



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

A CONGREGATION OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

1950 NAGEL ROAD

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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 SEASON OF LENT DURING A PANDEMIC: THE SAME SPIRIT IN A DIFFERENT FORM!

**"But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you." – Matthew 6:6, the gospel for Ash Wednesday**

The familiar words of Lent take on a different sort of meaning this year as we discern how to worship and observe the spiritual practices in the unprecedented context of a pandemic. "Going into our room" is where most of us have been for the past eleven months! Regrettably, that is where we will be this Lenten season, but with hopes that pandemic precautions will soon be easing as vaccines are administered. Lent will be very different this year, and yet, I believe that it can and will be equally Spirit-filled. Perhaps a move away from the familiar and, what can become rote exercises of the season, can open the eyes of faith in a new way. That, at least, is my hope and sense of optimism. For those who cling tightly to tradition – Holden Evening Prayer, soup and sandwich, and a Lenten object for your pocket – please be flexible this year with assurance that your favorite Lenten traditions will not be lost in the future. I have a strong feeling that the Spirit may grace you in new, surprising, and exciting ways this year!

Let me begin with Ash Wednesday. The big question is in regard to the imposition of ashes. We will offer two alternatives. Between 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. and between 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., one of the pastors will be available for the imposition of ashes in the LCR parking lot. Blow your horn, remain in your car, keep your mask on, and one of us will come out to see you and impose ashes. Alternatively, we will provide small containers of ashes that can be picked up in the vestibule and taken home. During the worship service, you will have the opportunity to impose ashes upon yourself and your family members. As for worship, it will be similar to our live stream services but we will be using some liturgy and hymnody that comes from the new ELCA hymnal supplement, *All Creation Sings*. We are excited about this hymnal and look forward to adding it to our worship repertoire of resources.

You will experience the biggest Lenten change in our midweek worship this year. With the approval of our Worship and Music Committee and Church Council, we have opted to join with six other Cincinnati ELCA congregations and worship together via Zoom on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Each Wednesday during Lent, one congregation will take the lead with pastoral and musical support. The members of all of the congregations will Zoom into worship together. This will be a bit different experience for LCR as we'll be using Zoom technology rather than Facebook live stream for worship. However, access will be easy, via Zoom link, and the worship experience will be very similar to what we are used to, with the benefit of experiencing a variety of leadership styles and messages from other churches.

## THE SEASON OF LENT DURING A PANDEMIC (continued)

Our worship theme will be *Created for Community*; with creation, with all the saints, with our neighbor, with those on the margins, and with Christ. The worship service will be about thirty minutes. After worship, we are organizing discussion groups that will be comprised of a mixture of members from each church. The small group will remain constant each week so that participants will have a chance to develop new friendships and be exposed to new ideas. A clergy person will moderate discussion for each small group. Small group conversation will last for about a half hour each evening.

Our offering this year will be combined with the offerings of the other churches. Since this is a Cincinnati ELCA effort, we chose Tikkun Farm ([www.tikkunfarm.com](http://www.tikkunfarm.com)) as beneficiary. Tikkun Farm is a Lutheran-affiliated 3.5 acre farm in the neighborhood of Mt. Healthy which intends to be a place of healing, restoration and repair cultivated through meaningful work and spiritual practices. In the past year, they have done significant feeding ministry with the immigrant community. They are an ELCA domestic hunger grant beneficiary and an organization known to LCR's Hunger Task Force. The founder, Pr. Mary Laymon, is a colleague of Pastor Nicole and me.

One of the things that has always been special about LCR Lent is our soup and sandwich fellowship time. Since that fellowship can't happen this year, we are offering an alternative. We have ordered ELCA Lenten devotional books for our families that will be available in the vestibule. Our pastors and some of our members have used them in past years. They are very good, offering a daily written word and accompanying visual image. We will be offering an opportunity to share each weekday during Lent by using a safe and secure "chat space" where we can be connected and dialogue about each day's devotion.

On the Wednesday of Holy Week, we will host a special Zoom meeting to discuss the experience of this year and see what we have learned. If you listened to my sermon of January 17 and are perceptive, you will realize that this is yet one more example of *The Digital Church*! I am excited about the opportunity of worship together with other congregations, but I am equally interested to see what we learn about digital church that we might apply in the future. In my sermon, I said that I believe that we are in a "reformation" of the Church at this Kairos moment. This is a unique year. I ask your open hearts and open minds to see and experience what surprises the Holy Spirit may have in store for us. Perhaps "your Father who sees in secret"... "will, indeed, reward you"!

