

December 24 & 31, 2023

The Weekly

Lutheran
Church of the
RESURRECTION



From LCR's New Pastor

On December 3 LCR voted to call Pastor Pastor Rich Leseganich as our new pastor. We look forward to Pastor Rich beginning with LCR on January 25. Here is a note from Pastor Rich:

Greetings Lutheran Church of the Resurrection! I am honored have been called as your next pastor.



I am a native of Youngstown, Ohio and traveled just over the Ohio border to earn my bachelor's degree at Thiel College in Greenville, PA. While at Thiel College, I was actively involved in campus ministry and as a religion major, I learned how to embrace the academic study of religion, theologically.

Studying at The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, I earned my Master of Divinity degree in 1999. My ordination into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament occurred in December 2000 at my internship site in the middle of Pennsylvania Dutch community. As part of my seminary training, I served at an inner-city African American congregation in Philadelphia, and at rural parishes within a multiple parish context. Completing a chaplain residency, I have served as a contracted on-call chaplain at Mercy Regional Medical Center in Lorain, Ohio.

Since my ordination, I have served congregations as an Associate Pastor, Solo Pastor, and Senior Pastor within the Southwestern Pennsylvania, Northeastern Ohio, and Florida-Bahamas Synods of the ELCA.

Continued and current education are imperative for my pastoral identity. I am one class shy of completing the Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling program at Walden University. In 2018 I completed a Certificate of Spiritual Direction from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. I am a member of Spiritual Directors International and provide spiritual direction sessions. In 2020, I earned a Graduate Certificate in Conflict Management and Negotiation from Walden University and am certified to teach English to speakers of other languages.

Some of my passions for ministry, in no particular order, include: preaching and leading worship services of all styles, including traditional, contemporary, and blended; community outreach; congregational growth; youth and family ministry; service to the elderly; and, intergenerational dialogue.

Both of my parents still reside in Ohio. I have a younger sister and an adorable nephew. In my spare time, I enjoy coffee shops, reading, experiences that allow me to encounter diversity, and the tallest, fastest roller coaster I can conquer! I have traveled domestically and internationally as a leader and participant on mission trips, and I have organized trips with congregational members to Israel and Jordan, experiences that help Scripture come alive in new ways.

I am optimistic and excited to see how the Holy Spirit will lead us into a ministry partnership - where growth, spiritual depth, community, and a deep relationship with Jesus Christ take root and grow. It is an honor to serve as your next pastor!

CALENDAR

DECEMBER 23

Build Blessing Bags
9:00 - 11:00 am
Gathering Room

DECEMBER 24

Combined Morning Worship
10:00 am

Christmas Eve Worship
4:00 pm and 8:00 pm

DECEMBER 25 - JANUARY 1

Church Office Closed
(Pastoral Care info p. 4)

DECEMBER 31

Combined Morning Worship
10:00 am

FEBRUARY 2-4

Men's Retreat

FEBRUARY 24

Electronic Recycling Event
LCR Parking Lot

MARCH 15-17

Women's Retreat



[Worship Online](#)



[Give](#)



[Prayer Requests](#)



[Sign-Ups & RSVP](#)



[Email & Text Preferences](#)



[Communication Request](#)

SERVE: MAKE A DIFFERENCE

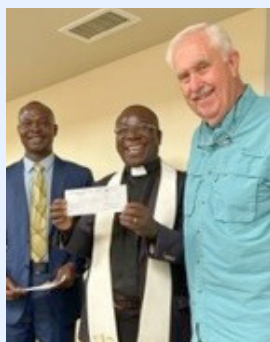
*The pictures and stories on these two pages represent a small portion of the amazing work God does through the people of LCR every single week to make a positive difference in the lives of thousands locally and around the globe! **Thank you for your generosity and your commitment to bring heaven to earth!***



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 and also help with a Sunday Supper and Sunday Celebration on occasion. Thank you to Dana Jelinek for leading this team and to everyone who has volunteered.



