



The Cross Word

From Pastor Lisa...

Jesus said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Matthew 16:15-19

When you think about it, what an amazing way for Jesus to start the process of creating the church: he called a handful of down-to-earth guys who recognized that he (Jesus) was "the Christ, the Son of the living God." These guys hadn't even heard of offering plates, or budgets, let alone potluck dinners. They believed and they followed!

It's been many centuries since Jesus called those first followers to be the church, and through the years followers have continued to recognize Jesus as the Christ. God certainly hasn't changed, but the shape of the church has. Change is inevitable. There must have been a certain amount of trial and error all along the way as groups of believers worked hard to figure out what vision God's people should embrace.

Some things are quite different. For instance, those first twelve didn't have to deal with budgets, heat bills, maintenance, toner for copiers, offering envelopes, candles, sound systems, grass that needs cutting, snow removal, VBS themes, decisions about Christmas trees, websites, and all that it takes to keep a church facility viable and inviting. They didn't have to deal with parking by the Sea of Galilee for Jesus' next teaching. But I suspect every group of followers has had to struggle with change, new ideas and opportunities, and has had dreams for the future. We aren't so different.

Lutheran Church of the Cross

March

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We'll be doing some long range planning this year, and as we do, we will keep on talking as we journey together about God's vision and our own dreams for ministries here at LCC and far beyond. I feel privileged to (finally!) have met many of you, hearing stories of this community, reading its history and browsing through annual reports and newsletters of earlier years along the way. There have been some changes and we have lost some important people in this community. We are grateful that "we don't have to grieve as those who have no hope" - but still we have grieved the losses.

Pastor Lisa's letter continued

And yet, we are urged by God to move toward the future together, and we do so holding each other in loving community. We must not forget why we exist as the people of God in Bismarck. Lutheran Church of the Cross is a place of sanctuary; a place where the Word is preached, where the sacraments are offered; where sins are forgiven; where Christians come together to be strengthened for their journey in this life; where seekers are invited to "come and see"; where lives are changed; where souls are healed; where God is worshipped in an open and loving community; where God is present in our midst. There is such inviting friendliness, music, joy and fun in this place, even as we seek to deepen our faith together, and go out into the world to serve.

Please never forget that because God called us to be the people of God, we serve and ministry happens. Each of our gifts is important to the whole, and we are called to let our light shine. God is good, all the time.

All the time, God is good. Amen! See you in church!

Pastor Lisa



Friday Night at the Movies March 9th 6:30pm. Deb Carpenter will head up organizing the event. A potluck dinner starts the event with an enjoyable movie following the meal.

Friday
Night at
the Movies

CANCELLED

Men's Retreat - Camp of the Cross Ministries, Garrison, ND - January 26-28, 2018

Over the weekend of January 26-28, 2018, seven men of LCC participated in the Men's Retreat at Camp of the Cross Ministries near Garrison.

The weekend consisted of Bible study, singing hymns, fellowship, a work project and good food (plenty of it)! We departed the church on Friday at 4:30 and met at the Malt Shoppe in Garrison for supper, arriving at the camp between 7 and 7:30.

There was Bible study on Friday evening and Saturday morning, after lunch we gathered for the work project. This year we washed the walls in two of the cabins, in past years it has consisted of painting, cleaning and small repair work. There is also time during the afternoon for rest or recreation, a couple of the guys even ventured outside for a hike around the camp.

Gary Heaton invited four gentlemen from the Kogudus Renewal Ministry to lead us in a retreat program. Kogudus Renewal Ministry is headquartered in Great Falls, MT and conducts retreats and seminars for spiritual renewal. Gary and the four men that led our retreat program have provided this spiritual renewal inside prisons in both Montana and North Dakota, with many years of experience. It was very interesting listening to their experiences within the prison walls, sharing their faith with the inmates in these facilities.

While there is a structured program during the weekend, it is a relaxing time, from sharing God's word to visiting with the other men about anything and everything! After Bible study on Saturday evening, you can either have alone time or participate in the annual Trivial Pursuit game. The weekend concludes with a church service on Sunday morning, more singing and eating, then departing camp around 11:00.

I will be the first to confess that I was hesitant to attend my first retreat, but after going that first time, I have looked forward to the weekend every year since. I have never read the Bible like many have nor am I able to recite Bible verses from memory. While the Bible and God are the focus of the weekend, it's a comfortable setting, relaxing and fun, oh and did mention the food?

The other men that attended this year were: Baron Blanchard, Gary Heaton, John Kraft, Lee Jensen, Mike Krumwiede and Bob Wilson. Kerry Carpenter, Kent Flickinger, Paul Gurholt, Brett Gurholt and Ken Will have attended in past years. If you are interested in attending, please visit with one of us and mark the last weekend of January 25-27, 2019 on your calendar. This retreat is not just for members of LCC, it's open to all, so if you know of someone that may have some interest, please share this! If you would like more information on Camp of the Cross Ministries, go to www.campofthecross.com.

Men's Retreat Women's Retreat May 4-6, 2018
Lutheran Camp of the Cross
Friday 4:30 PM leaving from LCC and returning to LCC
Sunday about 2 PM

Cost: \$118.00 for the weekend Topic: 'Forgiveness For Freedom'

Ladies, please join your friends for a fun filled weekend at Camp of the Cross. Deb Carpenter will lead a discussion on the topic of forgiveness. Many activities have been planned including taking walks outdoors. We will enjoy breakfast and dinner on Saturday. Brunch on Sunday prepared for us in the Dining hall. Beds, bedding, and community room are also provided.

You will need to bring: cash for dinner on Friday evening, personal items, clothes for relaxing both inside and outside, at least one change of shoes/boots, in case there is mud! Plus snacks to be shared.

All are welcome! for the weekend or the day. If you can't spend the whole weekend come Saturday! Checks can be made out to 'Lutheran Church of the Cross'

Please Memo: Women's Retreat

Questions? Contact Sally Grenz: 701 390-3049

or sallygrenz@hotmail.com

I would like to give a BIG THANK-YOU to the Youth of our Church for making Valentine Greetings to be sent to some Seniors in our congregation. They were very thoughtful, creative and appreciated by those who received them.



Thanks, Pam Hanson Women's Retreat

Lutheran Church of the Cross

"Making Jesus Known by Sharing Our Gifts"
Council Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2018

Meeting was called to order by President Tom Harris at 6:35pm

Opening comments by Tom stating that this is a team, all comments and discussion are encouraged.

Devotions will expand to include additional study and group discussion.

Gospel reading for Sunday, Feb 18 is Matthew 22:34

"The Greatest Commandment" > Jesus, Others, Yourself – JOY

Approval of January 9th Minutes – Jeff T motion/Jon H second/APPROVED

Calendar – Reviewed upcoming events for February and into March **Pastor Lisa**

On Sunday, February 11th, Pastor Lisa, Pam and Jon Hanson attended the 3-hour presentation by Dr. Peter Steinke at Good Shepherd. Dr. Steinke is one of the world's foremost authorities on healthy congregations and the systems that make them work. There was some good discussion and we came away with some ideas and information that will be used during our council retreat in the spring.

Lisa will be attending a continuing education event next week, Feb 21-24. Gary Heaton will fill-in on Wednesday and Lisa is coordinating a back-up for Sunday in the event she can't make it back.

Financial Peace University (Dave Ramsey) had its first meeting at LCC on Sunday, Feb 11. This is the second class that we have hosted. Pastor Lisa was excited to report that there were 15 attendees, one from our congregation and the remaining were from other congregations! This is a great class and we encourage all to participate.

Wednesday church school will not have formal classes during Lent. They will have "fellowship" time and group activities following the service.

Treasurer's Report – Jon H motion/Jeff T second/APPROVED

The number of pledges is down for 2018, this has been the trend over the past few years. This does not necessarily reflect the amount of giving, however, it does not allow us to plan or adjust the budget accordingly.

Discussion revolved around more frequent "Giving" reminders in the Crossword and temple talks.

A poster in the gathering space that highlights our "Living Generously" talks this past year.

Personal quotes about "why I give", money, time and talents.

More awareness of our Mission giving, how much money is budgeted and where it goes.

Talk more about our accomplishments through the giving and donations we receive.

Church
Council
Minutes
February
2018

Council Member Portfolio Discussion

Council members are the liaison between the council and the committee, they are not the chair! Report to the council on any issues and concerns of the committee.

Council Liaisons should meet formally and informally at least once a quarter.

Focus on direction and budget.

