



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

A CONGREGATION OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

1950 NAGEL ROAD
CINCINNATI OH 45255

SEPTEMBER 2020
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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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LCR SUNDAY SCHOOL: LIVE STREAM FOR FALL SEMESTER 2020

-Pastor Nicole and Pastor Zorn

In attempting to address the pandemic in a safe way we have decided that the fall semester of Sunday School for all ages will be held via Zoom. Pastor Nicole, along with some of our Sunday School teachers will be leading the children and Pastor Zorn will be coordinating adult Sunday School. We have learned much from the virtual Vacation Bible School this summer and we believe that we can effectively apply that information to a virtual Sunday School that will provide a good learning opportunity for all.

Sunday School for all ages will begin on **September 20**. Children Pre-K through 5th grade will be invited to a one room school house Sunday school experience looking at stories that focus on compassion and "learning to love like God." Parents are encouraged to take part, too! This curriculum has been crafted by the same group that did our VBS this summer. Further details and curriculum for teens will be forthcoming.

The adults will begin with a live stream series titled, "By What Authority? Rethinking Early Christian History." Since Jesus did not return as quickly as believers assumed He would, they had to figure out how to live as believers in the world they lived in. They ended up inventing the church. This video series will examine some of the questions that they had to answer: Who are we? Who is in and who is out? Can we participate in civic life? Who is Jesus? Who leads us; in worship, in teaching, and in community life? How do we fund our community? Does it matter how we live?

This study will likely take us through September and October. In November, Julie Pahutski will lead a study in conjunction with our world hunger focus. At the end of November, we will reassess things contingent on the status of the pandemic at that time. Any members who have interest in presenting a topic for adult Sunday School or suggesting a topic of study are encouraged to contact Pastor Zorn.

ALL ARE GATHERED TOGETHER: A REFLECTION ON OUR WORSHIP LIFE

“On Sunday all are gathered together in unity. The records of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read for as long as time allows. The presider exhorts and invites us into the pattern of these good things.” – From the *Apology of Justin Martyr*, circa 150 A.D.

For nearly two thousand years, the worship life of Christians has not changed very much. Just stop and fathom that thought for a moment; for two millennia we have worshiped our God in substantially the same way. Our faith has stood the long test of time! “Gathering together in unity” has been normative for the Church. The inference is that “together” has meant *physically* together. I’m sure that there have been moments throughout history where, in certain times and places, Christians could not gather in person. But those times and places are surely removed from what any of us have ever experienced.

The pandemic grinds into its sixth month and the saints of Lutheran Church of the Resurrection *have not* gathered together in unity. Last Sunday, we finally had our first, in-person worship service outdoors at 8:00 a.m. Eleven hearty souls and two pastors gathered together in unity. For Pastor Nicole and me, this was a bitter-sweet moment. We managed the liturgy and preaching task with ease; just like getting back on a bicycle. It was so good to see those eleven members in person! But it was painful to look on those masked faces, to be unable to hug, share the peace, or place that piece of sacred bread into the hands of the faithful who are sustained by it. I just can’t say it was quite normal...and yet, it was a start for us.

Pastor Nicole and I are aware of how painful this has been for many of you. Trust me, it is painful for us too! In an obtuse way, I am sort of glad that this had been painful; it tells me how much you enjoy worship, our beloved sanctuary, each other’s presence, the meaning of the sacramental life, and the unity of community.

There are many anecdotes of worship life these past six months. For every communication we receive about other churches worshipping in person, there are examples and reasons for those that are not yet. Your Church Council and your pastors continually wrestle with all of this. In this interim time, we are trying to offer alternate ways of staying connected with each other. We have expressed our willingness to visit you and bring communion...safely. We are aware that some of our small groups are getting together periodically, simply because that is more needed for our spiritual wellbeing and outweighs the risks to our bodies.

We are well aware that being physically apart for this long is not good for the life of our community. As we have said since April, we are concerned and wonder just who LCR will be when we can resume in-person worship and ministries. We wonder (and worry!) about who we may have lost along the way. That is why it is so important for you to check in with each other and check in with us. We welcome your thoughts, ideas, and feedback. All of that being said, we are holding new member classes via Zoom with five new families!

