



The Cross Word

From Pastor Lisa

My Bible fell open to Ps 105/106 this morning. I wasn't looking for them; these Psalms not among my go-to "favorites." But they tell of the wanderings of the people of Israel; their adventures and a few misdeeds; their journey, out of slavery, to a new land and toward God, and God's care for and faithfulness to them through it all.

As many of you know, I've just come back from a journey, one that took me on some adventures and places new to me. Along the way and when I returned, I realized how grateful I was to God for safe passage, for the joy of friendships and relationships new and old, and for the sure and certain knowledge of God's presence all the way.

Our faith lives are a journey. There are ups and downs along the way; frustrations and fears; and joy, peace and gratitude too. We don't necessarily have to leave our community or even home for this to be true. Whatever adventures occur; whatever misdeeds we add into the mix; God cares for us and is faithful to us through it all.

Where will our faith journey take us next? I don't know. All I know is whose hand is holding us and whose hand is guiding us. And that is enough.

Blessings on the path. As Tim N. would say, "keep pedaling." See you in church!

Pr. Lisa

Lutheran Church of
the Cross

September 2017

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Wednesday/Sunday Worship



Join us for Rally Sunday, September 10th. It will be wonderful to worship God collectively again with the start of the new school year. Potluck after the service. The Faith and Care Group 5 will serve the potluck.

**Worship
With Us**

Wednesday Rally, September 13th will begin with a potluck picnic at 5:00-5:45 pm. The church will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, water, plates and utensils. Families are encouraged to bring a dish to share. Service will be at 6pm and church school/confirmation will begin at 7pm. Please note the time change from last year for school and confirmation. Each Wednesday following the Rally Wednesday a light supper will be provided to families from 5-5:45 in hopes that having something to eat will ease the burden of rushing around, eating and getting to church on time.

The Rose Legacy by Kristen Heitzmann submitted by Patty Hanson

This is a story of a young woman, Carina Ignatia. She leaves her home in California wine country, because of her beau's infidelity, and travels to Crystal, Colorado. She arrives in the rugged mining town with little more than the secrets she holds in her heart. The 1880's mining town is overrun with men seeking their fortunes and women found to them by circumstance; with little certainty for tomorrow. Two men take her under their wings but neither is what he seems. Carina has to confront the turmoil hidden with heart. Vengeance or love, which will she chose? Read the series of three: The Rose Legacy, Sweet Boundless and The Tender Vine to see how faithfulness and God's timing unfold in Carina's life.

Youth! Youth!! Youth!!!

Check out the info in this newsletter and on the Youth bulletin board about upcoming Synod (Oct. 2017) and National (June 2018) Youth Gatherings! If you're interested, but not sure or would like to know more, come to the **interest meeting on Weds, Sept. 27, at 8 p.m.** in the fellowship area at LCC and learn all about it! These events are open to students in grades 9-12.

Also.... **keep your eyes peeled** for spontaneously (but hopefully regularly) occurring fun youth activities. **Trunk or Treat** is not so spontaneous, but will be here before you know it! Do you have **your** costume/trunk thought up yet?

New Wednesday suppers looking for sponsors!

Several committees and church council have been discussing how to make things run smoothly for everyone on Weds. evenings, with so much going on. A problem: how to feed yourself or the family and get here in time for worship/church school/confirmation. We have decided to have simple suppers from 5-5:45 p.m. on Wednesdays – using paper products, so no dishwashers necessary – to make it possible for you to have a bite and join in the fellowship, worship and learning of Wednesday evenings.

To that end, **we need 2 persons or families to sign up to bring & serve food for each Weds.** It can be simple: a couple crockpots of soup/chili. Sloppy joes. Baked potatoes and fixins or a taco bar. Even ordering in pizza is fine. Food must be here, ready to go by 4:45 p.m., but could certainly be dropped off at lunchtime, etc. LCC will provide drinks, paper products and silverware. Faith and Care groups will be asked to have a helper/cleanup person there each week. How many to prepare for is an open question – probably 20-30 to start. **Wednesday suppers will begin September 20th.** **Please sign up on the “Suppers” clipboard in the kitchen!**
THANKS!

Youth

Wednesday
Suppers

Peer Ministry Training for High Schoolers!

On September 22 and 23, Good Shepherd Lutheran in Bismarck will be hosting a 2-day Peer Ministry Leadership. They are bringing Lyle Griner in from Peer Ministry Leadership, to guide youth and interested adult leaders in being peer ministers. A peer minister is someone who will walk alongside their peers, during hard times and good times. These youth will learn valuable leadership skills that can be used at the church and outside of the church.

