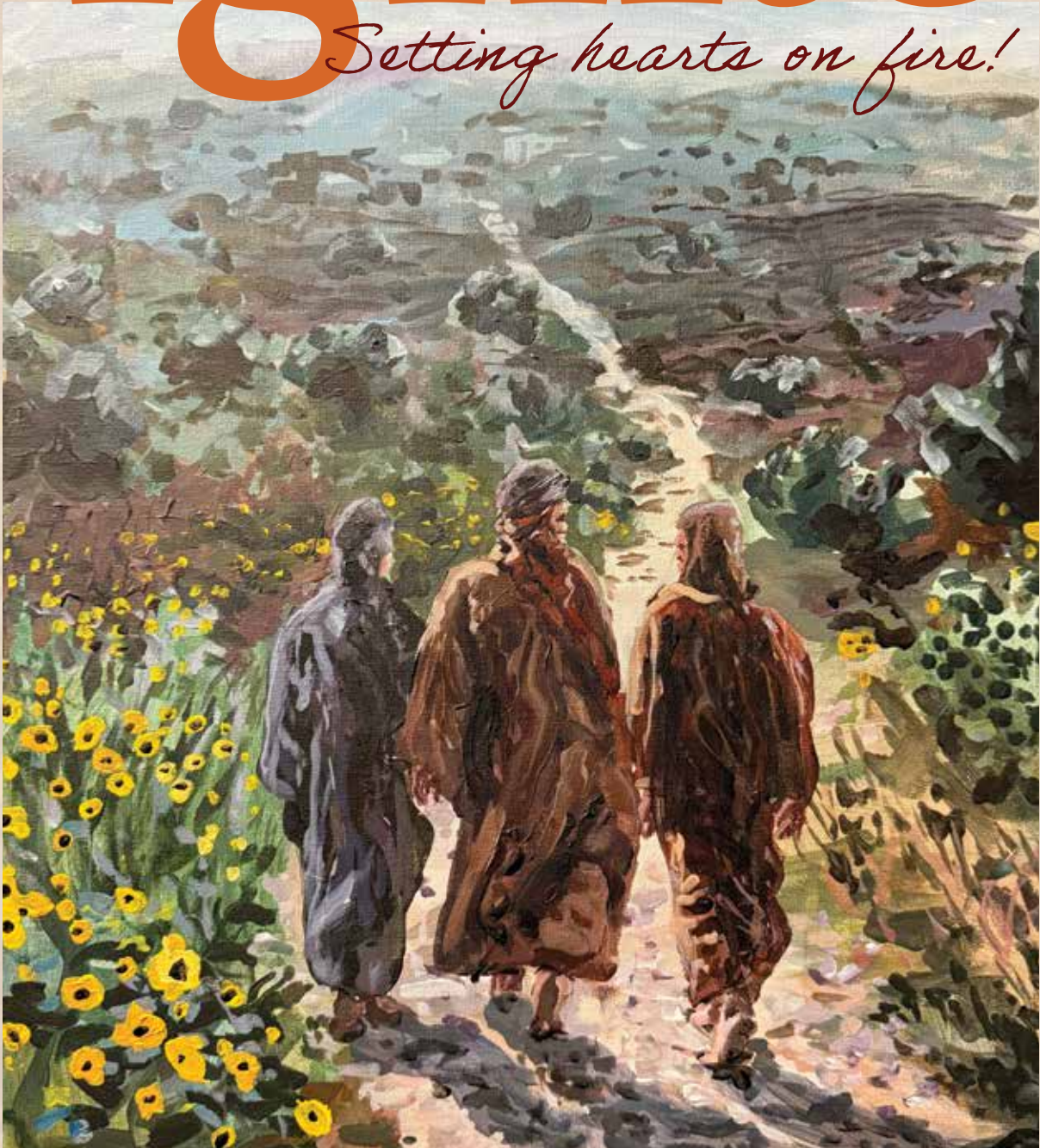




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Setting hearts on fire!



