



# The Cross Word

April 2017

## From Pastor Lisa

Dear Friends,

Well, we certainly needed our shovels and snow blowers this winter! Many of us could tell tales of still having ten foot drifts in the windbreaks pretty late. Spring sometimes has more trouble “springing” to life in North Dakota.

But not right now. Today is glorious! The sun is shining, the birds are chirping, gentle rivulets are forming in the streets from the last remaining driftlets melting in the 60 degree weather. There are other signs of spring: geese streaming overhead, pheasants and songbirds all around.

Easter Sunday, of course, will dawn no matter what the weather is. That Sunday and our celebration of its promise have arrived again this year. And that’s a point worth making: Easter’s promise does not depend on what surrounds it. Easter’s promise is kept no matter what. Easter’s promise, in fact, needs what is most unpromising in order to be seen and known.

See, we celebrate Easter in the spring, but Easter’s promise is most potent when our hearts and souls are most wintry. Greening grass and emerging flowers may give us a lift at Easter, but it’s Easter’s hope that sustains us when our own hope has died and we have nothing left but the promise of Jesus Christ, crucified. Maybe that’s why I look for the geese – not because they are a sign of spring, but because they fly toward home. At Easter, so do our hearts.

May we continue to live in the hope and expectation Easter brings! See you in church!

Pastor Lisa

As Loren Ingebretsen tells the story, he was trying to get ready for spring's planting on the day before Easter one year, when his children were young. He had to run into town for parts and his wife told him to be sure to pick up some chocolate Easter eggs/bunnies, etc. for the kid's Easter baskets because she didn't have any candy in the house except some jelly beans. Well, of course, being a typical husband and farmer (with much on his mind), he forgot. That evening, after being chastised by his wife, he wrote the attached poem to his children. He began composing poetry as a young boy working the fields with his father, long before tractor cabs and radios.

**JELLY BEANS** by Loren R. Ingebretsen

*The stores were out of chocolate,  
And, our children were not yet in their teens:  
So it was, that early Easter morn,  
That, I filled baskets with jelly beans!*

*I knew, that their favorite candy was chocolate,  
And, in truth it was mine too,  
But, these little beans were colorful,  
Casting a splendid hue!*

*I spied many green ones,  
And, this thought came to pass:  
Easter brings the springtime,  
And the greening of the grass!*

*Yellow beans came rolling in,  
As the basket continued to fill,  
And those yellow beans reminded me,  
Of the blooming daffodil!*

*Then I saw the black ones!  
And they darkened my springtime thoughts:  
Black and dark, just like my soul,  
Before my redemption, that Jesus bought!*

*Orange beans came rolling in,  
Like the sun, at the break of day,  
And the blackness was covered up,  
As once again, the stone was rolled away!*

*In life there will be purple beans,  
As we each will face sorrow,  
But the pink beans promise hope:  
For all a new tomorrow!*

*Then the white beans filled the basket,  
Taking up the remaining space,  
And I was reminded once again,  
That I was saved, through the goodness of God's grace!*

*Thank You God, for this basket of life,  
And for all its' hopes and dreams,  
And, Thank You for the message sent,  
In a bag of Jelly Beans!*

## Library Book Review

Brooklyn  
by Cormac McCarthy  
Submitted by Lois Hanson



Eilis Lacey is taking accounting classes and working at a grocery store in a small town in Ireland. The economy is poor. An American priest from Brooklyn offers to sponsor her to America. She decides she must go, and she leaves her mother and sister behind.

Once in Brooklyn, she gets a job in a department store. She meets Tony, a man who loves the Dodgers and his large Italian family. She gets devastating news from home. Tony fears she won't come back to him. Her dilemma is: should she return to Tony or stay and live her new found exciting life.

This novel earned critics' praises and was made into a movie.

### **Mark your calendars!**

It's spring cleaning time! What does that mean? It's time for the LCC Rummage Sale! Coming up, that is – Friday and Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>. One heads up: we have decided to accept only infant and young children's clothing; no adult clothing. All other treasures welcome! Watch for more information.

### **Flower Chart up – Sponsor flowers for worship beginning in May!!**

We are again offering the opportunity to sponsor flowers to beautify our altar area. The flower chart is posted on the bulletin board by the church office, or you can call in to have us put your names down as well. We have two arrangements, on each side of the altar. Each pot costs \$45, which includes delivery from Dutch Mill Florists, who will do the flower arrangements. Please sign up for the date(s) you'd like to sponsor, tell us if you'd like to sponsor one pot or both, and if the flowers are to celebrate an occasion, or in honor or memory of someone. Payment will be to Dutch Mill directly; they will bill you.