This is *face-to-face, heart-to-heart, person-to-person training*. Practicing real-life people skills is the most effective way we know to move a living, caring faith from theory to reality. Youth will learn the skills to care for and walk alongside their neighbor.

Here is an outline from the PML manual. It will give you an idea of the type of skills we get to work on:

**Peer
Ministry**

LISTENING LEADERSHIP

1. Leadership: *Good Samaritan Style*
2. Ask: *Questions That Care*
3. The Well: *Learning to Listen*
4. Spirit Nudges: *Nonverbal Understanding*

HELPING LEADERSHIP

1. Decisions: *Thou Shall Not Should*
2. Journey: *Choices, Changes, and Challenges*
3. Well Aware: *Community Aware*
4. Plan: *Mission & Purpose*

WELCOMING LEADERSHIP

1. Inviting: *I Have To Tell You*
2. Welcome: *Surprising Hospitality*
3. Hurt?: *Welcoming when Un-Welcomed*
4. Open: *Big Doors*

If this is something that interests you, please talk to Pastor Lisa, and we will get registered. LCC will cover the cost, which is \$100/ church. Call the office @ 223-1001 or Pr. Lisa @ 220-9011 if you want to take advantage of this great opportunity!

Youth! Youth! Youth! need YOU!

We don't have a new pastoral assistant, nor may we for quite a while. Are we going to let *that* minor detail stop us from having some great events and involvement for our kids? As Martin Luther would say, By No Means!

In previous years, several couples (parents of our young people) came together and took turns helping with such activities. One of them has offered to coach/mentor a new group of parents and lend their experience and great ideas to the cause.

Now all we need is **YOU!** Please, parents, consider coming to the **youth leader interest meeting on Weds, Oct. 11 at 7:15 p.m.** We will put together a rough plan of activities for this fall. Your ideas and participation are so important! We will be needing volunteer leaders to work with Pr. Lisa with activities for 4-5 graders; middle schoolers grades 6-8, and high school youth. Pick your favorite or join in for more! It may not happen without YOU!

Youth
Leaders
Needed



Friday Night at the Movies resumes Friday, September 15th 6:30pm. Deb Carpenter will again head up organizing the event. A potluck dinner starts the event with a fun movie following the meal.

Promissory Note #3 program update

Promissory Note #3 redeems ABC mortgage loan!

With a generous, overwhelming response from LCC members, the Promissory Note #3 program culminated this past week with a total loaned principal of \$184,000. The American Bank Center loan buy-out this past Friday was \$185,404.41. The Council transferred the PN3 principal and \$1,404.41 from the Building Fund to the bank on Friday and the loan has been paid off! Formal documents from the bank, marked "Paid in Full" will be forthcoming. This transfer will save LCC \$3,312 per year in interest.

The PN2 program created last April also saved LCC \$1,710 per year in interest. Combined, the two programs result in a savings of \$5,022 per year in interest.

In total, all three outstanding Promissory Note programs total \$424,000 in principal to be repaid. The Church will transfer \$5,515 to the Promissory Note Reserve Fund **each month**. With the congregations continued contributions to the Building Fund, all Promissory Notes should be repaid by July, **2023**. There are twenty-two Promissory Note holders.

In April of 2012, the Church completed an American Bank Center loan for just under \$600,000 which included some debt from Phase I and all of Phase II construction. In five years, the LCC Congregation has accomplished wonders in repaying the loan. Redeeming the mortgage now would not have been possible without the wonderful participation of our members in being part of the Promissory Note program. Thank You.

We are grateful to those present and in the past that have contributed monies in helping LCC pay off the construction loan.

We are now self funded!

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, August 22, 2017

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Vice President Jon Hanson. Council members present: Jeff Thomas, Kylie Blanchard, Jon Hanson, Tom Harris, Brian Johnson. Kim Humann. Staff personnel in attendance were Pastor Lisa Ahlness, Connie Werner, and Art Wheeler.

There were no additions to the Agenda.

Pastor Lisa led us in devotions.

Motion to approve the July council minutes was made by Jeff Thomas, Brian Johnson second; motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Art Wheeler, Motion to accept the report was made by Brian Johnson, seconded by Tom Harris; motion carried.

There was much discussion on the options for closing of the mortgage at American Bank Center. After this discussion Tom Harris made the motion, second by Brian Johnson that if sufficient and prudent funds are available within the PN 3 principle, that the Executive Committee and the Treasurer, be directed to make sufficient transfers to the American Bank Center to redeem all owed principal and accrued interest on the I/II construction loan at the earliest possible date. If PN 3 principle funds are not sufficient to redeem all owed principle and accrued interest, then the Executive Committee is authorized to transfer up to \$15,000 from the Lutheran Church of the Cross funds if the amount allows for loan resolution, motion carried.

