

CROSSTALK

LUTHERAN CHURCH
of the
RESURRECTION

WWW.LCRMARION.ORG

VOLUME 65, ISSUE 2 | FEBRUARY 2024

“... but do not have love, I am nothing.” 1 Corinthians 13.2

LENT IS FOR LOVE...

In Paul’s famous ‘love chapter’ in 1 Corinthians he reminds us that even if we have all kinds of abilities, and worthy characteristics; but if we do not have love, well then, we are nothing. He then suggests that even if we do all the right things, exhibit great generosity and sacrifice our very selves, well you guessed it, if we do not have love than we have gained nothing! (vs. 3) This is a very bold assertion.

No let’s be careful, Paul is not suggesting that the wonderful faith characteristics that we might exhibit, and our generosity are not important; no, he is merely reminding us that the foundation of such good things must always be love. And since scripture also reminds us that “God is love” (1 John 4.8), well then the foundation of what we do is grounded in God.

Now here is where this gets tricky when it comes to a season like Lent. In Lent we are encouraged to take up good works: Fasting, Prayer, Generosity and Helpful Deeds. However, we don’t do such things to somehow earn points or prove ourselves; we do the works of Lent to draw us closer to the ground of being - to God. Fasting is meant to remind us of our creatureliness and our dependence on God. Prayer is to help us focus on God’s presence in our lives. Generosity destroys the false gods that we often erect in place of the Lord Jesus. Good works allow us to claim our being made in the image of God and redeemed by Christ and therefore

to be light even as God is light. Lent then is a time to be anchored in God - and God is love. So, contrary to many who have made Lent a somber season of self-deprecation: Lent is for Love!

We hope you will take the 40 days of Lent (starting on Ash Wednesday - February 14 - through Holy Week) to experience the love of God and how that informs all that we do. A great place to start is with our Wednesday Lenten Worship. The theme this year - you guessed it - will be love! Because without love we are and gain... nothing.

Peace! Pastor Jeff

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Follow Us On Social Media:

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instagram.com/
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 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/181uDRkYnTRyGMmuwl3ZiDQ44ay4>

Lent is for Love – Wednesday Nights in Lent

Our Lenten theme this year is “Love” and we invite you to kick it off on Valentines Day, February 14th, as we gather for worship and the traditional imposition of ashes. Then for the next 5 Wednesdays to gather with us as we ponder what it is to be grounded in love. Soup suppers begin at 5:00 pm (arrive as you can) and we’ll start worship at 6:00 pm.

February 14 -- Ash Wednesday
February 21 -- Story of Ruth and Boaz
February 28 -- Story of Elijah and the widow
March 6 -- Story of Esau forgiving Jacob
March 13 -- Story of Joseph forgiving his brothers
March 20 -- Story of God’s Love for God’s people

Lenten Love Offering - Camp EWALU

This year for our Wednesday Lenten offering we are going to support the “Cedar at 60” campaign at Camp EWALU. Many of us at LCR have benefited from the camp ministry at EWALU - and now we have a opportunity to share the love. EWALU’s Board of Directors has launched the \$2 million “Cedar at 60” campaign to make necessary changes to Cedar Lodge and they have pledged 10% of the goal. EWALU has recently retired all of its long-term debt and so far the Cedar at 60 campaign has surpassed the \$1 million mark. During our soup suppers we will have a big pot for you to place your financial gifts for this project. And rumor has it that Pastor Frank Johnson, Executive Director at EWALU will even be with us to enjoy some soup and greet you all in March.

Our Living Legacy Fund will be matching up to \$600 for the Lenten offering to the ‘Cedar at 60’ campaign.

Ash Wednesday - Morning Prayer and imposition of Ashes

On **Wednesday, February 14th** the Sanctuary will be open for individual prayer and for folks to receive the imposition of Ashes from **7:30 to 8:30 am**. The mark of the ashes remind us of our baptism, that we have been marked with the cross of Christ and become a yearly visible sign of the love we have in Christ. They also remind us of our mortality, that we are creatures grounded in all that God has provided.

