



November 2018

From Pastor Lisa

*Whatever is true
Whatever is honorable
Whatever is just
Whatever is pure
Whatever is lovely
Whatever is gracious
if there is any excellence
if there is anything worthy of praise
Think about these things.
Philippians 4:8*

Today is a glorious fall afternoon, one in a string of gorgeous, colorful days that have graced us after September threatened to begin winter good and early. We are grateful for the reprieve and for the beauty of the earth (to quote a great hymn!). It's easy to be grateful as we move through our days surrounded by good weather and lovely colors.

And yet, on Saturday, in the midst of another such wonderful day, came the news that eleven people had been murdered as they gathered to worship. In fact, murdered *because* they gathered to worship – as Jews – and two black people had been murdered in a grocery store only because the killer couldn't get into a nearby church. A wave of grief crossed the land as word of yet more hate crimes reached us.

*'to the stones
someone said:
become human*

*the stones replied:
we are not yet
hard enough.'*

Warngedichte (Poems of Warning)

Continued on next page

How do we hold such deep gratitude and anguish all at the same time? And the many other influences as well: loud voices opining from every possible mouthpiece before the coming election, and the ensuing divisions among us. Joys. Sorrows. Pain. Wonder. Frustration. Elation. Fear.

St. Paul's words to the Philippians (above) are my go-to when matters of the world threaten to overwhelm me. I also think about Martin Luther King Jr.'s words:

Hate cannot overcome hate. Only love can do that.

There is no greater love than God has shown to us in Jesus his Son. May that love give us hope in troubling times, and allow us to reflect that love to others so they may have hope, too.

I pray with you the prayer of St. Francis of Assisi:

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let us sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is discord, union;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Yours in the love of Christ,

Pastor Lisa

Children Youth & Family Ministry



November 2018

2019 High School Mission Trip

Youth grades 9-12 are welcome to go on a mission trip around North Dakota July 16-23th 2019 where we will work in soup kitchens, clean up parks, work at good will stores, church and work alongside the people of North Dakota. Deadline to register is December 2nd with a nonrefundable deposit of \$150 Total estimated cost is \$700. Fundraising opportunities will be available. Registration forms can be found at the information desk.

2019 Junior High Mission Trip

Youth grades 6-8 are welcome to join other youth groups as we help people repair their homes in New Town and Parshall ND with Camp of the Cross. Deadline to register is December 2nd with a nonrefundable deposit of \$150.00. Total estimated cost is \$500. Fundraising opportunities will be available. More details to come in next month's newsletter. Registration forms can be found at the information desk.

CONTACT INFO:

Janie Hague, Director of Discipleship

Office #: 223-1001

Cell #: 701-301-9917

Email: lccdod@midconetwork.com

Mark your Calendar!

- November 4th and 7th kids sing in worship
- November 4th board game night. 5:30pm – 7pm Potluck supper so bring your favorite dish, and board game.
- November 18th youth group. Grades 3-8; 5-7pm. Grades 9-12; 7-9 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS!

- December 2nd board game night. 5:30pm – 7pm Potluck supper so bring your favorite dish, and board game.
- December 9 Cookie Walk after church and Caroling 2-4pm
- December 16th 5:30 pm Christmas Program
- December 27 Lock-IN



It's our turn to host the **Thanksgiving Service November 21st**. Celebrating with us is St. George's, Faith Lutheran, and United Church of Christ. If you would like to join the choir for the evening please talk to Robin. We will need pies, and servers for the coffee afterwards. The signup sheet is in the kitchen window. We also need ushers and communion assistants. The service will be at 7pm. Come join us for a special evening where we have the opportunity to worship with other believers. There will be no other regularly scheduled church activities that evening as that is a Wednesday.

Our speaker for the Thanksgiving Eve service will be one of the key staff of Lutheran Social Services here in Bismarck who assist refugee families being resettled here. Churches and volunteers to assist in this ministry are always welcome (for instance, to help get an apartment ready, or to take a family to medical appointments). When a family is resettled, the government requires certain things be provided. LSS is always in need of certain items to meet these requirements and to help refugees begin their new lives.

To that end, we will receive an "in-kind" offering at the Thanksgiving Eve service. There are two families arriving very shortly. If any arrive soon after, the necessary items will be depleted. On the always needed list: sheets and towels (need to be new), quilts and blankets; hygiene items: shampoo/conditioner, toothbrushes/toothpaste, deodorant, lotion, women's hygiene products. Furniture: dressers, coffee tables, dining tables and chairs, bedside tables, lamps, plates, silverware, pots and pans, kitchenware, cups and glasses. Rather than bringing furniture, for instance, to the service, please speak to the LSS staff present to arrange pickup or dropoff of the items.