“On Sunday all are gathered together in unity.” Last Sunday was a start back on that road in person. We remain hopeful. There are many examples of our ministry being active, even while we are apart. Be patient. Be resilient. Be of good courage. This too will pass and there will be a day, hopefully not in the too distant the future, when we will gather together in unity on Sunday....and Saturday too!

Peace,

Pastor Zorn



SAVE THE WEEK

Disaster Relief Week at LCR will take place **October 12 –16**. Instead of our usual Disaster Relief Trip, this year we will stay home and work on various projects on the church grounds and in the church building. Contact Curt Martel if you are available that week. A planning meeting date and time will be announced soon.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

What's New in the ELCA?

By Julie Pahutski, Mission Interpreter

The Southern Ohio Synod asks: Will Your Church Survive the Pandemic?

There are a lot of things that won't make it through the pandemic. The number of restaurants, movie theaters and other businesses that rely on gathering people who permanently re-open will be thinned. Likewise, many churches that have been limping along, slowly dying of attrition, will close their doors a few years earlier than they would have otherwise.

But there are also those who will pivot. Churches that redistribute power in order to reorganize as a network, will grow deeper and wider than they ever could in their centralized models. Churches that develop a clear theology, methodology and strategy for their digital presence will be able to stay connected, reach new people and disciple them in ways relevant for their digitized life. Churches that recommit to their neighbors will find others joining in, both now and after the pandemic.

LCR is taking important steps beyond our distributed responsibility model. We are examining our digital presence, and looking for ways to connect with our neighbors. If you are interested, you can read the whole article at the [Fresh Expressions](#) website.

RINGING OUT HOPE



Church bells have long been a sound of hope. As we transition to another season of pandemic life, it seems to me that ringing out some hope would be a great gift to our community and to one another. So, beginning **September 6**, Pr. Zorn and Pr. Nicole will be inviting a member or family up to church each Sunday to ring the bell at 9:15 a.m. before we begin live stream worship. We'll ring out hope and take a picture to share on social media and in the Wednesday e-news!



The next Enter the Silence, Awaken the Spirit contemplative service will be on **Tuesday, September 8** at 7:00 p.m.

Planning Your Estate?

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

Use this language to make a gift (bequest):



The Endowment Fund

"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.

Memorial Fund

Yes, we have a Memorial Fund. We have not received any new memorials for quite some time. Donations given to our fund are used to purchase items for the church interior. A monetary gift can be given in honor of or in memory of a loved one. Please take a moment to browse through our Red Memorial Book in the narthex.

Committee Members:

Peggy Nordone, Manny Nordone, Margaret Garver, Brenda Weyhrich

In the summer of 2019, Lutheran Church of the Resurrection participated in the Southern Ohio Synod as an “early adapter” congregation in the Thrive! Campaign. Through a significant display of generosity, we contributed \$44,000 to assist the Synod to begin the effort to help sister congregations thrive. Unfortunately, just like every other aspect of life and ministry, the Thrive! Campaign had to be put on hold because of the pandemic. And just like every other aspect of life and ministry, our Thrive! leaders have had to adapt to a new way. The following letter from the campaign manager will give you an idea of how the effort has adapted and continues. As part of the bishop’s advisory team on the campaign, Pastor Zorn continues to offer suggestions of how the campaign might consider ways that the Thrive! effort can strengthen ministry in this new age, such as evolving aspects of “digital church” and church in new, non-traditional settings, for example, Fresh Expressions (see www.freshexpressions.org).

Colleagues:

COVID-19 has affected every aspect of church life, including the Thrive Mission Campaign. Thrive was put on hold so as not to interfere with church leaders having to learn new and/or challenging ways to care for their members and communities. Thankfully, gifts to Thrive given prior to the pandemic funded online workshops, mentoring, consulting and other means of support for church leaders during these past several months to aid leaders through the pandemic.

Many challenges remain, yet much progress has been made in learning new ways of doing ministry and establishing community both online and in-person. That progress has led our consultant, Pastor Mike Ward, and me to believe now is an opportune time to reboot the Thrive campaign, which is why I am contacting you.