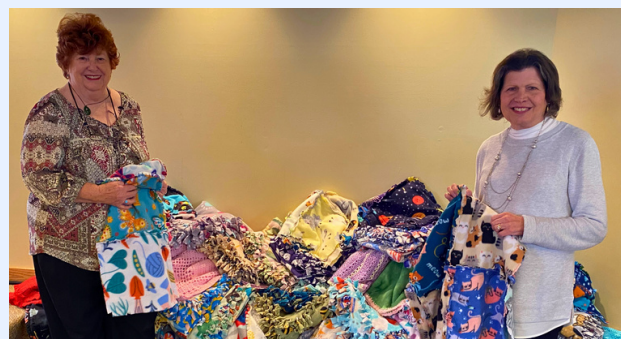
We share a good deal of time and abilities with our mission partners and it is also a joy to share some of our financial resources in support of these organizations.



This year, some of our financial gifts were shared with Brumby Elementary, Grace House Campus Ministry, and Good Samaritan Ministry



Youth Empowerment through Learning, Leading, and Serving, Inc. (YELLS) empowers youth to rise as active, healthy, and productive servant-leaders within their communities. LCR supports the work of this organization on Franklin Gateway.



Knitters for Peace and the LCR Blanketeers have crafted many blankets and hand-knit items for children in the hospital and people in need of warmth. Hundreds of families have been impacted by this ministry just this year!

2023 IMPACT REPORT



The Promise Garden ministry has provided more than 1,000 pounds of fresh produce to Community Assistance Center and hosted a donation drive to help stock their Sandy Spring's market this fall.



Our work with Habitat for Humanity isn't slowing down anytime soon. From volunteering with the Taste of Habitat fundraiser and working at building sites, LCR is a constant supporter of the mission of Habitat.



We are continuing our partnership with the Lutheran Church in Guatemala and the amazing work they do through the MILAGRO Women's Center providing needed education and assistance. We once again hosted a gathering this fall to raise funds for this work.



Our Sunday School kids discovered the fun of serving others while packing MUST Blessings Bags for unhoused people.



Our annual donation drive for the MUST Toy Shop just wrapped up with 62 bags of toys and gifts for kids 0-18.



The Mary and Martha Bible Study has packed hundreds of care packages for Special Needs Cobb group homes this year. Thanks also to those who delivered these bags...in costume or not!



Our Shepherd's Staff ministry provides visits to our homebound members and care for those in the midst of life transitions.

You can make a difference!

Explore the ways you can share your time, abilities, and financial resources in our community and around the world by [visiting our website](#).

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Sunday School Resumes Jan. 7

Sunday School for kids ages 2 years old through 6th Grade takes place most Sundays at 9:45 am on the lower level of the Family Life Building.

Child Friendly Room Off Sanctuary

Kids are always welcome in worship. If you prefer, feel free to make use of our Child Friendly Room off the sanctuary.

FREE ELECTRONICS RECYCLING AND PAPER SHREDDING FEB. 24

Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, in partnership with Data Delete Recycle, invites the community to recycle all obsolete and outdated electronics on February 24 from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. RAM Shredding will be securely shredding and recycling your old documents.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Brumby Elementary School in Cobb County.

Visit lcrmarietta.org/recycle for details.

Giving Envelopes

If you are using giving envelopes, new envelopes for 2024 are available in the Narthex. If you would like to give online, you can sign-up [on our website](#).

Office Closure / Pastoral Care

The church office will be closed Dec. 25 - Jan. 1. For pastoral care emergencies, email Pastor Bonnie: pastorbonnie@lcrmarietta.org

YOUTH NEWS

Confirmation Resumes Jan. 7

Sundays - 9:30 am - 10:30 am

7th-9th Graders | The Pavilion

Learn what it means to be a Lutheran Christian and discover the difference following Jesus can make in your life.

Women's Retreat: Deadline Extended!

March 15-17, 2024, a group from LCR will be attending the Wild Women's retreat at Lutheridge in Arden, NC. Cost is \$250 per person. The 2024 theme is *"This is My Body - Every body has a story to tell!"* Find healing, self-compassion, and holiness in our bodies.

LCR member Pat Grove has attended these retreats in past years and shared that they are "filled with females, fun, and faith that is all encompassing for your heart and soul."

Payment is due at time of registration. Financial aid is available. Contact [LeAnn Haack](#) for info.

[Register online](#) before January 7, 2024.

Men's Retreat at Lutheranch

February 2-4, 2024, the men of LCR will gather at beautiful Lutheranch in Tallapoosa, GA.

We'll be taking a deeper dive into the New Testament book of Philippians and its impact on our personal faith walk. Lots of time for community building, reflection, and great fun.

Contact [Mark Olson](#) or [John Whetstone](#).

