



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

A CONGREGATION OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

1950 NAGEL ROAD

CINCINNATI OH 45255

MAY 2021

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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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## JUBILEE CAMPAIGN UPDATE

"In God's dream of rest and liberty for creation and humanity, we find the biblical Year of Jubilee, the fiftieth year that creates freedom from the burdens of life. This proclamation of liberation is announced in Leviticus 25:10, "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." God's intent was to remind Israel that all of creation was a gift of God for the wellbeing of humanity and to prohibit the accumulation of property to the detriment of the poor.

"In November 2021, Lutheran Church of the Resurrection will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary. In the spirit of biblical Jubilee, it seems fitting and faithful to use this year to [celebrate] God's blessings to this congregation for the past fifty years... A successful campaign will offer us many blessings and opportunities."

The total goal for the Jubilee Campaign is \$550,000 Phase 1 of the campaign involved inviting our congregation's financial leaders to step up and make their gifts first to build some momentum for the rest of us. We were thrilled when they, collectively, committed enough to pay off our mortgage IN FULL. What that means is that they have taken care of the dull, uninteresting part of the church's need!

That leaves Phase 2 of the campaign – during which we will have the opportunity to make commitments that will enable LCR to help people, to change lives, to do the work of ministry that excites us and fulfills us. The target for this Phase is \$140,000.

The goals of the second phase of the campaign include:

- Investment in digital ministries.

It should be no surprise that this burgeoning ministry is front and center in the Jubilee Campaign. Linda Murray, Pastor Nicole's sixth grade teacher from the Chicago area, has been in touch with Pastor Nicole for pastoral connection off and on over the last few years. As a result of our digital ministry, Linda just took part in the Spring new member class and is grateful for the connection to LCR. She says it has been a gift to her spirit and faith! This is just one of several examples *already* that are possible ONLY because LCR has embraced this new reality of existing for and in cyberspace, making us accessible to people who are NOT in the Greater Cincinnati! How exciting to connect with people in this new way.

- Replacement of the sanctuary air conditioner.

What more can be said? It's hot in the summer and the cooling capacity is cut in half now after the south-side unit failed a couple years ago. As we transition back to in-person worship this summer, this replacement is not a luxury, but a necessity.

## **JUBILEE CAMPAIGN UPDATE (Continued)**

- Coverage of 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary costs.

Of course we want to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary! While some of the anniversary costs have been sponsored by private donations, there are other costs which must be covered. And Church Council has approved that the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner's ticket price will be donated to charity partners.

- Acquisition of classroom TVs and digital equipment

Equipping our classrooms with current technology will enhance the educational experience of our children, youth and adults while also affording greater opportunities for digital ministry. The most engaging of today's Sunday School curricula have digital and video components. This investment will help LCR to stay on the growing edge of Christian education.

- Bricking the Memorial Garden for better access.

Adding brick to the seating area in the Memorial Garden will provide better accessibility for all in this area of our property which is experiencing more and more traffic.

- Construction of a labyrinth in conjunction with the Memorial Garden.

A labyrinth will provide new ways for members and non-members alike to experience God. It will provide a contemplative, spiritual experience for personal devotion. It could attract neighbors in the community to check LCR out and it may provide a source of comfort for those who have loved ones in the Memorial Garden.

- Funding for a new post-COVID worship experience.

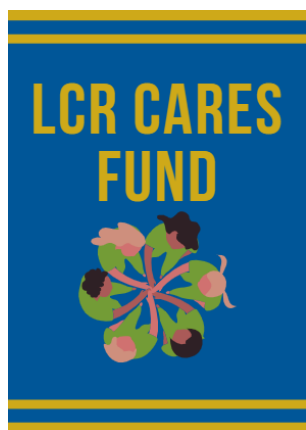
In the post-COVID world, new expressions of worship will be called for as we continue to provide meaningful online (or hybrid) worship opportunities. This goal will allow us flexibility to explore this arena.

May 9 is Commitment Sunday. Please prayerfully consider how God wants you to participate. Look for a letter in the mail with a commitment card enclosed and tune in for worship on May 9.

Questions? Contact Amy Cheney, Steve Ray or Pastor Nicole.

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## **YOUR SUPPORT HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE**



Thank you for your continued support of the LCR CARES Fund campaign. Every dollar that is donated still makes a big difference in positively impacting the lives of those affected by Covid, especially in the areas of food insecurity and systemic poverty. Funds earmarked for this fund are being distributed to these six 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)

Thank you to ministry leaders (and to Christie Brown for her help too) who have compiled mission moment videos to share how our donations have made a difference.

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.