I am seeking two or more congregations to work with Mike and me in running a Thrive campaign — re-designed for the COVID-19 world — as part of a “beta test group.” This re-imagined campaign will be tailored to the online and/or “new normal” in-person worship realities of your congregation, and would be four rather than five weeks long. It is being designed to hold either before or after any annual stewardship program you may be planning. Thus, it may take place at your convenience any time between September and the end of the year.

Your participation would serve the whole Church by helping to fine tune this new format for raising funds for both the synod and congregations. Indeed, we believe taking part in Thrive will actually improve the results of your annual stewardship campaigns — one of the things Thrive is designed to do — and we are incorporating strategies to help increase end of year income for participating congregations.

If you find this invitation intriguing — or simply wish to learn more — please contact me. I’ll be very pleased to talk with you about the benefits and, yes, the challenges, too. Thanks for your consideration!

Grace and peace,
Larry Donner
Thrive! Campaign Manager

PANDEMIC PARENTING

All parents with children birth through college age are invited to join Pr. Nicole the **first Tuesday of every month** at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom as we navigate pandemic parenting together with faith. We will share highs and lows, offer prayer and prayer requests, lift one another up, and hold space for all that is arising in this time as parents. We will meet for the first time **September 1** from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Please email Pr. Nicole to sign up.



COVID19 in GUATEMALA

Well folks, it's been a long Spring and Summer, hasn't it? Sometimes at work (Delta Airlines) when we have a rather long trip, 7 or 8 days, we jokingly refer to it as, "the hostage crisis." I bet there are a lot of you who have been feeling that same way, for the last six months.

When this thing first started, I wrote an article for the Ramblings about taking a somewhat different perspective on the situation. So, I'd like to revisit that idea with an old adage my grandmother used to say, "If we could only forget our troubles as easily as we forget our blessings."

Most of us here in Cincinnati and LCR – despite all the pandemic trials and tribulations – are very blessed and very thankful for those blessings. But I think it's important to remember that there are those in our LCR family that are struggling tremendously at this time. Those like the Doppenbergs.

Contagious, deadly diseases, spreading rapidly in unknown ways, have no mercy on third world countries. In Guatemala, where health care and access to doctors and hospitals are stretched thin on a good day, they are now in a state of collapse. Doctors and health care personal are dying at an alarming rate. People with Covid are simply told to stay home, and several people have died outside the hospital doors, waiting for treatment. Persons requiring other forms of emergency medical care, surgery, etc., must pay for a Covid test before they can enter the hospital. At \$400 US – an impossible amount to pay for most Guatemalans – it's not just the Covid that's killing people.

Friends of the Doppenbergs, parents of students at the Centre, missionary colleagues and Pastors – are critically ill or have passed away. The numbers of sick or dead, released by the government, are unreliable and constantly fluctuate, based on the latest news feeds. Curfews and lockdowns are strict.

The Doppenbergs are scared. They are scared for the people of Jutiapa, for their own health, physical and mental, and for their ministry. The Doppenbergs rely 100% on donations and volunteers for the survival of the Centre. Volunteer groups coming to visit - like our LCR trip planned for last month – are a major source of income for them. That is all gone, probably at best until sometime in 2023. They have literally lost their jobs with no unemployment insurance, no safety net, to sustain them.

But you know what the miracle of this story is, the miracle is that they must have known my grandmother. The miracle is that they forget their troubles, they remember their blessings and they move forward, regardless of the barriers in their path. The Doppenbergs are staying safe and healthy, but they continue to do what they came to Guatemala to do. They are not martyrs, but Guatemala is their home and they will not abandon those in need.

You know that LCR CARES money that you've been hearing about every Sunday? Would you like to know where some of that goes? Well the running tally so far is **800 food packs, over eight and a half tons** of food delivered to the starving villagers in the remote areas of Jutiapa! The Doppenbergs use your donations to buy needed staples, rice, beans, etc., in large quantities, then divide and package it into family size portions. In addition, they recently were able to start some on-line classes for some of the tutoring students in El Progreso, and even have their physical therapist working with parents on-line to instruct them in how to help their children at home!

As before, when adversity has struck, the Doppenbergs have put their trust in God, set their face towards Jerusalem, and continued the work God has set before them. But remember too, that all of this can't happen, without us, their LCR family. The Doppenbergs need our donations and support now more than ever before, so please pray for them and give generously.

