



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

A CONGREGATION OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

1950 NAGEL ROAD

CINCINNATI OH 45255

OCTOBER 2020

VOLUME 49 ISSUE 10

# 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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## APPORTIONING OUR STUFF: THE EMPEROR'S AND GOD'S

(A Stewardship Mea Culpa!)

**Then he (Jesus) said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." – Matthew 22:21**

Over the summer I read a book about stewardship and had one of those "light bulb" experiences. I realized that after all of these years I have been preaching and teaching something that is fundamentally *wrong* about the Christian concept of stewardship! With that embarrassing revelation, all that I can say to you is "Mea Culpa!" I am sorry! I ask your understanding and forgiveness.

Stewardship, whether it be biblical or secular, is all about management of assets; we like to say, the assets of time, talent and treasure. How do we apportion our assets between God and "the emperor"? I would like to correct what I have said previously, but I feel so incompetent that I am not sure that I am able to do that. I am fearful that I may confuse things even more. Therefore, I have decided to call upon two of my friends who will join us in worship on October 17/18 weekend when our liturgy and sermon will be focused on stewardship. I am hopeful that they will set things straight. Rather than introduce my two friends now, I think I'll just offer a teaser and let you wait to meet them on our stewardship weekend. I'll just leave it at this; I have been sitting at the feet of Sean Mette and trying to learn from the master!

Our fall stewardship emphasis will be shaped as follows:

October 10/11 Kick Off

Estimate of giving cards sent digitally to all members in advance  
Temple Talk

October 17/18 Worship

Sermon and liturgy

Temple Talk from one of our leaders on an emerging LCR ministry

October 24/25 Conclusion of the emphasis

Estimate of giving cards returned digitally and blessing during worship  
Stitch n' Stuff – blessing of the quilts as an aspect of stewardship

I would like to mention that in our stewardship emphasis of trying to stay connected while apart, we have been sending "virtual hug" cards to a different family listed in our church directory every two weeks. I am sure that some members are using their own cards for this, but to date I have ordered thirty-four dozen (408!) cards which have been available for pick up in the vestibule. Whether a card, a text, an email, a phone call, or any other mode of communication, it is a comfort to remain connected while physically distanced. Thank you for your efforts to remain the Body of Christ, Lutheran Church of the Resurrection.

Peace,  
Pastor Zorn

# THE DIGITAL CHURCH

## (An Oxymoron and a Reality!)

-Pastor Zorn

I am spending more time learning about, thinking about, and conversing about a new phenomenon called “the digital church.” Yes, this is an oxymoron! For two thousand years we have not traditionally thought about the church being anything but the in-person body of believers gathering to worship and practice discipleship. That is changing, probably more than you are aware, and it has already become (present tense not future tense) a reality! I read a comment last spring that hit me between the eyes and I have repeated it often to my colleagues, to our Church Council members, and to our ministry leaders, “Irrelevance is the gap between how quickly things change and how quickly you change.”

I am not a big fan of technology. To be honest, it doesn’t interest me very much. Live stream worship and Zoom meetings just don’t do it for me like being in person. A hug over a computer monitor is nothing like pressing the flesh in person. While I am ambivalent about technology, I am also sensitive and far more concerned about church obsolescence and “irrelevance.” It doesn’t matter what you or I like or prefer, the digital church is here to stay and if we are very honest and perceptive, the digital church offers us many advantages that are not possible with the traditional, in-person church.

What does the digital church look like? I can offer a few examples of what I have personally experienced already and what I have heard from others. One of our members has a friend in Maryland. She told her friend about our Divine Feminine classes and adult Sunday School class on the subject of church history. Her friend has joined our classes via Zoom. A woman read in our newsletter (I don’t know how she found it other than on our website) that we were having classes on Lutheranism (i.e., new member classes). She called to tell me that she is currently in the denomination of her childhood and no longer believes that theology. She wanted to know more about Lutheran theology and asked if she could take the classes. (I’m holding her name for the next class sessions.) Each week I get a report of who has logged on to our Facebook live stream worship (as best as we know). If we can get a contact or trace these people down through common Facebook friends, I follow up with them. If they are friends of our members, I ask our members to follow up with them. Out of the blue over the summer, my next-door neighbor drove past me when I was working in my front yard. She rolled down her window and yelled out, “I liked what you said in your sermon today!” I was stunned! I had no idea that she was logging onto our worship. Just last week she told Cindy that she wants to learn more about our church. I have contacted her to get together. Pastor Nicole and I are receiving more “blind contacts” from people who have seen something that interests them on our social media pages and our website. Former LCR members regularly participate in our live stream worship and are able to reconnect with us. Less active Covenant members of our church make comments on our social media pages that make me realize that while they may not be overly involved in our ministry, they are connected, do care, and participate in ways that they are able. This has not happened yet for us (that I am aware of) but colleagues tell me that “guests” logging into their streaming worship services have even sent their churches offerings!

