

STORIES OF Resurrection

December 2024

The Monthly Magazine of Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in Marietta, Georgia

Silent Night, Holy Night

Join us for worship on Christmas Eve - Page 12



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Lutheran
Church of the
RESURRECTION



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Hurricane Relief Update: Over \$30,000 Raised and Counting!



In the wake of Hurricanes Helene and Milton, Lutheran Church of the Resurrection (LCR) has raised \$32,320 for hurricane relief, surpassing our initial \$20,000 seed gift. But we're not done yet! With your continued generosity, we aim to exceed \$40,000, bringing even greater hope and support to those in need.

As of November 13 we have distributed funds to the following organizations: Inspiritus \$14,820, ELCA Lutheran Disaster Relief \$7,410, ELCA Southeastern Synod Disaster Ministry \$7,410.

Every dollar raised will go to these trusted organizations working on the ground in-affected areas:

- **Inspiritus:** Provides long-term disaster recovery services, guiding individuals and families through the aftermath of natural disasters. From immediate relief to sustained support, they empower communities to rebuild their lives and futures with care and compassion.
- **Lutheran Disaster Response:** As a national ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, LDR is recognized for its effectiveness and efficiency in disaster relief. Their teams bring hands-on assistance to those in crisis, addressing spiritual, emotional, and physical needs. All gifts to LDR through this fundraiser will be designated for Southeastern U.S. hurricane relief.
- **Southeastern Synod Disaster Ministry:** The Southeastern Synod Disaster Ministry coordinates resources and provides support to local congregations and communities in Georgia, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Alabama. Their work ensures that relief efforts are rooted in local connections and needs.

How You Can Help:

Your generosity can make a real difference.

- [Donate online](#)
- Mail a check with "Hurricane Relief" in the memo to:
Lutheran Church of the Resurrection
4814 Paper Mill Road SE, Marietta, GA 30067
- Visit the church office to make your contribution in person.

Donations will be collected and distributed at regular intervals. Thank you for helping us bring hope and healing to those impacted by these hurricanes. **Together, we are making a difference!**



December 2024

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Traditional Worship
8:30 am | Sanctuary

9:40 - 10:45 am
Fellowship Hour | Gathering Room

Contemporary Worship
11:00 am | Sanctuary

9:45 - 10:45 am
Children, Youth, and Adult Faith
Formation (*classes and locations at*
<https://lcrmarietta.org/events/>)

SPECIAL EVENTS

DECEMBER 08

Taste of Christmas

DECEMBER 07 & 14

Christmas Caroling

DECEMBER 11, & 18

Wednesday Advent Dinner & Worship (pg. 7)

DECEMBER 22

Youth Group Gathering

DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight services with Holy
Communion at 4:00 and 8:00 pm.

DECEMBER 25 - JANUARY 01

Church Offices Closed

DECEMBER 29

Combined Worship Service at 10:00 am

LOOKING AHEAD

JANUARY 12 & 26

Youth Group Gathering

JANUARY 12

Immerse Bible Book Groups Launch
(pg. 4)

JAN 31 - FEB 02

Men's Retreat (pg. 10)

FEBRUARY 08

Electronics Recycling Event benefiting
Hurricane Relief Efforts

*Dates subject to change.
Please visit lcrmarietta.org/events
for the most up to date information.*

Relationships to Support You



Good Fellowship Dinners Spring 2025

Looking to connect over a shared meal? Sign up for the Spring 2025 season of Good Fellowship Dinners! Adults will gather in small groups from February through May to enjoy good food and great company in each other's homes.

The deadline to register is Sunday, January 12. Don't miss this chance to build friendships and strengthen community.

Sign up online.

less bible study, more book club

IMMERSE BIBLE BOOK GROUPS STARTING IN 2025





Lutheran
Church of the
RESURRECTION

Want to connect with the inspiring stories of hope in the Bible? Looking for a place to bring your questions that's less lecture and more book club? Hoping to get connected in a supportive and encouraging community in the new year? We are launching the Immerse Bible Reading Experience in January 2025 to do just that!

