



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 WORLD IS OUR TEACHER and THE WORLD IS OUR MISSION FIELD!

“But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent?” – Romans 10:14-15

St. Paul wrote to the Romans of the basic Christian practices that have been around since the first disciples of Jesus were commissioned – witnessing, teaching, hearing the Word, proclaiming, and sending in mission – and yet, in this present day, digital world of the Church I am astounded at how they take on new meaning! Yes, admittedly, I have been writing, speaking, teaching, and preaching a whole lot about the Digital Church of late. Please forgive me, but every week there is something new that I learn; another anecdotal example of how profound this “reformation” of the Church really is! By way of comparison to another “Reformation,” it feels to me like “Gutenberg has invented the printing press” and we either don’t know about it or have not fully comprehended how to use it to our advantage. We all need to be thinking differently and creatively in this new and evolving world of the Digital Church.

As I have been organizing the adult Sunday School classes this year on the Zoom platform, a thought occurred to me last December; the world is our teacher! What I mean by that is that we can link in any teacher in any branch of knowledge from any place in the world to join us on Sunday mornings. Fathom that thought for a moment; the Ivy League schools have nothing on the teaching ministry of Lutheran Church of the Resurrection!

While I was thinking about this, I got an email from my friend, Dr. Gillian Ahlgren, who I have gotten to know over the past five years during her tenure on the Xavier University staff in the Theology department. After thirty years at Xavier, Gillian retired last December and is pursuing writing classes in Maine while staying active in lectures, workshops, and spiritual retreats. She asked me if there was any way that she could help at LCR. That was the genesis of our adult Sunday School unit titled, *Spirituality Made Plain: Visionary Lives Speaking Today*.

My primary hope for this unit of Sunday School (in conjunction with Pastor Nicole’s desire to grow our contemplative ministries though digital technology) is just what the title of the program says; to make spirituality plain. That is Dr. Ahlgren’s title for my objective; that more LCR members who have not delved into prayer, for whom prayer is a mystery, or who have some reticence or are even flummoxed by the idea of living prayerfully, will invest themselves in this class of prayer basics. I believe that God only creates a small number of “mystics” but that God creates all of us to be in relationship with God. I also believe that prayer can be learned, that prayer is transformative, and that prayer is the way into an authentic Christian life that brings hope and joy.

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THE WORLD IS OUR TEACHER and THE WORLD IS OUR MISSION FIELD! (continued)

Isn't it ironic that something that is fundamental to the Christian life – prayer – is spoken about and taught so rarely in the church! But we have a magnificent example in the gospels of Jesus' own disciples, who saw His constant attention to prayer, and asked, "Teach us to pray!" Friends, this is your chance and we have one of the world's distinguished teachers on the subject to lead us! Trust me, Harvard would charge you a bundle for this class!

In writing to the Romans, St. Paul states the obvious; how will the world know Jesus if there is no one to preach Jesus, no one to teach of Jesus, and no one to go out and witness for Jesus? That is called evangelism, and traditionally, Lutherans have struggled with that aspect of discipleship. But now, through digital technology, the world is literally your neighbor! Fathom that thought for a moment; we already have a woman from England who will be joining Lutheran Church of the Resurrection and its members for this class! It would not be inconceivable that after she meets us in Sunday School she might be curious to log onto one of our worship services. And don't doubt for a moment that this "farmer" (me) will be "sowing those seeds" on Sunday morning, praying that some of them land on fertile soil. Can I hear any of the faithful of LCR saying, "a harvest of thirty, sixty, or a hundred fold"? Amen? Trust me, Billy Graham would have given his eye teeth for this technology to amplify his "crusades"!

So, where do you fit into this plan? First and foremost, please participate in adult Sunday School. Second, do the work of an evangelist. In my humble opinion, that work just got a lot easier. You don't have to look anybody in the eye and ask, "Will you come to church with me on Sunday morning?" All you have to do is put our flier on your social media and tell your friends about a cool class on prayer that is happening at our church. I don't know how social media works, but you do! Friend it, like it, bookmark it, tag it...whatever you do to get the word out, just do it! At that point, the rest will be no different than what is recorded in the New Testament; the Holy Spirit will take over!