Thank You,

Mark Wegmeyer – GTF Chair



Reconciling in Christ

RECONCILING IN CHRIST (RIC) NEWS

-Teresa Ahrenholz

Please feel free to reach out to any of us on the RIC Team with ideas for LGBTQIA+ outreach, topics you would like to know more about/discuss, questions, etc. We are Teresa Ahrenholz, Jay Guenther, Craig Miller, Amy Morris, Tara Rammel, and John Schwamberger.

September is National Suicide Prevention Month and Bisexual Visibility Day is September 23.

If you happen to be in Half Price Books in Cherry Grove Plaza, be sure to check out their LGBTQIA+ book section. There are also a few books available in LCR's library.

We thank all those who joined us via Zoom for our educational sessions. LCR members are open to sharing their thoughts with one another and we had great discussions. The RIC Team is pleased to share more opportunities (listed below) to further our understanding of acceptance and inclusion.

Heather Schmiedicke (she/her/hers), Program Coordinator for LOVEboldly, Inc. has invited the RIC Team and members of LCR to join in their upcoming Devoted training program. Devoted is an annual seminar they offer for Ministry Leaders wanting to better love, serve, and minister to the LGBTQ+ folks in their communities. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this event will be offered as a series of webinars between September 10 - October 13 of this year.

They will have an amazing lineup of speakers who come from a variety of backgrounds and experiences, all of whom are passionate about helping ministry leaders from all perspectives love LGBTQ+ people boldly. Presenters will offer a Biblical framework for reconciliation that frees Christians to emulate Christ's incarnational love without compromising deeply held beliefs on sexuality and gender identity. Session topics include: Sep. 10: **Caring for Families of LGBTQ+ Youth**, Andy Buechel Sep. 16: **Equipping Ministry Leaders to Love LGBTQ+ People Boldly**, Heidi Weaver-Smith Sep. 23: **Creating Safety in the Church**, Greg Coles Sep. 30: **LGBTQ+ Forum with Q&A**: Carson Sotelo, Siobhan Boyd-Nelson, Stephen Crouch Oct. 8: **Two Views of Sexual Ethics**, Dave Kuta and Jon Morgan Oct. 13: **Removing Fear from the Conversation**, Aaron Munson You have the option to register for single webinars at \$20 each, or you may register for all 6 webinars at the discounted rate of \$99.

If finances prevent you from attending, we are thrilled to share that they have a number of scholarships available this year! If you would like to apply, please send me a message or complete this form:
<https://loveboldly.churchcenter.com/people/forms/160532> .

For additional session details, speakers' bios, and group rates check out their registration page:
<https://www.loveboldly.net/devoted> .

LOVEboldly exists to empower willing Christians and LGBTQ+ individuals to step towards loving one another more boldly. LOVEboldly is a local organization. You can learn more about them at loveboldly.net.

If you are interested in attending any of the sessions, it's possible we will qualify for a group discount.

Please contact Teresa Ahrenholz (tessnad55@gmail.com) if you are interested.

God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday: Covid Edition

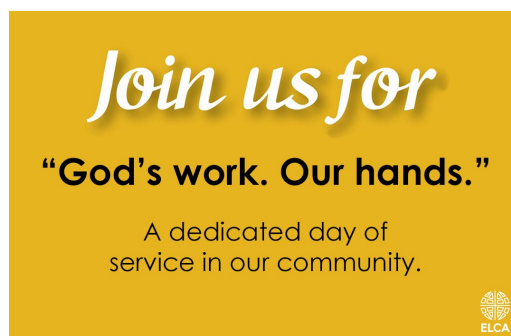
Sunday, September 13

The world may look a little different right now but the ministry of God's Church carries on! Each year we gather together to serve our neighbors on God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday. This year the Inviting & Welcoming Ministry has put together four opportunities for you to serve our neighbors, online and socially distant.