Portfolio assignments:

Mission Support – Ken Will

Christian Education - Kylie Blanchard

Worship & Music – Heather Martin

Congregational Nurturing – Brian Johnson

Congregational Operations (CO) was discussed, and it was decided that while CO does include the Mission Endowment, Personnel, Budget and Nominating Committees, they meet infrequently, for specific reasons. It was decided to appoint a liaison to:

Building & Grounds - Jeff Thomas

Communications Management – Jon Hanson

This is a new area that will focus on all communications within the church, to ensure that information is disseminated to all members in a timely manner. How can we improve upon our information sharing through multiple forms of communication: Bulletin, Crossword, Facebook, Email and Website? More to follow.

Ongoing Business:

Deacon Call:

Stephen Dickens has declined our call.

A response from LCC will be drafted by Pastor Lisa and forwarded to the Council for review.

Moving forward, Youth Activities was determined to be our first priority.

We need to discuss ideas on the type activities to do, how to get parents actively involved in the planning and coordinating these activities. There are many activities that we have done in the past and could be doing again – Bowling, sledding and skiing were mentioned.

What is it we are looking for?

Review the Job Description and Scope of Responsibility

Personnel Committee will meet prior to the next Council meeting to discuss and consider options.

Timing of this to coincide with college graduations and recruitment

Pastoral Visits is the next immediate concern, how can we assist Pastor Lisa in this important task? Communion Teams was one idea.

Expenditure Policy. After some discussion, it was decided to table this topic until the March meeting. Paragraph #5 was in question and needs further discussion. It was also decided that "Purchasing Policy" is the preferred title. **Jeff T motion/Jon H second/APPROVED**

Church
Council
Meeting
Minutes
continued

Nominating Committee – Representatives to the Camp of the Cross Annual Meeting on Feb 25

Pastor Lisa will announce this again this Wednesday and Sunday Those planning on going are: Pastor Lisa, Jon Hanson and Jeff Thomas

Council Retreat. This was tabled for further discussion at the March meeting.

New Business:

Council received a "request" to add two additional interior signs, one for the Worship Coordinator and one for the Treasurer. Tabled until March meeting, waiting for the cost of these signs and further discussion.

Pastor Lisa led us in closing prayer

President Tom adjourned the meeting at 8:54pm

Lots of great discussion, thank you for what you do for Lutheran Church of the Cross!

What is an Easter Vigil and why is it on our calendar?

Good question! Glad you are wondering! The Great Vigil of Easter traditionally happened on Holy Saturday, the night before Easter. This was the night that Jesus passed from death into new life, and was when new followers were brought into the faith and family of Jesus Christ through baptism. A new fire was lit (the Christ candle having been extinguished on Good Friday). Imagine a grand-parent-storyteller around a campfire weaving the tales that make us a family, and you get the idea.

This year we are joining together with the same churches with whom we shared Thanksgiving to hold a brief Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday. It will be held right up the block at the United Church of Christ on Highland Acres Road at 7 p.m. on March 31st. The very interesting service includes Fire, Word, Water (remembrance of our baptism), and Communion. You are all invited!

New Members!

We would like to welcome our newest members at Lutheran Church of the Cross! As you meet or get to know these folks, make sure to tell them your favorite aspects of LCC, and invite them to join you in them! Sponsors are listed in parentheses:

Jim and Diane Klein (Val and Mark Kunze)

Ron Koffler (Sheila Koffler)

Sharon Kocourek (AJ Marx)

JoAnn Neu (Kylie and Baron Blanchard)

Darcy and Sara Rosendahl (Jon and Pam Hanson)

Scott and Nikki Sommers, Hartley and Harper (Cat Staloch)

Church Council Minutes January 2018

> Easter Vigil

New Members

Current General Fund Summary

Hello brothers and sisters in Christ, Peace be with you!

As part of the council's responsibility, you've charged us to keep everyone transparently engaged and informed on our church activities, our mission, and our goals. Making Jesus known by sharing our gifts includes actively living and giving as a council through servant-based leadership. As part of our leadership responsibilities, we want to make sure we are also sharing with you how, as a church body, we are doing in meeting our financial goals.

First, it's important to note that Art Wheeler is doing a fantastic job guiding and advising the council. As part of his work, Art was instrumental in helping the church make two major changes in the last year-1) Transition from a building bank loan to smaller lower interest loans as we continue to pay off the expansion and improvement of the church facilities; and 2) consolidation of church finances into a single general fund versus separate general and building funds so that we can all truly appreciate the costs of supporting the church, the staff, and the overall church mission. Thanks Art!