*The following article was printed in the April Ramblings. Since the transition to Hybrid Worship is so important, the Worship and Music Committee requested that it be run again to get further exposure. One comment was received last month and a change will be effectuated as a result of the comment. We will transition to the Hybrid Worship liturgy format on the weekend of June 5/6 when in-person worship resumes.*

## **NEW TO THE CHRISTIAN LEXICON: HYBRID WORSHIP**

As health conditions improve in our country and we begin to see the pandemic coming to an end, it seems particularly timely to ask, "What have we learned from the pandemic?" We can each respond to the question in a variety of ways and I trust that there is much to be learned, individually and corporately. It should not surprise you that I will respond to the question through the lens of the Church and our church. I am sure there will be much to say on this subject, but I'll begin with this important observation; coming out of the pandemic, there is a new word to add to the Christian lexicon. That word is "Hybrid Worship."

Over the past year, we have learned how to worship virtually. In our case, that has been principally through Facebook livestream with recordings provided for subsequent non-live viewing. We muddled our way through this, initially with Ben Morris recording Pastor Nicole and me sitting on stools next to each other and offering joint homilies. As our livestream worship evolved so did our technology. We found particular advantages to livestream worship that will be hard to duplicate with in-person worship. For example, members who are homebound, ill, or travelling, and former members living out of our area can still worship with us. Also of importance, we discovered that livestream worship can be a form of evangelism that gives us the opportunity to meet many new people digitally that never would have stepped foot in our sanctuary on Sunday morning.

The worst thing that we could do when we return to in-person worship is to forget the advantages of livestream worship, or ignore the community that joins us virtually for the sake of the community gathered in person. With this in mind, we have installed a professional livestream system in our sanctuary that will enable us to continue to livestream worship in the context of in-person worship. The effort to tailor worship to two communities simultaneously is called *Hybrid Worship*. Hybrid Worship recognizes that the desires of the two communities may not be exactly the same and that it requires intentionality to serve both communities simultaneously. With this in mind, I spent seven and a half hours in Hybrid Worship webinars this winter, shared my findings with Pastor Nicole, and the two of us offered to our Worship and Music Committee what a model LCR Hybrid Worship service might look like. You'll hear more about this as we get closer to in-person worship again, but the educational process needs to start somewhere, and this felt like the appropriate time and place.

Here are some of the changes that you can expect in worship:

\*Announcements will be shorter and only limited to the most important and immanent events taking place in our congregational life. Our leaders will be encouraged to rely more heavily on the Wednesday enews and Friday electronic bulletin announcements.

\*There will be less music in worship. The opening hymn and post-communion canticle will be eliminated. The Kyrie and Hymn of Praise will only be sung on non-green Sundays; Advent, Lent, Easter season, and festival Sundays

\*Since the trend has been to move to electronic giving, an offering will no longer be collected by the ushers. Offering plates will be left on the credence table and offerings can be dropped in the plate on the way into the sanctuary (as has been the case at the 8:00 a.m. worship service since its inception). We will continue to teach and preach the importance of stewardship and continue to use more "mission moments" as we have done in the past year.

\*A benediction will be offered right before the Eucharistic liturgy for the livestream community that will not take Holy Communion at home. Holy Communion for the in-person and communing livestream community will not change any of the LCR traditions.

## **NEW TO THE CHRISTIAN LEXICON: HYBRID WORSHIP (cont.)**

\*It is our goal to begin children's church in the fall of this year. If we are able to accomplish that, beginning in the fall there will be no children's sermon during worship. The children's message will be recorded in children's church and played after worship in a separate livestream, just as it is now.

\*Expect the pastors to recognize the livestream cameras as yet another "person" in the sanctuary as it is important in Hybrid Worship for both the in-person and livestream audiences to feel a part of the worshipping congregation. This will also entail continued use of the livestream chat and encouragement for the livestream community to be just that; community with each other.

The outcome of these changes is that the livestream worship service will last about 45 minutes (ending at the benediction before in-person Communion) and the in-person worship service will last about 65 minutes. This models what the research tells us that each community expects of worship. LCR's leadership is not permanently convicted to any of these changes. Our Hybrid Worship life will be evolutionary and we expect that it will be tweaked once we try it and obtain feedback. However, we are sure that this is the right way to move into the future with our worship life and that it will afford us many advantages, most importantly, the opportunity to reach current members and prospective members with the good news of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Peace,

Pastor Zorn

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## **Adult Sunday School for May**

Here is the line-up for the remainder of Adult Sunday School this year:

**May 2:** Last year, our Reconciling in Christ Team invited a guest, Lisa Phair, to be one of our midweek Lenten speakers. That arrangement was cancelled because of the pandemic. Although it has been more than a year, we have not forgotten about Lisa's presentation. She will be joining us via zoom on **Sunday, May 2** during our Adult Sunday School from 11am-12 noon.