This is my conclusion; the digital church is here to stay. The digital church allows us to expand, revise, rethink, and redefine our understanding of “church.” If we don’t acknowledge this and react to it, we will be in jeopardy of irrelevance!

We are currently working with a professional company on a proposal to install hardware and software in our sanctuary so that we can continue to livestream worship even after we are back to in-person worship. In our ministry, I don’t see Zoom meetings going away. We are not reducing our digital presence on social media, but rather, we are enhancing it. Karen Leupen has just completed a course to learn more about how to do that. I am currently taking a class on distanced worship. So this is my question, and I invite you to help me answer it: **How do we facilitate the digital church existing alongside the traditional church?** How do we be as welcoming as possible to those we have not, and may never meet in person? How do we engage them further in our ministry, or should that even be an objective of ours? Maybe that part is the work of the Holy Spirit and maybe connection to LCR from a distance is just fine for some folks.

*(Continued on next page)*

## THE DIGITAL CHURCH (continued)

Secondarily, but related to the evolution of the digital church, there is something else that has become apparent to me. The digital church allows us to “market and brand” ourselves to a whole new and broader “customer base.” (I use business terms to help you understand something significantly theological.) It occurs to me that the current secular, social environment in our country has had an ancillary effect of shining a spotlight and a placing a microscope on the Church. Matters that are social and secular – racism, immigration, the environment, women’s equality, the LGBTQIA+ community, hunger and poverty, the global family, and relations between cultural (i.e., interfaith) communities – are also absolutely theological! Our faith has a voice in the public square on every one of these matters that are “social/secular.” The irony is that the worldly focus has helped to clearly define where churches are. What I am saying is that denominations and churches that lean toward literal interpretation of the Bible (e.g., Evangelicals) and churches that lean toward more metaphorical interpretation of the Bible (e.g. ELCA Lutherans) are being clearly distinguished by secular forces. As Lutherans, we have taken public theological positions on each of these issues and as Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, we have done likewise. Through the digital church these statements are made broad, wide, and public. This effort is nothing new for Lutherans. One aspect that we maintain from Luther’s legacy is his public advocacy for a just society. The only thing new for us is the mode of communication.

My neighbor who follows our live stream worship has also commented on our theology. She is not being fed by her current church and has been unable to find one that fits with her faith. That is why she is interested in us! I think also about St. Anthony Roman Catholic Church in Madisonville, and their Eulogy that was printed in the newspaper. Based on my interpretation of their unhappiness with their parish, our theology and polity (governance) are just what they are looking for. Are these examples just the tip of the iceberg? I have the sense that there are a lot of people, disillusioned Christians and those who have never been affiliated with a church, who are looking for us! So this is my question and I invite you to help me answer it: **How do we brand and market ourselves to that “customer base”?**

In these two phenomena – digital church and the spotlight on the theology of social issues – I see great potential for LCR to be relevant, to grow, and to be community (electronic and physical) for people who are confused, troubled, and searching in these challenging times. Our mission is to build bridges and tear down walls. All of this to the glory of God and the grace of the gospel. The question is “How?”



The next Enter the Silence, Awaken the Spirit contemplative service will be on **Tuesday, October 13** at 7:00 p.m.



**The Endowment Fund**

### Planning Your Estate?

Please consider a gift from your estate to the LCR Endowment Fund.

Use this language to make a gift (bequest):

“I give and bequeath to Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, an Ohio nonprofit corporation (located at 1950 Nagel Road; Cincinnati, OH 45255; FEIN 31-0810197) [a sum of money, percentage of my estate or description of the gift]. I request that the gift be added to the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection Endowment Fund.”

The Endowment Committee can help you with any questions.

# Reconciling in Christ

October is Bullying Prevention Month, Coming Out Day (October 11) and Spirit Day (October 15)

Spirit Day is an annual LGBTQ awareness day. Started in 2010 by Canadian teenager Brittany McMillan, it was initially created in response to a rash of widely publicized bullying-related suicides of gay school students in 2010, including that of Tyler Clementi.

I have been reading the book “How Happiness Happens” by Max Lucado. Chapter 5 is titled “Greet One Another (Romans 16:16). This chapter spoke to me in so many ways, but especially in our RIC journey.

During the RIC Team’s Zoom educational sessions we talked about greeting those who walk through LCR’s doors and I detected a bit of anxiety from LCR members in wanting to be gracious to our LGBTQIA+ neighbors and not, unknowingly, say something to cause unease. With this in mind,

I think Max Lucado’s words will help us. He says, in part:

*Simply greeting one another is not that hard. But it makes a significant difference.*

*We just never know, do we? We never know when a gesture of kindness will touch a heart. Perhaps that’s why Paul urged us to greet “everyone.” He did not say, “Greet the people you like.” Or “Greet the people you know.” Or “Greet the people you want to know.” He simply said, “Greet one another.”*

Mr. Lucado tells of a member of his congregation – a sports icon in the city of San Antonio who during his NBA career won championships, Olympic gold medals, and MVP awards. The initial time the all-star entered the sanctuary, every head turned to look at him. About the same time he stepped into the sanctuary, so did another guest. A homeless man wandered in off the street – looking very different from the sports icon. The congregation was thrilled and enthralled by the presence of the all-star, but with only one exception, no one greeted the street dweller.

Mr. Lucado said he would always be grateful for that one exception and he wondered if the homeless man was a messenger of sorts, even an angel in disguise, sent by God to test our willingness to receive *all* God’s children.

Last October at the Blue Ash Branch Library, I attended “Transgender Reality 101 - a community conversation.” I wasn’t nervous until I got there and stood outside the meeting room and then wondered if I should even be there. This was not my world and I didn’t want to make anyone uncomfortable by attending. Before I went in, there was someone walking into the room who looked very confident and I stopped them and asked if it was okay for me to join in. They greeted me kindly and said, of course you are welcome to join us.

The room was not overly large, people kept coming, more chairs had to be brought in. We sat in a circle and kept expanding our circle, welcoming more and more. I looked around at all the faces – I don’t know who was gay, lesbian, bi, transgender, straight – I just thought this is God’s view of us, this is God’s rainbow. All uniquely and exquisitely made. I heard stories of adversity, bravery, fear, struggling to define who you are, acceptance, and connectedness. I am so glad that I went into that room rather than walking away. I will not forget that feeling of being accepted and the love that I felt sitting in that circle with people I didn’t know. I was enlightened and changed during that meeting.

LCR is that same kind of circle – welcoming, accepting, loving. All we have to do when someone, anyone, walks through the door is say “hello – we’re glad you’re here” and do the thing we do best – make them feel part of our beloved community.

-Teresa Ahrenholz



# JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

## OUTREACH GRANT REQUESTS DUE SUNDAY, October 11, 2020

LCR's Outreach efforts include supporting charitable projects and programs that LCR members endorse/recommend. Special giving and revenue raised from the Kroger Rewards program provides funding for us to offer Outreach grants twice each year. The *deadline for fall grant cycle applications is Sunday, October 11*. If you have a project for which you would like to apply, grant applications can be found in the Outreach mailbox in the office. Return your request to the Outreach mailbox by October 11 or email it to Alyson Best at [abest727@gmail.com](mailto:abest727@gmail.com)

## First Lutheran Church OTR Update

-Alyson Best, Outreach Committee

First Lutheran Church in OTR was part of LCR's Outreach ministry budget for many years as it struggled through the challenging times OTR experienced before its current resurgence and popularity. Several LCR members provided support and are even today interested in its success. This update is meant to alert you to some new happenings at First.

First Lutheran has begun to thrive through leadership of Pastor Brian Ferguson and increased membership, and a visioning process that is strengthening it to be a relevant ELCA presence in its OTR community/ surrounding areas. It recently became a Reconciling In Christ (RIC) church, just like LCR, and is envisioning how this designation will strengthen membership and community support.

The church began a capital campaign several years ago which made improvements to its physical structure to support safety, growth and this historical preservation of the building, and was on its way to the next capital campaign stages when COVID hit. These plans were put on hold to be good financial stewards, but the next stage was to include the structural support of First's historic bell tower and the addition of an elevator. Upon

examination by an engineering firm recently, its bell tower did not pass inspection and the tower has to either be rebuilt (at significant expense) or capped in order for the church to be inhabitable. The church is embracing this news, striving to be good stewards and looking through the eyes of faith on how to turn "lemons" into "lemonade" by "capping" the tower and focusing new funding campaigns on adding an elevator which will make the church more accessible to more people. There is lots to consider, as you can imagine. To learn more about the process First is going through, follow them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/flecincy> or email Pastor Brian and ask to be added to their mailing list at [pastorbrianflc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbrianflc@gmail.com)





## DISASTER RELIEF (Stay at home) TRIP

This year we will do the annual Disaster Relief Trip at home instead of going to a region hit by a disaster. We have identified several projects that require some attention at LCR, both on the grounds and in the church building. The work will be done the week of **October 12 - 16**. The week will be of similar format to mission trips, except you will be spending the night at your home. You can work the entire week or just a day or two. Contact Curt Martel ([cmartel@fuse.net](mailto:cmartel@fuse.net)) if you plan on working that week.

