



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

A CONGREGATION OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

1950 NAGEL ROAD

CINCINNATI OH 45255

MARCH 2019

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# RAMBLINGS

## OUR VISION STATEMENT

*To become a vibrant, benevolent congregation that serves God's creation both locally and globally.*

*A congregation that offers meaningful and inspirational ministries and worship for all ages that honor and praise God while maintaining the feel of an intimate family in Christ.*

*Also, a congregation that provides opportunities for all to be involved in ministries and programs that foster the development of gifts in all people needed to sustain and expand God's mission.*

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### The Welcoming Prayer

Welcome, welcome, welcome.

I welcome everything that comes to me today  
because I know it's for my healing.

I welcome all thoughts, feelings, emotions, persons,  
situations, and conditions.

I let go of my desire for power and control.

I let go of my desire for affection, esteem,  
approval, and pleasure.

I let go of my desire for survival and security.

I let go of my desire to change any situation,  
Condition, person, or myself.

I open to the love and presence of God and  
God's action and grace within. Amen.

Above is a spiritual practice known as *The Welcoming Prayer*. This prayer's aim is always the same, though its verbiage has a few variations. The goal of the practice is to welcome God into every part of our lives, physical, emotional, and spiritual, placing our WHOLE selves in His hands. The practice was originally developed by Mary Mrozowski in response to her awareness that people on spiritual journeys need prayer practices that can help them let go and place themselves fully in God's hands.

*The Welcoming Prayer* can be used as a daily prayer practice. It is also powerfully used in moments when life becomes overwhelming and we are "triggered" by something, when sadness, grief, anger, anxiety, etc feel like they are getting the better of us. In those moments, we often have a tendency to don our armor and fight to keep such negative feelings at bay. We tend to look to and rely on ourselves instead of surrendering whatever is going on to God. Welcoming Prayer is designed for those times. "Welcoming" such negative feelings seems counter-intuitive and yet, to welcome them and release them to God opens us to move all the way through them and be shaped by God's movement within them instead of by our own fears and desires. In other words, to welcome them is to place ourselves fully in God's hands, that God can make more of us where we were inclined to make less of ourselves.

I first learned about *The Welcoming Prayer* some years ago, but only recently began practicing it on a regular basis. I am practicing it daily, as well as using it when strong feelings rise, and I'm finding it to be transformational. I am aware of and open to God's presence in new ways and in ways I would likely have missed before.

I recently found myself listening to the heart of an 86 year old native of Scotland in the bakery section of Kroger. An older woman and I almost collided by accident and she apologized for being older and mentioned how she struggles with her slowing abilities. At other times, I might have offered only a brief response rushing on with my own agenda, but "welcome" rose within me and instead, I turned and gave her my full attention. She was clearly carrying a heavy burden.

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## The Welcoming Prayer (Continued)

She told me about how she wished she had more energy for her grand and great-grandchildren, how she missed her daughters and wished they were closer, and how her 92 year old husband was really struggling. She told me about her decision to come to America more than 35 years ago. She shared her regrets and her worries. We stood next to the donut cabinet for more than an hour; two strangers on sacred ground in the middle of Kroger. When we parted ways, I could have felt hurried and like I needed to rush to make up for time lost, but the time didn't feel lost at all. I felt nourished and peaceful within, like I'd spent the time with God. And, maybe I did.

I believe God, working through the practice of the *Welcoming Prayer*, made all the difference. I was able to welcome this woman, so very different from me, much older and from a different country of origin. I could appreciate her, hear her heart, and feel some of God's heart for her. In short, with God's help, we built a bridge to one another that spanned our differences of age and experience. In this year of focus on building bridges, I commend this practice to you. Whether practiced daily or situationally when fear, anxiety, and other strong emotions arise, surely prayer and God's movement within make all the difference as we seek to open ourselves to one another and build meaningful bridges.

◇◇Pr. Nicole

# 7 Spiritual Practices for the New Year

Cultivating our faith life is an important part of wellness. Here are a few ways to gain new perspective of yourself, others and God throughout the year.