Pastors report:

Planting of the trees for the reformation forest will be September 9th at Sleepy Hollow at 7:30 AM. Jon Hanson, Jeff Thomas, Pastor Lisa will be going for sure to help with the tree planting. The holes will already be dug.

September 17 is the start of the Dave Ramsey series. There will be 9 consecutive meetings on Sundays from 7 to 8:30 PM. The cost is \$93 per family. This is a life time membership.

Pastor Lisa stated she would need help during confirmation in the absence of a Pastoral Assistant. Kim Humann suggested that maybe a parent could help out. Confirmation starts September 13 with orientation.

**Church
Council
Minutes
August
2017**

Church Council Minutes continued

Committee reports:

Building and grounds:

1. Handicap door opening buttons have been installed on the back door. Waiting on an electrician to wire them.
2. Jon will check again on the overlay of the parking lot and the cement work for the front doorway.
3. A couple different signs were looked at for outside the church building on the corner of Highland Acres Road and Fairview Place.

Mission Endowment—All the checks have been sent for this.

Worship and Music—Rally Sunday will be September 10th with a potluck. Jon and Jeff will grill for the Wednesday, September 13th night potluck and Rally service.

Christian Education—No Report

Congregational Nurturing— Working on Gods work with our hands.

Nominating committee—No Report

Stewardship:

Pastor Lisa and Ken Will are going to Minot October 14 for a Stewardship workshop, anyone is welcome to attend.

Budget committee—No report.

Mission support:

Crop walk is October 8th.

Unfinished business: None

New business:

About \$325 was raised and deposited from the summer picnics. All agreed we should continue doing this.

Jon Hanson will work more on strategic planning.

Tom Harris will lead media strategy and training. He will have a standing committee. This was made into a motion by Tom and was second by Kim Humann, motion carried.

Nothing more before the council, the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting will be September 12, 2017 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey Thomas, Secretary

Retrouvaille: Help for Hurting Marriages

Retrouvaille: Help for Hurting Marriages

Retrouvaille (French for "rediscovery") is an international three-phase, peer-run program that assists married couples in rediscovering the love that initially brought them together. For 40 years Retrouvaille has helped tens of thousands of husbands and wives who are struggling to communicate, have grown cold and distant from each other, or have even separated or divorced turn the tide and find new hope and joy in their marriages!

Effectiveness: Surveys have shown that 3 out of 4 couples who complete the entire program are still married five years later with strong, healthy marriages.

When and where: Program begins September 8-10 in Fargo.

Cost: Registration fee is \$150, but no couple is ever denied because of lack of funds.

Find out more or register: Visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com, call the confidential line at (701) 356-7962, or look us up on Facebook: Red River Retrouvaille.

Spend an afternoon with Kathrine "Katie" Von Bora Luther

Marlene Zener, Hot Springs, Arkansas, and the wife of the late Alton Zener, former Bishop of the Central Southern Illinois Synod, ELCA, will be performing a historical dramatization portraying the life of Katherine Von Bora Luther, the wife of Dr. Martin Luther on **Sunday, September 17th, 2017 2:00 pm, at First Lutheran Church, 800 N 7th St. Bismarck, ND. A free will offering will be taken.**

Marlene Zener, dressed in the austere black clothing of the 1500s, shares her knowledge of Katherine and that period in history. Through much research and reading, Marlene developed her biographical presentation of Katherine, Dr. Luther, and their family. Katherine will tell of her life as the wife of the unwitting founder of the Lutheran Church. A spunky young lady born of German nobility, she was educated in a convent and became a nun. Feeling unworthy, she fled the religious life. She grew into a remarkable, loving, and industrious woman and a very supportive partner to Dr. Martin Luther. Katherine is portrayed as a very strong woman in character and faith. This is a lively story of unusual proportions. Zener brings laughter, tears, wisdom, and wonderment into this unique presentation. Join us for an afternoon of with Katie!

Crop Walk October 8, 2017

CROP Walk: October 8th, 2017

1:30 starting on the steps of the State Capitol Building

How many times a day do you turn on the faucet for clean, pure, refreshing water? We use it to drink, cook, bathe, clean and even entertain ourselves. This year, though, it's not too hard to imagine not having those luxuries. What if we had to walk to the Event Center dragging buckets to be filled with enough water for that day, only using enough water as you could carry. This is the reality for too many people worldwide.

Now, imagine you could make a difference. Through monies collected during the CROP Walks. Wells and the knowledge to make the wells work become a reality. You make it possible that children can live and thrive, a small garden is grown, a few chickens or perhaps a goat provide food and income. By being a part of CROP Walk you will make a difference.

Please mark your calendar and join us in sharing God's love in a very practical way. Canned goods can be brought to the walk to help support our local food pantries. Twenty five percent of the proceeds will be staying in Bismarck and will be divided up amongst four local institutions. LCC is in need of a coordinator for Crop Walk. The packets are on the table with the Dan's receipts.

Financial Peace University class 9/17 at LCC

Financial stressors are a major contributor to the high divorce rate in this country, and have a huge impact on everyone, single or married, senior adult or just starting out in life.

One-way LCC can support its members to live happy, balanced lives is to offer help in such an important area. That's why we're sponsoring Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University class here, Sunday evenings from 7-8:30 p.m. from Sept. 17th through Nov. 12th. The cost is \$93 per person or couple. That may sound like a lot, but includes important tools and a lifetime membership. Please ask Pastor if a partial scholarship would enable you to come.

Afraid you can't commit to nine consecutive classes?

Continued on page 101

Crop Walk
is the
Altar
Focus for
September

There are other churches in the area offering the class on different evenings this fall – you could attend one of them, or watch the class on DVD or online. And the lifetime membership allows you to come as many times as you like, if you want to repeat a session or the whole class.

Beginning Experience:

What is the worst thing you think could happen does, and you are widowed, separated or divorced? How do you cope with the grief, loss and pain?

No one has to suffer alone and while life may never be the same, it can be good again- very good. *Beginning Experience* weekly support program and the *Beginning Experience* weekend help deal with the grief and through God, turn the pain of loss into an experience of positive growth. Beginning Experience peer ministry team members share their stories and listen to help you move from grief in a joyful future. We offer results, real hope.

"Coping with Life Alone" is starting in Bismarck, September 3, 2017. It is a 10 week program, held from 6 to 8pm on Sunday evenings. It is for widowed, separated and divorced dealing with grief and looking for answers and healing. It is Christian based with all religions welcomed. The weekend is held at Richardton Abbey, November 17–19, 2017. It is felt the weekend is best completed after "Coping with Life Alone" however, does not have to be. For more information contact: Marjean 701.391.5411, Elaine 701.400.1941 or Brenda 701.989.5734.

www.beginningexperience.org

Beginning
Experience

C2 and Church Council Meetings



The next Church Council Meeting is at 6:30pm Tuesday, **September 12**. A light supper is planned for each month. The C2 committees Council meetings are open to everyone. If you have an item to come before the Council, please contact Ken Will prior to the meeting.

Church
Council

GIFTS (Growing in Faith to Serve) Event coming to Good Shepherd, Bismarck on Friday/Saturday, Sept. 22 & 23

LifeKeys: Discover Who You Are

Spend time discovering and celebrating the gifts God has planted in each of us. Participants will explore their own unique gifts and dream about ways to share them more intentionally in the relationships, ministry and service that fill our lives each day.

God's Work. Our Hands (and feet and words and ears . . .)

Martin Luther once said, "God himself will milk the cows through him whose vocation that is." Today, vocation is often equated with career, but a Lutheran understanding of vocation embraces much more than only the tasks for which we are paid. In each and every relationship that we are a part of and in each and every role that we take on, we are given the opportunity to be part of God's creative work of sharing God's love with the world.

Using resources from our Lutheran tradition, as well as the LifeKeys materials, we'll look at each participants' unique mix of gifts and passions and consider how God might use our gifts more fully in our relationships in our home, our congregations and our communities.

LifeKeys: Discover Who You Are is a spiritually- based, multifaceted approach to exploring who God created you to be and how God is calling you to share your gifts in the world. Through interactive activities that engage a variety of learning styles, small group conversation and personal reflection, this process will assist you in understanding yourself and how you might use your gifts more effectively in new ways.

Pastor Lisa will be attending, and invites you to join her and many others from the area at this terrific workshop. To register, go to wndsynod.org and click on the LifeKeys event in the banner at the top of the webpage. Questions or need help? Ask Pr. Lisa! Cost for materials, lunch and the workshop is \$25. The workshop runs 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 22 and 8:45 a.m. till 3 p.m. (including lunch) on Saturday, Sept. 23.

GIFTS

The WND Synod LYO Gathering coming over Teacher's Convention!

The Western North Dakota Synod Lutheran Youth Organization includes each and every high school student (grades 9-12) in congregations across our synod. Each fall, hundreds of young people from our congregations come together for the annual LYO gathering. Three days focused on growing and sharing our faith, serving the world in Christ's name, engaging in dynamic worship and building relationships.