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## CATECHISM NEWS

We have officially begun the Christian Education year and have one week of Zoom Sunday School for PreK to 5th grade under our belts! There were a few technological hiccups, but we're off to a good start. This month attention moves to Catechism and Sr. High. As with Sunday school, there were a number of considerations for a safe, nourishing experience. Both Catechism and Sr. High will have Zoom and in-person opportunities. Catechism will begin in person, socially distant, outside on **October 4th**. All students and a parent are invited to the memorial garden for an overview of the year and to pick up materials. The subsequent weeks of October will be learning time for all three years on Zoom. This is a departure from the recent past. With changes to what is possible for Sunday School on Sunday mornings, 6th, 7th, and 8th will all learn together for this first semester. Sr. High will begin on Zoom from 7-8pm on the 4th. October 25th, we plan to do the Corn Maze event for Catechism and Sr. High as it is outside and can be done safely. Catechism and Sr. High families should pay close attention to the Children, Youth, and Family Weekly News for full calendars and Zoom links each week.

This pattern of Zoom learning and in-person, safe events will continue through the semester, always paying attention to the virus counts in our area and to what our local school districts are doing.

This year will be different and will still be great!!

Warmly,

◇<Pr. Nicole

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## DIVINE FEMININE ZOOM CLASS

Join Pr. Nicole for a closer look at the Divine Feminine, a Divine Feminine 201. We'll dive deeper into the themes from the first offering at 7pm via Zoom **October 16, 22, and 29**. Everyone is welcome! You needn't have done the first offering to participate this time. Email Pastor Nicole to sign up.



Dear LCR,

Thank you to all who send well wishes and cards in regards to my brother Bob's passing. I'm so touched by people's kind and caring words of comfort. I feel so blessed by all of you.

Thank you all so very much!

Vicki Harper

Thank you to all, who in the past, have supported our ministry:

- Thanks to those who partook in the hands on blessing of quilts and other items made for Children's Hospital
- Thanks to those who bought tickets or donated money toward our annual quilt raffle.
- Thanks to those who donated fabric and supplies.
- Thanks to those who bought quilts for yourself or as gifts.
- Thanks to those who enjoyed fellowship while stuffing medical dolls for Children's Hospital.

Due to coronavirus restrictions this year, we are unable to have neither the regular blessing of quilts nor our annual fund raising raffle, but we continue the work of our ministry. We have many quilts to donate to Matthew 25 and have made nearly 460 masks for Children's Hospital.

Even though there will be no fund raising raffle this October, monetary gifts will always be appreciated through regular giving to LCR with a memo to Stitch 'n Stuff or to any committee member.

Again, we thank you for all of the support in years past as we continue with God's Work. Our Hands.

Blessings,

Kathy Bendick, Faye Crawford, Joyce Fischer, Margaret Garver, Ellen Harris, Karen Henderson, Emily Hugenberg, Doris Jancha, Linda Jones, Charlotte Kreinbring

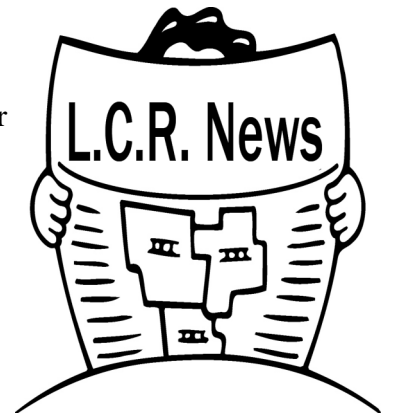
**SYMPATHY:** Our sympathy to **Dan Tandy, Megan & Paul Budzynski** and their family on the death of **Dalene Tandy**.

Our sympathy to **Rochelle Feine** and her family on the death of her father, **Larry Hovey**.

Our sympathy to **Vicki Harper** and her family of the death of her brother, **Bob Sabelhaus**.

**BAPTISM:** We celebrate with **Joe & Lauren Keipper** on the baptism of their daughter, **Lenna Celeste Keipper**

We celebrate with **Bobby & Patti Roeckner** on the baptism of their daughter **Annabelle Jane Roeckner**. Annabelle is the great-granddaughter of **Howie and Ernie Schmidt**.



***A new member does not join  
Lutheran Church of the Resurrection;  
They are adopted into our family!***



## Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 4

1:00 p.m.

At LCR

Public health guidelines including masks and social distancing will be practiced.

**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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	E-mail: <a href="mailto:mckenzr@yahoo.com">mckenzr@yahoo.com</a>
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.



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