



“Let the heights of heav’n adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing; pow’rs, dominions, bow before him and extol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be silent, ev’ry voice in concert ring evermore and evermore. Amen”

Aurelius Prudentius, 348-413 AD

The above quote is verse 4 of what is perhaps the oldest Christmas hymn that we have, “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” written by Prudentius in the 4th century. It’s still in our Hymnal (ELW #295) and set to an 11th century tune/plainsong “Divinum Mysterium” and happens to be one of my favorite - if not obscure - Christmas songs. You can listen to any number of versions on YouTube.

What most of us don’t know is that this old Christmas hymn was actually a theological salvo that was fired across the bow of the 4th century church. Is Jesus truly God? Or is Jesus somehow subservient - shall we say, less than God. Here in this ancient hymn the truth of our faith continues to be proclaimed, ‘bow before him and extol our God and King.’ This is the scandal of the incarnation; we confess that God became flesh in Jesus Christ. That Jesus is truly “God with us,” Emmanuel and has come that we might know the depths of God’s love for us and all creation. One of my favorite Irish theologians, Bono, puts it this way: *“It’s actually logical. It’s pure logic. Essence has to manifest itself. It’s inevitable. Love has to become an action or something concrete. It would have to happen. There must be an incarnation. Love must be made flesh.”*

And that is what Christmas is really all about. Scripture tells us that “God is love” (1 John 4.8) and at Christmas we celebrate the logic of Love becoming concrete, flesh and dwelling amongst us. As you prepare for Christmas I invite you to ponder the mystery of this Love becoming flesh. Perhaps a good place to start is taking a closer look at some of our beloved carols whose stanzas often provide a deep and provocative theology of incarnation: “Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight” (O Little Town of Bethlehem); “Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail incarnate deity!” (Hark! The Herald Angels Sing); “Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you; hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!” (What Child Is This). Love must be made flesh - Come Lord Jesus!

In Advent Expectation, *Pastor Jeff*

Christmas Eve Worship / 1:00 pm / 3:00 pm / 4:30 pm / 7:00 pm / 10:00 pm

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Worship

~ 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) 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>

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Our Christmas Eve worship will feature lots of carols, a special Christmas Eve message, and the lighting of Candles and singing Silent Night. This year we'll have 5 (five) different opportunities for worship. As we warmly welcome the community and visitors on Christmas Eve, we especially commend the 1:00 PM and the 10:00 PM worship times for you and your family.

1:00 PM Traditional Christmas Eve Worship

3:00 PM Blended Music with Traditional Carols

4:30 PM Traditional Christmas Eve Worship

7:00 PM Traditional Christmas Eve Worship

10:00 PM Contemplative Christmas Eve Worship

Sunday, December 26 - ONE worship time: A Service of Lessons and Carols

We'll gather all together on the Sunday after Christmas to sing more of our carols and delight in the sounds and sights of the season.

Associate Pastor Forum with Pastor Nate

As we have journeyed together in this conversation about bringing on a full time Associate Pastor, you have resoundingly supported the idea of having Pastor Nate fulfill this role. On Sunday, December 12th at 11:30 AM Pastor Nate will be holding a conversation with all of us, offering his thoughts and insights in moving forward in this direction. Your church council invites all our members to attend as we want to make certain that the people of LCR have every opportunity to be in conversation, and this process will not go forward without the support of our members. We believe having Pastor Nate give us his input will be an important part of this process as we think about our future here at LCR. Please join us at 11:30-ish AM on Sunday, December 12 here at LCR.

Observing Advent: Light One Candle

Pastor Jeff's 2021 Advent devotional, "Light One Candle," printed booklets can be picked up at the church, or you can choose to receive daily emails or text messages. Call the church office to request that a print copy be mailed to you. LCR families are also invited to take home a special 'Advent Board' (with tea lights), to go along with your Advent Guide. Use them daily as a time of personal prayer to keep you centered on the gift of Jesus and the celebration of his coming into the world.

Many thanks to our talented woodworkers, Marlin Oeltjen, Jim Dettbarn, and Dennis Heppler, who made the boards for us!



