



The Cross Word

From Pastor Lisa

It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood, a beautiful day for a neighbor – will you be mine? Won't you be mine? Mr. Rogers

I realize that I **usually** begin this article with a verse or two from Scripture. But today I woke up humming this little song from Mr. Rogers' neighborhood – and, well, it IS a beautiful day in the Highland Acres neighborhood!

We have great neighbors here at LCC. Perhaps you even get to greet some of them as you arrive for some activity at church. I hope so! This very week we are having great fun with the neighbors up the street at the United Church of Christ, sharing Vacation Bible School together under the western theme of "Avalanche Ranch"! If you have time, stop over between 6 and 8 pm (until Thursday) and see all the activity and how the church has been transformed by terrific decorating talent!

As you are, too, I am greatly anticipating welcoming a new neighbor in the office just off the conference room! Janie Hague will officially join us on July 9 as our new Director of Discipleship. She is a very gifted person, and I find myself daydreaming and thinking ahead to all kinds of possibilities for groups and events and mission trips and coffee times and faith formation studies and and and.....! Be sure to watch this newsletter, the bulletin and LCC's Facebook page for specifics on a welcome party and upcoming youth events planned for this summer. And stop by and meet Janie!

One other way to celebrate this new staff person and all the possibilities she brings is to give a special "welcome gift" to LCC in her honor! Why do I suggest this?

Lutheran Church of the Cross

June
2018

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Because commonly, our offerings go down in summer – at exactly the time when our budget will be rising to accommodate a new salary. What better way to celebrate than to put a bit of money where our deep gladness is! I will – won't you?

I often say “good morning, neighbor” as I greet folks on Sunday mornings. The Blanchards, because they literally live next door – but I'll probably say it to you, too. Because we are all neighbors. All of God's children, all around the world. That's how Jesus saw it, and invites us to see one another, too.

See you in church, neighbor!
Pastor Lisa

Office Hours:

The office hours are changing over the summer months. They are as follows: Monday–Friday 9-1pm effective June 1–August 31. Call the office to schedule any needed afternoon activities.

Wednesday Worship Schedule for Summer

During the summer, we will have worship (informal and outside as weather permits!) each second Wednesday following a picnic! June 13, July 11, and August 8.

BBQ, Outdoor Worship and Youth Event - June 13

The first summer BBQ at LCC will be held on Wednesday, June 13 at 5:30 p.m. Come and enjoy this great potluck meal and time of fellowship. Paper products, grilled meats/buns and drinks are provided; bring side dishes to share if you can. An outdoor worship service will take place immediately following the BBQ, starting at 6:30 on the church lawn. Bring your comfy lawn chairs.

Following worship, all youth are invited to stay for some more fun! The evening will include a bouncy house, scavenger hunts and s'mores! A photo scavenger hunt adventure is planned for the Youth Group (grades 6-12). Adult drivers will be needed and volunteers can be part of the fun. You won't want to miss it!

**It's
Summer
Time**

Ah, summer...we've waited so long for you!

Warmer weather means field work, outdoor work, activities like vacations and camping. Relaxing and easing up on schedules can be healthy and necessary for our souls. Taking the relaxation to the point of extreme can send the message that church isn't a priority. If you find that your worship attendance dips during the summer months, have you made plans to keep your financial giving consistent? Have you considered the message that sends to kids? Here are some things that can turn a summer worship slump into a faith-filled opportunity:

1. **Talk about it.** Talk with your family or spouse about the priority of consistent worship attendance. Are there other worship times you could attend if you will miss your regular time? Could you attend worship where you are vacationing or visiting? If your congregation doesn't broadcast worship, maybe a neighboring congregation broadcasts on the radio or online. Listen to it while outdoors or traveling. Share a note or quick message with the leader saying how you enjoyed listening and thank them for the opportunity to listen while away from home.

2. **Plan for consistent financial giving while you are away.** Can you give before you go or catch up when you return? Can you give online? Can you set up recurring giving through your bank? It's not just about paying the church electric bill while you're away, God is active in ministry and continues to change lives year-round.

3. **Share your story with others.** If you have found a way to keep worship a priority in your life during the summer, be open about your experience with others. Offer to share your story during worship, in a bulletin announcement or newsletter article.

Thanks be to God for the changing seasons and the opportunities we have to chose from, for the many gatherings of family reunions and picnics with friends, for the crops and flowers that blossom in the summer sunshine. Thanks be to God for the many gifts shared that change lives in this place!

