

CROSSTALK

LUTHERAN CHURCH
of the
RESURRECTION

WWW.LCRMARION.ORG

VOLUME 67, ISSUE 1 | JANUARY 2026

“Faith in the Off-Season”

²⁸ Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. ²⁹ He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. ³⁰ Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; ³¹ but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. - *Isaiah 40:28-31*

Golf is all fun and games until the sun disappears at 5:00pm and the temperatures make holding onto a metal stick unappealing. As this is my first season playing seriously I'll admit I wasn't prepared for the season to end. At the very least I hoped the transition from fall to winter would take months.

It didn't.

Instead, it felt like one week I was playing like I didn't have a care in the world, the week after I was having a hard time finding my ball amongst the leaves, and the week after that I was sliding down the icy hill in front of my house hoping my car would stop before I smeared into a fire hydrant. That was the moment I realized I had firmly entered golf's "off season."

Last week I tried simulator golf with my golf buddies and that had it's charm. It was a joy to be around the guys I have grown to rely on over the summer for solid group chats and killer golf memes. The simulator is probably great for maintaining a swing and it certainly speeds up play when you don't have to look for your ball amongst the leaves, or in the woods, or in the water....

Sim golf is what I will rely on until I have a chance to get back to "the real thing." For now, I'll need to simply accept the fact that I am in a liminal space in my life; a place between where I was and where I hope to be. Truth be told, I have learned to appreciate liminal spaces, as frustrating as they are, because they always signify something new on the horizon.

I really believe that it's the off season that refines us and helps shape our future. It's a time of joyful reflection, and opportunity to make needed changes, and a perfect moment to reset and restart. And I hope you recall these words the next time you find yourself in one of life's many off-seasons.

Time between is holy time.

For those experiencing an off season in your life, do not lose hope. Indeed, as Christians we confess that hope will find us. This is the joy of the Christmas season and our joy in Christ Jesus. God comes to us.

Until then, stay awake, have no fear, and for golfers out there – the off season is the perfect time to concentrate on your short game. If you know, you know.

Peace! Pastor Nate

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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 receive **email alerts** from LCR about worship and other news.

Click on the 'Visitor Info Request' tab our homepage to sign up - https://www.lcrmarion.org/new_visitor.html

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 due to a variety of 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 on our website -

<https://share.hsforms.com/181uDRkYnTRyGMmuwl3ZiDQ44ay4>

Notice: Annual Meeting of Lutheran Church of the Resurrection

Sunday, January 25th at 9:30 AM

The annual meeting of Lutheran Church of the Resurrection will be held in the sanctuary **between worship services** on **Sunday, January 25th**. Church Council and other positions will be elected, the 2026 budget will be voted upon (please attend the budget forum on **January 18th at 9:30**, in the fellowship hall, for a detailed conversation), and annual reports will be received. All voting members of the congregation are invited to attend.

"A Voting member is a confirmed member of the congregation who has communed and given a contribution of record during the current or preceding year."

Reminder: a person can be a Baptized or Confirmed member without being a Voting Member.

Children's Choir @ Christmas

On Friday, December 19th, members of the LCR Children's Choir brought a lot of joy to residents of the Hiawatha Care Center. The students sang several carols, then split into groups and went from table to table talking to the residents and wishing them a Merry Christmas. Many thanks to the students and adult volunteers who helped contribute to this joyful event!

- Ralph Kendrick, Contemporary Worship Leader



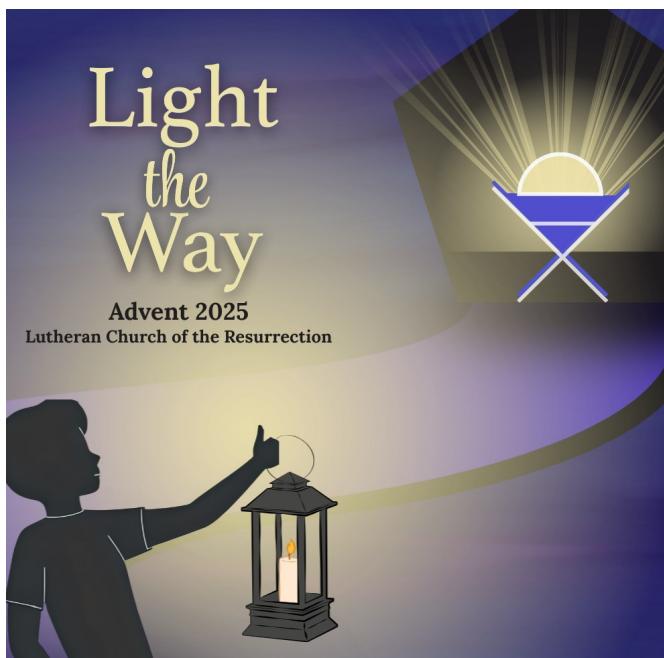
MINISTRY

Volunteers Light the Way!

Thank you

As we move into 2026 we wanted to say thank you for everyone who has helped, prayed, worshipped, sung, and served on behalf of the church here at LCR this holiday season. **Your good works are seen and appreciated by each and everyone of us!**

Happy New Year to all.



Light the Way!

Advent: Reverse Box Update

- Living Legacy adding \$800 to the joy!

What a great response we had to our Advent, "Light the Way" appeal to bring in-kind items to bless four of our local non-profits. Thank you for your care and generosity. We are also overjoyed to announce that the Living Legacy group is adding an additional \$200 cash gift for each of our four recipients (\$800 total) to let them know that we appreciate how they continue to shine bright with their good work.

Please lift up in prayer the good work of:

- The Churches of Marion Food Pantry
- Willis Dady Shelter
- Catherine McAuley Center
- the Teacher Store



Souper Bowl 2026

We will once again be having a "Souper Bowl of Caring" by collecting soup and monetary donations for The Churches of Marion Food Pantry. Last year, we had 913 cans of soup and \$3,232 donated! Can we beat that in 2026? Look for the donation bins in the Gathering Space starting **Sunday, January 11**.

January & February Mission Envelopes

...will benefit **Feeding Lunches to Youth (FLY)**, a local project of seven churches to meet the needs of those children who may not eat when school is not in session. Since its beginning in 2007, FLY has grown to 11 locations and serves an average 400 lunches daily. Their hope is to be the hands and feet of Jesus by providing sack lunches to students who otherwise would struggle to have enough food.

Help feed hundreds of kids during the summer months and spring break. It so matters!

*"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you invited me in..."*

- Matthew 25:35

Winter Hats & Scarves

Knitters & crocheters, contact Pam about a community hat & scarf project if you would like to participate: PamKacena(at)yahoo.com

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY @ LCR

Sunday School

Jan 4th	No Sunday School
Jan 11th	Sunday School
Jan 18th	Sunday School
Jan 25th	No Sunday School (Annual Mtg.)

Wednesday Night Live

Jan 7th	Regular WNL
Jan 14th	Regular WNL
Jan 21th	Regular WNL
Jan 28th	Regular WNL



We have had lots of fun at Sunday School and WNL in December...

Our Sunday School classes worked hard on their songs and skits for the Christmas program despite lots of Sunday morning weather events!

Our WNL students got to do lots of crafts and had some great conversations about HOPE, LOVE, JOY.... maybe we will hit PEACE in January! These 4th-6th graders are so bright and thoughtful and any time we have them together is such a treat!

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

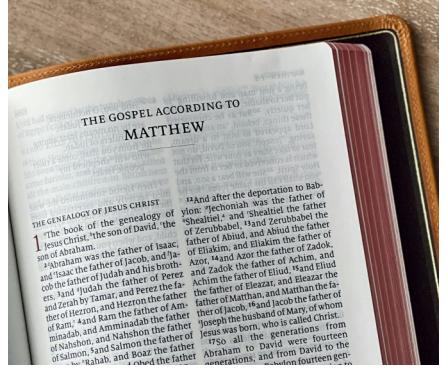
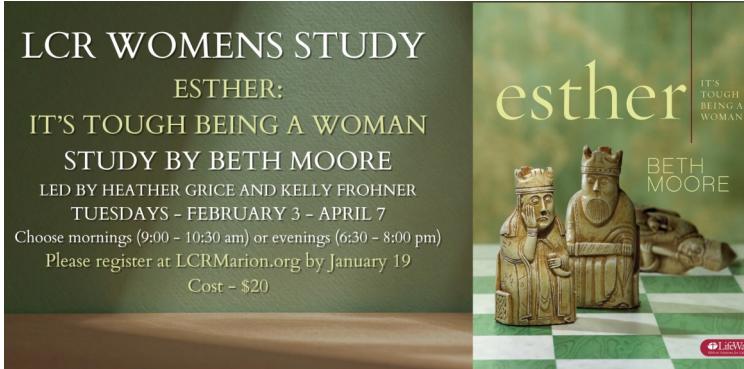
Many, many thanks to all the teachers, parents, siblings, decorators and, of course, students who made the Christmas program so fantastic! Well Done!



ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

Matthew - a Gospel for the Church: begins Sunday, January 11th

The Gospel of Matthew is placed first in the New Testament not because it was written first, but because of the importance given to this Gospel in the life of the church. Within this Gospel we have the Sermon on the mount and a clear call to think of the ethical considerations of being connected to Jesus. Join us each Sunday as we walk with Matthew and explore the impact this Gospel still has on Christians today. We'll meet between services in the conference room.



“Esther - It's Tough Being a Woman”

Register by January 19th for this new women's study! For our Lenten Discipline we will be doing a Beth Moore' study of Esther. It is a 10-week study that walks us through the Old Testament Book of Esther. It includes a 1-hour video of Beth's teaching and homework.

This study will be led by Kelly Frohner and Heather Grice. We'll meet on **Tuesdays between February 3rd and April 7th**. You can attend our morning sessions from **9:00-10:30 am** or the evening option from **6:30 - 8:00 pm**.

Register now so we can order the books; cost is \$20.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044CA8AD2EA7FA7-61376459-esther#/> ~or~



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.

Pastor Jeff's One-Minute Devotionals

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

Resurrection Small Groups

Donna Dennis - mixed group; **2nd & 4th Thursdays at 6:30 pm**; conference room

Email Donna: donnakdennis88(at)gmail.com

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

Email Lareen: clgull57(at)yahoo.com | conference room

JAM Study Group - women's group; **2nd Monday of each month**; conference room

Email Linda: lhayward495(at)yahoo.com; “Christianity's Family Tree”

Mary Kay Pinckney - women's group; email - mfpink6(at)gmail.com;

Our small group will meet **Sunday, January 18th at 1:00 pm**,

at my Cedar Rapids home, to discuss and decide on what Bible study our group wants to do next.

Contact Mary Kay at email address above for more information.



FELLOWSHIP

Marcia Edwards Sunday & Celebration!

We have been blessed to have Marcia Edwards serving on staff here at LCR for the last 17 years as our Volunteer Coordinator. She will be officially retiring from her work here at LCR on January 15th. (But don't worry, she and Larry are not leaving!). Please join us on **Sunday, January 18th**, between services, as we wish her well and recognize her many years of ministry with us at LCR. There will be a cake reception and a place for cards and well-wishes to be expressed between worship. Please reach out and give Marcia your personal appreciation.

PEP 55+ Fellowship Group

Join us on **Sunday, January 18th at 3:00 pm** to learn more about the great work of Habitat for Humanity here in eastern Iowa. Marlin Oeltjen will share his experiences with the organization over 30-plus years. There will be light refreshments provided and non-member friends are always welcome.

LCR Book Club

We'll meet on **Tuesday, January 13th at 6:30 pm** to discuss "Between Heaven and Texas" by Marie Bostwick. Welcome to Too Much, Texas, where the women are strong-willed and the men are handsome & shiftless. Mary Dell and her sister were always warned to stay away from the local boys, but it's well known that they have a fatal weakness for men. Contact Mary to get on our email list; new people are very welcome!

jonmaryhajek(at)gmail.com

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 a variety of mediums - acrylic, watercolor, oils, etc. If you have questions, or if you haven't painted before, please contact Evelyn: ebeck(at)imonmail.com

Wood Carvers & Yarn Crafters

Carvers and knitters/crocheters are currently on winter hiatus. Knitters group will resume in April and carvers in March. Feel free to contact John or Pam over the winter if you need supplies, patterns, or advice.

carving - john1400(at)q.com

knitting - PamKacena(at)yahoo.com

Cup Cakes

Light up our Fellowship time on Sunday, January 11

In celebration of the season of Epiphany - the season of light and discipleship - Madelyn Olson will be providing her world famous cupcakes in between worship services. The season of Epiphany begins with a remembrance of the Wise Men following the star and bringing gifts (January 6) and the first Sunday of Epiphany remembers the baptism of our Lord. Thank you Madelyn, for gifting all of us as we continue to offer gifts and witness to the life of Christ. Let your light shine!

Scrapbooking

Bring your photos, tools, and albums and join us for a day of creative fun from **9 am to 5 pm on Saturday, January 17**. Bring a soup or salad to share; we'll meet in the fellowship hall. If your creativity extends to card making or sewing, we invite you too! Contact Donna Dennis with questions.

Gatherings @ LCR

'Gatherings' is a place and time to hear and share stories and connect with others in our community. We have fascinating conversations on different topics every time. Join us **Friday, January 9th and 23rd from noon to 1:00 pm**. Everyone is welcome and beverages and light snacks are offered. Email Mary with questions: [jonmaryhajek\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:jonmaryhajek(at)gmail.com)

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)

Cribbage Group

Join us on **2nd & 4th Fridays at 1:15 pm** for a few games of cribbage. We are happy to teach you if you've never played before and non-members are always welcome.

Candy Bar Bingo

Free for all ages; invite friends and neighbors, too! Meets in the fellowship hall on **Sunday, January 4th from 1:00 to 2:00 pm**.

CONFIRMATION

In January, Confirmation students will continue learning about the Lord's Prayer. As we work our way through the prayer, we'll have the kids talk with parents and guardians about faith in their own families.

Lord's Prayer (4th - 6th)

Family Focus:

Create a list of blessings and thank God for them

Lord's Prayer (7th & Doxology)

Family Focus:

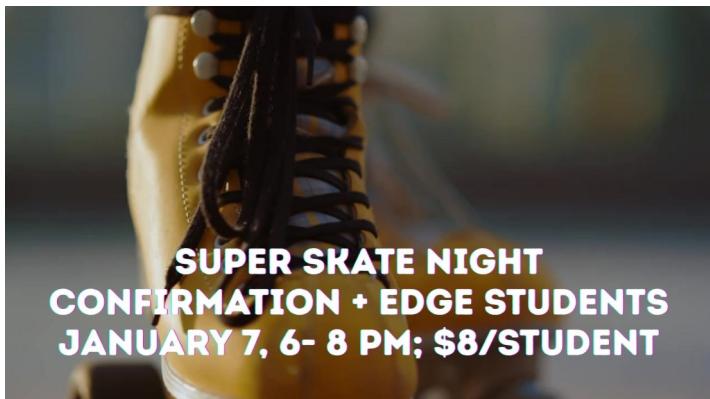
Share how God helped your family through hard times

What Is a Sacrament?

Family Focus:

Talk about baptism and communion experiences

Save the Date - Confirmation Service 5/24/26



**SUPER SKATE NIGHT
CONFIRMATION + EDGE STUDENTS
JANUARY 7, 6- 8 PM; \$8/STUDENT**

**^ Roller Skating for Confirmation ^
& EDGE students on Jan. 7th**

7TH-12TH GRADE

Sunday Fellowship

9:40-10:25 am in the YAC

7th to 12th graders gather **between worship services on Sunday** to share in a time of fellowship. Together we play games, talk about life, and make treats. You are invited and welcome to join us during any of our Sunday morning meetings.

EDGE YOUTH

We had so much fun together in December at EDGE singing karaoke, playing games, and enjoying one another's company.

January kicks off with roller skating, EDGE nights filled with laughter, a relaxing weekend retreat, and a baking day followed by a movie night! Anyone in high school is invited to join us for the fun. Doors open at 7:00 pm; we start at 7:30; come when you can!

Upcoming Events:

1/7 | Roller Skating at Super Skate

| Cost: \$8 | Time: 6:00-8:00 PM

****No on-site EDGE activities at LCR on the 7th!**

1/14 | EDGE in the YAC

1/16-1/18 | 'Rest, Rage, Recharge' Retreat

Contact Hannah ASAP if you still want to sign up!

1/21 | EDGE in the YAC

1/25 | Lights, Camera, Cookies! | Join us at 3:00 PM

**as we gather to bake cookies and enjoy
a movie, "The Greatest Showman"**

1/28 | EDGE in the YAC

If you would like to receive our regular high school ministry email updates, register for EDGE here:

<https://lcrmarion.org/ministries/youth-ministry.html>

Confirmation students took part in the Children's Christmas program on December 14th



PRAYERS

Those hospitalized recently:

Gary Young, Joe Glogovsky

Those experiencing illness or surgery:

(LCR members) Pam Couser, Kristen Corrigan, Penny Moubry, Billie Lou Le Flore, Melissa Alexander, Eloise Heppler

(family and friends) friend Karen, Allison Mastroddi

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.

Those living in care facilities:

Bernadean Spilde (Closer Care), Larry Wogahn (The Views), Mary Durspeck, Marge Dryden (Terrace Glen), Everett Lehrman (Grand Living)

Those who mourn...

Those in military service:

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.



<< Pastor Nate enlists the kids | Sunday School and Wee Wisdom children added their voices to our Christmas program



“Silent Night”



SO MANY cookies and treats were shared at the Cookie Potluck on the Sunday after Christmas! >>



STEWARSHIP

Treasurer's Report for November 2025

	<u>November</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>One Year Ago</u>
Receipts	\$76,478	\$921,180	\$780,800
Expenditures	\$78,808	\$828,107	\$719,480
Cash Balances	<u>11/30/2025</u>		<u>11/30/2024</u>
General Fund	\$154,546		\$152,481
Property Reserve	\$ 80,868		\$ 79,947
Savings	\$ 43,667		\$256,268

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

This is literally just a few of our new members this fall! If you see an unfamiliar face in the church in the new year, why not say 'Hi' and get acquainted?



CHURCH COUNCIL

Please reach out with questions or concerns.

The Council met on Tuesday, December 16, 2025. November Secretary & Treasurer reports were approved.

Treasurer: November finished at a deficit, but YTD running ~75k ahead of budget. Pledges from Fall Appeal continue to come in; 2026 giving estimates are approaching proposed budget.

Pastor Jeff's Report: We are very grateful to staff for all the hard work put in to prepare for Christmas. Estimated attendance for Christmas Eve worship is 1,000. Marcia Edwards is retiring in January.

Outreach: Looking forward to Bingo in January; congregational breakfast and game night planned in February.

Property: Plumbing updates - Water softener being bypassed until new unit can be installed. Drains have been cleaned and scoped.

Social Concerns: LCR adopted 14 families for the Holiday Giving Project.

Old Business:

Long Range Planning - Two leading architecture firms will have more in-depth interviews in January, then the committee will choose a firm to proceed with developing LCR's master plan.

Budget - Council voted and approved the proposed the 2026 budget.

New Business:

Employee Handbook updates - Council discussed changes to employee handbook; will have until January to propose any additional changes.

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 20, 2025

Agenda items should be submitted by 1/12/26. Print copies of council minutes and treasurer's reports are available in the church office binder.

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Happy New Year!



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Custodians: Dave Steifner, Dave Cosgrove