Stewardship

I LOVE TO *Tell the*
Story

Thank you to everyone who has so faithfully responded to our Lord's call to be good stewards of all that God has given us and pledged your support as we continue to tell the story of Jesus and his love. Here are the results as of December 1st: 179 Pledges Received for \$575,669, representing 52% of our giving units; One-Time Special Gifts: \$6,975.

If you have not yet returned your "commitment" to our shared ministry for 2022, please return this to the church office at your earliest convenience. Also, remember our sign of success is not the dollar amount, but the percentage of folks who return a "Commitment form." ***So even if you have to put "I don't know" or leave the amount blank, please turn in a card so we can reach our goal of 60% return.***

End of the Year Giving

As we move forward into a new year the success of our ministry will depend on the gifts and support of faithful people like you! If God has given you the means to do so, we encourage you to make a special "End of the Year Gift" to LCR. As we anticipate brining on a full time Associate Pastor and continuing our outreach into the community, now more than ever all of us need to support this important work.

If You Open It... Lock It!!

Just a friendly reminder for each and every one of us: If you unlock a door at LCR, please remember to lock it when you leave. Likewise if you turn on a light, make sure you shut it off when you are through. This helps keep our campus safe and secure and helps us be good stewards of our finances.

Ministry

Cozy Christmas Shoebox Project

We'd love to have you take part in our Cozy Christmas Shoebox Service Project on Sunday, December 5; shifts at 9:30, 10:30, and 11:30 am. We'll put together 200 shoe boxes, which will be distributed to families with children at the Churches of Marion Food Pantry.

We will be sorting the items, making treat bags, filling and decorating the boxes, and making Christmas cards to include with the boxes. **You don't have to sign up - just come and help!**



Thanks for helping those in need in our community!!

Hanging of the Greens

We will be putting up the decorations for Christmas on Saturday, December 4. We'll start at 9:00 am, but feel welcome to come anytime that morning. This event needs many hands as we work to make the church look festive to celebrate the birthday of our Lord. This will be the time to do both inside and outside decorations. Looking forward to seeing all of you on the 4th!

~ see page 9 for more Christmas information ~

Community Need

The Churches of Marion Food Pantry needs a Treasurer and an Auditor. Both people currently in these positions are retiring at the end of 2021, after having served for many years. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Cari@LCRMarion.org.

Nov/Dec Mission Envelopes

...are going to Catherine McAuley Center in Cedar Rapids. CMC's programs serve distinct populations - immigrants, refugees, and women experiencing crisis - to promote the well-being and dignity of individuals in need through educational and supportive services.



SUNDAY SCHOOL DATES

DECEMBER:

5 - UNIT 3 - CHRISTMAS
 12 - UNIT 3 - CHRISTMAS
 19 - UNIT 3 - CHRISTMAS
 26 - NO SS - CHRISTMAS BREAK

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE DATES

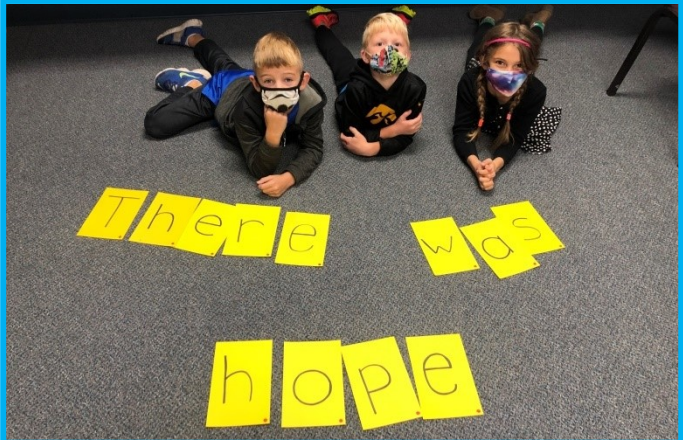
DECEMBER:

1 - REGULAR WNL
 8 - REGULAR WNL
 15 - CHRISTMAS PARTY
 22 - NO WNL/CHRISTMAS BREAK
 29 - NO WNL/CHRISTMAS BREAK



Sunday School students have been studying Moses and the women that helped care for him as a baby floating in the river. We found lots of hope in this unit, as well as lots of circumstances of God using imperfect people for his good work!

Wednesday Night Live students covered lots of big topics in November, including stewardship and prayer. And we still managed to get a game night in!



