



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

A CONGREGATION OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

1950 NAGEL ROAD  
CINCINNATI OH 45255

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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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## Lent 2022: Turning Towards God's Abundance

**March 2** = Ash Wednesday, Tangible objects are distributed, Slack devotional conversation begins

**March 9** = Midweek Lent 1, Faithfulness Theme, Holden Evening Prayer at LCR, Pastor Zorn preaching

**March 16** = Midweek Lent 2, Mercy Theme, Holden Evening Prayer at LCR, Pastor Aly Mazzei-Baker, Trinity Lutheran, Mt. Healthy, preaching

**March 23** = Midweek Lent 3, Compassion Theme, Holden Evening Prayer at LCR, Pastor Christie Beckman, Hope Lutheran Church, preaching

**March 30** = Midweek Lent 4, Forgiveness Theme, Holden Evening Prayer at LCR, Pastor Emily Beckering, St. Paul's Reading, preaching

**April 6** = Midweek Lent 5, Love Theme, Holden Evening Prayer at LCR, Pastor Joe Schrock, Zion Lutheran, Hamilton, preaching

**April 10-17** = Holy Week and Easter, Details to follow as it draws nearer

**LENTEN OFFERINGS:** Our 2022 Lenten offerings have been designated for Western Kentucky Tornado Assistance through Lutheran Disaster Response

### LENT & HOLY WEEK FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

- **Mid-week Soup & Sandwich Fellowship - Wednesday evenings, March 9 - April 13, 2022, 6:00-6:50**

The mid-week Lenten soup suppers have resumed this year -- giving us all an opportunity to gather before the weekly Wednesday service. There are different feelings on gathering, so thank you for working with our Fellowship team as we get a feel for how many people will be gathering for these events and make appropriate accommodations.

- **Easter Post-Service Gathering - Details TBD**

The Fellowship team is evaluating our gathering after the Easter service, and details will be shared mid-March. For planning purposes, we will probably have a scaled back event due to pandemic gathering guidelines. Stay tuned! More details to come.



Dear LCR,  
 We were so blessed by the generosity of your congregation in providing us with a generous outreach grant for our Shared Blessing Food Pantry. With the grant, we purchased and distributed gift cards from Meijer's to assist the Shared Blessings families at Christmas time.

Sincerely,  
 Katie Preston, Council President  
 Augsburg Lutheran Church

## 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.



## CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE

The next Enter the Silence, Awaken the Spirit contemplative service will be on **Tuesday, March 8** at 7:00 p.m. You can worship in-person or via Facebook Livestream.



**SYMPATHY:** Our sympathies to **Gail Koford** and her family on the death of her mother and LCR member, **Janice Joerger**.

**SYMPATHY:** Our sympathies to **Trish Litterski** and her family on the death of her father, **Karl Reinke**.

**CELEBRATE:** We celebrate with the whole Doppenberg family on the marriage of **Gabe & Wendy Doppenberg**.

## RECONCILING IN CHRIST

The RIC Team has grown from four members (Teresa Ahrenholz, Jay Guenther, Craig Miller and John Schwamberger) to nine. We welcome our new members: Natalie Hastings, Kris Kant, Claire Mengel, Emily Mengel and Jonelle Wehrman. We look forward to our next phase as a Reconciling in Christ community.

March 31 is Transgender Day of Visibility

**Transgender** is an identity many people use whose self-experienced gender does not match the sex they were assigned at birth. For example, a transgender person might be someone who identifies and lives as a woman but whose birth-assigned sex was male. Other transgender people identify as somewhere in between the societally recognized genders of man and woman, as neither, or as one gender at some times and another gender at other times.

Everyone needs a place where it's okay to be who you are, knowing you are treasured by others who will be there to share in your joys and sorrows. What are congregations for, if not to provide a safe and welcoming space. Let us welcome all those who are searching for a place to belong.



# The World Is Our Teacher, The World Is Our Classroom! (Adult Sunday School Schedule)

We have had some very prominent and inspirational speakers lead us in adult Sunday School thus far, and the excitement continues! We have also had guests join us for classes from other places; consider inviting a friend to Sunday School when you see a subject of interest for them. Think digital church!

The schedule for adult Sunday School for the remainder of this year is as follows:

**March 6 and 13:** Cindy Zorn will complete the study of *The Apostles Creed for the New Millennium*

**March 20 and 27:** Martha Newfield will lead us in a discussion of *The Reformation: From Medieval to Modern*. Her study leads her to conclude that “in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries a confluence of brilliance came together to put culture on a new course in the way that ideas were communicated as well as the very way people understood their humanity. Beautiful art images from master artists as well as new ideas could be disseminated as the result of the invention of the Gutenberg printing press. Martin Luther's ideas on God and the church therefore, had a viable way of reaching ordinary people. I suggest it took a coming together of technology, the arts, and the brilliant insight of Martin Luther to break through the deep ruts of culture and the power of the Catholic Church to release the bondage of the medieval mind to understand God and themselves in a whole new way.”

**April 3:** As follow-up to Martha Newfield's findings, Pastor Zorn will offer a presentation on The Forgotten Luther. More than a reformer of the Church and theology, Luther was also a reformer of society in the pursuit of social and economic justice.

**April 10** - Palm Sunday

Pastor Zorn will offer a reflection on the shape and meaning of Holy Week.

**April 24, May 1, and May 8** – Earth Day is April 22.

Pastor Zorn will moderate discussion of the video series, *EarthBound: Created + Called To Care For Creation*. This series “takes Martin Luther's breakthrough understanding of Justification and Vocation and explodes it across God's magnificent creation. EarthBound is a journey beyond the rhetoric into God's rich and complex creation. Discover the origins of our misconceptions about Scripture's portrayal of creation. Recognize God's call to us to relate to the whole creation as our vocation. And experience how God's people throughout the Church are living out that call.”

**May 15 and 22:** Native American boarding schools and the Doctrine of Discovery have been in the news of late. “We need to understand that the Doctrine of Discovery is explicitly theological and Christian legal discourse.... It was the legal principle used by every Protestant Christian group who made claims to Native land in North America from Episcopalians at Jamestown to the Puritans and Pilgrims in New England and Lutheran immigrants who swept across the northern tier of the U.S. claiming Indian land as their own properties.” (Journal of Lutheran Ethics, March 2017) What does the ELCA have to say about this sin against humanity that is our history? We will be joined by Pastor Manuel Retamoza, Senior Pastor of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in San Diego, CA, who is an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation and is a first-generation Mexican American. Pastor Retamoza will share his personal experiences at our southern border and lead us in a discussion of the publication, *A Declaration of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to American Indian and Alaska Native People*.

The Zoom like is the same every Sunday morning. Our classes meet from 11:00 a.m. until noon. Note that we will be recording each session with the permission of the teacher. Classes will be available to LCR members after the live presentation.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88697351178?pwd=ODVyY0owTXk5V2ZFSlg4S3VDQS9VUT09>

Dear Leaders of Cincinnati,

I am Adam Vance, president of Lutheran Church of the Resurrection (LCR) in Anderson Township. Our Lutheran congregation is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Our church and First Lutheran Church (FLC) in Over-the-Rhine are sister congregations, and I send this letter as a friend and advocate for my brothers and sisters in faith.

First Lutheran has been displaced from their historic building for two years while working diligently to comply with orders from the city. Through their trials they have continued to serve the community of Cincinnati with their mission of faith. In fact, First Lutheran has been an integral part of the Cincinnati community for 180 years, having long lasting and far reaching positive impacts on our community!

Please know like countless others, that I am in 100% support of First Lutheran and their very clear plan forward. I am also an engineer, and understand that somethings just weren't built very well! It is quite ironic to me that a local community group wants to save a poorly built bell tower in the name of historic preservation, while putting at risk the historic congregation that has served the Cincinnati community for 180 years! It strikes me that if the long ago congregation of First Lutheran had the foresight of these events, they may have never built the bell tower in the first place! People make the community, not buildings.

Without clear leadership from you, the future viability of First Lutheran is in question. A decision could be made to keep a poorly constructed bell tower over a community of faithful people. First Lutheran Church could become a relic of the past and not a vibrant community supporting and uplifting the people of OTR and Cincinnati.

I call on leadership to lead as you have been elected to do so. Choose people, not buildings. Choose the history of community. Litigation needs to come to a successful and swift end. Cincinnati is lesser of a city without a vibrant fully functioning First Lutheran Church.

Highlights of the good of First Lutheran Church OTR:

**FLC has an impact on community by:**

- in 2019 over 20,000 people were impacted by over 400 events such as
- concerts and recitals
- Weddings
- Monthly community meals
- Monthly clothing drives
- Standing partnerships with a variety of groups to use our space including Narcotics Anonymous, Tender Mercies staff/volunteers, Alcoholics Anonymous, OTR Business Network International, Young Professional Choral Collective, Queen City Concert Band Music Library, Playback Theater, Ecstatic Dance
- 90% of the people walking through FLC doors were using for the church for Human Services and Arts events
- Providing tens of thousands of dollars to organizations serving Cincinnatians in need such as the Free Store Foodbank, Our Daily Bread, Over-the-Rhine Community Housing, Shelterhouse, Bethany House, Elementz, Prince of Peace, Tender Mercies,

**Why FLC should continue in our present location:**

- FLC has an established 180 year history serving the OTR community, being founded to support the Abolitionist movement
- Allowing women full voting privileges a full 50 years prior to it becoming a US right
- Supporting the LBGQTQIA community by being one of two OTR churches who have earned the Reconciled in Christ designation showing our commitment to fully affirm and include these neighbors
- FLC members raised over \$1,400,000 to make capital improvements to the church. This included repairing the facade that had been a danger to pedestrians and restoring the gallery for events and fellowship

Our location contributes to the diversity of Washington Park which is already surrounded by a school, housing, dining and arts destinations.

Respectfully,

Adam Vance President, Lutheran Church of the Resurrection and Cincinnati Taxpayer

## Celtic Spring Equinox Practice

Celtic Christianity has strong ties to creation. The ancient Celts referred to nature as the “Second Book of God,” believing that the Divine Presence was revealed in the natural world as much as in scripture. This understanding of Divine Revelation through creation is foundational to the many Celtic spiritual practices that honor the rhythms of the earth. Celtic Christianity has spiritual practices for both Solstices and for the Autumnal and Spring Equinoxes.

Sunday, March 20 is the Spring Equinox for 2022. This is the point in the year when the light of the day and the darkness of the night are in perfect balance, when they are equal. This is an opportunity to focus on our own need for balance in our lives. It is easy for life to get out of balance with too much work or not enough rest, with apathy, with not enough action. For many, life in pandemic has shifted a sense of inner and outer balance. We have learned new things about ourselves and our needs. We may have learned more about the balance we need. We may also have become discouraged or despondent. We may have found it impossible to keep our more natural rhythms. Whatever the case, the Spring Equinox invites us to consider what we have learned, how we have changed, and the ways our lives are in and out of balance now.

The Spring Equinox is a rich opportunity. You might set aside time on March 20<sup>th</sup> for prayer and meditation asking God to illuminate places in your life that are out of balance. This may be a helpful prayer...

Divine Creator,  
You made the universe to work in perfect balance,  
to find equilibrium in its natural rhythm and in you.  
May my life reflect that balance.  
I bring before you now  
all that is within my life that brings imbalance.  
Too much...  
[you finish the rest of the sentence]  
Not enough...  
[you finish the rest of the sentence]  
As the Earth cycles,  
and the balance of the light and dark are equal,  
draw me to a place of equilibrium in you.  
Amen.

From David Cole's *Celtic Prayers and Practices*, pp. 68-69

<><Pr. Nicole

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## LCR Caring Ministry Team

*Care teams work together ministering to the needs of our congregation during an emergency or recovery period.*

### **Examples of When You Might Need the Care Team**

- You need meals due to a birth, death or illness of a family member.
- You need a ride to physical therapy appointment or chemotherapy treatments.
- You need help with grocery shopping while you are recovering.

***We are constantly looking for more volunteers for our Caring Team Ministries. Contact Vicki Harper if you have a Care Team Need or would like more information about any of the teams (vharper1980@gmail.com).***

**Meals Team:** The meals team provides meals for those needing assistance in an emergency situation or during a recovery period. When a request for a meal comes in, the meals team is contacted via email to see if any of the members are available to help provide a meal. If you would like to join the meals team or find out more information about the team, contact Karen Leupen, meals team captain.

**RECONCILING IN CHRIST WELCOME STATEMENT:**

We welcome all people created in the image of God, Creator of the universe inclusive of:

- race, culture, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression;
- relationship or social status; abilities or disabilities;
- outcast or stranger; typical or atypical skills;
- how the world describes you or you describe yourself.

We invite those sure in who they are, those still seeking and those looking for a church that believes in a loving, non-judgmental, safe, inclusive, grace-filled God and a beloved community that reflects those values.

Because God loves us unconditionally, we share our Christian love through acceptance, inclusion and understanding. We welcome you to share yourself, your time and talents with the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, a part of God's universal Church. God made each of us unique and we share our diversity here.



**We are a  
RECONCILING *in* CHRIST  
Congregation**

**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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