



Volume 61, Issue 12
December 2020

A Christmas Wish List

I remember once as a parent traveling down the aisles of “Toy R Us” with two young boys - 6 and 8 - trying to communicate with them that we were there making a WISH LIST, not a WILL GET LIST! After all, I reminded them that even Santa had his limits as he had to make room in the sleigh for more than just two preacher’s kids! And between Mom and Dad, Grandma’s and Grandpa’s, and of course dear old St. Nick, the Frohner boys usually did just fine.

As I’ve gotten older I realize that asking my kids what they wanted wasn’t nearly as important as asking myself what it is that I wanted them to receive. You see the presents that they wanted have long been left behind but I’m hoping that what I wanted them to receive might still be bearing fruit. So what is it that I wanted for them?

1) I wanted my children to know that they are loved and cherished for who they are, not what they might become. 2) I wanted my children to see that I’d rather spend time with them, than money on them. 3) I wanted my children to find strength in being generous and compassionate toward others. 4) I wanted my children to understand the concept of God as love. 5) I wanted my children to see faith at work in the lives of others, especially in their parents. 6) I wanted my children to enjoy all the fun traditions of the season but to know that Rudolph is not the greatest miracle of Christmas.

This Covid-Christmas will be like none other that we’ve experienced; but maybe it’s the perfect time to stop and ask some deeper questions. What do we want for LCR this coming year? What are the things that will last as a foundational blessing for years to come? Where is it that the light of Christ is making its way through the darkness and leading us on the journey of faith?

Advent Blessings, Peace! Pastor Jeff

Advent Devotionals

This year, Pastor Jeff will be providing a series of Advent readings to help us prepare for Christmas. These devotionals will be available four ways: you can get a printed booklet, access them on our website, get a daily text message, and/or get a daily email. You can utilize as many of these options as you would like! If you would like to receive daily text messages, daily emails, and/or a printed booklet, please fill out our online form at lcrmarion.org/advent, or call the church office.



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[https://tinyurl.com/
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Worship

8:30 am Sunday - Traditional Worship
10:00 am Sunday - Contemporary Worship

Sunday services are now being held livestream only; the links are available on our website (www.lcrmarion.org) and on our social media sites.

You can sign up for email alerts from LCR about worship and other news. Scroll to the bottom of our homepage and sign up under “E-Newsletter” or email us (office@lcrmarion.org) and we’ll sign you up.

Sunday Fellowship - Many thanks to Mary Jo & Roger Carlson for taking leadership of our outdoor distanced gatherings this fall on Sunday mornings. It was great to visit in person again!

6:00 pm Wednesday - Evening Song Zoom Worship

This is a time where we’ve combined fellowship, worship, and discipleship. We sing some songs (traditional hymns and contemporary songs), we hear Scripture, have a lesson & discussion with one of our pastors, and a time of prayer.

Wednesday Fellowship - If you’d like to join us for fellowship during the week, please feel free to log in to our Wednesday evening Zoom session at 5:45 pm to chat. Link is available on our website homepage.

Re-Opening - Are we there yet?

Last month we announced our plans to begin in-person worship before Thanksgiving. As with many things in 2020, these plans had to be adapted and put on hold as the rising number of Covid-19 cases began to threaten our community. Rest assured we are still committed to being able to worship in-person; nevertheless we are going to have to wait. It would be somewhat premature to announce a target date given the current situation, so rest assured that we’ll keep everyone informed and, as always, we appreciate your patience and understanding as we navigate these unusual times.

Christmas Worship - Join Us!

Yes, we are planning to have Christmas worship opportunities here at LCR! While things have to be subject to change, the current plan is to have a special online Christmas Eve Worship Service that you can play at home at your leisure. This will be a traditional offering filled with all that you expect from a Christmas Eve worship. Additionally, we are hoping to have several smaller gatherings on December 20, 21, 22, and 23 inside that will capture the joy and warmth of the season. These opportunities will be on a limited reservation basis - details to come. Finally, we are planning to have several outdoor Christmas Eve worship opportunities on December 24th. These will take place in the afternoon and at least one of them will be especially geared toward our children and young families. Stay tuned for more details.



Ministry

Marion Ind. Holiday Giving Project

Resurrection will be adopting 7 families this year. We are so grateful to be able to help those who would otherwise not have gifts for Christmas! You can select your gift online - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/lcrholidaygiving20>, or by contacting the church office. Gifts should be brought to the church by Dec. 13th; checks or cash (memo: Holiday Giving Project) should be turned in by Dec. 6th. *Thank you so much.*

Poinsettias / Food Pantry gifts

We'll be taking orders for poinsettias this year, but won't need as many as usual to decorate the worship room. Therefore, please don't order unless you intend to take your plant home after Christmas. Cost is \$10 per plant. You can choose: red, white, pink, maroon, or Jingle Bells (speckled). Bring your cash or check to the church office by Friday, Dec. 4th and remember to specify who you would like to honor with your gift. *If you would like to honor someone, but don't want a poinsettia, please consider making a \$10 donation to the Churches of Marion Food Pantry.* Thank you!

Seeking Tech Volunteers

As we continue with online worship, we are looking for volunteers to train on the new livestream technology for Sunday morning worship services and at other times. You can do this! Contact cari@lcrmarion.org.



Calling All Christmas Musicians!

Musicians, we need your Christmas spirit! Please contact cari@lcrmarion.org if you would be interested in sharing a recording (we can record you) of some Christmas joy. We are interested in solos or small groups, vocal or instrumental. Fa-La La-La La, La-La La Laaaaa!

November & December Mission Envelopes

....are going to the Catherine McAuley Center in Cedar Rapids. The Center serves immigrants, refugees, and women in crisis to promote the well-being and dignity of individuals in need. *Your donations are so appreciated and needed.*

Your Sep/Oct. envelopes for ELCA World Hunger added up to \$747. Thank you so much!

WNL Needs Fleece

Wednesday Night Live kids need donations of fleece (1 yard or larger pieces) to make pet blankets for the Cedar Valley Humane Society. Please bring your donations to the church. *Thank you! - Jill Hansen*

Churches of Marion Food Pantry

Thank you for your incredibly generous gifts of time, food donations, and monetary donations that allow the pantry to continue serving! You can find us at 864 - 12th St. in Marion. The pantry is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-3 pm. **Volunteers:** We're always looking for strong people with trucks who would be able to haul large loads of food during the daytime. Please contact Cari at the church if you can help.

The Churches of Marion Food Pantry has received \$3,000 from our Southeast Iowa Synod to assist with relief efforts following the derecho. The Synod has received these funds from individuals and congregations who wish to assist with our recovery efforts. The Churches of Marion Food Pantry is supported by Faith Lutheran Church, Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, and Ascension Lutheran Church, along with five other churches in Marion.

- Rev. Wendell Debner, Pres. of Pantry Board



Gather the whole family and print off an online ornament template for everyone (or pick one up from the church office) and decorate to your heart's desire. You can use whatever materials you have on hand, feel free to be creative! When you are finished, drop them off to the box in the entryway at church by December 11th. We will collect these and piece them together to build a massive mural out of all of our creations in the shape of a Christmas tree. All ages of decorators welcome, grandmas and grandpas too!

We have been having so much fun in Sunday School this fall! However, due to the current Covid-19 infection rates, we've decided to switch to online Sunday School only for the time being.

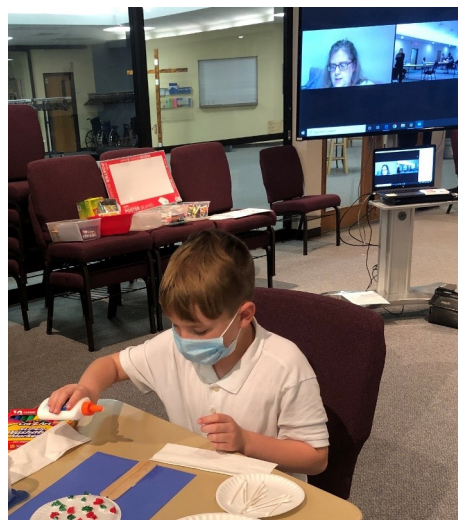
> **Online content** premieres every Sunday morning for you to watch at home. Visit the church website to access our videos - <https://lcrmarion.org/ministries/youth-ministry/lcryouthminportal.html>. *You will need to email jessi@lcrmarion.org to get the site password.*

> **At-Home Sunday School** activities and coloring sheets are available on the Youth Portal.



Two of our online Sunday School students show off their artwork!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT *Live*



Last month we worked on some crafts while Jill quarantined. The kids did great!

Wednesday Night Live changed this year to 4th, 5th, and 6th grades to align with changes in the Resurrection Confirmation program. *We are now meeting exclusively via Zoom on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm.* The kids take part a variety of games and activities, work on service projects, and have relevant & engaging short discussions. The access link can be found on our website - <https://lcrmarion.org/ministries/youth-ministry/lcryouthminportal.html>.

Contact coordinator Jill Hansen for further information - jill@lcrmarion.org



Adult Faith & Outreach

Now that fall is moving in to winter, why not join one of our bible study groups to increase your understanding and enjoyment of the bible and other faith-based media? All our groups welcome new members; many include a Zoom option. *Face masks & distancing are rigorously maintained.* Please join us!

Book of Daniel Bible Study

Are you looking for friendship, support, and growth in faith during this crazy year? As a stay-at-home mom of young children, I'm holding a small group Bible study to connect with others. Our next meeting will be Monday, December 14 at 8:00 pm, and we'll be discussing the book of Daniel. We've been meeting at my home in south Marion. If you're interested, please contact me, Bethany Mast, at 515-441-0645 or bgodar@gmail.com

Other Small Groups

Donna Dennis (2nd & 4th Thursdays, 6:30 pm) This mixed group dives deep into short scripture readings daily. We summarize our thoughts onto paper and then meet at LCR to share our discoveries.

JAM - Jesus And Me (2nd Monday @ 1:00 pm) This women's group is studying Revelations and how it applies to our daily lives. We're using videos from biblical scholar Craig Koester at Luther Seminary and we meet at LCR.

Loaves, Fishes, and Faith (1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 11:30 am/1:00 pm) We meet off-site for lunch, then move to LCR for our study. Our women's group focuses on Biblical themes, but we've been known to spend as much time sharing and supporting each other as studying the lesson!

Mary Kay Pinckney (one Sunday a month, 6:30 pm) Our women's group is currently studying the book & video combo "It's Not Supposed to Be This Way" by Lysa Terkeurst. We meet at Mary Kay's home.

Dan Tegtmeier (1st Monday, evening) Dan chooses a topic, idea, or Bible story for the night's discussion. This is a mixed group that meets at members' homes.

Brewing Up the Bible (BUB)

Join us for a time of casual fellowship and Bible study. All are welcome! We'll meet online by Zoom on Wednesday, December 9 at 7:30 pm.

<https://tinyurl.com/BrewUpBible>

Meeting ID: 864 5496 9262

Password: Brewing

BUB by phone: 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 864 5496 9262

Password: 574566

Pastor Jeff's One-Minute Devotionals

Check out Pastor Jeff's brief engaging videos online. Recent messages have been about the Sermon on the Mount, from the book of Matthew. You can access them through the church website or through this link - <https://tinyurl.com/PrJeffDevotional>

Stand In Unity

Our group is paused for now, but keep checking our resource page for recommendations - <http://lcrmarion.org/standinunity/>. Please also let us know of any material you've come across that moved you or suggested positive ways in which people of faith can work to bring the scourge of racism to an end in our world.

Christ In Our Home

Daily devotionals for October, November, and December are available at the church. Let us know if you want a copy and we'll get it to you.

Wee Wisdom News

Due to the locally high Covid numbers, the Wee Wisdom staff and board has made the hard decision to shut down at least through Christmas/December. Michelle and Christina will still be meeting with the kids on-line, they have so many fun activities planned!

Resurrection friends, THANK YOU so much for continuing to bring in and mail in your HyVee receipts! They really do add up for our program

Building

Organ Update

Did you ever sit in worship and wonder what in the world is inside that organ? Well, in November what was inside the organ was a repair guy! Instead of just doing a regular service call, our technician had to meticulously open up every nook and cranny to clean out the particulates suctioned in and out of the building - and organ - during the derecho.

Although we hope to get a few more years of good service out of our current organ, we ARE planning ahead to the purchase of a new instrument. If you are contemplating any year-end giving, please consider contributing to our Organ Fund.



Stephen Ministry

You Have a Gift Waiting For You

Give yourself a gift this year. What would that be? you ask. At Lutheran Church of the Resurrection we are blessed to be able to offer the gift of Stephen Ministry.

Stephen Ministry is available to our church family and community family. Anyone who would like to receive the gift of care.

All of us experience difficulties in our lives. Are you experiencing the loss of a loved one, hospitalization, surgery, pregnancy, moving to a new home, divorce, a spiritual crisis, job loss, broken relationships, disability, loneliness, cancer, isolation, infertility, discouragement, depression, family crisis, Covid fatigue, or any other challenges in your life?

Stephen Ministers are here to give you the gift of someone who will listen, not judge, pray with you, maintain confidentiality with your care, and reflect on God's presence in your life.

God never intended for us to go through these life experiences alone. That is why God brought us together as a church. Stephen Ministry is part of your church team.

Consider giving yourself a gift this year, a gift that comes from Jesus Christ and is given to you through the caring relationship of Stephen Ministry.

Maybe you have friends or family members who would benefit from the gift of the Stephen Ministry. How do I redeem my gift or the gift for a friend or family? It's easy, just call the church office: 319-377-4689. - *Peace, Mary Hajek*





Greetings Friends!!

I have decided that it is time for us to shift our in-person Confirmation sessions to on-line Zoom sessions. As the number of cases of Covid-19 increase in our area and local schools begin to move toward on-line instruction, I feel it is best to do whatever is in our power to make sure our kids are safe.

I invite all our kids (7th and 8th grades) to join us each Wednesday for a Zoom session to connect and share our faith journey. I will do my absolute best to make this a good experience for our kids. I'll send a Zoom link and a brief update each week by email. (Contact me at lcr.confirmation@gmail.com if you're not already on the Confirmation email list.) In December we'll meet on the 2nd, 9th, and 16th.

Confirmation on-line content can be found at <https://lcrmarion.org/ministries/youth-ministry/lcryouthminportal.html>.

Thanks for your faith and trust in our shared Confirmation ministry. - *Pastor Nate Montover*



CHANGE OF PLANS

DUE TO THE RECENT SPIKE IN
COVID CASES IN LINN COUNTY,
EDGE WILL HALT IN-PERSON
SMALL GROUP GATHERINGS

JOIN US THIS WEDNESDAY NIGHT ON
ZOOM FOR SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION!

CONTACT KATIE FOR THE ZOOM LINK!

www.vimeo.com/lcrprogramming

EDGE Is Online!

EDGE High School Youth Ministry is now meeting on-line. Contact coordinator Katie Kascel for more information - katie@lcrmarion.org

Follow EDGE on Instagram -
<https://www.instagram.com/edgeatlcr/>



Rooney moved in with Katie recently and now she's visiting the church too!



Prayers

Prayers
are
requested
for...



Those hospitalized in November...

Those experiencing illness or surgery:

(Resurrection members) Pam Miller, Arlene Lang, Janice Berridge, Duane Rinderknecht, Jill Hansen, Dan Tegtmeier, Linda Christiansen, Lyle Bischof, Ken Meisinger, Andy McRoberts, Deanna Harding, Clark Gull, Paul Bendixen, John Howe, Eugene Henry, Bernadean Spilde, Rick & Penny Siefken, Arvis Hahn

(family and friends) Kaytie Anderson, Don Pierce, Christiana Cunha, Whitney Power, TJ & Annie Schnickloth, Gracelyn Springer-Tope, Lisa Jones, Keshia Hayward, Steve Durspek, Rae Pittenger, Doug Breiholz, Alice Waechter, Patti Supp, friend Gina, Ernie Jones

Those living in care facilities:

Lee Schoon, Vera Olson, Martin Winch (The Views); Larry Wogahn (Bickford Cottage); Barb Schierholz (Willow Gardens); Ernest Jones (Winslow House)

Those in military service:

Taylor Sutton, Taylor Johnson, Paul & Chrystal McDonough, Aaron Moose, Steven Anderson, Jake Anderson, Haley Eickstaedt, Will Fritz, Todd Kopperud, Michael Berridge, David Berridge

Those who celebrate:

- Terry & Harriet Van Gilder on their 60th anniversary on 11/5.
- Jill Hansen & family on her successful surgery on 10/30.
- Tracy & Linda Hayward on the recovery of their daughter-in-law, Keshia Hayward.

Those who mourn:

- Family & friends of our late loved ones: Richard Sundermeyer (11/18), Jerry Norman (11/17), Marilyn Canady (11/16), Pat Rose (11/8).
- Pam Kacena & family on the death of her uncle, Denny Clift, on 11/3.
- Everett Dryden & family on the death of his niece, Judy Dryden, on 10/31.

Those in transition:

- Marilyn Hughes and family
- those affected by the Covid-19 virus and/or the derecho

Prayers for those serving on the frontline:

Our hearts are with all those who are working hard hours in stressful environments to help others. If you are willing to serve them through prayer, go to http://lcrmarion.org/prayer_team/ and type in this password – LCRPrays.

We would like to thank our friends at LCR for their cards, e-mails, and telephone calls, and for helping us celebrate our 60th Wedding Anniversary on November 5th. Thanks to all of you for making our special day even more special! - Terry & Harriet Van Gilder

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.

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 call the church office (319-377-4689).

Stewardship

Treasurer's Report for October 2020

	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>One Year Ago</u>
General Fund Receipts	\$36,522	\$459,743	\$515,772
General Fund Expenses	\$49,134	\$450,168	\$517,615
Cash Balances	<u>10/31/20</u>	<u>10/31/19</u>	
General Fund	\$97,482*	\$ 9,299	
Clearing Accounts	\$43,251	\$35,201	
Growth & Outreach Fund	\$56,220*	\$34,375	

* includes PPP Loan

2020 Growth & Outreach Fund

Growth & Outreach Fund Receipts through 10/31	\$90,575
Growth & Outreach Fund pledges through 10/31	\$90,979
Offerings received toward those pledges	\$87,685
% of pledges received	96.4%

LCR applied and received a small business PPP loan in April. In our general fund we received \$61,547 to be used to help LCR cover payroll needs for April & May. \$4,848 has been received in our Growth & Outreach fund to cover April & May Payroll needs. LCR applied for forgiveness of the Paycheck Protection Program loan in June.

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

Growing. Sharing. Serving.

Church Council

The Council met on Tuesday, November 17th. Secretary's & Treasurer's reports were approved. The General Fund balance was \$97,482 at the end of October due to the PPP Loan.

Monthly Reports

Pastor Jeff offered plans/suggestions for re-opening so we are ready when it's safe. Council voted to approve a sabbatical for senior pastor after 7 years.

Team Reports

Governance - Slight changes to Trust Fund governance were offered by Joan Meyer and Don Johnson to make the Fund more flexible. A sub-team will create wording to clarify the changes.

Stewardship - Appeal packets went out last month and response has been positive. New combined 2021 budget is being more fully defined.

General Fund Summary

After ten months of 2020:

- ♦ Receipts are 95% of our anticipated income, pro-rated through October
- ♦ Expenses are 93% of the 2020 budget, pro-rated through Oct.

Digital Giving

* **Simply Giving** - Join over 90 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 by the Welcome Center.

* **PayPal** - There is a DONATE button you can click on our website for online giving.

* **Give+ Mobile Phone App** can be downloaded from Google Play or iTunes.

Property sub-team is working on installing new LED lighting. Derecho repairs moving along; it was found that AC units were damaged also.

Outreach - Not able to meet in November.

Communications - Training session on new A/V equipment was held 11/14 and worship services live-streamed successfully the next morning. Cari is creating training videos for tech volunteers.

New Business - None at this time.

Next meeting - December 15, 2020

Agenda items should be submitted by 12/12. Copies of Council minutes and Treasurer's reports are in the church office binder.

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

(Address Service Requested)



Everybody had a great time at our LCR Happy Halloween event on 10/28! After the treats and games, all the super-heroes and princesses stopped at the photo booth. Photos of some of our Resurrection kids & families are scattered throughout the newsletter this month.

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LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION Growing. Sharing. Serving.		Please turn in your 2021 Commitment Form! Thank you.	



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Children's Ministry: Jessi Lau - jessi@lcrmarion.org
Social & Ch. Ministry: Jill Hansen - jill@lcrmarion.org
Youth Ministry: Katie Kascel - katie@lcrmarion.org
Communications: Cari Redondo - cari@lcrmarion.org
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