



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

A CONGREGATION OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

1950 NAGEL ROAD

CINCINNATI OH 45255

JANUARY 2021

VOLUME 60 ISSUE 1

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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Are You Fulfilled In Your Vocation?

The maid who sweeps her kitchen is doing the will of God just as much as the monk who prays – not because she may sing a Christian hymn as she sweeps but because God loves clean floors. The Christian shoemaker does his Christian duty not by putting little crosses on the shoes, but by making good shoes, because God is interested in good craftsmanship.” - attributed to Martin Luther

Vocation is an important word for Lutherans. My understanding of vocation is that we use our God-given talents, gifts, and uniqueness to show our love of God and service to our neighbor. We know that we are justified and reconciled to God, not by our vocational works, but by God's grace. To the contrary, our good works and our vocation are a response to the freedom from sin that we gain through Christ. Whether we are a doctor, a preacher, or a sanitation engineer, a mother, a book club participant, a neighbor, or a caregiver, we glorify God by doing our vocational work faithfully; by “letting our light shine before others that they may see our good works and glorify our father in heaven.”

When I made my career change from corporate finance to pastoral ministry, I remember a number of my colleagues who essentially said, “Henry, I wish I had the courage to do that. I don't like my job and I can't imagine doing it for another thirty years until I can retire.” That reaction caused me great sadness. It was indicative, I believe, of a person who was not living into their vocation, but rather, was earning a paycheck to pay their bills.

The year 2020 has been one of disruption. Many job descriptions have changed. A number of people who were close to retirement threw in the towel rather than adapt to new job skills. If there were folk dissatisfied with their jobs before the pandemic, I imagine that there are even more now. For these reasons, I want to offer some information from my friend John McCarthy, and his organization, *The Purpose Promise*.

To quote John, “God designed work to be a form of worship, yet most Christians see work as an obligation, not a blessing! Most are disengaged at work because they have not defined their Purpose. The Purpose Promise exists to help you understand your Purpose and to find Purposeful employment. To do so, The Purpose Promise guides the Purpose Seeker through a self-directed retreat that leads to the awareness needed to find Purposeful employment. God created you on Purpose for a Purpose. Feeling stuck in the rat race is a lonely place - journey with The Purpose Promise toward a better destination. Make 2021 the year when you define your Purpose and find Purposeful employment.” John offers this very brief video that explains his objective with The Purpose Promise - <https://vimeo.com/378439504>.

In talking with John about how The Purpose Promise could benefit the members of Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, we came up with three possibilities:

You can look into Purpose Promise on your own and see if you may be interested in the resources. www.purposepromise.org

You can contact John directly and talk about a personal coach to work with you. His email address is: john@agimanagement.com

We could form an LCR Purpose Promise small group that would work together with John in support of each other. If you are interested in being part of a group, please let me know and we can work on this.

Is your light shining as brightly as you think it should? If not, maybe it is time to consider your vocational giftedness. What better time than the start of a new year?

Peace, Pastor Zorn



THE
PURPOSE
PROMISE

Lutheranism 101 NEW MEMBER CLASS VIA ZOOM

-Pastor Zorn

Since I have now “mastered” how to lead a new member class via Zoom, I am going to try it again. However, this time I am going to take it one step further. I am going to call this our *Digital Church* new member class, as most, if not all of the participants in this class will have become associated with LCR since last March. In other words, they will have never stepped foot in our building prior to the start of these classes! For those members who have wanted to take Lutheranism 101 but have been unable to do so, you have the opportunity of taking this class from home. If you know of people who have been worshipping with LCR via Facebook live stream, this would be an excellent opportunity to invite them to learn more about the Lutheran faith and the mission of our church. In some ways, this invitation may be a bit less threatening.

Classes will take place on Monday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. beginning on **February 8 and ending on April 12.** The classes cover topics including the Bible, Church and Lutheran history, Lutheran doctrine, Lutheran worship and the church year, and the history of Lutheran Church of the Resurrection. The classes are an excellent refresher even for those who are lifelong Lutherans. If you are interested in joining the classes please notify the church office so that material can be procured for you.

Did you know that LCR has an endowment fund?



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

Quite simply, a gift to the endowment fund is a way to provide lasting support for LCR. An endowment fund is set up so that distributions of “income” are made according to a formula that will preserve the purchasing power of the principal over time. The power of an endowment fund is this: if you make a gift to an endowment fund and assume roughly a 5% annual distribution and a 7.5% investment return, in less than 18 years, the endowment will make distributions totaling the amount of your original gift, but the endowment still exists and will continue to benefit LCR for many years to come!