### **Friday Night at the Movies**

There will be NO Friday Night at the Movies this April as the second Friday is Good Friday. Instead plan on coming April 28 to a Dinner and a Movie sponsored by the Christian Education committee. See information elsewhere in this newsletter.



## **Holy Week Worship Schedule**

Palm Sunday, April 9 10 a.m. followed by fellowship and BAKE SALE

NO Wednesday services

Maundy Thursday, April 13 6 p.m. Service with Holy Communion

Good Friday, April 14 12:15 p.m. Brief Service of Shadows

6 p.m. Tenebrae service

Easter Sunday, April 16 8 a.m. Traditional Easter festival service

9 a.m. Easter Breakfast\*

10 a.m. Easter festival service with The River

\*Free will offering for Easter breakfast will go to the Chad Hanson family

## **Looking for something fun to do with your kids?**

Please join us for “Dinner and a Movie” on Friday, April 28th. Supper will be provided. We will eat at 5:30 and will start the movie either “Trolls” or “Moana” when we are done. If you have seen either of those movies please come anyway. We will have assorted board games to play too. Feel free to bring a snack to share.



## **Love offering for the Chad Hanson family**

We can't do everything, and yet we can do something. The Easter breakfast offering is being given to Chad Hanson's family. In addition, we will be taking a free will love offering for the family throughout April.

If you give an offering by check, put “for Hansons” or something similar on the memo line so it can be designated properly. We will put some bright colored envelopes on the usher's tables specifically for this love offering, if you'd like to give cash be sure to use these.

You can also give online to this love offering. Go to our website, [churchofthecross.org](http://churchofthecross.org). Click on “online offering” button. Sign into your account, or set one up if you haven't yet (it's simple). You can write the amount either on the general or building fund account lines; either way, it will go to the Hanson family **IF** you write in below that the gift is in memory of Chad Hanson. All these memorial gifts will go into the love offering, not the general or building fund.

All offerings not designated as memorials to Chad will continue to go to the funds as chosen at the top. Thank you for your support!

## **The American Bank Center loan has been re-amortized**

The Church of the Cross construction loan with the American Bank Center had a balloon payment due on April 1. The loan has been re-amortized for the next five years ending on April 1, 2022.

There is good news in what has happened this past week. To help reduce the unpaid loan principal, the Council authorized the creation of a Promissory Note #2 loan program where Church members could loan the church funds to prepay the loan balance. Church members loaned the Church \$95,000 to be used to prepay the loan. These loans will bear a 3% interest rate and will be fully redeemed by mid-year 2021. The loans in PN2 will save LCC \$1,700 each year for the next four years. All Promissory Note #1 loans will also be fully redeemed by year 2020.

The Church' Operating Fund had a good balance at the end of 2016. The Council authorized using \$40,000 from the Operating Fund as additional prepayment on the bank loan. The total prepayment to ABC this past week was \$135,000 which reduced the loan balance from \$323,613 to \$187,613. The members of this Church are to be congratulated for their repayment efforts on a loan that in 2012 had a nearly \$600,000 balance.

Also, very important is the ability to repay the loans from church members. The Building Fund is the vehicle that makes the monthly bank payment, and the monthly transfer to the Promissory Note Reserve Fund to repay principal and interest on the loans. The Building Fund needs \$5,500 in contributions EACH MONTH. Thus far, in 2017, the contributions are lagging. Besides continuing good financial support for the Operating Fund, it is very important to continue good contributions to the Building Fund. We are so blessed to have a supportive and understanding congregation. Please contact any Council member if you have any questions.



**Bake Sale April 9th After Church!** Come hungry or come with treats or come with money. The youth will gladly receive your treats to raise money for their trip next summer. They will also smilingly take your generous cash donations for the delicious treats that have been provided. They thank you.

**Lutheran Church of the Cross  
Council Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, March 14, 2015**

Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by President Ken Will Council members present were: Ken Will, Jeff Thomas, Kylie Blanchard, Jon Hanson, Tom Harris, and Brian Johnson. Staff personnel in attendance were Pastor Lisa Ahlness, Tim Newman Connie Werner and Art Wheeler. Council member Kim Humann was absent. There were no additions to the agenda.

Pastor Lisa led us in devotions.

Motion to approve the February Council Minutes was made by Tom Harris and seconded by Jon Hanson. Motion carried.