Living Legacy Fund will match up to \$600!



MINISTRY

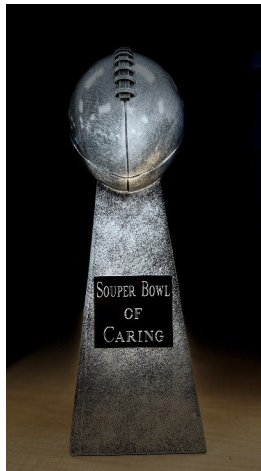


Personal Care Kits

Our annual Personal Care Kit Drive begins on February 14. We will be collecting **bath towels, bars of soap, and toothbrushes** to assemble personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief. These kits help refugees and poverty victims world-wide. Watch for our display and more information on February 14th!

Canned Soup Drive

LCR is again participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring. Last year, our church won the trophy by donating 582 cans of soup! We expect the competition this year to “up” their game! Soup donations will be given to The Churches of Marion Food Pantry. Look for the donation table in the gathering space.



LCR Blood Drive 🩸

Sign up now for your donation appointment time on **Tuesday, February 20th from 2:00 to 6:30 pm**. Contact organizer Bob Wolter at...
hawk4vr@gmail.com / 319-360-6184

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/>

Our November/December mission envelopes totaled \$1,130 to support the ministries of the Catherine McAuley Center in Cedar Rapids.



Time & Talent Sign-Up Party

We have lots of ways to be involved at Lutheran Church of the Resurrection! Come to our Time & Talent Sign-Up Party on **Sunday, February 4 at 9:30 am**, listen to music, eat some snacks, ask questions about the different activities we have available, and sign up!

Soup Sign-up 2024

Would you bring a crockpot of soup to share at our Wednesday Evening Soup Suppers? Just bring your crockpot to church by 5:00 pm and plug it in. You can take your crockpot home at the end of the evening, or pick it up the next day. *Pro Tip: Use a crockpot liner for easier clean up!* We also welcome kid-friendly dishes - mac & cheese, hot dogs, etc. Whatever you decide to donate, please sign up in advance (use link or QR code below). If you know what kind of soup you're going to bring, you can put it in the comments, but surprises are okay, too!

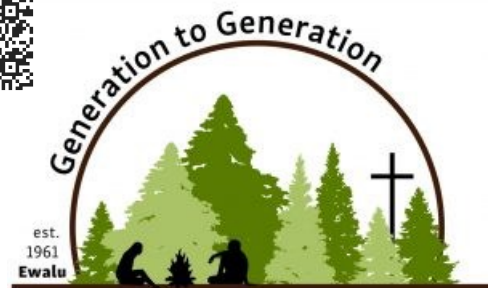
*Note - We are starting our Lenten Simple Soup Suppers at 5:00 pm this year, rather than 5:15.

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

[go/904044CA8AD2EA7FA7-47322016-lcrsoup](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044CA8AD2EA7FA7-47322016-lcrsoup)



Money collected at our soup suppers will go to support the renovation of Cedar Lodge at Camp EWALU



CEDAR at 60

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY @ LCR

Sunday School

FEBRUARY:

- 4 - HOUSE ON THE ROCK UNIT
- 11 - HOUSE ON THE ROCK UNIT
- 18 - HOUSE ON THE ROCK UNIT
- 25 - HOUSE ON THE ROCK UNIT

MARCH:

- 3 - EASTER UNIT
- 10 - NO SS, SPRING BREAK
- 17 - EASTER UNIT
- 24 - EASTER UNIT
- 31 - NO SS, EASTER SUNDAY

FEBRUARY:

- VALENTINES PARTY - 7
- NO WNL, ASH WEDNESDAY - 14
- REGULAR WNL - 21
- REGULAR WNL - 28

MARCH:

- REGULAR WNL - 6
- NO WNL - SPRING BREAK - 13
- REGULAR WNL - 20
- NO WNL - HOLY WEEK - 27

Wednesday Night

Coming up next:

The season of Lent begins in February. During Lent, on Wednesday nights, children and families are invited to join us for a soup dinner before worship! We will begin serving at 5:00 and will have soup hot until 6:00. After dinner, we will be holding WNL in the education wing during our regular WNL time from 6:00 to 7:00. There will not be WNL on February 14th (Ash Wednesday) or on March 13th (Spring Break).

First Communion

It is time to start thinking about First Communion! If you have a 4th grader, be sure to let Jessi know you are interested in First Communion so that we have you on our distribution list for details about the class. If you have an older student that hasn't done a formal "first" communion, we would love to have them join the experience too, just let Jessi know!

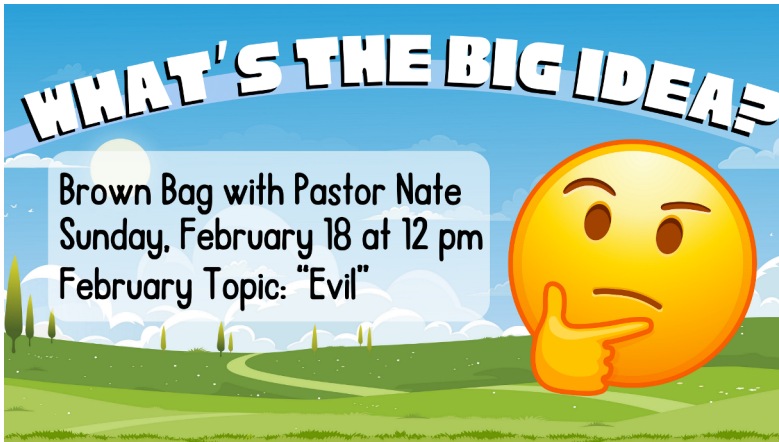
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Our Sunday School students kicked off 2024 with a cozy pajama & popcorn party - we talked about how Jesus keeps us in his heart, and we keep him in ours!

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

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP



Brown Bag Study

Join Pastor Nate on **Sunday, February 18th at noon** as we explore some big ideas! Bring your lunch to the fellowship hall - we will provide the coffee. This session's topic is "Evil."

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

Our regular adult bible study meets on **Sunday mornings at 9:40 am** (conference room). Our current study is 1st and 2nd 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.

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) - "Making Sense of the Bible" by Adam Hamilton

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, February 9th and 23rd**. Light refreshments are offered and topics will be announced in advance. Contact Tom with questions: lillevig@outlook.com

FELLOWSHIP

P.E.P. 55+ Group - Team Clue

We plan to gather for PEP fun again on **Sunday, February 18th at 3:00 pm**. Back by popular demand - "Team Clue." Gather some clues, solve some mysteries, eat some snacks. It's going to be a blast, so invite your friends, too!



Book Club

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday, February 13th at 6:30 pm**. Our book this month is "What She Left Behind" by Ellen Marie Wiseman, a haunting story about the lengths we will go to protect those who need us most. Contact Mary to get on our email list; new people are very welcome! jonmaryhajek@gmail.com

We'll also discuss "Pachinko," our January book.

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: ebeck@imonmail.com

Cribbage

Cribbage players will meet this month on **Friday, February 9th and 23rd at 1:15 pm**. We can teach you if you've never played before. Non-members are always very welcome.

Train Dominoes

We'll meet in the fellowship hall on **Friday, February 2nd & 16th at 1:00 pm**. If you've never played Train Dominoes before, this is the time to learn!

If the weather looks iffy, call Tom Peterman before you drive to the church: 319-480-9883



Simple Soup Suppers - LLF match to \$600!

