



October 2018

From Pastor Lisa

Fall has traditionally been the time when churches have stewardship drives and pastors speak (more than we normally do) about money. Not so much because we can't pay the bills (happily this is not the case, in our case!) but just as a way to remind us that Jesus talks a lot about money and possessions, and the hold they have over us.

This is Jesus calling us to stewardship - by which he does not mean a once-per-year drive for money or pledges. Jesus calls us to be stewards of everything God's given us - which is, of course, EVERYTHING.

The good creation, our time, talents, relationships, and yes, possessions. The Scriptures often pull us up short and cause us to reflect on whether we live that out in our day to day activities. And this makes me think it would be more fruitful to help each other toward that end, to talk about how we steward God's good gifts more frequently than just a once-a-year pressured drive to pledge.

I wanted to share with you this article I read this summer. So many thoughtful articles come my way - I wish I knew a way to share them all! Read what Brian Malison had to say:

Are You an Owner or a Renter?

A friend of mine opened my eyes to a new understanding of being the church. He asked me, "Have you ever rented a car?"

"Sure I have, lots of times when I travel," I said.

"O.K." he said. "Do you ever rotate the tires of the car you rent?" Never. "Have you ever washed the car?" Not once.

"Have you ever changed the oil?" I've never given it a thought.

"But have you done any of those things with the car that is sitting in your garage?" Sure I have, many times, I told him.

Why the difference? Because one I'm just using, I realized, but the other I have an investment in.

My friend wasn't done with me yet. "Does your church have mostly 'renters' or 'owners'?" I looked at him real hard. I was trying to make the connection. He saw the blank look in my eyes.

"You know, do you mostly have people who use the church for their convenience, or do you have mostly people who are committed to the church?" Tough question to ask; harder question to answer.

So, are you a renter or an owner? A renter goes to church when it's convenient; an owner is the church always. A renter worships occasionally on Sunday mornings; an owner worships every day. A renter has ministry done to them; an owner does ministry for others. A renter quits when they get tired; an owner never gives up. A renter complains when things aren't going their way; an owner prays to have God change their heart. A renter occasionally gives their money; an owner gives their life.

These are just a few things that, in my opinion, separate renters from owners. And truthfully I don't know if we have renters (I'm sure we do) or if we are mostly owners (I pray we are).

The point is, God is inviting us, through Jesus, to be owners; to own the faith that he gives us, to own the cross we are to carry and to own the ministry we have been created to do.

May we spread God's good news every day by the way we live and steward God's gift to us: everything.

See you in church!

Pastor Lisa

Have you been contemplating joining Lutheran Church of the Cross? New Member Class will be held after worship on Sundays Oct. 7 and 14. Grab your coffee and treats and meet Pr. Lisa in the conference room by the church office. No obligation if you're not sure yet. Feel free to come and hear more about Lutherans and about Lutheran Church of the Cross!



Trunk or Treat is right around the corner on Oct 28th from 3-4 pm . We need decorated trunks, people to help with the beverage station, runners if we need more candy and more! There is a signup sheet for people wanting to help in the Narthex If you have any questions please contact Janie.

Children Youth & Family Ministry



October 2018

LYO- Lutheran Youth Organization

Calling all 9-12th Graders! Who wants to spend teacher's convention (October 18-20) having loads of fun? The 2018 WND Lutheran Youth Organization- LYO will be held in Bismarck this year. The weekend includes 3 days focused on growing and sharing our faith, serving the world in Christ's name, engaging in dynamic worship, and building relationships. So, come and spend a weekend with many other high school students from across our synod gathering together to learn how we can share the Light of Christ! Cost is \$150, and scholarships are available. Talk to Janie for more information.

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!

- October 7th: Family Fun day the Pumpkin Patch 1-3pm!
- October 14th: Youth group: Pumpkin painting/carving. BYOP (Bring your own pumpkin :)
*Grades 3-5, 3-5pm
*Grades 6-8, 5-7pm
*Grades 9-12, 7-9 pm

October 18th-20th: LYO -grades 9-12

October 26th-27th: 4-6th Grade Bash at Camp of the Cross

Oct 28th: Trunk or Treat

UPCOMING EVENTS!

- November 4th and 7th kids sing in worship
- November 4th board game night. 5:30pm Potluck supper so bring your favorite dish, and board game.
- November 18th Youth Group Times TBA

Pumpkin Prayer



Cut off the top:

Lord, open my mind and fill me with your wisdom and guidance.

Scoop out the yuckies:

Lord, take out all my fussies and frownies and fill me with your love.

Carve out the eyes:

Lord, open my eyes to see all of the beautiful things you have made.

Carve out the nose:

Lord, help me to be a sweet fragrance for you.

Carve out the mouth:

Lord, help me to always speak your words of love and kindness.

Thank you. Thank you! THANK YOU!!

We can never say it enough! Thanks to all who participated in and helped with our "God's Work, Our Hands" project, the blood drive. We were able to donate 11 life-saving units of blood! Thanks to all our teachers, musicians and leaders for church school and confirmation, recently installed. You rock! Thanks to all who made Rally Day a wonderful celebration and honored our founders with a "charter party"! Thanks to all you gardeners who shared of your abundance. What joy and delight that brought to many! Thanks to all of you who got your pictures taken for the new directory - sign up now for November dates if you haven't! Such a great tool to get to know one another, and a free portrait to boot! Thanks to all who sign up to host coffee time after worship and our pre-worship meals on Wednesdays. You nourish us and enhance our fellowship! And, thanks for the great response to the September Altar Focus: the Nest at South Central High School. Your gifts will make things a little easier for some young parents.

And speaking of food....

We have people signed up for most of October for hosting Sunday's coffee hour, but could definitely use some immediate help on Wednesdays! When more of us participate, it lightens the load for all. **Did you know** that if you make goodies or would be willing to pay for someone to purchase them - but aren't really able to do the serving - our Faith and Care teams will provide the purchasing and serving part of the effort! Speak to Pam Hanson, Sally Grenz or Pr. Lisa if you'd like to do this for a Sunday or a Wednesday sometime.

Blessing of the Animals

Last year, we celebrated the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi by blessing animals. This year, we are doing it again. **Wednesday, Oct. 10 is the day; after worship (7 p.m.) is the time!** Unless the weather is truly terrible, we will bless our friends outside on the front lawn.

In our modern world, we are re-discovering the beauty and joy of having a special day to bring our animals to God, to ask for God's blessing for them and for our relationships, and to commemorate St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals. I'm quite sure the gentle man would be surprised to see the clothes and collars some of our fur-children wear, but he would recognize the love we give and receive from our pets.

So, bring your pet to church! J Pastor Lisa and DoD Janie will be on the front lawn after worship on Weds, October 10th, welcoming all who want to bring their beloved animals - cows, horses, dogs, cats, even the llamas and iguanas. Just be sure they are leashed, kenneled or controlled appropriately, so that all God's creatures can be safe. Each animal will receive a blessing, and each owner a certificate to remember it by.

Altar Focus for October: United Way Emergency Homeless Shelter

As you may know, this is our only shelter for the homeless. Located in the Sunrise building on 3rd Street in downtown Bismarck, and so sometimes referred to as the "Sunrise Shelter," this haven serves men as well as women and children in a separate wing. The shelter has 40+ people staying there most nights, "never less than 30" says the director – a sobering thought considering our winters. There is no kitchen on the premises, so no food except breakfast bars and coffee supplies are kept on site. Residents are able to eat at the Soup Café, and at the Banquet meals on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at Trinity Lutheran. MWF volunteers bring in suppers at 6:30 pm (this is something a group of us could do, if you are interested!).