Try it out with our first eight-week group to explore the first book in the Immerse series, Messiah. Explore selected stories of the Bible in a book club setting and with a narrative format that removes many of the barriers that make Bible reading difficult. Enjoy connection with God and others through the Scriptures.

The Immerse Bible Experience is a series of books that weave together the major stories of the scriptures. We will start in early January 2025 with the first book, Messiah, that covers sections of the New Testament. Preview the resources (including reading guides, audio recordings, and family resources):

<https://immersebible.com/messiah/>

We already have 11 groups with a variety of meeting times and locations available. Scan the QR code to see the list of groups and register on our website.

You can order the book via Amazon or your favorite bookshop or let us know if you want us to purchase a copy for you (\$13.50/book) during registration.



Opportunities to Make a Difference

Join Us for a Mission Trip to Guatemala!

Are you ready for an unforgettable journey of faith, service, and connection? We are thrilled to invite you to join us for a mission trip to Guatemala this February! This is a unique opportunity to deepen your faith while supporting the incredible work of the Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala (ILAG) and connecting with our sisters and brothers in Christ.

When?

Tentative dates: February 14–28, 2024

(Trips typically last 6–10 days. We'll finalize details based on participants' availability.)

What to Expect

Here's a glimpse of what this mission trip might include:

- ILAG's Campus in Guatemala City:
- Spend meaningful time at the Milagro Girls' School on ILAG's campus. Engage with the inspiring young women we support and participate in impactful projects together.
- Exploring New Ministries:
- Visit ILAG's new preschool in Cobán, a six-hour drive from Guatemala City, and learn more about their efforts to expand education in rural areas.
- Journey to ILAG's rural villages, where the congregations are eager to meet you. Experience the hospitality, faith, and culture of these communities.
- Restful Retreats in Antigua: Take time to relax in Antigua, a picturesque colonial city surrounded by volcanoes. Stroll through its charming streets, shop for local crafts, and soak in its beauty.
- Optional Excursions: Visit Lake Atitlán, coffee plantations, honey and weaving co-ops, and even chocolate factories!



Continued on next page

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Cost

- Flight: \$800–\$1,000 round trip
- Total Trip Cost: \$1,300–\$2,000 (depending on travel and lodging preferences)
 - Staying at ILAG's Lutheran Center helps keep costs lower.

How to Register

Registration Deadline: One month before the trip. However, flights fill up quickly, so don't wait!

Interested? Email Suzanne at suzanne@demost.net to learn more and secure your spot.

This mission trip offers the perfect blend of service, cultural exploration, and spiritual growth. Don't miss this opportunity to deepen your faith, build relationships, and witness the transformative work happening in Guatemala through ILAG's ministry.

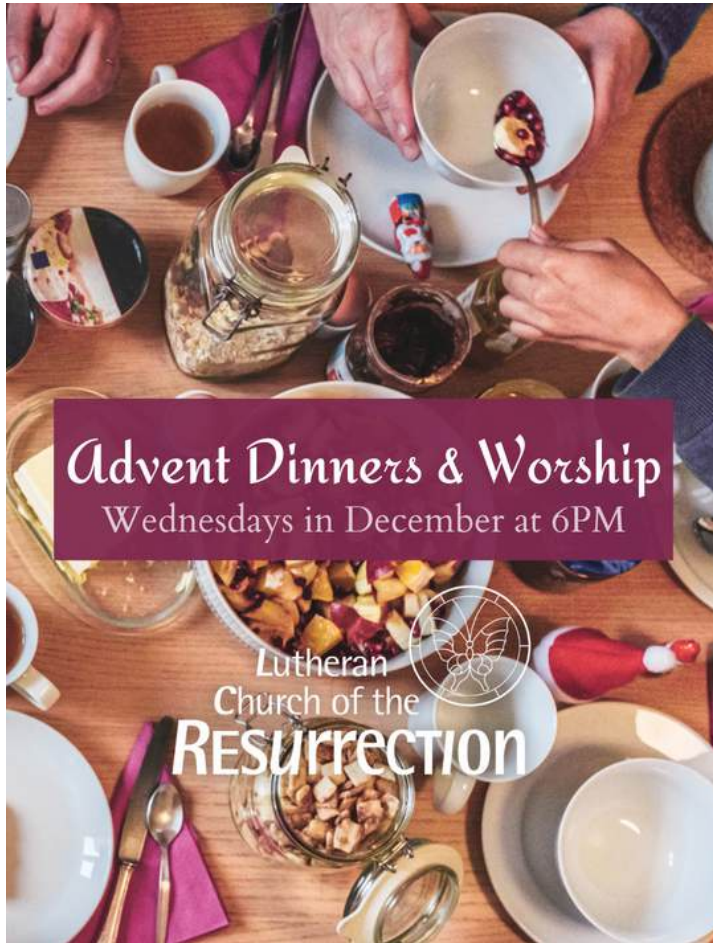
Invite your friends and family to join us, and let's make a difference together! We look forward to traveling with you and creating memories that will last a lifetime.