Pictorial Directories are planned for November 13th 14th, 15th; each from 2-9pm. We hope to get everyone scheduled during those dates and times so that we may have the directory back in our hands before the Annual Meeting. As of this writing there are eight spaces open on Tuesday. Nine open times on Wednesday and 10 open times on Thursday. Choose your date and time. Fill in your information then check the directory to make sure all of your family information is correct. We must have 16 slots scheduled each day in order for the photographer to come and take our pictures. If you absolutely cannot come during those dates: please call the office. The completeness of this directory is totally dependent upon the congregation signing up or submitting photographs (of which there is a fee.) We have 200 + families who call this church home. Let's fill this spots and have a need to add another date or two to get everybody!

Why We Give

“We give to LCC because we enjoy the feeling of helping with costs encountered at Church of the Cross! We like to participate in sharing the love of God with our church family by giving both money and our time!” - **Sally and Terry Grenz**

The impact of your giving to the church not only supports the general operations of Lutheran Church of the Cross, but also helps 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 encourages you to also think about *why* you give to the church and the impact of this giving.

Book Review

The Foundling by Paul Joseph and Alex Treshnowski

This is a true story of a man who discovers he had been kidnapped as a baby. He was taken from the hospital by a pretend nurse and given to the FBI to a woman claiming to be his mother. It is a story about a child lost and a faith found, about the permanence of families and the emotional toll of losing your identity and rediscovering who you truly are.

Reviewed by Virginia Smith

GREAT FAMILY EVENT

LCC is CAROLING again this year.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9th MEET AT THE CHURCH at 2:00
BACK AT THE CHURCH at 4:00 for goodies and fellowship
ALL AGES WELCOME, WE NEED ALL VOICES

***COME ON FAMILIES, COME JOIN THE FUN &
BRING CHRISTMAS CHEER TO EVERYONE!!***

Call Pam Hanson or Sally Grenz if you have any questions.



Bismarck-Mandan Community Thanksgiving Eve Worship



Wednesday, November 21
7:00 pm



Lutheran Church of the Cross
1004 East Highland Acres Rd

Pie social to follow!



Guest Speaker: Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota

Community choir practice at 6:00 pm



Planned by:
Lutheran Church of the Cross, Bismarck United Church of Christ,
St. George's Episcopal Church, and Faith Lutheran Church

Angels Among Us

Chances are, you have seen Art Wheeler somewhere at LCC. His cheerful, quiet presence is everywhere. Art was a constant companion and faithful caregiver to his wife Florence until her death earlier this year. He has been just as constant in his care for the ministries of LCC. Art currently serves as our church treasurer, but he has both served on and led the church council; organized the men washing dishes and served as one frequently; lined up the projectionists for worship services and often been the one running the screens. He has a great gift for hospitality, greeting, ushering, reading Scripture, serving communion, and opening up the church and making coffee if Jeff Thomas is not available. Art has served on the stewardship committee, and with Florence, helped served Lunch at First to BHS students. He often assisted the quilters and joined them for coffee after he and they finished their respective work for the afternoon. There isn't a lot that Art hasn't helped with or been a part of! When you see Art, give him a pat on the back and a thank you for being an angel among us!

Bookfairs coming in November! We held a book fair last fall, as part of our celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, along with one for children. That was so much fun that we are holding another book fair this November! There will again be one section for adults and one for children, beginning Nov. 11th. Order forms and instructions will be available for all book lovers (or Christmas gifts to booklovers!). Please order by the end of November!

Hospitality at its finest! That is what is found at LCC! We are always looking for hosts for Sunday coffee fellowship hour and our simple meals (for about 25 people) on Wednesdays. Are your cooking and baking skills already sharpened and in high gear for the holidays? Why not sign up to host a day at church, too? Please note: if you are not able to serve but would like to sponsor a meal or coffee hour and have volunteers from Faith and Care serve it, just let us know! You can also do it jointly with a friend or another family. Sign up sheets are on the clipboard in the kitchen window, or call the church office!

HELP HEAT THE CHURCH

Heat for a Day donations are now being accepted. A monthly calendar is available in the entrance hallway for contributors to pick a day(s) to help heat the church. November and March will be \$10 per day, and December, January, February will be \$25 per day. Please enter your name on the selected date(s), and include if the donation is in memory of someone, or acknowledging a special event or purpose. Donations may be left with the secretary, put in the offering or use electronic giving. Thank you for helping to keep our church warm and safe during the cold, winter months.

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

We are grateful and welcome your offerings, whatever method you use. Here are some 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, 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 computer or smartphone.

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

iPhone and Android users can now make a contribution through a 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. (Pay attention and make sure it's our LCC, in Bismarck. There are others in the USA. 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.

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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. You can use them even if you travel or leave Bismarck for a few months of the year. 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!