Items most needed are: **Hygiene items:** deodorant, brushes, combs, nail clippers, socks (they generally get enough soap and shampoo/conditioner). **Food:** breakfast bars, coffee, creamer, sugar packets. Paper products for meals: plates, cups, napkins, paper towels, silverware, toilet paper too. **Cleaning supplies:** garbage bags of all sizes, floor and bathroom cleaners.

Laundry: laundry detergent, bleach, quarters for coin operated laundry machines provided on each floor. **Thank you for your help!**

Angels Among Us

You may have seen Suzy (Kunze) Finck on Sunday mornings. She is deceptively quiet, yet also bubbly and helpful all at once. Suzy is married to Redg, sister to Mark Kunze and daughter to Lois Kunze. It's great to have extended family who are all part of our church family! She is a hard working Faith and Care leader, always willing to lend a hand when need arises. And, she has a terrific green thumb. Suzy planted, trimmed and watered the outside plants all summer - and haven't they been beautiful?! Pat her on the back when you see her. Thanks, Suzy, for all you do!

2018 CROP Walk will be held on Sunday, Oct. 14, starting from the steps of the State Capitol - registration begins 12:30 pm with the walk at 1:30 pm.

Do you love to walk in the crisp autumn air? Mark your calendar and join the CROP walk for hunger on Oct. 14. Walk to represent the millions of families around the globe who are forced to walk several miles daily to obtain food and drinkable water!

CROP stands for Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty, and you can help to overcome poverty by walking or sponsoring the walkers today! Money raised benefits programs around the world, as well as local agencies such as the Ruth Meiers Hospitality House; AID, Inc; and the Bismarck Emergency Food Pantry. You can leave donations at the special table in the narthex. See Pr. Lisa with questions!

Lutheran Church of the Cross
“Making Jesus Known by Sharing Our Gifts”
Council Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2018

Meeting was called to order by President Tom at 6:36pm

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

Devotions: Pastor Lisa – Mark 8:27-30, “You are the Messiah”

Approval of July Minutes – Jeff T motion/Ken W second/APPROVED

Calendar Review –

September 22, Wedding at 4:00pm

Pastor Lisa

Attended a seminar at Luther Seminary

Calendar of Alter Focus was completed

Crop Walk on October 14, LCC will be the lead and carry the banner

Installation of teachers, Janie (DOD) and blessing of backpacks will be on September 16

Pastor Lisa will be gone on September 30, Janie will preach, and Pastor Gary Heaton will assist and perform a baptism

Many positive comments to a successful Rally Day and Charter Member recognition

Attended the Rostered Leader workshop in Medora

AFLAC reps were here 2 weeks ago and presented a “Group Plan” that would require a minimum of 3 staff members in order to pay a reduced premium. The church would pay the first month and then the individuals would pay future premiums. Church council members would be eligible to participate.

Director of Discipleship (DOD) Janie

Met with church school teachers, we could still use a couple more teachers to team teach, but we are in good shape to begin the year. Please contact Janie if you are interested.

Developed a handbook for school parents

Confirmation started with a good size class

Nick Hague, Janie’s cousin, is an astronaut and will depart Russia as part of the replacement crew on the International Space Station, October 11.

Trunk or Treat will take place again this year on October 28 from 3-4pm

Treasurer’s Report – Jeff T motion/Heather M second/APPROVED

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

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

August bank statements have been reconciled and registries are correct.

Total income for August was \$33,479.03, this is \$1,160 less than the budget goal of \$34,639.

The total income of \$247,287 for the year was \$3,905 less than \$251,192, the budget goal for the first eight months of 2018.

with the existing plan.

At this point of the summer that's acceptable and we are functioning well within our projected expenses.

The 2019 Portico Plan choice for staff was presented for renewal and it was decided to remain with the existing plan.

