

GIFTED



GIFTED *by God*



“Just as each of you has received a gift, so you should use it for ministry one to another, as good stewards of God’s many-sided grace.” 1 Peter 4.10 NTFE

Your continued faithfulness in our work of the Gospel is a source of great joy. All around us we hear the story of scarcity being proclaimed — a narrative that draws on fear of there not being enough to sustain our needs and tempts us to turn in on ourselves. You on the other hand declare in your generosity a narrative of abundance — a story that is lived out in the confidence that God has and will provide for our needs and with such assurance we can provide for our community and the world. Thank you.

We have been gifted by God with so many things both personally and as a church. What a gift we have been given by the women and men who so faithfully started Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, and all those dear souls who have taught our children, provided for our building and location, reached out to our community, stood beside us in prayer and friendship, remained steadfast in difficult times, inspired us in worship through music and song, used their talents and abilities to serve Jesus, and who by their witness to the love of Christ have in turn gifted us with more than we could ever imagine.

We have been gifted, and we thank God for all his benefits — most especially for Jesus Christ who has gifted us with life, and life abundant; both here and in all that is to come. I believe that God is calling you to live a life of giftedness — “to be a good steward of the many-sided grace of God.” Prayerfully and joyfully take a look at all the information in this booklet and then confidently bring your gift to Christ as an act of love in response to the gifts that have been given to you. Because of you, LCR continues to be a gift of God in our community and beyond. We are gifted by God, by others and by YOU!

Peace!

Pastor Jeff Frohner

GIFTED *in the Word*



In 1 Peter 4.8–10 we read: “Above all, keep absolutely firm in your love for one another, because ‘love covers a multitude of sins’. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Just as each of you has received a gift, so you should use it for ministry one to another, as good stewards of God’s many-sided grace.” NTFE translation

What do you think about the statement that “love covers a multitude of sins”?

I wonder if Peter is thinking about love as a ‘clean up’ operation for things that have gone bad; or is he thinking of love as the way to avoid falling into those painful situations in the first place. Have you ever in hindsight wished you would have approached a situation with more love than you did?

How hard or easy is it for you to practice hospitality without complaint?

I think Peter knows that sometimes we can feel as if we are the ones who are carrying a greater amount of the burden than others. And yet, caring for the neighbor—in this case hospitality—is a privilege. When has someone shown great hospitality/love to you?

What is one gift that you have been given by God?

We all have been given many gifts; the question seems to be whether we know how to use them to bless others.

How will you use your gifts?

Prayer: Dear Lord, I thank you for the many gifts that I have been given and for those who have shared their gifts with me. Help me to delight in reflecting your love so that others might see you in me. Amen.



GIFTED *together*

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.