You can contribute to LCR's endowment fund by making gifts in honor or memory of others, gifts of stock or other property, making a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA (if you are more than 70 ½ years old) or by providing for a gift through your will.

Any questions? Contact a member of the Endowment Fund Committee: Jim Michaelis, Keith Johnson, Mary Mette, Deanne Maus.

Dear LCR Family,

After experiencing a fall and broken ankle in early November and then both of us contracting the COVID virus, one might think that the virus damaged my brain when I say that Chuck and I have been truly blessed during this 2020 Advent Season. **We have been blessed!** I say that because this year has graced us with family and friends who have been with us throughout this dilemma. Whether it was by sending us loving wishes via cards, texts, emails, home cooked meals or a personal phone call--you showered us with your "virtual" hugs and love. We never felt alone.

During Advent, we have seen the "light" at the end of the darkness that surrounded us at the beginning of this "Advent"ure. The Light we saw were the many prayers that the LCR family was lifting up for us.

The Farmer Family joined the LCR Family 34 years ago in January. We had moved twice in six months from Niles, MI to Appleton, WI, and then to Cincinnati, OH. This was a major time of darkness, especially for our two children who were in high school. However, when we walked in the door of LCR at St. Tim's on Beechmont Avenue, we immediately felt "lighter." We felt God's love as it shined in the faces of the members who greeted us and welcomed us that day. We all felt that we were finally HOME.

Chuck and I have no doubts that LCR will return to gather and to celebrate its 50th Jubilee. LCR has, as it always has, a positive mission for its future to "Love and serve God and our neighbor."

It's who we are.

Thank you for your love and prayers,

Sandy and Chuck



Adult Sunday School

-Pastor Zorn

*Because you are logged on to worship on Sunday morning...
Because the weather is likely cold and you are stuck indoors...
Because you have not gotten your vaccine yet and cannot go anywhere...
Because the Bengals never play in January anyway...
Because you are already in your PJ's and sipping coffee in your favorite chair...
Because Zoom technology lets you join us from home and see your friends...
Because you can just listen and don't have to say anything if you don't want to...
Because you might learn something...*

Then Why Not Give Sunday School A Chance!

Seriously friends, the stars are sort of “aligned” this January. If you have never participated in adult Sunday School, or if you have in person, but did not join us via Zoom last fall, why don't you give it a chance this winter...for all of the reasons listed above! Contact the church office for the Zoom link, which will be the same every Sunday morning through February 14. Our classes go from 11:00 a.m. until noon.

January 10 – Angie McKenzie will introduce the book, *Nonviolent Communication: A Language of Life*

Pre-pandemic, I was part of the children's sermon rotation at the 9:30 a.m. worship service. Regardless of the lectionary reading, my goal was to tie the lesson to what Jesus called his greatest commandment, “To love God with all your heart, soul and mind and to love your neighbor as yourself.”

Now after years of thinking about this; there are some days when it seems I am loving my neighbor as myself. Then I remember there's a pandemic and my husband is at the plant, the kids are at school and I am working from the dining room, not speaking to another soul. Then everyone comes home, I speak, and let's say I'm not yet as skillful a communicator as I would like to be.

Recognizing it's a journey and not a destination, I stumbled across the book *Nonviolent Communication* by Marshall Rosenberg, a Jewish psychologist. He was inspired to write the book after personally experiencing prejudice as well as studying Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr., and many others. Nonviolent communication is also referred to as compassionate communication, but Rosenberg wanted to keep the original title as a reminder of how violent we are in our daily communications with each other.

As we wrap up the 2020 congregational theme of Beloved Community, it seems worthwhile to examine the topic of nonviolence as it relates to our lives. Though this is a “secular” book, it offers tangible suggestions for how to incorporate nonviolent principles into our daily living.

With that idea in mind, I would like facilitate a Sunday School discussion around nonviolent communication. Please email me at mckenzr@yahoo.com if you are interested in attending and I can provide you with materials you can review beforehand. You will not need to have the book to attend the session. The materials will take about ten minutes to review and are intended to allow everyone to contribute to the discussion. To quote Mother Teresa, “Peace and war begin at home. If we truly want peace in the world, let us begin by loving one another in our own families.”