1. Try praying at different times during the day. You may notice that you pray differently at different times of the day.
2. Laughter and rejoicing need to be a part of our faith life. Think of something funny that has happened, and thank God for giving us humor in our lives.
3. Loving yourself is the first step in "Love your neighbor as yourself." Spend a few minutes writing about what it means to love yourself. Remember that God Loves you.
4. Meditation or listening is a part of our faith life that we often neglect. Consider taking five minutes to sit quietly and breathe. Try to quiet your inner voice and just listen.
5. Go for a prayerful walk and remember that all of creation belongs to God, though it can be easy to forget that. The air you breathe and the ground you walk on belong to God.
6. Pray a movement prayer. Stretch out your arms. Touch your toes. Stretch your neck. Feel the brilliance in God's creation and the way that your body is put together.
7. Thankfulness comes in a variety of forms. Each day make a list of everything that you encounter for which you are thankful. At the end of the day, incorporate the list into a prayer.



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The liturgies and services for March will be:

- March 2/3: Transfiguration of Our Lord, NTF liturgy  
 6: Ash Wednesday—3:30 p.m. NEC  
 7:00 p.m. LCR  
 9/10: Lent 1, OLS liturgy, Receive New Members  
 12: Enter the Silence, 7:00 p.m.  
 13: Mid-Week Lenten, 7:00 p.m.  
 16/17: Lent 2, LBW II liturgy  
 20: Mid-Week Lenten, 7:00 p.m.  
 23/24: Lent 3, WOV liturgy.  
 27: Mid-Week Lenten, 7:00 p.m.  
 30/31: Lent 4, Haas liturgy

When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith, for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.

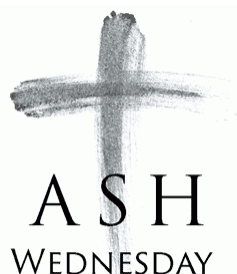
### Volunteers welcomed

The Adult Choir is singing regularly. If you are interested in joining, please contact Matt Mauro, (matthew.mauro19@gmail.com). The Worship Committee continues to welcome volunteers for the praise band and sound technicians. The praise band is particularly in need of a guitarist and a pianist. Please contact LeeAnn Barkman and Jason Leupen.

### **We thank our special musicians for March!**

- 3/3: Amy Cheney, flute  
 3/9: Dan Altenau (guitar)  
 3/10: Joyful Noise; Adult Choir  
 3/16: Resurrection Ringers  
 3/17: Pam Allen, voice; Adult Choir  
 3/23: Jan Carter (guitar)  
 3/24: Resurrection Ringers; Ted Jancha (voice)  
 3/31: Joyful Noise

The next Enter the Silence, Awaken the Spirit contemplative service will be on **Tuesday, March 12** at 7:00 p.m.



On **Wednesday, March 6**, you can attend one of our two Ash Wednesday services. We will have a service at 3:30 p.m. at the New England Club and at 7:00 p.m. at LCR.

## Did you know that LCR has an endowment fund?

Yes, I knew that. But...what's an endowment fund????

Quite simply, a gift to the endowment fund is a way to provide lasting support for LCR. An endowment fund is set up so that distributions of "income" are made according to a formula that will preserve the purchasing power of the principal over time.

The power of an endowment fund is this: if you make a gift to an endowment fund and assume roughly a 5% annual distribution and a 7.5% investment return, in less than 18 years, the endowment will make distributions totaling the amount of your original gift, but the endowment still exists and will continue to benefit LCR for many years to come!

You can contribute to LCR's endowment fund by making gifts in honor or memory of others, gifts of stock or other property, making a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA (if you are more than 70 ½ years old) or by providing for a gift through your will.

Any questions?  
 Contact a member of the Endowment Fund Committee.



**The Endowment Fund**

## **An Apology to Cincinnati's African-American Community**

*On the weekend of February 16/17, I preached a sermon on racism. This was one of the most emotional and heartfelt sermons that I have ever preached at LCR. Part of the intent of my sermon was to "take the temperature" of LCR in regard to our relationship with Allen Temple AME Church. A Sunday School class followed the sermon and we had lively conversation. I felt compelled to convert my sermon into the letter which follows. The letter has been submitted to The Cincinnati Herald and will run in the newspaper on March 3. The letter was also submitted to The Cincinnati Enquirer with a challenge to print it as balance to the daily, negative stories we read about racism. Larry Magnesen offered a keen eye and wise advice in crafting this letter. It was reviewed by a number of respected people in both the black and white community before submission.*

