



The Cross Word

From Pastor Lisa

"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel..." Phil. 1:3-5

Have you ever sat back like a fly on the wall and watched what goes on during a typical week at Lutheran Church of the Cross?

I haven't, really, because when I'm here I'm generally wrapped up in one aspect or another of a busy day at church. In some ways I am like a visitor....with the added bonus of knowing a bit about what goes on. But I think it would be great to be a fly on the wall in this place.

Here's why it would be great: it's INCREDIBLE how many people are involved and in how many ways! I've been thinking about this lately. Do you know what I see?

I see council leaders envisioning our ministry's future and taking charge of countless projects and property issues and challenging us in mission. I see committees hard at work, planning events and service and mission projects; learning and seeking new ways of being church, together. I see the personnel/call team diligently working to find our next pastoral and youth leader, and others eagerly anticipating this new beginning. I see numerous willing helpers designing and buying needed supplies for serving and honoring and having fun together, and others preparing for spring cleaning day. I see folks knitting together to care for others; reading books and talking about them to spend time together and stretch themselves, too. I see some attentively sending cards to others in moments of need.

I see so many serving our congregation, visibly and invisibly. Some greet people they don't recognize - and those they do - with warm smiles and friendly conversation. Some make and serve coffee and goodies after worship and when a member of our fellowship has died. Some make our kitchen dance its work for dinners together and grand events.

Lutheran Church of the Cross

May
2018

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Some share their gifts of music. Some prepare the altar and beautify the space around us. Some sponsor flowers to grace our sanctuary. Many teach and lead and mentor, in church school and confirmation, adult studies and VBS, and informally, too. Some create beautiful and practical quilts to share with those in need near and far. Some share gifts of insight, and thoughtfulness, pure fun and laughter.

I see folks studying God's word together and sharing sorrows and joys in its light. I see many praying for one another and our world.

What do I see? I see Jesus, reflected in you. THANK YOU for all you give of yourself. Thank you for who you are - a beloved member of this family!

See you in church! Blessings!

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but the same Lord originates them in everyone. To each is given a manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." I Corinthians 12:4-7

Honoring our Graduates

We will be honoring our soon-to-be-high-school-graduates on Sunday, May 13th, and Wednesday, May 16th with receptions after worship. (These worship services will also be led by our youth!) Come and greet these young adults and wish them well:

Trey Mikel Bergan, Century High School

Logan Flickinger, Shiloh Christian High School

Macy Markovic, Century High School

Natalie Tufte, Century High School

Vacation Bible School is coming!

Monday – Thursday, June 4-7, 6- 8 p.m. at the United Church of Christ! Our theme this year is Avalanche Ranch. Watch for more details!

M & M containers

If you have found empty or partially filled M & M containers (with quarters) laying around your home it is not too late to turn them in either with a check or \$14 in quarters. Our time turn the money in to the Synod is at the Synod Assembly which will be held June 1 & 2 here in Bismarck.

**Pastor Lisa's
letter
continued**

Annual Spring Fling

The Seasons of Our Lives

Save the Date May 19th as we celebrate the **SEASONS OF OUR LIVES**. Come join us for our Annual Spring Fling, May 19th from 2:00-4:00pm at LCC. An enjoyable afternoon is being planned of fun, food and fellowship for all our young-at-heart members and friends. Please invite a friend to join you! The more the merrier. If you would like a ride to this event, or for further questions, please contact Sally Grenz #751-1882 or Pam Hanson #391-4897.

THANK YOU!! to all who contributed to GABR through the teams Spirit, Reece's Pieces, and Reece's Pieces 2. Together the three teams raised \$6,521! Overall, the Great American Bike Race realized \$420,970.82. That will buy lots of equipment for kids and adults like Reece and AJ.

Wednesday Worship Schedule for Summer

Wednesday, May 16 will be our last regular Wednesday evening worship for the school year. During the summer, we will have worship (informal and outside as weather permits!) each second Wednesday following a picnic! Watch for further details!

Parents! Kids ages 5-18! Join us for the Youth Conclave! A cool name for a cool chance to get together and brainstorm/dream/plan some upcoming youth activities and events for summer and fall. We will meet Sunday afternoon, May 6, at 3 p.m. There will be treats. Don't miss it!

Gospel Seeds - May 2018

A Monthly Update from Western ND Synod Staff

A Word of Welcome...