January 17, 24 and February 7 and 14 – Pastor Zorn will facilitate a discussion of the ELCA Social Message on *Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in Democracy*

Government and politics are difficult to talk about in the church. We have wide-ranging views on this subject. There is a spirit of broad dissatisfaction, mistrust, protest, and even contempt of government in our country. If that were not enough, we have gone through a very divisive election cycle. How do we live as faithful, responsible Christian citizens? Can we talk about this together? I believe that we can and we should. Let's see what Scripture, our Lutheran Confessions, and our social statements have to say. Let's see if we can understand each other. Let's see where we agree and where we disagree. Let's see if we can find some healing and solace; a way forward. If not among brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ, then where can we ever expect to live in peace? Contact the church office for resources to prepare for this study.

January 31- Reconciling in Christ Sunday- Led by guest speaker, Elle Dowd

The last Sunday in January has been designated as Reconciling in Christ Sunday. The focus of RIC Sunday 2021 asks the question, “How do we, the church, come together and build community to express the fullness of God's diversity?” Following our worship service on this Sunday, Elle Dowd, a 2020 Master of Divinity graduate of the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago will share her experiences and facilitate our conversation around this question. Elle is a bi-sexual candidate who is awaiting call to serve a congregation as pastor.



Jubilee Year Update: LCR History meets 21st Century Virtual Technology!

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

As we celebrate our 50th anniversary from November 2020 through November 2021, we will provide an article in the Ramblings each month to highlight upcoming events and provide any required details to help the congregation join in the festivities.

Again, we remind you that if you have adult children who grew up in the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection community, please keep them informed. Also be reminded that we have established a 50th anniversary landing page on our web site (<https://www.lcresurrection.org/50thAnniversary>) that has the calendar for the entire year.

Release of the LCR History

The LCR 50-Year History written by LCR member and former writer for the Cincinnati Enquirer, John Johnston, was released on January 1 via all-congregational email. If you would like a hard copy, please contact Karen Leupen and she will place one in your church mailbox. As added incentive to read our history, doing so will have you abundantly prepared for our big Jubilee event in January!

LCR History Night

The LCR 50-Year History has been released. It is time to review, recollect, and learn about our great congregation. Saturday, **January 23** at 6:30 p.m. is when we'll kick off the events of the evening. Here are some important instructions and details to offer more of a flare for the evening.

We request that each person or household that plans to participate **register by Sunday January 17**. The sign-up link is: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0844acaa2ba0f58-book>

From January 20 through January 22 gift packages will be placed in the LCR vestibule for those registered which will contain a LaRosa's gift card for dinner that evening and some other treats to fill the belly.

This event will be virtual and hosted via Zoom. Once registered, you will receive the Zoom link from the church office.

John Johnston, author of LCR's 50-Year History, will begin the evening with a review of the writing and time for questions from the congregation.

We'll then transition into the trivia portion of the evening. This will be hosted on the game app Kahoots. Directions for use of this site will be sent to participants. There will also be a BINGO portion of trivia to be played.

The winners will be sent a custom t-shirt with the LCR 50th year anniversary logo.

We're looking forward to a fun evening kicking off our slate of activities to celebrate our Jubilee year. We hope to have a great turnout for history night!

Coming in February: A Visit From Pastor Milt Berner

Pastor Berner served as LCR's interim pastor from 1980-1982 and our assisting pastor from 2007-2009. He will preach at the Sunday worship service on February 21 and then join us at 11:00 a.m. for "fellowship" via Zoom.

Commemorative Gifts

Throughout our 50th year celebration, we will be providing the congregation with commemorative gifts. The LED light and Christmas ornaments are currently available in the vestibule; one ornament is for families and another is for children. Pick them up in time to put them in storage when you take down your Christmas decorations this year!

50th Anniversary Cookbook

Keep your recipes coming for our 50th anniversary cookbook. You can send them to recipes@lcresurrection.org.

The Long Range Planning Committee

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

RECONCILING IN CHRIST (RIC)

January 31, is Reconciling in Christ Sunday. Many communities celebrate their LGBTQ+ welcome the last Sunday of the month which is January 31, 2021. *Coming Together Building Community* is the theme for RIC Sunday 2021.

As a refresher, RIC is an ELCA program for Lutheran communities that publicly welcomes lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer, (LGBTQ+). LCR is among the first ELCA congregations in Cincinnati and the entire Southern Ohio Synod to obtain the RIC designation. We represent to LGBTQ+ seekers that LCR is a safe, welcoming church. The Core Team is Teresa Ahrenholz, Jay Guenther, Craig Miller, Amy Morris, and John Schwamberger.