Coming up: We are singing in the LCR Christmas Concert! Join us on Sun, Dec. 5th at 3 pm to sing "Away in A Manger"

During our Children's Message/Advent Candle Lighting time each Sunday, we are singing "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah." We'd love for everyone to sing along! Will you help us out by learning this fun Jewish folk tune in advance so you can encourage members of the congregation to sing along?
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YbuFk_GwCQ8

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, December 10 for "Inventions: What Were They Thinking?"** (no Lifetree on 12/24)

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, Dec. 13.**

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

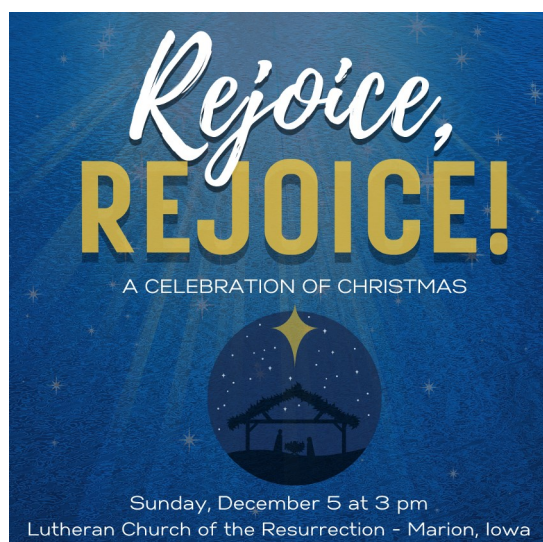
Pastor Jeff is offering a "Biblical Potpourri" as he takes us on a journey through scripture, looking at one verse/theme in each of the 66 books of the Bible! This is a great way to begin to understand the Bible as a whole and dive into some of those lesser-known parts of scripture. Come for every session, 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 gatherings on 12/26 or 12/29)

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. (no Wed. Scripture Study on 12/29)

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>



Stephen Ministry

Fellowship

The Gift of Remembering

by Rev. Kenneth C. Haugk, PhD

With the holidays quickly approaching, a season that's normally a time for celebration may have a more somber tone for some - particularly those who have lost loved ones in the past year or so. But there's a simple, powerful way anyone can offer care: giving the gift of remembering the grieving person's loved one with them.

Say the Loved One's Name

The gift of remembering begins with being willing to say the loved one's name. One of the most common misconceptions about grief is that talking about a person's loss or saying the name of the deceased will only cause more pain. But the reality is just the opposite - people want to talk about the loved one they've lost. That's why it's important to say the loved one's name. It lets the grieving person know that you're with them in their grief and invites them to talk about what they're going through. So, don't be afraid to mention the name of the deceased loved one, because saying their name opens the door to the gift of remembering.

Listening to and Sharing Memories

Once you've opened the door to remembering, be ready to listen to the grieving person's memories. Sharing memories is a way for them to express their love for the deceased, feel closer to their lost loved one, and experience comfort. Each conversation is different. Some people may want to talk and talk, while others may be eager to hear your recollections about their loved one. It varies by individual, so follow the other person's lead.

Embracing Every Emotion

One reason people often hesitate to bring up someone's loss is because they're worried about how the grieving person might respond. But here's a secret: Usually, the best response is simply to listen and embrace whatever emotions might come. Listening to, accepting, and validating a grieving person's emotions brings comfort. When you set aside your discomfort and focus on being present with the other person, you'll be providing exactly the kind of care they need.

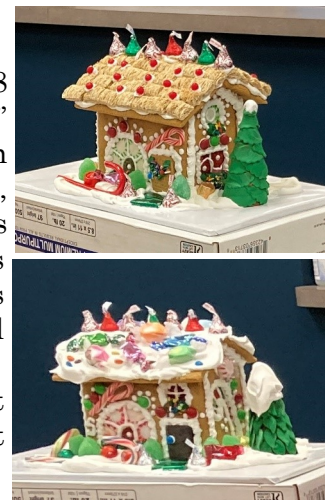
Making the Holidays a Little Easier

Grief has no expiration date. Whether it's been a year, two years, or longer since someone lost a loved one, consider offering the gift of remembering to them, too. Doing that can make a difficult holiday season a little easier.

