

CROSSTALK

LUTHERAN CHURCH
of the
RESURRECTION

WWW.LCRMARION.ORG

VOLUME 66, ISSUE 1 | JANUARY 2025

If you long to see God, go to the places God promises to be, and you will find what you are looking for.

As the world moves on from the Christmas celebration we are invited by scripture to continue our search for God With Us in our daily life. We know that the "Christmas Spirit" is an ever present reality for those with "eyes to see." The Spirit of Christmas is actually the Spirit of Discipleship and we can inhabit that spiritual space every moment of our lives.

We are reminded in Matthew 25 that God remains with us in the hungry, the vulnerable, the exposed, the sick, the imprisoned, and the stranger. We read the words, "Whenever you did it to the least of these, you did it to me..." and we are reminded of the joy that comes from the selflessness of the Christmas season. We are reminded of the joy that comes from attending to the needs of others. In our own imperfect ways we have been seeking ways of making people feel noticed, cherished, and loved.

We have fed the hungry and clothed the naked. We have given drink to the thirsty, visited the sick and imprisoned, and we have welcomed the stranger. We have done this as individuals and we have done this ministry as a faith community - and it has been wonderful!

We can continue the joy we have participated in this Christmas season by continuing that work and that discipleship every day of our lives. I can promise you that opportunities to serve and to love God's beautiful world will continue as the rest of the world goes about its business now that the season of giving has come to an end.

If you continue to search for the presence of God in your life I would recommend that you remain in the Christmas spirit even after the season passes. Join your brothers and sisters in Christ as we continue to love our neighbors by meeting their daily needs through our social ministry and outreach programs. We proclaim the birth of Christ at Christmas, and we adore the promise that God is with us. Let us find God in the places God has always promised to be, and let us live as he lived. - *Pastor Nate*

Love's Pure Light...

From our Stewardship campaign of "Let all that you do, be done in love" to our Advent theme of "Love's pure light" we hope you have seen the love of Christ at work here at LCR. We enter this new year grateful for all that you do to support our ministry and help us to share the love of Jesus here and around the world. God bless you and, Happy New Year! - *Pastor Jeff*



(photo credit: Savannah Blake/The Gazette)

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X x.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(at)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>

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025 - 18 January to 25 January 2025

This year marks the 1,700th anniversary of the first Christian Ecumenical Council, held in Nicaea, near Constantinople in 325 AD. The Nicene Creed was formulated during this Council and declares a shared faith that unites most Christians in the world. 1,700 years ago, Christians struggled with questions of belief, confusion and difficulty about God, Christ and the world and out of these struggles they were able to proclaim together their shared faith. And so today, while we may live out our faith in different ways, *we pray for all Christian churches around the world, for their welfare and protection. Why not set apart a time during this week of Christian unity to give thanks for the many churches and the gifts they bring.*

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 26th**, beginning at 9:30 am promptly in the sanctuary. A forum to introduce the 2025 budget will be held in between services on Sunday, **January 19th** 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. If you find your name is not on the official list, please confirm the above and contact the church office if there is an error.

LCR Portraits - Help us update our church directory, AND receive FREE digital copies of your photos!

Help us update our church directory!

100% FREE!



In an effort to get to know each other better, LCR would like to have updated photos for a new church directory. We are providing you the opportunity to have your portrait taken by Cari, our communications person, in the LCR library, using a professional-style portrait backdrop and lighting.



We are having a number of photo sessions after worship services on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. There is **NO CHARGE** for these photo sessions, and you will receive **FREE** digital copies of your portraits to use as you wish. Email Communications@LCRMarion.org with any questions.

MINISTRY

New Years Resolutions

Here comes a brand new year,
Lots of new things to explore.
A clean slate to write on,
Fun Happenings galore.
To you we wish the best of things,
All the blessings a new year brings.
You'll never get bored
when you try something new.
There's really no limit to what you can do!

As you make your new year's resolutions, we ask you use the new **2025 Time & Talent catalog** as a guide. It will be available beginning **January 5th**. Don't ever question the value of volunteers - Noah's Ark was built by volunteers; the Titanic was built by professionals. - *Marcia Edwards, LCR Volunteer Coordinator*

Holiday Gift Giving Project

Tom and I, along with Scott & Sally Immerfall, had the privilege of helping deliver the gifts for LCR's 12 families. We were greeted by words of thankfulness, hugs, and tears of gratefulness for the generosity of providing a Christmas for them and their children. Because these families have no way of expressing their thankfulness directly, I am sharing it for them. Thank you to each of you for the willingness to look for ways to love our neighbors, for your talents to help make this happen, and for your generosity in providing for others. We feel blessed to be part of the LCR family. - *Tom & Diana Zrudsky*



Diana & Evelyn get it all organized!



