

CROSSTALK

LUTHERAN CHURCH
of the
RESURRECTION

WWW.LCRMARION.ORG

VOLUME 65, ISSUE 12 | DECEMBER 2024

Love's Pure Light

"Whoever loves a brother or sister abides in the light, and in such a person there is no cause for stumbling." 1 John 2:10

As a coach I realized that I always learned more from losing than I did from winning. When you win, most of us tend to slap ourselves on the back and rather smugly enjoy the fact that things went as we had hoped. However, when one loses there is often a rather serious time of self-reflection and evaluation. What went wrong? How could things have gone better? What didn't we plan for or expect? A time of soul searching and evaluation is always helpful.

Here in the time of Advent - the four Sundays before Christmas - we will hear from John the Baptizer to repent. John is often misunderstood. His job is not to give us a stern talking to, nor to take all the joy out of our time of preparation for Christmas. He is the voice of one crying out, "In the wilderness make way for the Lord." I am going to suggest that the wilderness can be a metaphor for all those times when we have let love slip by. When we decided that it was more important to be 'right' than to be loving. There may be a time for us to hold fast to an idea or philosophy; but I wonder what we do when such choices have come at the expense of love? In other words, has my desire to be right caused me to stumble and lose those things that bring joy to the world, to my world?

Here John brings good news, for to repent is to simply turn oneself around. To understand that the decision of yesterday does not determine my ability to make the next good and loving decision today. Here in the darkness of December, when the days will be their shortest, we are reminded that 'love's pure light' has come into the world and that we can allow it to illumine our way. It's never too late to make the next loving move - toward God, toward neighbor, and toward ourselves.

Peace! Pastor Jeff

~ Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship ~
1:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:30 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm
Nursery will be staffed at 1:00, 3:00, 4:30
No worship or other programming will
be held on December 25th or January 1st

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WORSHIP

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

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

Wednesday service: casual evening gathering with its own message + music from a range of worship styles

Wednesday 6:00 pm - Evening Worship

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

You can sign up for **email alerts** from LCR about worship and other news. Scroll through our homepage and sign up where it says “Engage” or “Connect.” Alternately, you can contact us at the church office and we will sign you up: 319.377.4689 or office(at)lcrmarion.org.

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/181uDRkYnTRyGMmuwl3ZiDQ44ay4>



Let All That You Do Be Done in Love! -- We still need to hear from you!

Your generosity and commitment to the life and ministry of LCR is an inspiration. For those who have looked at the Fall Stewardship material and turned in their “Commitment Card” - thank you! To date we have received 188 cards, which represent 57% of our members and friends. Our ability to continue our good work is dependent on you, so we ask: if you haven’t yet responded, please do so without delay. The success of our Fall Stewardship program is not a monetary amount, but the percentage of folks who show their support by returning the commitment card. (see page 10 for access to Stewardship materials)

“Love’s Pure Light” Advent Devotional -- Pick up yours today!

It was on Christmas Eve 1818 that Josef Mohr, one of the pastors at St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf village (near Salzburg, Austria), first sang “Silent Night,” a poem he had written to the tune composed for guitar by the church organist Franz Gruber. The story is told that the church organ was broken and Mohr, reflecting on the Christmas story while walking along a hilltop that overlooked the peaceful snow-covered village below, remembered a poem that he had written and was inspired to turn it into a carol to be shared with his people.

This carol has become a treasured part of the Christmas season, as its lyrics focus us on peace, love, and gift of Jesus - God with us - born into the world. This Advent season we invite you to reflect with us through the words of Silent Night and find a deeper and sustaining peace in our often frantic world.

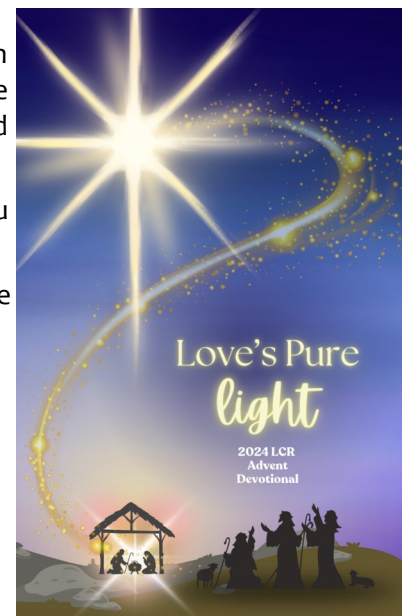
Please pick up an Advent devotional and battery-operated votive candle to help you stay focused on Love’s pure light.

You’ll see that you can bring a simple offering each week to place at the manger in the gathering space.