MUST Lunch Shout Out!
Thank you so much to Mark B and Bob Bear for preparing and cooking lunch at Must Hope House. Also, a big shout to Kirk, Mark O, David, and Matteus for serving our 92 guests. We were blessed to be able to serve and spend this special time together.

Get Involved With Our MUST Lunch Program

LCR is on the rotation to prepare and serve meals monthly at the Elizabeth Inn. We collect dry food all year long to keep the food pantry at MUST well stocked. Sign-up to serve on the website.



Join us on Wednesday nights, December 11 and 18, for Advent dinners and worship.

We'll begin at 6:00 pm with a full meal (\$25 per family, \$10 per adult, \$5 per child (ages 5-9), children 5 and under eat free).

Worship follows at 7:00 pm. Enjoy Joyous Light Evening Prayer featuring reflections from O Come, O Come Emmanuel by Henri Nouwen. Share in this season of reflection and community!

**Sign-Up
For Dinner:**

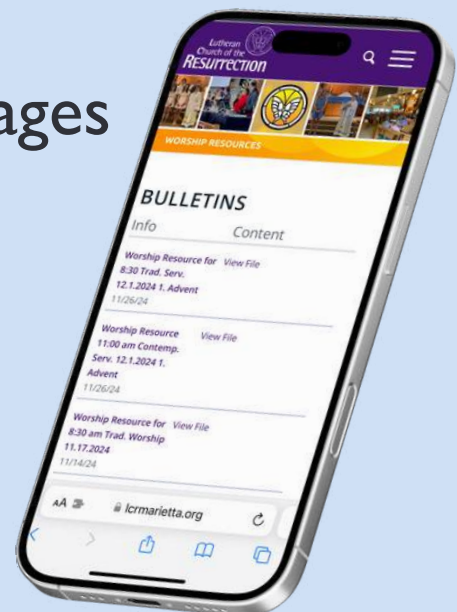


Prepare for Sunday: Reflect on the Scripture passages or Download the Bulletin

Did you know you can find the scripture readings inside the bulletins for upcoming Sundays posted on our website by most Fridays? If you ever want to reflect on the texts prior to hearing them on Sunday, this is a great way to do so! You can also download the bulletin to follow along with the service if you are watching online.

Check it out!

lcrmarietta.org/worship/worship-resources/



News & Updates

Youth Group Launches for 2024-2025 School Year

We've had a blast at the first two youth group gatherings doing a Virtual Reality gaming event and a game night with s'mores and other snacks at the Pavilion. **Join us on December 22 at 7:00 pm in the Pavilion at LCR for our next gathering.** In 2025 we will meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.





All Georgia Youth Gathering

February 21-23, 2025 | Camp Glisson, Dahlonega, GA

"There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." — Galatians 3:28

All youth in grades 6–12 and their adult leaders from across the Southeastern Synod are invited to the All Georgia 2025 Youth Gathering! This annual event is a time of faith formation, fellowship, and fun, where we connect with God and one another in a retreat atmosphere.