Join us on **Wednesdays at 5:00 pm**, beginning **February 14th**, for our Simple Soup Suppers! Donations collected during the soup suppers will be a love offering for Camp EWALU's "Cedar at 60" Campaign.



"Half-Time" at LCR

Join in the football fun here at LCR! Bring your favorite game-day snack for a tail-gate potluck on **Sunday, February 11** during our own half-time, between worship services at **9:30 am**. Wear your favorite team gear! Help us defend our 'Souper Bowl of Caring' trophy by bringing cans of soup for the Churches of Marion Food Pantry. *Go Team LCR!*

Candy Bar BINGO!

Come to the church on **Sunday, February 4th** 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/xyaXVoueI>

Walking Group

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

CONFIRMATION

Hello Friends!!

Here is our schedule for February:

Feb. 7th, 21st, and 28th - regular classes

Feb. 14 - No Confirmation, Ash Wednesday...

During the season of Lent we are asking our kids to come to the Wednesday night worship services. We will be covering aspects of worship in our Confirmation class and regular attendance on Sunday or Wednesday would be extremely helpful.

Looking ahead

Our plan is to have our Confirmation service on **Sunday, May 19th at the 8:30 service**. We'll have more details - and we'll ask for volunteers to plan the reception - in a few weeks.

Other dates to note:

March 13th - No Confirmation, Spring Break

March 27th - No Confirmation, Holy Week

May 8th - final class

Peace to you all,
Pr. Nate

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



Come join us **each Wednesday night from 7:30-9:00 pm!** Food, fun, and fellowship with 8th-12th grade students from any school or church. Contact Katie with any questions - katie@lcrmarion.org

A blue rectangular graphic with white and yellow text. The main text reads "ATTENTION GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS!". Below this, smaller text says "Applications for the Biderman Scholarship, offered by the LCR Living Legacy Fund, are now available! Find out more at LCRMarion.org." To the right of the text is an illustration of a stack of books with a graduation cap on top and a gold coin with a dollar sign. A white speech bubble with a red outline contains the text "deadline MARCH 20".

Biderman Scholarship Applications

The Lutheran Church of the Resurrection Living Legacy Committee announces scholarships for graduating high school seniors enrolled at an accredited college, university, or vocational/technical school. The committee will award scholarships based upon qualified applicants, number of applications, and funds available. Applications and instructions are now available online and will be due by March 20th.

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

Questions should be directed to the Living Legacy Fund at trustfund@LCRMarion.org or contact the church office.

FELLOWSHIP

Wood Carvers

continued...

... are on hiatus during January and February. They will resume meeting at the church on **Thursday, March 7th at 6:30 pm**. Contact Jerry Schierholz if you have any questions about the group: 319-270-3380.

Knitting & Crochet Group

Group members are working from our homes during this chilly winter. We are making scarves, mittens, and hats for youngsters in the foster care system. Contact Pam if have items to drop off or if you need yarn (we have tons!). We also have needles and crochet hooks, in all different sizes. We'll resume meeting at the church on **Thursday, March 7th at 6:30 pm**. Contact Pam at 319-360-5165 or pamkacena@yahoo.com.

A graphic celebrating Evelyn Beck's retirement. It features a central portrait of Evelyn, a woman with short blonde hair and glasses, wearing a dark blue sweater over a white collared shirt. The text "CELEBRATE EVELYN!!" is written in bold, black, sans-serif font above the portrait. To the right of the portrait, a paragraph of text reads: "After 15 years of serving on our LCR staff as both Office Manager and Treasurer, Evelyn Beck is going to retire. But don't worry, Evelyn loves her church family here at LCR and she and Les will continue to be a vital part of our ministry! We invite you to help us give thanks and celebrate Evelyn. More information to come, but right now mark your calendars for **SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2024** in between worship services." The entire graphic is framed by a border of small red hearts.

PRAYERS

Prayers
are
requested
for...



Those hospitalized in December:

Gene Henry, Andy Carter, Ryan Corrigan

Those experiencing illness or surgery:

(LCR members) Diane Gass, Joan Dutton, Dean Fick, Pam Miller, Arlene Lang, Mike Rosz, Eloise Heppler, Harry Walton, Gary Young, Linda Erlandson, Harriet Van Gilder

(family and friends) Nick Rexroat, Louis Williams, Suzanne Campbell, Austen Brown

Those living in care facilities:

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

Those in military service:

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

Those who mourn:

- Marjorie Dryden, Mike Dryden, and family on the death of Everett Dryden
- Families and friends of Dave Bruce and Henry Dawson

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.

Wee Wisdom Preschool

Our students have been creating art!

Keep bringing in those Hy-Vee receipts for us. In the fall we earned \$160 to purchase new science books. Thank you for all your wonderful support!



Save the Date!

STEWARDSHIP

Treasurer's Report for December 2023

	<u>December</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>One Year Ago</u>
General Fund Receipts	\$97,199	\$806,378	\$760,043
General Fund Expenses	\$62,325	\$741,495	\$700,927
Cash Balances	12/31/24		12/31/23
General Fund	\$252,547		\$187,626
Clearing Accounts	\$ 69,748		\$ 93,184
Property Reserve	\$ 70,780		\$ 60,780

General Fund Summary

Thank you for your faithful gifts in support of our 2023 budget!
Giving at the end of December was at 98.4% 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

The Council met on Tuesday, January 16, 2024. December Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were approved.

Treasurer: General Fund pledged giving in December was 98.4%. Net income for the month was \$34,874.32. CDs for the year 2023 generated about \$7,000.

Stewardship: Presentation is set for the Budget Forum one week prior to our Annual Meeting on January 28th.

Pastor Jeff: Strong Advent/Christmas season. In-person attendance on Christmas Eve was 865; online Christmas Eve was 390. Theme for Lent (starting 2/14) is "Lent Is For Love." Soup suppers will be held, with money going to Camp EWALU.

Pastor Nate: Christmas showed LCR as an awesome community of people.

Property: No meeting due to weather, email exchange instead. *Upcoming projects* - hand dryers in Wee Wisdom, thermostat replacement, van maintenance.

Governance: No meeting

Outreach: 48 people at January BINGO. Arranging snacks for Annual Meeting. Food planned for between services on Super Bowl Sunday to celebrate canned soup drive .

Old Business: *Staffing Update* - New Bookkeeper started training Jan. 15th. Hiring Office Manager soon. *Nominating Committee*: Members who have agreed to serve on Council: Erin Gochenouer, Sally Immerfall, Sara Provolt, Steve Coffin.

New Business: *2024 Council Retreat* will be on Saturday, February 10th from 8:30-12:00 at LCR. *New Signatory Needed* - Will join Bethany Mast, Julie Gilmore, and Stephanie Meier. TBD at council retreat.

Next Meeting: February 20, 2024

Agenda items should be submitted by 2/12/24.

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

Please reach out with questions or concerns.

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

(address service requested)

WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

Brown Bag with Pastor Nate
Sunday, February 18 at 12 pm
February Topic: "Evil"



**TIME & TALENT
SIGN-UP
PARTY!**

GET INVOLVED AT LCR!
Sunday, February 4; 9:30 - 10:30 am - Fellowship Hall

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

**SIMPLE
SOUP
SUPPERS**

Wednesdays during Lent @ 5:00 pm
All Are Welcome!



LENT
is for
LOVE
LCR 2024

**SOUPER BOWL
OF CARING**

Soup is donated
to the
Churches of Marion
Food Pantry




BRING CANS OF SOUP BETWEEN NOW AND FEB 11!

P.E.P. 55+
*People
Enjoying People!*

**Sunday,
February 18
at 3 pm**

CLUE! EVENT



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



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