At the January 2018 LCC annual meeting, the Congregation adopted a General Fund budget of \$432,588. If you weren't able to attend the meeting, I highly encourage you to reach out to Connie for an email copy to better understand what we want to accomplish. First and foremost, the church staff, the committees, and the council have been diligent in ensuring that our monthly expenses are being met for January and February. Sadly, part of that came about due to Mr. Dickens and his family ultimately deciding after much prayer and thought that this was not a good time for them to be undergoing a major move. We wish Steve God's blessing as they continue their ongoing adoption process.

Based on the original budget, supporting our planned mission work for 2018 can be measured as a monthly average contribution total of \$36,049. Not having an additional staff person **currently** reduces that monthly needed contribution to \$30,319 until we are able to successfully complete a hiring process. That monthly total also includes the Promissory Note monthly transfer. However, the church body and staff have stressed the need to the council that we should continue our search for a suitable replacement that can meet our needs. Based on current giving, as of February 20th, total General Fund contributions were \$40,330, or 77.6% of the average monthly current budget.

I'm pretty sure most everyone will agree with me that giving and generosity are not based on averages, they're based on people and need. So I want to continue to encourage you to give what your heart leads you to and we will trust to God to take this church and church body in the direction we need to go. As the year progresses, your church council will continue to follow, report, and make decisions on your behalf, so that we serve God, serve our fellow human beings, and our church with excellence, integrity, and selfless as Christ would have us all do. Additionally, the council, committees, and executive council will continue to look for other fun and engaging ways to bring us together, raise funds for the church mission, and share the peace of Christ, which surpasses all understanding.

The blessings of this church are many. Many volunteers work daily to reach out to the community, to serve our brothers and sisters, and to make contact with those in need. God's blessings to LCC members are plentiful because you share your giving hearts each and every day. God bless you all!

Yours in Christ, Tom Harris, Council President

General Fund Summary

STEWARDSHIP IN LENT

The blessed season of Lent this year began on Ash Wednesday, February 14. For many Christians, this is their favorite season of the church year. Lent brings unique gifts and growth in God's grace, by His wonderful Word and Holy Spirit.

The tone of your life adjusts. You take more moments to quiet down and rest in Jesus. You touch again the depth of God's work in you and in the world. You enjoy fellowship with brothers and sisters, given by Christ. You see how what is somber, reflective, and repentant can lead to resurrection, joy, and the renewed life that God constantly visits on you.

In Luke 10, we visit the home of Martha and Mary. I can relate to Martha's regret. Can you?

Martha's Regret, (source: The NIV Stewardship Bible)
The moment I realized Jesus was really coming, the lists began to form in my head - the things I needed to hide or heave, cook or clean, buy or beg before he came through my door. After all, he'd be in my house, seeing the intimate details of how I lived, from the aroma of my bread to the dust on my furniture.

And he wouldn't be coming alone. He always traveled with his disciples and sometimes an entourage of friends. There was no way of knowing how many to expect - how much food and drink to prepare, how many dishes we would need not to mention whether he and his friends would require overnight accommodations.

An as a woman and head of the household, fulfilling these responsibilities was expected of me. I knew more than anyone what my household lacked, how much work it would take to prepare everything to a standard acceptable for Jesus.

In the end, the greatest lack that day was the lack in my own heart. I didn't see that Jesus didn't come to critique the food or to inspect my housekeeping. He never asked me to sweep away my messes or hid the clutter. He offered me the delight of sitting at his feet - a beloved follower and a cherished friend. He came to be with me, just the way I was.

This Lent, don't be too busy to sit at the Savior's feet. Take time to enjoy a living, personal relationship with Jesus. ~Faith Simonieg, Serving as Assist. to the Bishop for Stewardship and Generosity, WND Synod, ELCA.