Peace,

Pastor Zorn

*Understanding that there is so much new information and detail about Lent this year, we will be offering further information in all-congregational emails and we will produce a video with explanations as we get closer to Ash*

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## Introducing the Digital Strategy Task Force

-Matt Wehrman

This last year has forced on LCR a lot of technical changes to continue worship and other activities. The Church Council has realized these changes will impact how LCR moves into the future regarding worship, service, fellowship, education, and mission. Specifically, our connections to LCR are becoming very technological where we are becoming a Digital Church which will stand alongside and with our present Church. LCR will not be dropping into all of this technology recklessly. The Church Council has commissioned a task force to determine the Digital Strategy for LCR. The strategy will include a framework for "How" to do this work but more importantly the "What" and "Who" will be served digitally. We will also be looking at how these new technological tasks will be staffed (who will do the new work) and policies to ensure risk and management of the new services are covered.

The task force team members include Christie Brown, Allison Ernst, Julie Pahutski, Dan Syvertsen, Adam Vance, and Matt Wehrman (team lead). This team has a lot of experience with technology, web development, analytics, marketing, product development, and experience with the technology solutions implemented this last year.

Our goal is to provide the Church Council with a strategy to create and support the Digital Church at LCR. This will answer how the LCR we know and love can grow to include the Digital Church while continuing what we do best.

I am available if you have any questions or comments regarding the work of the task force.

# RECONCILING IN CHRIST (RIC)

February – Valentine’s Day brings to mind love, kindness, acceptance, and showing appreciation for those around us.

This made me think more about welcoming the outsider, those different than ourselves.

Reconciling Works: Lutherans for Full Participation advocates for the full welcome, inclusion, and equity of our LGBTQ+ siblings. Over the next few issues of the Ramblings we’ll explore some of the ways people identify themselves. Reconciling Works offers helpful tips on this journey.

**CURIOSITY CONTINUUM:** When getting to know someone or learning more about a people group, you are sure to have many questions. Before you inquire, ask yourself “Why am I asking?” or “Will this question help build a relationship of mutual trust and respect?” Does your question represent hospitable curiosity or lurid curiosity? Asking people about the details of their bodies is not hospitable. The goal is to dismantle barriers between people, and the perception that LGBTQ+ people are exotic oddities does not serve that goal.

**PEOPLE OVER DEFINITIONS:** If you don’t know which identity terms, pronouns or titles to use, and find yourself getting “stuck” on terms, re-center yourself on the fact you are talking to a person. It is also ok to ask which pronouns one prefers, (he, she, they) or just avoid using gendered terms. **Remember, all you need to welcome someone is their name.**

Happy Valentine’s Day – spread some love around!



**SYMPATHY:** We extend our sympathy to **David Mengel** and his family on the death of his mother, **Zona Mengel**.

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



## 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.



Our Ash Wednesday service will be on **Wednesday, February 17** at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome to join us via Facebook Live.

## MANNA FROM HEAVEN UPDATE

The year 2020 was one of great visioning and excitement for our Manna from Heaven Ministry. In November 2019, LCR was awarded a Domestic Hunger Grant from the ELCA for \$8,000 annually for the next three years. In February 2020, Nancy Jordan (NK Hunger Relief) and Cindy Zorn met with Lois Tackett and Denisa, Lois' right-hand worker. Together they planned, visioned and dreamed about what the year would be like in the context of the LCR/Manna ministry. We were all EXCITED!!!

Unknown to us, two weeks later the Covid Pandemic hit. Nevertheless, Bob Hurr, Chuck Farmer, Leslie Meyer and Cindy Zorn were still able to serve Manna in March. Taking the necessary precautions they delivered two 26-ft trucks of goods from Master Provisions food bank, along with the restaurant food Bob picks up weekly, and clothing.

Meanwhile in March, Lois and Ralph began Drive Through Giveaways to keep recipients and their volunteers healthy. They distributed the plants, seeds and food items in this manner.

In April and May, LCR was unable to deliver food because of the Kentucky governor's order closing the border. Fortunately Master Provisions had one of their volunteers deliver the food those two months. LCR paid for the truck rental and gas, and their team member, Brad, became an invaluable member of the Manna team!