- Community Outreach Events: Neighborhood Nights, Car Cruise-Ins, 3rd Annual LCR Car Show, Candy Bar Bingo, Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt, Trunk or Treat, Blessing of the Animals, Six Mission of Hope Lunches
- Mission Envelopes: ELCA World Hunger, Catherine McAuley Center, Feeding Lunches to Youth (F.L.Y.), Matthew 25, Community Health Free Clinic, Churches of Marion Food Pantry
- Special Collections: Start School Right Shoe Drive, Mission of Hope Bucks to Buy Beef, Earthquake Relief, Hawaii Wildfires, Willis Dady Warmth Collection, Socks & Underwear Drive, Lutheran World Relief's Ukraine Fund
- Raised Bed Gardening Group donated hundreds of pounds of produce to The Churches of Marion Food Pantry
- Habitat for Humanity Site Blessing & Faith Build Work Day
- Reverse Advent Boxes
- "Souper Bowl" Sunday: LCR won the Souper Bowl of Caring Trophy
- Marion Lutheran Churches Blood Drives
- Holiday Giving Project – Ten families supported
- Take Away Hunger Event
- Lutheran World Relief Kits
- Hosted "It's A New Day Celebration of Unity"
- Youth F.L.Y. Deliveries during the summer
- F.L.Y. Juice Box Drive
- 60+ Backpacks to the Marion Cares Backpack Program
- Celebration Worship on All Saint's Day for Installation of Pastor Jeff and Pastor Nate
- Thanksgiving Eve Worship
- "Stir Up" Advent Season
- "JOY" Christmas Concert with orchestra and guest musicians
- "Feasting on the World, Feeding the World" Lenten Season: supported Lutheran World Hunger and The Churches of Marion Food Pantry
- Organ Recital by Dr. Karen Black
- Celebration Worship for Christmas, Palm Sunday, Easter, Pentecost, Rally Day
- Six Baptisms in 2023
- New Members Received in June and November
- "The Ever-Evolving Church" and "The Teachings of Luther" Study Series
- Biderman Scholarship Awarded to Ava Schaldecker
- Activity and Ministry Fair
- Holy Land Trip
- Commissioning of Three New Stephen Ministers
- LCR Living Legacy Fund sponsors Tony Jones and Diana Butler Bass appearances
- Living Legacy Learning Opportunity with Don Johnson
- Creation Showcase
- Mother's Day and Father's Day Make n' Takes
- Super Sunday at LCR
- All-Church Breakfasts
- LCR Kernels Baseball Game
- LCR Summer Picnic, Pie Contest, Bags Contest
- Pool Party at the Marion Pool
- Ice Skating at the Cedar Rapids Ice Arena
- Golf Outing
- First PEP 55+ Mississippi River Boat Cruise
- Family Advent – Community Christmas Tree
- New LCR Painting Group
- Wednesday Night Live Surprise Party for Wednesday Evening Worship
- Mom's Group Outings
- Youth Activities and Education for Pre-K – 12th Grade: Wee Wisdom Preschool, Sunday School, Wednesday Night Live, Confirmation and EDGE
- Vacation Bible School
- Day Camp
- "Christmas Cookies" Youth Christmas Program
- Seder Meal for Wednesday Night Live
- First Communion
- Confirmation
- Special High School Youth Events: Mini Golf, Bowling, Blank Park Zoo, High Ropes Course Day, Paint Ball
- Bibles for Pre-School Students
- New Electronic Sign
- New Carpet Installation in Gathering Space and Hallway

GIFTED *above and beyond*



Our congregation has come together in God's love by sharing gifts to support needs both near and far. Here are a few highlights from this year's special campaigns that went above and beyond.

MISSION ENVELOPES

Nearly \$26,000 year-to-date

Our Mission Envelopes, have supported The Churches of Marion Food Pantry, the Community Free Health Clinic, Feeding Lunches to Youth (F.L.Y.), Matthew 25, ELCA World Hunger, and the Catherine McAuley Center.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Special Collections include \$6,360 "Aloha" Donations for Wildfire Relief in Hawaii, and \$4,608 to ELCA World Hunger from our "Feasting on the Word, Feeding the World" Lenten soup supper donations.

NEW SIGN CAMPAIGN

\$17,550 year-to-date

Our congregation generously supported the purchase and installation of a new electronic sign, which allows us to invite +8000 people each day to our church.

ONE-TIME SPECIAL GIFT

\$3,350 year-to-date

Our 2023 one-time gift was collected for our special music program at LCR. It has sponsored the Dr. Karen Black Organ Recital, and guest musicians for Easter and Rally Day, as well as the Christmas concert.

Please consider participating in our 2024 one-time gift to support Wee Wisdom Preschool — a beloved community ministry within the walls of LCR for our little ones.



GIFTED *in so many ways*

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** — 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.



PayPal: Use the QR code or use the donate button on LCRMarion.org/giving



Venmo: Use the QR code or search 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.

GIFTED *by your 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 with your projected annual offering (and one-time gift to Wee Wisdom, 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** — In thanksgiving for all of God's gifts, we ask you to return the commitment card by the week of the 19th of November. 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.

We rejoice in the fact that people have many different gifts and that the sharing of financial resources is only one of those. Your time and talent are a valuable gift that we appreciate. Regardless of any financial pledge, we hope you will return the enclosed "Commitment Card" so that we know you have received this packet as it helps with our overall effort.

LUTHERAN CHURCH
of the
RESURRECTION