This year's opportunities include:

- **Social Justice/Advocacy:** Download templates and join our letter writing campaign with topics like, racial justice and equality, LGBTQ rights, housing inequity, hunger and climate change. We have provided you with contact information for your local representatives or you can drop them off at the church by September 14th and we will mail them to the ELCA so they can be part of the ELCA's national advocacy efforts.
- **Adopt a Block:** Spread the love on your street by chalking special messages and placing awesome yard signs. Stop by the church September 11th-13th and pick up "adoption kits".
- **Canned Food Drive-In:** Drive by the church on September 13th from 11am until noon and drop off non-perishable food items at our drive-through. Collected items will be donated to Inter Parish Ministries and SEM.
- **Yards of Love:** Stop by the church and pick up a yard sign and show our community they are loved. Place the sign in your yard or somewhere else around town and show some love. Signs have messages like "hate has no home here" "Beloved Community" and more.

We encourage you to check out the church website at www.LCResurrection.org/GWOH to find out more and to download resources.



Dear leaders and friends of ELCA World Hunger,

Please spread the word about this upcoming event among your congregations and communities. The COVID-19 pandemic is deepening food insecurity at home and around the world. Many of you have already been hard at work responding to the needs of your neighbors. Thank you. Now, this benefit is a unique opportunity for us to respond to this crisis as a whole church. We can make an impact in the fight against hunger in the time of COVID-19 — together.

Rick Steves, guidebook author and travel TV host; the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA); and the Rev. Shelley Bryan Wee, bishop of the ELCA Northwest Washington Synod, invite you to an online benefit — the first of its kind — for ELCA World Hunger. **Our goal is to raise \$250,000 to confront hunger in the time of COVID-19**

When: Thursday, Sept. 24, 7 p.m. Central time

Where: Zoom virtual event

We are in a historic moment, facing a once-in-a-century pandemic and a global change in hunger unlike anything we have seen in our lifetimes. Domestically and internationally, hunger is increasing at alarming rates. At this event, you will learn about the unique ways ELCA World Hunger is responding. Our hosts will also discuss the ongoing root causes of hunger and poverty addressed in Rick Steves' recent special *Hunger and Hope: Lessons From Ethiopia and Guatemala*. And you will hear from ELCA World Hunger partners on the front lines of the current hunger crisis, who will tell you firsthand how your gifts make a difference.

We are called by God to share hope in this time of challenge. Join us to face this global hunger crisis head-on and to continue moving toward a just world where all are fed.

Register at: <https://community.elca.org/online-registration/sept-24-rick-steves-virtual-hunger-event?erid=4a9c74d1-32e2-4f02-9275-cc050891f4ee&trid=4a9c74d1-32e2-4f02-9275-cc050891f4ee>

Please note: LCR members will have an opportunity to contribute to ELCA World Hunger during our congregational emphasis in November and should not feel compelled to give specifically to this appeal.



LCR Family,

Accept our heartfelt thanks for all your prayers and support during our time of grief. Your love has held us and reminded us that God's people are precious, loving and caring in the midst of sorrow. The body of Christ reaches across time and space to enfold us in love and we feel your encircling arms that remind us that God holds us for all eternity in compassion and love.

The Peace that passes understanding be with you all. We keep you in our thoughts and prayers.

Shalom

Erwin & Marie Streng

Dear LCR family,

A big THANK YOU to all of you. Since my ankle surgery the cards, emails and well wishes, have been wonderful. The "attack" of the Sidewalk Chalk Team was especially great!

Things are going fine and I should be weening off the crutches by early September. It will be nice to "walk" again, and I'm sure Kim will be happy too!

Sincerely,

Mark Wegmeyer



Dear Henry and community,

Every day, every hour seeing the sad high numbers of Corona-illness as well as so many victims we are thinking of you! Hoping you are well and not affected.

May God be with you and protect you! We are praying for you sending you kind caring wishes.

Herzliche Grüße

Jürgen , Ute and the whole Zarrentin Community



FAMILY WEEKLY EMAIL

Children, Youth, and Family email weekly news resumes in September. Each weekly email includes updates, reminders, information about Christian Education, and parenting support to nurture the faith lives of LCR's children and youth. If you have a child birth through 12th grade and did not receive these in the past or if you have a new or more preferred email address, please let Pr. Nicole know.

How is COVID-19 different from the flu?

JAMES J. SEJVAR, MD, RESPONDS

Although COVID-19 has some symptoms in common with seasonal influenza, it can be more severe than the flu—and deadlier. Between 24,000 and 60,000 people in the United States died from the flu last season, according to figures from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Worldwide, an average of 390,000 people die of the flu each year. The coronavirus, on the other hand, has killed more than 130,000 people in the United States and more than 500,000 worldwide just through June this year, according to a coronavirus tracker established by Johns Hopkins University.