Ken W motion/Kylie B second/APPROVED

Update to the Grinnel Mutual re-evaluation of our property insurance (August minutes) Paul Gurholt reported late yesterday that he had consulted with an architect and that they figured a church structure replacement cost of \$250 per square foot. Computing that for the 15,000 sq. ft. that the church structure entails is a structure value of \$3.7 million. We're currently insured for a total of \$2.7 million. This info has been forwarded to Bain Ins. and Grinnel Mutual. If our structure coverage needs to be increased, it could also increase our premium.

Building and Grounds – Jeff Thomas

Thank you to Merry-Go-Round and Jo Wilson for donating the landscaping border. It looks very nice and is much easier to trim and mow around.

Outside sitting area in front of the church. Brett Gurholt is going to present some design ideas and it was suggested by Paul Gurholt suggested that we incorporate the Cedar logs that were removed from the south side of the building for the new addition.

Discussion began in August regarding our janitorial service and whether we need to move in a different direction. With our membership numbers going up and more activities taking place in the church, it requires increased maintenance.

After discussion, it was decided to terminate our contract with Teresa Schumacher. Motion was made to make this effective in seven (7) days, with a package of one months salary \$675 and a bonus of \$100, for a total of \$775.

Ken W motion/Jon H second/APPROVED

After further discussion, a motion was made to allow Theresa the option to work for the entire month of September, making the effective date September 30 for pay purposes. The parting package would include the \$775 that was approved in the previous motion.

Jon H motion/Heather M second/APPROVED

We will be meeting with other cleaning services, with a goal to finalize a contract by October 1.

Motion was made to waive the requirement for obtaining three (3) quotes for services that exceed \$500.

Ken W motion/Jon H second/APPROVED

Congregational Operations – Jon Hanson

Continue working on several items:

Security and Safety Assessment

Policy Manual revision

Budget Review will begin to take place on October 6 at our Council Retreat

Nominating committee will have its first meeting in October

Old Business:

Proposal to move council meeting time to 7pm was not acted upon, meeting time will remain at 6:30pm

CPR/AED training has been scheduled for November 18, 2-5pm. Mandatory for full-time staff, optional for council members and then open to general membership to fill a maximum of 20 seats. Council will pay the \$35 fee for the full-time staff. **Ken W motion/Jeff T second/APPROVED**

Two (2) \$250 Scholarships were awarded to Joel Crane and Micah Johnson, they attend Concordia College in Moorhead, MN. Congratulations!

Next Meeting: October 9, 6:30pm

President Tom adjourned the meeting at 8:45pm

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Hanson
Secretary

Greetings brothers and sisters!

While it may be hard to believe, fall is truly upon us! I hope that everyone was able to get out and enjoy the summer weather because it's time to break out the jackets and warm socks! This summer has seen some fantastic changes for Church of the Cross, including the addition of Janie Hague to the staff. Janie has quickly and exuberantly dived into her new role with the discipleship, children's and youth programs. Additionally, if you were at any of the September services, either Sundays or Wednesdays, you probably couldn't help but notice the large and diverse generations we have been seeing at church. How great Thou Art indeed! It's so exciting to see so many generations as part our great community and I know we all look forward to what that can bring to each of us as we hope, pray, worship, and play (yep, board game night!) together. Truly this is what personifies the idea of generously giving of ourselves to others.

With that in mind, it's with humble gratitude that I offer everyone thanks on behalf of our church for the generosity of your gifts over the past almost nine months. The LCC congregation has responded to the 2018 annual budget of \$364,188 with commitment and charity in your hearts. As of mid-September, actual contributions were \$261,382 or 96.7% of the \$270,302 budget for the first eight months. That is tremendous participation in the church's' financial needs.

How does that compare with previous years? In 2017, for the first eight months the contributions were just 84.3% of the budget for the same time period. In 2016, for the first eight months the contributions were 84.8% of the budget needs for the same time period. In addition, year 2018 expenditures have been held in check with the first eight months expenditures being just 77.2% of budget projections. This includes promissory note interest and also 50% of Mission Support annual contributions to the Western North Dakota Synod, the MSLCC, ND LSS and the Camp of the Cross.

