

# CROSSTALK

LUTHERAN CHURCH  
*of the*  
RESURRECTION

WWW.LCRMARION.ORG

VOLUME 66, ISSUE 2 | FEBRUARY 2025

## It's complicated ...

*"God gave Solomon very great wisdom, discernment, and breadth of understanding as vast as the sand on the seashore. . . 1 Kings 4.29*

Ever since Sunday School I have heard about the "wisdom of Solomon." In fact, the passage above and Solomon's asking for wisdom to rule is a standard assumption of his goodness. However, in just 7 chapters we hear the following, "So Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and did not completely follow the Lord, as his father David had done." 1 Kings 11.6. So which is it? Was he gifted with wisdom and great understanding from God, or was he an overly cruel monarch and fickle opportunist? Well, the answer is probably, yes! Or as I like to say when confronted with the paradoxes of life and individuals - it's complicated.

It speaks to one of the truths of the Lutheran Reformation - we are both sinner and saint. We are saved, redeemed and washed in the blood of the lamb and we are hopelessly in the words of one popular cultures assessment, "we're fickle, stupid beings with poor memories and a great gift for self-destruction." (The Hunger Games, Plutarch's letter to Katniss).

And while salvation is completely the gift of God given by grace through the faith of Jesus Christ (Amen!); we are called as disciples of Jesus to daily 'drown the old Adam/Eve within us.' That is, we are called to fight against the sinful self, not in self-loathing, but in confident defiance that the Holy Spirit is at work in us. In the Small Catechism, Martin Luther writes in regard to the significance of our baptism: "the old person in us with all sins and evil desires is to be drowned and die through daily sorrow for sin and through repentance, and on the other hand that daily a new person is to come forth and rise up to live before God in righteousness and purity forever."

In other words, we are called daily to repent of the fear and sinfulness that separates us from God and neighbor; and be reborn as a new person to live and reflect God's righteousness and mercy. None of us are perfect, this is true. Nevertheless, God is always at work to help us grow in holiness. Let us be open to where God might be at work to help us better reflect his light and love in the world.

Peace! Pastor Jeff

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https://tinyurl.com/  
LCRYoutube

 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>

## **Ash Wednesday and Lenten Midweek Services - begin March 5th**

Our 2025 Lenten worship will take us to the Holy Land as we look at the “man from Galilee.” Starting with a traditional Ash Wednesday service, the following Wednesdays will take us to the Sea of Galilee where Jesus spent much of his time with his disciples. Our special Lenten offering will be dedicated to Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem. AVH is celebrating 75 years of being tasked by the UN to help provide health care and necessary medical services to refugees and displaced people. The recent war in Gaza has prevented lifesaving oncology services to children, dialysis, and women’s health programs from being able to function. AVH is owned by and a ministry of the Lutheran World Federation and is in great need as they begin to help those under their care. *The Living Legacy group is once again spearheading our efforts with \$2,500 matching funds.* More information about this and the Soup Suppers to follow!



A boat on the sea of Galilee near the place of the Sermon on the Mount and Capernaum

## **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](mailto:Communications@LCRMarion.org) with any questions.

# MINISTRY



## 'Souper' Bowl of Caring Soup Drive

This year, we are competing to beat our total cans of soup from last year: 2,311! Bring your cans of soup through Souper Bowl Sunday on **February 9th**. If you would like to give monetarily rather than bring cans of soup, \$1 will equal 1 can of soup. All soup and donations will go to The Churches of Marion Food Pantry.

*FUN FACT - during a typical week at the food pantry, around 200 cans of soup are distributed.*

## California Wild Fire Response

Thank you for your gifts of **\$2,392** (as of 1/28). In early January, multiple wildfires broke out across Los Angeles County in California, with over 100,000 people under evacuation orders. Sparked by dry conditions and strong winds, these fires have destroyed homes and businesses and have led to injuries and loss of life. Our gifts have been sent to Lutheran Disaster Response, which will continue to work with the Southwest California Synod and Pacifica Synod of the ELCA, to support the families and communities that will be rebuilding their lives. These funds will be used to help with immediate needs amid the destruction, as well as to assist with recovery efforts for months and years to come.



## Personal Care Kit Drive

Between **February 16th** and **March 31st**, we will be collecting bath towels and bar soap to assemble personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief. There will be a display in the gathering space with more information. These kits help refugees and poverty victims throughout the world. Recently, LWR care kits were distributed to victims of the California wildfires.

You can also donate [monetarily online](#) or by cash or check. Please mark donations 'Personal Care Kits'

Donation Specifications:

**Towels** - Bath size only (between 20 x 40 inches and 27 x 52 inches) and dark colors preferred. Please - no hand towels!

**Soap** - 3 or 4 ounce bars, any brand

Thanks to a generous donation, we have plenty of toothbrushes. Clippers and combs will be purchased with monetary donations. Thanks for all your help!

<https://lwr.org/kits/personal-care-kits>

## Blood Drive - Marion Lutheran Churches

Pick an appointment time on **Thursday, February 20th** between **2:00 and 6:30 pm** and share your life-giving blood with someone in our community. Call Bob to pick your time (319-360-6184), or go online -

[https://login.bloodcenter.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/131556](https://login.bloodcenter.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/131556)

## Jan & Feb Mission Envelopes

...are going to F.L.Y. (Feeding Lunches to Youth), a local ministry that provides sack lunches to kids who might otherwise not have a decent meal when school is not in session. Find out more at -

<https://marionmethodist.org/fly/>

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY @ LCR

## Sunday School

FEBRUARY:

2 - FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT UNIT

9 - FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT UNIT

16 - FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT UNIT

23 - FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT UNIT

## Wed. Night Live

FEBRUARY:

REGULAR WNL- 5

**VALENTINES PARTY - 12**

REGULAR WNL- 19

REGULAR WNL- 26



January is always a fun “mini unit” for Sunday School, and this year we had two movie lessons. 1st-5th kids got to watch part of Spy Kids and Air Bud for their devotion, and Pre K+K kids got to watch a few bible stories about Jesus. For one of our movies we had popcorn and pajama day!

## WORSHIP BAG HELP!

For those who indicated on their Time and Talent an interest in helping keep our worship bags tidy and functional, we will be having a brief meeting to show everyone the materials and procedures on **February 16th at 11:45**, for about 30 minutes.

**Jessi - [childrens\(at\)lcrmarion.org](mailto:childrens(at)lcrmarion.org)**

# OPEN ART STUDIO

Tuesday, February 25  
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

## FOR STUDENTS!!!

Third grade students and younger should be accompanied by an adult

## Attention Middle School Students!

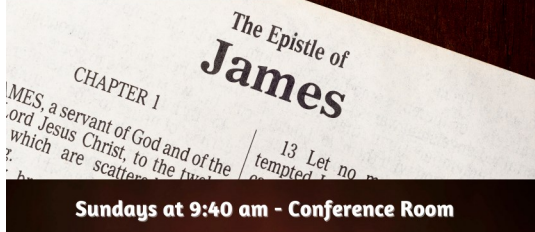
6th through 8th grade students will begin with monthly fellowship opportunities starting in February! Our first event will be a Pizza Party on

**February 9th @ 11:45 - 1:30**

We will be ordering pizza and playing hide and seek, with the whole church to ourselves!

# ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

## BOOK OF JAMES BIBLE STUDY

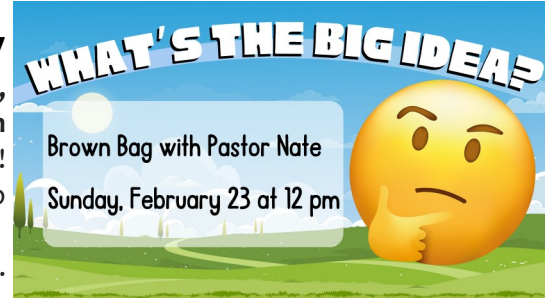


## Adult Bible Study

Our regular adult bible study meets weekly on **Sunday mornings at 9:40 am** in the conference room.

## Brown Bag Study

Join Pastor Nate on **Sunday, February 23rd at 12:00 noon** as we explore some big ideas! Bring your lunch to the fellowship hall - we'll provide the coffee. Topic to be announced.



## 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

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

Email Linda: lhayward495(at)yahoo.com | "A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23"

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

Email Donna: donnakdennis88(at)gmail.com

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

Email Dan: dtegtmeier(at)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

## 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 February will be...

**Friday the 14th:** Let's find out where the Valentines Day tradition started. Come learn some fun facts and reminisce about this romantic holiday. - presented by Mary Hajek

**Friday the 28th:** De-Stress Your Mess!

Come learn about organizing. - presented by Mary Jo Carlson  
Join the conversations!

You can contact Mary with any questions:  
jonmaryhajek(at)gmail.com

## Pastor Jeff's One-Minute Devotionals

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



## Valentine's Day: Origins and History Presentation and Fellowship

Friday, February 14

12:00 - 1:00 pm

Join us for a time

of casual

conversation.

Snacks provided.

**FREE!**

Gatherings is a place where  
you're welcome just as you are.



An hour of topical discussion  
and fellowship  
2nd and 4th Fridays at 12 pm

LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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# FELLOWSHIP

## LCR's 'Souper' Bowl Halftime

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, February 9th from 9:30-10:30 am**. We'll be celebrating our "Souper Bowl of Caring" soup drive and the **BIG GAME!** Wear your favorite team gear and bring game-day snacks for LCR's halftime tailgate. Also, **don't forget to bring your cans of SOUP** to donate to the Marion Food Pantry.

## Book Club

We'll get together on **Tuesday, February 11th at 6:30 pm**. Our book this month is "Yellowface" by R. F. Kuang: best-selling writer Juniper Song is not who she says she is, she didn't write the book that she claims she wrote, and she is most certainly not Asian American! Contact Mary to get on our email list; new people are very welcome - [jonmaryhajek\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:jonmaryhajek(at)gmail.com)

## Candy Bar Bingo

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

## Game Day Friday @ LCR

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

*Train Dominoes is on hiatus until spring.*

We can teach you if you've never played before.

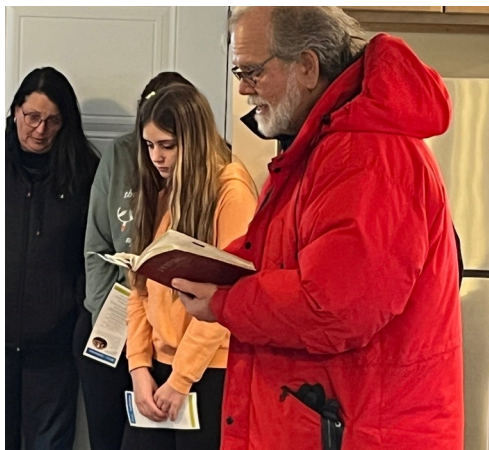
Non-members are always welcome.

## 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**.



Pastor Jeff blesses the most recent Habitat for Humanity home in Marion

## PEP 55+ Name That Tune

This sounds like fun! PEP members will welcome music director Kent Keating on **Sunday, February 16th at 3:30 pm**. We'll gather in the sanctuary to match wits with Kent and each other in a friendly game of "Name That Tune." As always, refreshments and conversation will follow in the fellowship hall.



## 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)

## Middle School Youth Ministry Big News!

At the Annual Meeting of the Congregation it was announced - and budget approved - to allow Jessi Lau to expand her work with LCR from part-time director of Children's ministry to full-time Director of Children's and Middle School Ministry! This new emphasis will allow for LCR to expand beyond Confirmation ministry and provide opportunities of service, faith development, and fellowship 6th through 8th graders. Be on the look-out for new opportunities and pray for our youth and youth staff here at LCR. *Congratulations Jessi on this new exciting addition to your ministry!*

## Youth Open Art Studio

Our next Open Art Studio will be on **Tuesday, February 25th from 6:00-7:30 pm**. Bring your own projects, or work on something new. Bring the family and feel free to make a mess! Students going into 3rd grade and younger need to be accompanied by an adult.

# CONFIRMATION

Confirmation classes meet on  
Wednesday evenings from 7:15-8:00 pm  
in the fellowship hall  
(7th - 8th grade)

Feel free to call or text Pastor Nate  
with questions: 563.320.3995

## SUNDAY MIDDLE SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP

9:40-10:25 am in the fellowship hall

Last week our Confirmation kids had the opportunity to make smoothies with their choice of fruit, drinks, ice cream, AND grasshoppers. The grasshoppers weren't my idea. Actually, the whole idea wasn't my idea. Truth be told, it really wasn't Confirmation either.



A group of middle school youth have been gathering **between worship services on Sunday** to share in a time of fellowship. It's more of a youth group than a class room. We play card games, talk about life, and last week we made smoothies using a John

the Baptist list of ingredients - that explains the grasshoppers.

As we continue to develop our youth programs we are focusing on fellowship opportunities outside of Confirmation class for our middle school aged kids. Hannah has been gracious enough to join me as we develop our middle school youth group and she's the one who brought the grasshoppers! Jessi is also working to develop fellowship events and outings for our middle school youth.

