

CROSSTALK

LUTHERAN CHURCH
of the
RESURRECTION

WWW.LCRMARION.ORG

VOLUME 64, ISSUE 12 | DECEMBER 2023

“Do not neglect the gift that is in you...”

1 Timothy 4.14a

I have many friends in the Holy Land, Jewish Israelis, Arab Muslim Israelis, Arab Christian Israelis, Palestinian Christians, Palestinian Muslims, and I love and care deeply for them all. And so with the current unspeakable terror attacks inflicted on innocents and with the devastation of war to civilians, with the rising tensions in the West Bank, and concern for safety and security within Israel, with the rise of hatred in our nation against Palestinians, and with the rising hate crimes against our Jewish friends - my heart is aching. In response to the current suffering that is happening, the City of Bethlehem - the place of Christ's birth - for the first time since modern celebrations have been held, will not decorate Manger square. In fact, the Patriarchs and Heads of the Churches in Jerusalem asked Christians in the Holy Land to refrain from “unnecessarily festive” Christmas activities. Catholic churches in Galilee requested the same, as did the Council of Local Evangelical Churches in the Holy Land.

But let's be clear: Christmas is not canceled. In fact, perhaps even more than in recent memory, the spirit and power of Christmas needs to be proclaimed. Christmas after all is not the trappings that surround it. And don't get me wrong - I love the 'trappings' of Christmas: I love the lights, and the songs, and the festivities, and the gifts, and the trees, and the treats. But I also know that Christmas still comes when it is dark, and lonely, and cold, and violence shatters the silent night. In fact on Christmas Eve we'll say these words in a darkened and silent church, “the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it (John 1.5).” These are the words that the world needs to hear!

And this is the gift that is in you. This is the gift of Christmas' past, present and all those yet to come. That God so loved the world that he gave his only Son (John 3.16). That we do not grieve as those without hope (1 Thes 4.13). That by the power of the Holy Spirit we are ourselves light and salt (Matt 5.13-14). That there is nothing that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8.39). This Christmas, I'm looking at everything in a slightly different way, and I'm straining to hear the song that the angels sing, for I know it is still there; “Peace on earth and goodwill to all.”

Peace! Pastor Jeff

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ALL OF US AT LCR

On behalf of your pastors and staff we want to wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas. Thank you for all your love and support throughout the year. We appreciate being in ministry together here at Lutheran Church of the Resurrection.

Inside this Issue

Adult Faith	5
Children's Ministry ...	4
Confirmation	9
Council News	11
EDGE Youth	9
Fellowship	8
Living Legacy Fund	9
Ministry	3
Prayers	10
Stewardship	11
Worship	2

Follow Us On Social Media:

facebook

facebook.com/
ResurrectionMarion/

 **Instagram**

instagram.com/
resurrectionmarion/

 **YouTube**

https://tinyurl.com/
LCRYouTube

twitter.com/lutheran_of

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/181uDRkYnTRYGMmuw13ZiDQ44ay4>

"Gladsome Tidings" Christmas Concert - Sunday, December 10th at 4:30 pm

Join us for our annual Christmas music extravaganza at Lutheran Church of the Resurrection. We will celebrate the spirit of the season with a variety of performances, and finish off the evening with a festive reception. All are welcome to celebrate with us! Admission is free.

Donations of non-perishable food items will be gratefully accepted for the Churches of Marion Food Pantry. Monetary gifts will be donated to ELCA's Good Gifts "God's Global Barnyard" program, which works in 80 countries to provide people with sustainable programs to support economic development and provide food for the community.



Christmas Eve Worship - Sunday, December 24th

We will have five opportunities to join us for worship on Christmas Eve - **1:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:30 pm, 7:00 pm**, and a more reflective service at **10:00 pm**. Family and friends are very welcome as we celebrate the birth of Jesus! *Please Note: On the morning of the 24th, we will have a 4th Advent Sunday Morning service at 10 am, in place of our regular 8:30 and 10:30 am services.*

Lessons & Carols Worship + Cookie Potluck

Join us for favorite Bible stories and Christmas carols on **Sunday, Dec. 31st at 10:00 am**, and bring your leftover Christmas treats for our "Cookie Potluck!" We hope to see you as we ring in 2024!