*In addition to making a much-needed personal confession, my hope is that this letter sheds a positive light on Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, our sister Lutheran congregations in Cincinnati, and the ELCA. This is an effort in evangelism. I don't expect African Americans to come flocking to LCR, but my hope is that there may be some disaffected Christian neighbors in Anderson Township that might view this letter favorably and consider looking into LCR.*

*Peace,  
Pastor Zorn*

Dear Neighbors in the African-American Community,

Last weekend, I did something for the first time in my 22 years of pastoral ministry at Lutheran Church of the Resurrection; I preached a sermon about what it means to be Christian in a nation in which race plays such a big part in our history and the evil sin of racism continues to afflict us to the present time. I preached this sermon because it is Black History month and black history is American history and Christian history. Because this is the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first slaves arriving in Jamestown, Virginia in 1619. Because of the chaos in the Virginia statehouse. Because, as African Americans since the civil rights movement have lamented, this message has been rarely preached in white congregations. Most importantly, I preached this sermon because I felt that I had finally overcome my ignorance and thought that I was competent enough to offer this word.

Over the past three years, I have read a lot of history and invested a great deal of time in establishing relationships in the black community. I have listened closely to the stories and heard profound expressions of pain shared by people of color that I have come to know. I am appalled at what I have learned in discovering this blind spot in my faith. For this, I am sorrowful.

I write this letter as a form of repentance because the essence of Christian repentance is to change one's way, to go in a new direction, and to head back to the cross of Jesus. As I have undertaken prayer and reflection about the complicated matter of racism, it occurs to me that the sin can be overcome in a word; relationship. I have devoted myself personally, as pastor, and as resident of greater Cincinnati to the challenging work of building bridges to create relationships with black people and black communities. My study of history reveals that segregation after the Civil War and throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century had the harmful effect that we don't know each other. When we don't know each other, we tend to not trust each other. When we don't know each other we trust the media which sensationalizes negative stories. When we don't know each other we buy into stereotypes about each other.

Segregation was built on a lie; the lie that black people and white people could not live peacefully among each other. We bought into that lie and therefore we currently live in the mess called racism. My confidence is that the lie can be overcome in relationship with each other.

For three years, I have consistently heard people in the black community say, "We are tired of talking. We want to do something." With a common faith in Jesus Christ, who has "broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us" (Ephesians 2:14) we have a foundation to do something. Lutheran Church of the Resurrection and Allen Temple AME Church have established a relationship since the tragic shooting at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina. We have fellowshiped and served in mission experiences together. As our relationship deepens I am hopeful that we can participate in regular worship exchanges whereby small groups from each church will worship together, then stay for fellowship and Bible study afterward. I believe the Spirit will open doors to all sorts of relationship possibilities. God wants dividing walls to be transformed into bridges between our communities. Once we know each other, there is much that we will find to do with each other. I offer this vision as both challenge and encouragement to black and white churches throughout our city.

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## **An Apology to Cincinnati's African-American Community (continued)**

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Two segregated souls never meet in God." My nuance of that adage is, "God gives us diversity as a gift. Whenever we erect walls that segregate us, we rob ourselves of that gift." Dr. King was frustrated by the lack of urgency in addressing racism and the satisfaction with the status quo by white churches. Last weekend, I felt the urgency, perhaps late, to preach a sermon on racism and call my congregation to do something.

I offer the black community of Cincinnati just a glimmer of hope; for the first time in 22 years of preaching, there was applause after my sermon. We Lutherans are reserved Europeans not known for emotional outbursts or applause in worship! That applause was not for the preacher, it was in affirmation of the message that racism must be dismantled now.

In peace,

Henry

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## **DIG NEWS**

On behalf of the Centre of Hope, the DIG, the entire Doppenberg family and all those we serve here in Guatemala, we would like to extend a personal THANK YOU!

Thank you for your kind and generous support of our Mission in 2018. It was a fantastic year that God Blessed beyond our wildest dreams. Our Community Empowerment Program continued to provide clean water, power, nutrition and education to those that had no access to these basic necessities of life. Our student sponsorship program enabled many students to attend grade & high school and even one to college. This would not have been possible without those willing to help partner with us & them to pay for education. Our plant nursery continued to grow and thrive so we can provide nutritious plants to those in need AND as a bonus help the environment by planting trees to replace those lost. (They get cut to provide income for the marginalized Mayan people through the sale of firewood.)