If you stop by the synod office at the right time you will see a new face. We are glad to welcome Matthew Nygard as our new Financial Specialist. Matthew began training in mid- April. He will be responsible for working with Accounting Solutions in Minot to track Mission Support shared with the synod, pay expenses and work to share Mission Support with the partner ministries we support.

Matthew is husband to Dina, dad to three kids, member of Faith Lutheran, Bismarck. He is also a former ELCA Missionary to Cameron, a graduate of Concordia College and has an MBA from the University of Mary.

Matthew will work part-time. We continue to work on what that schedule looks like. This staff move continues our re-organization of our office functions so that we can best use the financial gifts which are shared with us.

LYO Leadership Shifting...

About six months ago we began dreaming about providing support for those who work with Faith Formation in congregations within our synod. We had begun to notice that more congregations are hiring lay staff to engage this ministry. We began to brainstorm ways synod staff could mentor and provide connections to these leaders.

Beth Anderson, Assistant to the Bishop for Candidacy, Faith Formation and Communication will be developing a network to provide support to these congregational staffers. She plans to use both face to face gatherings and technology like "Zoom" to meet virtually.

To make room for this work Beth will step down as coordinator of the synod's LYO program - she will continue to relate to the group. We are glad to announce that Ashley Tangen Greenwood has agreed to take on the coordination of LYO. Welcome Ashley - we are sharing your gifts with the synod.

A huge word of thanks for the Mission Support you are sharing with the synod - together we are lifting-up new leaders, growing faith, sending missionaries and helping congregations define and engage in ministry. Your generosity is a blessing!

Registration Open!

Synod Assembly Registration is now open. Plan to join us for a faith building event. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton will be with us beginning with the Pre-Assembly Workshop which is scheduled for Thursday, May 31st. The Pre-Assembly Workshop will be an opportunity to engage in conversation around where our church is now and to consider where God might be calling us into the future. On Thursday morning Bishop Eaton will be the featured presenter. Following lunch there will be a series of workshops offered to help those present build their skills.

Lord of Life Lutheran will once again host the Mission Gala on Thursday evening, May 31st. On the menu will be grilled steak or chicken. The congregation's chefs are planning the meal now. You will be treated to a live auction and a silent auction as well. All proceeds of this night benefit the Western North Dakota Mission Endowment Fund.

**Gospel
Seeds**

**Bishop
Mark Narum**

A Good Read...

I was gifted with a copy of "The Scattering" by Dwight L. Dubois. On a never-ending plane trip to Chicago (boy let me tell you do I have stories to tell) I was able to read almost all of the book.

DuBois main premise is that the church does a good job of gathering people together, but we have work to do in recognizing that as the people in the pews scatter to the world they have incredible opportunities to be the body of Christ for the sake of others.

This very Lutheran-centric read draws us back to an understanding that in baptism all followers of Christ are joined to the body of Christ and gifted with abilities to serve others. However, we have not done a good job of helping people understand and live into this way of living. DuBois has a sense that engaging in such work could change the world. I commend this book to you.

Rev. Mark Narum

Serving as Bishop of the Western North Dakota Synod

Missouri Slope Lutheran Care Center Hosts Golf Event

Please make plans to join us for a new and one of a kind fundraising event on June 8th! The 1st Annual Hillview Cup will take place at Golf Etc. on June 8th and you don't want to miss it. This event is a team long drive contest where teams of four will have 30 minutes to drive a golf ball as many times and as far as they can. The total cumulative yardage will be totaled to determine the event winner. The event runs from 9am-6pm using the golf simulators at Golf Etc. Teams will sign up for 45-minute time slots after they register for the event. Join us for prizes, food and fun all to benefit a good cause! Register or get more information at www.mslcc.com/hillviewcup.

What: The 1st Annual Hillview Cup

When: Friday, June 8th from 9am-6pm

Where: Golf Etc., 228 W. Front Ave, Bismarck

Contact: Jessica Gilbertson at 701-221-9349

Thank you to Spildes! & Update on Dan's Supermarket Receipts

We have run right past the \$150,000 goal in Dan's Supermarket receipts and earned our first check for \$1000! This one is designated for youth activities. We are already on the way to a second. Thanks for bringing your receipts to help the effort!

Special thanks to Laurie and Jon Spilde for collecting, collating, recording and sending in all the receipts. No small effort, and much appreciated!

**Gospel Seeds
continued**

Golf Event

**Dan's
Supermarket**

Lutheran Church of the Cross

Purchasing POLICY

Adopted April 10th 2018

In the interest of consistency and of reaffirming the responsibility of the Church Council to oversee the finances of the Church, the Council hereby establishes the following policies and procedures for agreements and contracts for goods and services to be paid for out of Church funds. Except as provided below, no individual or group shall enter into any oral or written agreement for goods or for services without the express consent of the Council.

