments and walk beside each other with the comfort of a holy and certain hope — your gifts allow us to do this.

God is still creating: disciples, opportunities, new ventures and pathways to bring the good news of Jesus to the world. And God is calling you to be a part of it! Prayerfully and joyfully take a look at all the information in this booklet and then boldly add your voice and support to what God is doing at LCR. Take a look at what God is doing at Lutheran Church of the Resurrection — it is good, in fact it is very good!

Peace!

Pastor Jeff Prohner



in fact, very good.

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.

- Vote to Call Pastor Nate Montover as Full-Time Pastor
- Neighborhood Nights, May – Sep. + Halloween Event
- Car Cruise-Ins, May – Sep.
- Six Mission of Hope Lunches
- Twelve Baptisms
- \$10,000+ Raised for Ukraine Relief through Lutheran World Federation
- Marion Lutheran Churches Blood Drives
- Food Drives Benefitting the Churches of Marion Food Pantry
- Mission Envelopes Supporting ELCA World Hunger, Catherine McAuley Center, Feeding Lunches to Youth (F.L.Y.), Matthew 25, Community Health Free Clinic, Churches of Marion Food Pantry
- New Groups – Mom's Group, Walking Group, LCR Outdoors, Train Dominoes
- Understanding Luther's Revolution Presentation
- Confirmation and Reformation Sunday Celebration
- Thanksgiving Eve Service
- Organ Dedication Concert
- Holiday Giving Project – Seven Families Supported
- Advent Wreath Boards Event Held First Sunday of Advent
- "Rejoice, Rejoice – A Celebration of Christmas" Concert
- Tornado Relief Collections
- Christmas Care-Oling For Food
- 214 Boxes for Cozy Christmas Shoeboxes Packing Event
- Christmas Eve Celebrated at Five Services; Introducing 10 pm Contemplative Service
- Bingo Events Jan. – Apr.
- Prayer Jars Family Activity
- 150 Kits + Additional Supplies Provided Through the Personal Care Kit Packing Event for Willis Dady Shelter
- Super Sunday at LCR
- Malcolm and Martin Presentation
- Watch Parties for Season 2 of "The Chosen"
- Pancake Breakfast Celebration for Pastor Nate's First Sunday
- Ash Wednesday Worship
- "Spring Up, O Well" Lenten Season with Introduction of LCR's Lenten Café + Simple Soup Suppers
- Take Away Hunger Event
- Seder Meal for Wednesday Night Live
- 107 Lutheran World Relief Kits (more than double original goal)
- Lent Soup Suppers + Living Legacy Group Raised \$5K for New Well at Camp Chisomo
- Holy Week – Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday/First Communion, Good Friday
- Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt
- Easter Celebration with Cupcakes and Special Music
- Mother's Day Celebration
- Wednesday Night Live/Confirmation Skating Party
- Biderman Scholarships Awarded to Three High School Seniors
- Graduate Sunday
- Pentecost Celebration
- Launch of Super Summer Sundays
- New Members Received
- Father's Day Breakfast
- Supporting Our Veterans Drive Benefitting the Freedom Foundation
- Hosted "It's A New Day – An Evening of Reconciliation"
- Start School Right Shoe Drive – \$2400+ Donated
- Vacation Bible School
- F.L.Y. Juice Box Drive
- 2nd Annual LCR Car Show
- 60+ Backpacks Provided to the Marion Cares Backpack Program
- Day Camp
- Paint Refreshed in Gathering Space, Café, Sunday School Rooms, and Office
- Participation in F.L.Y. Program, (28,000+ summer meals served)
- Youth Pool Party
- Increased Registration for Youth Ministries/Activities
- Rally Day
- Golf Outing
- Activity and Ministry Fair, Featuring 50+ Ways to Engage Through LCR
- Quilts Donated to EWALU Quilt Auction Raised \$1300
- Blessing of the Animals
- High Ropes Course Day for 8th –12th Grade Students

A BIBLE STUDY

It is good.

Take an opportunity to read Genesis 1.1 – 2.3

Did you notice that God is not just creating individual slices of the universe — but is doing so in a way that everything is interconnected? There is light and dark, sun and moon, dry land and waters. Each part of creation builds and enhances the others.

What does this tell you about the world?

We sometimes think that our faith is about spiritual matters as opposed to those things of a physical nature. But in the story of creation the narrative is almost exclusively about those things that we can touch, see, smell, hear, and taste. And, in fact, the physical world is declared to be good.

What does this say about the importance of every day material things?

Did you notice that humans are the final work of creation and that we are created in the image of God? Let's assume this is much more than physical appearance. Perhaps a good way for us to understand being created in the image of God is that we are 'to reflect God' in all we do.

How do you reflect God in your everyday life and in how you use the gifts of creation?

Prayer:

Dear Lord, as you created the heavens and the earth, so you created us to be your image in the world. Help us to live in such a way that others might see your goodness in all that we do. Amen.



STEWARDSHIP

Giving for all ages.

Stewardship isn't just about money, and isn't just for grown-ups. Your children and families can learn about stewardship at any age! Stewardship is simply how we take care of what God has given us. Check out these ideas for growing in stewardship together:

Stewards of the Earth

Gather as a family to make a list of everything you can think of that God made — set a timer to mark the end of your list making. Take your lists on a walk and check off anything you see from your list. As you are walking, chat about how you can take care of the things we see. How can we care for trees, animals or the water?

Stewards of our Stuff

Have everyone in the family take a look around the house for things that are ready to be recycled, upcycled, donated or repurposed. Turn it into a fun challenge or a family contest. Caring for the things we have and being intentional about repurposing instead of disposing of things right away is a great way to teach your whole family how to care for the resources we have been given.



A special thank you to all who participated in the one-time gift to our Youth Ministries for our 2022 Stewardship Appeal. With your gifts, we were able to purchase new children's books and resources, enhancements to Vacation Bible School, and provide special opportunities, including the Pool Party, Neighborhood Nights with inflatables and activities, and the Rally Day Inflatable Corn Maze.

GIVING IS GOOD

It is very good.

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.

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). QCDs usually count as part of your minimum distribution but are excluded from your adjusted gross income.
- **Simply Giving** — Join 80 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 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.



YOUR COMMITMENT

It is very good.

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 with your projected annual offering (and one-time gift to our Music Ministry for 2023, if desired). 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 13–16, 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