Source: *Faith Simonieg, Assist. to the Bishop for Stewardship and Generosity. WND Synod~*

Stewardship
and
Generosity



buildkitsofcare.org



BABY CARE KITS

SOME IMPORTANT GUIDELINES TO REMEMBER

- Please include sizes between 6 and 24 months. Varying the sizes of the clothing items included will make the Baby Care Kit useful as the baby grows.
- Sweaters may be knitted or crocheted from leftover yarn, or made from heavy double knits or fleece. Select a pattern that suits your skill level. Preferred styles have buttons or ties down the front.
- Diapers can be made from flannel or even by recycling t-shirts. Download a Diaper Tip Sheet from our website.
- If knitting or crocheting receiving blankets, including one knitted/crocheted blanket and one flannel blanket will provide maximum versatility.
- Onesies can be cut and hemmed or serged to make a simple t-shirt.
- Gowns, rompers or top/pants sets can be substituted for sleepers.
- Gently used, clean clothing and blankets (no stains or tears) may be substituted for new ones. It is especially important that the items be in excellent condition, as used clothing is increasingly difficult to get through customs in many countries. Even one item that looks worn or stained to local officials can jeopardize the status of a whole shipment. All other items (diapers, towel, soap) in the Kit must be new.
- Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages or your group's name.
- Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.
- Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed.
- Do not enclose the Kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH BABY CARE KIT

- TWO** lightweight cotton t-shirts (no Onesies ®)
- TWO** long- or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet)
- TWO** receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, between 36" and 52" square
- FOUR** cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
- ONE** jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, or include a baby cap
- TWO** pairs of socks
- ONE** hand towel, dark color recommended
- TWO** or three bath-size bars of gentle soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping; no mini or hotel size bars
- TWO** diaper pins or large safety pins

HOW TO PACK YOUR PROJECT PROMISE KITS

- Wrap items in one of the receiving blankets and secure with diaper pins.
- Pack completed Kits, like items together, in boxes. Label contents in **LARGE, BLOCK LETTERS** on the outside of the boxes.
- Use strong cartons secured with packing tape, not to exceed 40 pounds.
- Do not use plastic or paper bags to pack donations.
- Include the name and address of your group or congregation on each box and label the contents

June's
Altar Focus



A PROJECT OF

Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

Sea Rose Lane By Irene Hannon Reviewed by LorRaine Riveland

Hannon steps away from her mystery writing to pen a romance novel. She brings a whole new cast of characters to life in a charming Oregon seaside village called Hope Harbor.

Eric Nash is heading back home to Hope Harbor with a broken heart. There he meets B.J. Stevens, a woman's architect. She fights for every job. She feels so alone. But she has found work here in Hope Harbor at Eric's childhood home which his father is transforming into a Bed & Breakfast. They (Eric and B.J.) join forces as Helping Hands volunteers to help the older residents of Hope Harbor.

Might they also find healing, hope, and a new beginning themselves?

Book
Report

We Need You: Church School Teachers and Volunteer Coordinator

As we look to the next school year, there is a great need and opportunity to volunteer as a **Church School Teacher** at LCC. Before September, it is hoped at least a dozen or more teachers (a minimum of six teachers for Sunday School and six teachers for Wednesday School) will be in place to allow for a team teaching approach. This will allow those teaching to alternate instruction days with another teacher and allow for more flexibility for those teaching. We encourage parents of the youth in Sunday School, as well as all church members with a desire to impact the youth of our church, to consider becoming a Church School Teacher for the 2018-2019 school year.

There is also the opportunity and need for a **volunteer Church School Coordinator**. This individual would be responsible for coordinating and setting up the weekly curriculum lessons and project materials prior to the planned lesson day. This would allow church school teachers to pick up materials on the day of the scheduled lesson and spend the full class time engaged with the students in their lesson.

If interested in becoming a Church School Teacher or the volunteer Church School Coordinator, please contact Kylie Blanchard (kylie.blanchard@hotmail.com or 391-0373).

We Need
YOU!

Why We Give

"We feel very blessed and know that all that has been given to us comes from God. We are only stewards of His world and what we give is given out of gratitude for the many blessings we receive and for the unfailing love He has for each of us." - **Roger and Esther Anderson**

The impact of your giving to the church not only supports the general operations of Lutheran Church of the Cross, but also helps us support many people, places, and activities within our church walls as well as out in the community and world. In an effort to promote stewardship and giving at Lutheran Church of the Cross throughout the year, the Church Council is sharing church members' thoughts, statements and stories on why they give to the church.

As we move through the year, working to remain fiscally responsible with the decisions impacting the church's budget, the Council also encourages you to think about *why* you give to the church and the impact of this giving.

Why We
Give

Lutheran Church of the Cross
"Making Jesus Known by Sharing Our Gifts"
Council Meeting Minutes
May 8, 2018

Meeting was called to order by President Tom Harris at 6:34pm

Attendance: Pastor Lisa, Tom Harris, Ken Will, Jon Hanson, Kylie Blanchard, Brian Johnson, Jeff Thomas, Art Wheeler, Connie Werner (Absent: Heather Martin)

Devotions: John 15:1-8 "I am the true vine...Abide in me as I abide in you."