We realized in June that we would be able to provide safe contactless delivery of food. We were also able to load the trucks with vegetable plants, seedlings, seeds and other goods for the Seeds of Change Program. Now more than ever the people needed to grow their own food, while living in a food desert. Lois stressed to her clients the need for self-sufficiency and food independence while not knowing if the food supply would continue.

Thanks to a new gift from the LCR CARES campaign, we were able to match an extra truckload of food from Master Provisions with a \$500 donation per truck. A truck loaded with 12,500 pounds of produce for \$500 was beneficial for Master Provisions but most importantly for Manna! Bruce Laybourne and his navigator Stefanie made several of these extra trips, along with Cindy, Lexie Stevenson, and Bob.

So there was a new plan.....in the year 2020, in the midst of a pandemic, LCR drove an additional 14 trucks from Cincinnati to Myra with additional produce and USDA food boxes. In 2020 we sent and drove a total of 28 Penske 26 foot trucks loaded with 273,660 pounds of food donated by Master Provisions to Myra. That wasn't in our original plan, but it sure was in His. PRAISE GOD !!!

In December LCR provided 800, Twelve Foods of Christmas food boxes that were distributed the weekend before Christmas. The congregation assembled 301 boxes, Georgetown Village Neighbors in Cincinnati assembled 74 boxes and the rest were packed by Manna volunteers in the fellowship hall. With funds from the ELCA Hunger Grant we were able to purchase the food items for the additional 425 boxes. Manna had 885 cars in their Christmas Drive Thru Line. Although they ran out of boxes they did have enough food for everyone who came through the line. Matthew 25 also donated 4 pallets of food that we were able to deliver!!! Christmas presents were collected, and additional items were purchased with grant money with the aid of Connie and Jim Michaelis, and Ed and Phyllis Hiestand. Again, the plan had changed, but there was at least one present for every child this Christmas!!!

Proverbs 14:22 says, "But those who plan what is good find love and faithfulness."

This year we learned that it is good to have plans, but it is also good to listen to the Holy Spirit and allow the Spirit to guide our actions. In the middle of a pandemic our Manna from Heaven Ministry repeatedly received love and support and care from faithful friends at LCR and our partners at Master Provisions Food Bank. We are grateful, above all, to continue to receive God's support and care.

Blessings to all our supporters,

The Manna from Heaven Outreach Committee

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION  
GROWS WHEN YOU BRING A FRIEND!**

# **MOVING MOUNTAINS TO END HUNGER**

“...For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.” – Matthew 17:20

A big THANK YOU from the Hunger Task Force!

We hope everyone was able to see the “thank you” video from the Hunger Task Force during the mission moment in worship on January 24<sup>th</sup>. If not, please check it out on our website or Facebook page!

The Hunger Task Force is so grateful for the overwhelming support of the LCR mission to end hunger - especially with the unprecedented times of 2020. We have all made a positive impact on our brothers and sisters in need. From the Hunger Task Force team’s perspective, you have all moved mountains! Your generosity makes our hearts sing, and we hope you have experienced a sense of spiritual fulfillment with us!

As a reminder, here is a recap of what our LCR Mountain Movers (that’s you!) accomplished in 2020:

Total Donations (Cash and Canned Goods): \$30,060

Cash Donations: \$24,616

Canned Goods valued at \$5,444

Donation Beneficiaries:

	IPM	SEM	Manna from Heaven	Meigs County Cooperative	Bread for the World	ELCA World Hunger
Cash	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$3,000	\$1,000	\$13,616
Goods	\$640	\$289	\$4,515	-	-	-

Of course, confronting hunger is not only about money. Our goal is to create and nurture a culture of hunger awareness at LCR. Our children participated in activities and our adults participated in a three-week Sunday School class. In partnership with Bread for the World, we sent 148 hand-signed advocacy letters to our legislators and likely even more electronically. Our hunger videos had an average of 117 views and our hunger devotions were read by an average of 127 people each week.

Wow, we shook the earth in Cincinnati to end world hunger!

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## **LCR CARES II RESPONSE**

-Dan Tandy, Stewardship Committee

With the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine, hopefully the light at the end of the tunnel will begin shining on us within the next few months and “social distancing” will be a term for the history books!

Recent Federal support and a possible further stimulus package will provide much needed assistance for those who have suffered because they are out of work or their incomes have been reduced during this period. Meanwhile, many of us have been fortunate to work safely from home and have seen no reduction in income during this time and so any stimulus funds that we may receive appear to be a “windfall” for our families. However, there are many families in our local, national and global communities who will continue to need our assistance for some time to come.