Our hope is to work with parents and families to increase the opportunities for our kids to gather around God's word, to share in service and fellowship opportunities, and to understand the important role they play in the life of the church.

Middle Schoolers (and high schoolers, too!), please know that you are invited and welcome to join us in our fellowship time. And before anyone asks, you don't have to put grasshoppers in your smoothies!!

**Middle School Pizza Party on February 9th (see page 4)**

# EDGE YOUTH

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

In January, EDGE programming focused on the season of Epiphany, and reflected on how Jesus calls us to action through Scripture. Looking ahead to February, we will dive into the Gospel of Luke, decorate St. Valentine's Day cookies, and enjoy more fellowship and volunteer opportunities with one another. Be sure to sign up and stay tuned for exciting ways to get involved! Please sign up for EDGE at [lcrmarion.org/ministries/youth-ministry/](http://lcrmarion.org/ministries/youth-ministry/)

EDGE students (9th-12th grade) are encouraged to gather in the Y.A.C. on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm, following the blended service. Programming begins at 7:30 pm, with refreshments and a light dinner provided. Students unable to attend consistently are still always welcome to attend when they are able.

On Sundays, 6th-12th grade students are invited to join Pastor Nate and Hannah in the Fellowship Hall between services for games, discussion, and youth event planning.

Hannah | [youth@lcrmarion.org](mailto:youth@lcrmarion.org)



In January we turned our block center into a winter wonderland! We learned all about polar bears and their habitat. Then later in the month our pretend center became a dinosaur dig!

Registration began in January for our fall 2025-26 classes. If you know of a family looking for a Christian preschool experience, please refer them to our website: <https://www.lcrmarion.org/wee-wisdom-preschool/about-wee-wisdom.html>

Please remember to save your Hy-Vee receipts so we can turn them in and earn money for Wee Wisdom Preschool! There is a collection bin for your receipts right outside our classroom door and a black container outside the church office, in the gathering space.

Thank you for helping our ministry in this simple way.

# PRAYERS

## Those hospitalized recently:

Bonnie Conrad, Marilyn Nuehring, Marge Dryden

## Those experiencing illness or surgery:

(LCR members) Mike Rosz, Ron Conrad, Cheri Francik, Ryan Corrigan, Mary Possehl, Everett Lehrman, Phyllis Gordon, Gary Young, Eloise Heppler, Deanna Harding, Gene Henry

(family and friends) Ann Teate, Tim Pefferman, Angela Ramp, Mavis Frey

## 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:

Julie Siebels on the death of her husband, Todd Siebels  
Joan Dutton on the death of her brother-in-law, Bob Cronbaugh

## 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.



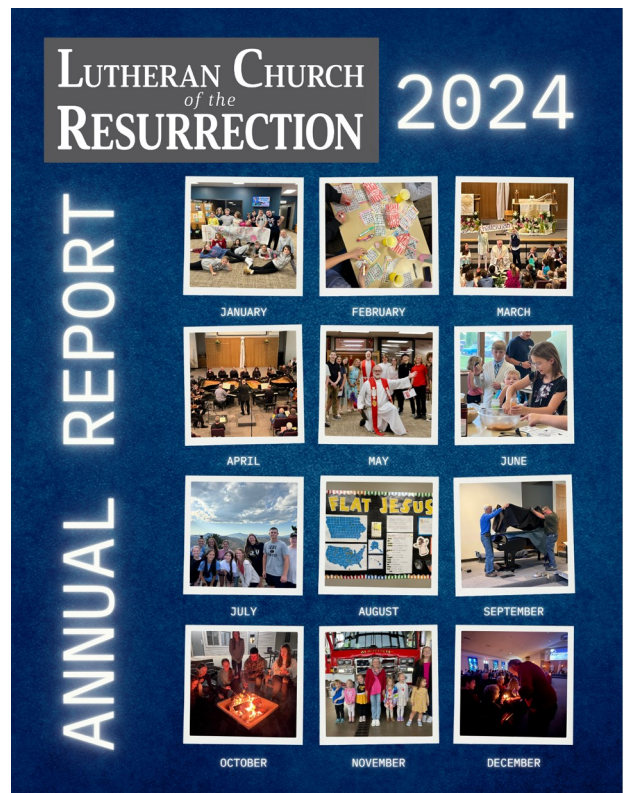
## Stay Alert!

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.

## 2024 Annual Report

You can pick up a print copy at the church or download it from our website - <https://lcrmarion.org/mt-content/uploads/2025/01/lcr-annual-report-2024.pdf>

Madelyn and her Epiphany cupcakes!





# STEWARDSHIP

## Treasurer's Report for December 2024

	<u>December</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>One Year Ago</u>
<b>General Fund Receipts</b>	\$101,789	\$882,588	\$806,378
<b>General Fund Expenses</b>	\$ 73,120	\$792,600	\$741,495
<b>Cash Balances</b>	<b>12/31/24</b>		<b>12/31/23</b>
<b>General Fund</b>	\$338,680		\$252,547
<b>Clearing Accounts</b>	\$ 101,127		\$ 69,748
<b>Property Reserve</b>	\$ 80,780		\$ 70,780

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



### Why not try something new in 2025?

Check out our Time & Talent catalog and sign up for an enriching activity at LCR.

<https://www.lcrmarion.org/downloads/time-and-talent.html>  
(print copies available at the church)

## Digital Giving

\* **Simply Giving** - Join 82 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



# CHURCH COUNCIL

*Please reach out with questions or concerns.*

The Council met on Tuesday, January 21, 2025. December Secretary and Treasurer reports were approved.

**Treasurer:** Strong December giving - 90k surplus YTD at close of 2024. Year-end contributions to Mission Partners have been made.

**Pastor Jeff:** *Online Church Directory* - 157 households have had photos taken so far. Secure access with unique logins. Council will put together the privacy policy.  
*Lenten Theme:* The Man From Galilee. Lenten offering designated for Augusta Victoria Hospital in East Jerusalem.

**Pastor Nate:** Junior High/HS youth time going well.

**Property:** Worked on Property Advising Planning Team Report to compile a list and prioritize projects for 2025.

**Outreach:** Next Bingo event will be on February 2nd. Outreach will provide snacks for Annual Meeting and coordinate Souper Sunday gathering on February 9th.

**Social Concerns:** 'Souper' Bowl of Caring is current focus.

**Wee Wisdom:** Registration for 2025/26 is now open.

**Old Business: Budget** - Updated to reflect Recording Secretary's final projections for 2025 giving after all the 2024 numbers came in.

**New Business: Council Retreat** - To be held on Feb. 22nd

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, February 18, 2025  
Agenda items should be submitted by 2/10/25.

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

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

(address service requested)

## Valentine's Day: Origins and History Presentation and Fellowship

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12:00 - 1:00 pm

Join us for a time  
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Snacks provided.

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An hour of topical discussion  
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2nd and 4th Fridays at 12 pm

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RESURRECTION



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# MIDDLE SCHOOL PIZZA + FUN

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9  
11:45 - 1:30 PM

6TH - 8TH GRADE STUDENTS

# OPEN ART STUDIO

Tuesday  
February 25  
6:00 - 7:30 pm

FOR STUDENTS!!!

Third grade students and younger  
should be accompanied by an adult

**CONTACT US!**  
office hours:  
**Monday - Friday,**  
**9 am - 4 pm**  
phone: 319-377-4689  
email: [office@lcrmarion.org](mailto:office@lcrmarion.org)  
fax: 319-377-4680

[www.lcrmarion.org](http://www.lcrmarion.org)

Pastor Jeff Frohner - [PastorJeff@lcrmarion.org](mailto:PastorJeff@lcrmarion.org)  
Pastor Nate Montover - [PastorNate@lcrmarion.org](mailto:PastorNate@lcrmarion.org)  
Childrens/MS Ministry: Jessi Lau - [childrens@lcrmarion.org](mailto:childrens@lcrmarion.org)  
Youth Ministry: Hannah Sh. Powell - [youth@lcrmarion.org](mailto:youth@lcrmarion.org)  
Office Manager: Kim Benser - [business@lcrmarion.org](mailto:business@lcrmarion.org)  
Cari Redondo - [communications@lcrmarion.org](mailto:communications@lcrmarion.org)  
Emily Carson - [secretary@lcrmarion.org](mailto:secretary@lcrmarion.org)  
Marcia Edwards - [volunteer@lcrmarion.org](mailto:volunteer@lcrmarion.org)  
Esther Platt - [bookkeeper@lcrmarion.org](mailto:bookkeeper@lcrmarion.org)  
Custodians: Dave Cosgrove, Dave Steifner