Week 1: Dish soap, laundry soap, all-purpose cleaner (ex: Lysol) - for Willis Dady.
Week 2: Rice, mac n’ cheese - for The Churches of Marion Food Pantry.
Week 3: Peanut butter & jelly - for The Churches of Marion Food Pantry.
Week 4: Hats, gloves, blankets, hand/foot warmers - for Willis Dady.

Here is a simple prayer to start each day, or to be used with children as the devotional candle is lit: **Thank you, Lord Jesus, for lighting the way.**

Help us to love others, every new day. Amen



MINISTRY



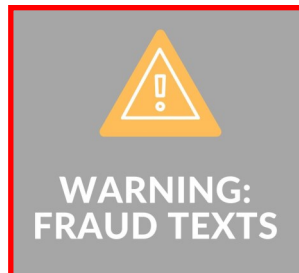
Resurrection is providing Christmas gifts for 12 families in need this year through the Holiday Giving Project. Gifts include clothing, shoes, toys, and gift cards. Thanks to all who have shopped for our 12 families, and to those who gave money to benefit them too. Reminder that presents should be dropped off at the church office by **Sunday, December 1st**. Thank you!

LCR Garden

Our church garden produced **1,429 pounds** of fresh vegetables for the Churches of Marion Food Pantry this year. Thanks to all who helped, especially several members who shared produce from their gardens which we included in the total donations. Plans for 2025 have already been laid out for an earlier start and some double-cropping to increase our giving totals this coming year. *Special recognition to Steve & Ann Godar for their dedication every week.* Their efforts made the LCR garden the 2nd best producer of the 12 area Master Gardener Community Gardens!

Stay Vigilant!

We urge you to stay vigilant for potential scam messages in your email or on your phone as text messages. Please remember that no LCR staff member will reach out to you for help with an 'urgent request' to purchase gift cards, or ask you for sensitive information over text or email. Please call the church office if you receive a suspicious message.



LCR Portraits

Help us update our church directory,
AND receive **FREE** digital copies of your photos!



In an effort to get to know each other better, LCR would like to have updated photos for a new church directory. We are providing you the opportunity to have your portrait taken by Cari, our

communications person, in the LCR library, using a professional-style portrait backdrop and lighting.

We will have a number of photo sessions coming up, dates and times to be announced. There is **NO CHARGE** for these photo sessions, and you will receive **FREE** digital copies of your portraits to use as you wish.

Email Cari@LCRMarion.org with any questions.



Blood Drives 2024

Here are some totals for the three Marion Lutheran Churches blood drives in 2024:

Total units collected – **89**

Total patients helped – **approx. 356**

Those are great numbers! Our Marion Lutheran churches are looking forward to another successful year in 2025. A special thank you to Bob Wolter for continuing to organize these events, even through a terribly difficult time in the life of his family. *On behalf of local patients, thank you to all who donated their blood so that others could thrive.*

Nov & Dec Mission Envelopes

...will go to the Catherine McAuley Center in Cedar Rapids, an organization that welcomes refugees & immigrants, adult learners, and women to participate in educational and supportive services. You can find out more at <https://cmc-cr.org/>

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY @ LCR

Sunday School

DECEMBER:

1 - NO SS - THANKSGIVING BREAK

8 - UNIT 3 - CHRISTMAS

15 - PROGRAM DRESS REHEARSAL

22 - NO SS - CHRISTMAS BREAK

29 - NO SS - CHRISTMAS BREAK

Wednesday Night

DECEMBER:

REGULAR WNL - 4

CHRISTMAS PARTY - 11

NO WNL - CHRISTMAS BREAK - 18

NO WNL - CHRISTMAS BREAK - 25



At Sunday School, both PreK/ Kindergarten and our 1st through 5th classes finished up a unit on Moses and parting the Red Sea this month. We played games, did a science experiment and made our own little diagrams of the waters splitting under the staff of Moses while learning about the story.

At WNL in November, we had a great conversation about Stewardship and finished the month with a movie night!

Questions? Reach out to Jessi via email childrens@lcrmarion.org or by calling the church office.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

December 15th at 4:30
Mac & Cheese dinner
to follow

We have over 50 kids planning to join our program - you won't want to miss this! All are welcome to come see "The Lights of Christmas!"