As a congregation, we stepped up last year with the LCR CARES Response and provided significant assistance to six long-term ministry partners by contributing \$45,000 to their programs. Our Outreach Committee has determined that these same ministries continue to see an increased demand for services combined with a reduction in fundraising opportunities. In faith, and out of compassion, we now invite you to participate in the LCR CARES II response.

LCR cares about keeping our Church Family connected during this pandemic, so please be sure to join us on Facebook Live for Sunday services. If you have spiritual, financial or logistical needs, please let one of our pastors know. Hopefully this period of distancing and quarantining is almost over. We look forward to seeing each other in church again soon!



# Navajo Lutheran Mission Update

*Thank you, thank you, thank you* all for your generous support of the LCR CARES program! This is the Navajo Task Force's sentiment and especially the Navajo Lutheran Mission in Rock Point, Arizona. The prayers (every Sunday the Mission and Pastor Kate Adelman are in our Offertory prayers) and financial support has enabled the Mission to spread hope and assistance to many in the area. The unintended consequences of the pandemic and delayed arrival of the government's CARE Act relief dollars resulted in jobs lost, local business closures and a plummeting economy across the Navajo Nation.

We, at LCR, have supported the Academy for a number of years by providing partial scholarships to the students, acknowledging birthdays with small gifts, sending Christmas gifts, and quilts for distribution. This year, because of the additional monies received thru the LCR CARES program, the ELCA Covid-19 Response Fund, along with other relief organizations, the Mission has been able to extend their assistance to a wider community. The Mission has recently partnered with the World Central Kitchen, St. Mary's Food Bank, Doctors Without Borders, volunteer pilots, PPE providers along with others to make extraordinary strides in protecting the health and wellbeing of the Rock Point community.

Pastor Adelman, Executive Director, and the Mission staff are working long days to ensure the community's physical, emotional and spiritual needs are met. Through Hozho Cafe and the school kitchen, hundreds of meals are distributed daily. Water and wood for heating are ready for those who need it. The students and teachers are doing well, even with the need for remote learning, thanks to learning packets and the gifts of Chromebooks. In order for this very needed work to continue, your prayers as well as financial assistance will remain as a priority for the Mission.

Please take a few minutes to view the Mission's website (NELM.org) to learn more about our ministry partner. Another video, [ELCA.org/ChurchTogetherRockPoint](https://www.elca.org/ChurchTogetherRockPoint) features Pastor Adelman and Patterson Yazzie, Mission Director, and gives a current update on the Mission's work.

With deep gratitude,

Pat Hurr, Navajo Task Force Chair



## What's New in the ELCA?

By Julie Pahutski, Mission Interpreter



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

What is the ELCA doing during the pandemic? For one thing, it is providing grants to needy congregations with a passion for service. One example is Hephatha Lutheran Church (HLC) in Milwaukee. In March, HLC experienced some of the first casualties from the coronavirus, which impacted their membership and leadership. As they moved to online worship, they continued to envision themselves as a neighborhood church that wanted to safely continue ministries to support local families in need. In the past they have taken on the issue of lead poisoning in the community, and as the pandemic has continued, volunteers have hand-delivered water purifying pitchers, household supplies, and diapers to those in need. HLC is a great example of faith in action, made possible by ELCA grants supported by your benevolence.

Another example of positive outcomes from ELCA gifts is at the Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission, where grants provide meals and clean drinking water to those in need during the COVID crisis. This mission is near and dear to our hearts at LCR; it is wonderful to see another way our generosity helps this important effort.

# Health Ministry

## Be imitators of God...and live a life of love just as Christ loved us. Ephesians 5: 1-2

February is Heart month. As one reflects on the heart as a symbol, ideas may come to mind.

- Physical Health  
Cardiovascular- With the quarantine, have you been getting in your 10,000 steps? Aerobic and Strength training? When did you last check your Blood Pressure, BMI, Cholesterol, LDL, HDL and Triglyceride levels?
- Emotional Health  
Struggles of the pandemic-feeling lonely, dealing with losses, overall feeling hurt.
- Most of all Love  
Love of Self and Others

God reassures us that we are unconditionally loved as He created us and gave us the gift of life. Be reassured that Love will conquer and heal...Here are some ideas to heal both physical and emotional/mental health as we enter our 2<sup>nd</sup> year with COVID19 (SARS 2).

- Try walking about your home for an 8 minute prayer, giving thanks for items/blessings.
- Food intake-Nutritious, balanced, 3 meals per day, DASH diet, avoiding simple sugars (pop, candy)
- Water, fluid intake to cleanse and restore your body (8 to 10 10 oz per day)
- Sleep quality- To bed and wake up the same time every night with 7-8 hours of rest. Brief nap if necessary. Avoid computer or phone screens before bedtime.
- Take a few minutes every day to sit still and pray "meditate." This will lower your Blood Pressure and the stress hormones.
- Canned goods make excellent weights for strength training.
- Communicate on a regular basis via mail, phone, zoom etc. with others. Try Sunday School or other group meetings/activities through zoom. "Having positive, close relationships, feeling connected to others has shown to benefit overall health, blood pressure, weight and more." NHLBI Dr. David Goff
- Offer what you can give (a smile, baked goods, food drives, knit...) There are so many needs. Often you will find that you receive more back than the effort to give.

**Remember: You are Loved and are important to all of us.**

**\*\*There is a "28 Days Toward a Healthy Heart" activity calendar in the vestibule. Pick one up and make February your month to help your heart!**



American Heart Association  
**Healthy for Good™**

## CHOOSE YOUR OWN WORKOUT

Circuits can be a great way to work out without any special equipment

### TO BUILD YOUR CIRCUIT, CHOOSE 3-4 EXERCISES FROM EACH CATEGORY:

Alternate cardio and strength exercises in short bursts of 30 seconds for up to 3 minutes, then repeat the circuit two to three times.



#### CARDIO EXERCISES

- Jumping Jacks
- Squat Jumps
- Jogging or Marching in Place
- Stair-Climbing or Step-Ups
- High Knees
- Mountain Climbers
- Star Jumps
- Burpees



#### STRENGTHENING AND STABILITY EXERCISES

- Plank and Side Plank
- Pushups
- Sit-Ups or Crunches
- Hip Lift or Bridge Position
- Tricep Dips on a Chair
- Lunges
- Squats or Chair Position
- Wall Sits



Learn more ways to add activity to your routine at  
**[heart.org/HealthyForGood](http://heart.org/HealthyForGood)**

**EAT SMART    MOVE MORE    BE WELL**



## New Council Members

### **COUNCIL:**

President: Kris Kant

Vice President: Steve Ahrenholz

Secretary: Emily Mengel

Treasurer: John Meyer

### **FINANCIAL SUPPORT:**

Financial Secretary:

Tom Litterski

Accountant:

Bethanne Rammel

### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS:**

Building & Grounds:

Steve Crawford

Caring Ministry Team:

Vicki Harper

Endowment Fund:

Jim Michaelis

Fellowship:

Asa Durtsche

Finance & Budget:

Greg Park

Inviting & Welcoming:

Dan Syvertsen

Long Range Planning:

Shared Leadership

Memorial:

Peggy Nordone

Outreach Ministry:

Alyson Best

Parish Education/Orange:

Amy Altenau

Stewardship:

Vacant

Worship & Music:

Mike Everett

## Financial Results For 2020

What a year! But even with all the shutdowns LCR members have been as generous as ever. Total giving, excluding advance gifts received for the Jubilee Campaign, was \$660,000. This was \$27,000 less than the amount of giving in 2019 but more than the previous few years. The CARES Fund received the largest amount of non-operating giving - \$38,900.

Giving for operations was \$499,400 which was \$54,800 under the amount budgeted. Total expenditures, including \$99,600 for the mortgage, was \$515,300 which was \$38,900 less than budget. At the beginning of 2020 the operating cash balance was \$17,100 and \$1,100 at year end.

With the year we all have gone through I'm thankful that we able to pay down the mortgage by \$82,800, give \$160,800 to those in need, and still end the year with cash on hand.

Thanks to all,

John Meyer

Treasurer

## SUPER BOWL VIRTUAL "TAILGATE PARTY"

Hey friends, in previous years we have enjoyed activities related to Super Bowl and we now have another fun Fellowship event planned! Even though we can't gather together, this year we are inviting you to sign up to participate in one or more of the following ways.

- Fellowship before the Super Bowl kickoff. Sign up to participate in the Virtual Souper Bowl Tail Gate Party on Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 6:30 pm via Zoom. We will have Fellowship including Bingo, a team game and each family will receive a gift card for dinner. Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0844acaa2ba0f58-souper>
- Compete for cash prizes by playing Souper Bowl Squares. Purchase one or more squares for \$5 each. Winners get a total of 50% of the proceeds and 50% will go to the Inter Parish Ministry. Winners for 1st quarter, halftime, 3rd quarter and final scores.
- Participate in the Souper Bowl of Caring. Vote for the team you think will win the Super Bowl by placing canned goods in the respective team collection barrel in the church vestibule February 1<sup>st</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>. All canned goods collected will support Inter Parish Ministry's work.







Pastor Zorn and the people of Lutheran Church of the Resurrection,  
Praise be to God, our Lord and Savior, the Word made flesh, who dwells among us.

As we are at the beginning of a new year, it's common to look back on year(s) past. It is with joy and gratitude that we recall your support of VEIL over many years—in prayer, in generous financial gifts, and in partnership.

You have planted beautiful seeds of encouragement for the intertwined branches and roots of our community of churches, working together for the ongoing nurture of the congregation of Vida Eterna, that we may grow and prosper in the Word of the Lord. Thank you.

Yours in Christ,

Susan Fox, on behalf of the people of Vida Eterna Iglesia Lutherana

Dear Reverend Zorn,

Compassionate hearts change lives.

We are so grateful for your gift of \$2,000. Your kindness will help put food into the hands of our many neighbors who are struggling to feed their families. Since the pandemic began, IPM has seen a three-fold increase in the number of households we are serving.

Perhaps the impact of your gift is best expressed through the voices of lives you are helping to change. One mother, who visited our Drive-Through pantry shared, "I lost my job due to COVID-19 and I felt hopeless. I didn't know where to go for help; then someone told me about IPM. I don't know what we would do for food. Thank you."

Another story comes from a senior citizen who visited a summer mobile pantry. "I lost my job and had nowhere to go for food. When I heard about this mobile pantry, I was so thankful. But, I never expected that you would fill my trunk with food!"

Your gift not only fills trunks with food; it fills hearts with gladness. Burdens are lifted. That's what compassion does. We appreciate your helping IPM to fulfill our mission of feeding families and nourishing souls...always.

With gratitude,  
Alida Hart

Dear God,

Thank you for our pastors. They are the most amazing shepherds and are truly a team. They work long, long hours. Please grant them peace and blessed sleep when they lay down to rest. Help them schedule time for vacations, themselves and you. Bless them to be present and mindful in all their activities. We're certain they need emotional breaks from us periodically. They share deep concern for everyone of us and keep the church doors open. They pray for us, with us, for our friends and neighbors and your children even though they may not have met them yet. We call. They come. They call. They email, zoom, send cards and show up at our door generally, communion ready. They notice when we're not there. They come find us. They listen to the little things or the big things on our minds. Even when we complain, they may complain with us. Still, they love us!

They honor you, Lord, in their love for all. They are patient when we have confusions or disagree with a sermon. I've never seen them be anything but genuine and authentic even with their frustrations. We look to them when we need strength or confirmation in times of uncertainty. They know who we are and get in the muck with us. They walk with us sharing insights and eager to learn. They are welcoming, vulnerable, and embrace You in each of us. Believers are welcome and encouraged to share your meal. They promote inclusion.

They're creative in much of what they do especially with the sermons and classes. We often cannot predict what will happen next. They have a sense of humor and have fun with their work. And, most importantly, they rely on your Word and Truth when teaching as our ultimate authority. It's obvious in their sermons and conversations. They are open to new paths and ways to connect with you spiritually recognizing our journeys aren't all the same.

We trust them. They're our friends. So God, thank you for our many, many blessings in each other and the gifts you've given that we share. Again, thank you for our pastors and how well they work together. We keep them in our prayers and lift them to you. You are the Almighty God. We love you. All glory and honor belongs to you.

In the love of your Son, Christ,  
One of your daughters

P.S. Continue to bless them, protect them, sustain them, journey with them; fill them with your strength, wisdom, love and make way for their dreams.

## **Health Ministry COVID 19 update**

The vaccination has provided us hope for 2021. The habits we have learned with mask usage, washing hands, distancing, healthy eating...has taught us many habits in the prevention of disease in general. Disease is around us every day. It is reassuring to me that scientists have tried to be a step ahead in anticipation of these new diseases and their variants. For example, the research on Ebola and a variant of SARS in the Middle East, is how our current knowledge was utilized so quickly to make the COVID 19 vaccinations. Be reassured that any medication goes through a rigorous trial before mass distribution.

Unfortunately, we have lost many people throughout the world and vaccination supply is limited. So, it will take months...before we can rest easy.

As a reminder to all, if you have had COVID 19, you can potentially donate plasma with the antibodies to those who are sick. Seek out HOXWORTH Blood Center at <https://hoxworth.org>. Also, you will need to get the vaccination for a longer prevention coverage.

For vaccination and disease information, I direct you to your local health departments. Their sites provide the most up to date information. As scientists learn new information and the virus mutates (not uncommon as it tries to survive), the information is shared. Do not listen to other sites. Listed are a few of the reliable sites:

<https://www.cdc.gov>

<https://www.hamiltoncountyhealth.org>

<https://ccphohio.org/covid19>

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov>

Note, that your local county health department may have registration sites. For Hamilton County, Brian and I registered. They informed us that they would notify us when eligible, but to try other vaccination spots such as Krogers too. We are The Christ Hospital patients, so I was informed that we would be notified through MYChart when to sign up at their site. The Ohio and county web sites, provide locations. Ohio is following the CDC recommendations based on ages etc.

In closing, approximately after two weeks of the first vaccination, you will have about 50% protection. It is imperative that you get the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose which will provide up to 95 % protection. However, you will still need to use the mask etc. habits until a later date. Remember you are protecting yourself and the love of your neighbor.

Mary Ann Mette, RN, BSN

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



## **LCR HISTORY NIGHT...AND BEYOND!**

*In conjunction with our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary Jubilee Year celebration, we gathered for the LCR History Night on January 23. Pandemic precautions precluded us from gathering in person at church but thankfully, technology allowed us to hold the event via Zoom. As things turned out, this was yet another example of “The Digital Church” as former LCR members, Randy and Barbara Gardner were able to join us from their home in New Jersey.*

*Thirty-six families participated in the event. There was a lot of fun and laughter, despite the technology not working exactly to plan. The Gardners and the Habigs were the winners of Bingo. Barb and Bill Schmidt, Randi, Collin and Cora Stover, Kirsten and Jay McKillop, and Kay Luccasen (Team Rose) were the winners of the history contest (before the technology went down). All winners received LCR Jubilee tee shirts.*

*The feedback from the evening was overwhelmingly positive and eloquently captured by Martha Newfield.*

Saturday night was wonderful on so many levels: Seeing familiar faces again with laughter and merriment....it has been a longggg dry spell! It was a “come and see the goodness of the Lord time!” There are many people to thank: Melissa and John Fireovid, for the care and thoughtfulness and time that went into the planning, creativity and execution of the evening. Also the generosity of a pizza gift card and goody bag given to participants by their family. Thank you, John and family, it did hit the spot on a cold winter's night as well as warm our hearts.

John Johnston's presentation of the history of LCR blew me away. In a galaxy far, far away, I once wrote a dissertation to complete my Master of Fine Arts in graduate studies at the University of New Mexico. When I heard John explain all that he did to complete the LCR history, I was humbled. Wow! This was serious degree work involving investigating, compilation and writing. Perhaps we could give John an honorary doctorate in Lutheran history!

We always knew LCR was special, but one thing the COVID distancing has revealed to us is the depth of love and commitment to the work of God that is throbbing, dynamic, and ongoing at our church, constantly being revealed in the CARES program/ministries, the ESL ministry, the RIC initiative and more. Also the talent and effort to make our church virtual by the broadcasting of worship services, and often the compilation of images to go with worship, (thank you Christie Brown and others), the preaching of the Word and the energy and love for following Jesus. Whew! It takes a lot of space here to even try to wrap our heads and hearts around why we love LCR, but it all begins with our love for following Jesus. So let us now begin the next amazing chapter in the LCR history book. Can we all say; “bless be the tie that binds”?

Amen, peace,

Martha

## **FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES**

Pastor Nicole is putting together a First Communion class to meet Thursday evenings February 11, 18, 25 from 6-7pm. If parents have children that are ready, they should email Pastor Nicole to sign up and get materials. We will determine whether we meet in person or virtually based on numbers and the comfort level of families. We will also determine when First Communion will take place together as a group, based on numbers, comfort, and possibilities.



### **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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