We Are Indeed Gifted!

Our 2023 LCR Fall Stewardship Appeal has come to an "official" close, but you can still return your pledge. We invite you to take a look back at what we have done as a congregation in the last year, and to think about how we will share our gifts in the coming year. **THANK YOU** for all the ways you share your GIFTS!

Madelyn and the Amazing Cupcakes!



MINISTRY



Christmas Decorating!

Decorating the church for Christmas will take place on **Sunday, December 3rd**, immediately after the second service (about 11:30 am). We'll need a lot of people to help with this, from strong folks to carry the decorations down, to little ones hanging decorations on the low branches of the trees, and many people to do a lot of things in between. We look forward to seeing you then!



Nov. & Dec. Mission Envelopes

Your giving will go to the Catherine McAuley Center in Cedar Rapids. CMC's programs serve immigrants, refugees, and women experiencing crisis, united by a common purpose of promoting the well-being and dignity of individuals in need. See <https://cmc-cr.org/> for more information, including volunteer opportunities.

We sent \$1,095 to ELCA World Hunger from September & October mission envelopes. Thank you, Resurrection givers!



Come See Goats!

Mark your calendar for **Sunday, December 3** to come see goats at LCR! During Advent this year, LCR will be raising money to donate to "God's Global Barnyard," a ministry of ELCA's Good Gifts Program. Your gifts will support 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.



Did Someone Say Goats?

They are coming to LCR on Sunday, December 3rd! Our **Living Legacy Fund** will be supporting this project by matching funds up to \$500 (approximately 10 goats). This opportunity comes through the stewardship area of the Living Legacy funds.

Holiday Giving Project

<<< LCR adopted 12 families this year through this excellent annual giving opportunity. Gifts are due to the church by **Sunday, December 3rd**. Thank you for your generous support of local families in need!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY @ LCR

lcr children's ministry presents

THE MANGER TALES

a christmas program featuring bethlehems four legged friends

december 17th. | 4:30pm
mac and cheese buffet to follow

Join us on Sunday, Dec. 17th for a hilarious and heartfelt Christmas program! Kids from Wee Wisdom, preschool and elementary Sunday School classes, WNL, Confirmation and High School will all be helping make this night special! All are welcome to come and watch; macaroni dinner will be served afterwards.



Big shout out to many of our Sunday School kids for the fantastic video they put together in the Yellow Room about what we have learned about Joseph! You can watch their video on the church Facebook page, or in the YouTube feed from November 26th!

Upcoming Dates:

Sunday December 17th
Christmas Program – 4:30 pm

Wednesday December 20th
Youth Movie Night – 6:00 pm

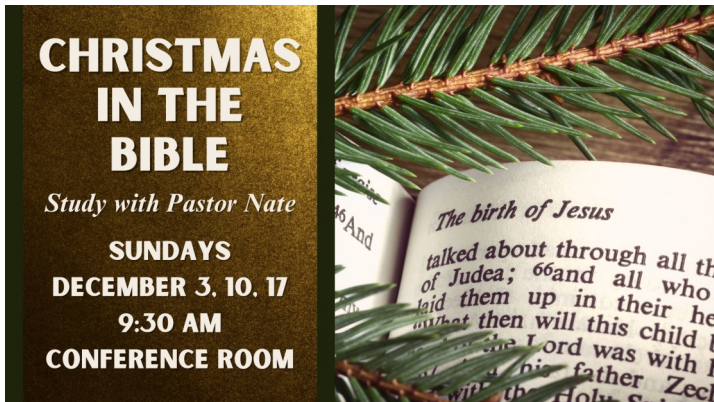
Sunday December 24th
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Wednesday December 27th
NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

Advent Devotions 2023

The season of Advent, which encompasses the four Sundays before Christmas, can be a perfect time to set apart some intentional time for devotional reading. Pastor Jeff has put together a simple Advent devotional which looks especially at the many gifts that God has given us; and how we are in turn gifted to love one another. Pick up your copy at the church or find it on our website.



Christmas Study with Pastor Nate

Join us on **Sundays, December 3rd, 10th, and 17th at 9:30 am** for Pastor Nate's Bible study. We'll journey to Christmas through the Scripture stories.