We're excited to return to Camp Glisson in Dahlonega for the second year in a row. This year's theme, "United in Christ," will explore what it means to be one in Christ as we learn to love God, ourselves, and our neighbors. Special guest presenters will guide us in meaningful discussions, worship, and activities.

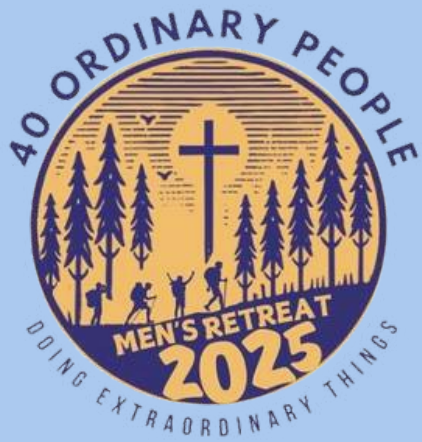
Details:

- **Who:** Youth (6th–12th grade) and adults of the Southeastern Synod, Young Adults (18–30): May attend for FREE if serving as small group leaders
- **Cost:** \$175 per person (youth and adults)
- **Location:** Camp Glisson, Dahlonega, GA

This is a wonderful opportunity to grow in faith and community.

If you're interested, contact LeAnn Haack for more information.

We look forward to seeing you there!



Discover Purpose and Community at the 2025 Men's Retreat

Mark your calendars for the Seventh Annual Men's Retreat, happening Friday, January 31 – Sunday, February 2, 2025, at Lutheranch in Tallapoosa, Georgia. This year's theme, 40 Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things, invites us to consider how Jesus can use us—right where we are—through our availability, faithfulness, and willingness to say yes to Him.

Invite a friend and join us for this unforgettable weekend of faith and fellowship!

Details:

- Cost: \$175 (double occupancy) or \$250 (single occupancy), includes 5 meals
- Location: Lutheranch, Tallapoosa, GA

Contact:

John Whetstone: 678-480-1723, jwhetstone1@bellsouth.net
David Meszaros: 404-580-2678, david.p.meszaros@gmail.com
Mark Olson: 404-372-6306, maolson456@gmail.com

LCR Kingdom Builders Group Provides Meals for Those in Need

by Michael Mynhier

On Sunday November 17, the LCR Kingdom Builders Group (Brosch's, Demosthenes's, Mynhier's, and Osterland's) prepared and served 90 hot lunches to people experiencing homelessness.

It was a sunny and mild day, and everyone enjoyed the meals of green salad, baked chicken, cheesy potatoes, fruit, desert, and beverages. We were assisted by our outreach ministry partners, Our Hands Community Outreach, which is comprised of members of the Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church.

We have been helping them with their weekly Sunday meals service to the homeless, about four times a year, since 2015.





Sponsor a Poinsettia

Help adorn our altar this Christmas Eve by sponsoring a poinsettia! These 6" pots are \$10 each and can be dedicated "in honor of" or "in memory of" a loved one. To sponsor, use the Designated Giving envelopes in the pews, [visit the online giving page](#), or use the QR code provided. The deadline is December 15.

Looking ahead to 2025, you can also sponsor altar flowers to celebrate a special occasion or honor a loved one. [Sign up on our website](#).

Thank you for helping make our worship space beautiful this season and throughout the year!



Poinsettia Sign-up



2025 Altar Flowers



STAFF

Rev. Rich Leseganich

Lead Pastor

Julian Calvin

Director of Worship & Music

Sigrid Thies-Smith

Office Manager and Bookkeeper

Sharon Leon

Director of Children's Ministry

Common Good Creative

Communications Team



CONTACT

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4814 Paper Mill Road SE
Marietta, GA 30067

770.953.3193



CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE

Celebrate the joy of Christmas at one of
our two special candlelight services,
offered at 4:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

Both services include Holy Communion and beloved Christmas carols, each
offering a unique and meaningful way to reflect on Christ's birth. Choose
the time that works best for you and your loved ones, and join us for this
beautiful celebration of the season!

SCAN THIS QR CODE
WITH YOUR PHONE TO
SHARE AN INVITE WITH
A FRIEND OR NEIGHBOR!