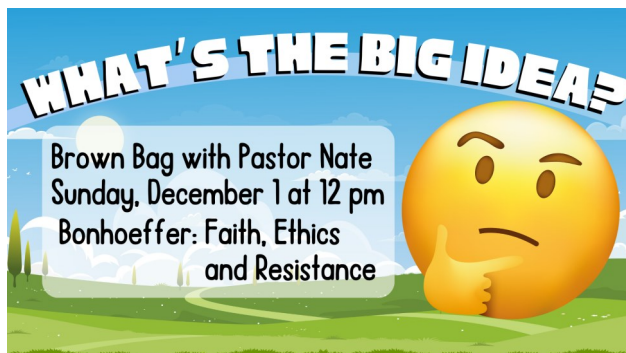
ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

Acts of the Apostles Bible Study

We are studying this unique book of the New Testament on **Sunday mornings at 9:40 am**. We began with the Ascension of Jesus and will end with Paul's final visit to Rome. The Acts of the Apostles gives us an early glimpse into the life, struggles, and foundations of the earliest followers of Jesus. It is meant to be more than just an historical record, but a witness to how it is the church must always be open to the work and teachings of the Holy Spirit. (conference room)

Brown Bag Study

Join Pastor Nate at **noon on Sunday, December 1st** as we explore some big ideas! Bring your own lunch to the fellowship hall and we'll provide the coffee.



Pastors Scripture Study

There is no better way to prepare for worship than to be in conversation with the scriptures. Your thoughts and insights will help enlighten the pastors' weekly sermons and prepare you to get more out of worship. We meet **each Wednesday at 11:00 am** in the fellowship hall.

Resurrection Small Groups - both Daytime and Evening Opportunities

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

Email Harriet: keyborederi(at)gmail.com

JAM Study Group - women's group; **second Monday each month at 1:00 pm**; meets at the church

Email Linda: lhayward495(at)yahoo.com

Donna Dennis - mixed group; **2nd & 4th Thursdays at 6:30 pm**; meets at the church

Email Donna: donnakdennis88(at)gmail.com - *Only meets December 12th this month.*

Dan Tegtmeier - mixed group; **first Monday evening of the month**; meets at group members' homes;

Email Dan: dtegtmeier(at)iowanorthern.com

Mary Kay Pinckney - women's group; **one Sunday evening each month**;

meets at leader's CR home; Email Mary Kay: mkpink6(at)gmail.com

Jesus And Me (JAM)

In November, our JAM women explored information about the Advent wreath in a single session. Sue Nackerud shared an interesting video presentation on the Advent wreath, and several group members reported on the history of the wreath and an explanation of the candles. On **Monday, December 9th at 1:00 pm**, we'll gather to share an Advent devotion, Christmas treats, conversation, and deciding what the topic for our next study will be.



Gatherings @ LCR

LCR 'Gatherings' is a place and time to hear and share stories, and connect with others in our community. It is a place where you can feel safe to say what you really think or feel without being judged or rejected.

Gatherings meets on **2nd Friday from noon to 1:00 pm**. Everyone is welcome and light refreshments are offered. Our topic for **Friday, December 13th** is "How 25 Christmas Traditions Got Their Start."

Join us in the gathering space for a fun conversation about Christmas!

You can contact Mary with any questions: jonmaryhajek(at)gmail.com

Pastor Jeff's One-Minute Devotionals

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

FELLOWSHIP

"Love Has Come"

LCR Christmas Concert

Celebrate the music of Christmas on **Sunday, December 8 at 6:00 pm!** We will showcase the musical groups of LCR, and host a guest orchestra in this sparkling presentation. A festive reception will follow. Free-will offerings and donations of non-perishable food items will be given to The Churches of Marion Food Pantry.

"The Lights of Christmas"

LCR Youth Program

The youth of our church will present a delightful program on **Sunday, December 15 at 4:30 pm!** Come and hear the message of Christmas from our young people. A Mac 'n Cheese Buffet reception will follow the program.

Book Club

We'll get together on **Tuesday, December 10th at 6:30 pm.** Our book this month is "Book Lovers" by Emily Henry: *Nora Stephens' life is books - she's read them all but she is not the heroine type herself. Not the plucky one, not the laid back dream girl, and especially not the sweetheart. In fact, the only people Nora is a heroine for are her clients, for whom she lands enormous deals as a cut-throat literary agent, and her beloved sister, Libby.* Contact Mary to get on our email list; new people are very welcome - [jonmaryhajek\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:jonmaryhajek(at)gmail.com)

LCR Email Changes

Please be aware that emails coming from Resurrection staff will now appear different on your screens. For example, emails from "Marcia" now say "Volunteer LCR" and emails from "Jessi" now say "Childrens LCR." You will still be able to email long-time staff members by their names, but as time goes by, names will be replaced by job or program titles.



New Members

6 adults and 3 children joined LCR in November, so if you see an unfamiliar face, say hi and introduce yourself! We welcomed: **Phillip & Heather Grice, Greg & Cindy Theilen, and Stacy & Zach Thompson + Noah, Cora, and Isaac.** Thank you for your presence among us at Resurrection.



Painting Group

Love to paint? Want to learn? Join us on the **1st Tuesday evening of December at 6:30 pm** in the art room. This group is open to adults painting in all different mediums - acrylic, watercolor, oils, etc. If you have questions, or if you haven't painted before, please contact Evelyn: [ebeck\(at\)jimonmail.com](mailto:ebeck(at)jimonmail.com)

Game Day Friday @ LCR

Train Dominoes - 1st Friday at 1:00 pm

Cribbage - 2nd Friday at 1:15 pm

We can teach you if you've never played before. Non-members are always welcome.

Walking Group

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

Wood Carvers & Knitters

These two groups are now on hiatus for the winter. They will resume meeting at the church on Thursday evenings in **March of 2025.**

* Contact John if you have any questions about woodcarving : [john1400\(at\)q.com](mailto:john1400(at)q.com)

* Contact Pam if you need yarn or have any questions about knitting/crochet: [pamkacena\(at\)yahoo.com](mailto:pamkacena(at)yahoo.com)

CONFIRMATION

Our Confirmation classes meet from
7:15-8:00 pm on Wednesday evenings
in the fellowship hall.

Please feel free to call or text Pastor Nate
at any time: 563.320.3995

SUNDAY YOUTH GATHERING for MIDDLE SCHOOLERS

9:40-10:25 am in the fellowship hall
(6th - 8th grade)

WEE WISDOM

Please remember to save your Hy-Vee receipts so we
can turn them in and earn money for Wee Wisdom
Preschool! For every \$200 you spend at Hy-Vee for
groceries, meds, gas, etc, we receive \$1 back.

It really adds up fast!

In addition to the collection bin by our classroom,
there is a black container for receipts in the
gathering space, outside the church office.

Thank you for helping our ministry in this simple way.



If you'd like to help us add
some enriching items to
our classroom, scan this
QR code to check out our
Amazon Wish List



Visiting the Marion Fire Department!

EDGE YOUTH

Welcome Hannah to LCR!



We are excited to welcome
Hannah Sherbon Powell to
our LCR staff as our High
School Youth Director. Han-
nah brings years of experi-
ence working with youth as a
part of the Episcopal Diocese
of Iowa, where she helped
with local, state, and national
endeavors, as well as serving
as a camp counselor. She is

committed to making sure that our High School Youth
program continues to be a place where youth feel wel-
come and can grow in their faith. **Hannah will begin on
Sunday, December 1st.**

Fun fact: Hannah grew up near Camp EWALU and still
uses an EWALU song book!

**EDGE Youth meet on Wednesday nights
from 7:30-9:00 pm in the YAC.**

SUNDAY YOUTH GATHERING for HIGH SCHOOLERS

9:40-10:25 am in the YAC
(9th - 12th grade)

We would like to thank Adam Lau, who has stepped
forward in recent months to help make sure our High
School Youth program stayed on course, and we are
delighted that Adam will continue to be an active and
guiding presence at EDGE. We are also grateful for
Shannan Fleming, who continues to be a great advoca-
te for our youth program.



PRAYERS

Those hospitalized recently:

Mary Possehl

Those experiencing illness or surgery:

(LCR members) Everett Lehrman,
Phyllis Gordon, Gary Young, Eloise Heppler,
Deanna Harding, Gene Henry, Ryan Corrigan

(family and friends) Bob Cronbaugh, Kimberly
Richardson, Dennis Johnson, Emilie Meyer,
Will Springer

Those living in care facilities:

Bernadean Spilde (Garnett Place)
Bill Thompson (Emery Place)
Larry Wogahn (The Views)
Paul Bendixen (Hall-Mar Village)
Marge Dryden, Marilyn Carstens (Terrace Glen)

Those who mourn:

- Betty Bendixen and family on the death of her husband, Paul Bendixen
- Marv Peters and family on the death of his mother, Darlene Peters

Those in military service:

Todd Kopperud, Wyatt Ochs, Taylor Johnson

Pastoral Care - With rules about confidentiality at our hospitals, we will not know that you or your family member is sick or in need unless you contact the church office.

Please let the office know about prayer needs or when you wish to have a name removed.

The names of friends and family who are dealing with illness will be listed for 2 months.

STEWARDSHIP



LCR Fall Appeal

"Let All That You Do Be Done In Love"

Support the mission and ministry of Lutheran Church of the Resurrection. You can pick up an information packet at the church, or [access the letter, brochure, and commitment card online](#).

We ask that everyone returns a commitment card as soon as you can, so we can budget for 2025. Please let us know if you have any questions. We are grateful for all the ways LCR is able to show God's love to others through your faithful giving!

Are you age 70.5+?

Do you have a pretax retirement account?

Give and Save: You can minimize taxes by making qualified charitable distributions (QDCs) – tax-free donations directly from a traditional IRA. In 2024, people 70 ½ or older can donate as much as \$105,000; if you are 73 or older, the amount can help satisfy RMDs. “Since most people no longer itemize and get deductions for donations, a QDC can be a better tax move for seeking to give to charity,” says Andrew Sloan, a financial planner from Louisville KY.”
- AARP Bulletin, May 2024

For more information about QDCs and making charitable contributions to the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, and other charities, request the flyer “Charitable Giving Through your IRA – QDC” flyer from the church office, contact a member of the “Living Legacy Fund,” or download it from the LCR website.

LIVING LEGACY FUND CHARITABLE GIVING THROUGH YOUR IRA - QCD



STEWARDSHIP

Treasurer's Report for October 2024

	<u>October</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>One Year Ago</u>
General Fund Receipts	\$ 57,093	\$726,705	\$649,220
General Fund Expenses	\$ 67,690	\$662,791	\$623,048
Cash Balances	10/31/24		10/31/23
General Fund	\$311,487		\$211,715
Clearing Accounts	\$ 83,410		\$ 59,221
Property Reserve	\$ 79,113		\$ 69,113

Thank you for your faithful gifts in support of our 2024 budget!

Digital Giving

* **Simply Giving** - Join 80 LCR members who give regularly through automatic drafts from their checking or savings accounts. You can elect to give weekly, monthly, or quarterly. Enrollment forms are available in the info rack in the gathering space.

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

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

*** to see more photos of our LCR activities ***

<https://www.lcrmarion.org/blog.html>

CHURCH COUNCIL

Please reach out with questions or concerns.

The Council met on Tuesday, November 19, 2024. October Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were approved.

Treasurer: YTD running ahead by 64k despite October deficit. Major expenses in October included technology, furnace replacements, and insurance premium payment.

Pastor Jeff: New high school ministry hire is Hannah Sherbon Powell; goal to have her start by December 1st. Please turn in stewardship appeal packets if you haven't done so already. Lots of wonderful programming coming up for Advent/Christmas!

Outreach: Great November Bingo turn-out; no Bingo in December.

Property: 2025 budget complete. Long project list; property team will work with other departments to prioritize.

Social Concerns: Holiday Giving Project is our priority right now. Please see the tree in entryway if you would like to take part in this ministry.

Wee Wisdom: Met to review handbook updates. Recommending increases in tuition and salaries as 2025 budget is put together.

Old Business: Covered in committee/pastor reports.

New Business:

Congregational budget forum - January 19th at 9:30 am
Annual meeting - January 26th at 9:30 am

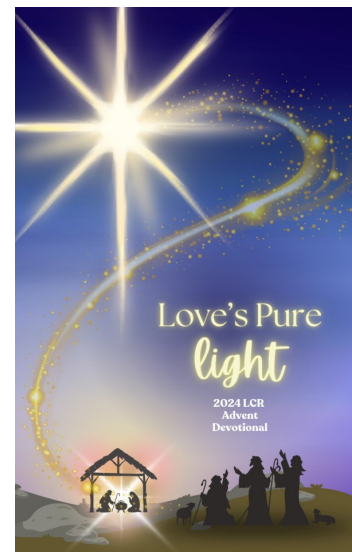
Next meeting: Tuesday, December 17, 2024
Agenda items should be submitted by 12/9/24.
Copies of council minutes and treasurers' reports are available in the church office binder.

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

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CONTACT US!

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Monday - Friday,

9 am - 4 pm

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Pastor Jeff Frohner - PastorJeff(at)lcrmarion.org
Pastor Nate Montover - PastorNate(at)lcrmarion.org
Children's Ministry: Jessi Lau - childrens(at)lcrmarion.org
Youth Ministry: Hannah Powell - youth(at)lcrmarion.org
Office Manager: Kim Benser - business(at)lcrmarion.org
Cari Redondo - communications(at)lcrmarion.org
Emily Carson - secretary(at)lcrmarion.org
Marcia Edwards - volunteer(at)lcrmarion.org
Esther Platt - bookkeeper(at)lcrmarion.org
Custodian: Dave Cosgrove