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, December 8th** and **maybe December 22nd**. Light refreshments are offered and topics will be announced in advance. Contact Tom with questions: lillevig@outlook.com

FELLOWSHIP

Candy Bar BINGO!

Come to the church on **Sunday, December 3rd** 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/elyaXVoue1>

Book Club

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday, December 12th at 6:30 pm**. Our book this month is "*Dumplin'*" by Julie Murphy. In it you will meet Willowdean Dixon, the fearless, funny, and totally unforgettable heroine who takes on her small town beauty pageant. 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



Come meet our new church friends on **Sunday, December 10th**.

Wood Carvers

Our wood carvers meet **each Thursday evening at 6:00 pm** in the 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 bring and work on their current projects.

Cribbage

Cribbage players will meet this month on **Friday, December 8th and 22nd 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 laughter with Train Dominoes. If you haven't played before, we'll teach you how. We're meeting in the fellowship hall on **Fridays, December 1st & 15th at 1:00 pm**.

Knitting & Crochet Group

... is taking time off from meeting at the church this winter until **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



CONFIRMATION

Hello Friends!

Our Confirmation class remains the highlight of my week. I am honored to be a part of the faith journey of your kids, and I'm always humbled by their willingness to struggle with deep questions of faith. We are finishing our conversation on the Ten Commandments and will begin the Lord's Prayer after the new year.

We have our regular class session on **December 6th** and we will have our Christmas party on **December 13th**.

We don't have anything scheduled for Wednesday, **December 20th**. However, Jessi is planning on an informal movie night that evening starting at **6:00 pm**. Movie will be announced and all our Wednesday Night program kids are welcome to attend! Thanks, Jessi :-)

Beginning **January 10th**, our 8th graders are invited to participate with the High School Group and the EDGE programming. We will begin our regular Confirmation session at 7:15 and then 8th graders will be joining EDGE around 7:30. Kids are welcome to stay for the whole EDGE program or leave at 8:00 pm when our Confirmation program ends. Thanks, Katie! 8th grade students are also welcome to remain in the regular Confirmation class setting if that's what they prefer.

May you have a blessed Advent season!!!
Peace, Pr. Nate

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

<<< Diana Butler Bass >>>

News from the LCR Living Legacy Team

Wow! What an amazing weekend we were able to experience with author Diana Butler Bass. Dr. Butler Bass was able to share Memoir Theology through personal stories and reflections. We were honored to have hosted her on Saturday, November 4th, along with 65 attendees consisting of members of LCR and many guests that traveled from eastern and western Iowa to hear her speak.

Sunday, November 5th, Dr. Butler Bass again connected her teachings to not only how our stories intersect with God and each other, but brought a message to savor for All Saints Sunday, using the Beatitudes scripture reading.

We are so thankful for the donations to the Living Legacy Funds that carry out our mission of enhancing the work of LCR. If you are interested in giving to the Living Legacy Fund, feel free to check out the LCR giving page (on our website) for ways to give, or scan the QR code provided. Gifts can be designated for stewardship, education, and providing ministry apart from the general operation of the church. Monies from the educational fund were used for this congregational learning opportunity.



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 Kascal at katie@lcrmarion.org

~ High School Students ~
Come join us on **Sunday, December 17**
11:30 am to 1:00 pm
as we bake Christmas cookies!
Everyone is welcome!



PRAYERS

Prayers
are
requested
for...



Those hospitalized in November:
Marilyn Carstens, Ryan Corrigan

Those experiencing illness or surgery:
(LCR members) Evie Horn, Arlene Lang, Marge Dryden, Eloise Heppler, Phyllis Gordon, Kathy Peterman, Harriet Van Gilder, Diane Peters, Gary Young, Linda Erlandson, Mike Rosz, Harry Walton,

(family and friends) Perry Jones, Cindy Johnson, Tim Pefferman, friend Sandy, Amy Thompson, Chuck Borsheim, Teri St. John, Lauren Gull, Elaine Peterson, Marge / Kimberly Richardson, baby Evelyn, Samantha's friend