At Reconciling Works, their core identity is to build the Body of Christ so that we can come together and build a welcoming community for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions in all the human experiences that they hold.

The focus of RIC Sunday 2021 asks the question, “How do we, the church, come together and build community to express the fullness of God’s diversity?” We turn away from the sins of homophobia, transphobia and racism and move toward living for Christ and serving our neighbor – no matter who that neighbor might be.

This is a perfect time for LCR to celebrate as we have experienced our own *Beloved Community* that manifests and protects agape love as its guiding principle and is expressed in the following ways: honors, listens, love, authenticity, spirituality, hospitality, embraces, friendship, gathers, strength, learn, trust, acknowledges, justice, action, and mutuality.



HOPE

Hope: defined by Webster as a trust or desire with anticipation, belief, expectation of fulfillment.....Or Blessed assurance from our Lord

Since Thanksgiving, I have been reflecting on this whirlwind year. Advent season took on new meaning for me with the word “**hope**” and the Bible verse “**Rejoice in hope**” reverberating in my head. So, this word has been my focus and continues to be my word for the coming year with Christ as my **Light**.

In the December’s Ramblings, I focused on Seasonal Depression. However, 2020 has been almost a year of losses. With losses, comes depression and grief. Everyone of us has experienced some type of loss. And because we are human, we each experience loss with our own unique style of grief. We can rest in that God does not create the loss. However, God knows our grief; he journeys and carries us through our desert/wilderness/darkness of grief by His strong, loving arms and by His shining light of hope.

As a Christian, our grief can be perceived as a gift, as we have God with us. Grief takes time and courage for us to work through the pain and fears, to find a new purpose and meaning, to readjust and embrace our new life, and in general heal. In other words, “bring order, life and joy out of chaos.”

A couple of my favorite Bible verses that have provided me strength through many issues are:

Romans 12:12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. NRSV

Romans 5: 3-5 (Rejoice)...Suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit... NRSV

Psalms 121

On the next page is a handout written by Tim VanDuivendyk, DMin on ways to work through our unique grief. Please take a minute to read it for ideas of Self-Care.

In addition, the Advent devotion of December 5th, Pastor Zorn shared the evening prayer practice of Examen by reviewing the Blessings of our day as a useful tool.

In closing, Enter the New Year with **God’s Light of Hope**.

-Mary Ann Mette RN, BSN

Ways of Transforming Through the Wilderness - Pandemic, Loss, Grief

Tim P. VanDuivendyk, DMin, MDiv, BS, Retired Chaplain, LPC & LMFT

We all grieve differently and are helped differently. Here are some suggestions for ways to make it through the wilderness and through a pandemic. Not all suggestions will be helpful to you. So, start with some that you think will be most helpful and then also try other new approaches listed below. When we manage our own losses, grief and pandemics better, we manage compassion fatigue more constructively also.

Methods of “feeling” your way into new thoughts and actions

Emotional catharsis, release, and expression can clear the way for creativity, new thoughts, new action and a lighter load.

Be aware of how your feelings of grief can collect teaspoonful by teaspoonful.

Go into and through grief, not around it. Don't avoid or suppress grief.

Process your emotions with a trusted friend, colleague or mentor who knows how to listen.

Name your anxiety and why you are anxious.

Name your fears and why you are fearful.

Pray real. Be open and honest with your feelings toward God.

Methods of “thinking” your way into new feelings and actions

Thinking positively can lead to new feelings and actions.

Think that God will see you through this wilderness, loss, storm, change, pandemic, etc.

Name the negative but do not dwell on the negative.

Develop gratitude - Be grateful for the everyday small stuff as well.

Come to value being not just doing.

Think different – move out of sameness thinking.

Think that worth/value is not limited to role, job, status, material things, etc.

Methods of “acting” (taking action) your way into new thoughts and feelings

Start positive actions and new feelings and new thoughts will follow.

Visit and talk with loving people and family.

Rather than avoid change, be a part of change. Try on new roles and/or activities and be open to what might happen.

Offer love, service or altruism to others... giving love away can fill you up and energize you. However, an overload of love can lead to compassion fatigue.

Do not act upon new thoughts and feelings until you first process them.

Eat healthy, exercise, play, and sleep regularly. (We all know this but a challenge to carryout.)