I don't know exactly where any of this is going but I am excited to be in the middle of a "reformation" of the Church. There is no doubt in my mind, Luther never could have imagined his followers in Europe calling themselves "Evangelical" and not Roman Catholic. He could never have imagined that we call ourselves Lutherans today! As I have said to our Digital Strategy Task Force, so I say to you; let's throw the proverbial spaghetti on the wall and see what sticks. Surely, Luther's struggling Church in America will be the better for it. Far more importantly, those who are searching for a Word of grace, a community of hope, and a God who loves them will find that God and that community among us.

How are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? We have our marching orders. In my estimation, we have some new and effective tools to faithfully and effectively respond. To God be the glory!

Peace,
Pastor Zorn



Mary Magdalene Holy Week Service

Pr. Nicole will be offering a special Holy Week contemplative service on **Tuesday March 30** at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom centered around Mary Magdalene and her place in the Easter and Holy Week stories. Mary's story is often overlooked though it has a significant place in the Passion story. Her witness illuminates new dimensions of Jesus' life, death, and meaning for us. If you have questions, would like more information, or the Zoom link, please contact Pr. Nicole.

RECONCILING IN CHRIST (RIC)

-Teresa Ahrenholz, RIC Core Team Chair

March 31 – Transgender Day of Visibility

Introduction to Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming (not cisgender)

TRANS can be an umbrella term used to refer to transgender, genderqueer, non-binary, and gender non-conforming people. The colors of the transgender flag are pink, blue, white.

Transgender is an identity many people use whose self-experienced gender does not match the sex they were assigned at birth. For example, a transgender person might be someone who identifies and lives as a woman but whose birth-assigned sex was male. Other transgender people identify as somewhere in between the societally recognized genders of man and woman, as neither, or as one gender at some times and another gender at other times.

Gender Non-Conforming people who hold gender identities that are the same as their birth-assigned sex, but do not express their gender identity in ways that conform to societal and/or cultural expectations.

Genderqueer can describe a person who does not subscribe to conventional gender distinctions but identifies with neither, both, or a combination of male and female genders.

Cisgender describes a person whose birth-assigned sex and gender identity are the same. For example, a person whose assigned sex is female and who identifies as a woman is cisgender.

People over Definitions: When someone shares their identity, **honor** that self-understanding by using the words, pronouns, and identity terms they provide.

For some (maybe most) of us, these terms are not easily understood and we can feel overwhelmed. The main thing to remember is that we listen to how the person introduces themselves and we respect their identity. I have attended zoom meetings where people in the LGBTQIA+ community admit they don't know all the ways people describe themselves, but the message that comes across loud and clear is respect, understanding and love. Before anything else or how we describe ourselves, each of us is a beloved child of God.



The Endowment Fund

Did you know that LCR has an endowment fund?

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

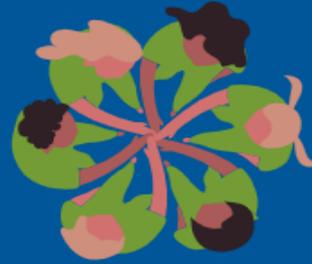
Quite simply, a gift to the endowment fund is a way to provide lasting support for LCR. An endowment fund is set up so that distributions of "income" are made according to a formula that will preserve the purchasing power of the principal over time.

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.

LCR CARES FUND



The LCR CARES FUND continues in 2021 -- allowing LCR members to be God's "hands in action" when physical distancing guidelines are in place.

While needs are many, this fund provides additional resources to select groups assisted through LCR's Outreach budget who are experiencing the most dire need.