Those living in care facilities:
Paul Bendixen (Northbrook Manor);
Larry Wogahn (The Views);
Bernadean Spilde (Garnett Place);
Bill Thompson (Emery Place);
Marilyn Carstens (Grand Living)



Transitions in the Church Office

The church council would like you to know that starting this month we will be advertising two staff positions here at LCR. Evelyn Beck, who has so wonderfully filled BOTH of these positions is planning to retire at the end of January. (Don't worry - we'll have plenty of time to show Evelyn our love and appreciation). As of December 1st, these two existing positions are being promoted online: 1) Bookkeeper and 2) Office Manager. The Bookkeeper position now allows for more hybrid work-at-home possibilities. You can see both position descriptions on our website.

Those in military service:

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

Those who mourn:

- Randy Olson and family on the death of his mother, Vera Olson
- Amy Johnson and family on the death of her nephew, Elliot Drees
- Kirsten Corrigan and Ryan on the death of father & grandfather, Ken Melby
- Wayne Mase, Cheri Reider, and family on the death of wife & mother Kay Mase
- Amy Wagner and family on the death of her husband, Patrick Hefel

Those who celebrate:

- Terry & Harriet Van Gilder, on their 63rd wedding anniversary

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

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.

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 October 2023

	<u>October</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>One Year Ago</u>
General Fund Receipts	\$ 64,357	\$649,220	\$618,729
General Fund Expenses	\$ 57,286	\$623,048	\$579,848
Cash Balances	10/31/23		10/31/22
General Fund	\$211,716		\$163,946
Clearing Accounts	\$ 59,221		\$ 89,351
Property Reserve	\$ 69,113		\$ 58,697

General Fund Summary

Thank you for your faithful gifts in support of our 2023 budget!
Giving at the end of October was at 96.9% 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, November 21, 2023. October Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were approved.

Treasurer: 2023 General Fund pledged giving is making progress (96%), in addition to unpledged giving.

Stewardship: Annual stewardship pledge cards for 2024 are being turned in.

Pastor Jeff: New members will join in December.

Pastor Nate: Three upcoming adult education sessions about Christmas will be held between Sunday services.

Outreach: Good turnout for Chili & Cinnamon Rolls. Garden cleanup on 10/21 & plans to continue next year. BINGO on 12/3. Staff appreciation breakfast on 12/5.

Governance: No meeting

Property: Big projects for the year have been completed. Upcoming potentials are - solar panels, garage camera, thermostat upgrade, Wee Wisdom flooring/renovations, sanctuary lighting.

Old Business: *Staffing Update* - Bookkeeper (~7 hrs/wk) and Office Manager (20 hrs/wk) positions will be posted.

New Business: *2024 Budget* - Currently putting together. Council to vote in December. Annual Meeting on January 28. *EWALU Capital Campaign* - "Cedar at 60" info to be rolled out in January. *Nominating Committee* - Working to fill upcoming open Council positions.

Next Meeting: December 19, 2023

Agenda items should be submitted by 12/11/23. 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)



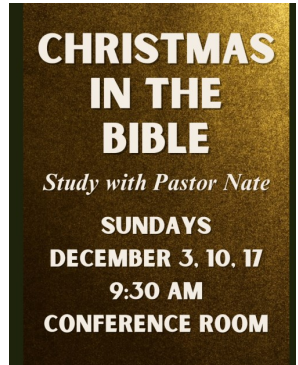
LESSONS +
CAROLS
WORSHIP +
COOKIE POTLUCK
SUNDAY
DECEMBER 31
10 AM



a wondrous
gift
is
given

Christmas Eve at LCR
1:00, 3:00, 4:30,
7:00 and 10:00 pm

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



CHRISTMAS
IN THE
BIBLE

Study with Pastor Nate

SUNDAYS
DECEMBER 3, 10, 17
9:30 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM



GLADSOME
tidings

A Christmas Music Celebration
Sunday, December 10 at 4:30 pm
Lutheran Church of the Resurrection



lcr children's ministry presents

THE MANGER TALES

a christmas program featuring bethlehems four legged friends

december 17th. | 4:30pm
mac and cheese buffet to follow

<https://fb.me/e/4W92d48t6>

CONTACT US!

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, Mu Ruo