I also want to stress that we've been fortunate to exuberantly sponsor multiple other opportunities throughout the year through our focus programs prominent at the front of the church during each service, scholarship contributions for college students, and many other opportunities big and small. Truly your hearts are big and your eyes kind. Surely no one would kick the dust off their feet after visiting LCC. 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.

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

Yours in Christ,

Tom Harris



WHERE DOES MY OFFERING GO?



ELCA members in more than 9,300 congregations in the United States and Caribbean give approximately \$1.75 billion in regular offering to support ELCA ministries in their local communities and worldwide. When members give through their congregations, a percentage of that money is then shared with the local synod and the national churchwide organization.

This unrestricted giving, called Mission Support, gives us both the foundation and the fuel to do God's work in the world and a portion of the gifts circle back to support ministries in synods and local congregations. Of these unrestricted gifts, the churchwide organization receives around 2.6 percent. This represents the largest portion of the ELCA churchwide organization's operating budget.

Your Mission Support helps fund the following churchwide ministries:

Grow the ELCA in the United States

25%



357
Plant and support
357 new congregations.



Enable congregations to renew their ministries and reach out to their surrounding communities.



Work together with our African Descent, American Indian and Alaska Native, Arab and Middle Eastern, Asian and Pacific Islander, and Latino/Latina members to develop networks and resources for ministry.



Develop and share resources for faith, discipleship, prayer and worship.

Grow the Lutheran church around the world

18%



As a member of The Lutheran World Federation, we're in communion with 145 member churches and directly connected to 85 companion churches in other countries.



Accompany new Lutheran churches, expand ministries, and train leaders and evangelists.



230

Send 230 missionaries to more than 48 countries, including more than 84 Young Adults in Global Mission in 11 country programs.

Provide coordination and support for churchwide ministries

16%

1.1 million

Maintain constituent database, including 1.1 million records of rostered and lay leaders, members, donors and congregations.



Provide office space, equipment and human resources for staff and operations.



Preserve and maintain archives and historic records of the ELCA and its predecessor bodies.

Equip congregations and synods with resources to assist in risk management and legal matters.



Process 150,000 gifts to ELCA ministries.

Support and develop current and future **leaders** in the ELCA

15%



26

Support the work of seven ELCA seminaries and 26 colleges and universities.



9,900

Recruit, prepare and implement a system for the assignment of 9,900 rostered ministers.



Offer events and leadership opportunities for youth and young adults.



Identify, connect and provide ministry resources and opportunities for networking for lay leaders.

Invest in **technology** and **communications**

8%

Design and maintain communications tools to strengthen our Lutheran identity and grow awareness of our church and its mission and ministries.



Connect members with one another through new technology and systems.

Provide **governance** and **leadership**

5%

Organize lay and clergy leaders from across the church to serve on the governance boards and committees that provide guidance and oversight for ELCA ministries.

65



Coordinate meetings and support for 65 synodical bishops.

Grow and sustain financial resources

5%



Develop and promote efforts related to stewardship education, financial literacy, mission interpretation and growth in giving to all church ministries.

Address social issues and **work for justice**

4%



Engage in churchwide study and deliberation to create social statements and resources that address social, political, environmental and other public issues.

Equip members and leaders to advocate with lawmakers in order to support policies that promote justice and peace.



1 in 50

Support social ministry organizations, such as Lutheran Services in America, to impact the lives of 1 in 50 Americans.

Your designated gifts to ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response provide additional funds annually to address hunger, poverty and suffering around the world.

Engage in **research** and **strategic planning**

2%

Research and analyze trends that impact the ELCA and develop innovative strategies to improve mission and ministry in the 21st century.



Sustain **ecumenical** and **interfaith relationships**

2%

Facilitate dialogue and common action among communities of other faiths, including the development of resources and communications for ELCA congregations.



Seek unity in faith and life with all Lutherans and six full communion partners.

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 year

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.