Standing Committees or Staff, after approval by Pastor, with budgeted expenditures have the authority to purchase goods if sufficient funds have been voted for in the annual budget. If no funds have been allocated for that purpose or if the committee/staff person wishes to exceed the amount allocated in the budget, it shall submit the proposed expenditure to the Treasurer, who shall submit it to the Council (and/or the Executive Committee if under \$500.00) for their approval before making an order. No Committee or Staff shall exceed expenditure of 50% of their allocated budgeted amount prior to 120 days into the fiscal year, without Executive Committee and/or Council approval. Typically, most anticipated expenditures (except normal monthly expenditures such as utilities, long-term contracted monthly services or on-going lease payments) should be brought to the Council for approval before expenditure.

Standing committees or Staff have the authority to enter into contracts or agreements for products and services in amounts up to \$500 if the term of the contract will not extend into the following fiscal year and if sufficient funds have been voted for that specific committee/staff purpose in the annual budget. In all other cases the committee shall submit any proposed contract to the Council before making any commitment to the proposed provider.

In addition to the above provisions, all contracts for \$500 or more may be entered into only after obtaining at least two bids from different providers. Proposals submitted to the Council, by the Committee, under this policy shall include all bids received and the reasons for the committee's choice among those bids.

All Committee, Staff and volunteers shall consider the current and anticipated future financial situation of the Church, the priorities of the congregation, and the need for the goods or services before making a decision.

If it approves expenditures not provided for in the budget or exceeding budget allocations, it shall submit its recommendations, including a proposed source for the funds, to the Executive Committee and/or Council, for approval.

All personal invoices and/or personal expenses submitted to the Treasurer shall be brought to the Council at its next regularly scheduled meeting for approval prior to the Church paying it.

Purchasing
Policy

Adopted
April 10,
2018

Lutheran Church of the Cross
“Making Jesus Known by Sharing Our Gifts”
Council Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2018

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

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

Devotions: Prayer led by Pastor Lisa

Approval of March 13th Minutes – Jeff T motion/Kylie B second/APPROVED

Calendar – Reviewed upcoming events in April

Pastor Lisa

Future of Lunch At First (LAF) is in question and is being reviewed by the participating churches. It is noted that LCC recommends maintaining LAF as an opportunity for outreach and a benefit to students.

Pastor Lisa will absent on May 6 and 27, Pastors Gary Heaton and Tim Johnson will fill-in. WND Synod assembly is on May 31, June 1&2 at the Ramkota. Bishop Eaton, Presiding ELCA Bishop, is the speaker at the Pre-Assembly on Thur, May 31. Synod Assembly reps are Tom Harris and Jeff Thomas. Council members are encouraged to attend.

Hunger Ride on May 31, LCC will host, details to follow.

Financial Peace University continues to meet every Sunday evening into April.

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

All bills and statements as of March 31 have been paid.

A 2018 prepaid income general journal entry was made for \$1,525.00.

March bank statements have been reconciled and registries are correct.

Total income for March was \$32,286.22, which exceeded expenditures of \$22,294.78 by \$10,592.00 less than the budget goal.

(Art Wheeler email, dtd April 16, 2018) A gift of \$8,000 was received on April 15 and was deposited in the general fund. Additionally, regular contributions were several thousand dollars above what we expected. The result is that the total 2018 income is now \$110,757. The current budget goal (without additional full-time staff) is \$121,276. We have two Sundays left in April to hopefully receive the \$10,519 difference.

Council Member Portfolio Discussion – Council Retreat

Old Business:

Staff Position Discussion

The candidate for the position of Deacon of Discipleship was interviewed on April 9 by members of the council.

It was decided that we should proceed with the next step, which is a second interview. This interview will be Pastor Lisa, Kylie Blanchard and a couple of church school teachers.

A compensation package will be reviewed.

Council Retreat, April 14, 9:00am to 1:00pm

Church interior signage was discussed, and it was decided that we should hold off on additional signs at this time. We will consider additional signs as the budget allows.

The Purchasing Policy was discussed and approved with a couple of minor changes.

Overall, comments regarding the Easter services was positive.

Sound system, possible replacement of Pastor Lisa’s microphone.

New Business:

Merry-Go-Round has indicated that they will only have school in the mornings during the 2019 school year.

