



Volume 62, Issue 2
February 2021

BE OPEN!

“Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” - *Mark 7.34*

As a kid I remember loving the old movies that centered around genies and the mysterious east! “The Thief of Baghdad,” “The Flying Carpet,” or the “The 7 Voyages of Sinbad” all would equally entertain. And what about “Arabian Nights,” where the secret phrase would allow you entry into a magical reality - - Open Sesame!

Open Sesame! To be opened was to reveal the secrets that lay within. To be opened was to allow the story to continue in a new and marvelous way. To be opened was the first step in a new relationship that was about to unfold. In the Gospel of Mark, there is a man who cannot hear or speak and his friends ask for him to be healed and we are told that Jesus looking up to heaven, sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. (Mark 7.33-35)

The season of Lent which begins on Ash Wednesday (February 17) is a time for us to be opened. It is not always by intention but we can often find ourselves feeling closed off to God and the spiritual realities of our life. We become so busy and overwhelmed - especially this year - that we find ourselves stuck and shut off.

Let’s use our Lenten time to be opened to the workings of the Holy Spirit. Open Our Eyes, Lord! Paul saw the light of Christ shining around him on the road to Damascus. As individuals and communities, what do we have difficulty seeing? How does our perspective change when we view the world through the eyes of Christ? Consider praying for God to help you ‘see’ as God sees the world!

Open Our Hands, Lord! We use our hands to pick up a child, to serve a meal, to play an instrument, to wipe away a tear. Jesus used his hands for healing and for deeds of great power, and the psalmist reminds us that we are always held fast in God's hands. How might we open our hands to serve God and neighbor?

Open Our Hearts, Lord! How might we begin to have hearts that are filled with compassion and caring for others; not just turned in on our own selfish desires? Kindness and hospitality can open us up to the realities of God.

Open Sesame! Ephphatha!
May it be so with us!
Peace! Pastor Jeff

ἐφφαθά

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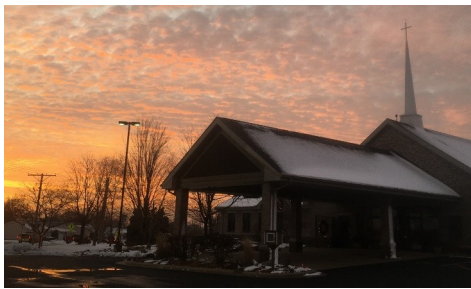
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YouTube

https://tinyurl.com/
LCRYoutube



Worship

8:30 am Sunday - Traditional Worship
10:30 am Sunday - Contemporary Worship NEW TIME

Sunday services are now being held...

in-person - reserve your spot on SignUpGenius (link on our website) or by calling the church office

livestream - links available on our website (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.

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/181uDRkYnTRyGMmuwI3ZiDQ44ay4>

6:00 pm Wednesday - Evening Song Zoom Worship

This is a time where we’ve combined worship and discipleship. We sing some songs (traditional and contemporary), hear scripture and a brief lesson from one of our pastors, have discussion amongst ourselves, and share a time of prayer. If you’d like some fellowship during the week, feel free to log in to our Wednesday evening Zoom session at 5:45 pm to visit. It’s great to catch up! Link is available on our website homepage.

Ash Wednesday - February 17, 2021

7:30 - 8:30 am (Sanctuary Open for Prayer and Ashes; no reservation required)

“Imposition of Ashes” in the Sanctuary. You can come and start your day in prayer and contemplation. Ashes will be available for you to place on your own forehead or Pastor Jeff will also be available (blessing and call to discipleship will be done from a distance, then ashes will be given from one’s side).

12:00 Noon - Ash Wednesday Worship (RESERVATION REQUIRED - 35 in-person)

6:00 pm - Ash Wednesday Worship (RESERVATION REQUIRED - 35 in-person; also LIVE-STREAMED)

We gather to begin our 40 days of preparation for Easter with an honest look at our lives and a renewed dedication to living out our faith in the world.

Mid-Week Lenten Worship - OPEN TO THE SPIRIT !

Each Wednesday in Lent we’ll gather for worship here in the Sanctuary and also Live-Stream to the whole community. Worship begins at 6:00 pm and will last for approximately 40 minutes. If you would like to join us for in-person worship, reservations are required (35 in-person seats are available).

Please note Wednesday Night Live continues during Lent this year, as does Confirmation instruction.

There are no meals during Lent for 2021.

RESERVATIONS are needed -or- you may LIVE-STREAM

February 24:	Open to Serve!	Mark 10.32-52
March 3:	Open to Listen!	Mark 12.13-17
March 10:	Open to Love!	Mark 12.28-40
March 17:	Open to Generosity	Mark 12.41-44
March 24:	Open to Risk	Mark 14:3-9

Ministry

Reverse Advent Project

After Christmas, a team sorted and transported the donations from our Reverse Advent boxes to the food pantry. Your incredible combined generosity resulted in approximately \$3,700 worth of food, hygiene products, and winter gear that will be distributed to those in need by the Churches of Marion Food Pantry. THANK YOU to everyone who participated by filling a box!



Sanitizing Sprayer



As we move forward with in-person worship, we are looking for volunteers who would like to be trained to use our electrostatic sprayer in the sanctuary between worship services on Sun-

day mornings. If you are willing to help, please contact marcia@LCRMarion.org.

Blood Drive

Share the gift of life with people in need in our community. You can choose an appointment time between 2:00 and 6:30 pm on Thursday, February 25th. Call Bob Wolter at 377-5126 or the church office (377-4689).



January & February Mission Envelopes

....will go to FLY (Feeding Lunches to Youth). There are local students who rely on the hot lunch program in their schools for their main meal of the day. So when there is no school, there is no meal for them. There are 6 congregations that take part in this meal program by making sandwiches, sacking the lunch bags, delivering and passing out the lunches, and returning the leftovers. *Your donations are so appreciated and needed.*

Thanks also for your mission giving in November & December. A check was sent to the Catherine McAuley Center in the amount of \$725.

Tech Volunteers Needed

As we continue with online worship, we are looking for more volunteers to train on the new livestream technology for Sunday morning worship services and at other times. Contact cari@lcrmarion.org to find out more.

Churches of Marion Food Pantry

Feel free to bring your food donations to the church on Sunday mornings or during the week from 9 am to 4 pm. (No clothing at this time, please.) Thank you for your generous gifts of time, food donations, and checks that allow the pantry to continue serving! The Pantry is at 864 - 12th St. in Marion; it is open for distributions on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-3 pm.

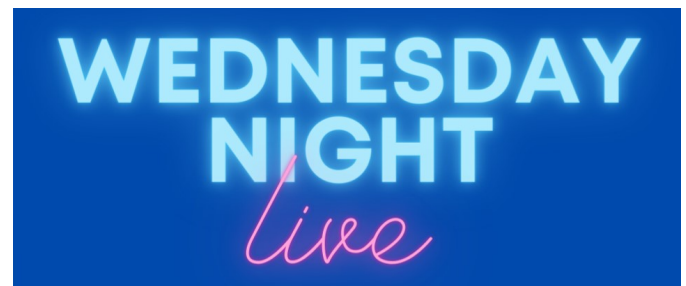
Volunteers: We're always looking for strong people with trucks who would be able to haul large loads of food during the daytime. Please contact Cari at the church if you can help.

Fresh Start Ministries

We received a Thank You note the other day from Fresh Start Ministries for our

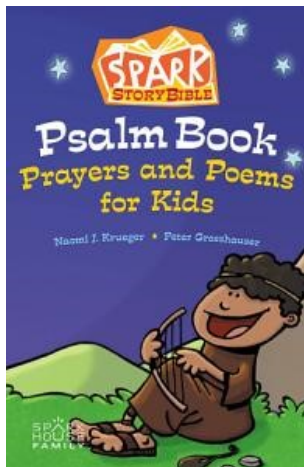
recent donation of \$1,000. Thank you so much for your faithful support of LCR's budget, which allows us to reach out to valuable organizations in our community like the Jail Ministry!





Current Sunday School Series

Find us on the LCR website to join in on our weekly online content. Right now we are studying our way through the Psalms with prayers, poems and activities galore! As part of this series, we want all families to have a copy of the Psalm book at home. There's still plenty of time in this series to join in. Pick one up in the gathering space now, or contact Jessi to have one delivered to your home.



New Sunday School Opportunities COMING SOON!

Keep an eye on the church website and Sunday School email to learn more about our next opportunity for in-person Sunday School, coming soon!

First Communion: A Place for YOU!

We will be offering First Communion instruction for children and parents in early March. Please be on the lookout for an online sign-up to register your interest OR you can call the church office to be put on the list. First Communion instruction is targeted toward children in the 4th grade. This year we are mindful of and open to those who may not have had the opportunity to participate last year due to pandemic concerns. At the Lord's Table, there is always a place for you!



WNL will continue in-person assigned small groups at 6:00 pm throughout Lent. We will not, however, meet on Ash Wednesday. WNL will have students gather on alternate weeks. We are now meeting in the Fellowship Hall, so students will need to be dropped off at the front door and picked up at the Fellowship Hall side door after WNL.

For students who want to touch base online instead, there is a Zoom check-in at 7:15 pm on Wednesday nights.

Feel free to contact coordinator Jill Hansen with any questions - jill@lcrmarion.org.



WNL students made some cookies to take home for our first night back after Christmas Break.



Thank you to the Schaldecker family for coming in and helping to prepare the tie-blankets for the Cedar Valley Humane Society! The blankets will be WNL's February service project.

Adult Faith & Outreach

Small Group Bible Studies

Now that winter is here, 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!



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

Dan Tegtmeier (1st Monday @ 6:30 pm)
Dan chooses a topic, idea, or Bible story for the night's discussion. This is a mixed group that meets at Resurrection.

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 of Luther Seminary. We meet at LCR.

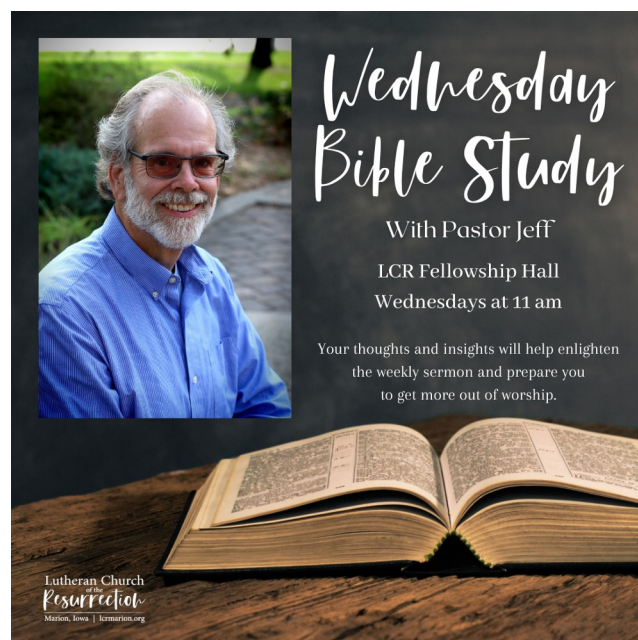
Bethany Mast (2nd Monday @ 8:00 pm)
Young parents connect for friendship, support, and growth in faith at Bethany's home. Contact her at: 515-441-0645 or bgodar@gmail.com

Loaves, Fishes, and Faith (two Tuesdays a month @ 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 spend time sharing and supporting each other as well!

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

Wednesday Bible Study

Pastor Jeff leads us on a weekly reflection of the upcoming lessons for Sunday morning. There is no better way to prepare for worship than to be in conversation with the scriptures for the day. Feel free to come whenever it works into your schedule or become a regular! Your thoughts and insights will help enlighten the weekly sermon and prepare you to get more out of worship. This is an in-person study at the church, so bring your mask and we will social distance.



Pastor Jeff's One-Minute Devotionals

Check out Pastor Jeff's brief engaging videos online. You can access them through the church website or at this link - <https://tinyurl.com/PrJeffDevotional>

Brewing Up the Bible (BUB)

...is on hold during February & March. Watch this spot after Easter for further information.

Stand In Unity

See page 8 for February information. You can check our resource page anytime for print & video recommendations - <http://lcrmarion.org/standinunity/>.



LCR Book Club

Hello Ladies,

No, you are not seeing things - the LCR Monthly Book Club is back! We'll get together Tuesday, February 16 at 6:30 pm (3rd Tuesday) and meet in the sanctuary. Some other groups are meeting in-person AND on-line through Zoom at the same time. If anyone is interested in taking part through Zoom at home, let me know and we'll get it set up.

I will be picking up a list from the library of the current book club kits to pass out to everyone, but for this month, I chose "*A Man Called Ove*" by Fredrik Backman. The reviews say 'light-hearted and even some romance.' How appropriate for February! I'll drop off the library tote at the church office soon, and send an email to everyone that the books are available for pick-up. New people are always welcome in our group - contact me at sherrillamorrison@gmail.com to get on our email list.

Hope to see you on the 16th. Don't forget your masks and stay safe!! - *Sherrill*

<https://www.unitedwaydm.org/equity-challenge>

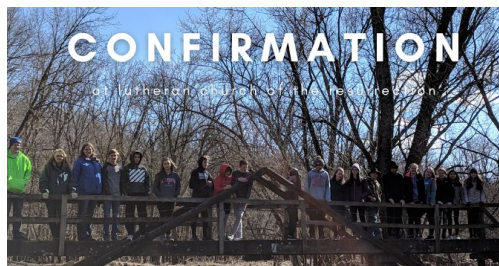
[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZelfu2rqzsjGdT0oDxrbZSLn5pYJCQli0x](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZelfu2rqzsjGdT0oDxrbZSLn5pYJCQli0x).

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q_j0CPXiYX8



Building Policy Update

If you are using the LCR campus outside of regular business hours, please lock all doors once your group has arrived. This will help to ensure a safe and secure environment for everyone.



We are blessed at LCR with facilities that allow us to gather safely and practice social distancing! We gather in-person on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm, alternating each week between the 7th grade and 8th grade classes. We also have on-line Confirmation videos available, and they are posted on the LCR web page.

Our focus for the year is on the scriptures and each of the Confirmands will know the answers to these and many other questions. I invite you to see if you know as much as a Confirmation student! Are you ready??

- * How many books are in the Old Testament?
Can you name them?
- * How many books are in the New Testament?
Can you name them?
- * The Hebrew Bible or Old Testament is often divided into three main categories. Can you name them? Can you explain what you will find in each of the categories?
- * What are the first 5 books of the Old Testament? What do we call those first five books?
- * Where do you find the Ten Commandments in the Bible?
- * Where do you find the story of Jesus in the scriptures?
- * Who is the Apostle Paul, and what books did Paul write?
- * Where do you find the story of the birth of the church in the Bible?
- * How does the Bible present the story of salvation from the Genesis to Revelation?
- * What is the Law? What is the Gospel?

Together we are discussing these, and many other questions, as we study scripture together. However, Confirmation is about so much more than answering questions about scripture. Our hope is to help the kids understand how the scriptures impact their daily lives through in-person service projects and opportunities for faith reflection.

Teaching Confirmation is one of the greatest honors I have ever been granted and I am humbled and grateful that you have allowed me to share in the faith journey of these future leaders of LCR.

Yours in Christ, Pr. Nate



EDGE Youth

EDGE is studying through the book of 2 Timothy during February! Teaching videos are available each week online, or you can follow along on Instagram (@edgeatlcr) to track our in-person small group schedule.



^ One of our small, distanced groups that meet on Wednesdays evenings. Contact coordinator Katie Kascel for more information: katie@lcrmarion.org



New paint and carpeting in the entryway.

Prayers

Prayers
are
requested
for...



Those hospitalized in January:

Jack Lorence

Those experiencing illness or surgery:

(Resurrection members) Steve Reck, Linda Christiansen, Betty & Paul Bendixen, Bob & Judi Conrad, Marilyn Carstens, Pam Miller, Arlene Lang, Janice Berridge, Dan Tegtmeier, Lyle Bischof, Ken Meisinger, Andy McRoberts, Deanna Harding, Clark Gull, Eugene Henry, Bernadean Spilde, Rick & Penny Siefken, Arvis Hahn

(family and friends) Betty Hannagan, Tallie Furrow, Jeff Kindwall, Steve Durspek, Dan Stroschein, Jacque Lueking

Those living in care facilities:

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

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

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).

Those who celebrate...

Those who mourn:

- Family & friends of Laurretta Schultz, who passed away on 12/29

Those in transition:

- those affected by the Covid-19 virus and the August 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.

Altar Flowers

Now that we're meeting in-person again on Sundays, you can help us beautify our worship space by commemorating people or events in your life through flower displays. The sign-up sheet can be found on our entryway bulletin board or you can call/email the church office. You are welcome to take your flowers home after second worship on Sunday mornings, or pick them up early in the week.



Stewardship

Treasurer's Report for December 2020

	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>One Year Ago</u>
General Fund Receipts	\$ 50,388	\$ 552,962	\$ 627,792
General Fund Expenses	\$ 45,673	\$ 541,962	\$ 614,231

<u>Cash Balances</u>	<u>12/31/20</u>	<u>12/31/19</u>
General Fund	\$ 101,802*	\$ 27,491
Clearing Accounts	\$ 102,747	\$ 77,200
Growth & Outreach Fund	\$ 38,229*	\$ 43,362

* includes PPP Loan

2020 Growth & Outreach Fund

Growth & Outreach Fund Receipts through 12/31	\$106,249
Growth & Outreach Fund pledges through 12/31	\$110,938
Offerings received toward those pledges	\$101,806
% of pledges received	91.8%

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, January 19th. Secretary's & Treasurer's reports were approved. The General Fund balance was \$101,802 at the end of December due to the spring PPP Loan.

Monthly Reports

Pastors - Planning transition time between second service and congregational meetings in January. Discussion on designing our education programs so there is cohesion among them.

Team Reports

Governance - (did not meet)

Stewardship - Adopted all constitution amendments at the Special Meeting (1/17); planning for Annual Meeting where amendments can be ratified. Ready ourselves for Budget Forum on 1/24.

General Fund Summary

After twelve months of 2020:

- ♦ Receipts are 96% of our anticipated income, pro-rated through December.
- ♦ Expenses are 93% of the 2020 budget, pro-rated through Dec.

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.

Outreach - We have been brainstorming how to assist staff with outreach goals and defining best practices for our outreach planning.

Property - Publish charter; create running summary of varying needs.

Communications - Status on livestreaming of services and recent technical 'hiccups.' Discussion of website analytics and attendance figures.

Old/New Business - Jim Shaw making calls to fill the two remaining council slots for 2021.

Next meeting - February 16, 2021

Agenda items should be submitted by 2/13. 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)

If you weren't able to get to the church in January, you can still pick up a 2020 Annual Report. Call the office if you would like one mailed to your home or emailed to your inbox.



**NON-PROFIT
ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Marion, Iowa
Permit #11**



New carpet, paint, and blinds!



CONTACT US!

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

www.lcrmarion.org

*Senior Pastor Jeff Frohner - jeff@lcrmarion.org
Interim Pastor Nate Montover - nate@lcrmarion.org
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
Volunteers: Marcia Edwards - marcia@lcrmarion.org
Office Manager: Evelyn Beck - evelyn@lcrmarion.org
Secretary: Emily Carson - office@lcrmarion.org
Custodians: Marsie Hemminger, Dave Cosgrove*