Lisa is the owner of a real estate company and the proud mother of three children. She is a passionate advocate for LGBTQ+ youth and actively involved in the community, serving as chair of the Lakota District Parent Council and on the board for H.O.M.E. (Housing Opportunities Made Equal) Cincinnati.

Upon learning that one of her children was transgender, Lisa began volunteering and supporting organizations like HRC (Human Rights Campaign), Equality Ohio, GLSEN (a leading national education organization focused on ensuring safe schools for all students) and Cincinnati Children's Hospital Transgender Clinic. Lisa has spoken to over 30 organizations, schools, hospitals, and churches, engaging the community through sharing her personal journey and advocating for safe schools for LGBTQ+ youth. We hope you will join us on **Sunday, May 2** for Lisa's presentation. The Zoom link can be obtained from the church office.

**May 9:** We will complete our series on "The Experience of Nature." Thus far, we have had wonderful presentations from Mark Wegmeyer (the Boundary Waters), Sean Mette (local hiking throughout the year), Angie McKenzie (nature and food reclamation), and Cindy Zorn and Lexie Stevenson (nature parks and hikes within two hours of Cincinnati). Our speaker on **May 9** will be Dick Durtsche, who will speak about the NKU field station and the St. Anne Natural Areas.

**May 16:** We will wrap up our Sunday School year by reviewing the past year: What worked and what didn't? We'll look forward to 2020-21: What topics are of interest? How might we use digital technology in our Sunday School experience?



## 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary landing page on our web site (<https://www.lcresurrection.org/50thAnniversary>) that has the calendar for the entire year.

On April 25, we had a visit from Pastor Fred Cook. Pastor Cook was LCR's interim pastor from June to December 1996 between Pastor Streng's departure and Pastor Zorn's call. Pastor Cook preached the sermon in worship and joined us on Zoom for fellowship during the adult Sunday School hour. For many LCR members who remember Pastor Cook's ministry, it was a joy to hear him reminisce about the "new culture" that he experienced on the east side of Cincinnati and to hear his support of our congregation's mission, then and now.

We are thankful to Pam and Greg Park, who have had our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary history bound. This will be a wonderful and enduring gift for our library. We are requesting each of our visiting clergy to write a note in the book.

### LCR Cookbook

Order forms for the "amazing" 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary LCR cookbook are now available. The cookbook will have near 500 recipes in nine categories. It will include a special introductory section with messages from LCR voices. Special photographs relevant to the life of LCR are being taken to include in the cookbook. Kathy Meyer, generally a very humble person, has said that she is "proud" of the effort of our cookbook team. You will not want to miss the opportunity to buy a cookbook because for those affiliated with LCR you will find that this is far more than a cookbook; it is yet another window into the LCR family!

### Brotherhood Concert Postponed

Due to the pandemic, the Brotherhood concert that was to happen on May 7 as part of Mother's Day weekend has been postponed to Friday, **June 18** at 7:00 p.m. This will be the weekend that Pastor Streng and Marie visit LCR, so we'll have many reasons to celebrate the Father's Day weekend!

### Meal Packing Event

The meal packing event with Northern Kentucky Hunger Relief has been rescheduled a second time. It is now set for Saturday, **September 11**. Please mark the date on your calendars.

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 revise our plans so that none of our events have been cancelled. We are grateful for the congregation's understanding, support, and participation. Moving into June, we are hopeful that the remainder of the celebration year will come off as planned.

The Long Range Planning Committee  
Loraine Everett, John Fireovid, Kathy Meyer, Brent Vogel, and Pastor Zorn



*We are preparing for the onslaught of the cicadas this month. In the June 2017 Ramblings, I wrote a reflective poem about cicadas. Surprisingly, I received more feedback on that Ramblings article than any other one that I have ever written! I thought I would offer the poem again, this time with an added layer of another four years of reflection. It is interesting to see what was on my mind four years ago (I was a youthful 61 year-old and my granddaughter, Rose, turns four years old on May 17, 2021!). Unfortunately, some of my hopes from four years ago have still not materialized. That does not stop one from hoping though! – Pastor Zorn*

## WELCOME CICADA!

### (Reflections Inside the Parentheses)

Welcome Cicadas! You intrigue me. You wake me up.  
 The Naturalists say that you are part of Brood 10 which is due to arrive in 2021,  
 seventeen years since your last arrival.  
 (Curious that you poke your head up into our world so infrequently!)  
 You, however, are the rebellious ones, having last appeared in 2000.  
 (I suppose it is good that all species have a rebellious lot!)  
 How is it that you are the party crashers, arriving four years premature?  
 So what are your impressions since your last visit?  
 (Maybe you notice how we have changed so, since those innocent pre 9/11 years?)  
 (Some are gone since you last appeared, and some, like my beloved Rose, have just arrived.)  
 It is a strange, Rip Van Winkle-like life that you live; waking up briefly in such long interludes.  
 Your clumsiness is a mystery; flying in our eyes, landing on our hats, buzzing the lawnmower.  
 Catching you is child's play, even for the children!  
 I saw one kid with a bowl full of you in the park.  
 (But can we "catch you" in an adult sort of way? That is what I'm pondering this day.)  
 And what is your purpose, for a few short days that you join us;  
 to sing, mate, and lay eggs...to amuse our cats and dogs?  
 Like the birds, your song somehow is a praise of God who has a reason for you.  
 More than all, maybe you show up, like John the Baptist, as God's alarm clock.  
 "Be aware! Be awake! Be watchful! The One more powerful is coming!"  
 In those too rare awakened moments, it strikes me...  
 (Seventeen years ago, I had not even hit the Big 50, the nest was full,  
 three daughters were in grade school, grandparenting unimaginable, and  
 airplanes used for transport, not as terrorist weapons.)  
 (Google? I think I had heard of it but I'm not sure I knew what it was.  
 Facebook, Amazon, huh?)  
 On your last visit, dear Brood 10,  
 we humans had not grown these appendages that we call smart phones.  
 You may wonder, whether we've actually gotten *smarter* or not!  
 (Seventeen years ago, when we were "dumb" there were no phones on restaurant tables,  
 no sexting, or texting while driving, and we weren't so "friend" deprived.)  
 Hear a cicada sing; dredge up a memory...make it a sweet one...you can if you try!  
 Feel a cicada buzz your ear; be attentive to the moment...  
 thank God for a blessing...you can if you try!  
 My mentor, Merton, calls it the "present festival."  
 (What if we all paid attention like that; every present moment a FESTIVAL!)  
 Soon, dear friend, soon your song will be silenced again  
 and we'll wait for another seventeen years.  
 (78 yikes!)  
 For the attentive and mindful ones your song will sing on in silence.  
 (Hoping beyond hope that your next visit finds us more peaceful,  
 more just, more at one with each other. Tear down those walls!)  
 (Maybe we'll have ended hunger, cured cancer, eradicated poverty and created real community.)  
 Seventeen years from now, Brood 10, maybe you'll find us better off...at least I hope and pray!  
 For now, lay your eggs and rest in your subterranean home. Do it in the silence. God knows!  
 We'll try to be good caretakers of what you leave behind.

## **Vaccination Perspective from a polio epidemic survivor**

Allow me to introduce myself for those of you who don't know me. I'm Steve Ahrenholz and I am a survivor of the 1950's polio epidemics in the U.S. Like you I hear about vaccine hesitancy; about people who say they won't get vaccinated; about people concerned about the vaccine risks or side effects; that it hasn't been tested enough; that there are people (very few) who had Covid after being vaccinated; or that they'll take their chances. I generally struggle with understanding those who don't want to get vaccinated, chose not to listen to credible medical experts about getting vaccinated, or they want to wait for some un-defined period or event before deciding to get vaccinated.

I contracted polio in August of 1955 at 15 months of age. I had spinal polio which tends to affect the arms and legs – more frequently the legs. The biblical account of a man being lowered through the roof by friends for Jesus to heal so he might walk again may well have been a polio victim. Polio in addition to being highly infectious also has a high rate of asymptomatic infections. About 1 in every 200 cases of polio infection (0.5%) result in a paralytic form of the disease. There is no cure for a polio infection nor any medical measures to limit or reverse the neurological destruction occurring from the paralytic form. Vaccination is the most successful means of prevention.

My mom was intent upon getting me vaccinated in 1955 following the development and distribution of Jonas Salk's polio vaccine. In the spring of 1955, three major pharmaceutical companies manufactured and administered Salk's vaccine without incident. A smaller fourth manufacturer, Cutter Industries in California, also began manufacturing the vaccine. Cutter had problems with their manufacturing processes used to deactivate the virus used during vaccine production. In April 1955 this resulted in cases of vaccine associated polio in children in five western and mid-western states. The Cutter vaccine was withdrawn from use on April 27, 1955. Mom tried without success to get me vaccinated in Milwaukee during that summer. My pediatrician was not vaccinating his patients because of the problem with the Cutter vaccine.

