

CROSSTALK

LUTHERAN CHURCH
of the
RESURRECTION

WWW.LCRMARION.ORG



VOLUME 66, ISSUE 3 | MARCH 2025

“The quality of mercy is not strained; It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven Upon the place beneath. It is twice blest.”

- Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice*, Act IV, Scene I.

Once again we come to the season of Lent. Over the years I have encountered folks who have understood Lent to be dreadful, discouraging, stodgy and something to be tolerated at best - dismissed if need be. Oh, what a shame! These poor souls have failed to see the beauty in this time of preparation for Easter. You see, Lent is an opportunity for us to contemplate the mercy of God and how like a gentle rain from heaven droppeth upon us beneath!

First of all Lent calls us away from all the false gods that promise to give us security and fulfill our hearts desires. It is a crash course in how elevating anything above God is a form of idolatry which will ultimately leave us wanting. A famous theologian (Paul Tillich) said that whatever is one’s ultimate concern, that is their God. Lent is a time for us to intentionally take the idols we have made down from their splendor and place them squarely where they belong.

Second, Lent is a time for us to contemplate the depths and humanly unimaginable breadth of God’s love toward us. Let’s not mince words here, if God were into smiting there would be plenty of justification. But no. In fact, on the last Sunday of this month (Lent 4) we’ll have that story of one particularly wayward child, who goes off and squanders everything, and yet is welcomed home by the open arms of a loving father (Go ahead and read it early Luke 15, The Prodigal Son). Someone should really write a song about this Amazing, well Grace.

And finally, Lent knocks me off of my moralistic high horse to see that Jesus was probably serious when he said, “Judge not, lest you be judged” (Take a look at Matthew 7.1). I begin to understand that I have an awful (sic) lot in common with the rest of humanity,

and in fact, as I have been granted mercy, it’s probably not a bad general operating procedure to extend that to others.

Lent is a gift. My prayer is that you might keep Lent well, that you might find it to be a time of grounding and growth. See you on Ash Wednesday!

Peace! Pastor Jeff

Ash Wednesday
March 5

Morning Imposition of Ashes
7:30 - 8:30 am
Simple Soup Supper
5:00 pm
Ash Wednesday Worship
(includes imposition of ashes)
6:00 pm

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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

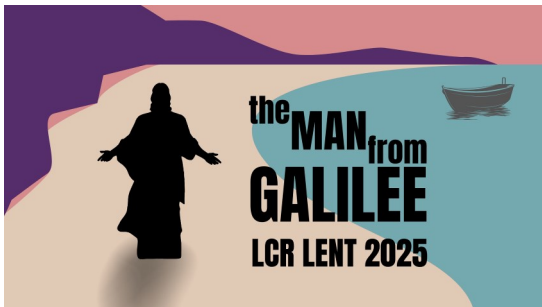
Links are available on our website and social media sites for **Livestream Worship**.

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 - Morning Prayer and Imposition of Ashes

On **Wednesday, March 5th** 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 reminds 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. You are free to come and go whenever you please and stay as long as you want for personal prayer and meditation.



The Man from Galilee - Wednesday Nights in Lent

Our Lenten theme this year is “The Man from Galilee” and we invite you into a closer connection with Jesus starting with **Ash Wednesday, March 5**, as we gather for worship and the traditional imposition of ashes. Then for **the next 5 Wednesdays** to gather with us as we travel with Jesus around the Galilee and pondering how his words and actions impact us still today. **Simple Soup Suppers begin at 5:00 pm** (arrive as you can) and we’ll start **worship at 6:00 pm**.

- March 5 -- Ash Wednesday
- March 12 -- Matthew 4.12-17 * Jesus Begins His Ministry in Galilee
- March 19 -- Luke 5.1-11 * Jesus Calls the First Disciples
- March 26 -- Mark 4.35-41 * Jesus Stills a Storm
- April 2 -- Matthew 14.22-33 * Jesus Walks on the Water
- April 9 -- Matthew 17.24-27 * Jesus and a Fishy Temple Tax

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 the two-part class so we can have enough supplies for everyone. If you have an older student who hasn’t taken part in a formal communion class previously, we would love to have them join in this experience, too - just let Jessi know!