Second Annual Event - and it involves COOKIES!

Get ready for the second annual LCC Holiday Cookie Walk on Sunday, Dec. 9! Bakers, alert! Dust off your pans and get out your best recipes for cookies, truffles, rosettes, krumkaka, sugar plums, divinity, gingerbread people, fudge..... whatever seasonal specialties are dear to your heart and taste buds. You are invited to bake for this event, where goodies will be sold by the dozen or by the pound. All of us love to eat treats of the season, but not all of us are able to bake. Make everyone happy and join in the fun!

The Cookie Walk will set up on Saturday, Dec. 8th and be available hopefully before (depending on help available) but definitely after worship. Collect Christmas cookies you don't make but someone else does! Take some to a friend who doesn't get out much! Supply treats for busy families too on-the-go to bake! Give a little pick-me-up gift! Proceeds will benefit those in need; our mission/outreach team will supply the details shortly.

Get your Christmas goodies, take them home or visit a friend, and put on your warm duds for a merry time of Christmas caroling, also Dec. 9 from 2-4 p.m.! So please mark your calendars for these special, fun events.

Altar Focus for November

At this time of year most have already turned on the heat in their homes. But not everybody can afford to or have it turned up to a comfortable 70 degrees. Ministry on the Margins is looking for blankets to give to those in need. Fleece blankets or any blanket would be appreciated by them. We also support teddy bears for law enforcement. They often deal with frightened or a traumatized children. Teddy bears are an automatic 'I need to be cuddled' and help to alleviate the children's fears. Please place the teddy bears throughout the church so they may worship with us and be sent off with special prayers for those serving in law enforcement and the recipient.

Affirmation of Baptism took place Sunday October 28. Confirmed were: Rebecca Bassingthwaite, Mason Gurholt, Kaitlyn Hanson, Olivia Lee, Casey Odegaard, Levi Retterath, and Duncan Tufte. God 's blessings to you as you continue on your walk of faith.

We welcome Irene Rauscher, her granddaughter Lynsey Willer and great granddaughter Serenity Willer to Lutheran Church of the Cross. We also welcome Daryl Hodnefield, his daughter Lyndsey Hoffer and Lyndsey's daughter Audrey into this church family. We hope you already feel that this is your church home.

CPR and AED training is being offered here at LCC Sunday, November 18 from 2-5pm. Cost is \$35. Please call/email the office to register or sign up at the large oak cabinet in the narthex. The class will be taught by Bismarck 's own Fire Chief. Make checks payable to LCC with memo "CPR class". We have 4 people signed up. We can take 14 more.

Sanford Hospice tree lighting ceremony to be held Nov. 19

Sanford Hospice will host "One Light to Remember," its annual memorial tree-lighting ceremony, 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 18 in the Ritterbush Auditorium at the University of North Dakota Center for Family Medicine, 701 E. Rosser Ave., Bismarck. The tree-lighting ceremony is open to anyone wishing to participate in honoring the memory of a loved one. For more information, call Sanford Hospice at 701-323-8400.

November 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9:00 Church School 10:00 Service 11:00 Coffee Hour 5:00 Wed. practice			5:00 Supper 6:00 Service 7:00 Church School/ Confirmation	1 Quilting 1 pm AA 8pm	2	3 4:30pm Sm. Group
4 Kids in Worship Board Game Potluck 5:30 Financial U 7:00	5 Stitching Group 1:30pm	6	7 Kids in Worship	8 Quilting 1 pm AA 8pm	9 Friday Night at the Movies 6:30pm	10 Book club 12:30pm
11 Veteran's Day No Church School Financial U 7:00	12 Office Closed	13 Lifetouch 2-9pm Committees 5:30 Council 6:30pm	14 Lifetouch 2-9 No supper	15 Lifetouch 2-9 AA 8pm	16	4:30pm Sm. Group 17
18 CPR, AED class 2-5pm Youth Group Financial U 7:00	19 Stitching Group 1:30pm	20	21 Thanksgiving Service 7pm here w/UCC, Faith, St. George's Pie Social	22 Thanksgiving Office closed AA 8pm	23 Office closed	24 4:30pm Sm. Group practice
25	26 Knitting for Others 1pm Stitching Group 1:30pm	27	28 MM Bible Study 6:30 Panera's	29 Quilting 1 pm AA 8pm	30	Altar Focus: Teddy Bears and blankets

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

Living Waters 6pm during school

2nd Wed. during summer

5:30 picnic /6:30 service

Sunday Worship

The River Service 10:00am

Office Hours:

M -TH 9-4pm

Fri. 9-1 School Year

Summer Hours 9-1

Mon.—Fri

Lutheran Church of the Cross

Lisa Ahlness, Pastor

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.

The committees also meet just prior to the council meeting.