LCR continues to be God's hands in action through our LCR CARES Fund to these six LCR-supported ministries:

- Guatemala missionary support (Doppenberg family and The Centre of Hope)
- Immigration and Refugee Ministry
- IPM (Inter Parish Ministry)
- Manna from Heaven/Appalachia
- Navajo Christian Preparatory Academy
- SEM (Southeastern Ecumenical Ministry)

To date, over \$5,395.00 has been gathered for the second round of LCR CARES from stimulus checks and directed gifts. Some examples of how our funds are being used: to support the Doppenberg's ministry and COVID-altered programs so that when pandemic restrictions lift they will be poised to continue with in-person outreach; to provide needed food and water to those whose livelihoods have been impacted by COVID-19; and to support families and children with technology tools for kids in school, rent assistance and for items not covered by government support programs. Our donations are making a direct impact for good in the lives of many.

Additionally, our LCR CARES Fund program has inspired other Lutheran congregations to develop programs like this for their own members who see such need and who want a way to direct funds. (God works in all things!)

If interested in making a donation to this fund, please make checks payable to LCR with a notation for LCR CARES Fund. Program details are available here: <https://tinyurl.com/m6jxsjh5>
Questions? Contact Alyson Best or Cindy Zorn, Outreach co-chairs.



With Sympathy: Our sympathy to **Julie Pahutski** on the death of her father, **Victor Hinrichs**

With Sympathy: Our sympathy to **Kay Luccasen** on the death of her grandson, **Connor Pesha**

Health Ministry Thoughts

-Mary Mette

March is filled with all sorts of possibilities. It is filled with **Hope** and **Renewal** as we reflect on God's creation and the rebirth with the season change to Spring (March 21), our Lenten contemplation of His ultimate gift of Love, Mercy and promise of new life for us, and finally our hope of healing now and in our future. Remember you are His Beloved.

"...but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40: 31

How Did They Know?

How did they know, it was time to push up through the long-wintered soil?
How did they know, it was the moment to resurrect
While thick layers of stubborn ice still pressed the bleak ground flat?

But the tulips knew.
They came, rising strongly, a day after the ice died.

There's a hope-filled place in me
That also knows when to rise.
It is urged by the strong sun warming my wintered heart.
It is nudged by the Secret One,
Calling, calling, calling,
"Arise, my love, and come."

Like the dormant tulips
My heart stirs,
And hope comes dancing forth.

Not unlike the Holy One
Kissing the morning sun,
Waving a final farewell
To a tomb emptied of its treasure.
By Joyce Rupp, The Cosmic Dance

Have you
remembered
Lutheran Church
of the
Resurrection
in your will?

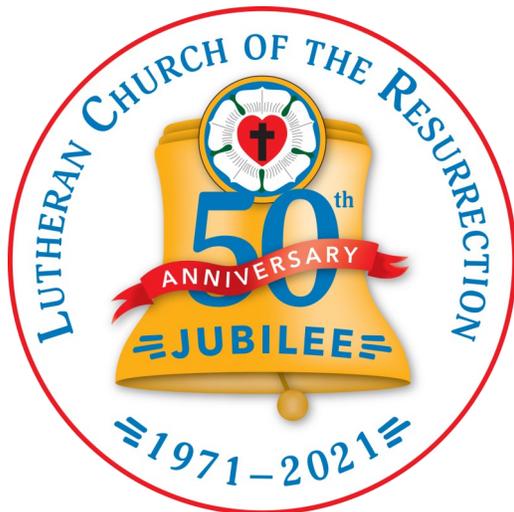


The next Enter the Silence, Awaken the Spirit contemplative service will be on **Tuesday, March 9** at 7:00 p.m. via Facebook Live.

Jubilee Year Update: Celebrating Amid a Pandemic!

And you shall hallow the fiftieth year and you shall proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you: you shall return, every one of you, to your property and every one of you to your family. – Leviticus 25:10

As we celebrate our 50th anniversary from November 2020 through November 2021, we will provide an article in the Ramblings each month to highlight upcoming events and provide any required details to help the congregation join in the festivities. Again, we remind you that if you have adult children who grew up in the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection community, please keep them informed. Also be reminded that we have established a 50th anniversary landing page on our web site (<https://www.lcresurrection.org/50thAnniversary>) that has the calendar for the entire year.