The Centre of Hope has grown and the second floor, which will house dental, medical, emergency housing/shelter, and offices is being worked on as I type this thank you letter. This humble building provided medical and dental care to hundreds of people who otherwise have no access through the year. We cannot begin to say how much this means to the people here. Who knows how many lives may have been saved by these clinics! The main floor of the Centre continued to provide physical, occupational, speech & Animal Assisted therapy in the mornings to more than 18 special needs children all through 2018. We provided education classes, tutoring sessions, psychology sessions, Biblical tutoring, mentoring, leadership training, sports/team training and lots of play for over 60 boys and girls in our fun, safe and love filled afternoon program geared towards kids who are failing school, abused, bullied and/or unable to attend school due to financial or family restraints. We also provided education seminars and group sessions, both fun and educational for the mothers/fathers. It is our vision to work with the parents and the students. There is so much a parent can do from home with some knowledge and a solid support system of friends and professionals to walk beside them. Every student was provided a nutritious drink every day & for some that might be the only nutrition they received that day. More than 90% passed their grades with much thanks to our professional teachers and therapists that your dollars help to provide. As a matter of fact, the community here agrees that the Centre of Hope and our scholarship programs are so successful and worthwhile we have a waiting list that grows every week. Our vision for 2019 and beyond is that we hire more professionals and thus enable us to eliminate that waiting list, send more kids to high school and college, establish a stove factory to manufacture the smokeless stoves more cost effectively for our community empowerment program, plant more nutritious plants & trees, establish a more permanent medical and dental facility & host more education, nutrition and health seminars than ever before.

Without each and every one of you, none of what we do would be possible. We pray that 2019 will be as full of blessings to you as 2018 was to us and the people we serve. Thank you again from the bottom of our hearts and we look forward to our continued partnerships in order to work together to grow, & therefore serve even more people here in Guatemala in 2019.

Peace and love,

Rita Doppenberg

Co-founder: The Centre of Hope - the DIG



## LCR Outreach Packs a Punch



LCR's outreach impact in the world is strong as thousands of lives are touched annually through the work of our members. Whether supporting a food drive, Christmas giving tree or Navajo School bake sale; writing a letter to a legislator or buying fair trade coffee; packing boxes of food or serving at Monday Meals; pounding a nail at a mission trip or at Habitat for Humanity; tutoring a student in our ESL program or financially supporting our hunger appeal – your impact is cumulative and real.

The Outreach Committee had its quarterly meeting recently, and the magnitude of LCR's Christian love was apparent. Below are some of the highlights from the meeting:

The **Manna from Heaven** team is active and involved! A member of the team reached out to 60 national seed companies and got hundreds of seed donations for Spring! LCR members worked tirelessly before the Christmas outreach at LCR to gather foodstuffs, materials and presents so that 800 families got food and toys, and over 5,000 people in total received some sort of aid.

**Monday Meals** continues to thrive with 25 volunteers assisting with the last meal. 1,353 meals were served in 2018, and that was up from 2017.

The **Navajo Christian Preparatory Academy** team hosted a Valentine's Day bake sale, with profits donated to the school.

The **World Hunger Task Force** coordinated an incredible program that helped LCR congregation members make an immense impact with final offerings at \$25,000 and with 4,023 canned goods donated. Additionally, over \$1600 in donations were made through ELCA God's Global Barnyard ornament sales, and 180 letters to legislators were sent through Bread for the World.

The **Habitat for Humanity** homeowners in West College Hill closed on their homes on New Year's Eve. Homes were built through participation of LCR members.

The 5-day **mission trip to Richwood, West Virginia** was completed in November to do flood damage repair. Nine team members built two decks and stairs and installed flooring.

The **Immigrant and Refugee Ministry** thrives! (See their reports in other related news articles.)

Member support of LCR's **LWR and Fair Trade coffee and chocolate sales** directly impacts farmers supported by these ministries!

The **Christmas Fair Trade and Craft Fair** supported tradespeople from 10,000 Villages and LWR fair trade coffee.

LCR members were incredibly generous with our **Christmas tree outreach** – touching lives with hundreds of dollars in in-kind donations.

LCR support of **First Lutheran Church** has kept the doors open, and allowed them to be in a position now to grow and develop into an impactful downtown ministry and musical arts venue – sharing the Lutheran message of God's love in our community.

Since 2010 – LCR support of the **Kroger Community Rewards** program has helped raise over \$30,000 that has been distributed through outreach grants to organizations doing good works.