Develop a prayer/meditation time in your daily schedule.

More “spiritual pathways” that can transform you through the wilderness and change

Come to believe - God is with you in the wilderness.

Come to believe - you are being transformed every day.

Come to believe - change is an unwanted gift but a gift.

Come to believe - change leads to new possibilities and opportunities.

Come to believe - God is in the present yet in the future and brings good out of virus/chaos/loss.

Develop the balancing faith act between “letting go of” and “holding on to”.

Develop the faith of letting go, letting be...letting God.

Experience prayer/meditation time every day.



Dear LCR Members ,

We will soon be moving to Michigan and with Covid there will be no opportunity to say good-bye in person. We have been blessed to be a part of the LCR congregation for the past 13 years and will miss all of you! Our faith journey has been richly impacted by LCR, and we have many wonderful memories to take with us!

Jeffrey and Susan Long



Dear Family at LCR,

Thank you for sharing a blessed Christmas season with us. We appreciate your expressions of kindness and love in all of the cards, baked goods, hugs and gifts that we received. It is our joy to serve you in ministry! The video produced by Christie Brown with your lights of appreciation were a huge surprise for your pastors and much appreciated after a challenging year!

Love in Christ,

The Staff members of Lutheran Church of the Resurrection

Dear Friends at LCR,

Many, many thanks for your recent gift to the SEM food pantry. We are able to continue serving our community, providing food and other necessities, only because of the support we receive from you! This holiday season we have assisted almost twice as many families as we have in the past. We are blessed to LCR care for this ministry.

-The SEM Board.

To Our Dear LCR family....

We just wanted to take a moment to say thank you to our LCR family. 2020 has been a very difficult year for the Doppenbergs and our Ministry in Guatemala. But God is good. All the time.

Pandemic, power outages, hurricanes, earthquakes, mudslides, funerals, long distance weddings etc have made 2020 one for the history books for the Doppenbergs. Without all your support, through love, prayer, finances and communication we would not have been able to survive this incredibly challenging year. Through LCR Cares, the Hunger campaign & other fundraising efforts you not only helped to provide us with the ability to bring emergency aid to those in need, keep the Centre of Hope open virtually, but also for us to be able to eat and literally have light and power. Through Online worship, zoom meetings, skype talks, encouraging emails etc you also provided love and much needed spiritual support. In so many ways, LCR has been the light through our darkness.

2020 was not without its blessings. It brought us online worship and we pray that continues post pandemic. There are no words to describe how wonderful it has been to be a part of the live worship with our LCR family. 2020 has also brought us a new daughter as Luke married Kate in a very unconventional, but totally normal for 2020, way. We await their return from Canada to begin their own ministry when it is safe to do so. We have gotten to know Gabe's wonderful girlfriend Wendy in a way we know we would not have without being in a very small social bubble. We have been able to safely gather with Zack, Amelia and our grandchildren Lisandro and Liam. Our bubble is small but it is full of love and that's what matters. The internet has provided us with the ability to connect with family and friends and worship. This combined with good health is all we truly need.

Our cup looked different this year, but you all helped fill it to overflowing, and for that we thank you. We love you all. Our wish for you is a healthy and joy filled 2021!

Love from all the Doppenbergs in Guatemala (and Canada)

Thank you for spreading Christmas joy!

Thanks to you, many lives were touched through your donations to the LCR Christmas Giving Trees for First Lutheran Church; LCR's missionary family, the Doppenbergs; Manna from Heaven; the Navajo Christian Preparatory Academy and Wernle Youth and Family Treatment Center. Gifts, gift cards, donations, and needed clothing and personal care items were all gathered and shared. You helped share the love of Jesus.

Blessings to all that were able to participate. You are appreciated!

Special thanks to all the volunteers who helped sort, count and deliver these items to the organizations as well!



Pub Talk for Baby Boomers

Pub Talk for Baby Boomers resumes on January 26. We will meet via Zoom for the early part of 2021 with hopes that a vaccine and good weather will enable us to gather outdoors at local breweries early in the year. The good news is that Boomers will be early in the line for the vaccine! Subsequent meetings will be February 16, March 23, and April 20. We'll meet from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. Please contact Pastor Zorn if you have topics for our conversations.



CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE

The next Enter the Silence, Awaken the Spirit contemplative service will be on Tuesday, January 12 at 7:00 p.m. via Facebook Live.

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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