Pastor Milt Berner Visits LCR

On February 21, Pastor Berner joined us for worship and the Sunday School fellowship hour. In his sermon, he reminisced a bit about our life at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church and the establishment of the LCR Covenant, a timely subject on this weekend when the Lectionary text was a reading from the Noah story. About twenty members joined Pastor Berner for fellowship; five in person and fifteen via Zoom. Most of our members had not seen Pastor Berner in many years, so this was surely a "feel good" moment to reminisce about old times and catch up on present times; Jubilee joy for sure! At age 81, I commented to Pastor Berner that it appeared to me that he has not lost a step since the end of his tenure as our Assisting Pastor in 2009.

March Food Packing Postponed

Our Jubilee Year servant event, a meal packing in conjunction with Northern Kentucky Hunger Relief, that was scheduled for March 27 has been postponed to August 21. Given the complications of the pandemic, this seemed the prudent thing to do. Our rescheduled date will be just as families in the FHSD are getting back in session. Our hope and prayer is that the pandemic will be under much better control by then.

LCR Cookbook

The countdown is about to start. The cookbook committee will be accepting recipes through the Lenten Season. Final submittals will be taken through the week after Easter. Even though this year the Soup and Salad Lenten supper is not happening we are highlighting your Soup and Salad recipes, but accepting any and all recipes! Thank you to everyone who has submitted recipes and for those who have not gotten around to it yet please send them in soon!

Coming in April

On Easter Sunday, April 4, we will have 50th anniversary commemorative lambs available for the children of LCR. The following Sunday, April 11, we will kick-off our Jubilee Capital Campaign. Information on that effort will be forthcoming.

We never anticipated a pandemic when we were planning this Jubilee Year. Our plans have been altered but thus far, we are gratified that we have been able to host Bishop Dillahunt and Pastor Berner via Zoom, hold our History Night via Zoom, publish our 50 year history, and continue to revise plans for future events. We are grateful for the congregation's understanding, support, and participation.

The Long Range Planning Committee

Loraine Everett, John Fireovid, Kathy Meyer, Brent Vogel, and Pastor Zorn



Big thank you to whomever knitted and crocheted the beautiful hats and scarves in December. The residents at the Shelterhouse (the old Drop In Center) were very appreciative of your generous gift of warmth.

Thank you . Mary Ann Mette

You never cease to amaze us with all the ways you support IPM! We want to thank you for your very generous food and personal care drive earlier this month. You have helped us start out the new year with full shelves for all our neighbors who are coming to our drive-through pantries. We wish you could be there to see the smiles on our guests' faces and the relief that seems to set into their spirits when they know someone cares about them and will be there for them. You make that happen with all your gifts to IPM.

Alida Hart and the IPM Team

PRAYER ON THE OCCASION OF RECEIVING THE CORONAVIRUS VACCINE

Sustainer of All,
Hold me in your care as I receive this vaccine,
The work of scientists, the labor of healthcare professionals.
Bless the swirl of molecules and antibodies,
the mystical give-and-take of my body.

Remove from me fear.
For many have gone down this path before me.
And many shall go after me.
You made all things and called them good.

Open my heart to gratitude,
Even in the midst of much suffering.
I give thanks for this jab,
A strange way to receive a blessing.

Stir my conscience to consideration of others,
That I may not forget my mask just because I am protected.
Remind me of my obligations to my community and myself,
And give me courage to receive my next dose.

Awaken me to vulnerability,
While I am a soul of light, I am an embodied being.
Draw near to me this day,
As I choose to celebrate life and community. Amen.

Rev. Michael Woolf, Lake Street Church of Evanston, Il.

The Easter Egg Hunt is on!

Join us on LCR's lawn at 10:00 a.m., **March 27** for an outdoor egg hunt and story time with Pr. Nicole! We will suspend our traditional indoor activities and crafts to help everyone keep distance and be safe. All participants are asked to bring a basket, wear a mask, and be mindful of distancing. A special area will be designated for younger egg hunters (4 years and younger) to help them maintain distance as well. Save the date and join us for some Easter fun!!!



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
 A CONGREGATION OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
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