Advent Giving

Thank you for all your simple Advent gifts to help local people in need! **We are continuing to gather donations through Epiphany - Sunday, January 5.**

- Dish soap, laundry soap, all-purpose cleaners (Lysol, etc.); for Willis Dady Homeless Shelters.
- Rice and/or mac n' cheese; for The Churches of Marion Food Pantry.
- Peanut butter and jelly; for The Churches of Marion Food Pantry.
- Hats, gloves, blankets, hand/foot warmers; for Willis Dady Homeless Shelters.



Jan & Feb Mission Envelopes

...will go to F.L.Y. (Feeding Lunches to Youth), a local ministry that provides 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/>

'Souper Bowl of Caring'

January 12 - February 9; benefits Marion Food Pantry.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY @ LCR

Sunday School

JANUARY:

5 - NO SS - WINTER BREAK

12 - SS - MOVIE LESSON

19 - SS - MOVIE LESSON

26 - NO SS - ANNUAL MEETING

Wed. Night Live

JANUARY:

GAME NIGHT - 8

REGULAR WNL - 15

SERVICE PROJECT - 22

SERVICE PROJECT - 29

WNL is back on
Jan. 8th, SS is back
on Jan. 12th!



To wrap up 2024, our Sunday School students did a fantastic job in the Christmas program, and our WNL kids had a fun evening playing bingo at their Christmas party!



Questions? Reach out to Jessi via email [childrens\(at\)lcrmarion.org](mailto:childrens(at)lcrmarion.org) or by calling the church office.

Join us for student open art studio!

We have lots of great art supplies in the Red Room – leftover projects from Sunday School units, VBS crafts and other various creative endeavors over the last few years. **Bring the family and come make a mess!** You can use supplies we have and come up with your own project, or work on something from home if you have something you're already excited about! **** Students going into 3rd grade and younger need to be accompanied by an adult.**

OPEN ART STUDIO

Tuesday January 28
6:00 - 7:30 pm

FOR STUDENTS!!!

Third grade students and younger should be accompanied by an adult

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

Acts of the Apostles Bible Study

We are studying this unique book of the New Testament on **Sunday mornings at 9:40 am**. We began with the Ascension of Jesus and will end with Paul's final visit to Rome. The Acts of the Apostles gives us an early glimpse into the life, struggles, and foundations of the earliest followers of Jesus. It is meant to be more than just an historical record, but a witness to how it is the church must always be open to the work and teachings of the Holy Spirit. *Meets in 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

Rebecca Mary Martha Circle - women's group; **first Wednesday each month at 1:00 pm**; meets at the church

Email Harriet: [keyboreder1\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:keyboreder1@gmail.com) - *no meeting on Jan. 1st; resumes February 5th*

JAM Study Group - women's group; **second Monday each month at 1:00 pm**; meets at the church

Email Linda: [lhayward495\(at\)yahoo.com](mailto:lhayward495@yahoo.com) - *New study! See below...*

Donna Dennis - mixed group; **2nd & 4th Thursdays at 6:30 pm**; meets at the church

Email Donna: [donnakdennis88\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:donnakdennis88@gmail.com)

Dan Tegtmeier - mixed group; **first Monday evening of the month**; meets at group members' homes;

Email Dan: [dtegtmeier\(at\)iowanorthern.com](mailto:dtegtmeier@iowanorthern.com)

Mary Kay Pinckney - women's group; **one Sunday evening each month**; meets at leader's CR home;

Email Mary Kay: [mkpink6\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:mkpink6@gmail.com)

Gatherings @ LCR

LCR 'Gatherings' is a place and time to hear and share stories, and connect with others in our community. It is a place where you can feel safe to say what you really think or feel without being judged or rejected.

Gatherings meets on **2nd & 4th Fridays from noon to 1:00 pm**.

Everyone is welcome and light refreshments are offered.

Our topics in January will be... ..

Friday the 10th: New Year's Traditions Around the World

- presented by Mary Jo Carlson

Friday the 24th: What are Godwinks?

Have you ever experienced a Godwink?

- presented by Char Weuve

Come and join the conversations!

You can contact Mary with any questions: [jonmaryhajek\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:jonmaryhajek@gmail.com)

Pastor Jeff's One-Minute Devotionals

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

JAM New Study for 2025

We have chosen: A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23 by W. Phillip Keller.

This study will be led by Michelle Haas. She has asked Pastor Jeff to give the group an introduction to the 23rd Psalm on **Monday, January 13th at 1:00 pm** in the conference room.



FELLOWSHIP

LCR Scrapbookers

Bring your photos, albums, and tools and join us for a day of creative fun on **Saturday, January 11th from 9 am - 5 pm**. We will share a potluck luncheon of soups and sandwiches. If your creativity extends to card-making or sewing, we invite you too! Email Donna if you have questions - [donnakdennis88\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:donnakdennis88@gmail.com).