John Stock, 2025, Road to Emmaus

“Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?” — Luke 24:32



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The Gospel of Luke tells us about the Road to Emmaus, where two of Jesus’ disciples are transformed by their encounter with the risen Lord. As Jesus makes himself known in the breaking of the bread, they confess that their hearts were burning within them as they traveled along, their eyes being opened and their joy being restored as they run back to tell others that they had seen the Lord!

The Road to Emmaus serves as our backdrop for this year’s Stewardship Campaign. This wonderful moment teaches us that stewardship is not just about giving money, but about actively engaging with God, recognizing God’s presence in our midst, using our time, talents, and resources to serve others, and then bearing witness to the world.

The Road to Emmaus is a journey of faith, and our commitment to be good stewards is a journey as well. It involves learning, growing, sharing, risking, and deepening our relationship with Jesus. May the risen Lord IGNITE our will to follow him and may these pages help light a fire of commitment within us.

Peace!

Pastor Jeff Frohner

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION



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On the Road to Emmaus the disciples describe the Word of God as being like a fire burning in their hearts. This is an image that the prophet Jeremiah used as well: "Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?" Jeremiah 23.38.

The prophet Isaiah reminds us that the Word of God never returns to him empty; but always accomplishes that for which God intends (Isaiah 55.11).

"Were not our hearts burning"...

What scripture has been especially important to you in your faith journey?

"While he talked with us on the road" ...

Can you remember when you had a particularly insightful conversation about the faith — what made it so memorable and who was your conversation partner?

"Opened the Scriptures to us" ...

When have you heard a word from God in a different way than you expected? Did you feel affirmed or challenged?

Prayer

Dear Lord, may your words continue to bring me comfort in my times of need and challenge me when I need to be reminded of how to live as one of your followers. I ask that you continue to walk with me and all whom I love each and every day. Amen



Gifts from the heart...

The generous gifts given to Lutheran Church of the Resurrection throughout the year have allowed our ministries to flourish and expand into the greater community.

- Community Outreach Events: Neighborhood Nights, Car Cruise-Ins, 5th Annual LCR Car Show, Candy Bar Bingo, Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt, Trunk or Treat, Blessing of the Animals
- LCR Gardening Group increased their garden size and donated a TON (yes... an actual ton!) of fresh produce to the Churches of Marion Food Pantry
- Souper Bowl Sunday: LCR nearly doubled their donation from last year
- Marion Lutheran Churches Blood Drives
- Holiday Giving Project: 12 families supported
- Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits: church-wide packing event put together over 300 personal care kits
- Mission of Hope lunches
- 50+ backpacks donated to the Marion Cares Backpack Program
- Advent: "Love's Pure Light," with special collections for Willis Dady and the Churches of Marion Food Pantry
- "Love Has Come" Christmas concert and reception
- Lent: "The Man From Galilee;" Simple Soup Suppers raise money for the Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem, with gifts matched by the Living Legacy Fund
- Special Worship Services: Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, Easter, Pentecost, All Saints Remembrance, Thanksgiving Eve, Rally Day
- Worship on the Wapsi
- Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals
- Epiphany and Easter Cupcakes by Madelyn Olson
- New Members Received in November and June
- Dr. Grace Wolf-Chase: Fall Speaker Series sponsored by the Living Legacy Fund
- "What's the Big Idea?" Brown Bag Series by Pastor Nate
- Biderman Scholarship awarded to Emrie Johnson
- Sunday and Wednesday pastor-led Bible studies
- Mother's Day and Father's Day Make n' Takes
- All-Church Breakfasts
- LCR Summer Picnic and Potluck Salad Contest
- LCR Golf Outing and Golf Nites at PinSeekers
- Family Advent Event
- Sunday in the Park events at Pinicon Ridge Park
- P.E.P. 55+ events
- Mt. Mercy University Concert
- High School Mission Trip to Nashville
- Open Art Studio evenings
- "Becoming Who We Are" Womens Study
- Hobby/Social Groups: Choirs, Bell Choir, Walkers, Painters, Knitters/Crocheters, Quilters, Book Clubs, Woodcarvers, Cribbage, Scrapbookers, Gatherings Discussion Group
- Contemporary Worship Guest Musicians
- Summer Verse Challenge
- Youth Activities and Education Expansion includes addition of Middle School Activities and Childrens' Choir to existing offerings of Wee Wisdom Preschool, Sunday School, Wednesday Night Live, Confirmation, and EDGE
- Vacation Bible School
- Day Camp
- "Lights of Christmas" Youth Christmas Program
- Seder Meal for First Communion students and families
- First Communion
- Confirmation
- May Day Pop Up Fun Day
- Wednesday Night Live Special Events: helped lead Wednesday Evening Worship, Glow Party, Bass Farms Outing
- EDGE Special Events: Pumpkin Carving Party, Bowling Night, Art Night, Movie Night, Bass Farms Outing
- Lent Bible Study for Teens
- Bibles for Students
- New Digital Church Directory
- Loving maintenance and improvements by LCR Property Team and volunteers
- Charter Organization for Boy Scout troop



Setting hearts on fire!

Your generous giving provided meaningful and much-needed support locally and beyond.

MISSION ENVELOPES

\$7,825 Oct. 2024 – Sep. 2025

Our Mission Envelopes have supported ELCA World Hunger, Catherine McAuley Center, F.L.Y., Matthew 25, Community Health Free Clinic, and Churches of Marion Food Pantry.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

\$27,721.60 Oct. 2024 – Sep. 2025

(Includes Living Legacy Fund matching gifts)

Socks and Underwear Drive for Marion Cares, Holiday Giving Project, Souper Bowl for the Churches of Marion Food Pantry, California Wildfire Relief, Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits, Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem, Start School Right Shoe Drive, Neighborhood Nights, Marion Cares Backpack Drive, Texas Flood Relief

In addition to the monetary special collections, LCR collected many in-kind donations... Special food donations for the food pantry, including soup, canned meat, birthday kit supplies, and a TON of produce from the LCR garden; towels and soap donated for Personal Care Kits; donations of cleaning products, hats and gloves for Willis Dady; many backpacks put together for Marion Cares backpack drive, food for Neighborhood Nights, Christmas gifts for the Holiday Giving Project, and socks and underwear for the Marion Cares Trunk or Treat.

ONE-TIME SPECIAL GIFT

\$4,652 to the Churches of Marion Food Pantry

Your generous gifts were especially appreciated during a challenging year. Your donations helped provide a balanced and consistent supply of food for 300–400 people per week.



Your faithful giving also enabled LCR to:

- Expand staff to strengthen worship and youth programs
- Increase our giving to mission partners
- Provide new outreach through the “Worship on the Wapsi” service

Please consider participating in our 2026 One-Time Gift to the Living Legacy Fund at LCR that supports our Fall Speaker Series, special outreach matching funds, and scholarships.

Fire up your giving...

At Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, we accept and appreciate gifts in many forms. We rely on your annual commitments to keep the lights on, pay our staff, fund programming and provide for many ministries and charities we support as a congregation.

COMMON WAYS TO GIVE.

- **Weekly Envelopes** — Checks may be dropped in the offering plate or mailed to the church: Lutheran Church of the Resurrection; 3500 29th Ave; Marion, IA 52302.
- **IRA Qualified Distribution** — If you are 70 ½ and have an IRA account, you may be able to write a check direct from your IRA account that qualifies as an IRA qualified distribution (QCD). QCDs usually count as part of your minimum distribution but are excluded from your adjusted gross income.
- **Simply Giving** — Join 86 LCR families who give regularly through automatic withdrawal. This electronic funds transfer (EFT) program is a tremendous help in providing steady support to LCR. You have the option to donate weekly, bi-monthly, or monthly through Simply Giving. The authorization form is on the back of your commitment form.
- **Digital Giving** — Visit LCRMarion.org/giving. When you click on the “Donate” button, you will have the option of donating via PayPal or using your debit or credit card.



PayPal: Use the QR code or use the donate button on LCRMarion.org/giving



Venmo: Use the QR code or search for @LCRMarion (Resurrection Lutheran)





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GIVING A LEGACY.

Other types of gifts and planned giving can leave a legacy. Though the options are endless, here are some ways to leave a legacy.

- **Appreciated Assets** — Land and real estate, works of art and other types of personal property as well as stocks, bonds and mutual funds.
- **Retirement Accounts** — Naming Lutheran Church of the Resurrection as a beneficiary on an IRA or pension account allows a distribution at death to pass tax-free to the church.
- **Life Insurance** — Give the cash value accumulated in a policy, the annual dividends of a policy, or designate the church as the beneficiary of the policy.
- **Thrivent Choice Dollars** — If you're a Thrivent member, you may allocate all or a portion of your Choice Dollars to LCR. You must initiate this donation directly with Thrivent. Visit thrivent.com/thriventchoice for more info or to direct a distribution.
- **Bequests or Planned Giving** — There are a variety of ways to give through trust funds, which have advantages for short-term and long-term giving, as well as taxes.
- **Donor-Advised Fund** — You may be able to set up a donor-advised charitable fund to bunch several years' contributions to maximize your charitable tax deduction. When you contribute cash, securities or other assets to a donor-advised fund sponsoring organization, you are generally eligible to take an immediate tax deduction. Then, those funds can be invested for tax-free growth, while allowing you to continue to support Lutheran Church of the Resurrection annually.
- **Make an unrestricted gift, or designate the Living Legacy Fund, in a will or trust** — This allows a person to make a significant contribution that may not have been possible during life. A financial advisor can detail the plans available for giving to Lutheran Church of the Resurrection through various trusts.

Assistance with Giving Options

Consideration to the special ways of giving described in this pamphlet can lead to action that will greatly benefit the congregation's work and ministry and be of personal benefit as well. If you need more information or assistance with making creative gifts to Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, please email Joan Meyer, our recording secretary, at recording.sec@LCRMarion.org.

All of the topics in this brochure should be discussed with your tax advisor.

Ignite your commitment...



- 1, **Begin with Prayer** — Thank God for blessing you and ask for guidance and discernment. Recognize that your offerings express both your desire to serve the Lord and your investment in God's work.
- 2, **Assess Your Finances** — Take a look at your annual income and your budget. How is your faith reflected in your spending?
- 3, **Step Up and Make a Commitment** — Determine the percentage of your income you will give in the coming year, stepping up that percentage by 1% to 3%. If you are not yet tithing (giving 10%), consider increasing the percentage you are giving each year until you reach ten percent. Complete either the Online Commitment Form at LCRMarion.org or a printed Commitment Form with your projected annual offering (and one-time gift to Wee Wisdom, if desired). Remember your annual commitment of tithes and offerings supports Resurrection's ministries both within and outside the walls of our church.
- 4, **Consider How You Give** — Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), online, cash, check, IRA charitable distributions and appreciated stock are all giving options. Simply Giving EFT is one convenient way to give your tithes and offerings, and it ensures that even if you're unable to make it to church physically, offerings are received. It is also the most cost-effective method of giving to the church.
- 5, **Worship with Gratitude** — In thanksgiving for all of God's gifts, we ask you to return the commitment card by the week of the 23rd of November. This is an opportunity as a congregation to express our gratitude to God and renew our commitment to being God's stewards in the world.

We rejoice in the fact that people have many different gifts and that the sharing of financial resources is only one of those. Your time and talent are a valuable gift that we appreciate. Regardless of any financial pledge, we hope you will return the enclosed "Commitment Card" so that we know you have received this packet as it helps with our overall effort.

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