



“Let there be light...” *Genesis 1.3*

The Christmas season has ended, and, like children who have opened all of their presents, we are not sure what to do next. Is the excitement over? Do we go back to what we had been doing a few weeks ago? What difference has it all made? Where are the crowds who joined us on Christmas Eve? Where do we go next? Such are the questions that follow such a wondrous time as Christmas.

Although the seasons of Advent and Christmas are a hard act to follow we here at Lutheran Church of the Resurrection have much to be excited about! On January 6 we will enter the church season of Epiphany. An epiphany is a sudden realization or an intuitive leap. It is the time in the church year that we begin to share the story of just who this Christ child really is. The main symbol of Epiphany is Light: Both the light of the star which the Wise men followed; but also the light of God that has come into the world through the person of Jesus.

This year - 2022 - gives us an opportunity to move forward in confidence with the work that God has given us to accomplish here at LCR. I am hopeful that soon we'll have our pastoral staff at full strength and that this, coupled with your excitement and support, will help set the foundation for years of healthy and faithful ministry. With all the possibilities before us, we need to remember what Jesus said about light; we don't hide it unto ourselves but need to put it out for all to see. How will we be known in our community? How will the light of this baby born in Bethlehem shine in and through us? How will our life together proclaim to the world the light of Christ?

That is my Epiphany prayer for all of us here at LCR - may we let the light of Christ shine through all that we do! And here's a place for us to start, ask this simple question: What is the one thing I can do, today, that will point others to Christ? A light not only can keep us on the path; but it can also draw others to us and our ministry. Let there be light in all we do...keeping us faithful to the task at hand; and inviting others to walk beside us.

Peace! *Pastor Jeff*

### Inside this Issue

Adult Faith .....	5
Children's Ministry .	4
Confirmation .....	9
Council News .....	11
EDGE Youth .....	9
Fellowship .....	8
Ministry .....	3, 8
Prayers .....	10
Stewardship .....	9, 11
Worship .....	2

### Follow Us On Social Media:

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**YouTube**

<https://tinyurl.com/LCRYouTube>

# Worship

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~ *Sunday morning services - same message, different music styles* ~

**Sunday 8:30 am - Traditional Worship**

**Sunday 10:30 am - Contemporary Worship**

*casual evening gathering with its own message & music from a range of worship styles*

**Wednesday 6:00 pm - Evening Worship**

No reservations are required for **In-Person Worship**.

Links are available on our website and social media sites for **Livestream Worship**.

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](mailto: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>

## **Congregational Annual Meeting set for January 30th at 11:45 am**

All voting members of Lutheran Church of the Resurrection are encouraged to join us for our Annual Meeting on Sunday January 30 at 11:45 AM in the Sanctuary. The official announcement and agenda will be sent to all members at least 10 days prior to the meeting. We will elect officers, approve the budget and vote on the recommendation to extend a letter of call for a full-time Associate Pastor. As has been our practice there will be a “Budget Forum” the previous Sunday (January 23 time TBA) for anyone who would like more information prior to the Annual Meeting.

## **Recommendation to Extend a Letter of Call for Pastor Nate Montover**

Last September the congregation was asked by the council if the congregation would be interested in having a conversation about extending a letter of Call to Pastor Nate Montover to serve as our full-time Associate Pastor. Currently, Pastor Nate is a contract pastor who is at LCR two days a week and one Sunday a month. The congregation has responded with overwhelming support to consider this opportunity. After having several invitations to hear from the congregation, the council as acting Call Committee has discerned the desire of the congregation to present the name of



Pastor Nate Montover at our Annual Meeting for a vote to extend to him a Letter of Call to serve as our full time Associate Pastor. We ask all our voting members to be present on January 30th, and to prayerfully reflect on the mutual responsibility of calling an Associate Pastor to work with us at LCR.

<< Ray, Matthew, and Nick

# Ministry

## ELCA Disaster Response

### *Working together!*

On the night of December 10th, a devastating outbreak of more than 30 tornadoes swept through six states. Kentucky was impacted the most, with more than 70 people reported dead. Homes and businesses were destroyed. Lutheran Disaster Response is engaging with partners in the affected areas, including the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, to respond to immediate needs. Given the initial damage assessments, recovery will likely take years, and Lutheran Disaster Response is prepared to accompany survivors until the response is complete.



Your immediate offerings and continued support of our ministry continues to make a positive impact both at home and across the world.

*As of 12/29, Resurrection members and friends have given \$3,760!*

## Cozy Christmas Shoebox Project

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to fill 214 Cozy Christmas boxes, which were delivered the Churches of Marion Food Pantry this week, and were distributed to our neighbors who visited the pantry before Christmas. Many thanks to Mary Hajek and Kelly Belin, who spent many hours behind the scenes coordinating and working to make this project possible.



*see page 8 for Holiday Giving Project update*

## January Service Project

### *Personal Care Kits for Willis Dady Shelter*

In January, we'll have collection bins set up in the gathering space for the following items:

- Shampoo and/or Conditioner (travel-size)
- Bar Soap or Body Wash
- Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Dental Floss
- Deodorant
- Washcloths or Wet Wipes
- Ziploc Bags (gallon-size)



**Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 6th.** We will assemble the kits between 9:30-11:30 that morning. **THANK YOU** for continuing to reach out to those in need!

**If you would like to make a monetary donation,** we will use the funds to purchase items necessary to fill out the kits. You can bring cash or check to the church office, labeled "January Service Project," or donate online at <https://lcrmarion.org/giving.html> - click on the yellow "donate" button and select "January Service Project." You can also Venmo a donation to Resurrection Lutheran (@LCRMarion).

## Un-Hanging of the Greens

Many hands make light work as we UN-decorate the church! Join us on Saturday, January 8 at 9:00 am.

## Jan/Feb Mission Envelopes

...are going to FLY (Feeding Lunches to Youth), a Marion partnership that serves the kids of our community each summer through nutritious sack lunches.

*Resurrection members and friends gave more than \$819 for the Catherine McAuley Center in November and December. Thank you!*

# WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

# SUNDAY SCHOOL

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE DATES**

**JANUARY:**  
 NO WNL - 5  
 GAME NIGHT - 12  
 REGULAR WNL - 19  
 REGULAR WNL - 26



**SUNDAY SCHOOL DATES**

**JANUARY:**  
 2 - NO SS - WINTER BREAK  
 9 - WELCOME BACK!  
 16 - UNIT 1  
 23 - UNIT 1  
 30 - UNIT 1



Students have been helping Pastor Jeff light the advent wreath during the children's messages in December!

At Sunday School, students walked through the Christmas story, talking about the real meaning of Christmas.



Wednesday Night Live went full Christmas in December. We talked about advent, what light means to us at this time of year and celebrated Jesus as the light of the world!



Sunday School students learned about Jesus coming at Christmas time as the light of the world, carefully finding the verses that supported this. They came up with ways they could be lights too! Our older students made cards to send some Christmas cheer to church members near and far.

# Adult Faith Development

## Lifetree Cafe

.... meets on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month from 12:00 to 1:00 pm. For those who are not familiar with Lifetree, it is not a Bible study or book group. Rather, we introduce a pertinent topic, provide some basic information, and then have both large and small group discussions. We have coffee ready and provide some pre-packaged snacks for those who want them. **Please join us on Friday, January 14 for “The Grace of Work.”** (1/28 subject to be announced)

*Current LCR policy is that masks are optional for those who have been fully vaccinated.*

## JAM (Jesus And Me)

JAM meets on the second Monday of each month at 1:00 pm in the YAC. We are a group of women who are currently studying the Proverbs. You are welcome to jump in to our group at any time! Contact Linda Hayward (lhayward495@yahoo.com) to get on our email list. **Join us Monday, January 10.** We use a study guide and encourage participants to read the questions in the guide before reading the text, noting which questions they would like to discuss. In recent sessions, we’ve discovered that reading the text in different versions of the Bible is helpful and interesting, and that checking the internet for commentaries on the Proverbs can help to clarify scripture meanings.

## Biblical Potpourri - Sunday Mornings and Wednesday Nights

Pastor Jeff is offering a “Biblical Potpourri” as he takes us on a journey through scripture, looking at one verse/theme in each of the 66 books of the Bible! This is a great way to begin to understand the Bible as a whole and dive into some of those lesser-known parts of scripture. Come for every session, or just drop in as you are able - there’s always a place for you. We’re meeting at 9:45 am on Sundays and 7:00 pm on Wednesdays, both in the conference room. *(no gathering on January 5th)*

## Wednesday 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 Pastor Jeff’s weekly sermons and prepare you to get more out of worship. We meet each Wednesday at 11:00 am. This is an in-person study at the church, so we are social distancing in the fellowship hall.

## Pastor Jeff’s One-Minute Devotionals

Check out these brief, thought-provoking videos online, any time. You can access them at - <https://tinyurl.com/PrJeffDevotional>

*...lay down His sweet head...*



# Ministry

## Holiday Giving Project

Generosity in so many ways...

- Purchasing gifts
- Donating money for gifts and food
- Packing food boxes
- Helping us make a contact to get donated food from PepsiCo/Quaker.
- Helping deliver food and gifts
- Praying for families and for our own church members to open our hearts

### Some details about the Project:

In the past there had been 170 families in need. This year there were 219. Generous giving from LCR provided our 7 families with wonderful gifts. Donations of money meant that we were able to add a Hy-Vee food card to 122 of the 219 boxes so families could get fresh milk, some meat, or fruits for their meals. Because our congregation was able to provide so many Hy-Vee cards, the Marion Foundation provided cards for the remaining boxes and every family got a card!

**Thank you, LCR,** for your willingness to care for others. Mother Theresa said: If you can't feed a hundred people, feed one. Our church certainly reached beyond that one to care for many. I hope God has blessed your heart with the warmth of knowing you blessed strangers with a Christmas they would not have had without your help. We wish God's continued blessing for all of you.

*- Diana Zrudsky and Chad Zrudsky,  
LCR Leaders for the Holiday Giving Project*



# Fellowship

## P.E.P. 55+ Group

The 'LCR Detective Agency' is calling all modern-day Columbo's, Rockford's, Jessica Fletcher's, and Miss Marple's to help solve some mysteries. Join us on Sunday, January 23 at 3:00 pm for an afternoon of fun and surprises as we play a team version of the board game "Clue." Casual attire is appropriate, with Inverness capes and deerstalker hats optional ;-)

## Resurrection Scrapbookers

.....will gather on Saturday, January 22 from 9 am to 5 pm. Bring your photos, albums, and tools and stay for as long or as short as you like. Contact Donna Dennis or the church office for further information. Non-members are always welcome, so invite a friend!

## Candy Bar Bingo

Enjoy family fun on Sunday, January 16 from 1:00-2:30 pm. There will be free popcorn for everyone, and pop available for purchase. See you there!

## LCR Book Club

We'll get together Tuesday, January 18 at 6:30 pm. Our book this month will be "Noah's Compass" by Anne Tyler. You'll be able to pick up a copy of the book in the church office. Contact [sherrillamorrison@gmail.com](mailto:sherrillamorrison@gmail.com) to get on our email list; all are welcome!

## Cribbage Group

Cribbage meets on the 2nd and 4th Friday each month from 1:15-3:15 pm to enjoy card-playing fellowship. Everyone is welcome, including non-members and those who have never played before. There is no fee to participate, just come and have some fun!

## Wood Carvers

Our talented wood carvers meet each Thursday evening at 6:00 in the Art Room. If you want to learn a really satisfying handicraft, join us some evening and we'll get you started. Experienced carvers are welcome to bring their current projects.

# Confirmation

I have really enjoyed our Confirmation classes this fall. Your kids are expressive, energetic (in the best sense of the word), and always open to engage in deep conversation about faith. I hope you are proud of your kids, because I know their behavior reflects the wonderful work you are doing to strengthen them for the journey of life. And thank you for allowing me to play a small role in the work of developing their identity as disciples!

Confirmation will resume on January 12th.

*Please feel free to contact me at any time.*

*- Peace, Nate*

**Pastor Nate's contact info:**

[Lcr.confirmation@gmail.com](mailto:Lcr.confirmation@gmail.com)

[nmontover@gmail.com](mailto:nmontover@gmail.com)

563-320-3995 (call or text)

THANK YOU to EVERYONE who came together throughout the Christmas season to create beautiful and inspiring concerts and worship services! Thanks to all of the musicians who offered their time and talents, to the behind-the-scenes people that organized it all, and for the tech crews who helped make everything look and sound great, both in person and online.

# EDGE Youth



...is open to students in 9th thru 12th grade from any school or church. We meet each Wednesday evening from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. Feel free to join us any time! Our director is Katie Kascel; you can reach her with questions at [katie@lcrmarion.org](mailto:katie@lcrmarion.org).

<https://www.instagram.com/edgetlcr/?hl=en>

<https://vimeo.com/lcrprogramming>

## In Gratitude

I would like to thank all those who sent cards of condolence to myself and my family in memory of Janice. - *Bob Berridge and family*

# Stewardship

## LCR Living Legacy Fund - *formerly known as the LCR Trust Fund*

The purpose of the Living Legacy Fund is to enhance the work of Lutheran Church of the Resurrection by providing ministry, education, and stewardship opportunities for the church that are in addition and apart from the general operation of the church. Learn more at our new Living Legacy webpage:

[lcrmarion.org/giving/livinglegacy.html](http://lcrmarion.org/giving/livinglegacy.html)

Brochures are available on the gathering space kiosk, as well as information about Charitable Giving Through Your IRA - Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). You can download both information pieces from the website. Please contact us with any questions!

## Fall Appeal update

We are so grateful for everyone who filled out their Fall Appeal forms this year, so the Council could determine our 2022 budget. Our campaign report as of 12/22/21 is: 194 pledges received, totaling \$592,677 (represents 56% of our giving units), and One-Time Special Gifts of \$7,150. Your generous giving is what allows us to share the love of Jesus Christ with the world!