The 2017 LYO gathering will be held Oct. 19-21 at the Grand Hotel, Minot, ND.

Contact Pr. Lisa for more information! Cost is \$150.00 – scholarships for half, if needed, will make it a great deal at \$75 before Sept. 29. This includes lodging and several meals.

Here are a few highlights awaiting you!

Inspiring speakers – service projects – meeting new friends – action tracks – talent night – 4 square tournament – gaga ball – nightlife! karaoke – costume contest – free t-shirt – making memories – engaging worship – growing in faith – and **much, much more!**

You can find out lots more by checking out our youth bulletin board where it's all posted, OR going to wndsynod.org and clicking on the LYO event in the banner of events cycling through at the top.

If you're just not sure.... ***come to the interest meeting on Weds. evening, Sept. 27 at 8 p.m. at LCC to hear about this gathering AND the upcoming National Youth Gathering in Houston in summer 2018!***

LYO
Gathering

BRIDGING CULTURES: BUILDING CONNECTIONS

CULTURAL COMPETENCY SEMINAR

...bringing together diverse members of our community.

...understanding our own cultural worldviews.

...developing skills to communicate effectively with people of many cultures.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2017



Sunitha Mortha, Chicago, IL

*Director for Global Formation
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)*



Cheryl Ann Kary, Mandan, ND

*Executive Director of Sacred Pipe Resource Center
Common Enterprise Development Corporation*

\$15 advanced registration

(by October 6)

\$25 at the door

FREE for students with advanced registration. Scholarships available.

Register at:

www.bridgingcultures.eventbrite.com

Questions:

BridgingCulturesBIS@gmail.com
or 701.223.2915

CEUs are available for social workers.
Others are pending.

**North Dakota
Heritage Center
Bismarck**

**10:30 a.m.
to
3:30 p.m.**

Partner Representatives From:

Annunciation Monastery	Dakota Resource Council
Bismarck Global Neighbors	Faith Forward
Bismarck Interfaith	Faith Lutheran Church
Bismarck-Mandan Unitarian Universalist Congregation	Gandhi Peace Network
Bismarck Muslim Community Center	Heart River Lutheran Church
Bismarck United Church of Christ	Liffrig Family School of Education at the University of Mary
Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library	Native American Training Institute
Charles Hall Youth Services	North Dakota Women's Network
	Sacred Pipe Resource Center



Camp of the Cross Ministries

PO Box 1257
Garrison, ND 58540
701-337-2246
info@campofthecross.com
www.campofthecross.com

August 21, 2017

Dear Camp of the Cross Constituent Congregation,

Camp of the Cross Ministries is holding a cowboy-themed fundraiser, called the "Blue Jeans Ball", at the Wilton Memorial Hall on October 7, 2017. The event will include a pulled pork meal, dance, live dessert auction, photo booth, "Luck of the Draw" auction, and children's games. All proceeds raised at this fundraiser will support the general operation of the camp.

We kindly ask that you hang the enclosed flyers up at your church. We have also included a few extra flyers in hopes that you might take a moment to hang them around your local community. We greatly appreciate your help in spreading the word about this event.

We are also including an announcement that could be used in your September and October newsletters and bulletins.

Grab your boots and scoot on over for some good ol' family fun! Camp of the Cross Ministries is holding a "Blue Jeans Ball" fundraiser on Saturday, October 7 at the Wilton Memorial Hall. The western-themed dinner and dance will include a live dessert auction, children's games, photo booth, and "Luck of the Draw" auction. The pulled pork dinner will be served from 6:00-8:00pm. The dance will be held from 8:00-11:30pm. Tickets are available at the door. Adults - \$20, Children - \$10, Dance only after 8pm - \$5. RSVPs are not necessary but are appreciated by going to www.campofthecross.com or by calling the office at 701-337-2246. All are welcome, so invite your friends!

If you have questions or need more information, please don't hesitate to contact us.

We look forward to seeing you on October 7!

Sincerely,

Emma Berg
Event Coordinator
701-400-0020
emma.schauer@gmail.com

Rev. Janis Sloka, III
Executive Director
701-861-9915
janis@campofthecross.com



1004 E Highland Acres Rd
Bismarck ND 58501
Phone: 701.223.1001

churchsecretary@midconetwork.com

E-News

Worship Times:
Wednesday Worship
6:00pm

Sunday's
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

2017 Church Council

Ken Will, President	258.7127
Jon Hanson, Vice President	391.3416
Jeff Thomas, Secretary	955.3632
Kim Humann	255.6547
Brian Johnson	391-0872
Kylie Blanchard	391.0373
Tom Harris	751.6371

Making Jesus Known by Sharing our Gifts