Book Club

We'll get together on **Tuesday, December 10th at 6:30 pm**. Our book this month is "Mad Honey" by Jodi Picoult.

Olivia McAfee knows what it feels like to start over. Lily Campanella is familiar with do-overs. And for a short while, these new beginnings are exactly what Olivia and Lily need. Mad Honey is a novel of suspense and an exploration of secrets and risks.

Contact Mary to get on our email list; new people are very welcome - [jonmaryhajek\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:jonmaryhajek@gmail.com)

Game Day Friday @ LCR

Train Dominoes - 1st & 3rd Fridays at 1:00 pm

Cribbage - 2nd & 4th Fridays at 1:15 pm

We can teach you if you've never played before. Non-members are always welcome.

Candy Bar Bingo

Everybody welcome - **Sunday, January 5th from 1:00 to 2:00 pm**. Invite friends! *This is a free event.*

Walking Group

We walk **each Thursday at 10:00 am** at Lindale Mall. Make sure to get on our email list so you'll know where to meet us! [volunteerLCR\(at\)lcrmarion.org](mailto:volunteerLCR(at)lcrmarion.org)

Wood Carvers & Knitters

These two groups are now on hiatus for the winter. They will resume meeting at the church on Thursday evenings in **March of 2025**.

PEP 55+ January Speaker

PEP 55+ will host a speaker from the Heritage Area Agency on Aging, who will share their knowledge of local resources that can improve quality of life for older adults, family caregivers, and adults with disabilities in our community. Join us on **Sunday, January 19th at 3:30 pm** in the fellowship hall. Light refreshments will be offered and there will be time for questions.



Painting Group

Love to paint? Want to learn? Join us on the **1st & 3rd Tuesdays 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\(at\)jimonmail.com](mailto:ebeck(at)jimonmail.com)

EWALU Free Winter Family Fun Day

Families of all shapes and sizes are invited to Camp Ewalu for a Winter Fun Day from **1 to 4 pm on Saturday, January 18**. This FREE event will have lots of outdoor winter fun, plus indoor activities like arts and crafts, a hot chocolate bar, and more! There will be sledding and snowshoeing if weather permits (bring your own sleds and snowshoes). Explore God's creation and the wonder of winter just 3 miles west of Strawberry Point. Please RSVP by contacting the camp office at 563-933-4700 or [office\(at\)ewalu.org](mailto:office(at)ewalu.org).



CONFIRMATION

Our Confirmation classes meet on Wednesday evenings from 7:15-8:00 pm in the fellowship hall.

SUNDAY YOUTH GATHERING for MIDDLE SCHOOLERS

9:40-10:25 am in the fellowship hall (6th - 8th grade)



Feel free to call or text Pastor Nate: 563.320.3995

WEE WISDOM

December is always a magical month with preschoolers. Our 'pretend center' was turned into a Santa's Workshop and a Hot Cocoa Café! We learned some new songs for our sing-alongs, and Miss Jessi let us participate in the children's Christmas program here at the church. It's so exciting to celebrate Christmas with our Wee Wisdom kids and families!

Please remember to save your Hy-Vee receipts so we can turn them in and earn money for Wee Wisdom Preschool! For every \$200 you spend at Hy-Vee for groceries, meds, gas, etc, we receive \$1 back.

It actually adds up really fast!

In addition to the collection bin by our classroom, there is a black container for receipts in the gathering space, outside the church office. Thank you for helping our ministry in this simple way.

Scan this QR code >> to check out our Amazon Wish List



EDGE YOUTH

EDGE Youth meet on Wednesday nights from 7:30-9:00 pm in the YAC. (9th - 12th grade)

Wow! LCR truly has a knack for making someone feel welcomed and appreciated. My first few weeks here have been filled with warmth, joy, and an abundance of delightful goodies. I am so gracious for the opportunity to continue to learn about and participate in the many vibrant ministries of this loving congregation in this coming year. This past month, the high school youth group took time to reflect on the Season of Advent and wrapped up the year with a joyful Christmas Party. As we look ahead to 2025, I'm excited to continue to build upon the traditions established at EDGE: a ministry dedicated to empowering older teens to grow in their faith and cherish the love of the community which surrounds them.



If we haven't had the chance to meet yet, I'm Hannah. You can certainly find me at church every Wednesday and on most Sundays this coming year. I live in Cedar Rapids with my husband, Levi, and our two children, Zeke (15) and Arwen (4). I grew up on a farm near Strawberry Point, Iowa and later studied at Iowa State. In my free time, I enjoy collecting coins, tending to our beehives, playing musical instruments, cooking, visiting my family, and exploring Creation with my canine companions.

This Epiphany may we all revel in the promise of Jesus and follow His example as a guiding light in our daily lives. - Hannah | youth@lcrmarion.org

EDGE Youth meet on Wednesday nights in the YAC. Fellowship begins around 7:00 pm and programming is from 7:30-9:00 pm. Refreshments are provided.