P.E.P. 55+ Group

In November we had 28 "People Enjoying People" participants enjoy an evening of trivia, laughs, and delicious treats. Trivia winners received Madelyn Olson's amazing gingerbread houses. >>>

Our PEP group will not meet in December but will resume in January.



LCR Book Club

We'll get together Tuesday, December 14 at 6:30 pm (one week early this month). Our book will be "*The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek*" by Kim Michele Richardson. You can pick up a copy of the book in the church office. Contact sherrillamorrison@gmail.com to get on our email list; all are welcome!

Cribbage Group

Cribbage meets on the 2nd and 4th Friday 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! *This month - December 10th only.*

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.

In Gratitude ❤️

We want to thank all the friends who sent cards, gave gifts, called, and congratulated us for our 60th anniversary. We are so blessed!

- Dennis & Mary Possehl

Confirmation

8th graders are invited to attend the **High School Youth Group at their Christmas event on Wednesday, December 22**. Everyone is encouraged to bring a food item to share! We are gathering in the youth room at 7:30 pm. (7th graders have the evening off on the 22nd.) - *Peace, Nate*

Confirmation will not meet on Dec. 29th or Jan. 5th; we'll all resume on January 12th.

Pastor Nate's contact info:
Lcr.confirmation@gmail.com
nmontover@gmail.com
563-320-3995 (call or text)

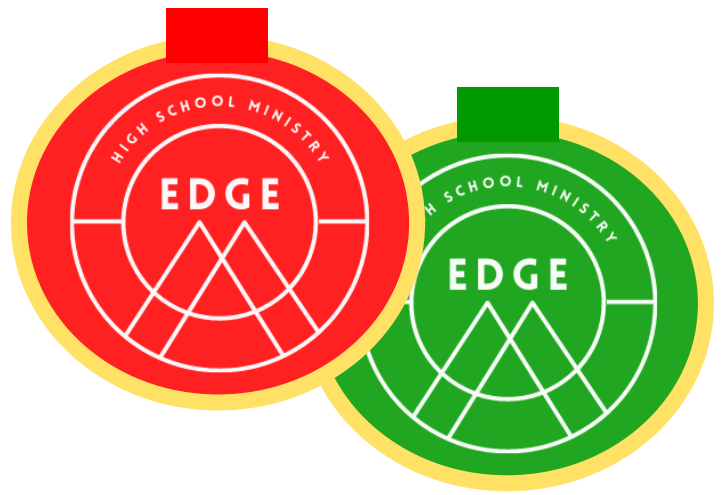
Holiday Giving Project - due 12/12

LCR has adopted 7 local families this year for the Holiday Giving Project. Because of your generosity, these 7 families will have a Christmas meal, new clothing and the joy of Christmas gifts. We have put the wish lists on Sign Up Genius. If you would like to purchase a gift or gift card, please sign up at this link, or call the church office for help signing up. We are also grateful to accept monetary donations to help purchase the gifts and grocery cards. You can bring the money to the church, or donate online at LCRMarion.org/Giving. Click the yellow "donate" button and select "Holiday Giving Project." Thank you for your willingness to share God's blessing with others this Christmas season! Sign up online:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044ca8ad2ea7fa7-lcrholiday1>

Poinsettias for Christmas - due 12/12

Help us beautify our worship space with flowers on Christmas Eve by ordering poinsettias. You can choose red, white, or "jingle bells" (speckled). The price for each plant is \$10. You can call or email the church office, or place your order online:
<https://share.hsforms.com/10SrK6ylKQtLIz9gwXxvrA44ay4>

If you pay by check, please make sure to note 'poinsettia' on the memo line. Also let us know who you wish to commemorate (in memory of... or in honor of...) or "To the Glory Of God." You are welcome to take your flowers home after Christmas Eve. Thank you for helping us celebrate this joyous season!



...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.

<https://www.instagram.com/edgeatlcr/?hl=en>
<https://vimeo.com/lcrprogramming>



EDGE youth and Confirmation 8th graders got together last month to carve pumpkins



Prayers

Prayers
are
requested
for...