I became ill August 9, 1955. I could not walk using my right leg. (I had begun walking at 10 months.) My pediatrician regarded my illness as a summer flu and dismissed my mother's concerns as those of an over-anxious mother who also happened to be a nurse. An orthopedic resident at Milwaukee Hospital where mom had worked evaluated me. Following my assessment, I was diagnosed with paralytic poliomyelitis of both legs. Following my acute illness, I would have to work with what was left following the ravages of the virus.

Childhood is different having casts at 2 and a half, 4, and 5 years of age. I have atrophy of my right thigh and a limp accompanied by hip weakness. I got my first short-leg brace for my right leg at 2 and a half, a month before my first cast. I wore a leg brace until I reached full adult height at age 18. As you can imagine, childhood is a bit different when you have something no one else I knew had, you can't really explain it –nor have it understood – by the kids around you. I couldn't run like everyone else.

Mom always took me to my doctor appointments to get my casts and to get fitted for new leg braces. Now when I have my medical appointments as a polio survivor, it always brings back a host of memories, thoughts, and feelings. One never gets totally "over it." The residuals are lifelong. Polio survivors do experience late effects. This was something I had wondered about with the pandemic too - before I started hearing of concerns regarding long haulers who had Covid-19 infections.

(continued on next page)

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

## Vaccination Perspective from a polio epidemic survivor

Polio survivors with visible deficits reportedly have had at least 40-50% of their motor neurons destroyed during the acute illness. As I get older, I also know that even some of the things I regained and could do in the past (although not necessarily well, even then) are a bit more of a challenge now. I've been living this experience now for almost 66 years. I'm still working through it. I really do wish mom would have succeeded in getting me vaccinated in the summer of 1955. My life might have been quite different. I felt very strongly about getting vaccinated when the Covid-19 vaccines became available. A lifetime of dealing with the aftermath of a vaccine-preventable illness isn't something to readily dismiss. I'll admit I was very anxious when I became eligible to get the Covid-19 vaccine and couldn't get an appointment anywhere, no matter what I tried. It was almost a month after becoming eligible that I was able to get my first vaccination appointment. Rather discouraging to think I potentially could become ill before getting vaccinated. I prefer not to have "luck" be my only strategy.

Getting my two Covid-19 vaccinations calmed a lot of latent anxiety I have had over the past year. It was extremely important to me. I told the nurse administering my second dose: "I'm a polio survivor – getting this means a lot to me – and I'll be damned if I'm going to be a victim of SARS-Cov-2 or any of its late effects!"

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**The Endowment Fund**

### Endowment Funds Available...

Do you have ideas for outreach to the community or a way to enhance LCR's mission in the community? The LCR Endowment Committee is pleased to announce the availability of \$1,400 to make grants for these purposes. The committee intends to make more than one grant with this current year's amount.

Examples of projects or efforts the Endowment Fund has supported in the past include: Habitat for Humanity, First Lutheran church in OTR, Guatemala outreach, hospitality benches in the narthex, the columbarium towers, IPM's mobile food pantry, the hand bells, Memorial Garden benches and the Outreach freezer.

A simple application form is available from the church office and will be due no later than September 1 to the church office. Contact Jim Michaelis or Mary Ann Mette with questions.

## SUMMER BOOK CLUB



Are you a reader? Do you like to set aside time for summer reading? Pr. Nicole is leading a book club this summer to discuss Sue Monk Kidd's new fictional book, *The Book of Longings*. "Grounded in meticulous research and written with a reverential approach to Jesus's life that focuses on his humanity, *The Book of Longings* is

an inspiring, unforgettable account of one woman's bold struggle to realize the passion and potential inside her, while living in a time, place and culture devised to silence her. It is a triumph of storytelling both timely and timeless, from a masterful writer at the height of her powers." (<https://suemonkkidd.com/books/the-book-of-longings/>). The group will meet once in June, once in July, and once in August. Please contact Pr. Nicole if you are interested in taking part. She will work to find dates and times that work best for those who would like to participate.



# Encountering the Labyrinth

-Sandy Farmer

Last fall, Pr. Nicole invited the group of women who had taken part in the Feminine Mystique discussion to walk the labyrinth at the Milford Retreat Center. I had never walked a labyrinth outdoors and decided to do it. What did I have to lose? The question should have been—what will I gain from the experience?

On the day of the walk, I was feeling stressed. The Covid social restrictions had been in effect for months. I felt emotionally and physically exhausted.

Pr. Nicole began the gathering at the site with instructions on how to begin and how to traverse the labyrinth. I thought, "That sounds simple enough!" I had decided to use my favorite Bible verse, "Be still and know that I am God" from Psalm 46 to center my thoughts while walking.

Pr. Nicole told us that the goal of the walk was to reach a point in the center of the labyrinth which had a rosette design imbedded in it. Since I could see the circled area straight ahead in the distance, I felt that "this was a piece of cake." However, once I was walking silently and stopping at points designated for meditation and prayer, I soon realized that once in a while, the path took a sharp turn and my back was to the goal. After this happened a few times, I became frustrated. I'm used to setting a goal and then expecting to go straight forward!

All of a sudden, I experienced a sort of "Aha moment." Walking the labyrinth was much like life! How many times had I gone about my life and then something happened which blocked the way? I knew without a doubt that God was walking with each of us that day. The day was quiet. A gentle breeze was blowing that caused the dry leaves that were falling to look like flakes of gold shimmering down. I felt God was there whispering to me, "Sandy, life is not always a straight path. Stop. Take a deep breath and listen."

I looked around at my friends who were also walking the labyrinth and I thought--many of them were experiencing some awesome God moments, too! After reaching the center and being transformed from sadness and stress to totally uplifted by the experience, I walked the return path with a lighter step and a smile on my face.

A few months after doing the labyrinth walk, I fell and broke my left ankle. I had hit another bend in the road. But the walk around the labyrinth had prepared me to stop and to count the blessings in my life. I knew that God was always walking beside me, plus sending friends to help me literally continue my walk in life since my mobility was limited to a wheelchair for a period of time. Then two weeks after I fell, Chuck and I both came down with COVID. Another bump in the road! Chuck was in the hospital with pneumonia. I was home alone in a wheelchair with God watching over me,

sending angels in the form of doctors, nurses, neighbors and friends to help me.

I recently heard someone say, "Quiet is the Think Tank of the Soul." Walking a labyrinth allowed me to have quiet time. Let's create that quiet space at LCR for our members and friends who can come to use the space to walk and hear the message from Psalm 46, "Be still and know that I am God."



Don't forget LCR's Memorial Fund. The donations received in memory of or to honor a special person are used to purchase item for the church interior. Contact a committee member with questions.

Peggy Nordone—Chair

Margaret Garver—Treasurer

Brenda Weyhrich—Secretary

Manny Nordone

# Asian American Perspective

-Ashley Robertson

Over the past year, the Asian American community has lived in silence. At the beginning of the pandemic, most, if not all of us, were concerned and hyper aware of our visibility within our living areas, and what that meant for our personal safety. I am Korean by my Mother's blood. I and my brother, are first generation immigrants, through her adoption and emigration from Seoul to an American family in 1976. For me personally though, it always makes me uncomfortable speaking from an Asian perspective, because I am what's referred to as white-passing. Somehow, somehow, my genes present as a white woman, with only my eye shape and my stature giving me away. The thing is though, my whiteness affords me a unique position. I'm either also being targeted by the ignorant, or I'm given a front row seat to others being targeted because for some reason, racial injustices that take place in front of someone who looks white, or as I've heard many many times, "not really Asian" are somehow okay. As an Asian American woman by blood though, the shooting in Atlanta has rattled me. Every assault and murder that has taken place over the past year and gone uncovered by the mass media reminds me of mine and my family's place in this country. But the hate is nothing new. It's been here for generations, and has been magnified over the past few years and even more so with the pandemic.

We were so incredibly gratified to be able to stand alongside and speak out against racism with our Black brothers and sisters this past year, but it was an odd time of internal conflict wondering if we would ever get the same visibility, and more worryingly, wondering what the catalyst for something like that would be. Now we know. It's taken the assaults and deaths of 122 innocent, vulnerable, Asian Americans. And yet most of our country doesn't even know of these crimes. To say the lack of media coverage is infuriating is a vast understatement.

However, it is difficult to put into words something I know is impossible to understand without having lived it oneself. Certainly living as a person of color, even a white-passing one, means fearing reactions and actions from strangers and even family members because of the way we look. Beyond that though, is a deep sense of hopelessness and defeat, knowing that the system which controls our very being is designed to work against us and our children. It's knowing that groups of people are herded towards specific living areas, which affects voting rights, job opportunities, living assistance, education levels, medical care both physical and mental. It's knowing we can not receive help or assistance because of a box we have to check for school and employment. It's knowing that if an emergency arose, we are unlikely to receive life-saving help. It's having proof that a young man of a certain skintone will be peaceably detained despite being armed and having just murdered eight innocent victims. It's the freedom with which people spit out the word, "chink," vs a certain other derogatory term. The going out of our way to avoid the sharp eye from a gentleman donning his blue hat which proudly proclaims he fought in the Vietnam War. The constant question of "WHAT are you?" Being screamed at to "go back to China!" without being given the chance to respond that I'm from Fairfax and my lineage is Korean, thank you very much. I am constantly worrying for my mother, my brother, my aunt, my cousins, my friends, my friends' beautiful children. I live in hyper awareness on beautiful warm spring days playing outside with my own small children the instant my neighbor comes out and displays his flag so large it covers an entire wall, which makes certain promises about America.

We can no longer sit silently as the "model minority," content with being ignored and overlooked because "that's just the way things are." We will no longer laugh along or accept as we are fetishized, emasculated, teased about being unable to see when we laugh. I understand that reading this may cause discomfort. I understand some may even flat out deny this perspective. Honestly, that's fine. We're used to it. I know in my soul though that most people are good. Most people want to help in any way they can and just don't know the extent of the issues or what they can possibly do to do to fix them. I ask of all of you to first, check in with your BIPOC friends. Don't expect a history lesson or a quick response; most likely it's the first time someone's reached out to them. Diversify your social media and news outlets. Donate to organizations that make a difference, such as OPAWL, Asian Americans Advancing Justice, Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, Stop AAPI Hate, and Asian Mental Health Collective. Vote in your local elections. And finally, call out instances of injustice and casual racism. Lead by example. Be the change we DESERVE.

Hyun Jung Grant | Soon Chung Park | Suncha Kim | Yong Ae Yue | Xiaojie Tan | Daoyou Feng | Paul Andre Michels | Delaina Ashley Yaun | Danilo Yuchang | Xiao Zhen Xie | Bawi Cung | Kelly Yang | Douglas Kim | the 2,783 other Asian Americans who found the courage to report their assaults in 2020 alone, and the countless others who suffer in silence.

# MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

*Show me the way in which I should walk. For to you, O God, I lift up my soul. Psalm 25.*

**May is Mental Health Month.** Reflecting on this topic in relation to our experiences with COVID 19, provided all type of "issues, challenges and obstacles that tested our strength and resiliency. This global pandemic forced us to cope with situations that we never imagined," and impacted our mental health. In previous articles, the stress of loss was discussed. As we look to the future with hope, we have heard many say, "Going back to Normal." But the old norm or usual is gone. Too much has happened related to the consequences of this disease and cultural changes within our country. **Change** can be looked at as a positive or negative. Do you readily accept change or slowly accept or prefer not to change at all. The process of change provides its own set of stresses, resulting in anxiety, feeling tense or overwhelmed, depressed, angry...

Who is in control of the change? Who is in control of the response to the change? Once that is answered, resolution and peace may be obtained, but can take time to adjust to the new norm!

Tips for Processing Change from Mental Health America:

- Focus on what you can control
- Write out your feelings on paper, start a journal
- Keep up your self-care where you can (showering, dressing, take a walk...)
- Find support (Family members, Pastors, Counselors, Close trusted friends)
- Tune into the good or positive. (Normal to have grief but also seek positive to retrain brain)
- Make plans. (Will help to feel in control, focused, decrease the feeling uncertainty)
- Think of your strengths.

Praying the Serenity Prayer can provide guidance, reassurance, and peace:

- God grant me the serenity, To accept the things I cannot change; Courage to change the things I can; And wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time; Enjoying one moment at a time; Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; Taking, as He did, this sinful world As it is, not as I would have it; Trusting that He will make all things right If I surrender to His Will; So that I may be reasonably happy in this life, And supremely happy with Him Forever and ever in the next. Amen.

A prayer attributed to Reinhold Neibuhr (1892-1971)

## BLESSING ABOUND!!

After reading about our church re-opening in June, church member, Vicki Harper, could not contain her joy:

OMG - how exciting! In person services again!

That's awesome! Hopefully everything will be "Covid ok" by then.

How encouraging it is as well, that we have had our leaders step up to the plate and pay off our mortgage. How exciting is that for LCR? And the possibilities for the future for those in need! Being able to serve without the debt from the mortgage will be without limits!! Blessings abound!

What a church we belong to!!!



The next Enter the Silence, Awaken the Spirit contemplative service will be on **Tuesday, May 11** at 7pm via Facebook Live

# RECONCILING IN CHRIST

May 17 – International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia

**BISEXUALITY** (Not straight. Not gay.) Bisexual is an identity term people use when they are physically and/or emotionally attracted to people of all gender identities. Some people prefer to use the terms pansexual or queer. The colors of the bisexual flag are pink, purple, blue.



Of all Americans who identify as lesbian, bisexual, or gay, 17% identify as lesbian, 31% identify as gay, and 52% identify as bisexual.

**Bi** is an umbrella term to encompass bisexual, pansexual (a person who is attracted to others regardless of their biological sex, gender identity, or gender expression), queer, and other sexual orientations that are used to describe attraction to more than one gender identity.

**Sexual Orientation** is the term used to describe what gender(s) someone is physically attracted to. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, pansexual, queer, and straight are all examples of sexual orientations. A person's sexual orientation is distinct from a person's gender identity and expression.

## People Over Definitions:

Sexual orientation isn't contingent on being in any given relationship. It is about honoring a core and authentic part of oneself. Bisexual people are told by some heterosexual people, and even some gay and lesbian people, that they must choose to be heterosexual or gay/lesbian. Such messages reflect an inaccurate understanding of bisexuality. Bi identities are authentic and should be honored and supported as with heterosexual and gay/lesbian.

Thinking about all the different terms, orientations, etc., can be quite confusing. In learning more and being on zoom with some in the LGBTQIA+ community, it is important for some, but not others in how they are identified. The message that comes through is that however one identifies, it is most important that all are welcomed, listened to, and treated with respect.

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JUST A LITTLE  
*Reminder*

**OUTREACH GRANT REQUESTS DUE SUNDAY, May 9, 2021.** 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 the 2021 Spring grant cycle is Sunday, May 9, 2021.*** If you have a project for which you would like to apply, grant applications can be found in the Outreach mailbox in the office, or the form can be accessed [here](#). Return your request to the Outreach mailbox in the church office; or to the Zorn or Best (Charlie & Alyson) mailbox by Sunday, May 9. Or email the completed form to Alyson Best at [abest727@gmail.com](mailto:abest727@gmail.com)



Thank you Pastor Zorn and Pastor Nicole for making my visit to Ohio memorable. The cross, the prayer quilt and signing the Covenant will forever be a few of the memories I have of my Holy Week 2021 visit.

Your first digital member,  
Kim Volkert

I've been very remiss in thanking people that have been working so hard to make LCR still run like a beautiful "Heavenly oiled" machine!

Thank you to Pam Chidester for doing such a lovely job keeping the card ministry going, And providing beautiful homemade cards for our shut ins. Thank you as well, to all the volunteers who have done a lovely job making sure (by sending cards, or making phone calls, or emailing) our members and helping us all feel so loved in our congregation.

Thank you also to Carol Barrett, her grandchildren, Kaley, Courtney, and Kolton, and also Anne and her son Grant Hess, Sean Mette and Pastor Nicole for helping make the Easter Egg Hunt a great success with a lovely turn out!

Thank you also to Sean Mette and Pastor Nicole for the lovely Easter story through a puppet's eyes for our kids.

Thank you also to Pastor Nicole, Christie Brown, and all the children of our Sunday school classes and their parents for a lovely virtual Easter play. The kids did fabulously with their parts, and I can't imagine how much work went into each person filming it in their own home!

Thank you also to Pastor Zorn and Pastor Nicole, Ben Morris, Michael Goldberg, Mathew Altenau, Amy Cheney, Matt Mauro, our bell ringers, Christie Brown, and ALL OTHERS that have made our online worship services so special!

It takes so many people, and so much effort, time, and financial resources to make LCR such a beautiful place to worship!

Blessings and Peace,  
Vicki Harper

## What's New in the ELCA?

By Julie Pahutski, Mission Interpreter



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

### **Did you know...**

40% of unrestricted funds sent by congregations to the Southern Ohio Synod goes to support the work of the larger church through the Churchwide expression of the ELCA? Through Mission Support we participate in God's economy of generosity for the sake of the gospel.

But the flow of funds in the ELCA is not one way. Funds from generous congregations flow to other congregations through Synods and our Churchwide office—and those congregations are here in Southern Ohio too! It is so hard to count the ways in which we are blessed—but here are just a few:

Four Southern Ohio Synod new start congregations receive partnership support from the ELCA, as well as from the Synod: **African International Lutheran Mission, Vida Eterna Iglesia Luterana, Ibada Ya Kiswahili, and Intercessor Lutheran Mission.** And each of these congregations is a blessing to our communal life.

Three other SOS congregations receive partnership support from the ELCA and the Synod for their work as they participate in God's mission to their neighborhoods: **First English Lutheran Church, Columbus; Christ Lutheran Church, Dayton; and The Church on Oakland Park, Columbus.**

All of our congregations benefit from new resources for worship, faith development and discipleship, stewardship, and evangelism.





## **CONFIRMATION**

We rejoice with Grant Hess, Naomi Hess, AJ Klimkowski, Matthew Pera, Maria Timmers, Trey Ward, Evan Chesnut, Courtney McCarty, and Mackenzie Sweeney as they Affirm their Baptisms on May 22nd at 5pm and May 23rd at 9:30am! After all the impact of COVID, this is an extra special year of celebration! Please hold them and their families in prayer as they make their final preparations.

**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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## **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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