

CROSSTALK

LUTHERAN CHURCH
of the
RESURRECTION

WWW.LCRMARION.ORG

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“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” *Isaiah 43:19*

I want to officially go on the record, in order to predict the following in 2024. There will be famine, natural disasters, corruption, war, economic downturns, environmental catastrophes and disease. But here's the deal, there are ALWAYS famines, natural disasters, corruption, war, economic downturns, environmental catastrophes, and disease. The difference is that we live in a world that is so thoroughly connected by the digital age that the sheer volume of such events that we are intimately aware of seems at times overwhelming. I think Billy Joel said it best in his 1995 hit - “We didn't start the fire. It was always burning, since the world's been turning. We didn't start the fire. No, we didn't light it; but we tried to fight it.”

I want to offer another set of predictions as well. There will be good harvests, beautiful sunsets, integrity, peace, economic windfalls, environmental triumphs and healings. These too are just as safe a prediction because they always happen each and every year - yet somehow, they don't ever get the same coverage as the first list. This year I've decided that my New Year's resolution is going to be to find one solid piece of good news every day. But that's not all, I'm going to try and share that piece of good news with at least one other individual, whether in person, by email, by text or by phone. As people of faith we don't minimize the very real problems in the world; but we of all people should also keep a sharp eye on the horizon, looking for those signs of God and God's continued good work on our behalf.

That is what the season of Epiphany is all about; basically, that God does show up! Jesus makes himself known in the Gospels at his baptism, in the calling of his disciple, in the healings and on the mountain of Transfiguration where he stands between Moses and Elijah; but Jesus also makes himself known in our world, in our lives, in worship and in our care and concern for the neighbor. Epiphany is basically one big celebration that Jesus is here - right here in our midst.

During this new year of 2024, I know that we'll be bombarded with bad news. Some will be the usual catastrophes that befall the world, and some will be the made up and exaggerated fear claims that politicians will try to use in order to garner votes and motivate their war chests. It will be all too easy to be on the side of doom and gloom. I for one, invite you to stand with me in keeping an eye out for the good news of God in Jesus Christ - and then share it! And we might even be surprised, that we often see what we are looking for - and that might just make 2024 a very, very good year!

Peace - Pastor Jeff

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WORSHIP

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

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

Wednesday service: casual evening gathering with its own message + music from a range of worship styles

Wednesday 6:00 pm - Evening 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 through our homepage and sign up where it says “Engage” or “Connect.” Alternately, you can contact us at the church office and we will sign you up: 319.377.4689 or office@lcrmarion.org.

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/181uDRkYnTRyGMmuwl3ZiDQ44ay4>

Christmas Eve >>



Annual Meeting of the Congregation: Two Important Dates

The annual meeting of the congregation will once again be held between worship services on **Sunday, January 28th, beginning at 9:30 am** promptly in the sanctuary. A forum to introduce the 2024 budget will be held in **between services on Sunday, January 21st** in the fellowship hall. We appreciate everyone's faithfulness as we continue to be about the work of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ here at LCR. Just a reminder: “Voting members are to include all confirmed members. Such members shall have communed and made a contribution of record during the current or preceding year.” [C8.02.C]. Votes may not be cast via proxy.

Looking ahead - Lent is for lovers!

Just a reminder that the season of Lent comes rather early this year. In fact, Ash Wednesday will fall on **February 14 - Valentine's Day!** We'll once again enjoy soup suppers and will lift up the ministry of Camp EWALU in support of their “Cedar at 60” campaign. (*Wednesdays for Lent: February 14 - Ash Wednesday; February 21, 28; March 6, 13, and 20*)



MINISTRY

Holiday Giving Project - WOW!

LCR adopted 12 local families this year through this annual giving opportunity. In addition to gifts and gift cards, Resurrection members and friends gave \$4,225. Thank you for your generous support of Marion Independent Schools families!



Christmas Un-decorating

...will be **Saturday, January 6th at 10 am**. Come help us put everything away from Christmas!

Jan. & Feb. Mission Envelopes

Your mission giving will go to F.L.Y. (Feeding Lunches to Youth), a local ministry that was formed to provide sack lunches to children who might otherwise not have a decent meal when school is not in session. Find out more at <https://marionmethodist.org/fly/>



God's Global Barnyard - WOW!

During Advent this year, LCR members and friends donated \$4,173 for "God's Global Barnyard." These gifts will support the sustainable development ministries of ELCA World Hunger, which include training, education, resources, and much more to help communities care for animals and create new market opportunities like starting a business selling eggs, meat, or dairy products. Donations were given for: a goat (\$50), a pig (\$30), a chick (\$1). Some people even gave honeybees (\$20) and a family farm (\$715)! In addition, LCR's Living Legacy Group matched our gifts up to \$500.

Thank you all for blessing God's **global** community!



Resurrection was over-run by goats in December!!

Comforting Hands Quilters

Our group meets **Monday mornings at 9:00 am** in the fellowship hall. We always welcome new participants. Even if you don't have sewing skills, we have ways you can help! For those who can't join us on Mondays, we are happy to accept tops that you have pieced at home. Contact Susan Conway for our typical measurements: drskconway@msn.com or 319-249-9231. We are also glad to accept donated fabric and laundered bed sheets.

<<< Outreach Team

Are you a natural 'event planner?' Are you the one who always organizes the best parties? Let us know if you want to join our terrific Outreach Team for 2024 - you will never regret it!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY @ LCR



Our WNL kids and leaders had a wonderful time celebrating Christmas with games and crafts!



Our Sunday School students were joined by a number of Confirmation, WNL and Wee Wisdom students for a fantastic Christmas program. We are so proud of the hard work they put into their show, "Manger Tales"!



lcr children's ministry presents

MANGER TALES

a christmas program featuring all of bethlehems four legged friends

"The Manger Tales" was a wonderful Christmas treat for everyone! Kids, you did an awesome job and made our hearts full.



UPCOMING DATES:

WNL

JANUARY:

NO WNL - 3

REGULAR WNL - 10

REGULAR WNL - 17

REGULAR WNL - 23

REGULAR WNL - 31

SUNDAY SCHOOL

JANUARY:

7 - NO SS

14 - REGULAR SUNDAY SCHOOL

21 - REGULAR SUNDAY SCHOOL

28 - NO SS, ANNUAL MEETING



Questions? Reach out to Jessi via email jessi@lcrmarion.org or by calling the church office!

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

Starting **January 7th** we'll begin a new Adult Bible Study on **Sunday Morning at 9:40 am** (between worship services in the conference room) on 1 and 2 Samuel. The lives of Samuel, Saul, and David, presented so graphically with all their faults and triumphs, serve as a mirror into our own lives. As we discover how God works in and through these people of the Old Testament, it helps us identify how God is still at work in our lives as well.

Sunday Morning Bible Study

The books of 1 & 2 Samuel,
studying Samuel, Saul and David

Starts January 7
Sundays at 9:40 in the
LCR Conference Room

Pastors 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 the pastors' weekly sermons and prepare you to get more out of worship. We meet **each Wednesday at 11:00 am** in the fellowship hall.

Resurrection Small Groups - both Daytime and Evening Opportunities

Mary Kay Pinckney - women's group; **one Sunday evening each month**; meets at leader's NE CR home;
Email: mkpink6@gmail.com

JAM Study Group - women's group; **second Monday each month at 1:00 pm**; meets in the conference room
Email: lhayward495@yahoo.com (Linda)

Dan Tegtmeier - mixed group; **first Monday evening of the month**; meets at group members' homes
Email: dtegtmeier@iowanorthern.com

Loaves, Fishes, & Faith - women's group; **selected Tuesdays**; meets at area restaurants
Email: maryjo.carlson3775@gmail.com (Mary Jo)

Rebecca Mary Martha Circle - women's group; **first Wednesday each month at 1:00 pm**; meets in conference room
Email: keyboreder1@gmail.com (Harriet)

Donna Dennis - mixed group; **Thursday, December 14th and 28th at 6:30 pm**; meets at the church
Email: donnakdennis88@gmail.com

Pastor Jeff's One-Minute Devotionals

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



Gatherings @ LCR

...is a place and time to hear stories, share stories, and connect with others in our community. Gatherings is a place where you can feel safe to share what you really think or feel without being judged or rejected. We meet at **noon on Friday, January 12th and 22nd**. Light refreshments are offered and topics will be announced in advance.

Contact Tom with questions:
lillevig@outlook.com

FELLOWSHIP

P.E.P. 55+ Group

Our 'People Enjoying People' group welcomes you back after the holidays to enjoy a DVD which we are calling "The Elvis You May Not Know." Then you can choose from 4 different soups, bread, and dessert, topped with good conversation and fellowship. Mark it on your calendar and join us on **Sunday, January 14th at 4:00 pm.** (Rain date is Jan. 21st)

Candy Bar BINGO!

Come to the church on **Sunday, January 7th** from **1:00-2:00 pm** for bingo. We play for candy and fun! It is totally free, and all ages are welcome - this is a great opportunity to invite your friends to church!

RSVP and Share on Facebook: <https://fb.me/e/xyaXVoue1>



Book Club

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday, January 9th at 6:30 pm.** Our book this month is "Pachinko" by Min Jin Lee, an enthralling multi-generational story of love and ambition. "Pachinko" is a tale of a woman in the early 1900s claiming her place in the world. Contact Mary to get on our email list; new people are very welcome!

jonmaryhajek@gmail.com

Painting Group

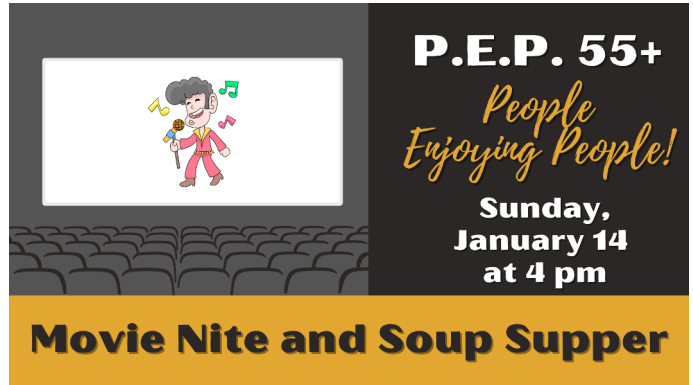
Love to paint? Want to learn? Join us on the **1st and 3rd Tuesday evenings of each month at 6:30 pm** in the art room. This group is open to adults painting in all different mediums - acrylic, watercolor, oils, etc. If you have questions, or if you haven't painted before, please contact Evelyn in the church office:

evelyn@lcrmarion.org

Walking Group

We walk **each Thursday at 10:00 am.** We're walking at Lindale Mall now. Please make sure to get on our email list so you'll know where to meet us:

marcia@lcrmarion.org



P.E.P. 55+
People Enjoying People!
**Sunday,
January 14
at 4 pm**

Movie Nite and Soup Supper

Cribbage

Cribbage players will meet this month on **Friday, January 12th and 26th at 1:15 pm.** We can teach you if you've never played before and non-members are always very welcome.

Train Dominoes

Join us for an afternoon of fun and light competition playing Train Dominoes. If you've never played before, we'll teach you how. We're meeting in the fellowship hall on **Fridays, January 5th & 19th at 1:00 pm.** If the weather looks iffy, call Tom Peterman before you drive to the church: 319-480-9883

Wood Carvers

...have decided to go on hiatus during January and February. They will resume in **March on Thursday evenings at 6:30.** Contact Jerry Schierholz if you have any questions about the group: 319-270-3380.

Knitting & Crochet Group

...is taking time off from meeting at the church this winter until **Thursday, March 7th.** However, you can still contribute from the comfort of your own home! We are now working on a project to get young people in the foster care system the things they'll need for winter, so please join us in making scarves, mittens, and hats for them. Contact Pam if you have items to drop off or you need yarn - we have tons! We have needles and crochet hooks too, in all different sizes.

pamkacena@yahoo.com or 319-360-5165

! Happy New Year !

CONFIRMATION

I think December is my favorite month of Confirmation every year. December is a time where Confirmation mysteriously turns into Junior High/Middle School youth fellowship. December has been a month of celebration and I have appreciated the fun, and the deep conversations that have come from our December schedule.

After a short break for Christmas we will be back on track with our study of the Catechism on Wednesday evenings. Our 8th graders will also have the opportunity to participate in our High School youth program (EDGE) when we gather again in January. I'll send specific information out to Confirmation families via email. I hope you all enjoyed a Merry Christmas!

**Contact Pastor Nate with questions:
563.320.3995 / nmontover@gmail.com**



EDGE is open to 9th thru 12th grade students from any school or church. We meet on **Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm.** You can contact director Katie Kascel at katie@lcrmarion.org



High School students (and a junior helper) got in the Christmas spirit by baking and decorating sugar cookies in December. *A jolly time was had by all!*



PRAYERS

Prayers
are
requested
for...



Those hospitalized in November:

Ryan Corrigan, Pam Miller, Andy Carter

Those experiencing illness or surgery:

(LCR members) Dean Fick, Arlene Lang, Evie Horn, Eloise Heppler, Harry Walton, Harriet Van Gilder, Linda Erlandson, Gary Young, Mike Rosz, Diane Peters

(family and friends) Suzanne Campbell, Austen Brown, Cindy Johnson, Tim Pefferman, Amy Thompson, Chuck Borsheim, Marge / Kimberly Richardson

Those living in care facilities:

Everett & Marge Dryden,
Marilyn Carstens (Terrace Glen)
Paul Bendixen (Northbrook Manor);
Larry Wogahn (The Views);
Bernadean Spilde (Garnett Place);
Bill Thompson (Emery Place)

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.

Those in military service:

Todd Kopperud, Wyatt Ochs, Taylor Johnson,
Will Fritz, Steven Anderson, Jake Anderson

Those who mourn:

- Phil & Laura White family on the death of their daughter, sister, aunt Rachel White
- Evelyn Beck, Diana Zrudsky, and Larry Jones on the death of their brother, Perry Jones
- Cari Redondo family on the death of her father, Philip Sperfslage
- Darlene & Tom McGovern on the death of his brother, Bruce McGovern
- Joyce Kuethe and family on the death of her mother, Minerva Brown

If you would like to send a card to anyone listed above, feel free to contact the church office for current addresses.

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 contact the church office.



STEWARDSHIP

Treasurer's Report for November 2023

	<u>November</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>One Year Ago</u>
General Fund Receipts	\$59,959	\$709,179	\$675,770
General Fund Expenses	\$56,530	\$679,579	\$632,709
Cash Balances	11/30/23		11/30/22
General Fund	\$213,596		\$168,893
Clearing Accounts	\$ 70,782		\$ 87,709
Property Reserve	\$ 69,947		\$ 59,738

General Fund Summary

Thank you for your faithful gifts in support of our 2023 budget!
Giving at the end of November was at 95.6% of pledges.

*** to see beautiful photos of our LCR activities ***
<https://www.lcrmarion.org/blog.html>

Digital Giving

Simply Giving - Join 80 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 in the gathering space.

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

* **Give+ Text** - Find out how it works on the 'Giving' page of our website.

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

CHURCH COUNCIL

Please reach out with questions or concerns.

The Council met on Tuesday, December 19, 2023. November Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were approved.

Treasurer: General Fund pledged giving was 95.6%, but further increased after a large annual gift. \$29,600 net income for the year.

Stewardship: Total pledged giving ~\$700,000. 66% of pledge forms have been turned in.

Pastor Jeff: Wonderful response to the Holiday Giving Project and the 'God's Global Barnyard' program.

Pastor Nate: During December we are focusing on pastoral care.

Property & Governance: No meetings

Outreach: BINGO turn-out continues to be high. Staff appreciation breakfast and gift cards given in December. Looking for more people to join the Outreach Team.

Old Business: *Staffing Update* - Interviews underway for Bookkeeper and Office Manager positions. *Nominating Committee* - Jim Shaw, Barry Lovseth, and Stephanie Meier are working to fill open positions.

New Business: *2024 Budget* - Council approved 2024 budget to be presented to congregation for final approval at the annual meeting.

Annual Meeting Timeline - Meeting is January 28 with Budget Forum on 1/21. Annual report deadline is 1/6.

Next Meeting: January 16, 2024

Agenda items should be submitted by 1/8/24. Copies of council minutes and treasurer's reports are available in the church office binder.

LUTHERAN CHURCH
of the RESURRECTION
3500 - 29TH AVENUE
MARION IA 52302

(address service requested)

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday,
January 28
2024



P.E.P. 55+
*People
Enjoying People!*
Sunday,
January 14
at 4 pm

Movie Nite and Soup Supper

NON-PROFIT
ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Marion, Iowa
Permit #11

CANDY BAR BINGO!

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7
1 - 2 PM
FREE TO PLAY!



CONTACT US!

office hours:

Monday - Friday,

9 am - 4 pm

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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, Mu Ruo



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