Art Wheeler presented the Treasurer's Report. Motion to accept the report was made by Jon Hanson, seconded by Kylie Blanchard. Motion carried.

A committee of Ken Will, Jon Hanson and Art Wheeler met with American Bank Center to discuss the building loan. The building loan was renewed for another five years. Promissory note #1 will end December 31, 2010. It was noted that ABC is very satisfied with how LLC is paying down the building loan. Brian Johnson made the motion with Jon Hanson seconding it to implement the promissory note #2 program. Motion carried.

Jon Hanson made the motion and Tom Harris seconded it to transfer \$40,000 from the general fund to the loan payment. Motion carried.

Jon Hanson made the motion and Brian Johnson seconded it to transfer \$100 from the general fund to the scholarship fund. Motion carried.

Pastor Lisa updated the Council on Mutual Ministry and is also working on the Stewardship Committee. There will be an all Lutheran Service at the Bismarck Events Center on Reformation Sunday. The council decided to attend this event.

Tim Newman gave his report and there are many things going on the rest of the year. Vacation Bible School will be June 6-8, 2017. April 28, 2017 is also an activity time for the children. A dinner and a movie activity was mentioned. It was mentioned that perhaps a bird house project be done again. A library/book event project in front of the church was briefly discussed.

Jon Hanson made the motion and Brian Johnson seconded it to attend the S'mores and More Gala Event for Camp of the Cross again this year on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried. LCC will again buy 2 tables for this event.

**Committee Reports:**

**Building and Grounds-** window washing. Jon Hanson will contact Scott Berge to get his bid.

**Mission Endowment-** at a standstill for the time being.

**Worship and Music-** Holy Week schedule is as follow: Maundy Thursday service is at 6pm, Good Friday Service is at 12:15pm and 6pm. Easter Service will be at 8am and 10 am with a light breakfast between services.

**Congregational Nurturing-** thoughts for using current events for a Bible Study, perhaps on a Sunday evening. Time to be determined.

**Orientation Workshop-** a lot of good discussion and good ideas were brought out. A better look at the strategic planning and a better way to use the time and talent sheets.

**Unfinished business-** the flow chart was looked at and will be acted on at the April Meeting.

**Worship and Music** committee will decide summer church schedule whether to leave the hours we have or change them.

**New business:**

Coffee for the church will be ordered from Equal Exchange through ELCA Fair Trade. Media coordinator position is being suggested. This would be a part-time position. Ken Will volunteered to write up a job description and bring it to the April meeting.

Nothing new before the council meeting, the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting will be April 11, 2017 at 6:30pm with C2 meeting/dinner at 5:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary



## Church Council and C2 Committees



Come one, come all April 11th to the C2 committee meetings. Pizza and salad was a huge success in March! Supper will be served @ 5:30 with the committees meeting while people eat. The church council meeting will follow the C2 meeting. All LCC members are encouraged to attend the Council meetings. If you have a topic to discuss, please visit with Ken Will prior to that meeting date.

## Thrivent Action Teams—How Can you Help?

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a description of Thrivent Action Teams, available to all Thrivent members and associate members, and how to apply for one. It is a great program with endless possibilities to help us help in our church and community. Which sounds swell—but what if I'm not creative enough to dream up a brilliant idea? NO PROBLEM! We have a handy-dandy list already brainstormed, to which other terrific ideas are welcomed at all times. Camp of the Cross also has a list of opportunities, if you'd like to use your Thriven start up funds to help there. Please call the church office if you'd like help to get started or to talk about options!



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## New in Kitchen:

At LCC we are trying to keep track of food that is served at LCC and prevent food being wasted! When you serve a meal or coffee at LCC, please record information in a black notebook, laying under the phone. What event, number of people served, idea of how much food was served! This will also give others an idea of how much is needed for the next event. Thank you, Sally Grenz



Women from Church of the Cross are looking forward to a fun weekend at Camp of the Cross on April 21 through April 23! Leaving church about 4:30 on Friday afternoon, stopping in Garrison at Ye Olde Malt Shoppe for dinner and then settle in the Retreat Center. Returning home early Sunday afternoon. Join us for discussion with the topic "Bloom where Planted", and getting to know fellow members from LCC. A few might join us on Saturday, just for the day! Cost \$112 for the weekend.



## Women's Fellowship

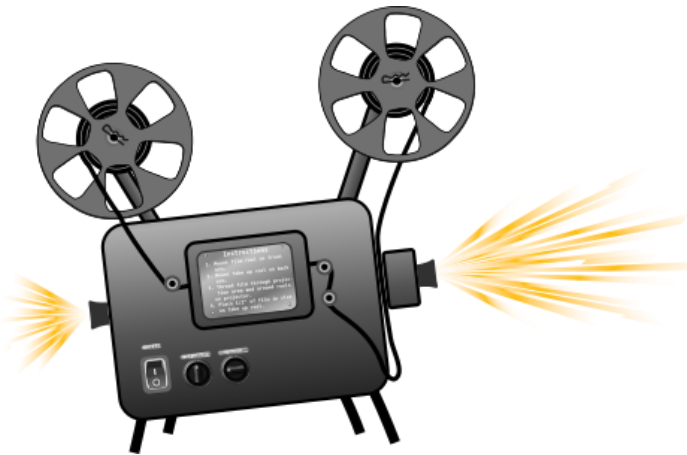
### Budget

General Fund budget: Jan-March \$83,147

General Fund contributions: Jan-March \$70,089

Building Fund budget: Jan-March \$16,632

Building Fund contributions: Jan-March \$10,093



We are looking for more **projectionists**, **streamers**, and **sound people** for Sundays and Wednesdays. Contact Tim.

**WELCOME**  
**new members**  
.....

We **welcomed twenty new members** into our flock March 12th. They are Kay Koch, Mark Thorland, Bill & Shirley Zinsli, Al & Rita Staloch, Sara & Michael Dewald and Brooks, Lindsey & Brett Peterson, Cullen and Grace, Lyle & Mary Lauf, Pastor Lisa Ahlness & Van Vechten Crane, Carly, Amy and Joel Crane. We hope you feel at home already.

### Helping Hands!

Pam Hanson and Sally Grenz would like to thank all the willing ladies for helping us provide meals to members that have had health issues and need some assistance! Thank you for your continued offers.



# Camping with Christ

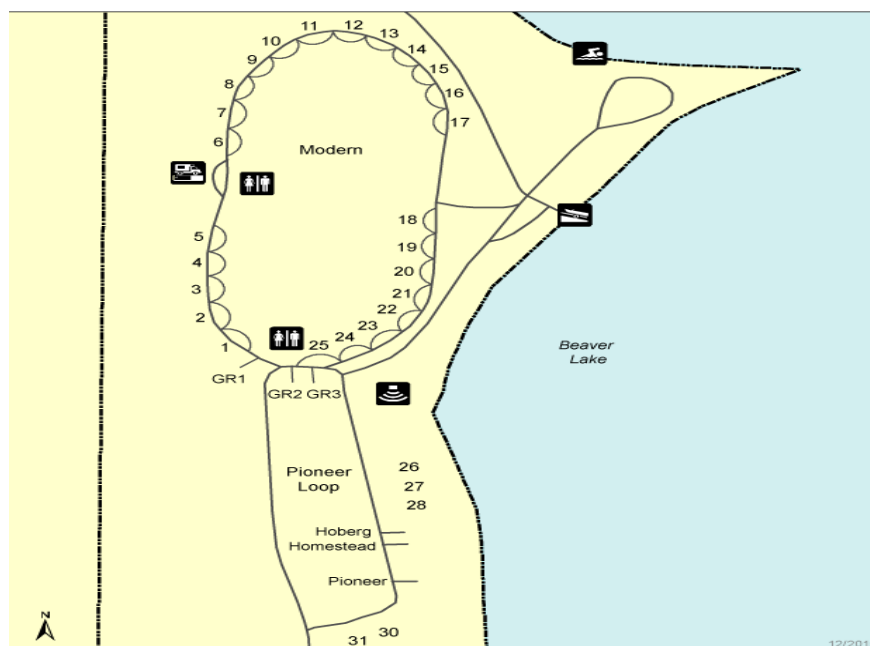
## Let's do it!

We're planning a "**Camping with Christ**" weekend on June 9 -11 at Beaver Lake State Park (<http://www.parkrec.nd.gov/parks/blsp/facilities.html>), approximately 90 miles SE of Bismarck.

If you are a camper, or would like to try camping, regardless of the mode/type (*tent, motorhome, pickup camper, travel trailer, or Beaver Lake State Park offers cabins for rent*), we'd love to have you join us for this "Camping with Christ" weekend.

We'll do a group campfire on Friday evening, a Saturday morning (10AM) nature hike (*led by a local expert who grew up in that area*) and a pot luck picnic dinner on Saturday evening (6PM), followed by a Campfire and Smores! Beaver Lake State Park offers group shelters, where we could hold an outdoor "informal" service on Sunday morning, if the group would like. If you can't make it for Friday evening, come down on Saturday and join us for Saturday evening's potluck, campfire/s'mores..

Campsite and/or cabin reservations (*make these early because they tend to get booked early*) can be made on their "Online Reservation System" at: <https://apps.nd.gov/pnr/sp/services/public/main.htm> or by calling their Call Center (7AM to 7 PM) at 800-807-4723. We suggest the North end of the Modern campground (sites 9 – 15, although all sites are good), which are closest to facilities, playground and the picnic shelter we can use for Sunday morning's "informal service".



If you have any questions, please contact Ken Will (258-7172 or [kenwill@bektel.com](mailto:kenwill@bektel.com)) or Jon Hanson (391-3416 or [jdhanon56@gmail.com](mailto:jdhanon56@gmail.com))

## **April Altar Focus**

ALTAR FOCUS, for the month of April, is Lutheran World Relief's "Project Promise Personal Care Kits."

Project Promise Personal Care Kits are shared with people who have lost everything from a natural disaster or life-threatening violence. Give hope through a bar of soap.

If you don't care to shop for these things, LorRaine Riveland is a very knowledgeable shopper regarding where the best bargains are to make your money go further.

Items are One light-weight bath-sized towel (between 20" X 40" and 52" X 27" dark color recommended, Two or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz. in original wrapping, One adult-sized toothbrush in its original packaging (multi-packs can be used), One sturdy, wide toothed comb, and One metal nail clipper (attached file optional).

## **Coffee, Coffee, Coffee**

LCC will soon begin using Equal Exchange "fair trade" coffee for fellowship and general use at the church. In addition, the youth will also begin selling various "coffees", chocolates, teas, etc. Much more is available via ordering it through them (a small "upcharge" goes to supporting youth activities in the church). Look for their "display" (coming soon to the fellowship hall/gathering space)!

When we buy fairly traded products from Equal Exchange ([www.lwrcoffee.com](http://www.lwrcoffee.com)), a portion of our purchases benefits Lutheran World Relief's Small Farmer Fund. This fund supports small farmers and their families, most in third world countries.

Equal Exchange offers more than 40 varieties of organic Fair Trade coffees from co-ops in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. Coffee is available in bulk, packaged, and "pillow packs" and in either whole bean or drip grind. It is all EXCELLENT!

Also available (or by special order) is chocolates, cocoas, teas, and "Fair Foods" like olive oil, nuts, Geobars, etc.

Please check out this wonderful way to enjoy Fair Trade items and support Lutheran World Relief, its Small Farmer Fund and the LCC Youth.

Fair Trade makes a delicious difference in the world!

## Thrivent Action Team Information

Are you a Thrivent member or have you participated in a Thrivent Action team? If so, have you thought about applying for your own Thrivent Action Team? A Thrivent Action Team is a volunteer, passion-led program which helps our members to support causes they care about. Thrivent Financial benefit members are eligible for two action teams per year and are encouraged to involve others to participate in their project. Some examples of what action teams members have done include fundraisers, service activities, or educational events.

When a Thrivent member applies online for their Thrivent Action Team and their project is approved, they will receive a box mailed to their doorstep which holds a VISA card loaded with \$250 seed money, invitations, thank-you cards, promotional material, and best of all—Thrivent t-shirts, which are coveted for being the softest and most comfortable t-shirt you will own! Members who take advantage of their Thrivent Action Team benefit will see that \$250 can really make an impact for a cause that is important to them.

I recently applied for my own action team which was used for a luncheon to benefit the Wing Theatre in Wing, ND. Growing up in a rural community, I loved seeing films each weekend at the Wing Theatre, which is run by a group of volunteers and enjoyed by families from many miles around. The seed money I received was used to purchase groceries for a community lunch and all the lunch sale proceeds directly benefited the theatre since there was no out-of-pocket cost to recoup. With the help of the money we raised, they will be able to keep the theatre running for families to enjoy!

Being part of a Thrivent Action team is a fun and rewarding experience, and I am proud to be a member of a company whose mission is to help build stronger communities by promoting generosity. I encourage you to brainstorm ideas for your own Thrivent Action Team to take advantage of this benefit. Together, we can use this resource to make a positive impact in our churches and communities! For more information, visit: <https://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-action-teams/> Kaitlin Bohlander is a long-time member of Good Shepherd and serves as a financial representative for Thrivent Financial.