Stewardship In Lent

Lent - Easter 2018 Service Schedule

Lent Services
Every Wednesday from February 14 -March 21 at 6:00pm
"What's in a Name...Monologues and Dramas"

Lenten Soup Supper served at 4:45 -5:45pm

Sundays during Lent: "Living Generously" a film series and discussion

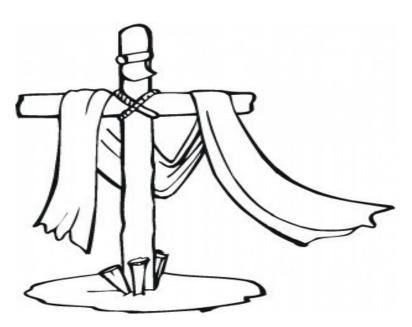
Palm Sunday Service, Sunday, March 25 10:00am

Maundy Thursday Service, Thursday, March 29 7:00pm

Good Friday Service, Friday, March 30 7:00pm

Easter Vigil, Saturday, March 31 7:00pm at Bismarck United Church of Christ

Easter Morning Service Sunday, April 1 at 8:00am and 10:00am Easter Breakfast (light) 9:00—11:30



Lent and Easter Schedule

HELP HEAT THE CHURCH



LCC is so grateful to the individuals and families who have contributed to the Heat the Church funds during this cold winter season. February contributors were: the Tiffany Family, Merry Go Round, Carol Arntson, Helen Tessmann, Cindy & Mark Fliginger, Karen and Darryl Dolan, Marjo & Jim Hewitson, Redg & Susan Finck, Mark Kunze family, Doug & Deanna Johnson. the Zinsli family, Kay Koch, Art & Florence Wheeler, Cheryl Neu. Thank you for helping to keep the church warm!

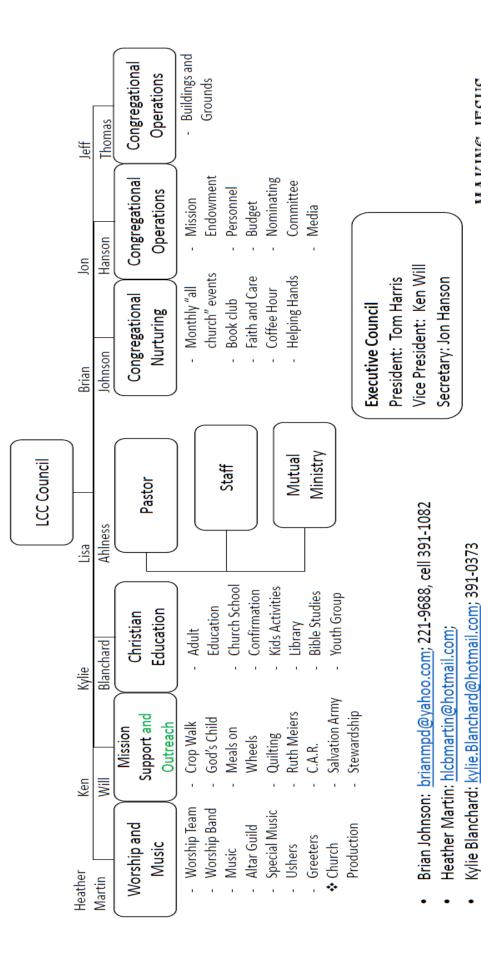
Heat the Church

Angels Among Us

They are often here, so no doubt you have seen Keven and Janice Martin, whether you've met them or not. Janice is the "J" in Lady J's Catering, their business which is based out of the Municipal Country Club in Bismarck. Janice supplies the soups to the Faith and Care groups for the delicious Lenten soup suppers (and gives us a great rate besides). She and Keven also supply the yummy juices that you'll notice are always available at LCC events. Keven even brought his newest piece of equipment over to brush off the latest layer of snow on the parking lot, making it much safer for all and enabling it to melt quickly when the sun came out. Keven and Janice, we are grateful for all you do, and the great hospitality you add to LCC!

Angels Among Us

(Note to all: Angels Among Us is one of the favorite new CrossWord features. Please don't feel slighted if your name has not yet been drawn from the near-endless well of gifted volunteers that make LCC run so seamlessly – we only mention one person or couple per month! Do not doubt that YOU too are appreciated!!)



MAKING JESUS SHARING OUR KNOWN BY

Pastor Lisa Ahlness: lisaahlness@hotmail.com; 258-6573, cell 220-9011

Fom Harris: tharrislcc@gmail.com; 751-6371, cell 390-9421

Ken Will: kenwill@bektel.com; 258-7127, cell 226-5670

Jon Hanson: jdhanson56@gmail.com; 391-3416

Jeff Thomas: tjeffrey45@yahoo.com; 258-1395, cell 955-3632

Connie Werner: churchsecretary@midconetwork.com; 701-223-1001

Artists Celebrating Christ in March

The 2018 Artist Celebrating Christ event will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church on Friday and Saturday, March 16th and 17th. The arts celebration will feature a student art display, student music, art demonstrations and art classes for all ages.