Knowing the symptoms of both COVID-19 and the flu, as well as their similarities and differences, is critical to preventing spread of the infection and seeking medical care if symptoms worsen with either condition.

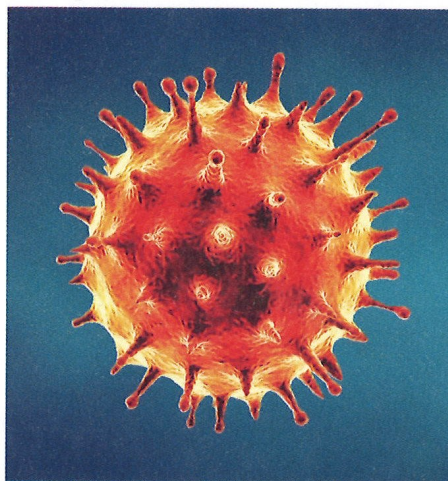
Symptoms

Fever, fatigue, cough, sore throat, and achiness are common for both COVID-19 and the flu.

Chills, dry cough, shortness of breath, a sudden loss of smell and taste, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea are more prevalent in COVID-19.

Approximately 20 percent of patients with COVID-19 have moderate to severe symptoms. Of those patients, less than half a percent are hospitalized. The most common symptom in moderate cases is difficulty breathing. In more severe cases, patients have experienced strokes and heart attacks, and many have died—outcomes that may be linked to the virus' impact on blood vessels.

In some cases, neurologic symptoms have been reported, including loss of



taste and smell, delirium, dizziness, confusion, numbness in hands and feet, seizures, muscle weakness, and Guillain-Barré syndrome.

Transmission

The flu and the coronavirus are thought to spread primarily in droplets released from the nose and mouth of an infected person. This can happen through talking, laughing, singing, sneezing, or coughing when people are in close proximity. The risk of transmission decreases if you stay at least six feet apart from others, interact outdoors, and wear masks.

While less likely, you also can catch either virus by touching a surface an infected person has touched and then putting your hand to your mouth or nose, which can transfer germs to the respiratory tract.

With COVID-19, many people seem to be contagious before they have symptoms; with the flu, people become contagious three to four days after symptoms begin. Wearing a mask can help protect you and others.

Treatment

Rest, fluids, and medication to reduce fever (such as acetaminophen) are standard treatments for both flu and COVID-19 in cases that don't require hospitalization. If you have mild symptoms of COVID-19, you should take your temperature before taking each dose of fever reducer. Call your doctor if your temperature goes above 100.4 degrees or if any other symptoms worsen.

No vaccine currently exists for COVID-19. For the flu, a new vaccine is developed each year that matches that year's dominant strains of the virus. While a vaccine doesn't prevent the flu 100 percent of the time, it can prevent cases and reduce the illness' severity.

Flu Season

Getting a flu shot is especially important this year for several reasons. First, the flu kills thousands of people each year. Second, you risk contracting COVID-19 in the hospital if you are admitted for severe flu symptoms. Finally, contracting the flu and COVID-19 simultaneously may result in more severe illness and may lower your defenses in combatting the coronavirus.

Ask your doctor's office to alert you when flu shots are available and inform you of the precautions the office is taking. If you opt for a flu shot at a supermarket, pharmacy, or urgent care clinic, call to find out if an appointment is required. Wear a mask and respect social distancing rules, such as where to wait for your turn.

Dr. Sejvar is a neurologist and epidemiologist at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Pop-Up Movie Night: Toy Story

Saturday, September 19:

8:00 PM—10:00 PM (Grounds Open at 7:30 PM)

Join us for a movie under the stars on the church lawn. Invite your friends and family to come see the movie Toy Story.

Strict social distancing will be enforced. Each party will be seated in 6-foot circles distanced from other parties. To prevent over crowding you must reserve your FREE tickets online. Circles will be available on a first come first served basis and are limited to 4 people. You may submit additional RSVPs to secure additional seating.

Reserve your FREE seating at www.LCResurrection.org/movie-night



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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COMMUNITY