



The CrossWord



February 2017

From The Pastor

"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you..." Philippians 1:3-4

Warm greetings to all of you, members of our mutual family of Lutheran Church of the Cross! These first three weeks since I arrived here have been both a flurry of activity and a time of meeting many of you, putting names to faces, and beginning to learn your stories. I am so thankful to join in your ministry here at LCC, and grateful for the fine leaders on council and so many other groups and committees. I look forward to meeting more of you and to deepening friendships as we journey in faith together.

Let me take a few minutes to introduce myself and tell you a little bit of my background. I am married to VanVechten Crane, who is also an ELCA pastor. Though technically retired, he serves St. Paul Lutheran in Riverdale on a contract basis. He also works part time at the YMCA here in Bismarck, so you may run into him there! VanVechten is an avid pheasant hunter, along with his German shorthair sidekick, Ernie. He also does sprint triathlons, if you care to join him. (swimming, biking, running) Cycling and swimming are his favorites.

Zachary, my elder stepson, is married to Kenda. They have three children: Colton (12), Chloe (9), and Rylee (7). Jeremy is married to Courtney and they also have three children: Brynn and Macy (9) and Cora (3). Zac and Jeremy are both boilermakers (welders) and often are at work at the various power plants in the area. Kenda is an elementary teacher at Will-Moore, and Courtney is in advertising. They all live near Bismarck, happily for us!

The CrossWord
is a monthly publication,
distributed to the
members and friends of
Lutheran Church of the
Cross,
to inform and enlighten.

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Our younger kids are Carly, who is a graduate student and working in Frankfurt, Germany; Amy, a senior at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN; and Joel, a sophomore also at Concordia.



I grew up in Bowman, ND, in the southwestern part of our state, and graduated from Concordia College in Moorhead, with majors in German and English. After a year in the Lutheran Volunteer Corps in Chicago, I studied at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, with one year at the Theological Seminary in Leipzig, Germany. My internship was at a bilingual church in Winnipeg, Canada, also called Church of the Cross! Perhaps it was a happy omen. J I love to travel, read and watch movies (not so much the horror genre). Last year, Van-Vechten and I accompanied our colleague, Marv Mutzenberger, on a Luther tour to the key Reformation sites in Germany.

I have traveled widely in Eastern and Western Europe and Canada, and have been to Guatemala several times, studying Spanish and working with ServiceTeams with the God's Child Project. Though I have lived in various places around the country and world and love to travel, my whole ministry has been right here in Western North Dakota. I have served at Tuttle-Robinson, as a chaplain at Sunset Care Corporation in Bowman, at Lord of Life Lutheran across town in Bismarck, as an interim pastor at St. Paul's, Center; at Grace, Driscoll; and on synod staff as Assistant to the Bishop for Stewardship. I have loved all of these ministries and learned much in each of them, and look forward to finding out what God is calling us to do, together.

I am grateful for my partners here, Tim Newman and Connie Werner, and their many talents, as well as those of Art Wheeler, who so willingly and seamlessly stepped in as interim treasurer when Marguerite Ulmer recently decided to leave that position. I am impressed with the networks in place here, with many people engaged in many ways of ministering to others. As a newbie, I look forward to "plugging in," and - who knows? - possibly even inventing new networks.

If you are a newbie too, at a new juncture in your life, or just not all that "plugged in" yet, let me know. We are open to new ideas and I would love to help you find the opportunity for ministry that fits well for you. Let me know, also, of needs you see around you or feel in your own life, and let's explore how LCC can help meet them. I love to visit and would be happy to come to your home if that's something you would welcome.

My email address is lisaahlness@hotmail.com. My cell phone number is 701-220-9011. Please feel free to contact me!

I really am grateful for all of you, praying with joy as I remember each of you, and thanking God for the opportunity to serve, together. See you in church!

Blessings,
Pr. Lisa Ahlness

Library Book Review

ALL THE LIGHT WE CANNOT SEE

by Anthony Doerr

Submitted by Marjo Hewitson



The story takes place in France during the 2nd World War, during the Nazi occupation. Instead of being a war story, it is more about 2 unforgettable characters.

Marie-Laure is a blind young woman, whose father has taught her skills to be as independent as possible.

Warner is an orphan, who is an engineering prodigy. The Nazis tap him to work on their communication systems, and also to track down French citizens who have illegal radios in their homes.

Marie's father, a museum curator flees Paris with Marie. He takes with him an article from the museum that he is trying to protect from the Nazis.

Both characters show incredible courage as they work underground to defeat the Nazis and end the occupation.

This book continues to be on the NYT Best Seller list since its publishing in 2014. It is a memorable read.

Join Deb Carpenter and the other movie buffs from LCC for "Friday Night @ The Movies", February 10th. Supper is at 6:30pm, and the movie kicks off around 7pm.

Feel free to invite friends to the event.

Deb usually sends out an email enticing us with details about the movie but never giving it away. We never know what the movie will be, but it's always good, thanks to Deb!



Church Council and Committees

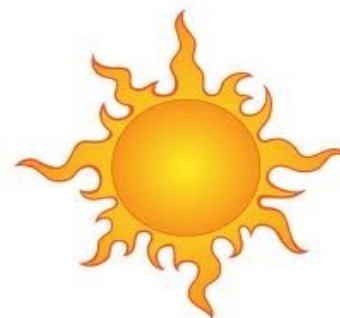
The Church Council Meeting is at 6:30pm Tuesday, February 7. (We've already met and it was a great meeting!) Council meetings are open to everyone. If you have an item to come before the Council, please contact Ken Will prior to the meeting.

The Worship and Music Committees will be meeting at 5:45 pm February 14.



HEAT THE CHURCH begins November 1 and runs through March 31.

Thanks to the following people who have donated towards the Heat the Church Fund for the month of January and February in honor of loved ones.



Pam & Jon Hanson
 Catherine and Tyler Staloch Family
 Gary & Judy Heaton
 Al & Rita Staloch
 Matt & Amanda Sagsveen Family
 Pastor Lisa Ahlness
 Mary Trzynka
 Fockler Family
 Cheryl & Steve Neu
 Curt & Nancy DeGree
 Manley & Anne Hillesland
 Roger & LorRaine Riveland
 Cheryl & Steve Neu
 John & Jean Kraft
 Pastor Tim Johnson
 Vicki & Glen Moser
 Mark & Val Kunze,
 Doug and Deanna Johnson
 Clark Fimreite

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2017**

Call to Order: President Jon Hanson called the meeting to order at 6:35pm

Council Members Present:

Jon Hanson, Brian Johnson, Art Wheeler and Kim Humann.

Council Members Absent:

Kylie Blanchard, Brett Gurholt and Jeff Thomas.

Staff Present:

Pastor Lisa Ahlness, Tim Newman and Connie Werner.

Devotions:

Jon Hanson led the group in devotion.

Additions to the Agenda: Jon Hanson conveyed he would like to add IT Support to New Business.

Approval of Minutes from December 13, 2016:

Brian Johnson moved to approve the minutes. Art Wheeler seconded the motion.

Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Art Wheeler presented the Treasurer's Report.

Art Wheeler moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Kim Humann seconded the motion.

Motion approved.

Jon Hanson welcomed Pastor Lisa Ahlness to the council meeting.

Pastoral Assistant Report:

Tim's report is attached to the minutes.

Staff Reports:

Connie Werner conveyed she likes the new copier and she will be receiving additional training on features and settings for it.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education – Jeff Thomas

None

Congregational Nurturing – Kylie Blanchard

None

Outreach – Brett Gurholt

None

Worship and Music – Kim Humann

At the committee's January meeting the recently completed Christmas services were discussed. The committee has initiated discussion on Lenten services.

Congregational Operations – Art Wheeler/Brian Johnson

Art Wheeler presented the General Fund Revenue and Building Fund contributions report.

The Promissory Note Committee will need another member who represents the church council. Current committee members are: Roger Pommerer, Art Wheeler and Ken Will.

Art Wheeler moved to appoint Jon Hanson as a member of the Promissory Note Committee. Brian Johnson seconded the motion. **Motion approved.**

Unfinished Business:

Council/Committee Orientation and Workday, February 25, 2017 – Jon Hanson indicated this will be held from 9:00am to 1:00pm.

Nominating Committee – The terms of council members Art Wheeler and Brett Gurholt will be expiring. The nominating committee met and Ken Will and Tom Harris have agreed to be nominated to serve on the council.

Committee Reports for the Annual Meeting – Jon Hanson will be sending an email requesting that committee's submit the annual reports to Connie Werner for the Annual Meeting.

Salary & Benefit Package for Pastor Lisa Ahlness - The salary and benefit package for Pastor Lisa Ahlness was reviewed.

Review Final 2017 Budget – Art Wheeler presented the proposed 2017 budget for review and approval. Discussion followed.

Brian Johnson moved to accept the proposed 2017 budget for presentation at the Annual Meeting. Art Wheeler seconded the motion.

Motion approved.

New Business:

Resignation of Marguerite Ulmer, Treasurer – Art Wheeler conveyed Marguerite Ulmer had resigned as Treasurer for LCC. Art Wheeler volunteered to serve as Interim Treasurer until the new council is in place. Discussion followed. By general consensus, the council appointed Art Wheeler as Interim Treasurer until the new council meets.

IT Support – The church office received a quote from Fireside Office Solutions which includes: backup for external hard drive, additional storage and IT support time. Discussion followed. Jon Hanson will contact Fireside Office Solutions regarding additional questions on the quote and report back to the council at the February meeting.

Snow Removal – The removal of large snow piles in the parking lot is prohibited due to high cost. However, a group of men from the congregation will attempt to use a large snow blower and move it to the South side of the church.

The next council meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 14.

Meeting Adjourned.

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
CONGREGATIONAL CALL MEETING MINUTES
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2016**

Call to Order: President Jon Hanson called the special meeting to order at 11:20am.

Roger Krueger agreed to serve as parliamentarian.

Rosters were passed around for all members in attendance to sign. The purpose of the congregational meeting was to decide whether to call Pastor Lisa Ahlness.

Confirmed members over the age of 18 are eligible to vote.

Roger Krueger moved to issue a letter of call to Pastor Lisa Ahlness. Darrel Dolan seconded the motion.

Ballots were distributed to members of the congregation in attendance, with a yes meaning to call to Pastor Lisa Ahlness and a no meaning to begin the call process over.

Ballots were cast and council members tabulated the results.

The roster was signed by 112 congregational members. A 2/3 majority is needed for approval.

Jon Hanson indicated congregational approval to call Pastor Lisa Ahlness.

The next item for discussion was the proposed Salary & Compensation package.

Roger Krueger moved for the council to negotiate a salary and benefit package not to exceed \$112,000.00. Steve Neu seconded the motion.

Motion approved

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
ORGANIZATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2017**

Treasurer Duties:

Jon Hanson indicated Art Wheeler has volunteered to serve as Interim Treasurer since Marguerite Ulmer resigned. Ken Will recommended having a member of the congregation serve as Treasurer and hire a private bookkeeper. Discussion followed. This item will be placed on the agenda for the February council meeting.

Reorganization of Officers:

President: Ken Will was nominated by Jon Hanson. Brian Johnson seconded the motion.

Motion approved

Vice President: Jon Hanson was nominated by Ken Will. Kylie Blanchard seconded the motion.

Motion approved

Secretary: Jeff Thomas was nominated by Ken Will. Brian Johnson seconded the motion.

Motion approved

ORGANIZATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES continued SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2017

The following committee assignments will be made at the February 2017 meeting:

- Buildings & Grounds
- Christian Education
- Congregational Nurturing
- Congregational Operations
- Mission Support
- Worship and Music

Ken Will proposed holding a council and staff working luncheon. He will send out an email invite for this.

The next meeting will be held on February 7 at 6:30pm

All women are welcome! **Women's Retreat:** April 21 through 23 at Camp of the Cross, please join us in discussing 'Bloom Where Planted' theme, through Bible verses and poems that Deb Carpenter has planned. Questions contact: sallygrenz@hotmail.com or 701-390-3049

Altar Focus —Altar Focus for the month of February will be groceries and personal items for the **Salvation Army**. Some suggestions are canned vegetables, fruit, meat, box meals, and personal products such as razors, shave cream, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, clothes soap, deodorant. Been wondering where to take those motel personal items? Bring to the altar and we will see that they get to someone in need.

Budget

General fund budget: January	\$27,716
General Fund contributions: January	\$22,004
Building Fund budget: January	\$5,544
Building Fund contributions: January	\$4,279

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

All Church Council/All Committee members are asked to attend an **Orientation Meeting 9-1pm February 25**. Mark your calendars. Lunch will be provided. Anyone from the church is also invited and encouraged to attend.

If interested in becoming a **member** of this church, please speak to Pastor Lisa or contact the church office. The membership form can be found in the back of the church or in the narthex. A two-part informal class Feb. 26 and March 5 during coffee hour will be held. March 12 will be **New Member Sunday**.