Next Meeting: May 8th, 6:30pm

President Tom adjourned the meeting at 8:15pm

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Hanson

Secretary

Pax (Program of Academic Exchange) Representative; Kim Hegel looking for families to host a foreign exchange students for the school year 2018-2019. You pick the country, male or female and I match some students with your hobbies, likes, interests, etc. for you to chose from. Host families supply a bed, place to study, 3 meals a day and the love of your family. The students have their own health insurance and spending monies. Call or email today for more information: Kimberly Hegel 701/471/7529; kimhegel@gmail.com or www.Pax.org.

Why We Give

"God asks all people to give or share our talents for the betterment of all. We give our money so that our Father's house and the place that we gather will continue to operate. We give of our time and talents so that the Church continues to operate smoothly. Also, God has told us that absolutely everything we have comes from him and that we shall be good stewards of all of it." - **Jeff and Barb Thomas**

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.

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 next September, it is hoped at least a dozen or more teachers (a minimum of 6 teachers for Sunday School and 6 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 will allow for more flexibility for those teaching. We encourage both parents of the youth in Sunday School, as well as all church members with a desire to impact and teach 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).

There are many **Volunteer Opportunities** at Lutheran Church of the Cross. Activities, events, and daily operations are largely volunteer driven and sharing your time, talents and gifts greatly impact the church. If you can think of a need, chances are it needs to be met. Please don't hesitate to share your gifts and talents at LCC - all are welcome!

Why I
Give?

Volunteer
YOU
are
Needed!

1ST ANNUAL HILLVIEW CUP

Team Long Drive Event
Hosted by Missouri Slope Lutheran Care Center



June 8th, 2018
9 AM - 6 PM
Golf Etc.
211 W Front Ave, Bismarck

\$200 Team Minimum - 4
Players
www.mslcc.com/hillviewcup

Hillview
Cup

Missouri
Slope
Lutheran
Care
Center
Fundraiser

Hillview Cup Sponsorship Opportunities

DRIVING SPONSOR

- \$2,000 - Only 5 available
- Exclusive signage up at 1 of 5 golf bays
- Company representatives can distribute promotional materials at event and network with participants
- Event webpage recognition
- Social media recognition
- Logo on sponsor banner and event t-shirts

CHIPPING SPONSOR

- \$750
- Social media recognition
- Logo on sponsor banner and event t-shirts

PUTTING SPONSOR

- \$300
- Logo on sponsor banner and event t-shirts

Hillview
Cup

Missouri
Slope
Lutheran
Care
Center
Fundraiser

Sponsor Name:

Sponsor Level:

Email Address:

Address:

Return this form and check to:
MSLCC Foundation
2425 Hillview Ave, Bismarck ND 58501



June 8, 2018
9 AM - 6 PM
Golf Etc., Bismarck

Team Long Drive Event to
benefit Missouri Slope
Lutheran Care Center's
Foundation

LCC Now Has New (Electronic!) Ways to Give to God!

Check out these new, easy ways to give electronically, right from your smartphone! You may call the office and ask Pr. Lisa anytime (she's been practicing). But not to worry, it's easy! As long as you use the same email address for all, these gifts also sync completely with our current online giving option from our website, so your giving history is complete and can be accessed from either.

Now you can make a contribution by text!

Get Started: Enter LCC's Give+ text number - 701-969-7030 -- and text the amount you wish to donate to that number. For example, text 25 to the number above for a \$25 donation.

Register: You will receive a registration link (the first time only). Click the link and enter your contact and payment information. Note: this will not be a charge that goes on your phone bill, like you might be familiar with if you remember giving to the earthquake in Haiti, say, a few years ago. For this text giving, you enter a credit or debit card number, and that is what the donation is charged to.

Give: After registration is complete, you'll receive a verification text as well as a receipt via email.

Repeat: If you want to make the gift a recurring one, text the word repeat and it will process automatically annually, quarterly, monthly or weekly, as you choose.

Or, give through the Give + Mobile App

You can download the app for free from the App Store. Simply search for "give plus church" to quickly find and start using the app. It's easy to make a one-time or recurring donations to multiple funds with your credit or debit card.

You can also choose whether to donate as a guest or set up an account (again, registration is a one-time event) that allows you to securely and conveniently manage, schedule and review donations using Touch ID, PIN or password.

To use, enter the church's name: Lutheran Church of the Cross. (There are a couple other Churches of the Cross in the country, so make sure it's ours, in Bismarck. Your device will remember which one once you've chosen it.) Click **Donate Now**. Choose the fund to which you'd like to give and a preset amount, or enter another amount. (Click *Make Another Donation* to make additional gifts in the same transaction). Click **Next** to scan or enter your credit card information. Review your donation summary and select *Complete Donation*. And that's it!

There are explanation sheets with screenshots of what each step looks like on your phone that you can pick up from the oak cabinet in the narthex at church.

**Electronic
Giving**

If it seems odd to not put something in the offering plate as it goes by, please pick up one of the laminated "I give electronically" cards - they are colored and are wallet-sized - from the usher's tables in the back and place that in the offering plate.

These are great tools for us to have, especially as summer arrives and many of us aren't in worship as frequently. LCC still counts on our offerings, and now we can share from wherever we are! We hope you enjoy these new ways to share your generosity, and we thank you for supporting Lutheran Church of the Cross!

**Electronic
Giving**

LCC Promissory Notes supported by General Operating Fund

Greetings LCC brothers and sisters! As we've said before, 2018 involved some major financial decisions which will lead to some great events in the history of our mission. The adoption of the 2018 LCC General Operating Budget included incorporating the former Building Fund into the General Budget. The Building Fund had been used to make monthly payments to the American Bank Center to repay the Phase I/II construction loan. Beginning this year, all monthly transfers to the Promissory Note Reserve Fund previously made by the Building Fund will be made from the General Operating Fund. These transfers are \$5,700 per month. They will continue until July 2023. At that time, the Church will have retired the building debt. That goal is only five years away!

Perhaps a little history of the Promissory Note program is in order. In 2013, the LCC Church Council accepted loans from church members to reduce the Phase I/II mortgage loan with the American Bank Center. The original sum of the Promissory Note #1 (PN1) loan/prepayment was \$190,000. To date, \$30,000 principal of those notes has been redeemed and interest has been paid.

In 2017, church members made additional \$279,000 in Promissory Note/loans (PN2 & PN3) available to the church to further reduce the ABC construction loan. The total of the Notes paid off the ABC loan and eliminated the bank mortgage. The \$5,700 monthly transfers to the Promissory Note Reserve Fund will pay the current eighteen note holders semi-annual interest of 3% on their note principal and accrue principal for redemption of the notes.

The current total of unpaid Promissory Notes is \$424,000. The payment schedule will accrue \$48,860 in interest by July 2023. The total of \$472,860 in principal and interest, scheduled to be retired in 2023, will be redeemed by \$78,620 this year, \$76,170 in 2019, \$48,920 in 2020, \$97,425 in 2021, \$54,800 in 2022 and finally \$116,925 in 2023.

We as a church body will continue to complete the monthly transfers to the Promissory Note Reserve Fund with the goal of accomplishing this total repayment based on the schedule outlined above and as part of the General Operating Fund goals we set together. Once complete, the church council and church body will have the opportunity to reassess where we are and where God is leading LCC to go. Thank you so much for your generosity and gifts throughout this repayment process. If anyone would like to learn more about our budget and the history of the building fund, please do reach out to a council member and we'll be glad to visit with you about it. Thanks for your time and God bless!

**Promissory
Notes**

**General
Operating
Funds**

Thank God for our food

God said [to Adam and Eve], 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. -**Genesis 1:29**

There's an old joke about the first-grade teacher who asks her class, "Where do apples come from?" Little Jenny speaks up: "From the supermarket!"

We laugh, but the sad truth is that many of us are so far removed from farms that we forget that our food -- every bite -- comes from life, life that God alone created. Yes, farmers sow seeds and care for the plants and trees, but it's God's miracle of life that makes them grow.

As stewards and disciples, we desire to cultivate in ourselves and our communities a deep appreciation for all God provides us, particularly what we need to live. With every mouthful at every meal we thank God for our daily bread, and for the soil, air and water that sustains life.

Easter and springtime are perfect occasions to celebrate God's miracle of life that gives us fruit, vegetables, grains, meat, fish and dairy foods. Here are some ideas:

In saying mealtime grace, thank God not only for food, but also for the cycles of seedtime, growth and harvest. Thank God for life-nourishing soil, water and air.

While eating discuss or ponder the origins of the variety of food on your plate. How and where are the plants grown or animals raised? How do they get to your kitchen?

As a church or family, celebrate Earth Day (Sunday, April 22) by learning about food production and how climate change, pollution and economics impact our food supply.

Celebrate Earth Day by planting a garden in your yard or community garden on church grounds.

Learn about nutrition -- what foods are the best and worst for us, and why. Promote healthy eating.