This event is free and open to the public. Registration fees apply only for the art classes offered on Saturday, March 17.

Registration for classes is now open online at www.accartshow.com.

Classes include:

"Creating Beautiful Silk Paintings with God's creation"

With Rebecca Young-Sletten

"Cubist Cross- Picasso style"
With Nina Loeks/Art from the Heart

"Celebrating Creation" Oil Paint
With Larry Maslowski

"Liturgical Symbols" Glass Mosaics
With Kathy Luther
Live art demonstrations will include:
Leathercraft carving and painting: Artist Chip Liebel
Acrylic Painting: Artist Kimberly Wetzel
"Pysanky" (Ukrainian Easter Eggs) Artist: Avalyn Ennen
"Iconography, Doorway to Heaven"; Artist Barbara Boschee

Checkout the poster on the bulletin board for more details.

Artists
Celebrating
Christ
In
March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
March Calendar 2018	Altar Focus: M&M's for CAR			1 Quilting 1pm 8p AA Mtg.	2	3 4:30p Optional Sm Group River
						practice
 4 9:00 Worship Team Practice 9:15 Church School 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour/New Member Reception 7pm Financial Planning 	5 Beer & Hymns @ Harvest Bra- zilian Grill in Mandan 7pm 21 yrs.+	9	7 Supper 5:00-5:45 5:35 Wed. W. Practice Wed. Worship/ 6p NO Church School/or Confirmation 7p River Practice 7p	8 Quilting 1pm 8p AA Mtg.	6	10 Book Club 12:30pm 4:30p Optional Sm Group River practice
9:00 Worship Practice 9:15 Church School 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour 7pm Financial Planning	12	13 Supper 5p C2 Mtgs 5:30p Church Council 6:30p	14 Supper 4:45-5:45 5:35 Wed. W. Practice Lenten Worship 6p NO Church school/or Confirmation Group 7p River Practice 7p	15 Quilting 1pm 8p AA Mtg.	16	4:30p Optional Sm Group River practice
9:00 Worship Team Practice 9:15 Church School 10:00 Worship/Baptism 11:00 Coffee 7pm Financial Planning	19 Newsletter deadline	20 ELCA Bible Study 3p First day of spring	Lenten Soup Supper 4:45-5:45 5:35 Wed. W. Practice Lenten Worship 6p No Church school/or Confirmation: 7p Large group	22 Quilting 1pm 8p AA Mtg.	23	24 4:30p Optional Sm Group River practice
25 Palm Sunday 9:00 Worship Team Practice 9:15 Church School 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour 7pm Financial Planning	26 Knitting for Others 1pm	27	28 6:30a MM Bible Study @ Panera's No church activities	29 Maundy Thursday 7pm First Communion	30 Good Friday Service at 7pm	314:30p Optional Sm Group River practice Easter Vigil 7 pm @ UCC. We are participating.



The Bismarck-Mandan Newcomers Club is sponsoring a Charity Bucket Raffle Tuesday, April 4 at Lord of Life Lutheran Church 7pm. The recipient is **Heavens Helpers Soup Café**. There is a wide variety of items being offered for the suction. Doors open early for you to browse the items..

EXTRAS

Kat Perkins is performing March 8 at the Belle Mehus Auditorium. All proceeds benefit local families in need. (See posters on bulletin board for more information about concert and raffle.)



C2 and Church Council Meetings



The next Church Council Meeting is at 6:30pm Tuesday, March 13. A light supper at 5:00pm is planned. The C2 committees meet at 5:30. Council meetings are open to everyone. If you have an item to come before the Council, please contact Tom Harris prior to the meeting.

C2
Supper
5pm
C2
Committ
ee
Mtgs.
5:30
Church
Council
6:30pm

1004 E Highland Acres Rd Bismarck ND 58501 Phone:701.223.1001

churchsecretary@midconetwork.com

E-News

Worship Times: Wednesday Worship 6:00pm

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 Mon.—Fri

Lutheran Church of the Cross

2018 Church Council

20 10 Charch 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 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

Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts