

CROSSTALK

LUTHERAN CHURCH
of the
RESURRECTION

WWW.LCRMARION.ORG

VOLUME 67, ISSUE 7 | JULY 2026

“And he told them many things in parables, ...” Matthew 13:3

I love a good story!

If you are old enough you may remember a nightly television phenomenon on CBS called: “Bicentennial Minute.” They started on July 4, 1974 and continued until December 31, 1976. These short educational segments commemorating the bicentennial of the American Revolution and featured a wide array of anecdotes and facts about life in the fledgling nation that were meant to make you think a bit more deeply about the bicentennial celebration. They all ended the same way, the night’s presenter would say, “And that’s the way it was.”

During July of this Semiquincentennial (250 years) I have been thinking about how important those little stories are. Any one of them by themselves is somewhat insignificant, but when taken all together they give a robust and thought-provoking window into something much bigger. The same is true of the parables of Jesus.

For the final three Sundays in July, we will hear from Jesus’ parables. The Sower, the weeds, the mustard seed, the treasure, the pearl and the fishing net (Matthew 13), each a little story that when taken together give us insight into something much bigger. None of the parables are really meant to tell the ‘whole story’ but when put together they offer us insights and fresh perspectives on just what God is doing in the person of Jesus.

But here’s the difference between Jesus’ parables and the Bicentennial Minutes. The parables of Jesus don’t just call us to look backward. They are not meant to be windows in time, but ongoing revelation into how God is at work. So, after we read a parable it’s not just, “And that’s the way it was,” but “This is how it is and will be!” The word of God isn’t meant to be nostalgic but always leading us forward into the very presence of Christ.

Peace! Pastor Jeff

Welcome LCR New Members!

Marianne Ekland

Christine & Ryan Rand

Jen Schnathorst & Zain Shah + daughter Lexi

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YouTube

https://tinyurl.com/
LCRYoutube

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@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>

A Prayer Offered in Weakness

'I feel like I am dying,' the woman said to me.

I appraised her briefly - no labored breathing, no signs of heat exhaustion or general weakness.

Members of the Contemporary worship ensemble had just completed a set of hymns and praise music for the residents of Summit Pointe. We now were making our way to talk individually to those who had remained behind.

I had asked this woman how she was doing, and was not prepared for her response.

'Can I pray with you?' I asked.

'I would like that,' she responded.

I put my hand on her shoulder and prayed as I felt the spirit was leading me. Within a few seconds, she started crying. I prayed that she would feel comforted by the Lord, that she could sense His presence with her throughout her journey, and that she would experience the peace of Christ. I prayed that He would remind her she was never alone, she would feel His love as someone who was valued, and that she could experience His kindness in the acts of others.

'Thank you, I feel so much better,' she said as the prayer concluded.

Romans 8:26 says, 'In the same way the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what prayer to offer or how to offer it as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes on our behalf with sighs and groanings too deep for words.'

On this June day, I didn't know how to help this woman, but God did!
Praise be to God for helping our worship ensemble live out this verse.
- Ralph Kendrick, Contemporary Band & Children's Choir Director



Some of our contemporary ensemble, who volunteer their time and gifts to share in the community >>

MINISTRY



The FLY program has started making and delivering lunches to local youth. Volunteers are needed to **prepare and pack lunches** or to **deliver the lunches** to one of the sites. LCR does not have a particular day that we are responsible for staffing, so you can sign up for whatever weekdays work for you!

<https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/532062376019/false#/invitation>



During the month of July, we will be supporting the Marion Cares Backpack Program. Students in need from all districts in Marion are given the opportunity to sign up at Marion Cares for backpacks. You can help either by adopting a backpack (sign up online - LCRMarion.org) OR, you can donate money, and we'll pool our donations to adopt additional backpacks. Please mark your donations "Backpacks."

If you plan to donate money, please have your donations turned in by **July 19** so we have time to shop for supplies. If you adopt a backpack, you can drop off the finished backpack at LCR on or before **July 26**. Please include the student identification number and packing list in the front pocket of the backpack.

Shoe Drive Results - \$2,207!!

Thank you for your donations for sturdy new shoes!

Neighborhood Nights needs you!

Our July Neighborhood Nights event takes place on **Saturday, July 25th**.

- Please donate your time during this evening of fun. Sign up on the website or contact the church office.
- You can also donate cans of pop, bottles of water, juice packs, or single-serve bags of chips.
- Donate monetarily to help offset our costs (mark 'NN' in the memo area).

*Thank you for your generosity
as we serve our neighbors!*



Landscapers & Gardeners needed

Landscaping Team - You can work whenever it fits your schedule! Landscaping contact is Julie Gilmore

LCR Garden - Help harvest on Tuesdays from 7:30 - 8:15 am. Our fresh produce goes to the Churches of Marion Food Pantry. Garden contact is Ann Godar.

Mission of Hope Meals - every month

We'd love to have your help, or you can donate staple foods in advance. Find out what's needed at LCRMarion.org. You can also donate monetarily; mark your gift "Mission of Hope Meal."

Car Cruise-in Volunteers needed

Our Cruise-Ins are held on the second Thursdays of each month. Volunteers come at 4:30 to set up, then you run the concessions 'til about 6:00 pm.

Sign up here - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044CA8AD2EA7FA7-63440684-carcruisein#/>

July & August Mission Envelopes

... will benefit the Churches of Marion Food Pantry.

<https://www.facebook.com/marionfoodpantry/>

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY @ LCR

Get your kids involved at Resurrection!

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



Flat Jesus

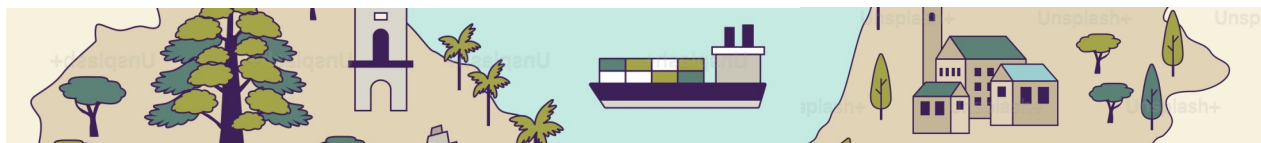
has been all over the place! Over the summer our kids, families, and kids at heart have been taking Jesus along on all their adventures! He has been to

15 states!

He's seen national parks, lego championships, lots of lakes and even done laundry! If you want to add a Flat Jesus to your adventures, scan below!



SCAN ME



ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

Beyond the Bible: A Critical Look at the Gospels of Thomas, Mary and Peter



Sundays at 9:40 am
Conference Room
Starting July 5

Beyond the Bible: A critical look at the Gospel of Thomas, Mary, and Peter!

What? You've never heard of the Gospel of Thomas or Mary or Peter? These early Christian texts didn't make the Bible for good reason, but that doesn't mean they don't offer us good insight into the early church, our own faith, and the need to be diligent about our understanding of who God is in Jesus Christ. Come along with Pastor Jeff as we spend five weeks looking at these particular "Gnostic" texts over against the recognized New Testament.

Meet with Pastor Jeff in the conference room **between services on Sunday mornings, July 5, 12, 19, 26, and Aug. 2**

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 - *New people are welcome at any of our groups!*

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

Email Linda: lhayward495(at)yahoo.com; "Christianity and World Religions" by Adam Hamilton

We will meet on July 13th and take a summer break in August.

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

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

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

Email Donna: donnakdennis88(at)gmail.com

Mary Kay Pinckney - women's group; **Thursday, July 23rd at 2:00 pm**; *will meet at Mary Kay's home in July*

Email: mkpink6(at)gmail.com; "Grace: A Bible Study on Ephesians for Women" by Keri Folmar

Pastor Jeff's One-Minute Devotionals

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



Neighborhood Nights 2026

Thank you, thank you, thank you!! We just completed our first Neighborhood Nights event of the year, and its success could not have happened without the gracious support of those who volunteered, donated, and attended our event!

Our next Neighborhood Nights evening is **Saturday, July 25th from 5-7 pm**. Please stay tuned to the e-news and announcements to sign up to help! - Hannah Sherbon Powell

FELLOWSHIP

Summer Picnic

Enjoy a great summer picnic with your church family! Pulled pork, baked beans, lemonade, and water will be provided; please bring other sides to share (sign-up below). We'll have some light competition through yard games and the 2026 "Best Dessert Bar" contest.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044CA8AD2EA7FA7-64465103-lcrsummer#/>



Car Cruise-in

Come see awesome classic vehicles on **Thursday, July 9th, starting at 5:00 pm**. This is a free activity for all ages so invite friends and neighbors! There will be pizza, beverages, and snacks for sale.



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 you haven't painted before, contact Evelyn: [ebeck\(at\)imonmail.com](mailto:ebeck(at)imonmail.com)



LCR Book Club

We'll meet on **Tuesday, July 7th at 6:30 pm**. For a change of pace, our book will be **your choice**. Pick a book you've been wanting to read and then report on it to the group. Happy Summer Reading! Contact Mary to get on our email list; new people are very welcome. [jonmaryhajek\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:jonmaryhajek(at)gmail.com)

Wood Carvers

We meet weekly on **Thursdays at 6:00 pm**. Come when you can and we'll show you how it's done. Contact John if you have any questions: [john1400\(at\)q.com](mailto:john1400(at)q.com)

Knitters & Crocheters

Join us on **Thursday evenings at 6:00 pm**. We have yarn and tools to share if you need them. We are happy to teach newbies! Contact Pam for details. [PamKacena\(at\)yahoo.com](mailto:PamKacena(at)yahoo.com)

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; non-members are always welcome. Contact - [marlino1943\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:marlino1943(at)gmail.com)

Walking Group

We walk **each Thursday at 10:00 am** at Lowe Park or Lindale Mall. Make sure to get on our email list so you'll know where to meet us! [juliegilmore526\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:juliegilmore526(at)gmail.com)

SUMMER @ LCR

MIDDLE SCHOOL MONTHLY ACTIVITY **SANCTUARY GAMES**

SUNDAY, JULY 12
12:00 - 2:30 PM

6TH - 8TH GRADE STUDENTS

Flat Jesus

from LCR to anywhere!

The best way to remember that Jesus is always with you is to actually take him with you! Join us on June 7th to make your own flat Jesus, or download one below. We will be sharing our flat Jesus adventures in the gathering space all summer long!



SCAN ME



EDGE YOUTH

We're Going on a Road Trip!

Please keep our Louisville Mission Team in your prayers as we embark on a week of service, fellowship, and growth beginning July 5th. Throughout the week, our youth and adult leaders will be serving our neighbors, learning about the Louisville community, and discovering new ways God is at work in the world. We pray that God will use our hands and hearts to share Christ's love, deepen our faith, and bring us home inspired to continue serving others. Thank you for supporting us with your prayers!

Please pray for Pastor Nate, Hannah, Maren, Gracelyn, Brynn, Kenley, Valerie, George, Beckett, Owen, & Max

If you would like to receive regular high school ministry email updates, register for EDGE here:
<https://lcrmarion.org/ministries/youth-ministry.html>

Elliott Zrudsky is our 2026 Biderman Scholarship recipient!

Living Legacy Fund - Best wishes to Elliott as he moves on to Coe College.



EDGE Worship Band

<<< Our new high school worship band got off to a great start in June. Stay 'tuned' as we rehearse for our first public performance on **Sunday, August 23rd at 10:30 am.** - Ralph Kendrick, EDGE band director

PRAYERS

Those hospitalized recently:

Darlene Hatch

Those experiencing illness or surgery:

(LCR members) Pam Kacena, Janice Burns, Jean Hammill, Peggy Downey, Eloise Heppler, Larry Edwards, Pam Couser, Harry Walton, Marilynn Carter

(family and friends) friend Cindy, Becky & Steve Hajek, Kaylin Marie Carlson, Paula and Mayleena, Will Springer, Amy Thompson

Those living in care facilities:

Larry Wogahn (The Views), Mary Durspek (Terrace Glen), Everett & Georgia Lehrman (Grand Living)

Those who mourn:

Family and friends of Bernadean Spilde

Pam Kacena and family on the death of her uncle, John Moore, in May, and his wife, Diane, in June

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.

Gary Young Family: Thank you to everyone who came to Gary's celebration of Life. We very much appreciate your support and comfort during this difficult time.

Larry Edwards: I've had so much support for Marcia and me from our church family that it's nearly impossible to express in words! We've been through...

- 9 hours of surgery with four teams at the Univ. of Iowa Hospital,
- 33 radiology treatments to clean up any cancer left behind, and
- on-going chemo for a year.

It has been a remarkable journey with support from so many. We are blessed to be surrounded by love and care from our LCR family. Thank You.



New *a group for those
who have lost their spouse*
Beginnings

Our event this month will be a Games & Picnic day here at the church on **Friday, July 19th, starting at 3:00 pm.** We ask that people bring some food to share; we'll **eat at 5:00 pm.** We have several games selected for everyone to play. If you have a specific game you would like to share with the group, feel free to bring it along! In order to get a count of attendees, please RSVP by contacting organizers Bob Wolter or Joan Dutton directly or by using the following link - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044CA8AD2EA7FA7-64626228-newbeginnings>

STEWARDSHIP

Treasurer's Report for May 2026

	<u>May</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>One Year Ago</u>
Receipts	\$124,766	\$527,850	\$468,474
Expenditures	\$ 84,943	\$428,986	\$362,878
Cash Balances	5/31/2026		5/31/2025
General Fund	\$240,242		\$263,715
Property Reserve	\$ 80,868		\$ 80,780
Savings	\$ 44,327		\$ 43,013
CDs	\$330,381		\$218,996

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



Digital Giving

* **Simply Giving** - Join 86 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, June 16, 2026.
May treasurer and secretary reports were approved.

Treasurer: Income coming in ahead of budget. Several checks sent to Mission Partners. YTD running ~97k ahead

Pastor Jeff: Pastor Nate will have time off in July, and Pastor Jeff in August. Summer programming underway.

Pastor Nate: Will be going on the high school mission trip with 9 young people and youth director Hannah.

Outreach: Plans underway for LCR Picnic on July 19th.

Property: AED has been moved; expiring pads will be replaced. Passed annual fire inspection. Moving ahead with plans to install an ice maker.

Social Concerns: Will be assisting Marion Cares with a housing assistance program.

Living Legacy: Another Biederman scholarship application has come in.

Old Business: Site Master Plan Update - Core Group meetings are done. Survey will be open until 6/21.
Campus Visitor Strategy: Outdoor electrical outlets have been secured. Looking into fencing for AC units.

New Business: Jazz organist - American Guild of Organists will bring in Deanna Witkowski to give a free workshop on Saturday, November 14th, and she will provide special music for 8:30 worship on Sunday the 15th. LCR will contribute funds.

Next meeting: Tuesday, July 21, 2026
Agenda items should be submitted by 7/13/26.
Print copies of council minutes and treasurer's reports are available in the church office binder.

LUTHERAN CHURCH
of the RESURRECTION
3500 - 29TH AVENUE
MARION IA 52302
(address service requested)



LCR VBS + DAY CAMP

2026 VBS: July 7-10
VBS is for those entering Pre-K - 1st Grade for Fall 2026
2026 Day Camp - August 3-7
Day Camp is for those entering 1st - 5th grade for Fall 2026
Registration opens April 4

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PAID
Marion, Iowa
Permit #11



THE LCR SUMMER PICNIC

SUNDAY, JULY 19 AT 11:30 AM
SIGN UP AT
LCRMARION.ORG

Pool Party!
Friday, July 17th
7:15 - 8:45 pm
@ Marion Pool
Everyone
Welcome!



NEIGHBORHOOD Nights

FREE FOOD! FREE FUN!
JUNE 27 | JULY 25 | AUGUST 29
JOIN US FOR A FREE MEAL, BOUNCE HOUSE FUN, GAMES AND MUSIC STARTING AT 5 PM



BOTTLED WATER DONATIONS FOR LCR'S FREE WATER PANTRY

Help keep our neighbors hydrated!
Drop off water at the church office.

CONTACT US!

office hours:
Monday - Friday,
9:00 am - 4:00 pm
phone: 319-377-4689
email: [office\(at\)lcrmarion.org](mailto:office(at)lcrmarion.org)
fax: 319-377-4680

www.lcrmarion.org

Pastor Jeff Frohner - [PastorJeff\(at\)lcrmarion.org](mailto:PastorJeff(at)lcrmarion.org)
Pastor Nate Montover - [PastorNate\(at\)lcrmarion.org](mailto:PastorNate(at)lcrmarion.org)
Childrens/MS Ministry: Jessi Lau - [childrens\(at\)lcrmarion.org](mailto:childrens(at)lcrmarion.org)
HS Ministry: Hannah Sherbon Powell - [youth\(at\)lcrmarion.org](mailto:youth(at)lcrmarion.org)
Contemp. Worship: Ralph Kendrick - [worship\(at\)lcrmarion.org](mailto:worship(at)lcrmarion.org)
Office Manager: Kim Benser - [business\(at\)lcrmarion.org](mailto:business(at)lcrmarion.org)
Emily Carson - [secretary\(at\)lcrmarion.org](mailto:secretary(at)lcrmarion.org)
Cari Redondo - [communications\(at\)lcrmarion.org](mailto:communications(at)lcrmarion.org)
Lorie Smith - [bookkeeper\(at\)lcrmarion.org](mailto:bookkeeper(at)lcrmarion.org)
Custodians: Dave Steifner, Kriangsak Phithakhiriknet