Learn about food waste in our culture and take steps to reduce it in your home.

At church, reserve a Sunday for a special service highlighting creation and food. Maybe "Blessing of the Seeds," or the ancient "Rogation Sunday" ritual.

We live in a culture where food is all around us all the time. As steward-disciples, we want to be sure not to take even a mouthful for granted.

--**Rob Blezard**

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Stewardship



HOLY LAND HERITAGE

January 25 – February 3, 2019

\$3,675 *BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

Single Supplement Add \$445

Hosted by Pastor Lisa Ahlness – Lutheran Church of the Cross

- R/T Air - Bismarck
- 4 Star Accommodations
- Baggage Handling at Hotel
- 15 Included Meals
- Caesarea Maritima
- Plain of Jezreel
- Nazareth
- Sea of Galilee
- Beth Saida, Capernaum, Chorazin
- Jordan Valley
- Caesarea Philippi
- Golan Heights
- Beth Shean, Ein Harod, Jericho
- Mt. of Olives
- Bethlehem
- Jerusalem
- Dead Sea
- Ein Gedi
- Dung Gate
- Western Wall
- King David's Tomb
- Mt. Zion

*Passport is required

Valid for 6 months
beyond travel date.

Bethlehem

Sea of Galilee

Nazareth

Jerusalem

Dead Sea

Hotel List:

Leonardo Plaza– Netanya

Maagan - Tiberias

Ambassador - Jerusalem

For Reservations Contact:

JUDY'S LEISURE TOURS

**4906 16 STREET N
Fargo, ND 58102**

**701/232-3441 or
800/598-0851**

**JUDY'S LEISURE
TOURS, INC.**

Group travel at its best.



Day 1 & 2: We will depart the United States for overnight travel to **Israel**. After clearing customs, we will be met by our guide who will take us on a scenic drive through **Jaffa**, the oldest port in the world. Jonah set sail for Tarshish from Jaffa but was swallowed by a large fish. Jaffa was also the home of Tabitha, who was raised from the dead by Peter. Peter had his vision here while lodging in the home of Simon the Tanner. We will then drive north through the city of **Tel Aviv to Nethanya** where we will enjoy dinner and overnight. (D)

Day 3: We begin where the baptism of Gentiles began: at **Caesarea Maritima** (Acts 10). We visit sites such as the **sunken harbor**, the **hippodrome**, the **theatre** and the **Roman aqueduct**, then we are off to **Muhraka** ("burnt offering") on **Mt. Carmel**, with a panorama of the **Plain of Jezreel**. Continuing on to Megiddo for the background to Armageddon (Revelation 16). After surveying the Plain of Jezreel, we proceed to **Nazareth**, where we visit part of the **ancient village** and enjoying a view of Mt. Tabor. In **Cana**, we commemorate Jesus' transformation of water into wine. We end the day at the **Arbel cliff**, which affords a view over the **Lake of Galilee** and the main sites of Jesus' ministry. We have dinner and overnight on the **Sea of Galilee**. After dinner we have an option to go to the city of Tiberias for a leisurely walk around town and to watch the multimedia Galilee Experience show. (B, D)

Day 4: Today we drive to the **Mount of Beatitudes** (Matthew 5-7) where those who wish, may walk down the hill to the lake and meet the group at Tabgha, where Christians have long remembered the first feeding of the multitude (Mark 6) and nearby, the breakfast of John-21. We continue to **Capernaum** where Franciscan archaeologists believe they have uncovered the house of Peter (Mark 1 and 2). We drive a full circle around the Sea of Galilee stopping at **Beth Saida**, which is the fishing village of the Gospels. This village was the home town of Peter, Andrew, and Philip (John 1:44). Here, as well as **Capernaum** and **Chorazin**, Jesus performed most of his miracles such as healing a blind man and then cursed all three towns for their failure to repent. We continue driving around the eastern shores of the **Sea of Galilee** heading south to **Ein Gev** where we can stop for a St. Peter's Fish lunch. We stop at **Kursi** in the "**Gergesa**" of Matthew's Gospel where the evangelist locates the miracle of Swine. We then stop at a location where the **Jordan River** exits south from the Sea of Galilee heads down the Jordan Valley. We end our day at the modern **Baptismal site** of the Yardenti where the group has the possibility of renewing the Baptismal vows before heading back to our hotel for dinner. (B, L, D)



Day 5: We begin our day proceeding towards Golan Heights with many adventures along the way. After a brief stop at **Hazor**, the largest Canaanite city, for a view of **Mount Hermon** and its surroundings, we move onward to **Dan** where we indulge in a nature walk beside the **Upper Jordan** with views of ancient ruins, including the Israelite high place that supported a golden calf (I Kings 12). A short drive takes us to the spring of **Caesarea Philippi**, where Peter confessed his recognition of Jesus as Christ (Matthew 16). We will visit the stunning remains of a **first-century AD palace** belonging to Agrippas II before driving around Mt. Hermon for a glimpse of **Damascus**. We end our day on the lake in a wooden boat modeled on one from Jesus' time (Matthew 14) before returning to our hotel for dinner. (B, D)



Day 6: Today we drive down into **Jordan Valley** where we stop at the modern baptismal site at the point where the Jordan flows out of the lower Galilee. We drive to the strategic crossing point between the Jordan Valley and the Jezreel which is located in the city of **Beth Shean**. We will climb the Tel to view the **setting of Saul's death** (I Samuel 28 – II Samuel) and admire the **magnificent Roman and Byzantine ruins** including the theatre, bathhouses, ancient rest rooms, market areas and colonnaded streets. We drive through the **Jezreel Valley** west to **Ein Harod** (Judges 7), which describes Gideon's actions in thinning out his army. This is where he brought the men to the spring and sorted them on the basis of how they drank from the water. As we drive east into **Harod's Valley**, we will be amazed

by the fantastic view filled with biblical history. Looking east from **Tel Jezreel**, one can imagine the crowned Jehu "driving like a madman," on his way to killing the kings of Israel and Judah. After admiring the history and scenery, we continue towards **Jericho** where we visit the Tel of this oldest city and view the traditional mountain of Jesus' temptation. Ascending the Roman road along Wadi Qilt, we stop for a look at St. George's Monastery. Finally atop **Mt Scopus** as we behold **majestic Jerusalem** where we have our dinner and overnight. (B, D)

Day 7: O Jerusalem! After an orientation on the **Mt. of Olives**, we descend the traditional Palm Sunday road to **Dominus Flevit** ("The Lord weeps"), remembering Jesus' entry (Luke 19). We continue to **Gethsemane** (Matthew 26) and visit the garden and church where we have quiet time to reflect. We then drive to the church grounds called Peter in Gallicantu, which affords the best view of early Jerusalem from the west. Here, the Assumptionist Fathers propose, was the house where the High Priest Caiaphas interrogated Jesus. On our trip south to the Bethlehem region, we pass **Rachel's Tomb** and go to **Shepherds' Fields**. In **Bethlehem** we walk through its historic alleyways and markets to behold the **Church of Nativity**. We pass by the Knesset, the Israeli Parliament on our way to the **Shrine of the Book**, which houses the **Dead Sea Scrolls**, and a stop at the **Israel Museum** which includes an outdoor model of what **Jerusalem** may have looked in 66 AD. (B, D)



Day 8: We drive to **Bethany**, the home of Martha and Lazarus, driving through the Judean desert to Qumran, where we view Cave #4, which contained the greatest quantity of **Dead Sea Scrolls**, before continuing south to **Masada** where we take the cable car to the top, visiting **Herod's mountain bunker** and the last stronghold of the Jewish revolt against Rome (66-73 AD). We will have the unique opportunity to float in the **Dead Sea** (at minus 1390 feet, as low as you're ever likely to get). We enter the nature reserve of **Ein Gedi**, rich in flora and fauna, and walk to a lovely waterfall. We return to our hotel in Jerusalem tonight for our dinner and overnight. (B, D)

Day 9: We start the day at **Dung Gate**, where we take the time to examine the ruins which include steps where Jesus taught and He and his disciples walked. We then experience the **Western Wall**, Judaism's holiest site and view the **Dome of the Rock** and the **al-Aqsa Mosque**, the third holiest site of Islam. We find our way to the **Pools of Bethesda** (John 5) and **St. Anne's Church** which is perfectly preserved from the Crusader period. Our adventure continues as we walk through the Arab Souks and past the Armenia Quarter and exit the Old City, where we visit **King David's Tomb** on the grounds of **Mt. Zion**. From there we continue to the **Garden Tomb** where we end our tour with a special visit and a private communion on its grounds. Tonight we get together for our farewell dinner where we can reminisce about our fabulous time before our late departure towards home. (B, D)