**Thrivent grants** – the Outreach team actively utilizes our resources! We actively request Thrivent's outreach grants to supplement funding to projects like the Wernle Home Baked Potato supper, Racetrack Ministry meals, Manna from Heaven food packing events; Habitat for Humanity lunches, Immigrant and Refugee ministry snacks; IPM projects; Navajo Christian School fry bread events and Monday Meals.

The Outreach Committee thanks LCR members for their ongoing support ! If you want further information on how to get involved – contact Cindy Zorn or Alyson Best, Outreach co-chairs.

## **Welcome One Another: Five Ways You Can Build Bridges at Church**

Hospitality is integral to our Christian faith. Throughout the Bible God calls us to greet one another with love and concern. Paul makes hospitality (i.e., love for strangers) a required qualification for church leadership.

To fulfill God's call to love others, we must make hospitality a priority in the church. This calling goes beyond those members of our hospitality team. It is the responsibility of every member to share the love of God in real and tangible ways to those whom God brings across our doorstep.

If we are to glorify God in our church, we cannot simply put effort into good music, good preaching, and good instruction; we must also give equal attention to good hospitality.

What follows are five practices to help you as an individual and us as a larger community of faith go further to show love to those who gather with us.

### **Pray.**

Praying the beginning of good things. If we desire for our church to be a warm, welcoming, and inviting place where people can experience the love of God, praying for it is a good place to start. So, as you approach the weekend, pray for those that God would bring into contact with us. Pray for those that lead us, that their words are guided by God. Pray for those that welcome and greet. Pray for Sunday School Teachers. If you want to go further consider walking the church during the week and laying hands on the doorways and seats, praying for those who will occupy those spaces.

### **Prepare to give yourself away.**

We come to church for edification, for fellowship, for teaching, but we must also come with a spirit to serve one another. This may be as simple as helping someone navigate the liturgy or offering to share communion with them. Each week as we are fed on the love of Christ, we must in turn feed others. Let us multiply our joy by seeing others experience the love of God. But to do that, we must prepare our hearts and open our eyes to the opportunities to serve.

### **Keep your eyes open.**

The only way we can give ourselves away is if we are open to seeing others who may need us. It is easy to come to church and overlook others. The stresses of the past week and the coming week seem to culminate on Sundays. We are running late, and as we race through the gathering space to our seats we miss the new family trying to find the nursery. Then when the final blessing is given and we all hear "and this week...", our empty stomachs or an afternoon game propel us out the doors toward the coming week. Think about the blessings you may be missing when you set your heart to auto-pilot at church.

This Sunday, instead of following those well grooved habits, what if you made a conscious effort to open your eyes to all the people you don't (yet) know. These people are potential prayer partners, friends, and fellow seekers of God's love and grace. Who might God be calling you into relationship with?

### **Introduce yourself to others.**

Putting words into action, we must not only pray and prepare and think about how we might welcome others. We must also do it. Do you step into conversations, introduce yourself, and welcome others? If not, why not? If you don't wear your nametag, please consider doing so. It makes introductions much easier.

The grace and love that God shares with us is meant to be multiplied. To be sure, some of us may be more comfortable with this than others. But welcome is not a calling reserved for the extrovert. Each of us have a role to play. The overly excited extrovert may seem like an unwelcome hurricane of hospitality to a new introvert. But another introvert may provide the softer-spoken greeting for this more reclusive seeker. Because God calls many different kinds of people into relationship, we need both the introvert and the extrovert to welcome them.

Think about what would happen if each of us made it a priority to meet everyone else in our faith community. How might our efforts encourage others through simple acts of introduction, making strangers into friends?

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## **Welcome One Another: Five Ways You Can Build Bridges at Church (cont.)**

### **Walk with someone.**

The last practice goes beyond saying “Hi” and shaking hands. This practice endeavors to make newcomers feel visible and values in our community.

When I worked at Wal-Mart in high school, they gave us twenty hours of customer service training (I know this may be surprising. But yes, they totally did!). One of the most important things they stressed was walking the customer to the item they were asking about. Never point and tell. All of us can learn something here. When we meet a new visitor, let us walk them to the nursery, the Sunday school class, or a seat the sanctuary (perhaps next to yours). We can do more than just open a door; we can offer assistance. We can keep an eye out for latecomers and slide down to make room for them or waive to an usher to indicate and open seat.

If you find someone is visiting for the first time, introduce them to others and the pastors. It is not an act of salesmanship, it is an act of welcome.

As the Easter season approaches, we will likely see more visitors. Now is the perfect time to practice keeping our eyes open for others. For it is with these open eyes that we become the hands and feet of Christ multiplying love in the world. It will be through us that God builds bridges with others and brings them into a deeper relationship.

**About the Author:** Ben Morris is chairperson of the Inviting and Welcoming Ministry Team at LCR. He lives in Erlanger with his wife Amy and their son Auggie. If you would like more information about the Inviting and Welcoming Ministries at LCR, please email him at [wellwithmysoul@live.com](mailto:wellwithmysoul@live.com)



### **COMMUNICATION REQUEST FORM**

In an effort to make sure your event is communicated to the congregation and the rest of the community effectively and timely, we have created a new Communication Request Form. By filling out the form, you will provide all details about your event and you will also specify which forms of communication you are requesting. The new light blue form is located in the informational wall display in the Sunday School hallway. You will need to fill out the form and return it to Karen Leupen FOUR weeks prior to your event. Contact Karen Leupen ([karen@lcresurrection.org](mailto:karen@lcresurrection.org)) with questions.

## **What's New in the ELCA?**

By Julie Pahutski, Mission Interpreter



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

The news is full of arguments about the role of immigration in the US Today. But we can do more than argue, shout slogans, and shake our heads at the stubbornness of people. We can (and do) support the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, and you would be amazed at all the things this worthy organization has accomplished this year. Take a look at a few:

We resettled 3,655 refugees across 22 states in more than 30 cities.

We provided foster care to 1,643 children, and facilitated the safe reunification with family members for 34,358 more.

We met 215 reunified families with temporary shelter, food, and care after they had been cruelly separated over the summer.

We brightened up the holidays for kids and families in detention with 1,020 gifts and more than 8,000 cards sent in by LIRS supporters

We visited 6,882 migrants in immigration detention, providing them with comfort and friendship.

We are called to “Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares” (Hebrews 13:1-2). LIRS brings our Christian values to life!



# The Banquet Awaits

-Mark Wegmeyer – GTF Chair

As most of you know, my *occupation* is flying a big jet all over the world. But many of you may not know that my *vocation* is photographing the people and places that I encounter. One of the reasons I photograph is of course to try and share these amazing experiences and encounters, with my family, friends and others. However, I think we all know that the photos and stories never really match up to the real experience. It's why we say, "wish you were here," so often.

Last month I made another visit to see our missionary family, the Doppenbergs, down in Guatemala. As many know I have grown quite close to the Doppenbergs and consider them family, as they do me. This trip, like all my trips, was another wonderful time, filled with new and meaningful experiences. The disagreement between Rita and me continues – which one of us is more blessed by our relationship! There was time for some work, some play. Time to engage in conversation and activity and time for solace and contemplation. Time to sit in awe of God's creation and marvel at its beauty. And time for sorrow and the strengthening of human bonds, in the sharing of it.

As the Boeing 757 pointed fifteen degrees nose up and put another 2500 feet of altitude between us and the Guatemala runway, every minute, I again gazed out the window at the lush tropical vegetation covering the hillsides of the surrounding volcanos - emitting their ever-present plumes of steam, as if to say, "we're still here, just waiting ...". It's a sight I will never tire of.

As the cloud cover blinded me from the beautiful vision below, I returned to deep thoughts, as I often do when leaving Guatemala and my family there. Somewhat unexpectedly, I thought of the members of LCR. I thought, "wish you were here."

Maybe it's kind of like the parable in Luke 14, about the Great Banquet. The table was set, the fattened cattle butchered, everything prepared. But no one came. They were too busy with their own "settled" lives to be bothered with this intrusion. The only problem was, that the intrusion wasn't an intrusion at all. It was a fabulous party! An amazing experience like they had never seen! A once in a lifetime event! (*ok, that's a little over the top, but I'm trying to make a point here*)

The point of course, is that no matter how good the photos and stories are (*thanks everybody!*) it's just not the same as "being there." So instead of debating why it's been so hard to organize an LCR mission trip to Guatemala lately, just let me leave you with a few observations to ponder.

In December a seven-year-old girl from Guatemala, named Jaklin, died in U.S. custody at one of our border crossings. This story struck a nerve with me, because in 2013 a five-year-old girl from Guatemala, named Jaqueline, was the angel that captured my heart and sent me on a life-long mission to help the people of Guatemala. Maybe your Jaqueline is out there somewhere. But you'll never know until you follow Philip's words to Nathanael in John: 1, and "come and see."

I have a short prayer that I recite in the morning, like Martin Luther did, to try and set me on the right path for the day. In it, I ask God to interrupt me with *HIS* plans and to give me the Grace to notice the interruption. I think there are others at LCR who have been "interrupted" by God concerning our Guatemala mission work, but maybe they just haven't noticed the interruption. To those of you – please – come and see.

I just finished reading a wonderful book Pastor Zorn gave me, about a man who made an incredible transformation in his life, when he turned to God. During a difficult time in his transformation, a friend told him, "Don't worry about being prepared, your feeling of being unprepared is exactly how God can use you best." I think that applies to all of us. Remember the parable of the clay pots. God determines what kind of pot we will be. Only God knows. So, come and see! And find out what kind of pot God wants you to be!

As Rita Doppenberg wrote last month in the Ramblings, the reality of the situation is that most of the people clamoring to cross the U.S. border from Mexico, don't want to be there. They have been forced to be there due to the hunger, poverty, violence and lack of work, in their own country. Many of these people have left homes and families behind to attempt these perilous journeys, simply because they have no alternative.

The Doppenbergs are fighting on a daily basis to change this situation. They tirelessly work to improve the living conditions of their local community by providing clean water, smokeless stoves, solar lights, education to children, medical and dental care, job training, and financial support to anyone in need. If you really want to see how this works in action, then come and see.

So are you ready? The invitations are sent, the banquet awaits, all you have to do is RSVP – YES! Think about it, pray about it, talk to me or a member of the GTF. Let me know.

"and if you *spend yourselves* in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday." - Isaiah 58:10





Dear Members of LCR,

We appreciate all the warm thoughts and prayers sent our way.

Love,  
The Skidmore Family

Thank you to Pastor Zorn for the visit before and after my surgery. Thanks to all who sent cards and prayers! Those prayers do work!

Sharon Miller

Dear members of LCR,

I cannot thank you enough for all the emails, calls and cards of love and support since my breast cancer diagnosis. It's very humbling to say the least.

Hugs to all of you,  
Debbie Sutermeister

To our family at LCR,

We would like to thank everyone for their kind words, cards and phone calls this past month as we grieved the loss of our Grandmother Marie. The prayers of our faith community meant a lot to her and us over the past few months. Your example of Gods love in this time of struggle has been invaluable to us.

With sincerest thanks,  
Ben & Amy Morris



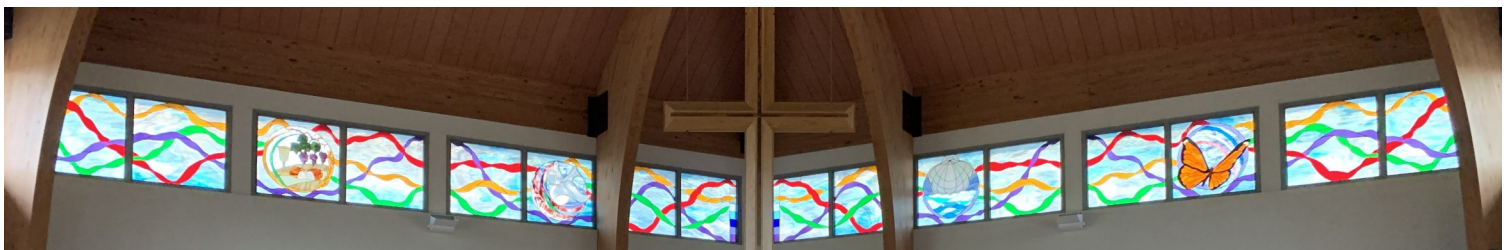
The Stitch 'n Stuff group at LCR would like to thank everyone who participated in the doll stuffing event. We stitched and stuffed a total of 134 dolls for Children's Hospital!!

## DEDICATION OF CLERESTORY STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

In the spring of 2018, Lutheran Church of the Resurrection charter member, Howie Schmidt was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer. As his health began to decline, Howie had a dream. He wanted to commission stained glass windows in memory of his wife, Ernestine, his sainted daughter, Gail, and his side-kick in LCR ministry and his best friend, Fred Walkley. Howie made a payment to cover the costs of the stained glass windows and we offer our thanks and gratitude for his generous legacy gift.

In an amazing offering of stewardship, Michael Goldberg agreed to design and fabricate the sixteen clerestory stained glass windows. We offer thanks for Michael's time (approximately 280 hours) and talent.

Each set of four stained glass panels contains one special window to communicate the foundations of our faith: Holy Communion, Holy Spirit, Holy Baptism, and Resurrection. The stained glass windows were installed by Chuck Farmer, Michael Goldberg, Bruce Laybourne, Mark Meyer, Steve Crawford, and Barry Hoffman (a friend of Steve's).



## **Lenten Reminders:**

**Ash Wednesday Worship—March 6,**  
**3:30 p.m. at New England Club**  
**7:00 p.m. at LCR**

**2019 Mid-Week Lenten Schedule**  
**(beginning March 13)**  
**Soup, Salad & Sandwich 6pm**  
**Worship 7pm**



**Christian Yoga moves to Friday at 2:00 p.m. during Lent**

This year's Lenten offerings will be distributed evenly between these LCR Outreach ministries:

Local: **InterParish Ministries**

Regional: **Manna from Heaven**

International: LCR's missionaries in Guatemala, **The Doppenberg family** and **The Centre of Hope**

### **Tangible offerings for Lent**

Tangible items are being collected as well for **Manna From Heaven**, in Myra, Kentucky and for the **Racetrack Ministry at River Downs**, two ministries that receive Outreach funds and member support from LCR and through LCR Outreach grants. Items being collected:

Toiletries (Shampoo; soap; body wash; toothpaste; toothbrushes; shaving cream; razors)

Men's, Women's and Children's socks, underwear and t-shirts.

*Note: These items will also be available for purchase at LCR during Lent.*

## **SENIOR GETAWAY TRIPS**

Allen Temple AME Church is offering several Senior Getaway trips and has invited LCR members to join them.

Trip One will be a Lancaster Show Trip & The Dutch Country. The trip is from August 5-9. Cost is \$529/person for double occupancy. \$678 for single occupancy. The deadline to register is March 31. The trip will include motor coach transportation, four nights lodging, eight meals (four breakfast and four dinner), admission to the Jesus Show, admission to the Ovation show, a guided tour of Philadelphia, a visit to Kitchen Kettle village, a visit to Park City Center, admission to the Amish Experience and Jacob's Choice and a guided tour of Lancaster. More pictures and information is available at [www.grouptrips.com/seniorsgetaway](http://www.grouptrips.com/seniorsgetaway). To make reservations, contact Louvenia Adeola at 513-485-4338

Trip Two will be a Pigeon Forge and Smokey Mountains Show Trip. The trip is from August 27-29. Cost is \$335/person for double occupancy and \$410 for single occupancy. The deadline to register is May 31. The trip will include motor coach transportation, two night lodging, four meals (two breakfast and two dinner), admission to Titanic: The World's Largest Museum, two dinner shows: The Hatfield-McCoy Show and Soul of Motown. One evening show - Smokey Mountain Opry and one morning show - The Magic Beyond Belief Show and free time in Historic Downtown Gatlinburg. More pictures and information is available at [www.grouptrips.com/seniorsgetaway](http://www.grouptrips.com/seniorsgetaway). To make reservations, contact Louvenia Adeola at 513-485-4338.







The PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY is alive and well!!!

We received a THANK YOU note recently from someone in the New Member class that was given a PRAYER SHAWL!!

When we make these shawls we usually don't know who or when they will be used....what a wonderful way to show God's Love and goodness by taking time to knit or crochet a shawl to comfort and keep someone warm and let them know they are cared about by others!! So keep those needles and hooks busy....contact Pam Rosenbaum (859-635-5072 or [17sugarandspice@gmail.com](mailto:17sugarandspice@gmail.com) for help with patterns or information.

**RAMBLINGS** is a monthly publication from Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, a congregation of the Southern Ohio Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
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Prayer Chain:	Pastor Zorn or Pastor Nicole (see above)
Ramblings:	E-mail: <a href="mailto:karen@lcresurrection.org">karen@lcresurrection.org</a>

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Lutheran Church of the Resurrection strives to be:  
A COVENANT based congregation, NURTURING spiritual growth and  
WELCOMING all into Christ's community through  
Word, sacrament and love.



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION  
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