First Communion will take place on Maundy Thursday (April 17th).

First Communion Instruction For Fourth Grade Students

Sunday, March 30
and
Sunday, April 6
1 - 2:30 pm
(attend both sessions)

Please register
with the church office.



MINISTRY



On Wednesdays at 5 pm during Lent, we'll enjoy time to relax and visit after our busy days.

We'll also need your help!...

* people to bring soup or a few kid-friendly foods

* volunteers to help set up (3 -5 pm)

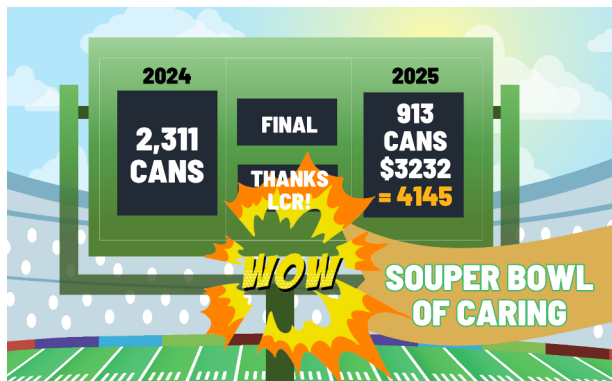
* volunteers to help serve and clean up (5-6 pm)

Please sign up at the link below.

There are spaces to sign up for each week of Lent.

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

[go/904044CA8AD2EA7FA7-55139788-lcrsoup#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044CA8AD2EA7FA7-55139788-lcrsoup#/)



'Souper' Bowl of Caring Soup Drive

Thank You to everyone for your generous support of our recent soup drive! We collected 913 cans of soup, plus \$3,232 for a total of 4,145 cans! This surpasses 2024's high bar of 2,311 cans! Your donations serve those in need in our community through the Churches of Marion Food Pantry. Special thanks to the Koehn family for counting and transporting our cans of soup every week!

March & April Mission Envelopes

...are going to Matthew 25, a local nonprofit working to improve lives in Cedar Rapids through quality housing, healthy food, education, and community building. Find out more at -

<https://www.matthew-25.org/>



Personal Care Kit Drive

Through **Monday, March 31st**, we are collecting bath towels and bar soap to assemble personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief. There is a display in the gathering space with more information. These kits help refugees and those in poverty throughout the world, and recently LWR care kits were distributed to victims of the California wildfires.

You may 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

We had a good turnout in February.

Thanks to all!

New donors are always welcome; next drive is **6/19/25**.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY @ LCR

Sunday School

MARCH:

2 - FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT UNIT

9 - FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT UNIT

16 - NO SS - SPRING BREAK

23 - FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT UNIT

30 - FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT UNIT



Wed. Night Live

MARCH:

NO WNL - ASH WEDNESDAY - 5

REGULAR WNL - 12

NO WNL - SPRING BREAK - 19

SERVICE PROJECT - 26

Attention 4th grade families

It is time for first communion! If you have a 4th grade (or older) student who has not yet completed formal instruction for 1st Communion, you are invited to join us for communion classes this year on **March 30th** and **April 6th**. Please contact the office or Jessi at [childrens\(at\)lcrmarion.org](mailto:childrens(at)lcrmarion.org).

First Communion will take place on **Maundy Thursday (4/17/25)**

OPEN ART STUDIO

Tuesday March 25
6:00 - 7:30 pm

FOR STUDENTS!!!

Third grade students and younger should be accompanied by an adult

Summer Programs

Save the Date!

Registration opens March 1st

Pre-K & Kinder. VBS: July 8th-11th

(for those entering PreK-1st grade in the fall of 2025)

Elementary Day Camp: Aug 4th-8th

(for those entering 1st-5th grade in the fall of 2025)

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

MIDDLE SCHOOL BEATS & TREATS

6th - 8th graders are invited to join us for a fun afternoon of music games! We will have a potluck (bring a treat or a snack to share!) and Karaoke as well as other music related games like Name That Tune, Who Said It: Taylor Swift or the Bible, Musical Charades and more!

March 9th @ 12:00-2:30 pm

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

Who's In Charge? - a look at the book of Judges

Sunday Morning Adult Study, 9:40 to 10:30 am in the conference room

From the death of Joshua to the rise of the first kings of ancient Israel - who was in charge? That's a really good question. For hundreds of years the ancient people of Israel were led by folks called judges. They didn't wear long robes and didn't have gavels...so who were they? Join us as we look at some of these color men and women (yes, Deborah was one of the judges of Israel) and see how their stories might bring us some modern day insight as well.

Brown Bag Study

Join Pastor Nate on **Sunday, March 2nd & March 16th at 12:00 noon** as we explore some big ideas! Bring your lunch to the fellowship hall and we'll provide the coffee. 3/2 topic is The Sacraments (pt. 2)
3/16 topic is The Philosophy of History

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 - Day and Evening opportunities

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

Email Lareen: clgull57(at)yahoo.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 | current study "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 | **Sunday, March 23rd @ 6:30 pm** | "The Women of Christmas"

Gatherings @ 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 March will be...

Friday the 14th: Char Weuve will present the book "An Invisible Thread"

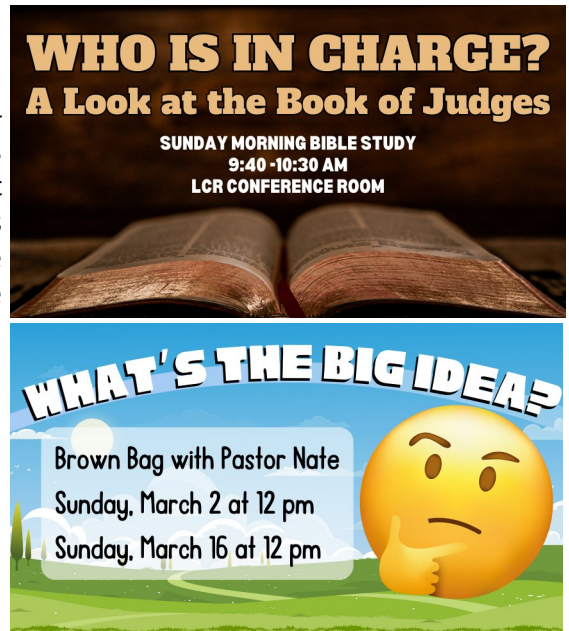
The true story of an 11-year-old panhandler, a busy sales executive, and an unlikely meeting.

Friday the 28th: Topic and presenter TBD

Feel free to contact our organizer 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>



FELLOWSHIP



PEP 55+ Solar Energy Presentation

Join us in the fellowship hall at **3:30 pm on Sunday, March 16th** as Bob Erlandson shares information on our solar future - "Here Comes the Sun (How we can use solar energy better and why we need to)." There will be coffee and light refreshments.

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\(at\)imonmail.com](mailto:ebeck(at)imonmail.com)

Candy Bar Bingo - Free event!

Sunday, March 2nd from 1:00 to 2:00 pm.

Last Month's Events...



PEP had a super good time, with about 40 attendees including 8 people who were new to LCR or friends of members. Kent Keating did a first-class job leading the 'Name That Tune' game. He even stumped us a time or two!

We sang three songs as a group (from song sheets), with Marcia Edwards leading us in a hilarious Julie Andrews version of "My Favorite Things - for Elders."

Wood Carvers & Knitters

Carvers and knitters/crocheters will resume meeting weekly at the church on Thursday evenings this month. Bring your latest projects so we can see what you worked on during the winter! Both groups begin at **6:00 pm**.

Woodcarvers - **red room, starting 3/6**

Knitters & crocheters - **church lounge, starting 3/13**

If you've never done yarncraft or carving before, now is the time to learn! Feel free to jump in any Thursday you can, we'll show you how it's done.

LCR Book Club

We'll get together on **Tuesday, February 11th at 6:30 pm**. Our book this month is a change-up - a self-help book, "Atomic Habits" by James Clear. No matter your goals, this book offers a proven framework for getting 1% better everyday. If you're having trouble changing your habits, the problem isn't you; it is your system! Contact Mary to get on our email list; new people are very welcome - [jonmaryhajek\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:jonmaryhajek(at)gmail.com)

Game Day Friday @ LCR

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

Train Dominoes will resume in April

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)

LCR Nite at The Potters Obsession



We spent a fun evening painting our selected pottery items, which will be glazed and fired for us to pick up later. It was awesome creative opportunity that we hope to repeat!

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

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Sunday Middle School Fellowship
9:40-10:25 am in the fellowship hall

Middle school kids have been gathering **between worship services on Sunday** to share in a time of fellowship. Together we play card games, talk about life, and make smoothies or other treats.

Middle Schoolers (and high schoolers, too!), please know that you are invited and welcome to join us in our Sunday morning fellowship times.



Join us for a fun afternoon of music games! We'll have a potluck (bring treats to share) and karaoke as well as other music games like Name that Tune; Who Said: Taylor Swift or the Bible; Musical Charades; and more!



EDGE YOUTH

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

In February, EDGE focused on the many ways Jesus calls us to action, and shared love with the congregation through "You Are Beloved" Valentine's bracelets. As we enter March and begin our Lenten journey, high school youth will have many opportunities to reflect on their faith through spiritual and personal relationships.

Be sure to sign up for email and text updates to stay in the loop! >>



Mission Trip

There are still a few spots available for our summer mission trip to Nashville (**July 27 - August 2**). Contact Hannah ASAP for more details or with any questions. Scholarships & Fundraising Opportunities are available.

Save the Date!

Palm Sunday Mission Trip Fundraising Breakfast will be on **Sunday, April 13 from 9:30 - 11:00 am**.

Spring Break Gathering | March 19 from 2:00-5:00 pm

High schoolers are invited to join us on **Wednesday, March 19**, for a fun, music-filled afternoon! The Y.A.C. will be open at **2:00 PM** for karaoke, carpet ball, board games, and more. Bring a friend! Dinner will be served at **5:00 PM** in the Fellowship Hall following the event. EDGE programming will start at 7:30 PM, following the Lenten service.

Teen Sunday Study

Join us for a 4-week Devotional Bible Study for teens at **9:30 AM!** Confirmation students are also welcome to attend. The study will start on March 16 - bring your Bible or borrow one of ours. You're not required to attend every Sunday; come when you can. We'll meet in the rear of the fellowship hall. Study Dates are:

March 16, 23, 30, and April 6.

Lenten Note

Due to the LCR Soup Suppers at 5:00 PM in March, EDGE will provide snacks and refreshments rather than a full meal. The 6:00 PM service will be streamed to the Y.A.C. TV for youth who need to use the extra time for study before the 7:30 PM EDGE program.

Hannah | youth@lcrmarion.org

PRAYERS

Those hospitalized recently:

Marlin Oeltjen, Betty Bendixen, Margaret Wogahn

Those experiencing illness or surgery:

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

(family and friends) Mark Mastain, Ann Teate, Will Springer, 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:

Audrey Dolphin on the death of her nephew, Donnell Erickson
Mary Hajek & family on the death of her brother-in-law, Jerry Maxwell
Friends and family of Shirley Engelbart on her recent death

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.

WEE WISDOM PRESCHOOL

Love was in the air in February! We celebrated with a Friendship Party Sing-a-Long with Valentines. Then at the end of the month we spent a lot of time in the Writing Center focusing on nursery rhymes.

We are now registering students for next fall. Tell your friends with youngsters about this opportunity. <https://www.lcrmarion.org/wee-wisdom-preschool/about-wee-wisdom.html>

Please turn in your Hy-Vee receipts by the end of March

so we can earn 'Cash 4 Students' for Wee Wisdom Preschool. There is a black bin outside our classroom door and a black container in the gathering space (outside the church office). So far this year we've earned \$350, but would love to earn \$700!! Thank you for helping Wee Wisdom with Hy-Vee receipts this school year.



LCR VBS + DAY CAMP
2025 VBS: July 8-11; 9:00 - 11:30 am
VBS is for those entering Pre-K - 1st Grade for Fall 2025
2025 Day Camp - August 4-8; 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Day Camp is for those entering 1st - 5th grade for Fall 2025
Registration opens March 1

Warning: 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.

STEWARDSHIP

Treasurer's Report for January 2025

	<u>January</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>One Year Ago</u>
General Fund Receipts	\$121,536	\$121,536	\$107,140
General Fund Expenses	\$ 74,524	\$ 74,524	\$ 67,083
Cash Balances	1/31/25		1/31/24
General Fund	\$215,720		\$ 89,262
Property Reserve	\$ 80,780		\$ 71,613

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

LCR Portraits

Please contact Cari to schedule appointments as needed.

FREE Help us update our church directory! **100% FREE!**

You will receive FREE digital copies of your portraits!

We are collecting photos for a new church directory! This is your opportunity to have a portrait photo taken right here in the church library, using professional lighting and backdrop. There is NO CHARGE for this sitting, and you will receive FREE digital copies of your portraits to use as you wish. If you haven't had your photo taken yet, please email Cari about times: [communications\(at\)LCRMarion.org](mailto:communications(at)LCRMarion.org)

CHURCH COUNCIL

Please reach out with questions or concerns.

The Council met on Saturday, February 22, 2025. January Secretary and Treasurer reports were approved.

Treasurer: January was first full month on new accounting systems. Financial reports will have a slightly different look. Strong January, finishing \$42,000 over budget.

Pastor Jeff: Potential worship lead hire will be meeting with our 10:30 musicians.

Pastor Nate: No update

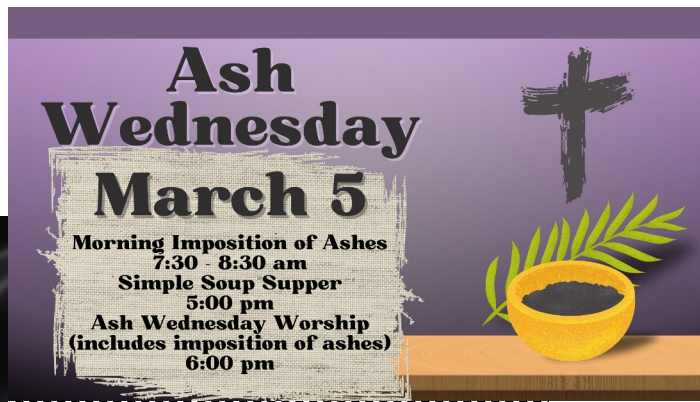
Old Business: Long term capital planning project - Council will assemble a small sub-committee tasked with making a list of potential projects and costs. Council will then compare this list with projected income and budget over the next 3-5 years to focus priorities.

New Business: Council Executive Committee - Motion Was approved for current officers to serve again in 2025 (President Heather Loftsgard, Vice President Bob Wolter, Treasurer Sara Provolt, Secretary Bethany Mast).

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 18, 2025
Agenda items should be submitted by 3/10/25.
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)



**Ash
Wednesday
March 5**

Morning Imposition of Ashes
7:30 - 8:30 am
Simple Soup Supper
5:00 pm
Ash Wednesday Worship
(includes imposition of ashes)
6:00 pm

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**MIDDLE SCHOOL
BEATS & TREATS**

Sunday, March 9
12:00 - 2:30 pm
6th - 8th Grade Students



the **MAN** from
GALILEE
LCR LENT 2025



**SIMPLE
SOUP
SUPPERS**

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



LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF THE RESURRECTION
HOSTING
MT. MERCY UNIVERSITY

CONCERT
SUNDAY, MARCH 30
6:00 PM

CONTACT US!

office hours:
Monday - Friday,
9 am - 4 pm
phone: 319-377-4689
email: office@lcrmarion.org
fax: 319-377-4680

www.lcrmarion.org

Pastor Jeff Frohner - PastorJeff@lcrmarion.org
Pastor Nate Montover - PastorNate@lcrmarion.org
Childrens/MS Ministry: Jessi Lau - childrens@lcrmarion.org
Youth Ministry: Hannah Sh. Powell - youth@lcrmarion.org
Cari Redondo - communications@lcrmarion.org
Emily Carson - secretary@lcrmarion.org
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Esther Platt - bookkeeper@lcrmarion.org
Custodians: Dave Cosgrove, Dave Steifner