# April 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>2</b> <b>9:00</b> River Practice <b>9:15</b> Church School <b>10:00</b> River Worship/Baptism <b>11:00</b> Coffee <b>6:30pm</b> Fusion Practice	3	<b>4</b> <b>10:00</b> Staff Meeting	<b>5</b> LAF <b>Lenten supper 4:45-5:45</b> <b>6:00</b> Fusion Worship <b>6:45</b> Church School/River Practice <b>8-9:30</b> Youth Ac-	<b>6</b> Quilting 1pm <b>8:00</b> AA Mtg.	7	<b>1</b> <b>4:30</b> River Prac-
<b>9 Palm Sunday Bake Sale</b> <b>9:00</b> River Practice <b>9:15</b> Church School <b>10:00</b> River Worship/Baptism <b>11:00</b> Coffee Hour <b>6:30pm</b> Fusion	10	<b>11</b> <b>10:00</b> Staff Meeting <b>5:30</b> C2 Mtg/supper <b>6:30</b> Church Council	<b>12</b> LAF <b>No Activities</b>	<b>13 Maundy Thursday</b> Quilting 1pm <b>6:00pm Service</b> <b>8:00</b> AA Mtg.	<b>14 Good Friday</b> <b>12:15</b> Tenebrae Service <b>6:00</b> Tenebrae	<b>8</b> <b>4:30</b> River Practice Optional
<b>16 Easter Sunday</b> <b>8:00</b> Service <b>9:00</b> Light Breakfast <b>10:00</b> River service <b>11:00</b> Coffee Hour <b>6:30</b> Fusion Practice	<b>17</b> Articles due for newsletter	<b>18</b> <b>10:00</b> Staff Meeting <b>1:15</b> LWT Bible Study @ church	<b>19</b> LAF <b>6:00</b> Fusion Worship <b>6:45</b> Church School/River Practice/Confirmation <b>8-9:30</b> Youth Activities	<b>20</b> Quilting <b>1pm</b> <b>8:00</b> AA Mtg.	<b>21</b> Women's Retreat @ Camp of the Cross April 21-23	<b>22</b> <b>4:30</b> River Practice Optional <b>Women's Retreat @ Camp of the Cross</b> April 21-23 <b>Smore &amp; More</b>
<b>23</b> <b>9:00</b> River Practice <b>9:15</b> Church School <b>10:00</b> River Worship <b>11:00</b> Coffee Hour <b>6:30pm</b> Fusion Practice	<b>24</b> <b>1:00</b> Knitting for Others	<b>25</b> <b>10:00</b> Staff Meeting	<b>26</b> <b>6:30a</b> MM Bible Study @ Panera's LAF <b>6:00</b> Fusion Worship <b>6:45</b> Church School/River Practice/Confirmation <b>8-9:30</b> Youth Activities	<b>27</b> Quilting <b>1pm</b> <b>8:00</b> AA Mtg.	28	<b>29</b> <b>4:30</b> River Practice Optional
<b>30</b> <b>9:00</b> River Practice <b>9:15</b> Church School <b>10:00</b> River Worship <b>11:00</b> Coffee Hour <b>6:30pm</b> Fusion Practice						





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## E-News

April 2017

## Church of the Cross Council/Staff Members

### 2017 Church Council

Ken Will, President	258.7127
Jon Hanson, Vice President	391.3416
Jeff Thomas, Secretary	955.3632
Kim Humann	255.6547
Brian Johnson	221.9688
Kylie Blanchard	391.0373
Tom Harris	751.6371

The Church Council and the C2 Committees meet once a month; the second Tuesday, at 5:30pm. The Council meetings (at 6:30pm) are open to the congregation and all are encouraged to attend a meeting or to visit with a Council member if you have questions or concerns regarding the church.

### Church Staff:

Pastor Lisa Ahlness, Pastor

Phone #701.220.9011

Email: lisaahlness@hotmail.com

Tim Newman, Pastoral Assistant

Phone #258-1651

Email: clarityatfaith@gmail.com

Connie Werner, Secretary

Phone #223.1001

Email: lcc@btinet.net

Art Wheeler, Treasurer

Email: lcctreasurer@btinet.net

Robin Johnson, Worship Coordinator

Phone 391.1082

Email: theriver@btinet.net

Gareth Fay/Robin Johnson/Gerri Sarsten

Organists/Accompanists

Joel & Jan Gilbertson, The "River" Accompanists