Day 10 – Wednesday, Feb 3: We travel overnight to arrive home today, awed by the history and heritage we have experienced and excited to share our adventure with family and friends. We look forward to our next trip with Judy's Leisure Tours.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
May 2018 Altar Focus: Mothering the Camp Camp of the Cross		1	2 LAF We serve Supper 5:00-5:45 5:35 Living Waters Practice Wed. Worship/ 6p Church School/ Confirmation 7p	3 Quilting 1pm 8p AA Mtg.	4 Women's Retreat @ COC	5 Women's Retreat @ COC 4:30p Optional Sm Group River
6 Women's Retreat @ COC 9:00 Worship Team Practice 9:15 Church School 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour/ 2-4pm Mtg with Parents, Youth	7	8 Supper 5p C2 Mtgs 5:30p Church Council 6:30p	9 Supper 5:00-5:45 5:35 Living Waters Practice Wed. Worship/ 6p Church School/ Confirmation 7p	10 Quilting 1pm 8p AA Mtg.	11 Friday Night at the Movies 6:30pm	12 Book Club 12:30pm 4:30p Optional Sm Group River
13 9:00 Worship Practice 9:15 Church School 10:00 Worship/Children's Service 11:00 Coffee Hour Mother's Day/Senior Recognition Day	14	15	16 Supper 5:00-5:45 5:35 Living Waters Practice Children's Service/ 6p Senior Recognition River Practice 7p	17 8p AA Mtg.	18 Newsletter deadline	19 Spring Fling 2-4pm 4:30p Optional Sm Group River practice
20 9:00 Worship Team Practice 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee	21	22	23 6:30am MM Bible Study River Practice 7p	24 8p AA Mtg.	25	26 4:30p Optional Sm Group River practice
27 9:00 Worship Team Practice 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	28 Knitting for Others 1pm	29	30	31 Bismarck Synod Assembly Gala 8p AA Mtg.		



The WND Synod Sending Team invites you to join us for the 3rd Annual #HungerRide, taking place May 29 - May 31, 2018. The route is TENTATIVELY set to start at the Ramkota Inn in Bismarck and end at the Synod Assembly at the Ramkota Inn in Bismarck three days later.

HungerRide

Along the way, we will visit area churches, stay with congregational members, and experience the majestic beauty of Western North Dakota! Together we will raise awareness of hunger issues facing God's people and funds to support ELCA World Hunger. Riders may ride the full route or just a portion of the ride.

If you are interested in biking, or in riding along (help haul supplies) please contact Barb Cooper at (701) 629-5075 or coopers@srt.com.

There is no cost to participate and all riders will receive a free #HungerRide t-shirt! Registration due by May 20th.

Registration forms are [online](#) or linked below. You can fill out the forms online or send them to Barb Cooper at PO Box 154, Berthold, ND 58718

Friday Night at the Movies

The last Friday Night at the Movies for the school year will be held May 11th at 6:30pm. Potluck supper starts at 6:30 and the movie, whatever it will be starts @ 7pm. The food is always wonderful, Bob Wilson's popcorn a favorite of all and the fellowship is great! (The movie will be good too.)



C2 and Church Council Meetings

The next Church Council Meeting is at 6:30pm Tuesday, **May 8**. 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.

Our angel for the month of May is Shirley Grondahl. Shirley is one of our chief quilters, helping keep the group organized as well as their supplies and finished quilts. Many people all over the world have benefited from the kindness, skills and hard work of Shirley and her merry band of quilters! Shirley also spearheaded the massive lefse making project in earlier years. She can often be found serving in the LCC kitchen for funerals and events. Thank you, Shirley, for all you do!

Angels
Among
Us

"Before We Were Yours" by Lisa Wingate

"This interesting novel inspired by a true story, two families, and generations apart are forever changed by a heartbreaking injustice" is a quote from the dust jacket of this story which begins in Memphis, TN in 1939.

Twelve-year-old Rill Foss and her four younger siblings live aboard their family's Mississippi River shanty boat. When their mother is rushed to the hospital to deliver her baby, Rill is left in charge of the four younger children. She cares for the children until strangers arrive in force and take all five children to a Tennessee Children's Home Society orphanage. The Foss children are told that they will soon be returned to their parents, but they soon realize that this will not happen.

Fast forward to the present day in Aiken South Carolina. Avery Stafford, a federal prosecutor, through a long and difficult investigation compels her to check her own family history. What she finds out is most interesting to the reader. This story is based on one of America's most notorious real-life scandals.

This is a well written novel, and a story the reader will remember as a great injustice to so many children.

Book Reviewed by Gladys Bain

Book
Review

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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 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