# Prayers

Prayers  
are  
requested  
for...



**Those hospitalized in December:**  
Sherrill Morrison

**Those experiencing illness or surgery:**  
*(LCR members)* Zona Hildebrand, Barbara Bunting, Jim Anderson, Judi Conrad, Kay Mase, Marlene Pasker, Don Schantz, Julie Brandt, Paul Bendixen, Marilyn Carstens, Gene Henry, Deanna Harding

*(family and friends)* Diane Peters, Larry Hicks, Roxy Ray, Makenna Gull, sister Dee, Uncle Randy Ridenour, Lucille Lund, Dick Dircks, Don Monk, Kim Boyd, Rosie Von Essen Miller Bennett, Dotty Blackwell, friend Jackie, Joyce Zach, Mike Supp, Amy Thompson, Avona Lehmann, Betty Hannagan

**Those living in care facilities:**  
Lorraine Mohr (Lakeview Village);  
Lee Schoon, Vera Olson (The Views);  
Larry Wogahn (Bickford Cottage);  
Barb Schierholz (Silver Oak);  
Bernadean Spilde (Garnett Place);  
Bill Thompson (Emery Place)

**Those in military service:**

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

**Those who celebrate:**

- Phil & Laura White, their daughter Rachel is home from the hospital and doing well

**Those who mourn:**

- Arlene & Ken Lee on the death of her nephew, Kirk Edwards, on 12/17
- Amanda Beitz and the kids, on the loss of Ricky

**Please pray for nurses, doctors, and staff of local medical facilities due to the increase of Covid-19 infections.**

**Online & E-mail Prayer Lists**

If you are willing to serve our community through prayer, go to [http://lcrmarion.org/prayer\\_team/](http://lcrmarion.org/prayer_team/) and type in this password: LCRPrays.

OR you may join our email list by sending your email address to: [office@lcrmarion.org](mailto:office@lcrmarion.org)



*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.*

*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.*



# Stewardship

## Treasurer's Report for November 2021

	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>One Year Ago</u>
General Fund Receipts	\$55,474	\$631,638	\$601,783
General Fund Expenses	\$49,406	\$588,384	\$601,487
<b>Cash Balances</b>	<b>11/30/2021</b>		<b>11/30/2020</b>
General Fund	\$142,697		\$ 92,642
Clearing Accounts	\$ 70,457		\$102,634
Property Reserve	\$ 20,000	<b>Building</b>	\$ 44,601
Building Residual	\$ 20,280		

## General Fund Summary

Thank you for your generous gifts in support of our 2021 LCR budget. Giving was at 103.2% of pledges at the end of November.

## Digital Giving

**Simply Giving** - Join 77 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 gathering space kiosk.

\* **PayPal** - Click DONATE button on our website for online giving.

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

\* **Venmo** - Smartphone app for sharing money @LCRMarion

## HOLY LAND TRIP - February 4-21, 2023

You are invited to come to the Holy Land and the Kingdom of Jordan with Pastor Jeff and others from LCR in February of 2023. We'll walk in the footsteps of Jesus, sail on the Sea of Galilee, visit the Shepherds fields in Bethlehem, walk the way of the crucifixion, visit the Mount of Olives, float on the Dead Sea, visit Petra in Jordan and Mt Nebo where Moses died, and much more! If you are interested, pick up an information folder in the church office. Trip includes air transport from Chicago, minimum of two meals a day, all tips, and fees. Initial deposit will be due in February of 2022.

# Church Council

The Council met on Tuesday, December 21, 2021. November Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were approved. The December Treasurer's Report will be available after all December expenses have been recorded.

Pastor Jeff: Christmas service plans underway. Contemporary Worship Leader position still open.

Pastor Nate: No report.

Treasurer: YTD income exceeded expenses by \$43K.

Stewardship: Annual Appeal response was 54%. Prepared draft 2022 budget.

Property: Looking at 3 possible projects for 2022:  
 1) conversion to LED lights at outdoor entrance;  
 2) server computer and telephone upgrade; and  
 3) Gathering Space floor repair.

Governance (met on November 30): Agenda items included: Boy Scout bankruptcy liability, Employee Manual project, and Summary for Annual Report.

Outreach: BINGO scheduled for January, February, and March. Discussed ongoing volunteer needs. Continue to work on Time & Talent initiative.

Old/New Business: Annual Meeting scheduled for January 30, 2022. Three Council positions will be available; terms expiring include Aaron Cannon, Bob Erlandson, and Jennie Fredin. Call Committee for Associate Pastor continues the opportunity of Pastor Nate filling the position.

*Next Meeting: Virtual on January 18, 2022.*

Agenda items should be submitted by Jan. 7, 2022. Copies of council minutes and treasurer's reports available in the church office binder.

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

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