Approval of March 13th Minutes – Ken W motion/Kylie B second/APPROVED

Calendar – Reviewed upcoming events in June, July, August

Western North Dakota Synod Assembly May 31 – June 2

Summer picnics June 13, July 11 and August 8 will begin at 5:30 with a service at 6:30, outdoors weather permitting.

Council Meetings will continue to be the second Tuesday at 6:30. C2 will not be held during the months of June, July and August.

Rosalee Stromstad funeral this Saturday at 11:00 a.m., Charter Member

Pastor Lisa

Theology on the Prairie, continuing education.

Camp of the Cross new construction is progressing, approx. \$500K short.

Janie Hague has accepted the position of Director of Discipleship and will start on July 9th.

Senior Recognition and Church School Teacher Recognition this Sunday.

Summer picnics, we should apply for a Thrivent Grant – Ken W or Gary H?

Second class of Financial Peace University graduated on April 29th.

Pastor Lisa attended the 50th anniversary of Lord of Life.

May 27th, Pastor Tim Johnson will be filling in for Pastor Lisa.

Treasurer's Report – Brian J motion/Ken W second/APPROVED

All bills and statements as of April 30th have been paid.

Page 2, Vanco charge of \$71.38.

Page 5, Profit/Loss **Jeff T motion/Jon H second/APPROVED**

April bank statements have been reconciled and registries are correct.

QuickBooks, 2017 version and Pro Advisor \$503.00, would extend out to May of 2020.

Payroll Service \$852.00, \$1,600.00 for 3-year plan would extend out to May of 2021.

Motion was made to accept the payment of \$2,103.00 for these updates. **Tom H motion/Ken W second/APPROVED**

Council Member Portfolio Discussion – Council Retreat

Building and Grounds – Jeff Thomas discussed upcoming projects

Window cleaning

Fertilize lawn

Clean-up Day on May 11

Remodel media center in sanctuary

Boulevard sign needs updating, did not replace last year due to budget concerns.

Merry-Go-Round donation of concrete edging around church

Flower planting

Suggestion for pancake breakfast for "Church Beautification"

Long range planning for Real Property Management

Old Business:

Kylie Blanchard - Youth Program Update

Youth Ed gathering, May 6th. Shared ideas of activities for youth and different age groups.

Parent involvement is important and a necessity.

Activities will begin this summer.

Ken Will – Stewardship

Invites are being made to participate in a Stewardship Planning event.

New direction for year-round stewardship.

Estate planning seminar being planned.

New Business:

Robin Johnson's request for \$20 to attend a continuing ed course was Unanimously APPROVED.

Discussed some improvements for Janie Hague's office in June.

Next Meeting: June 12th, 6:30pm

President Tom adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Thank you for what you do for Lutheran Church of the Cross!

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Hanson

Secretary

Camp of the Cross Ministries

Annual Prairie Lake Festival

Saturday, June 16th

Garrison High School Gymnasium

Rain or Shine!

AUCTION BEGINS AT 10AM

VIEWING OF AUCTION ITEMS FROM 8AM-9:30AM

BE PART OF ONE OF THE IMPORTANT FUNDRAISERS OF THE SUMMER FOR CCM!

Living Generously at LCC

As you might recall, this past fall we embarked on a new and exciting way of looking at stewardship here at LCC. We embraced the concept of "Living Generously" as a way of daily life and began by focusing on the basic principles of life long stewardship. The four basic principles are: 1.) EVERYTHING we have belongs to God! 2.) Stewardship is NOT Fundraising. Stewardship, in this new way of thinking, is about your formation and growth in Christian discipleship...it is about the health of your relationship to God. 3.) Proportional giving, and 4.) First Fruits Giving.

Pastor Lisa began a multi-week focus on Living Generously and we continue to build on that throughout this year. Among the many ways we are living generously, our "outreach" (one form of stewardship) has: given \$975.71 to C.A.R. through our "M&M" contributions; donated many items to Camp of the Cross via the Ladies Retreat and a May Altar Focus of "Mother the Camp"; planned a summer picnic schedule to invite and include neighbors and youth, including a collection donation in July to the Adult and Teen Challenge; and, are putting together Baby Care Kits (Project Promise) as our June Altar Focus.

We are very excited and looking forward to working with our new Director of Discipleship, Janie Hague, as she focuses on Youth and Family Ministry.