Those hospitalized in November:

Zona Hildebrand, Ryan Corrigan,
Barbara Bunting

Those experiencing illness or surgery:

(LCR members) Jim Anderson, Lareen Gull,
Carol Crawford, Steve Olson, Judi Conrad,
Kay Mase, Marlene Pasker, Karen Proffitt,
Don Schantz, Linda Erlandson, Julie Brandt,
Paul Bendixen, Marilyn Carstens, Gene Henry,
Deanna Harding

(family and friends) Lucille Lund, Rachel White,
Dick Dircks, Don Monk, Kim Boyd, Rosie Von
Essen Miller Bennett, Dotty Blackwell, friend
Jackie; Kyrrah, Heidi, Abbaas, Uncle Randy,
G'ma Ramona, Great-aunt Gloria, Ronda,
Michele; Joyce Zach, Mike Supp, Ryan Emmett,
Amy Thompson, Avona Lehmann,
Marge Richardson, 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:

- Dave & Julie Jensen on the birth of grand-daughter, Adoline Waughtal-Wise, on 10/14. Addy is the daughter of Joy Waughtal & Josh Wise.
- Kirsten Corrigan on the return of her son, Ryan, to his home after three weeks in the hospital.

Those who mourn:

- Darlene McGovern and family on the death of her brother, Rev. Carl Richardson, on 11/2
- Bob Berridge and family on the death of his wife, Janice Berridge, on 11/11
- Ramon Redondo and family on the death of his relative, Krista Gee, on 11/13
- Karla Koenen and family on the death of her father, Glen (Skip) Pedersen, on 11/23
- Elaine Slaymaker and family on the death of her brother, Merton Borsheim, on 11/24
- Jen & Mike Reeve and family, on the death of Mike's mother, Vicki Reeve, on 11/24

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/ and type in this password: LCRPrays.

OR you may join our email list by sending your email address to: 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 October 2021

	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>One Year Ago</u>
General Fund Receipts	\$57,877	\$576,164	\$601,783
General Fund Expenses	\$45,029	\$538,982	\$601,487
Cash Balances	10/31/2021		10/31/2020
General Fund	\$135,973		\$ 92,642
Clearing Accounts	\$ 83,554		\$102,634
Property Reserve	\$ 20,000	Building	\$ 38,659
Building Residual	\$ 20,280		

General Fund Summary

Thank you for your generous gifts in support of our 2021 LCR budget. Giving was at 103.6% of pledges at the end of October.

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, November 16, 2021. October Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were approved. The General Fund balance was \$135,973 at the end of October.

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

Pastor Nate: Confirmation is going well.

Treasurer: Income more than expenses. YTD \$36K surplus.

Stewardship: Fall Appeal going well; follow-up planned. 2022 budget planning underway.

Property: No November meeting; collecting bids for gathering space floor and carpet.

Governance: met on November 4; agenda items included: staff review, Employee Manual project, limit on borrowing, and Boy Scout bankruptcy liability.

Outreach: BINGO scheduled for November 21. Continue to work on Time & Talent initiative.

Old/New Business: Call Committee for Associate Pastor continues the opportunity of Pastor Nate filling the position. Meeting will be scheduled for Pastor Nate and the congregation.

Next Meeting: Virtual on December 21, 2021. Agenda items should be submitted by December 10, 2021. Copies of council minutes and treasurer's reports available in the church office binder.

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"Ring the Bells of Heaven" was performed in worship on Christ the King Sunday to honor Marilyn Carstens' role in starting the bell choir 20 years ago. Many thanks to Laurie Stock and all the ringers who are carrying on this beautiful music ministry at Resurrection.



Thanksgiving PIE!

Friday, Dec. 24 ~ Christmas Eve Worship / 1:00 pm / 3:00 pm / 4:30 pm / 7:00 pm / 10:00 pm

2021 Confirmands



EDGE youth and 8th graders carving pumpkins



CONTACT US!

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Interim Pastor Nate Montover - nate@lcrmarion.org
Children's Ministry: Jessi Lau - jessi@lcrmarion.org
Youth Ministry: Katie Kascel - katie@lcrmarion.org
Volunteers: Marcia Edwards - marcia@lcrmarion.org
Communications: Cari Redondo - cari@lcrmarion.org
Office Manager: Evelyn Beck - evelyn@lcrmarion.org
Secretary: Emily Carson - office@lcrmarion.org
Custodian: Dave Cosgrove