PRAYERS

Those hospitalized recently:

Bernadean Spilde, Ryan Corrigan

Those experiencing illness or surgery:

(LCR members) Mary Possehl, Everett Lehrman, Phyllis Gordon, Gary Young, Eloise Heppler, Deanna Harding, Gene Henry

(family and friends) Arvis Hahn, Bob Cronbaugh, Kimberly Richardson

Those living in care facilities:

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

Those who mourn:

David Meyer and family on the death of his mother, June Meyer

Those in military service:

Todd Kopperud, Wyatt Ochs, Taylor Johnson

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.

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.



< Some of our wonderful
Mission of Hope
Lunch Team

Christmas Eve just gets
more meaningful
each year >



STEWARDSHIP

Are you age 70.5+?

Do you have a pretax retirement account?

Give and Save: You can minimize taxes by making qualified charitable distributions (QDCs) – tax-free donations directly from a traditional IRA. In 2024, people 70 ½ or older can donate as much as \$105,000; if you are 73 or older, the amount can help satisfy RMDs. “Since most people no longer itemize and get deductions for donations, a QDC can be a better tax move for seeking to give to charity,” says Andrew Sloan, a financial planner from Louisville KY.”
- AARP Bulletin, May 2024

For more information about QDCs and making charitable contributions to the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, and other charities, request the flyer “Charitable Giving Through your IRA – QDC” flyer from the church office, contact a member of the “Living Legacy Fund,” or download it from the LCR website.

LIVING LEGACY
FUND
CHARITABLE GIVING
THROUGH YOUR
IRA - QDC



STEWARDSHIP

Treasurer's Report for November 2024

	<u>November</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>One Year Ago</u>
General Fund Receipts	\$ 54,094	\$780,800	\$709,179
General Fund Expenses	\$ 56,689	\$719,480	\$679,170
Cash Balances	11/30/24		11/30/23
General Fund	\$309,327		\$214,004
Clearing Accounts	\$ 99,421		\$ 70,374
Property Reserve	\$ 79,947		\$ 69,947

Thank you for your faithful gifts in support of our 2024 budget.

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.

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

Stay Alert!

We urge you to stay vigilant for potential scam messages in your email or on your phone as text messages. Please remember that no LCR staff member will reach out to you for help with an 'urgent request' to purchase gift cards, or ask you for sensitive information over text or email. Please call the church office if you receive a suspicious message.



CHURCH COUNCIL

Please reach out with questions or concerns.

The Council met on Tuesday, December 17, 2024. November Secretary and Treasurer reports were approved.

Treasurer: Running ahead year-to-date despite deficit in November. 2025 Budget has been finalized.

Pastor Jeff:

Christmas Preparations: Going well.

Sunday after Christmas will be one service only with cookie exchange.

Digital Directory: Over 100 families have had pictures taken. Council will discuss appropriate digital access and security.

Pastor Nate: Youth director transition going smoothly.

Outreach: No bingo in December, next bingo January 5.

Property: Researching solar energy options.

Social Concerns: 12 families blessed by Holiday Giving Project. 'Souper Bowl of Caring' will start in January and wrap up in February.

Old Business:

Budget: Council voted to accept the 2025 proposed budget and 2025 Wee Wisdom proposed budget.

Staffing Update: New janitor has started; only open position is contemporary worship lead. *Stewardship Campaign:* Complete.

New Business: *Annual Reports:* Due to Emily by Jan. 6th

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Agenda items should be submitted by 1/13/25.

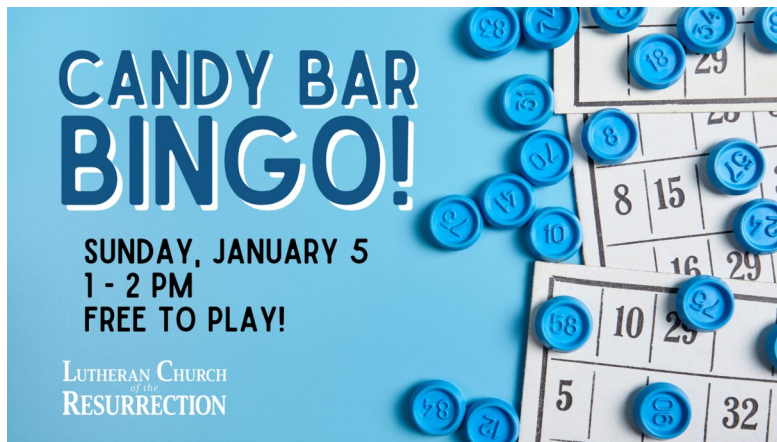
Copies of council minutes and treasurers' reports are available in the church office binder.

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