Looking forward, we are planning a couple hour "conversation" around LCC's Living Generously program and invite you (adults and youth) to consider joining us for an open conversation around how LCC can continue down this road of stewardship transformation. Please talk to Ken Will or Pastor Lisa. A date and time will be announced in the next few weeks. Living Generously at LCC

Living
Generously

Angels Among Us

If you don't know them, you have probably seen Jim and Kay Miller here at LCC. They are long time members and have been actively involved in many ways: as council members, youth leaders, ushers, communion assistants. Kay was frequently the assisting minister in the traditional service, and reads Scripture lessons for us now. She has been a well-received presenter for confirmation classes with her expertise on addictions. Jim served on the most recent call committee. Both have a lot to do with checking and restocking the children's activity bags for worship, and are terrific mentors for other leaders in the church.

Angels
Among Us

Thanks, Jim and Kay, for all you do!

Greetings and peace be with you!

We are finally into the start of summer, sunshine and good times at the lake, the river, or wherever your personal happy places may be. I hope everyone takes time to enjoy some time outdoors and warmer weather this year. While your out there enjoying the sunshine, I'd like to give you something to consider, at least for a moment! It's my pleasure to tell you that we have collectively improved our budget position to almost 100% for the first 5 months (January-May) of this year thanks to your generosity. Remember, these funds support our church and our missions, both globally (C.A.R.) or locally (Heart River). After posting all May gifts, the total for the first five months of this year is \$148,303, which leaves us only \$3,292 short of the budget goal over that period. This includes all sources of giving. For May 2018 specifically, giving was accounted for at \$23,661 or \$6,658 short of the monthly budget goal. However, we can thank God for our current status due to the sharing of some wonderful gifts right at the end of April.

As you all hopefully have heard, read, and discussed already, our church recently took the significant step of hiring a new Deacon of Discipleship. I won't go into where and how Janie will quickly become a vital member of our staff, but this has been needed and wanted by this church for a long time and there is a lot of excitement about her impending appearance this summer. As part of her joining the staff, we can expect that tracked and reported monthly budget goals will be increasing as approved during the January 2018 annual meeting. Starting July 1st, LCC will track an increased average monthly goal for gifts to the mission and church of \$34,639 and we'll make our first report on this revised budget in September. Having spent time with Janie, I look forward to the positive impact she is going to have in supporting discipleship for our youth and adults in short order.

Church budgets, giving, sharing of gifts and finding balance in all of our personal lives and finances can be a trying and sometimes seemingly never-ending activity. Yet, the support you provide each other, the peace you share with each other, and the ways you strive to live generously, regardless of how you achieve and share that spirit, whether through your gifts of funds, time, or cherishing one another are what make this church worth coming back to day after day after day. I have thanked God for myself and my family for the warm welcome we had the first day we walked in that door and every other time since then for these reasons.

Thank you so much for the blessing of your time and have a fantastic day!

Yours in Christ,

Tom Harris

Council
President
Letter

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
June 2018 Altar Focus: Baby Care Kits					1 Synod Assembly	2 Synod Assembly
3 9:00 Worship Team Practice 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour/	4 Vacation Bible School @ UCC 5:30 Meal 6:30 VBS	5 Vacation Bible School @ UCC 5:30 Meal 6:30 VBS	6 Vacation Bible School @ UCC 5:30 Meal 6:30 VBS	7 Vacation Bible School @ UCC 5:30 Meal 6:30 VBS 8p AA Mtg.	8 Book Club 12:30pm	9 Book Club 12:30pm
10 9:00 Worship Practice 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	11	12 Church Council 6:30p	13 Church Picnic 5:30 Worship Service 6:30	14 8p AA Mtg.	15 Newsletter deadline	16
17 9:00 Worship Team Practice 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee	18	19	20	21 8p AA Mtg.	22	23
24 9:00 Worship Team Practice 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	25 Knitting for Others 1pm	26	27 6:30am MM Bible Study	28 8p AA Mtg.	29	30 Saturday Lunch @ Trinity

SUMMER

ice cream

sunshine

FLIP FLOPS

lemonade

BARE FEET

vacation

MEMORIES

SWIMMING



Lutheran Church of the Cross
1004 E. Highland Acres Rd
Bismarck, ND 58501
701.223.1001
churchsecretary@midconetwork.com

E-NEWS

Worship Times:
Wednesday Worship
6:00pm during school
year

Sunday Worship
The River Service
10:00am

Lisa Ahlness, Pastor

Office Hours:
M -TH 8-4pm
Fri. 8-noon School Year
Summer Hours 9-1

Lutheran Church of the Cross

2018 Church Council

Tom Harris, President	390.9421
Ken Will, Vice President	258.7127
Jon Hanson, Secretary	391.3416
Jeff Thomas	955.3632
Brian Johnson	391-0872
Kylie Blanchard	391.0373
Heather Martin	202.8316

The Church Council meets once a month; the second Tuesday at 6:30pm. The Council meetings 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.

Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts